

L58 KASLOFF SITE
ALASKA
Conrad WASSO

FRANKLIN ST.

63 A 166

32

3/6

RECORDS SECTION
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

C O P Y

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GENERAL LAND OFFICE
Public Survey Office
Juneau, Alaska.
Dec. 4, 1937

Mr. Geo. A. Parks,
District Cadastral Engineer,
Public Survey Office,
Juneau, Alaska.

Dear Sir:

An old village site was found near the quarter-section corner between Sections 21 and 28, T. 4 N., R. 11 W., Seward Meridian on Kenai Peninsula. Herbert G. Torgerson, Transitman, who ran the line April 28, 1937 noticed it and reported it to me. Immediately I investigated the findings and then made a rough sketch of the huts or house sites, pacing the positions and estimating the orientations from the section line that passes over the site.

The site is situated on a gentle, westerly slope just below the brow of the nearly level or slightly rolling ground eastward. Where the site is located, the general contours have a somewhat crescent shape, being about ten chains across the extreme points and about four chains deep in the arc. It is about three and one-half miles east and two miles north of Kasilof on Cook Inlet. In other words, it is about three and one-half miles inland from Cook Inlet.

From all indications, this site appears to be very old. Within the outlines of the foot walls of one of the house sites a spruce tree about fourteen inches diameter was cut down and the annular ring growths counted. A conservative count showed approximately two hundred rings. There are larger trees within other house sites.

The outlines of the house sites rather resemble the remains of a house foundation, are well-defined raises varying from two to three feet high and about four or five feet across the foot, being rounded on top and grass-covered.

The forest growth within the house sites is consistent in density and size with the surrounding timber. Spruce is the predominating growth and varies from twelve to twenty-eight inches in diameter.

The houses appear to be uniform in size with two rooms. The main room is about fifteen by twenty feet. The long side bears about north and south with an annex room eight by eight feet on the east side. Measurements are all made along the crest of the wall outline.

In the middle of the main room outline I found stone fire beds about two and one-half feet in diameter, eight inches below the present surface of the ground floor. The stones show indications of heat. All of the openings or supposed entrances are on the lower side and apparent front side about mid section, although a few openings were noticed in northwest corners. Two single-room house sites were noticed on the lower edge of the village about mid section. They appear to have no openings.

A cross section of these wall outlines at various places revealed a layer of turf about four inches thick mostly black loam massed with roots; then a thin layer of volcanic ash from one-half inch to two inches thick; then another layer of dark soil about five inches thick and more compact; then a very thin layer of volcanic ash and then a brownish layer of loam that averages about one foot deep and appears to have been at one time top soil. Beneath the brown loam is clean sharp sand of unknown depth. A test pit six feet deep was dug near one of the house sites and we found no change in sand quality. Some small particles of charred wood were found in the first layer. No wood decayed or otherwise was found within the cross section of the wall, except the particles of charred wood above-mentioned.

Owing to the condition of the ground, which was frozen hard and deep, no further attempt was made to dig for further evidence.

In conclusion I wish to state that the significance of this old village site lies in its remoteness from any water and the fact that it is apparently a very old one.

Sketches of the village, detail of house site and cross section of wall terrain are attached hereto for your information

Geo. A. Parks

-2-

Dec. 4, 1937

and further action.

Yours very truly,

(Signed) FLOYD G. BETTS
Floyd G. Betts
Cadastral Engineer, G. L. O.

FGB/hf
Att. 2

C O P Y

Div. "A"
Reporting old
ruins,
Alaska.

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GENERAL LAND OFFICE

Office of the Supervisor of Surveys

DENVER, COLORADO

December 13, 1937.

The Commissioner of the General Land Office,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

I am in receipt from Mr. Geo. A. Parks, District Cadastral Engineer, District No. 9 (Alaska), of a report and rough sketch prepared by Mr. Floyd G. Betts, Cadastral Engineer, of what appears to be the ruins of an old village discovered by Mr. Betts in the course of his survey work last summer on the Kenai Peninsula, under Survey Group No. 51. I transmit herewith the report, with sketch, for your consideration.

Paragraph 13 of the Secretary's instructions dated December 28, 1906 (also see Commissioner's letter "E" WTP, dated October 8, 1908), directs that special reports concerning historic or prehistoric ruins or other objects of antiquity discovered in the course of the work, be submitted with location descriptions. It may be that the Department will desire to make a temporary withdrawal of the land on which the site is located until its value can be determined.

The township in which the ruins are located was surveyed during the past summer and the returns will be prepared this winter. Apparently all of the houses would be contained in the SE $\frac{1}{4}$, SW $\frac{1}{4}$, Section 21 and NE $\frac{1}{4}$, NW $\frac{1}{4}$, Section 28, T. 4 N., R. 11 W., Seward Meridian.

In this connection, attention is called to the fact that a student from the University of Alaska, employed as a field assistant on Mr. Betts' party, made a preliminary report of the discovery of the ruins to that institution. It is now understood that the University contemplates doing some excavating work on the site as soon as opportunity offers, and no doubt others will become interested as publicity is given to the location. The Act of June 8, 1906 (34 Stat. 225) and the regulations issued by the Secretary, provide the manner in which permits must be acquired for excavating old ruins

situated on lands owned or controlled by the Government. It is doubtful however whether the provisions of this act and of the Secretary's instructions thereunder are generally known in Alaska. In the circumstances perhaps some public reference to the act or specific instructions through General Land Office channels would be advisable.

Very respectfully,

(Signed) Frank M. Johnson
Supervisor of Surveys.

RCM.

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GENERAL LAND OFFICE
WASHINGTON

JAN 17 1938

IN REPLY PLEASE REFER TO

1707856 "A" ML

Cooperation.

The Director,
National Park Service.

My dear Mr. Cammerer:

Enclosed for your consideration is a letter from the Supervisor of Surveys at Denver, Colorado, with a report and rough sketch prepared by Floyd G. Betts, Cadastral Engineer, of what appears to be the ruins of an old village discovered in the course of survey work last summer on the Kenai Peninsula, Alaska, under survey group No. 51.

The case is referred to you for consideration as to whether the land should be withdrawn for classification as a national monument or an archaeological site.

In accordance with the general request of your bureau, two carbon copies of this letter are enclosed.

Very respectfully,

(signed) Fred W. Johnson

Commissioner.

COPY FOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

1-14 bbj

L 58 WASO

UNITED STATES
 DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
 GENERAL LAND OFFICE
 WASHINGTON

file

IN REPLY PLEASE REFER TO

1707856 "A" ML

JUN 5 1938
 JUL 5 1938

The Director,
 Division of Territories and Island Possessions.

My dear Dr. Gruening:

Reference is made to your letter of March 18, 1938, relative to a withdrawal recommended by the National Park Service of certain lands on the Kenai Peninsula in Alaska for national monument classification.

A form of order was subsequently prepared which was signed by the President on May 16 and published in the Federal Register of May 18, 1938.

In this connection your attention is invited to the letter of the Supervisor of Surveys of December 13, 1937, a copy of which was furnished you on March 1, 1938. The regulations under the act of June 8, 1906 (34 Stat. 225), to which he refers, are contained in the enclosed circular. It is suggested that these regulations may be brought to the notice of the President of the University of Alaska, if you believe that he is not acquainted with the procedure to be followed in applying for a permit for the examination of ruins and the excavation of archaeological sites.

Very respectfully,

(Sgd) Joel David Wolfsohn
 Acting Assistant Commissioner.

Enc.

7-1 mvd

EXECUTIVE ORDER

WITHDRAWAL OF PUBLIC LAND FOR CLASSIFICATION, ETC.

ALASKA

By virtue of and pursuant to the authority vested in me by the act of June 25, 1910, ch. 421, 36 Stat. 847, as amended by the act of August 24, 1912, ch. 369, 37 Stat. 497, and subject to the conditions therein expressed, it is ordered that the following-described public lands in Alaska be, and they are hereby, temporarily withdrawn from settlement, location, sale, or entry, for classification and pending a determination as to the advisability of reserving them for national-monument purposes:

Seward Meridian

T. 4 N., R. 11 W. (unaccepted survey),
sec. 20, E $\frac{1}{2}$;
secs. 21 and 28;
sec. 29, E $\frac{1}{2}$;
aggregating 1,920 acres.

This order shall continue in force until revoked by the President or by act of Congress.

/s/ Franklin D. Roosevelt

3 F.R.951

THE WHITE HOUSE,
May 16, 1938.

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
REGION FOUR
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

601 Sheldon Building

September 10, 1947.

MEMORANDUM for the Regional Director, Region Four.

Reference is made to the withdrawal of 1,920 acres of land on the Kenai Peninsula of Alaska near the Village of Kasilof for National Monument consideration under Executive Order 7888, dated May 16, 1938. This withdrawal was based on the recommendation of Commissioner Johnson of the General Land Office under date of January 17, 1938.

The area was discussed in Anchorage with Mr. Leonard Berlin, Associate Cadastral Engineer of the Bureau of Land Management. Mr. Berlin made the original survey of the region and reported the existence of some native Barabaras (a mud covered twig hut) on the land. He stated that the exhibit was not of unusual significance but that its importance apparently grew in the minds of others after the report was submitted. He also stated that he had dug into one of the Barabaras but found no artifacts. These Barabaras are presumably found elsewhere along the Bristol Bay and Bering Coastal Region of Alaska. As an example, similar huts are found in the old Savoniski Village of Katmai (see photo #43 Katmai Report, 1945, prepared by me).

On August 2, Leo Diederich, Chief of Land Planning, and I made an aerial reconnaissance of the Kasilof area, enroute to Katmai. From a flight elevation of about 500 feet we were unable to detect any of the ruins, as the area was too densely covered with brush. We observed that the new Kenai-Homer road, which is under construction, either bisects or skirts the area. A portion of the tract and the land west to the Cook Inlet is swampy muskeg. Approximately 5/8 of the tract is classified by the Bureau of Land Management as being suitable for general crop production. This classification was determined by Mr. "Curley" Hall, chief of the party that surveyed the site in 1945. For further first-hand information concerning the tract, it might be advisable for Mr. Wirth to contact Mr. Hall in the Washington Bureau of Land Management Office. (See GLO Map - LC-AU-1, January 1946.)

We abandoned the idea of making a ground inspection, in view of the inaccessibility of the tract from the Village of Kasilof and the element of time and transportation required.

The apparent insignificance of the area and its remote location prompt me to recommend that no further consideration be given it, and that the Service recommend to the Secretary at an early date revocation of the withdrawal.

The attached map shows the relationship of the area to the towns of Kenai and Anchorage.

I concur.

(Sgd) Alfred C. Kuehl

Leo J. Diederich
9/17/47

Alfred C. Kuehl,
Landscape Architect.

Attachment



UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
REGION FOUR 1947 SEP 15 AM 10:17
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA
601 Sheldon Bldg

RECEIVED
Chief Clerk's Office

9/15
Kuehl
Richard 9-16
Johnson
Diederich
9/16
file

September 11, 1947.

Air Mail

MEMORANDUM for the Director.

There are briefly outlined details of August progress of examination and recommended action on public land withdrawals as listed in Acting Commissioner Havell's memorandum of August 21, 1933, and Acting Director Johnson's memorandum of October 3, 1940.

Alaska.

E. O. 7888 dated May 16, 1938 covering 1920 acres on the Kenai Peninsula about 3 miles northeast of the small town of Kasiloff.

Landscape Architect A. Kuehl investigated this area from the air in company with Chief Land Planning L. J. Diederich on August 2. Later Mr. Kuehl discussed the location with the chief of the survey party which surveyed the area some years ago. While Mr. Kuehl has not yet submitted his report, it is understood that both he and Mr. Diederich are of the opinion that the area is insignificant and that the withdrawal should be revoked. However, Regional Historian Neasham is against such a course in principle at least until a historian or archeologist has made a field examination. An examination such as Mr. Neasham suggests, is not likely to materialize at least for some years.

In the circumstances we suggest that Mr. Diederich discuss the matter further with Mr. Ronald Lee in an attempt to reach a decision.

It should be mentioned that one map we have here shows the site in question as being within a "Moose Refuge". We do not know whether this status in conjunction with the provisions of the Antiquities Act would afford any worth while protection to the area.


Herbert Maier,
Acting Regional Director.

cc: Director, Washington.

copy retained
in Br. of Lands
in 9/16 - JMW

afes
Diederich
Will do
in Washington
APD

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

REGION FOUR
1947 SEP 15 AM 10:33
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA
601 Sheldon Bldg.

Diederich 9/17/47
Upham 9-15
Buckley
Kahler
Johnson
file

September 11, 1947.

MEMORANDUM for the Director.

Reference is made to the matter of Public Land Withdrawal E. O. 7888 relating to 1920 acres of land in the vicinity of the village of Kasiloff on the Kenai peninsula in Alaska, and set aside in 1938 for a proposed national monument.

There has been a lengthy correspondence on this area. A forest fire on the peninsula prevented our main party from investigating the site. However, on August 2 Messrs. Kuehl and Diederich were able to fly over Kasiloff, and a copy of Mr. Kuehl's report dated September 10 is attached.

Mrs. Diederich } Mr. Kuehl reports that both he and Mr. Diederich came to the conclusion that the area was quite insignificant and that the withdrawal should be revoked. However, as was mentioned in our Withdrawal Areas Monthly Report for August, Regional Historian Neasham, who has not visited the area, is against such a course in principle until at least a historical or archeological field examination can first be made. Such a field examination probably could not materialize for several years.

Will do in Washington } Undoubtedly Mr. Diederich will make his own report. We can only suggest that Mr. Diederich discuss the matter with Mr. Ronald Lee in an attempt to reach agreement as to Service action on the withdrawal.

It should be mentioned that one map we have here shows the site in question as being within a "Moose Refuge". It is possible that such a status in conjunction with the provisions of the Antiquities Act would afford a limited protection.

It does appear to us that we cannot continue withdrawals indefinitely unless we can show a very good reason for doing so, particularly in view of certain bills now before Congress.

Maier
Herbert Maier,
Acting Regional Director.

Enclosure 2471090

cc: Director (Washington) w/c encl

Suspense made for Nov. 1
ES

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : ~~Mr. Ansbey~~ Mr. Hahler

DATE: 9/17/47

FROM : ~~President~~SUBJECT: Kasilof with crewal, Kenai Peninsula, Alaska

I understand that Mr. Lee will be in Chicago on Friday, Sept 19. I should be glad to discuss the Kasilof matter at that time, if convenient for Mr. Lee - if not, we can go into it later in Washington.

I appreciate Mr. Neasham's new permit, as did Mr. Kuehl, but I doubt that we can justify indefinite continuation of the with crewal. There are much bigger and better stakes, archeological & otherwise, in Alaska. There was not a chance to see Lee on this. Suggest we advise President Reag & that will be considered after we arrived in Wash. case

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE



September 25, 1947.

MEMORANDUM for the Regional Director, Region Four.

With reference to your two memoranda of September 11, concerning Public Land Withdrawal E. O. 7888 (Kasilof area, Alaska), Messrs. Ronald Lee and Diederich will discuss the matter, as you suggest, after the Office has been settled in Washington.

We believe it likely that the provisions of the Antiquities Act may be invoked to protect the area and solve the Service's dilemma.

(SGD) CHARLES A. RICHEY
Acting Chief of Lands.

cc: Mr. Demaray.
Mr. Wirth (Washington).
Mr. R. F. Lee (Washington).
Mr. Diederich.

LJD:mp.
a.

For NPS files.
Procured from B.L.M.
11/21/47.
reel 100

Kanlof area, Alaska,
withdrawn under
E.O. 7888, of May 16, 38.

UNITED STATES POLICE

11/21/47

DEB

L 58 WASO

SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION
BUREAU OF AMERICAN ETHNOLOGY
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

June 29, 1948

file

Mr. Ronald F. Lee,
Chief Historian,
National Park Service,
Department of the Interior,
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Lee:

I am returning herewith the original file papers on the Kasiloff site in Alaska. I have checked our request for permits and permit files, and do not find that any request for a permit to excavate at that site was referred to the Smithsonian Institution. In view of the fact that other permits were issued to the University of Alaska for work at other locations in Alaska during the fiscal years following the withdrawal of the site for possible National Monument purposes, I am of the opinion that the University of Alaska probably did not carry through in its proposal to excavate at the Kasiloff site.

Dr. Froelick G. Rainey, Director of the University Museum, Philadelphia, was associated with the University of Alaska at that time, and it is possible that you can obtain from him information about the matter. Dr. Rainey did considerable work in Alaska, both as a representative of the University of Alaska and as a representative of the American Museum of Natural History at New York, and he undoubtedly will know if any digging has been done at the Kasiloff site. He also would be qualified to advise you concerning the advisability of holding the site for National Monument purposes, or of returning it to the Public Domain. Dr. Henry B. Collins, of our staff, would be able to give us a good opinion as to whether or not the site merits being designated as a National Monument. He recently left for the Canadian Arctic, however, and will not be available through the remainder of the summer.

Mr. Ronald F. Lee

June 29, 1948

- 2 -

(Personally, I would be inclined to agree with you in the matter, and think that because the site is located within a Moose Refuge area, it would be sufficiently protected if the Executive Order 7888 of May 16, 1938 should be revoked.)

Sincerely yours,



Frank H. H. Roberts, Jr.,
Director, River Basin Surveys.

458 W 450

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Mr. Wirth.

FROM : Herbert E. Kahler.

SUBJECT: Kasiloff Site in Alaska.

DATE: July 6, 1948.

Wirth

Diederichs

Siler

file

The attached letter from Dr. Frank H. H. Roberts, Jr., of the Smithsonian Institution, regarding the Kasiloff site, in Alaska, will be self-explanatory.

Inasmuch as Dr. Roberts is in agreement with the thought that the Kasiloff Indian village site would be sufficiently protected by the Antiquities Act as lying within a Moose Refuge area, we believe that it will be proper to revoke Executive Order 7888 of May 16, 1938, withdrawing this area for possible national monument purposes.

The original file of the Bureau of Land Management relating to the Kasiloff area also is returned herewith.

Herbert E. Kahler
Acting Chief Historian.

Enclosure 1776459.

cc: Regional Director, Region Four.
Archeologist Nusbaum, (All with a copy of
Region Three Office. Dr. Roberts' letter
History Division. of 6/29/48.)

PLO 487 -

received June 16.

F.R. June 24

File Room.

Even though some
of this material is
old, I believe
that it should all
be filed together -
— in L 58 W 50?

Drednick
2/27/51



UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

reply refer to:

3 4430

Young
Kehler
Diederich
Richey

3/7/51

Memorandum

To: Regional Director, Region Four
From: Assistant Director Wirth
Subject: Investigation of Abandoned Village Site on Federal Lands
in Alaska

We are glad to learn from Mr. Collins' memorandum of January 30 that arrangements have been worked out with the U. S. Geological Survey Alaska Branch Office in San Francisco to undertake the investigation of the site on the Kenai Peninsula.

With respect to the last paragraph of Mr. Collins' memorandum, we have in mind that the joint investigation of the Kaellef area should establish a firmer basis on which to determine its future status. Accordingly, while we are still of the opinion that this area probably does not qualify for national monument status, we feel that it would be best to await the outcome of the investigation before recommending the revocation of Executive Order No. 7688.

(SGD) CONRAD L. WIRTH
Assistant Director

In duplicate

Copy to: ~~Mr. Diederich, Lands Div.~~
History Div. (Archeology File)

RWYoung:L.Diederich:bes



RECEIVED
Chief Clerk's Office
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

IN REPLY REFER TO:
L58 WASO

1952 JUN 13 AM 10:34
3

JUN 12 1952

JUN 13 1952 *Kahler*

Memorandum

To: C. L. Wirth, Director, National Park Service
From: W. E. Wrather, Director, U. S. Geological Survey
Subject: Transmittal of report on national monument withdrawal area (E.O. 7888).

I have the pleasure of transmitting to you for administrative use a "Report of Reconnaissance Investigations in the National Monument Withdrawal Area near Kasilof, Alaska" for which a need was expressed by Mr. Herbert E. Kahler, Chief Historian, and Mr. George L. Collins, Chief, Alaska Recreational Resources Survey. This report was prepared by Messrs. Karlstrom and Benninghoff from field notes and a plane table survey made, as time permitted, during their military geology investigations on the Kenai Peninsula in the summer of 1951. On two days they visited the national monument area in the company of Dr. Aubrey Neasham, Regional Historian, and Dr. Louis R. Caywood, Archeologist.

It is stated in the text of this report that a sample of wood associated with the occupation layer has been submitted to the Lamont Laboratory for radiocarbon analysis. When the age determination is returned, that information will be forwarded to your office.

Thomas B. Nolan
Acting Director

Attachment *y*

in reply refer to:
58 WADD - H

JUN 19 1952

*Kahler
Thompson
N.Z.*

JUN 19 1952

C.H.

JUN 19 1952

Memorandum

To: W. E. Wrather, Director, U. S. Geological Survey
From: Acting Director
Subject: Report of Reconnaissance Investigations in National Monument Area near Kasilof, Alaska

Thank you very much for the fine report prepared by Drs. Thor N. V. Karlstrom and William S. Benninghoff of your staff. This report on the Kasilof area will be very helpful to our staff working on Alaska problems and is being forwarded to Mr. George L. Collins, Chief, Alaska Recreational Resources Survey.

(SGD) *Hillary A. Tamm*
Acting Director

Copy to: Regional Director, Region Four (2) with report
Chief, Recreation Planning
History Division

HEKahler-fmd

152°

151°

150°

ANCHORAGE

Fire Is.

Pt. Possession Village

Turnagain Arm

R.12W. 11 10

COOK INLET

Landing Field
KENAI

1ST STD. PAR. N.

Ex. Order # 7888
Withdrawal For Natl. Mon.
purposes. May 16, 1938

T.4 N. R.11 W. (unaccepted survey)
Sec. 20 E 1/2, Secs. 21+28, Sec. 29 E 1/2.
aggregating 1,920 Acres

KASILOF

Landing Field

Skylak Lake

Tustumena Lake

T.1-N

14 13 12 11 10 9

SEWARD BASE LINE

FROM
ALASKA ROAD COMMISSION
MAP OF
COOK INLET DISTRICT

1923
SCALE 1:500,000
7.89 or approx. 8 Miles = 1 Inch.

PROPOSED KASILOF NATIONAL MONUMENT - ALASKA.
1920 ACRES.