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Killisnoo Herring Plant


Figure 102.

The buildings of Whaler's Cove Lodge occupy about one third of the old Killisnoo site, here looking south across Killisnoo Harbor from the Angoon ferry terminal.

Villagers from Atka were housed during the war in the defunct herring factory at Killisnoo, near Angoon (Figure 102). Over 50 miles south of Funter Bay on the west side of Admiralty Island is a rich marine environment where the mouths of Mitchell Bay, Hood Bay, and Chaik Bay look across Chatham Strait at the entrance to Peril Strait (Figure 103). The lushly forested hills and mountains enclose many streams with large salmon runs. In the 1800s herring were plentiful and had long been a traditional staple of the local Tlingit Indians. Humpback whales plied the waters of Chatham

Strait, preying on krill, herring, and other marine species. The rich marine resources attracted the attention of the Northwest Trading Company, which in 1878 established a station on the island of Killisnoo (Figure 103), near the Tlingit village of Angoon (de Laguna 1960:49). The Killisnoo herring plant was one of American Alaska's first industrial enterprises.

Early Years

The company constructed extensive wharf and warehouse facilities (Figure 104), began rendering herring oil and processing the fish waste into

Figure 103.

Killisnoo is located south of Angoon on the west side of Admiralty Island, about 60 miles southeast of Funter Bay.



fertilizer – then called “guano” in reference to bat dung – in 1879, and began a whaling station the following year (de Laguna 1960:162). Native men from nearby Angoon were employed in the commercial whaling operation,

leading to an infamous matter in 1882 involving Killisnoo, Angoon, and the U.S. Navy. Bare facts of the incident are that: a whaling gun exploded, killing a shaman employed on the boat, leading to a work strike by the Natives



Figure 104.

Killisnoo included a residential district – containing permanent employee homes as well as seasonal Native dwellings (upper right), the herring plant (out of frame at left), and a large wharf (foreground) to stack the hundreds of cords of wood required by the plant’s reduction system. Just left of center is the company store with its gable reading “A.O. & G. Co.”

Alaska State Library Vincent Soboleff collection PCA1-243



Figure 105.

The residential district at Killisnoo consisted of densely packed frame buildings, making the community vulnerable to fire.

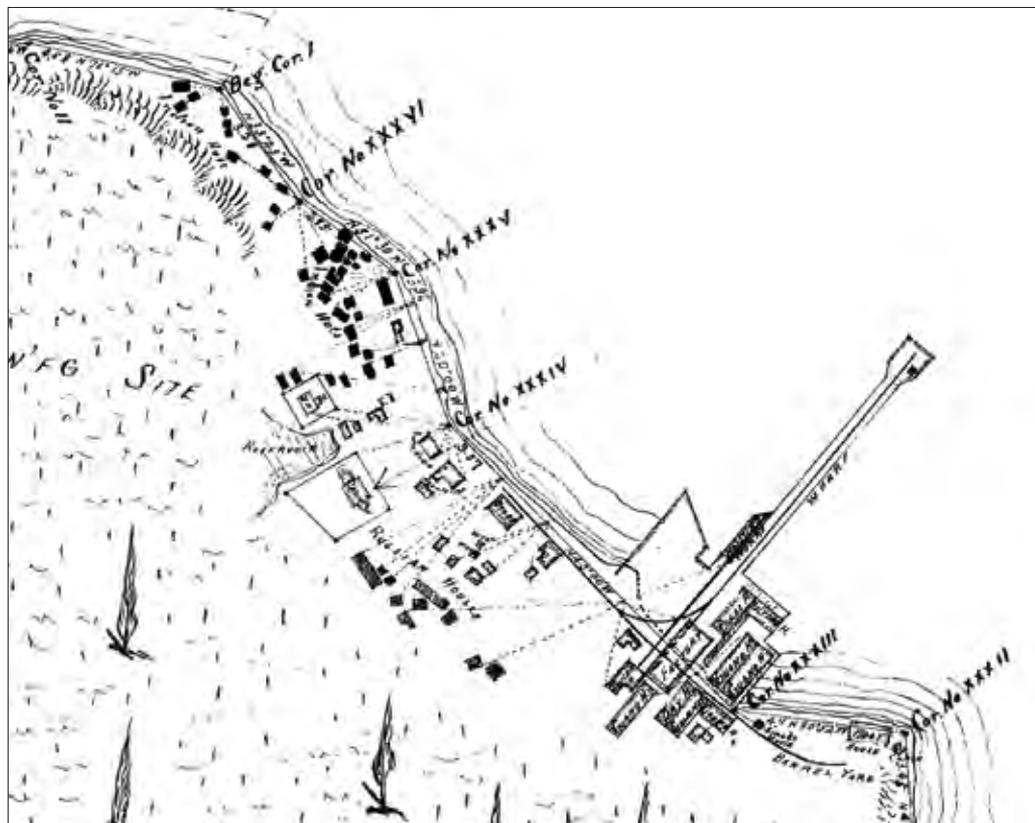
Courtesy of Richard Powers, Whaler’s Cove Lodge

and the demand of restitution (the condition for return to the company of their whaling boat and two non-Native employees), scaring the non-Natives at Killisnoo, who contacted the U.S. Navy, which responded with several vessels armed with howitzers and gatling guns, culminating in the shelling of Angoon and its villagers,

the burning of the village and 40 dug-out canoes, and resulting Native deaths (Reckley 1982). Seasonal Native settlement was subsequently encouraged at Killisnoo, and soon a dense cluster of Native houses, sheds, and smoke-houses formed northwest of the commercial buildings (Figures 104-105). The local Tlingit joined a multicultural

Figure 106.

In 1891 U.S. Deputy Surveyor Charles W. Gorside plotted the facilities of the Alaska Oil and Guano Company as U.S. Survey 5.



OPPOSITE PAGE

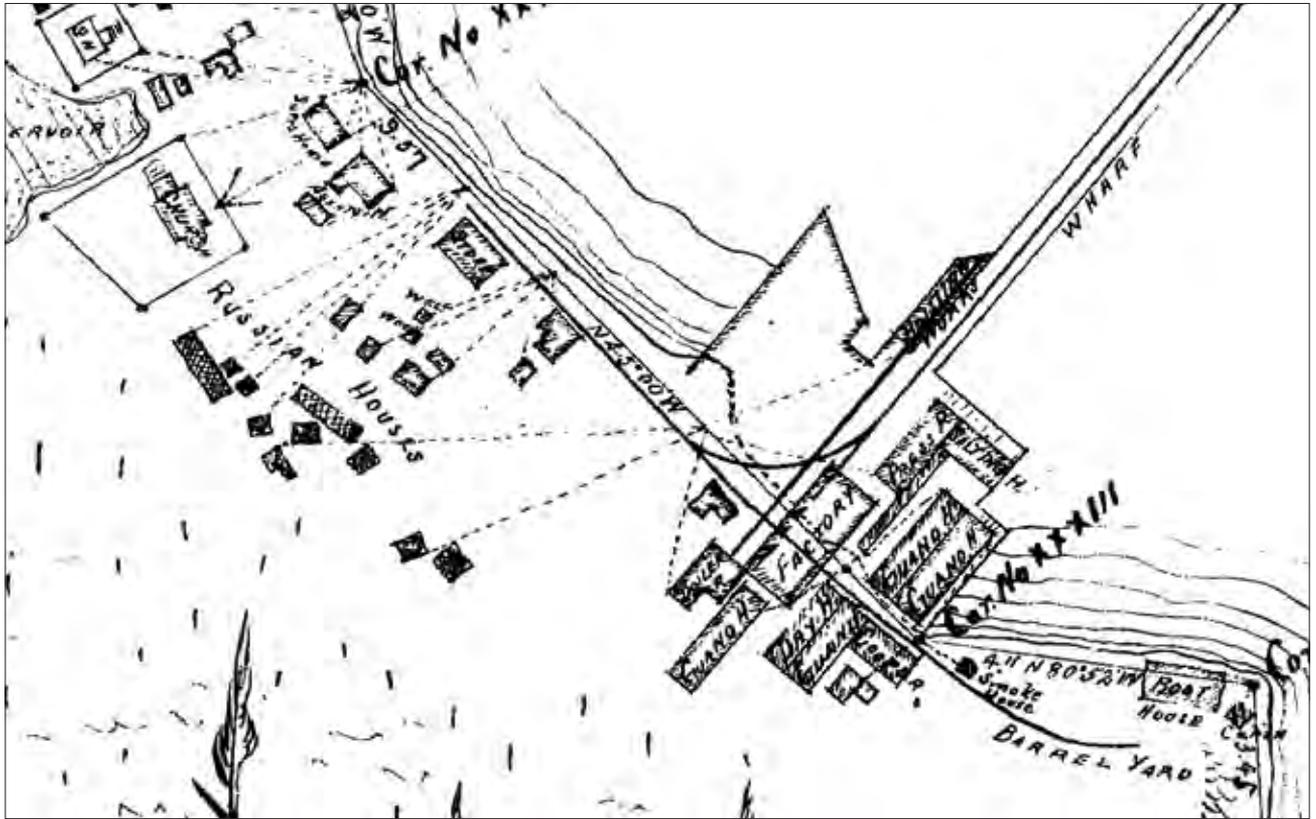
Figure 107.

An enlargement of USS 5 shows the industrial facilities with functions labeled as they were in 1891.

workforce of Chinese, Japanese, Filipinos, and Swedes that lived year-round at Killisnoo.

Killisnoo became one of the first federally surveyed tracts in the Alaska Territory when U.S. Deputy Surveyor Charles W. Gorside mapped the facility in 1891 as USS 5 – the “Trading and Manufacturing Site” of the Alaska Oil and Guano Company (Figures 106-107). At that time a collection of about 40 “Indian Huts” at the northwest end of the site housed the families of the local Native work force. On the hillside south of those buildings was the territorial school, then a small reservoir, and south of the reservoir was the Russian Orthodox church and

a fenced churchyard. Downslope from the church, at the water’s edge, was a supply house and the agent’s house. Southeast of the church were a group of buildings labeled in 1891 as “Russian Houses.” Between those buildings and the shore were five small buildings, plus two small covered wells, and at the high tide line were two larger buildings of which one was the company store. Moving southeast along the shoreline from the store there was a gap of about 75’ before the large industrial buildings of the plant began. Archival photographs show Killisnoo to be almost completely deforested by the late 1800s, with less than a dozen tall old-growth trees left standing.



An enlargement of the 1891 plat shows the array of industrial facilities at the Killisnoo plant (Figure 107). Prominent was a wharf perpendicular to the shore, extending 300' into Killisnoo Harbor. As the wharf approached the shore it broadened to create – including buildings – a work/storage space measuring more than 100' x 150' on pilings over the intertidal zone. At the shore end of the wharf was a boiler room on land, attached at one corner to a large building partly over the intertidal zone labeled “Factory.” At the northeast corner of the complex was a “press house”

and a “salting house.” At the southeast corner was the cooperage, or barrel-

There were two kilns that were the fire boxes for generating steam which ran the plant and the steam engines....The main retort was about a 30' foot long drum that they used to cook the fish in...probably about ten or twelve feet in diameter....They'd shovel the fish into this drum, which rotated like a washing machine, except it was horizontal, and it was perforated so the steam could get through it and cook the fish as it rolled the fish inside of it. Then the oil would drain out into vats – cement-lined vats that they had underneath it. Then when all the oil was pretty well cooked out of it they'd shovel what was left, and they sold that for fertilizer. So they pressed that into blocks or bales....

Richard Powers

making shop, and a building labeled “Day H.” – perhaps the crew mess hall. Scattered among these buildings were four others labeled “Guano H.,” where product in various stages of manufacture was stored. Continuing southeast along the shore from the factory complex were a small smoke house, a barrel storage yard, and a boathouse (Figure 107). At its zenith the Killisnoo

herring plant was one of Alaska’s largest industrial enterprises, with a bustling harbor and even a steam whistle to call the crews to work.

Killisnoo continued in operation in some form through the following decades, processing herring, whales, and sometimes other marine products. In 1928 almost all of the housing burned to the ground, leaving only the industrial plant and a few nearby commercial/industrial buildings (de Laguna 1960:49). The story is told secondhand by Richard Powers that the fire began in a smokehouse when two small children, instructed to watch the smokehouse and not leave it under any circumstances, did as they were told and stood watching as the building caught fire and spread to the village. The effects were soon felt. The post office was shut down in 1930 after 48 years of operation (Ricks 1965). Census takers in 1930 found in the former community of Killisnoo, which had for 40 years a population of around 300 people, only three people (Orth 1967:519). After the fire the Tlingit work force moved back to Angoon, and the nearby cannery at Hood Bay became their primary source of income (Mobley 1999:13-44). Frederica de Laguna (1960:49) reports that prior to 1942 the Admiralty

...for statistics about Killisnoo, I beg to submit the following: Alaska Oil and Guano Company; incorporated under the laws of Oregon; capital stock, \$75,000. Business, fishing and trading. Fish found in our surrounding waters are herring, salmon, codfish, halibut. The trade in furs is small and does not exceed \$1,500 per year. Bear, mink, land otter, and beaver are the principal furs. Fishing is our main business. We caught from August 4 to December 26, 1890, 53,000 barrels, equal to about 5,300 tons, or 42,400,000 herring. Fishing fleet consists of 3 steamers, 4 scows, and 2 fishing gangs of 2 boats each. A fishing gang has 12 men. We made 157,000 gallons of oil, about 3 quarts of oil to 1 barrel of fish. We made 709 tons of guano; 100 barrels of fish give about 2 tons of guano....We put up in 1890 about 900 barrels of salt salmon and 400 half-barrels of salt herring. The oil is sold in San Francisco and Portland, and partly shipped to England. Sandwich Islands [Hawaii] is the best market for the guano....We employ about 45 white men, 50 Indians, and a few Chinamen. Indians receive from \$1 to \$1.50 per day of 10 hours; white men, skilled labor, from \$60 to \$100 per month and board, and unskilled labor \$40 to \$50 per month....The mail steamer calls regularly twice a month.

Killisnoo manager Carl Spuhn in a letter to Governor Lyman E. Knapp (1891)

Island side of the channel across from Killisnoo (both sides of the channel were collectively called Killisnoo by the Tlingit) was home to a group of Japanese men who were subsequently interned elsewhere for the duration of World War II.

World War II and the Camp Experience

After Atka villagers were evacuated from Atka to Nikolski, they boarded the *Delarof* and journeyed to St. Paul Island to witness the boarding of that village, continued on to St. George Island to repeat the experience, then spent eight days at sea before arriving at Funter Bay on June 24, 1942. Agent McMillan's log makes no mention of the Atka villagers. Kirtland and Coffin (1981:27) state that the *Delarof* discharged the Atka villagers at Killisnoo on the morning of June 25, while Kohlhoff (1995:96) says the villagers were off-loaded at Funter Bay and "at 4:00 A.M., they were packed on a 'hulking red scow,' a 'fish-stinking scow,' borrowed from the Hood Bay cannery" and towed down Chatham Strait to Killisnoo. They had no luggage. By the time they arrived at the old Killisnoo herring plant (Figure 108), the 83 villagers from Atka had spent the longest time in transit of any of the evacuees.

SOS WHOLE VILLAGE OF KILLISNOO AFIRE. CANNOT LAST VERY MUCH LONGER. PLEASE RUSH ALL AVAILABLE ASSISTANCE....FIRE GETTING TOO HOT NOW. GOT TO GO. SUFFOCATING. GOODBYE AND HURRY.

Radio operator John Harris's last two messages from Killisnoo, received by Bremerton Naval Station the evening of June 9, 1928

They told the [1928 fire] story at the [Alaska Native Brotherhood] lodge one evening. Two Japanese workers hired them [Tlingit children], or ordered them, anyway, to watch their smokehouses, to keep the dogs out of their smokehouses during the working days. So they gave them the instructions that they weren't to leave those smokehouses for any reason whatsoever....So both kids (they were like five or six years old at the time) – when it caught on fire they debated for some time because they were told not to leave for any reason whatsoever. By the time they did leave and ran for help it was too late, and the fire caught and burned most of the houses on Killisnoo....

Richard Powers

Alaska Indian Service Director Virgil R. Farrell inventoried the facilities at Killisnoo with possible camp service in mind and prepared a memo dated May 13, 1942. Available buildings included three houses, five cabins, a bunkhouse suitable for two families, a warehouse, a machine shop, a shed, and a store (Kohlhoff 1995:97). The water system needed repair, and three simple outhouses constituted the sewage system. Most of the buildings were unheated and not built for winter occupation. The *Delarof* off-loaded

Figure 108.

Atka villagers found the Killisnoo wharf to be unmaintained but servicable. Gable ends of industrial buildings show at upper left in this view to the southwest.

Aleutian Pribilof Islands Association
(copy print, source unknown)



Figure 109.

On occasion one of the Pribilof baidars from Funter Bay was loaned to the Atka villagers at Killisnoo, providing the community with a welcome taste of traditional transportation.

Alaska State Library Butler/Dale
collection PCA306.1040[1]



mattresses, blankets, and a four-day supply of food, then left for Seattle with most of the Pribilof Islands' non-Native evacuees. Atka school teachers Ruby and Charles Magee stayed at Killisnoo as the federal onsite authority until early 1943, when they moved to Kenai, and thereafter the villagers

at Killisnoo received little official federal attention (Kohlhoff 1995:97-98; 119-123).

The villagers' circumstances at Killisnoo paralleled those at other evacuation camps in having poor water sources, little functioning plumbing,



Figure 110.
Atka men (stern to bow) George Prokopeuff, William Golley, and Dan Nevzoroff maneuver a Pribilof baidar alongside a boat in Killisnoo Harbor to load freight, including three pair of new oars, several rolls of tar paper, a case of Argo brand gloss starch, and a case of Fuller brand paint.

Alaska State Library Butler/Dale collection PCA306.898.143

and poor sanitation, along with inadequate supplies and tools, limited or no hunting and fishing equipment, and drafty cabins and industrial buildings for quarters. To ease the villagers' lack of transportation a Pribilof baidar from Funter Bay was sometimes loaned to Killisnoo (Figures 109-110). Eventually boatbuilder Constantine Golley began crafting wooden skiffs in one of Killisnoo's shops (Figure 111). Women wove baskets in the traditional Aleut manner using local grass (see Figure 227), and sold them if they

could. Difficult conditions contributed to 17 deaths during the wartime stay (Kohlhoff 1995:120), and a small cluster of traditional white-painted wood Russian Orthodox crosses formed beside the old Killisnoo village cemetery in the forest nearby. Men sometimes left the village to work in a cannery nearby, earning cash to augment their meager government supplies. The funds from Atka's federally managed fur harvest of the previous year were used to fund a community store at Killisnoo, which became self-sustaining (Kohlhoff 1995:122).

Figure 111.

Atka boat-builder Constantine Golley began building dories in the Killisnoo warehouse.

Alaska State Library Butler/Dale collection PCA306.1032



Finally, after almost three years, the Killisnoo refugees returned to their burned-out village in April of 1945, thus becoming not only the first village evacuated but the last village repatriated (except for the Attuans incarcerated in Japan, who were not returned until late 1945) (Kohlhoff 1995:163). Another military transport – this time the USAT *David W. Branch* – returned the refugees to Atka (Figures 112–113). Photographs of the barge lightering the villagers from the Killisnoo dock to the ship show many possessions including two small boats (Figure 113) – symbols of the people’s thrift and perseverance in defiance of the harsh circumstances.

Wartime Construction

Records of buildings added to or subtracted from the Killisnoo

complex during the war are few. A memo indicates that by January of 1943 Atkans were building “new cottages” at Killisnoo (Kohlhoff 1995:122), but they aren’t apparent in the archival photographs consulted. One photograph shows small boys playing on a stack of new lumber in front of the Killisnoo store porch (Figure 114), and another photograph of the villagers assembled on the day of their departure shows the store’s porch newly framed-in (Figure 115). The new room had been outfitted as a kitchen, according to current property co-owner Richard Powers.

Post-War Development

When the Aleuts left Killisnoo in 1945 the infrastructure was more or less as it had been prior to their arrival three years earlier. Some buildings including the store had been improved with new materials, making them more suitable for the villagers’ needs. But the herring plant was still a derelict commercial facility of little value. In 1950, according to de Laguna (1960:49), “one elderly white man lived alone on the island.” This was probably watchman Oscar H. Pedersen, a single man who lived in a large two-story cabin that still stood into the early 1970s between the reservoir and the lodge’s current shop, according to Richard Powers. Pedersen’s occupancy likely included the wartime years, but he isn’t mentioned in the documents consulted from that era.



Figure 112.
Atka villagers gather on the Killisnoo dock in preparation for the barge trip to the waiting Delarof and their return to Atka, in the late spring of 1945. Behind is the old boathouse that shows on USS 5. Note industrial debris discarded on intertidal spit at left.

Aleutian Pribilof Islands Association
(copy print, source unknown)



Figure 113.
Accompanied by two small boats and other supplies and possessions, Atka villagers are barged to the waiting USAT David W. Branch for their return to Atka.

National Archives RG75-N-
Aleut-C-11

Most of the buildings in the industrial complex at Killisnoo burned in 1952. Pederson eventually gained title to the property in compensation for his long unpaid tenure as watchman, and a warranty deed was filed in March of 1954 selling the 156.5 acre parcel for \$3,000 to Carl A. Jacobson, Jr. By

that time many of the buildings had been cannibalized for material by local residents, as is the custom in southeast Alaska (Wilkinson 1990:82-86; Mobley 1999:24), and Jacobson continued salvaging from the complex. The fenced property of the Russian Orthodox church mapped in 1891

Figure 114.

Atka boys sit on a pile of new lumber at Killisnoo in front of the store porch (left). Left to right: Johnny Golley, Peter Prokopeuff, Paul Zaochney, George Nevzoroff, Ted Golley, and Mike Snigaroff. Neither the first nor third child survived the Killisnoo experience.

Alaska State Library Butler/Dale collection PCA306.1061



We got to Killisnoo and most of the houses were in disrepair. The only decent house there they gave to Mr. and Mrs. Magie [Magee], the teachers, the only one that had the stove...later on, the men were able to repair the homes and eventually everybody had their own little apartment. Like we lived in a two room place, which was – well, summertime it was all right but wintertime it was icy cold and I remember being hungry. Some days were okay because we were able to get clams and crabs and fish, but a lot of time we had nothing. Well we did not have guns. We were not able to go out and get our own food.

Alice Petrivelli, Atka, in 1981 testimony

(Figure 107) was not relinquished as part of the warranty deed, and officially remains in church hands (as an inholding within the Whaler's Cove Lodge parcel).

Richard L. Powers joined Jacobson in several local business interests including the intention of developing a fishing lodge, and "in 1970, the principals of Whaler's Cove, Inc., started construction by clearing the site of dilapidated Killisnoo



Figure 115.
*Seventy-seven
Atkans assemble
by the Killisnoo
store, with its newly
enclosed kitchen,
on the day of their
departure in April
of 1945.*

Aleutian Pribilof Islands Association
(copy print, source unknown)

buildings and dock remains” (Whaler’s Cove Lodge 2011). The first year of operation for Whaler’s Cove Lodge was in 1983. Powers soon purchased Jacobson’s interest in the lodge, and they divided the property.

Whaler’s Cove Lodge was built exclusively from the beach midpoint and northwest on what was the residential portion of old Killisnoo, and Jacobson retained the remainder including the southeast half of the beach where the industrial zone had been. In the 1970s the Jacobsons cleared a survey line into the middle of Killisnoo Island, platted 25 lots on each side of it (for a total of 50 lots), and put them up for sale at \$3,000 each, according to Tom Aubertine. The cemetery was surveyed separately and offered to the City of Angoon about 20 years ago, according to Chris Aubertine, but the offer was declined. In 2008 the old Killisnoo industrial area was part of a large parcel owned by the Aubertine Trust, under the control of Tom and Chris (Jacobson) Aubertine (Figure 116).

Current Condition

The site of historic Killisnoo is now primarily split between the Whaler’s Cove Lodge and the Aubertine Trust (Figures 117-119). The lodge property extends from the midpoint of the beach fronting Killisnoo Harbor (Figure 118) northwest almost to the point guarding the harbor (Figure 119), where a new cabin has been built on Lot 1N of the Jacobson subdivision. Abutting the lodge property and extending southeast to the opposite point are the home and associated buildings of Tom and Chris Aubertine (Figure 117). Subdivision lots in the interior of the island were not investigated. Evidence of old Killisnoo among the modern developments consists of features on land, features and artifacts in the intertidal zone, archaeological deposits, and artifacts collected for display by the lodge-owners. There are no buildings or even building ruins from old Killisnoo. The old Killisnoo cemetery immediately south of the former industrial area is a separate but related site component (Figure 120).

Modern buildings overlying the historic site of Killisnoo belong to Whaler's Cove Lodge and the

Aubertine Trust. Owner Tom Aubertine was a willing onsite guide (Figure 116), pointing out historic

[In 1969 at Killisnoo] there were several buildings. The cabin that the caretaker had lived in was still standing. It was a small two-story building that sat back on the property roughly...between our shop and the pond....I'd say it was maybe 20'x30' on the lower floor and 20'x20' on the upper floor. There was the store, which was I think probably more of a kitchen and food service area because the one whole end of it had an old stove and cooking facilities and stuff in it. It was still standing, but it said STORE on the front of it....That was a fairly large building, located roughly where Aubertine's cabin is, behind that just a little bit – probably in front of our shop more. There were a number of old steam donkey engines. Most of them are still there. Couple of them we drug over on the beach a little ways from where they were.

There was still part of the carpentry shop there. The old marine ways where they had a shipyard where they rebuilt ships was still pretty much in place....There's still remnants of the donkey that they used, the double-drum winch that they used to pull the ships out....The barrel factory, or the cooperage, was still pretty much intact. And a lot of the stuff, the bungs for the barrels, hundreds of galvanized rings [hoops] for the barrels, and the tools, and all that stuff was still just laying there when I first saw it....We found out where the Russian Orthodox church was and where the school was. You could see by the artifacts. Those were two major parts of the community. They set up on the hill above where some of our housing is....There's an old sewing machine and some desks that are grown into some of the trees by the schoolhouse [site].

Richard Powers

Killisnoo features on his property and the adjacent cemetery. Historic features on the Aubertine parcel were recorded, but buildings in use were not closely inspected. Five buildings are strung out more or less equidistantly along the harbor side of the Aubertine property, consisting of two boathouses and three dwellings. The most easterly building is a small boathouse, not far from where the herring plant's boathouse was plotted in 1891 (Figures 106-107). Next to it is a much larger boathouse (Figure 120); both buildings are sided and roofed in metal. Closer to the lodge are three dwellings in a row: a log cabin, flanked to the northwest by two frame cabins.

The lodge grounds were inspected, as was the second-growth forest along the shore further northwest. Owner Richard Powers authorized access to the lodge property and discussed the building history. Whereas Killisnoo's three historic use zones along the shore from southeast to northwest were industrial, commercial, and then residential, in 2008 those zones roughly correspond to the

Aubertine Trust property, the Whaler's Cove Lodge facilities, and the second growth forest.

Whaler's Cove Lodge includes buildings of log, frame, and metal construction, with few unifying architectural themes, reflecting its gradual development as a seasonal fishing resort (Figures 121-125). The largest and most central building is the lodge (Figure 121), with a cafeteria, lounge, kitchen, gift shop, and other spaces. A power house and a shop – two large utility sheds (Figure 122) – are located inland. Other utility sheds, cabins, and two larger residential units are of frame construction (Figures 123-125). All the buildings are built on land above the high tide mark (Figure 126). A floating dock leads to a floating small boat facility, but it is seasonally operated and the floats are stowed on shore for winter.

The boundary of historic Killisnoo (SIT-014) has not been formally defined by archaeological survey, nor was the brief 2008 investigation sufficient to do so. Observations made the length of the shoreline facing Killisnoo Harbor (Figures 117-119) indicate that historic archaeological deposits potentially exist from one end to the



Figure 116.
Tom Aubertine, who with his wife Chris (Jacobson) owns the Killisnoo industrial zone, points out a steam engine.

other, though recent development has disturbed some areas.

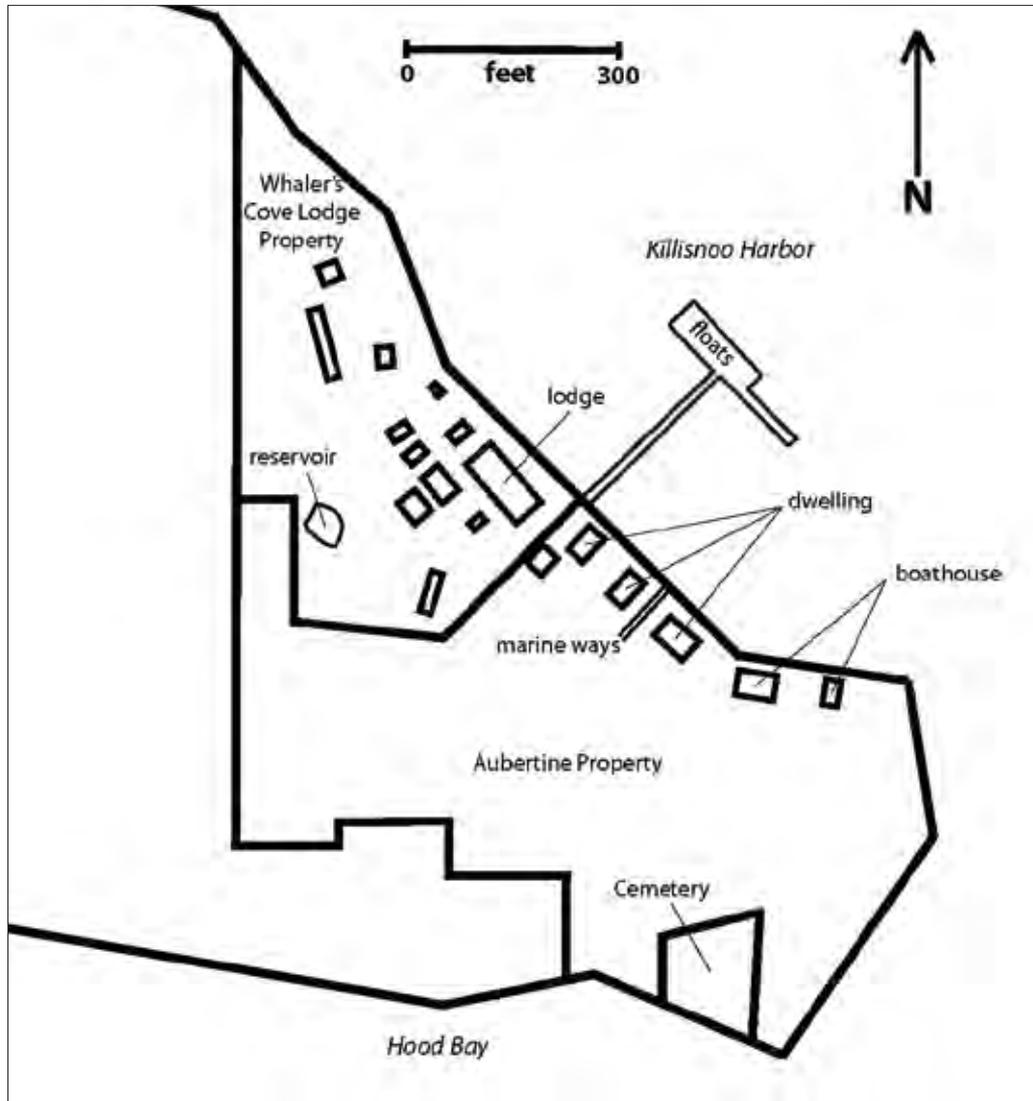
Features on Land

A dense second-growth spruce-hemlock forest covered much of Killisnoo in 2008, reflecting the late 1800s clearing there (Figures 104-105); by

They [Killisnoo] had a little farm there – some stock. Chickens, and horses.... They had cattle, some cows for milk. Chickens and ducks.... They had to have them all penned in.... Right in above our pond was where they had the stock at. We found some of the old woven wire, fencing, there.... They had a pretty good water collection system. They dug kind of a Y of trenches up on that end of the island, so that anything that flowed towards the island flowed into these trenches and into a collection pond – a reservoir.... We've dug out the same ditches – collection trenches. And we've enlarged the reservoir, so we store a lot more water than they had, but that was one of the main sources. They had another source of water over on the Admiralty side and they had a water barge that they'd fill and bring across as often as it filled....

Richard Powers



**OPPOSITE TOP****Figure 117.**

Buildings on the Aubertine property are mostly hidden by trees behind Whaler's Cove Lodge's small boat floats in this panorama of Killisnoo. The 2008 reconnaissance extended along the beach as far southeast as the point at far left.

OPPOSITE MIDDLE**Figure 118.**

The central portion of Killisnoo contains Whaler's Cove Lodge, with the lodge building at far left and cabins at center.

OPPOSITE BOTTOM**Figure 119.**

In 2008 the northwest portion of Killisnoo was covered in second-growth timber hiding what was – before the 1926 fire – the residential district of Killisnoo. The reconnaissance extended almost as far northwest as the point at far right.

THIS PAGE**Figure 120.**

A sketch map of Killisnoo in 2008 was compiled from a 1977 survey for the Aubertine property, an aerial photograph, and field notes and photographs.

the early 1940s the forest was already encroaching upon the facility (Figures 110, 112). Amid the modern forest are patches of bushes and shrubs marking past disturbance footprints (Figure 118), but their meaning is not obvious. Less ambiguous features observed on land were the ruin of a marine ways, the lodge's current reservoir, and large and/or stationary artifacts.

A linear clearing perpendicular to shore on the Aubertine property

represents a marine ways – a track used to haul boats out of the water for storage and repair (Figure 127). The clearing is about 20' wide and extends from the shore about 60'-80' into the forest fringe (Figure 120). A gravel track about 8' wide runs through the center of the alignment. Along the grade to the southeast are the remains of two large plank and plywood cradles mounted on steel railcar chassis. The cradles where they contact the

Figure 121.

The largest building at Whaler's Cove Lodge is the lodge – a long frame building containing a large dining room, kitchen, lounge area, gift shop, and office.



Figure 122.

Frame utility buildings nestled inland among the trees include a shop, generator shack, and a shed where clients check out boots for their stay.



Figure 123.

Guest accommodations at the lodge include this two-story building with several rooms.



boat hull are upholstered in carpet. Several lengths of regular-gauge rail protrude from beneath the two railcars, and several notched logs are associated with the collection. The condition of the clearing, gravel track, and plywood-and-carpet cradles suggested manufacture and operation decades ago. Owners Aubertine and Powers stated that the system included 4-5 rails salvaged from the Kanalku coal mine on Admiralty Island combined with rails and cars from a mine in Idaho, installed at Killisnoo long after World War II by Carl A. Jacobson, Jr., and Powers himself. The track and gear have not been used since the early 1990s.

In 1891 Killisnoo had a reservoir plotted on USS 5 midway between the school (labeled "S.H." in the upper left of Figure 107) and church (Figure 106). The island's feeble seeps were channeled to it by way of intersecting ditches, some over four feet deep to bedrock, according to historic photographs. The ditch and reservoir system and a creek across Killisnoo Harbor (requiring a boat to access) were used by Atka villagers as water sources (Kohlhoff 1995:120). A secondary reservoir about 150' south of the one plotted in 1891 (Figure 107) must have been in use by then, as such a feature was enlarged by Richard Powers to serve

There was another fire that burned most of the facilities of the old plant – 1952....But that was about the time Jacobson purchased the property, or just before then. The Jacobsons took care of the caretaker – the old man that watched the property for about twenty years, without being paid for it. He'd acquired the property...for back wages.... When he decided to sell he asked them if they wanted to buy it.

We met Carl A. Jacobson....[In the early 1970s] we bought a little sawmill, a little mobile dimension sawmill, and set it up on the beach and started cutting beachcombed logs....1983 was our first year [operating Whaler's Cove Lodge]. I bought Jake [Jacobson] out. We own basically about half of the harbor end of Killisnoo Island, which is where we were developing, and he retained the other half for his family. So the Aubertine Trust property, that's where most of the manufacturing plant was on that portion of the property, is still in Jacobson's heirs, or the Aubertine Trust....

There were people that had salvaged out of the buildings, like the store building that was still standing. Most of the structural material somebody had taken out of them: the two-by material – 2"x8", 2"x10". Somebody had already been in there [the store] when I first saw it and taken most of the usable lumber out....Probably people that were building and rebuilding in Angoon, much the same that had happened with Hood Bay cannery later.

We used the tanks. We built an addition onto Angoon Trading Store using the stays out of one of the tanks. They were 3"x6" clear Douglas fir. Beautiful stuff. 100 years old when I started building. Perfect shape.

Richard Powers

Figure 124.

Several small wood frame buildings such as this shed and cabin serve the lodge.



Figure 125.

One of the lodge's employee quarters is a one-story wood-frame cabin with a hipped roof.



the lodge. In 2008 a grassy embankment retained a small pond of dark water, backed up to a few spruce and hemlock trees (Figure 128). Water retention has been improved with a black pond liner. Evidence of the reservoir's historic origins was lacking.

At least eight boilers were observed in the former Killisnoo industrial area. Three (Figure 129) are located just inside the treeline immediately next to one of the boathouses on the Aubertine property. Another five or six boilers were found another 30' further



Figure 126.
The Whaler's Cove Lodge buildings (here viewed to the southeast) are all built on gently sloped land above the intertidal zone.



Figure 127.
The remains of a marine ways including a few rails salvaged from a coal mine at Kanalku Bay postdate World War II. The boat cradle and railcars at right are from a mine in Idaho.

inside the treeline (Figure 130). The large artifacts are rusty and overgrown with vegetation, and appear to have not moved for decades.

Several rusty artifacts from the herring plant have been moved and landscaped into the grounds of the lodge, but only

one large stationary machine was noted in its original position. Located near the boundary of the lodge and Aubertine properties is a steam engine on a concrete pedestal, mounted with the power shaft parallel to the shore (Figure 131).

Figure 128.

In 2008 the main ditch-fed reservoir for Whaler's Cove Lodge is a pleasant pond, located southwest of the reservoir on the 1891 survey (Figures 106-107).



Figure 129.

Three boilers rest just inside the treeline next to a boathouse on the Aubertine property.



INTERTIDAL FEATURES AND ARTIFACTS

Killisnoo's intertidal zone was not extensively inspected in 2008. Piling stubs ground flush and buried beneath the beach gravels are likely present offshore, as are isolated artifacts, and

local resident Frank Sharp as well as Richard Powers mentioned sport divers bringing up historic artifacts from the harbor where the dock was located. But the only features recorded in 2008 consisted of an extensive scatter of industrial debris on a long reef marking



Figure 130.
Tom Aubertine points to a boiler about 30' inland from his house.



Figure 131.
Near the lot line between the Whaler's Cove Lodge and the Aubertine property is a steam engine on a concrete pedestal.

the southeast end of the beach (Figures 132-133), and a pair of pilings.

Within the reef scatter are remains of two boilers, cable, chain, pulleys and gears, vehicle axles and tire rims, barrel hoops and other sheet metal items,

angle iron, pipe and wire in various diameters, and some glass and ceramic items. Metals represented include iron/steel, copper, brass, and lead alloys. The scatter shows in a 1945 photograph of the Aleut departure (Figure 112), so it holds more than

Figure 132.

Killisnoo's wide arcuate gravel beach is bounded on the southeast by a reef that at low tide reveals an extensive scatter of industrial debris. Some of it predates WW II (see Figure 112).



Figure 133.

The barnacle-clad ferrous and cuprous artifacts on the reef south of Killisnoo's beach are fast deteriorating into unidentifiable flakes and lumps of metal.



65 years of antiquity. Industrial debris from Killisnoo has been discarded there into recent decades, according to Tom Aubertine.

The pair of pilings consists of one at the vegetation line onshore and

another about 20' offshore perpendicular from it, approximately 80' southeast of the marine ways. Tom Aubertine believes these mark the former location of Killisnoo's original historic marine ways.

TERRESTRIAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL DEPOSITS

Several localities within the current resort have disturbances revealing black organic deposits and historic artifacts. Intact deposits revealed by natural exposures (primarily the rootwads of fallen trees), were observed in two places. The most extensive evidence is northwest of the resort where the historic village of Killisnoo was destroyed by the 1928 fire. Large metal artifacts like stove parts protrude through the forest floor. Smaller artifacts noted on the surface included leather and ceramic items (Figures 134-135), as well as enamelware utensils. Second-growth timber covers most of the area and the sod and moss were sufficient to hide most cultural features, but clam shell clusters showed in several places. Bits of rotten planks could be discerned – sometimes in isolation and sometimes

in clusters defining a building footprint. Near the far northwest end are several concentrations of rotten planks from buildings that either escaped the 1928 fire or were built later.

The second deposit of archaeological interest is an exposure of densely packed shell less than 50' inland from



Figure 134.
Archaeologist Becky Saleeby holds a leather boot fragment observed in the former residential portion of Killisnoo.



Figure 135.
Domestic artifacts such as this transfer-printed ceramic bowl fragment were observed on the surface of the old Killisnoo village area.

Figure 136.

Inland from the marine ways is an exposure of densely packed shell overlain and penetrated by solidified bunker fuel from the old Killisnoo industrial plant.



They also had some bunker fuel, and once petroleum products came in there were two big wood-stave tanks that they had bunker fuel in. They were pretty close to where our generator building is. In fact we've had to do some soil remediation there....Up until we started doing that you could still dig in there – you find some chunks of that. It looks just like tar. Solidified bunker oil.

Richard Powers

the old marine ways (Figure 136). Overlying the shell and worked into it was a layer of crusty black bunker fuel visible in 2008; since then bioremediation has almost totally removed the oil, according to Richard Powers.

SCAVENGED ARTIFACTS

In addition to a few large industrial artifacts landscaped into the grounds for the enjoyment of lodge patrons, smaller artifacts have been collected for display.

Arranged on the southeast exterior wall of the lodge is a collection of firearm parts – mostly metal barrels and actions – recovered during lodge development (Figure 137). One specimen has a fire-warped barrel, and the sheer number of specimens (at least 30 on display) attests to the speed of the 1928 fire –

people had no time to salvage essential items such as shotguns and rifles.

Almost as useful were the large saws needed not only to provide firewood for domestic use but to cut the large quantities of industrial boiler cordwood. As with the firearms, the large number recovered and displayed at Killisnoo gives a sense

not only of how common the tool was in the typical Killisnoo household but also of the speed of the fire that prevented their owners from saving them. A one-story frame cabin immediately southeast of the lodge, named the Hasselborg Cabin after one of Admiralty Island's notable historic characters (Orth 1967:409), has its entrance flanked by saw blades (Figures 138-139). Also displayed with



Figure 137.

Displayed on an exterior wall of the lodge are firearms recovered from the grounds – relics of the 1928 fire that destroyed the old village.

the saw collection is a galvanized steel cone used by Killisnoo's coopers as a barrel anvil. A second metal cone – this one of galvanized tin – is the herring plant's steam whistle (Figure 139).

Inside the lodge building is a collection of glass bottles found at Killisnoo, arranged in a display case for visitor enjoyment (Figure 140).

KILLISNOO CEMETERY

The Killisnoo cemetery (SIT-749) is a collection of graves south of the Killisnoo industrial complex, on a surveyed parcel fronting the south shore of

I had friends in the 1960s who dove at the end of the dock and found bushel-baskets of opium bottles and rice wine bottles. Hundreds of them!

Richard Powers

My son who is a diver...says that that's really good diving off of where the [Killisnoo] dock was, because they threw all their trash off into the water...Artifacts!

Frank W. Sharp

In the 1960s people came over and dug on the island – people traveling through. People used to scuba dive out front and find bottles. Most of those in the lodge came from there. Those rusty rifles came from our excavations for various projects. Beads have been found here. But I don't dig.

Tom Aubertine

Figure 138.

The Hasselborg Cabin immediately southeast of the lodge is adorned with saw blades on both sides of the entrance – more evidence of the 1928 fire.



Figure 139.

Besides saw blades, the Hasselborg Cabin collection contains the herring plant's steam whistle (the cone at left), and a barrel anvil (the cone at right).



Killisnoo Island (Figure 120). Vegetation consists of second-growth timber and a dense cover of berry bushes and ferns, hiding several types of graves. Cut and polished stone markers with Christian motifs numbered in the

dozens, with Japanese, Tlingit, and EuroAmerican surnames appearing on them. Granite, marble, and limestone were included in the collection, and dates of death ranged from the 1880s to the 1930s. Some stones are damaged,

and some are no longer erect. Grave fences of concrete, wood, and wire mesh were observed in various states of disrepair (Figure 141). An elaborate wooden Chinese grave house is falling down, though major structural elements and paint are still discernible (Figure 142). At least one example of Tlingit formline design was noted – carved in stone (Figure 143).

On the north edge of the cemetery are the remains of five wooden Russian Orthodox crosses said by Tom Aubertine to mark the Aleut cemetery from the World War II era (Figures 144-146). Both Aubertine and Powers remember at least a dozen standing at one time, decades ago. The crosses are scattered within an area approximately 25' by 50' in size, and none are upright. Instead they are broken and laying on the ground or against a tree. Two prone crosses have stubs protruding from the sod nearby to suggest their original location (Figures 145-146). All five crosses show traces of faded white paint, and Cyrillic letters in black appear to spell out religious scripture rather than names. A votive candle was nestled in the moss at the base of one cross. Another cross is of newer wood than the others and has Russian lettering “sans seraph” rather than the others’ more ornate style,



Figure 140.
Glass bottles found at Killisnoo are displayed in the Whaler's Cove Lodge.

suggesting it might be a replacement for an older marker.

Summary

The site of the Killisnoo herring plant still holds one large stationary machine, at least eight boilers, at least one large intertidal artifact scatter, and an extensive tract of second-growth forest hiding the archaeological remnants of the residential district that burned in 1928. There are no standing buildings that date to the operational period of the plant or the later World War II Aleut occupation. Numerous artifacts have been recovered by the existing landowners – Richard Powers and the Whaler's Cove Lodge, and to a lesser extent Chris and Tom Aubertine. The many saw blades as well as gun

barrels and actions salvaged from the site over the years attest to not only the utility of those two tool types during the early twentieth century but also

the speed of the 1928 fire that destroyed the dwellings in which many of those tools resided. Other artifacts displayed by the lodge include glass

Figure 141.

The Killisnoo cemetery (SIT-749) contains several types of monuments. In the foreground is a concrete grave wall, left of that is a wood bannister grave fence, left of that is a stone grave marker, and behind that at upper left is the Chinese grave house.



Figure 142.

The elaborately painted Chinese grave house includes a wooden plaque with the date 1899.





TOP

Figure 143.

Among the conventional stone memorials with traditional Christian motifs are some with Tlingit formline art – like this dog salmon.



BOTTOM

Figure 144.

On the north edge of the cemetery are five wood Russian Orthodox crosses marking Aleut interments.

bottles, a cooper's anvil, and the herring plant's steam whistle. The former residential portion of the site indicates considerable potential for buried archaeological remains.

The only evidence of the Aleut presence at Killisnoo is the collection of

Russian Orthodox crosses along the north edge of the cemetery. Identical white wooden Russian Orthodox crosses can be seen in archival photographs of the Killisnoo cemetery taken long before World War II, reflecting the local Tlingit Indian's conversion

to that faith in the late 1800s. But the Aleut association with these particular markers is certain; Tom Aubertine and Richard Powers mentioned that occasional Aleut visitors care for the graves, such as Alice Petrivelli in the documentary film "Aleut Story."

Figure 145.
Two Russian Orthodox crosses including this example may be near their original position.



Figure 146.
The wooden Russian Orthodox markers have barely legible Cyrillic lettering not of names but rather of scripture.

