

NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK NOMINATION

NPS Form 10-900

USDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form (Rev. 8-86)

OMB No. 1024-0018

WALRUS ISLANDS ARCHEOLOGICAL DISTRICT

United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

1. NAME OF PROPERTY:

Historic Name: Walrus Islands Archeological District

Other Name/Site Number: XHI-093 and XNB-145

2. LOCATION

Street & Number: Walrus Islands State Game Sanctuary

Not for publication: X

City/Town: Togiak

Vicinity: X

State: Alaska County: Dillingham Census Area Code: 070

Zip Code: 99678

3. CLASSIFICATION

Ownership of Property

Private: ___
Public-Local: ___
Public-State: X
Public-Federal: ___

Category of Property

Building(s): ___
District: X
Site: ___
Structure: ___
Object: ___

Number of Resources within Property Contributing

14
14

Noncontributing

6 buildings
1 sites
7 structures
objects
14 Total

Number of Contributing Resources Previously Listed in the National Register: N/A

Name of Related Multiple Property Listing: N/A

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4. STATE/FEDERAL AGENCY CERTIFICATION

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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.

Signature of Certifying Official

Date

State or Federal Agency and Bureau

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of Commenting or Other Official

Date

State or Federal Agency and Bureau

5. NATIONAL PARK SERVICE CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is:

- Entered in the National Register
- Determined eligible for the National Register
- Determined not eligible for the National Register
- Removed from the National Register
- Other (explain): _____

Signature of Keeper

Date of Action

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6. FUNCTION OR USE

Historic:	Domestic	Sub:	Camp Village Site
	Subsistence	Sub:	Animal Facility Fishing Facility
	Trade	Sub:	Cache Pits
Current:	Conservation Area	Sub:	Wildlife Sanctuary

7. DESCRIPTION

ARCHITECTURAL CLASSIFICATION: N/A

MATERIALS: N/A

Foundation:

Walls:

Roof:

Other:

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National Register of Historic Places Registration Form**Describe Present and Historic Physical Appearance.****Summary Statement**

In recognition of the importance of the Walrus Island chain as a terrestrial haul out for male walruses, the State of Alaska designated the area a sanctuary in 1961. The Sanctuary was placed on the National Register of Natural Landmarks in 1968 (Figure 1). The Sanctuary includes seven islands totaling 9,187 acres and all waters within 5 km of the islands (Figure 2; Hall 1967) and is home to abundant sea life, most notably the Pacific walrus, *Odobenus rosmarus divergens*. National Historic Landmark designation for the Walrus Islands Archeological District would make the Walrus Islands Game Sanctuary one of only ten places in the nation with dual National Natural and Historic Landmark status. The value of the Walrus Islands sites lies in considering them together, as a district, with an essential relationship to the land and water of the Sanctuary.

The Walrus Islands Archeological District is significant under NHL Criterion 6 (Criterion D) in that it has yielded and, in the future, is likely to yield information crucial to understanding the initial settlement of Alaska's southwest coast and the movements and changing adaptations of the earliest inhabitants of the Americas. Broadly, archeological resources in the district are likely to yield fundamental information for researchers interested in general patterns of prehistoric migration, interaction, human adaptation to changing environments, resource exploitation, settlement, and cultural identity. As one of few remaining places which may provide evidence of human occupation of the Bering Sea continental shelf when sea levels were substantially lower than present, the archeological resources of the Walrus Islands Archeological District may be likely to yield information affecting major disciplinary theories regarding the sequence, practice and regional distribution of human coastal adaptations in prehistory and may potentially yield information regarding the peopling of the Americas.

Attributes that make this District exceptionally important are deeply stratified, large, multi-component prehistoric villages that collectively represent most cultural traditions identified in the region after 6000 years ago, along with good organic preservation and the presence of human remains. The findings from recent NPS investigations on Round Island within the District significantly alter our understanding of the region's prehistory, with clear evidence of island-based walrus hunting occurring nearly 6000 years ago. This is over 3500 years earlier than any island sites yet documented in western Alaska and is the oldest radiocarbon-dated coastal site in Alaska north of the Alaska Peninsula. The significance of the Walrus Islands Archeological District is best categorized by the NHL theme "Peopling Places". The presence of cultural components dated between approximately 6,300 and 200 years old in the Walrus Islands provides a unique opportunity to refine our knowledge of Alaskan cultural traditions beginning with an early north Pacific maritime and contemporaneous Northern Archaic and ending with the Thule tradition.

The Walrus Islands Archeological District and proposed National Historic Landmark is a singular resource that has yielded information of major scientific importance to address long-standing questions about cultural origins. Studied in combination with data collected from sites from the interior and coastland of Southwest Alaska, the archeological resources of the proposed Walrus Islands Archeological District can provide foundational information shedding light on interrelationships of trade, conflict and migration between contemporaneous groups. With continued research, the Walrus Islands Archeological District will yield scientific information about relationships among the known cultural traditions to the north and south, illuminating interactions with the better-known cultures from the eastern Aleutian Islands and the Alaska Peninsula, specifically the Brooks River Archeological District National Historic Landmark and the Amalik Bay Archeological District National Historic Landmark.

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Because the Archeological District straddles two U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) 1:250,000 scale map quadrangles (Hagemeister Island and Nushagak Bay), it is assigned two Alaska Heritage Resource Survey data repository (AHRS) numbers, XHI-093 and XNB-145. A unique AHRS number is assigned to each site within the Archeological District (Figure 3).

Environmental History of the Walrus Islands

Regional Geography

The Walrus Islands State Game Sanctuary is located along the northwestern shoreline of Bristol Bay in southwestern Alaska. This chain of seven islands, and surrounding 5 km of water, are managed by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G). From north to south, the largest islands are Summit Island (2.5 km²), High Island (9.0 km²), Crooked Island (9.5 km²), and Round Island (2 km²) (Sinnott 1992). The remaining two, Black Rock and the Twins, are rocky islets east and south, respectively, of Crooked Island.

To the north, the coastline of southwestern Alaska borders the Walrus Islands. The Ahklun Mountain Range, the highest range west of the Alaska Range, is located in the interior, north of the coast (Manley et al. 2001). The Ahklun Mountains, partially located in the Togiak National Wildlife Refuge and Wood-Tikchik State Park, contain remnant glaciers from a Late Wisconsin ice cap that was not part of the Cordilleran Ice Sheet (Kathan 2006:6). These glaciers feed the Togiak River. The Togiak River runs south to the coast into Togiak Bay. The village of Togiak, positioned at the mouth of Togiak Bay, is located 56 km northwest from the southernmost island in the chain, Round Island. Togiak Bay extends some 30 km south from the community of Togiak into Bristol Bay and is 40 km at its widest, west to east, extending from Tongue Point on the southwestern tip of the bay to Rocky Point. Summit Island, the northernmost island in the chain, lies directly south of Rocky Point. Photo 1 shows the four major islands, Round, Summit, Crooked, and High islands (from left to right) looking south from Togiak Bay.

The open waters of Bristol Bay flank the southern side of Walrus Islands. To the east, the Walrus Islands are most closely bordered by Right Hand Point on the mainland and Kulukak Bay. Beyond lies the Nushagak Peninsula and community of Dillingham 100 km to the northeast. The east boundary of Bristol Bay terminates at the northern Alaska Peninsula. Katmai National Park and Preserve is located on the northern Alaska Peninsula and is home to the archeological districts Brooks River National Historic Landmark and Amalik Bay National Historic Landmark (McClenahan 1992; Saleeby 2004). The National Park Service (NPS) manages both National Historic Landmarks. To the west is Hagemeister Island (187 km²), a landmass considerably larger than those in the Walrus Islands chain. The north tip of Hagemeister Island sits just south of Togiak Bay and east of Tongue Point on the mainland. The coastal locales of Cape Pierce, Cape Newenham, Security Cove, Chagvan Bay, and Goodnews Bay, which are integral to understanding the ancient history of the area, are located further west, past Hagemeister Island on the mainland. Kuskokwim Bay skirts the northwest side of Bristol Bay. Togiak Bay and Bristol Bay open into the Bering Sea, which separates Alaska and Asia.

Marine Setting

Bristol Bay is located on the southeastern portion of the Bering Sea continental shelf, which extends 1200 km, north to south, by 500 km, east to west (CGER-NRC 1990:58). The Bering Sea continental shelf is relatively shallow, reaching a maximum depth of 170 m. At the deepest part, the shelf break meets the Arctic Ocean by way of the Bering Strait (CGER-NRC 1990:58). The Bering Sea continental shelf is divided into three hydrographic domains: coastal, middle, and outer (CGER-NRC 1990:60). The Walrus Islands chain, being close to the Alaska mainland, is located in the shallow coastal domain. The coastal domain starts at the coastline

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and terminates at the 50 m isobath (contour line). The horizontal extent of the 50 m isobath varies, but ends at least 50 km south of the Walrus Islands chain.

The low frequency current regime of the coastal domain is the result of water moving from the Gulf of Alaska through Unimak Pass and northeast along the Alaska Peninsula (CGER-NRC 1990:59). The current moves northward along the 50 m isobath in a counterclockwise motion (CGER-NRC 1990:59). The water in the coastal domain is "vertically homogenous" as opposed to the stratified water columns of the middle domain, which exists between the 50 m and 100 m isobaths, and the outer domain, which is located between the 100 m isobath and the shelf break (CGER-NRC 1990:60). The shallowness of the water closest to the coastline allows for both surface wind and bottom tidal movement to work in tandem, completely mixing the water column (CGER-NRC 1990:59).

The ocean sediments in the Walrus Islands area consist of fine sands between Round Island and Cape Constantine and mud between Hagemeister and Round islands (Sinnott 1992:17). The extremely shallow bathymetry of the area, particularly surrounding the islands, combined with the dynamic nature of the water column, moves ocean sediments to form shifting shoals (sediment bars) that are hazardous to contemporary boaters (NOAA 2010). Shoaling is frequent and fast in waters that are 3 fathoms or less (1 fathom equals 1.83 m). Several locations in the Walrus Islands region have waters of 3 fathoms or less and form somewhat of an L-shaped path from Togiak Bay to Round Island (NOAA 2010, see nautical chart 16315). These shallow areas include the northern third of Togiak Bay (to where the water becomes level with Anchor Point); patches of water just north of Hagemeister Island; waters just east of the northern third of Hagemeister Island that continue southeast to High Island and between High and Crooked islands; patches of water just south of the Twins; and a small sliver of water surrounding the 2.5 km spit on the northwest end of Round Island. Shoal waters also closely hug Summit Island and most of the mainland coastline of Bristol Bay. Waters surrounding the Walrus Islands, with the exception of the shoal sections, generally have depths between 5 and 10 fathoms and do not exceed 15 fathoms (except in Hagemeister Strait).

The current climate of the Walrus Islands is best described as damp, cool, and breezy (Sinnott 1992:16). Summer temperatures range between 2° and 12°C and winter temperatures range between -11° and -1.1°C. Though there are calm, sunny days during the summer, annual precipitation is heavy with up to 94 cm of rainfall and up to 206 cm of snowfall. The typical wind speed in the Walrus Islands is 11 knots (21 km/h) reaching a maximum of 60 knots (113 km/h) (Sinnott 1992: 6). As a result, wave climate can be characterized as stormy. From May to September, waves at least 1 m high occur approximately 50% of the time; waves at least 2.4 m in height occur less than 5% of the time. In October and November, waves over 1 m in height occur between 60% and 70% of the time, but are least likely to occur between December and April (Sinnott 1992:17). Mean sea surface temperature is highest in August at 10.5°C and lowest in February at -0.6°C (Sinnott 1992:17). From the months of December through April, at least 60% of Bristol Bay, including the Walrus Islands area, is covered with sea ice (Schumacher et al. 1979:80). Coverage in the Walrus Islands is typically 50% or greater and polynyas are present around most of the islands (Sinnott 1992:18). Shore fast ice sometimes extends past Summit Island (Sinnott 1992:18).

Because the climate of northwestern Bristol Bay is capricious, getting to the Walrus Islands is heavily dependent on having optimum climatic conditions and careful use of tides. Boat travel to the Walrus Islands is subject to diurnal tides, which have a range of 3 m (NOAA 2010). North of Anchor Point, Togiak Bay is not navigable during low tides and the beaches in the Walrus Islands are mostly rocky and high energy (NOAA 2010; Sinnott 1992:17). In good conditions, boat travel between the community of Togiak and the Walrus Islands follows the eastern coastline of Togiak Bay to Summit Island. If traveling to one of the other islands, boaters will take a direct route from Summit Island to the island of choice. The route to Summit Island hugs the coastline and is relatively protected whereas getting to any of the other islands in the Walrus Island chain

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requires traveling over several kilometers of open water. For example, Round Island is at least 19 km from the closest point of mainland, Right Hand Point. In passable weather, on a 6 m long fishing boat, the trip between Togiak and Round Island can be completed in 2 to 3 hours.

Local Sea Level and Paleoenvironment since the Last Glacial Maximum

The following section outlines the paleoenvironmental history of the Walrus Islands and northwestern Bristol Bay as it is relevant to human coastal occupation of the region. Demonstrating the high potential for earlier human occupations to be present is directly pertinent to establishing the significance of the Walrus Islands Archeological District. Studies concerning the environmental history of southwestern Alaska have indicated that eustatic and local sea levels influenced by glacial activity, tectonics, and climatic fluctuations have significantly and continuously altered the topography of coastal areas such as the Walrus Islands (Barclay et al. 2009; Briner and Kaufman 2008; Calkin et al. 2001; Jordan 2001; Katsuki et al. 2009; Manley and Kaufman 2004; Manley et al. 2001; Mann et al. 1998, etc.). The environmental changes in northwestern Bristol Bay, beginning at least 25,000 years ago, set into motion long-term processes that influenced the movement of peoples in the region, including the earliest documented inhabitants on Round Island, approximately 6,000 years ago.

Sea level history in northwestern Bristol Bay is of particular importance for understanding the prehistory of the Walrus Islands. Since approximately 20,000 years ago, the Walrus Islands have gone from being high points on the exposed and dry Bering Sea continental shelf, a land bridge connecting Asia to North America, to a group of seven small islands separated from the Alaskan mainland by several kilometers of ocean. In the span of time in which these changes occurred, the way peoples moved across and lived in the region on a seasonal, annual, and longer-term basis was heavily influenced by sea level change. To begin to answer research questions we need to understand how accessible the Walrus Islands were to ancient peoples (access routes defined by sea level, sea ice and technology) during each period of occupation and what motivated people to inhabit the Walrus Islands (food, defensibility, etc.). It is possible that people inhabited the Walrus Islands area before 6,000 years ago, and having a thorough understanding of local sea level history would help direct intensive surveys to locate earlier sites.

Data on sea level change specific to the Walrus Islands and northwestern Bristol Bay are not currently available. It is difficult and potentially erroneous to apply region-specific data available from other Alaskan locales to the Walrus Islands. Coastal paleoenvironmental studies from the Seward Peninsula, Gulf of Alaska, and western Alaska Peninsula, indicate that changes in sea level do vary quite significantly locally and regionally (Crowell and Mann 1996; Jordan 2001; Mann et al. 1998; Mason and Jordan 2002). The best estimate of sea level change for the Walrus Islands then is the larger-scale overview study by Manley (2002). Manley (2002) estimated sea level change on the Bering Sea continental shelf, including northwestern Bristol Bay, on a millennial scale by using global sea level curve, bathymetry, and GIS modeling.

Region-specific data on climate change and glaciations is plentiful while what is known about sea level history is taken from Manley (2002). The most likely scenario of the changing form of the Walrus Islands over the last several thousand years is presented here by applying Manley's (2002) sea levels to contemporary bathymetry charts (NOAA 2010).

At the end of the last glacial maximum (LGM), at least 20,000 years ago, global sea levels were 120 m lower than present (Hopkins 1967; Hopkins et al. 1982). Much of the world's water was trapped in large ice sheets and glaciers that covered a large percentage of northern North America. Most of the Bering Sea continental shelf (BSCS), including the coastal, middle, and part of the outer domains, was exposed and glacier free leaving

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a broad swath of land connecting Siberia to Alaska, a region commonly referred to as Beringia (AMAP 2003; Katsuki et al. 2009:751; Manley et al. 2001).

In northwestern Bristol Bay, approximately 24,000 to 22,000 years ago, Late Wisconsin glaciers were present in the Ahklun Mountains. The maximum extent of the glaciers was no more than 50 to 80 km beyond the highest elevations of the mountain range leaving most of the Togiak River drainage and Walrus Islands glacier-free (Kaufman and Manley 2004:19; Manley et al. 2001:368). Major glacial retreat in southern Alaska began approximately 22,000 to 20,000 years ago (Barclay et al. 2009). Recession from the LGM (and related eustatic sea level rise) was a global event, though several glacial "still-stands" and "readvances" are documented in Alaska during the late Pleistocene (Barclay et al. 2009:2036). In the Ahklun Mountains, one major readvancement occurred approximately 12,000-11,000 years ago. Once again, maximum ice extent was restricted to high elevation valleys within the Ahklun Mountain range (Briner et al. 2002; Briner and Kaufman 2008:666). By 11,000 years ago, Manley (2002) estimated that the Bristol Bay region of Beringia was flooded when sea levels rose to 48 m below present.

Based on analysis of sediment cores from glacially-formed Waskey Lake, in the northern Ahklun Mountains, Levy et al. (2004) confirmed readvancement of the glaciers circa 12,000-11,000 years ago. Levy et al. (2004) determined that these glaciers remained in the northern portion of the Ahklun Mountains until at least 9,100 years ago. The presence of expansive glaciers in the Ahklun Mountains stands in contrast to documentation of the Hypsithermal (major Holocene warming event or thermal maximum) as early as 10,000 years ago in central and eastern Beringia (Kaufman et al. 2004).

To document postglacial climate and vegetation changes in northern Bristol Bay, Hu et al. (1995) analyzed pollen in sediment cores taken from Grandfather and Ongivinuk lakes, approximately 100 km northwest of the community of Togiak. Grandfather Lake is located in the uplands just bordering the Nushagak Lowlands directly east of the Ahklun Mountains and west of the Nushagak River (Hu et al. 1995:383). Ongivinuk Lake is located in the southwestern Ahklun Mountains. Between 13,000 and 11,300 years ago, northern Bristol Bay was covered by herb tundra (Hu et al. 1995: 385-386). In the lowlands, there was mesic (moisture rich) tundra composed mostly of sedges but also willow, mosses, and ferns. In the uplands and mountain valleys, shrubs and herbs of the *Artemisia* family and grasses dominated a xeric (drier) landscape. *Populus* trees (aspen/poplar) were present in low but consistent numbers. Based on the vegetation and absence of *Betula* shrubs (birch), Hu et al. (1995:386) suggested the climate was cold and moist. By 11,300 years ago, *Betula* shrubs were present indicating warmer temperatures, but limited to sheltered valleys and south-facing slopes. Herb tundra remained the dominant vegetation. Between 10,800 and 9,800 years ago, *Betula* shrubs, willow, and mosses decreased while *Artemisia* shrubs and herbs increased. The decrease in birch-willow shrub communities was likely caused by colder climate and the decrease in mosses by limited moisture (Hu et al. 1995:387).

By 9,800 years ago, northern Bristol Bay vegetation changed dramatically. *Betula* shrubs, ferns, and mosses expanded suggesting the presence of meadows in the midst of shrub-dominated tundra (Hu et al. 1995:387). *Populus* trees and *Alnus* (alder) shrubs were also present in low numbers. The change in plant community denotes increased moisture as well as prolonged growing season. Hu et al. (1995:388) noted this vegetal arrangement is similar to contemporary ones where there is a lot of winter precipitation, rapid melting, and long growing seasons

By 8,000 years ago, sea levels were 14 m below present (Manley 2002). Black Rock, Crooked, High, The Twins, and Hagemeister islands composed one land mass connected to the mainland between Tongue and Pyrite points. The stretch of land starting at Crooked Island and heading west would have formed a long bay that terminated in Togiak Bay and Hagemeister Strait. During low tide, the innermost parts of the bay would have been exposed. Round Island was connected to Crooked Island by mud flats at low tide and would have had a

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shape similar to the one it has presently. Deeper waters were already present on the north and east sides of Round Island. Summit Island would have still been connected to the mainland creating a coastline farther south than it is presently.

Levy et al. (2004) found evidence of the Hypsithermal at Waskey Lake much later than expected, dating to 7,400 years ago. Kathan (2006), who analyzed sediment cores from Cascade Lake, northeastern Ahklun Mountains, similarly documented evidence of the Hypsithermal between 7,500 and 6,500 years ago.

Between 7,000 and 5,000 years ago, Manley (2002) estimated that sea level rise on the Bering Sea continental shelf slowed significantly, and sea levels shifted from 6 m below present to 3 m below present. During this time, the earliest people known to have visited the Walrus Islands area left evidence of their activities at the Qayassiq ("place to go in a kayak") site on Round Island. Black Rock, Crooked, High, The Twins, and Hagemeister islands were still connected but sometimes only at low tide. Hagemeister and Summit islands were still connected to the mainland at low tide. Round Island was no longer connected to the other islands by low tide, but waters between Crooked and Round islands were extremely shallow. The presence of walrus remains in the lowest components at the Round Island (~6,000 years old) suggests that the island was physically similar to its present form, though depth of the waters surrounding the island would have been shallower. One difference may have been that there was more available beach space for hauled out walrus on the northwestern end of Round Island.

According to Hu et al. (1995:388), by 7,400 years ago until 4,000 years ago, *Alnus* shrubs became widespread and abundant in northern Bristol Bay, mirroring similar *Alnus* expansion in northeastern and central Alaska, between 8,000 and 7,000 years ago, and contemporary *Alnus* distribution (Hu et al. 1995:388). Numerous researchers have interpreted the spread of the *Alnus* shrub community as a response to increased winter moisture as well as cooler temperatures (see Hu et al. 1995:388). Kathan (2006) and Levy et al. (2004) who postulate that the region (or at least the northern Ahklun Mountains) was experiencing the Hypsithermal approximately 7,500 to 6,500 years ago do not support the idea.

The appearance of *Picea* trees (spruce), approximately 4,000 years ago, at Grandfather Lake, marks the shift to contemporary forest-tundra vegetation community surrounding Grandfather Lake (Hu et al. 1995:388). *Picea* tree density was low until approximately 2,000 years ago. The spread of *Picea* trees corresponds with the advent of the Neoglacial, a major North American cooling event following the Hypsithermal. However, Hu et al. (1995:388-389) noted that cooler and wetter climate does not favor expansion of this taxon. Instead, the spread of *Picea* trees into southwestern Alaska at this time may have been the result of unfavorable conditions in northern Bristol Bay that slowed, but did not stop, the eventual spread of *Picea* trees from other places in Alaska.

Levy et al (2004:191) placed the advent of the Neoglacial in the Ahklun Mountains at 3,100 years ago, its climax (maximum extent of glaciers) at approximately 700 years ago, and the retreat of expanded glaciers beginning 250 years ago. At the height of the Neoglacial, glaciers covered 40% of the Waskey Lake valley (approximately 80 km²). Since the beginning of glacial retreat (end of the Little Ice Age) at 250 years ago, glacier coverage has decreased by 50% (Levy et al. 2004:191). The onset of Neoglaciation in the Ahklun Mountains is at least a few centuries younger than at other major well-studied locales in Alaska (ranges between 4,000-3,500 years ago), but measurement of independent variables (regression statistics on lichen diameters growing on moraine boulders, lake core sediments, etc.) are consistent. Levy et al. (2004:187) estimated equilibrium-line altitudes (ELA) for the Neoglacial maximum in Waskey Lake Valley and found that around 750 years ago, the ELA was only 35±22 m below the modern ELA. If timing of the Neoglacial is as suggested by Levy et al.'s (2004:192) research, the minor changes in ELA indicates that temperatures during the height of

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the Neoglacial were only $0.2 \pm 0.2^{\circ}\text{C}$ cooler than modern temperatures. Mann et al. (1998) has suggested that Neoglacial temperatures fluctuated as much as 2°C from modern temperatures.

The Neoglacial was interrupted by minor warm climatic fluctuations, one of the more major ones being the Medieval Warm Period (MWP). The MWP was not visible in the Waskey Lake sediment core. Kathan (2006), however, documented evidence of a minor warm period in the Cascade Lake core dating around 1,600-1,400 years ago which is consistent with the timing of the MWP at other Alaskan locales. By 2,000 years ago, Manley (2002) estimated that sea levels were less than 1 m from present levels and the Walrus Islands would have looked much as they do in the present.

Walrus Islands Topography

At its highest elevation, the steep sheer cliffs that encircle Round Island rise 430 m above mean sea level,

A long spit, almost 2.5 km long, extends northwest into the ocean and is exposed during low tide (Photo 2). Round Island does not have many sandy beaches; most are small embayments with rocky shorelines that do not allow access to the vegetated higher elevations. Boat Cove, a bouldered embayment, is the only place where boats can temporarily stop to drop off visitors and supplies. High Island is not as steep as Round Island and has more sandy beaches. It has the highest elevation of the Walrus Islands at 536 m (Sinnott 1992:17). Summit Island is shaped much like a dumbbell with two higher elevation areas encircled by cliffs on the north (154 m) and south (244 m) sections of the island that are connected by a lower elevation saddle. Sandy beaches Crooked Island is the most topographically diverse of the islands with large sections of low elevation benches and sandy beaches (Sinnott 1992:17). The northwestern half of the island terminates in higher elevation cliffs that reach a maximum of 382 m.

Several large ponds and freshwater streams are present on Crooked Island. The other major islands do not have standing water, but freshwater sources are available in the form of seeps and streams.

Ecology

A study by Hasselbach and Neitlich (1996:3) documented 274 plants species and 18 types of plant communities on Round Island. These fall into five categories: tundra (crowberry, bilberry, cloudberry, lichens, mosses, etc.), rock communities (lichens), graminoid-herbaceous communities (blue joint grass, sedges, and herbs), wet areas (riparian plants such as horsetail, sedges, mosses, willow shrubs, herbs, etc.), and shrub communities (willow shrub). During archeological reconnaissance in the 1980s, Shaw (1986) noted that blue joint meadows and tundra were prevalent on Summit and Crooked islands. It is likely that High Island has similar vegetation. The Twins and Black Rock are not vegetated.

At least eight species of economically important fish have been documented in the waters of the Walrus Islands (Sinnott 1992). Pacific herring (*Clupea pallasii*), which spawn in the waters between Nushagak Peninsula and Hagemeister Strait have been commercially harvested since the late nineteenth century. In the 1980s, an ADF&G base camp dedicated to managing herring populations was located on the east coast of Summit Island (Shaw 1986). Yellowfin sole (*Limanda aspera*) are also abundant in the eastern Bering Sea and capelin (*Mallotus villosus*) spawn off the western shore of Crooked Island (Baxter 1976 as cited in Sinnott 1992:20). All species of pacific salmon: king salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*), silver salmon (*Oncorhynchus kisutch*), sockeye salmon (*Oncorhynchus nerka*), pink salmon (*Oncorhynchus gorbuscha*), and chum salmon (*Oncorhynchus keta*) migrate through Sanctuary waters (Sinnott 1992:20).

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All seven islands support substantial seabird colonies including common murres (*Uria aalge*), black-legged kittiwakes (*Rissa tridactyla*), pelagic cormorants (*Phalacrocorax pelagicus*), parakeet auklets (*Cyclorrhynchus psittacula*), horned puffins (*Fratercula corniculata*), tufted puffins (*Fratercula cirrhata*), pigeon guillemots (*Cepphus columba*), and glaucous-winged gulls (*Larus glaucescens*). Over 250,000 seabirds are known to nest on Round Island, 135,000 on the Twins, and large colonies of unknown numbers are located on the remaining islands (ADF&G 2015). A total of 26 bird families and 105 species including but not limited to passerines, raptors, alcids, anatids, and shorebirds are documented in the Sanctuary (ADF&G 2015).

The mammal that inspired the establishment of the Sanctuary is the Pacific walrus (*Odobenus rosmarus*). During the spring and into the fall, male walrus haul out on the beaches of Round, North Twin, High, Summit, and Crooked islands (ADF&G 2015; Sinnott 1992). Round Island is the most utilized haul out in Bristol Bay; as many as 14,000 walrus have been counted on the beaches in one day (ADF&G 2015; Sinnott 1992). When walrus are not sleeping on the beaches, they hunt for bivalve mollusks in the shallow waters near the islands (Sinnott 1992:25). Stellar sea lions (*Eumetopias jubatus*) haul out on Round, High, Crooked, and the Twins islands. There are no established sea lion rookeries in the Sanctuary, though occasional breeding occurs (ADF&G 2015; Sinnott 1992). Up to 700 sea lions have been counted on East Cape on Round Island (Sinnott 1992:27). Harbor seals (*Phoca vitulina*) are common in the Sanctuary with as many as 300 using Black Rock as a haul out (Sinnott 1992:28). Other smaller haul outs include Crooked, High, and Round islands (ADF&G 2015). Spotted (*P. largha*) and fur seals (*Callorhinus ursinus*) have been documented in the Sanctuary as well. Gray whales (*Eschrichtius robustus*), humpback whales (*Megaptera novaeangliae*), minke whales (*Balaenoptera acutorostrata*), and orcas (*Orcinus orca*) are known to pass through Sanctuary waters.

Terrestrial mammals are few and include the dusky shrew (*Sorex monticolis*), tundra vole (*Microtus oeconomus*), brown lemming (*Lemmus trimucronatus*), red fox (*Vulpes vulpes*), and arctic fox (*Alopex lagopus*) (ADF&G 2015; Sinnott 1992).

Creation and Management of the Walrus Islands State Game Sanctuary and Walrus Islands National Natural Landmark

Due to heavy commercial hunting in the late 1950s, walrus populations in Russia and Alaska were declining rapidly. To combat the potential extinction of walrus, and because the Walrus Islands were the "only remaining resort in Alaska where walrus regularly haul out on land in large numbers," the State of Alaska established the Walrus Islands State Game Sanctuary in 1960 (Sinnott 1992:12 citing James W. Brooks). The Sanctuary includes the seven islands and all waters within 5 km of them. A special emphasis was placed on the conservationist, scientific, and aesthetic value of Round Island because it supports regular and large haul outs of walrus (Sinnott 1992:13). In 1968, the national significance of the Walrus Islands State Game Sanctuary, as a refuge for walrus, was recognized and listed on the National Registry of Natural Landmarks (Brown 1968; Hall 1967; NPS 2009).

In 1976, Sanctuary staff became a regular fixture on Round Island during the summer months. The major duties of the summer staff are to protect the Sanctuary from poachers and illegal access and manage the small, but steady stream of permitted visitors (Sinnott 1992:46). Some have also conducted academic research on various aspects of Round Island.

Historic and Contemporary People of Northwestern Bristol Bay

Southwestern Alaska is the historic territory of Central Yup'ik speaking Alaska Natives (VanStone 1984:224). In the late eighteenth century, at the time of contact between western explorers and Alaska Native groups, the Yup'ik Tuyuryarmiut ("People of the Togiak River") inhabited several villages along the shores of Togiak Bay

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and Togiak River drainage. At the time of contact, the Tuyuryarmiut did not have permanent settlements in the Walrus Islands, but harvested resources from the islands and surrounding waters.

Captain James Cook was the first European to see the Walrus Islands in 1778, though he did not visit them, and is attributed with naming Round Island (Fall et al. 1991). In 1818-1819, Petr Korsakovskiy, a Russian explorer under orders from the Russian-American Company, visited and described some of the Walrus Islands and lands surrounding Togiak Bay. For one year, in 1821, an outpost of the Russian-American Company, originally established in Nushagak Bay, was moved to the west coast of Hagemeister Island in an attempt to establish and control trade in the region (Bailey 1991:14). This attempt was largely unsuccessful and in the following year, the outpost was re-established in Nushagak Bay. Western explorers regularly passed through the area in the late 1800s, but according to several historic accounts, the Tuyuryarmiut remained fairly isolated and not as affected by or interested in western influence as other Alaska Native groups in the region (Sinnott 1992). In 1867, the United States purchased Alaska from the Russian empire. Around 1880, a small trading outpost was established 6 to 8 km east of the mouth of Togiak River (Sinnott 1992).

According to the accounts of eighteenth and nineteenth century explorers, the Tuyuryarmiut depended on resources harvested in the Walrus Islands. According to Korsakovskiy, the locals used to keep temporary camps on the islands for berry gathering (Sinnott 1992:6). They also took advantage of the large populations of marine mammals that hauled out on the beaches. Korsakovskiy's guides noted that walrus and sea lions were regularly found on Round, Crooked, and the Twins islands. From his own observations, seals frequented the tidal flats of Summit Island (Sinnott 1992:5). In 1829, Ivan Vasilev wrote that the people of Togiak primarily fished and hunted bearded seals, belugas, and walrus (Fall et al. 1991:7).

Between 1830 and 1919, at least three Euro-American introduced epidemics spread through the region killing large numbers of people and disrupting their lifestyle (Sinnott 1992:8). Beginning in 1880, in a move probably related to reduced populations (and workforce) resulting from newly introduced diseases, "Old Togiak" was gradually abandoned for the current village of Togiak (Sinnott 1992). Alaska Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development Community Database Online (SOA 2009) cites hard winters and inability to collect sufficient firewood as the reason for leaving Old Togiak. After the widespread influenza epidemic of 1918-1919, many Yukon-Kuskokwim residents also moved to Togiak (SOA 2009).

The appeal of trade with the Russian-American company disrupted established subsistence patterns. In 1880, a trader from the company convinced hunters from Togiak Bay to take regular trips to Cook Inlet to hunt sea otters (Sinnott 1992:8). Statewide, missionaries played a pivotal role in altering the traditional lifestyles of Alaska Native populations.

Explorers believed the people of Togiak to be very traditional relative to other Alaska Native populations because they continued to use traditional hunting weaponry well after European technology became available (Fall et al. 1991:8). The people of Togiak used kayaks, spears, and harpoons for walrus hunting until the late 1930s to early 1940s (Fall et al. 1991), though guns had been introduced to the area in the 1800s (Kowta 1963).

American whalers initiated commercial hunting of walrus in the Walrus Islands and surrounding areas in the late nineteenth century for oil, hides, and ivory (Fall et al. 1991:7; Sinnott 1992). Walrus populations crashed multiple times due to overhunting and by the 1900s, the American and Russian governments began controlling the harvest of walrus (Sinnott 1992). As discussed previously, legal measures initiated to stem the decimation of walrus populations led to the creation of the Walrus Islands State Game Sanctuary in 1960. This determination has had negative impacts on Togiak and the surrounding villages who regularly traded with Togiak (Chythlook and Fall 1998; Fall et al. 1991; Sinnott 1992).

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With the creation of the Sanctuary, the State deemed the Walrus Islands uninhabited and determined that the walrus hauling out in the islands were not an important subsistence resource to Alaska Natives. By 1961, hunting was prohibited in the Sanctuary. As of 1989, walrus hunting is permitted on the Twins and in adjacent waters but prohibited in waters 1 km from the remaining islands, except Round Island. Round Island and waters within 5 km are the most heavily protected and accessible only by permit between the months of May and August, when Sanctuary staff are present (ADF&G 2015; Sinnott 1992). Until very recently, the beaches of Round Island and surrounding waters were off limits to the traditional hunting practices of the Togiak community.

After 30 years of tension between the Togiak community and Sanctuary employees over the prohibitions regarding Round Island, the Togiak Traditional Council submitted a proposal to the Alaska Board of Game to open Round Island for limited walrus hunting (Fall et al. 1991; Chythlook and Fall 1998). In response to the proposal submitted in 1991, ADF&G launched a study on the historic and contemporary walrus harvest practices in Togiak. The result of this study is documented in Fall et al. (1991). The study determined that walrus is a highly valued subsistence resource to the people of Togiak (as well as other communities that share in the harvest) and partaking in traditional methods of walrus hunting in the Walrus Islands (specifically Round Island) is crucial to the continuation of the cultural values important to the Togiak community. In 1995, the proposal was approved and the Qayassiq Walrus Commission formed to oversee limited hunting on Round Island. As of 2010, the commission represents the communities of Togiak, Twin Hills, Manokotak, Aleknagik, Dillingham, Clarks Point, Ekuk, Ekwok, and New Stuyahok (BBNA n.d.).

Central Alaskan Yup'ik know the islands for their historic use or relation to oral tradition (Fall et al. 1991:4). Black Rock is known as *Ingricuar* or "small island." Crooked Island is known as *Nunalukaq* or "land big enough to live on awhile." High Island is known as *Ingriqvak* or "big island." Round Island is known as *Qayassiq* or "place to go in a kayak." Summit Island is known as *Qilkeq* named after a person in a legend concerning the island, and the Twins are known as *Nunevragak* or "temporary camping place."

In the early summer, the people of Togiak collect seabird eggs on Black Rock (Sinnott 1992:44) and it is likely they harvested eggs from other islands in the past. Round Island is the best place to find walrus though they are also known to haul out on Crooked and High islands and the Twins (Fall et al. 1991). Since the walrus hunting ban was instated, Togiak hunters use the rocky beaches of Summit and Crooked islands to butcher walrus killed outside the protected waters of the Sanctuary. The Twins are currently open to walrus hunting, but Togiak hunters noted it is not a reliable place to find walrus (Fall et al. 1991). Today, hunters from Togiak prefer to take walrus on Hagemeister Island and other locations closer to Togiak (Sell, 2011 pers. com.)

During the "kayak era," Round Island was the primary hunting locale of Togiak (Fall et al. 1991:8-10). The trip was long and potentially treacherous, but the large populations that regularly haul out on Round Island guaranteed harvesting a walrus. Hunting trips, undertaken in spring and fall, would take at least two days and hunters had to camp one night or more depending on the weather. In modern times, with the adoption of motorized boats and rifles, Togiak hunters were able to visit other islands that are closer but not as likely to have walrus on the way to Round Island.

Sidney Pavian, a young Togiak resident and walrus hunter, stated that, with the use of rifles, less experienced men also participate in killing walrus as well as butchering in contemporary hunts (Pavian, 2011 pers. com.). Motorized boats now allow more walrus to be taken during each hunt, and Sidney mentioned that in the time he began hunting up to eight walrus have been harvested in one hunting event. There are also times, whether due to bad weather or lack of walrus, when no walrus are harvested.

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According to Togiak elders, the walrus hunt is crucial to the development of young men. During these hunts, the uninitiated are taught through actions and discussion how to "respect" the animals they harvest by hunting in a specific manner and not wasting the meat (Fall et al. 1991:12). As a teenager, Sidney was taught the proper way to process walrus; every part of the walrus is taken from the butcher site with the exception that sometimes some of the internal organs are discarded (Pavian, 2011 pers. com.). The hunters bring the meat to shore and cut it into approximately 1.5-foot squares. The hide, fat and meat are separated into piles and then people from the community are called to share in the harvest (Pavian, 2011 pers. com.).

820 people currently populate Togiak, most are Central Yup'ik and trace their ancestry to Old Togiak or villages along the Togiak River (Sinnott 1992; SOA 2009). Residents participate in a mixed cash and subsistence economy working in the commercial salmon, herring, and herring roe-on-kelp fisheries (SOA 2009).

History of Archeological Research

Selected Archeological Research in Southwestern Alaska

The first major archeological fieldwork in southwestern Alaska was conducted by Helge Larsen (1950) and crew in 1948. During this mostly aerial survey of Bristol and Kuskokwim bays, Larsen identified 50 sites. He visited and tested seven of the sites, some of which were located in Chagvan, Nanvak, and Platinum bays. Archeological components at these sites were linked to Norton, Thule, and Historic traditions. Based on this fieldwork, Larsen was the first to be able to adequately describe and typify Norton culture (though he called it Ipiutak at the time). Larsen (1950:186) was also able to document definitive differences between the Norton and Thule cultures.

In 1960, Makoto Kowta (1963), a Ph.D. student at the University of California, Los Angeles, conducted a three-month long excavation at the archeological site of Old Togiak located in Togiak Bay. The site spans a lengthy occupation by Thule peoples, who are the ancestors of the Tuvuryarmiut.

Robert Ackerman (1964) revisited the three bays initially surveyed by Larsen in 1962 and was the first to survey Security Cove in Kuskokwim Bay for archeological sites. The main drive of this trip was to investigate the cultural chronology at Chagvan Bay, which Larsen (1950:181) had described as a large site consisting of 50 houses with at least four cultural periods represented. Ackerman devised cultural phases for each locale. All of the sites were readily assignable to Norton, Thule, and/or Historic traditions except the Security Cove site, which had an assemblage of large chipped stone tools very different from the rest of the sites in the region. Ackerman later assigned the Security Cove site to the Northern Archaic tradition (Ackerman 2004, 2008; Staley 1990). In 1966-1967, Ackerman returned to fully map and excavate the archeological components at Chagvan Bay (Staley 1990). Richard Ross (1971) led the excavations and completed a dissertation detailing the cultural sequence of the Chagvan Beach site. In a later publication, Ackerman (1988) modified and finalized the cultural sequence of Chagvan Bay. During the 1960s, Ackerman also surveyed east of Nanvak Bay to Asigyupak Spit and Osviak Bay and located sites spanning the most recent 2,000 years (Shaw 1998:238). Ackerman located more side notched points at Security Cove and the mouth of Goodnews River as well (Workman 1980b:189).

In 1978, Ackerman and Shaw revisited the Chagvan Bay site to assess its condition, but no testing was conducted (Staley 1990). On that same day, Robert Shaw (1979) conducted aerial surveys of Hagemeister Island and the mainland coastline west of the island. The coastline included in the survey is part of the Togiak National Wildlife Refuge (then known as Clarence Rhode National Wildlife Refuge). Shaw recorded sites on Hagemeister Island and at the mouth of the Matogak River (Shaw 1998).

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In the late 1970s, Ackerman and crew continued to survey in southwestern Alaska. They surveyed at Goodnews Lake, the Goodnews River Valley, at Kagati Lake, at Eek Lake, in the foothills near the Eek and Kwethluk Rivers, and the Kanektok and Eek River drainages (Workman 1980b:189). A total of 167 surface sites were located several of which are important to defining the regional expression of the Northern Archaic tradition (discussed later). A blade and microblade core technology tentatively dated between 9,000 and 6,000 years old, reminiscent of the Gallagher Flint Station National Historic Landmark in northern interior Alaska, was located by Kagati Lake (Ackerman 2004:161; Workman 1980b:189). Denbigh Flint complex (Arctic Small Tool tradition) tools were found by Eek Lake and Norton tradition projectile points were documented at Goodnews Lake, Goodnews River Valley, and Kagati Lake (Workman 1980b:189). The results of these surveys were detailed in Ackerman (1980) and Gallison (1983) analyzed the earliest stone technology located at Kagati Lake. In the 1990s, Bureau of Indian Affairs employees, complying with the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA), surveyed approximately 700 archeological sites in southwestern Alaska (Shaw 1998:236-237; Biddle 2001).

Archeological Research in the Walrus Islands

Archeological deposits on Round Island were first reported to the Alaska Office of History and Archeology in 1976 when Sanctuary staff constructed a cabin, outhouse, and garden (AHRs 2010; Schaaf et al. 2007b; Sinnott 1992). By at least the early 1980s, the staff was aware of other archeological sites on Crooked and Summit islands and that commercial fishers were looting the sites (Shaw 1982, 1985, 1986; Sinnott 1992:54).

In response to the looting, in 1982, state archeologist Dr. Robert Shaw used helicopter fly-over and pedestrian survey to record sites and conduct damage assessments (Schaaf et al. 2007b; Shaw 1998). Shaw flew over Round Island and High Island, documenting archeological site XNB-043; but did not visually locate any sites on High Island. Shaw flew over and physically visited and tested sites on Crooked and Summit islands. On Crooked Island, Shaw recorded XHI-036, XHI-046, XHI-047, XHI-048, XHI-049, XHI-050, XHI-051, and XHI-052. Shaw tested XHI-046, XHI-048, and XHI-051 (AHRs 2010). Vandalism was apparent at four of the sites (see below). On Summit Island, Shaw recorded XHI-042, XHI-043, XHI-044, XHI-045, and XHI-057 and tested XHI-042, XHI-043, XHI-044 (AHRs 2010). Three of the sites showed signs of vandalism. The results of the 1982 testing have not been published.

In 1985, Shaw returned to Summit Island with a small crew for a six-week excavation at XHI-043 and XHI-044 (Shaw 1998). In addition to his own research goals, Shaw (1986) conducted investigations on behalf of ADF&G to identify possible effects of undertakings on historic properties in a 2.5-acre parcel of land [REDACTED]. Part of the parcel was already in use as a herring management base camp (Shaw 1986). The camp was constructed in 1982 and consisted of five wall tent frames (Figure 4). It has since been dismantled and none of the camp remains (E. Weiss, personal communication). Shaw also tested XHI-045 and XHI-057 (AHRs 2010). Some of the results of this work were presented in Shaw (1986).

Shaw (1985, 1986, 1998) summarized the archeological sites on Crooked and Summit islands as containing extensive and intact Norton and Thule components integral to elucidating Alaska's prehistory from 2,500 years ago to the time of contact between Alaska Native groups and western explorers. In the spring of 1986, Shaw returned with graduate student Berkley Bailey (1991) to determine if XNB-043 (Qayassiq site) would be a good place to conduct his Master's research. During their day visit, Bailey and Shaw surveyed and mapped the site (the State of Alaska Office of History and Archaeology [OHA] are unable to locate the 1986 field notes and maps). They viewed the section that had been disturbed by staff operations (construction of the garden and outhouse) and found check-stamped and linear-stamped potsherds (Bailey 1991:25). From this visit, Shaw determined XNB-043 was a mostly intact, multi-component village site, and had Norton components at least 2,000 years old. The Qayassiq site appeared to be very similar in age to the sites on Crooked and Summit

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islands. Due to logistical constraints, Bailey chose to conduct his Master's research on Hagemeister Island (Bailey 1991).

Another 18 years passed before archeological work continued in the Walrus Islands.

In 2004, ADF&G received a Recreational Trail Grant and funding from the National Park Service National Natural Landmark program to improve trails and access to the boat cove on Round Island. The State Historic Preservation Officer recommended that NPS provide archeological expertise for compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act, at little or no cost to ADF&G through an existing interagency agreement (Schaaf et al. 2007b: i).

As part of the compliance work, an NPS archeologist and the National Natural Landmarks program coordinator for Alaska briefly visited Round Island in June 2004 mapping the boundaries of and features in XNB-043 (Schaaf et al. 2007b). During this fieldwork, the site and ADF&G infrastructure were comprehensively mapped and it was determined that XNB-043 covered 5.7 acres and consisted of 105 prehistoric surface features. It was shown that that only 3.5% of the site had been damaged by staff activities and the integrity of XNB-043 is exceptional. The long-term presence of Sanctuary staff protected XNB-043 from vandalism similar to the looting, which had occurred on Crooked and Summit islands.

Carbon samples taken from two test pits returned a suite of dates, the earliest being 5,900 years old (Schaaf et al. 2007b). Testing extended the archeological history of the Walrus Islands and northwestern Bristol Bay by 3,500 years. The discovery composed of intact components contemporary with, but not necessarily equivalent to, known Alaskan archeological cultures including early north Pacific maritime, Northern Archaic, Arctic Small Tool, Norton, and Thule traditions. A historic component is also present at Round Island. Work conducted in 2004 has been reported in Schaaf et al. (2007b), a publication in the journal *The George Wright Forum* (Schaaf et al. 2007a), a publication in *Archaeology in America*, an archeological encyclopedia (Schaaf 2009a), a field summary report to ADF&G (Schaaf 2009b), and was included in the 2008 Sanctuary Annual Report (Calamar Okonek 2008).

In June of 2008, a small volunteer interagency team led by NPS returned to Round Island to complete the compliance work started in 2004 and to mitigate damage to the oldest component by current ADF&G activities (Schaaf 2008c, 2015). This effort resulted in the excavation of six one-meter square test units and recovered over 9,000 artifacts.

Additional radiocarbon dates complemented the components identified from the 2004 investigations, demonstrated the presence of all identified components in two widely separated areas of the site and extended the site depth to 2.0 meters and the earliest occupation to 5450 rcybp.... The 2004 and 2008 investigations led to the surprising discovery of early, pre-Norton tradition occupations on the island. We have demonstrated that XNB-00043 is a deeply stratified site with cultural occupations associated with Pacific walrus dating from 6310 to 1465 cal BP, as well as with undated Thule tradition and historic occupations. It is the oldest radiocarbon-dated coastal site in western Alaska north of the Alaska Peninsula and Kvichak Bay, with enormous research potential as it preserves a dynamic record of human and natural history that spans 6000 years. Marine mammal, seabird and other faunal remains associated with the cultural occupations provide a unique dataset for climate change, species evolution and conservation research (Schaaf 2015:6).

Culture History of the Walrus Islands

The ages of the archeological materials recovered in the Walrus Islands fall into the range of several cultural traditions defined for western Alaska, the Gulf of Alaska, Alaska Peninsula and eastern Aleutians.

Early Northern Maritime (ca. 7500- 4000 years ago): Sites exhibiting a fully developed maritime economy are established by 7500 BP in the Gulf of Alaska in the Kodiak Archipelago and at the Mink Island site (XMK-030) at Amalik Bay National Historic Landmark on the Pacific side of the Alaska Peninsula. These and later sites extending to outer and upper Cook Inlet are affiliated with the Ocean Bay culture defined by D. Clark (cf. 1984) and are part of a regional sequence that Workman initially termed the North Pacific Maritime co-tradition (1980a). Relationships between Ocean Bay-affiliated sites and contemporaneous sites in the eastern Aleutians have been recognized leading to the suggestion of a broader early northern maritime tradition:

Stretching from Cook Inlet to Kodiak Island, to the Alaska Peninsula, out to Unalaska and Umnak Islands, and also northward to Bristol Bay, an early northern maritime tradition certainly existed between around 3500 and 4500 BC. With strong elements of the better defined Ocean Bay tradition, regional and local variation was already being manifested by 3000-2000 BC. In terms of stone projectile points, the hallmarks of this early tradition include... large lanceolate endblades (on Round Island, on Takli Island, on Margaret Bay, and at various Kodiak Island sites)... (Maschner 2008:181).

At Round Island:

The earliest occupations at XNB-00043 are defined by seven radiocarbon dates ranging from 6310 to 4840 cal BP (2-sigma range). The small collection has 15 formal chipped stone tools, eight modified and/or utilized flakes and 1225 pieces of debitage including five flake cores. Although small, the tool assortment includes chipped adzes, a pumice abrader (in fragments), hammerstones, large lanceolate endblade fragments, knives, and scrapers. The large endblade fragments have been compared to those found on the Pacific side of the Alaska Peninsula (Takli Island in Amalik Bay and Kodiak Island; Maschner 2008:179) and in the Eastern Aleutians at Margaret Bay and are interpreted as a local manifestation of an early northern maritime tradition.

Of note are a medially grooved stone that is possibly a net sinker, a miniature contracting stemmed point and a single slate flake polished on one side. Two blade fragments and imperfect microblades suggest use of a blade technology. This technology is not found in the contemporaneous Northern Archaic sites in Security Cove and near Kagati Lake, however it is found with side-notched points in the Ugashik Knoll phase (5055+/- 70 to 4810+/- 85 rcybp) at Ugashik Narrows on the Alaska Peninsula (Henn 1978:12, 78-80). Blade technology occurs with large stemmed endblades, bipointed bifaces (or lances) and rare ground slate fragments from 6281 to 4445 cal BP (Levels 4 and 5) at Margaret Bay (Knecht et al. 2001; excerpt from Schaaf 2015:41).

Northern Archaic (7,000-4,500 years ago): Northern Archaic cultural components on the northern Alaska Peninsula date between 7,000 and 4,500 years ago (cf. Dumond 2005a:17). Esdale (2008) noted that Northern Archaic components located all over Alaska range in age from 7000 to 3000 RCYBP (radiocarbon years before present, not calibrated into absolute years). Most of these components, however, cluster between 6000 and 3000 RCYBP (Esdale 2008: Figure 3). At the Qayassiq site (XNB-043), intact cultural components contemporaneous with the Northern Archaic cultural tradition date between 6,310 and 5,590 years ago (Schaaf 2015).

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The defining feature of the Northern Archaic toolkit is the chipped stone side-notched projectile point. The research of Dumond (1984, 2005a) and others indicate that these points were likely hafted onto dart shafts and projected with an atlatl or throwing board (Hare et al. 2004). Included in the Northern Archaic toolkit are lanceolate blades, end and side scrapers, and large scrapers or choppers (Dumond 1984). Bi-notched stones, microblades, and burin technology are less commonly found in some Northern Archaic components (Dumond 1984; Esdale 2008). Northern Archaic tools were made from basalt and cryptocrystalline silicate stone. Northern Archaic people are understood to be terrestrially based caribou hunters that occasionally fished and had little interest in marine resources (Ackerman 2004, 2008; Dumond 1984, 1987, 2005a; Esdale 2008).

The origins of Northern Archaic peoples are uncertain, but some researchers have hypothesized that the tradition represents a middle Holocene population replacement of the earlier Paleoartic peoples by groups from the contiguous United States (Ackerman 2008; Esdale 2008). Paleoartic and Northern Archaic toolkits are quite different and there is a gap in occupation between the two traditions (Esdale 2008). Other researchers postulate that side-notched points represent the diffusion of ideas from the south, which does not require the large-scale movement or replacement of the in situ population (Esdale 2008).

Arctic Small Tool (4,000-3,300 years ago): The Arctic Small Tool tradition (ASTt) was short lived on the northern Alaska Peninsula, lasting from 4,000 to 3,300 years ago (Dumond 2005a:26). Dumond postulated that volcanic eruptions, which frequently occur on the Alaska Peninsula, might have led to a decimation of the local food supply, and consequently, Arctic Small Tool peoples moved out of the area (Dumond 2004, 2005a). Statewide, most Arctic Small Tool components range between 5,500 and 3,300 years ago. At the Qayassiq site (XNB-043), intact components contemporaneous with the Arctic Small Tool tradition range between 3,680 and 3,410 years ago (Schaaf et al. 2007; Schaaf 2015).

The Arctic Small Tool tradition is defined by small finely chipped crypto-crystalline (and some meta-volcanic) stone tools including bipointed endblades, crescentic sideblades, microblades, burins, and scrapers as well as larger knife-like tools that show evidence of a "very delicate, narrow, and highly controlled flake removal [technique], often parallel and diagonal" (Dumond 2005b:67). Chipped adze blades with polished bits and burin-like grooving implements have also been found in some Arctic Small Tool components (Dumond 2005b:67).

Arctic Small Tool peoples are believed to have focused on hunting caribou. On the Seward Peninsula, early stage Arctic Small Tool peoples occasionally hunted marine mammals, but as time passed and people spread east and south, the mostly caribou diet was supplemented by riverine resources. On the northern Alaska Peninsula, there is evidence that Arctic Small Tool peoples took advantage of plentiful salmon runs and adopted a more sedentary lifestyle (Dumond 2005b). At Ugashik Narrows and Brooks River, square semi-subterranean houses with no post molds and scattered hearths, located near interior waterways, are associated with Arctic Small Tool occupations (Dumond 2005b:70). At XNB-043, boat use by ASTt-affiliated people is documented.

Norton (2,500-1,000 years ago): On the northern Alaska Peninsula, there was an 800-year hiatus between Arctic Small Tool and Norton traditions. Dumond (2004, 2005a) postulated that volcanic eruptions may have been responsible for another non-occupation of the northern Alaska Peninsula between 3,300 and 2,500 years ago. In an earlier paper discussing Alaska-wide expressions of the Norton tradition, Dumond (2000) extended the earliest Norton components to 3,000 years ago and the most recent occupations to just after 1,000 years ago.

Similar to the northern Alaska Peninsula, there is a noticeable gap in age between components dated to the Arctic Small Tool and Norton traditions in the Walrus Islands. Norton age components at the Qayassiq site span 2,360 to 1,830 years ago, over 1,000 years after the Arctic Small Tool dated components (Schaaf et al. 2007; Schaaf 2015). On Summit Island, radiocarbon dates from XHI-042 and XHI-043 are slightly earlier ranging

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between 2460 ±50 and 2230 ±60 RCYBP with the cultural hiatus between Arctic Small Tool and Norton dated occupations separated by at least 600 years (Shaw 1986).

The basic elements of the Norton toolkit include small, chipped stone sideblades, check and linear-stamped ceramics, and ground or polished slate tools (Workman 1982; see Dumond 1990, 2000:14 for discussion). Other tools that are frequently, but not always, found in Norton components include chipped stemmed projectile points as well as many other classes of chipped stone tools, stone lamps, shaft smoothers, notched stone weights, labrets, toggle harpoons, and heavy stone tools with grinding, polishing, and/or flaking (Dumond 1990:5; Shaw 1986:3).

Dumond (2000) noted that the presence of ceramics in Norton components indicates a relationship with peoples in northeastern Siberia. The pottery link also suggests that Norton peoples are descended from the Arctic Small Tool tradition (who had Siberian origins). The presence of small sideblades in both Arctic Small Tool and Norton toolkits presents further evidence of continuity between the traditions (Workman 1982; Dumond 1990).

With the transition into Norton culture, people became more sedentary, harvested marine and riverine resources with greater intensity, and inhabited coastal areas at a much higher rate than their predecessors (Dumond 1982). Shaw (1983, 1998) suggested that human populations exploded during the Norton era because of the intensified harvest of marine and riverine resources. Norton peoples maintained a strong interest in terrestrial resources as is evidenced by the presence of tools fashioned from caribou byproducts, caches of unworked caribou antler, and numerous interior Norton sites (Dumond 1982, 2000).

Thule (1,000-200 years ago): The transition from Norton to Thule traditions on the northern Alaska Peninsula was abrupt without a lengthy hiatus between occupations (Dumond 2005a). While some researchers consider the end of the Thule tradition to coincide with Alaska Native and Russian contact or the advent of the Historic era, Dumond (2005a) places the Pavik phase within the Thule tradition. The Pavik phase of the northern Alaska Peninsula begins with contact between Alaska Natives and Russians, and European trade goods can be found intermixed with late Thule items that show continuity with earlier precontact material culture. The Pavik phase terminates in the late nineteenth century well after Euro-Americans settled in Alaska.

The Thule toolkit is comprised of ground slate tools such as ulus, projectile insert blades, and barbed lance blades. The production of chipped stone tools decreased significantly (in comparison with earlier cultural traditions), but can be found in some Thule components. Thule peoples made ceramics, and excellent preservation in many Thule components indicates that animal byproducts and plant materials were used intensively to make numerous tools and household items (Dumond 1984a:101).

Thule peoples are the direct predecessors of Alaska Native populations who encountered western explorers in the mid-to-late eighteenth century. Like Arctic Small Tool and Norton peoples, the origins of the Thule tradition can be traced to the Bering Sea region slightly before 1,000 years ago. In a very short time, Thule peoples spread east and south superseding most Norton peoples by 1,000 years ago. In the Walrus Islands, two radiocarbon dates recovered from XHI-042 and XHI-043 are associated with the Thule tradition (Shaw 1986). The earliest, collected from XHI-043, can be considered a transitional date that may be associated with the end of the Norton tradition or the advent of the Thule, 1120 ±70 RCYBP. In a brief presentation of his research, Shaw (1986) explained that this date is from a site composed of Norton and Thule age components, but did not specify the association between the date and the two cultural traditions. The second radiocarbon sample dated to 610±50 RCYBP (Shaw 1986) can readily be assigned to the Thule tradition.

Thule peoples are characterized as highly proficient maritime adapted hunters who continued to harvest terrestrial and riverine resources to varying degrees depending on their location (Dumond 1984, 2005a).

Walrus Islands Site Descriptions

Contributing Sites

A total of 14 sites contribute to the Walrus Islands Archeological District (Figure 3). There are eight recorded sites on Crooked Island, five on Summit Island, and one on Round Island. All but two of these sites are characterized as large prehistoric villages with several obvious surface depressions and deeply stratified middens consisting of chipped and polished stone, bone, ivory, shell, charcoal, and wood fragments (AHRs 2010; Shaw 1986). Based on the size and shape of these depressions, they are understood to be house pits and cache features of Norton and Thule age spanning the last 2,500 years (AHRs 2010; Shaw 1986). At the Qayassiq site, dated components extend farther back in time to the Northern Archaic tradition period, approximately 6,300 years ago (Schaaf 2015). The two remaining sites are described as a lithic scatter with no visible surface features and a lone house pit. Of the 14 sites, 9 have been tested once and 4 have been tested twice (AHRs 2010).

The bulk of the testing in the Walrus Islands was conducted in the 1980s on Crooked and Summit islands, though the results of these excavations have not been made publicly available with the exception of Shaw (1986, 1998). The material culture from these excavations are accounted for in 9 accessions and housed at the University of Alaska Museum of the North in Fairbanks, Alaska (AHRs 2010). The intact nature of these collections makes future study of the Walrus Islands possible. Data from the 2004 and 2008 test excavations on Round Island have been analyzed and reported in numerous locales mentioned previously, the chief resource being Schaaf et al. (2007b) and Schaaf 2015. A more in-depth analysis of the Round Island collections can be found in the attached additional document, "Report on Archeological Investigations at the Qayassiq site (XNB-043) Round Island, Walrus Islands State Game Sanctuary, Northern Bristol Bay, Alaska".

The site information in this section was obtained from the Alaska Heritage Resources Survey data repository (AHRs 2010) unless specified otherwise. The sites are also summarized in three tables at the end of this document. Table 1 lists the location data of contributing and noncontributing sites, Table 2 lists the radiocarbon dates from contributing sites, and Table 3 is a summary of the defining characteristics of the contributing sites.

Archeological Sites on Crooked Island

XHI-036: XHI-036 (Crooked Island I site) is one the southernmost of four archeological sites that run the [REDACTED]. From north to south, XHI-052, XHI-049, XHI-050, and XHI-036, are [REDACTED] Crooked Island. The Crooked Island I site is located [REDACTED]. The Crooked Island I site covers an area of 38 x 200 m (1.9 acres) and is a large prehistoric village with as many as 50 features ranging in size from 3.5 x 4 m to 6 x 11 m. The semi-rectangular house pits do not have entrance tunnels, though at least one has an attached side room reminiscent of Norton and Thule homes. The Crooked Island I site was first visited, but not tested, in 1982 by Shaw. During this visit, he noted that portions of the site had been vandalized.

XHI-046: The Crooked Island #1 site is located on the [REDACTED] of Crooked Island on top of 15 to 25 m tall bluffs. A semi-sheltered sandy beach almost 1 km in length is [REDACTED]. The site area is 150 x 240 m (8.9 acres). The Crooked Island #1 site is a substantial prehistoric village consisting of approximately 15 house pits. The house pits are round to oval in shape with maximum dimensions between 4 and 8 m, and up to 1.5 m in depth. When Shaw visited the site in 1982, he excavated a 1 x 2 m test unit to a depth of 80 cm, which revealed stratified midden deposits. Materials from the excavation are held at

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the University of Alaska Museum of the North in Fairbanks, Alaska (UAMN) under the accession UA82-127. In 1982, Shaw noted that portions of this site had suffered vandalism.

XHI-047: The majority of the Crooked Island #2 site is found [REDACTED]. The main locus of the prehistoric village is 20 x 50 m (0.2 acres). Three small depressions are located on the bluff above the adjacent beach. At the time of Shaw's visit to the site, in 1982, much of the site had suffered "rather extravagant vandalism" (AHRS 2010). At least 20 recently dug rectangular pits, approximately 2 x 3 x .20-.80 m in area were noted. The vegetation of the site was also burnt off, likely to improve access to house features. Shaw did not test the site.

XHI-048: The Crooked Island #3 site is located [REDACTED]. The Crooked Island #3 site is [REDACTED] of the Crooked Island #2 site. This site is unique to the Walrus Islands Archeological District in that it is a lithic scatter and not a village site with any evidence of subsurface dwelling features. Lithics were present in deflated ground surfaces up to 5 m in length, about 4 m west of the cliff's edge. Shaw visited this site in 1982. The materials Shaw collected from the surface are stored at UAMN under the accession UA82-128.

XHI-049: XHI-049 is located [REDACTED]. The dimensions of this prehistoric village are 58 x 130 m (1.9 acres). Twenty house pit features were noted measuring between 4 x 4 m and 5 x 11 m. Shaw visited, but did not test the site, in 1982. Shaw did not report signs of erosion or vandalism.

XHI-050: XHI-050 is located [REDACTED] of Crooked Island. The site, which measures 60 x 180 m (2.7 acres), is found on a bluff above a stabilized storm beach. The numerous but uncounted dwelling features at XHI-050 measure between 5 m in diameter and 5 x 14 m. Shaw visited this site, in 1982, and reported no obvious erosion or vandalism. This site has not been tested.

XHI-051: XHI-051 is located [REDACTED]. XHI-051, a prehistoric village, extends over 400 m, from north to south, [REDACTED]. There are at least two types of features recorded at the site; small round depressions and rectangular house pits with entrance tunnels. These features range from 4 x 4 m to 10.5 x 13 m in size and up to 1.5 m in depth. Shaw visited and tested XHI-051 in 1982. He excavated a 1 x 4 m trench in a house pit and a 1 x 2 m test unit [REDACTED]. In the 1 x 2 m test unit, cultural deposits extend up to 1.4 m in depth. The materials collected from the test excavations are stored at UAMN under the accession UA82-129. In 1982, Shaw noticed natural erosion [REDACTED] and evidence of vandalism.

XHI-052: XHI-052 is the northernmost of the four archeological sites [REDACTED]. XHI-052 is located [REDACTED]. This site covers an area of 58 x 60 m (0.9 acres) with approximately 12 semi-subterranean features visible. The features are round to oval with maximum diameter between 4.5 and 7 m. Shaw visited but did not test this site in 1982. During this visit, no vandalism or erosion was apparent.

Archeological Sites on Summit Island

XHI-042: The Summit Island #1 site is located [REDACTED]. XHI-042 is a large prehistoric village measuring 232 x 227 m or 13 acres (Figure 4). The numerous features consist of oval-shaped house pit depressions and cache pits. Dense blue mussel midden was noted eroding from the bluffs (Shaw

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1986). In 1982, Shaw excavated one 1 x 1 m test unit and determined the stratified cultural midden deposits went to at least a depth of 1.4 m (Figure 5). Sterile sediments were not reached. Two charcoal samples from intact sediments returned dates of 2460±50 RCYBP and 610±RCYBP. The dates as well as the material culture recovered indicate that Norton and Thule components are present at XHI-042. Shaw found well preserved bone and antler, stone and pottery fragments, and some wood [REDACTED] (Shaw 1986:7). The materials from this excavation are housed at UAMN under accession UA82-124.

In 1985, as part of the ADF&G compliance work, Shaw excavated four 50 x 50 cm test holes to depths of 90-120 cm and fifteen 25 x 25 x 30 cm shovel probes. One test pit recovered beach cobble manuports in the upper levels and limited cultural material was found in four of the shovel probes. Three contained charcoal and a few chipped stone flakes while the fourth, closest to the house pit depressions, returned chipped stone flakes, mussel shell fragments, charcoal, and bone of unknown quantities. No surface features or subsurface middens were found during the testing of the 2.5-acre parcel. However, Shaw determined the southern boundary of XHI-042 would be within the proposed 2.5-acre parcel and recommended that the parcel be shifted slightly south away from XHI-042. The materials from Shaw's 1985 excavations are also housed at UAMN under the accession UA85-86.

During both visits to XHI-042, Shaw noted the site had been vandalized and damaged by slumping of the bluffs. Shaw believed the regular presence of ADF&G staff would deter future looting.

XHI-043: The Summit Island #2 site is located [REDACTED]. It is found in three loci [REDACTED]. The three loci measure 370 x 72 m, 90 x 60 m, and 82 x 63 m (totaling 9.2 acres). XHI-043 is a prehistoric village site consisting of house pits, rectangular-shaped tent depressions up to 9 x 12 m in area, and cache pits. In 1982, Shaw placed three test units at the site and found cultural fill extending 1.4 m in depth (see a soil profile of one of the units in Figure 5). Much like XHI-042, the Summit Island #2 site has stratified midden deposits and the preservation of organic materials such as antler, bone, and some wood is excellent (Shaw 1986). Stone, pottery, [REDACTED] identifiable as belonging to the Norton and Thule traditions were recovered as well as 2 charcoal samples dating to 2230 ±60 RCYBP and 1120 ±70 RCYBP. The earliest date was taken from the base of one test unit, just above where sterile sediments were reached (Shaw 1986: Figure 2). The more recent date was collected from a higher level that may be a transitional Norton or early Thule component. Shaw (1986) did not discuss the association between the cultural traditions and this most recent date. One particularly well preserved piece recovered from the upper levels of the same test unit is a Thule era carved ivory doll face (Figure 6). The recovery of this item indicates a high level of preservation that is unique among Alaskan sites. The cultural materials collected from this excavation are housed at UAMN under the accession UA82-125.

Shaw excavated portions of XHI-043 again in 1985, but the results of this work are not currently available. Shaw (1986:10) noted that diagnostic items are present in the collection. Materials from this excavation are also housed at UAMN under the accession UA85-87.

Shaw (1986:10) stated the site had suffered heavy vandalism and erosion and "to a major degree, the [excavation] efforts were viewed as salvage activity."

XHI-044: The Summit Island #3 site is located [REDACTED]. This prehistoric village site consists of two loci totaling 7.3 acres in area. The north locus, which measures 90 x 135 m, has approximately 25 dwelling features. The largest of these features measures 5 x 19 m and was partially tested by Shaw in 1985. The south locus measures 125 x 140 m and contains an unknown number of features. During the initial visit of this site in 1982, Shaw placed one shovel probe in the north locus and determined that cultural deposits reached a depth of

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70 cm. The materials recovered from the testing of XHI-044 are housed at UAMN under the accessions UA82-126 and UA85-88. The results of this work have not been publicly reported, however, Shaw (1986:10) indicated that diagnostic artifacts assignable to Norton and Thule traditions were recovered from the site. Shaw (1986:10) considered the 1985 excavation of XHI-044 to be "salvage activity" because of the severity of the vandalism.

XHI-045: The Summit Island #4 site is located [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]. The dimensions of this prehistoric village are 30 x 120 m (0.9 acres). At least six oval house pits and an unknown number of cache pits are present. The differential visibility of the house pits may indicate at least two separate occupations. The two most distinctive house pits measure 4 x 4 m and 5.5 x 6.5 m. The cache pits measure between 1 and 2 m in diameter. Shaw visited but did not test this site in 1982 and noted that the site was heavily vegetated, more so than the other sites on Summit Island. Shaw did not see signs of vandalism during this visit. In 1985, Shaw tested XHI-045. The recovered materials are housed at UAMN under the accession UA85-89.

XHI-057: XHI-057 is located [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]. The site consists of one dwelling feature measuring 3 x 3 x .10-.40 m. Shaw recorded the site in 1982 and tested it in 1985. In the 1980s, there was no evidence of vandalism and stable tundra vegetation covered the house pit.

Archeological Site on Round Island

XNB-043: The Qayassiq site is located [REDACTED]. The site is located [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] XNB-043 [REDACTED], but only 3.5% of the 5.7-acre site has been disturbed since 1976, when Sanctuary employees began residing on Round Island seasonally (Figure 7). The main areas of ground disturbance include a cabin, garden, bath shed, and outhouse on the south end of the site. Tent platforms, one outhouse, and a cook tent are located in the north and northwest portions of the site. Trails crisscross the site.

A Trimble GPS system was used to map modern structures, the trail system, and the archeological features of XNB-043 (Schaaf et al. 2007b:11). From this work, 105 prehistoric features were documented within the site boundaries, two rock rings that have evidence of historic use west of the site, and one cryptocrystalline silicate chipped stone flake north of the site (Figure 8). The presence of the flake outside of the XNB-043 site boundaries suggests that other sites may be present on Round Island.

In 2004, the State Historic Preservation Officer requested that NPS provide archaeological expertise to ADF&G to (1) accurately map XNB-00043 and its features so that future development could avoid sensitive areas, (2) determine site boundaries, (3) assess current site condition and identify adverse effects of past ADF&G activities, (4) reroute trails to minimize further damage to site features, (5) excavate in advance of any needed ground disturbing improvements and (6) evaluate National Register eligibility (DNR-OHA File No. 3130-2R ADF&G). A primary objective was to disturb as little of the site as possible in addressing these needs.

[REDACTED] two of the island's so-called boat landings. In 2004 a 5.7 acre (2.3 hectare) site area was mapped containing over 100 surface depressions representing semi-subterranean houses, storage pits, sod borrow areas and unidentified features ([Figures 7,8;] Schaaf et al. 2007a). Test 1, a half meter

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square, was excavated [REDACTED]. Test 1 yielded three radiocarbon dates; 2010 radiocarbon years before present (rcybp) at the base of the sod, 3350 rcybp associated with an occupation floor and walrus mandible and 5030 rcybp above sterile deposits [Figure 10].

Limited testing was [REDACTED], the location of a proposed new cabin and outhouse, to determine depth of disturbance. Test 3, one meter square, demonstrated the presence of undisturbed cultural deposits beneath the overturned [REDACTED] sediments. Several artifacts were recovered *in situ* including a broken lance point resting on a partial walrus cranium with wood charcoal dated 4920 rcybp [Photo 4, Table 2]. Tests 2 and 4 were opened as potential outhouse locations but not excavated due to the density of artifacts in the root mat. Thirteen hundred artifacts were recovered from less than one cubic meter excavated in 2004. This limited testing showed that cultural deposits at XNB-00043 are at least 1.5 meters deep and yielded early occupation dates that were unexpected based on previous research in the region (Schaaf 2015:2-3).

The stemmed bases of two large projectile points (Photo 3, Artifacts B and E) and one ground slate lance point fragment (Photo 3, Artifact A) are similar to those of Brooks River Strand phase, which dates between 4430 ± 110 and 3840 ± 130 RCYBP and is associated with cultures from the Gulf of Alaska (Schaaf et al. 2007:29).

In 2008, six one-meter square test units were excavated by an interagency team: Test 5 in the campground and Tests 6-10 in the disturbed garden area located 100 meters from the campground [Figures 7, 8; Photos 5-9]. Over 9700 artifacts, bone and samples were recovered. Additional radiocarbon dates complemented the components identified from the 2004 investigations, demonstrated the presence of all identified components in two widely separated areas of the site and extended the site depth to 2.0 meters and the earliest occupation to 5450 rcybp (Schaaf 2015:6).

The 105 mapped surface depressions form four spatial groupings with some overlap (Figure 9). Most of the larger features are clearly the remains of dwellings, the smaller features are likely cache pits, and the irregular and poorly defined shallow depressions are possibly sod borrow areas (Schaaf 2015:23).

The southern group of features (Features 1-16) includes [REDACTED] excavation. At least one house depression was destroyed by the garden and another was noted after mapping, when the shed (see Figure 3) was moved to an off-site location. There are at least six remaining single-roomed houses measuring from 3.0 by 4.0 m to 4.6 by 7.5 m and several smaller depressions up to 1.7 m across. Part of a single-roomed house (Feature 6) is exposed by a 1.5 by 1.5 m, 0.9 m deep hole excavated for the burn barrel. A partial walrus skull with an intact tusk is visible in the west wall of this house about 0.8 m below the ground surface. A core edge rejuvenation flake (UA2005-056-0001) and charcoal sample dated 1960 ± 40 rcybp (Beta-195221) were collected from the exposure near the walrus skull. An additional house (the unnumbered feature immediately west of Feature 4; [Figure 8]) has been extensively disturbed by a trench (13.4 m long, 1.1 m wide and 0.4 m deep) excavated the length of its floor [REDACTED] installed in the late 1970s or early 1980s. Sod blocks were stacked along the west side of the trench as a windbreak. This house was identified after the mapping when ADF&G staff began to

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construct [REDACTED] above the former disturbance. A notched pebble or net weight was collected from the east wall at 28 cm below the surface (cmbs) (UA2005-056-0004). A fiber tempered (with pebble inclusions), plain body sherd (UA2005-056-0003) and an ivory scraper (UA2005-056-0002) were collected from the trench floor. A large basalt blade-like flake and grey chalcedony flakes and charcoal were noted but not collected. The tub had rusted through so there are many metal fragments in the floor of the trench which will become incorporated in the site sediments over time. For this group of house depressions, the house form, radiocarbon date, pottery and notched pebble are consistent with a Norton tradition settlement.

The central site group (Features 17-36) occupies the highest elevation within the site area and has large deep house depressions measuring from 4.0 by 5.9 m to 5.3 by 8.2 m. At least three have entry rooms or long entryways and Feature 17, a large rectangular depression, is probably a community house or *qasgik*. It measures 7.9 by 11.9 m and is 0.72 m deep with a prominent berm around its perimeter. There are several cache pit sized depressions, some sod borrow areas (e.g. Feature 26) and possibly four rectangular single-roomed houses. Site Datum A was placed 2.5 meters west of the center of the west wall of Feature 17. Feature forms suggest a Thule tradition occupation possibly overlapping an earlier settlement area represented by the single-roomed rectangular house depressions.

The west central site group is a concentration of features (37-78) bisected by the main camp trail and located south of Datum B. Most of these features are on a southwest trending slope. There are eight round or subrectangular houses measuring at least 4.0 m across and over 30 smaller depressions that could represent houses or large caches. Disturbance in this area is a large undefined area identified as having been a former garbage burial and outhouse area (M. Cody pers. comm. 2004).

The campground area north of Datum B is on a small northward projecting point adjacent to sea cliffs and of the site areas, it is the most exposed to weather. It has at least eight round, square or rectangular houses with no visible entries ranging in size from 2.8 by 5.6 m to 5.5 by 7.9 m. Twenty mapped smaller depressions measure from 1.0 to 2.0 m across (Features 79-105). This area has minimal disturbance and the trails that had crossed cultural features have been rerouted. This area of the site is subject to erosion along the cliff edges due to down-slope movement of the sediments. The age of the features and cultural deposits in this area are unknown.

Two rock rings are located on the rock scree slope near the spring-fed water tank, about 250 meters south/southwest of Datum A. They measure 2.1 by 4.6 m and 1.15 m deep and 1.5 by 3.3 m and 1.3 m deep respectively (inside dimensions). The age of the features is unknown but a rusted coffee can in one indicates 20th century use.

No surface depressions were mapped in the west central area of the site. The site boundary there was estimated based on topography and drawn to provide a margin of protection for the site (Schaaf 2015:23-25).

The collections from XNB-043 are curated at the University of Alaska Museum of the North in Fairbanks (Accessions UA 2005-56 and UA-2008-78).

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Considered together, the cultural components at the Qayassiq site present a unique opportunity to understand the relationships among Alaskan cultural traditions. Radiocarbon dates recovered from XNB-043 extend the presence of people in the Walrus Islands and on the northwest Bristol Bay coast over 3,500 years earlier than previously documented.

The earliest peoples' use of Round Island was habitual and each inhabitation of the island may have lasted for extended periods on a seasonal basis. Dense cultural materials present in the dated levels contemporary with the Northern Archaic tradition (and maritime-based cultures in the north Pacific and eastern Aleutians) and from five dispersed test units attest to more than a fleeting use of Round Island. This occupation of Round Island spanned approximately 1,000 years as indicated by five radiocarbon samples dated between 6,310 and 5,290 years ago. In northwestern Bristol Bay, traditionally terrestrially focused Northern Archaic people may have been the first people in the region to go after walrus in an opportunistic venture or out of necessity. Access to the walrus would have been relatively easy considering that, approximately 6,000 years ago, sea levels were much lower than they are today and people living on the mainland would have been able to follow a protected shoreline right to the hauled-out walrus. With succeeding generations, harvesting walrus on Round Island would have continued. Further research at the Qayassiq site might provide the first evidence of marine adaptation in the Northern Archaic tradition. However, the artifacts suggest a closer tie with maritime cultures to the east and south (Schaaf 2015).

Components dated within the region's Arctic Small Tool tradition timeframe are well represented with three dated radiocarbon samples collected from three units located near the garden disturbance. Sea levels would have been close to those of the present, with several kilometer-wide expanses of open water, suggesting that the Arctic Small Tool people in northwestern Bristol Bay would have had to be skilled boaters to reach Round Island.

Though very speculative, it is possible that the oldest components at the Qayassiq site are an indicator that there are components of equal age at other locations in the Walrus Islands.

Norton and Thule occupations are widespread throughout the Walrus Islands, and many of the sites containing these components have been tested. Still, little is known about these occupations of the Walrus Islands because analyses of the materials collected from the excavations on Crooked and Summit islands have not been published, making the research on Round Island all the more valuable. There is a need to study the Crooked and Summit islands collections to provide a more holistic view of the human history of the Walrus Islands. This would allow more in depth analysis of the Norton and Thule occupations and the connection between the earliest and later cultural traditions represented in the Walrus Islands.

Noncontributing Sites, Buildings, and Structures

ADF&G Facilities, Round Island: The ADF&G facility located on Round Island is comprised of seven structures, six buildings, and one site (Figure 7). The seven structures include six permanent wooden tent platforms (located in the two campsite areas) and the trail system that run throughout and beyond the Round Island archeological site. The trails connect the various buildings, structures, and areas that comprise the ADF&G facility. The six buildings consist of a cabin (or Sanctuary manager's quarters), two fabric-sided buildings (one used as a cook tent and the other as a garage), one shower shed, and two outhouses. The one site is a gardening area. ADF&G began installing facilities in 1976 and these are not considered historically significant at this time. The structures, buildings, and site as well as lesser activity spaces (former outhouse locations, burn barrel location, cold storage barrel location, etc.) continue to be modified as required by Sanctuary staff.

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8. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

Nationally: X Statewide: Locally:

Applicable National
Register Criteria:

A B C D X

Criteria Considerations
(Exceptions):

A B C D E F G

NHL Criteria:

6

NHL Theme(s):

I. Peopling Places
 3. Migration from outside and within
 5. Ethnic homelands
 6. Encounters, conflicts, and colonization

Areas of Significance:

Archeology/Prehistoric

Period(s) of Significance:

4300 BC – 1800 AD (6,300 years ago – 200 years ago)

Significant Dates:

N/A

Significant Person(s):

N/A

Cultural Affiliation:

Central Alaskan Yup'ik

Architect/Builder:

N/A

Historic Context:

I. Cultural Developments: Indigenous American Populations
 A. The Earliest Inhabitants
 4. Archaic Adaptations of the Arctic
 B. Post-Archaic and Pre-Contact Developments
 1. Arctic Hunters and Gatherers

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State Significance of Property, and Justify Criteria, Criteria Considerations, and Areas and Periods of Significance Noted Above.**Summary Statement**

The Walrus Islands Archeological District is significant under NHL Criterion 6 (Criterion D) in that it has yielded and, in the future, is likely to yield information crucial to understanding the initial settlement of Alaska's southwest coast, and more broadly, provide fundamental data for researchers interested in broad patterns of prehistoric migration, human adaptation to changing environments, resource exploitation, settlement, and cultural identity. The presence of cultural components dated between approximately 6,300 and 200 years old in the Walrus Islands provides a unique opportunity to refine our knowledge of Alaskan cultural traditions beginning with an early north Pacific maritime and contemporaneous Northern Archaic and ending with the Thule tradition.

The Qayassiq site is exceptionally unique because it is one of the few remaining places that provide evidence of human occupation of the Bering Sea continental shelf when sea levels were substantially lower than present. Most of the evidence of outer coastal precontact life in Alaska is submerged and likely destroyed by ocean currents. The earliest radiocarbon dated components at the Qayassiq site are at least 3,500 years older than any other coastal site in northwestern Bristol Bay. Archeological data from the site presents the intriguing possibility of providing insight into how ancient peoples may have lived. The earliest inhabitants of the Qayassiq site were, on some level, marine adapted, a trait normally associated with the more recent Norton and Thule cultures. The 6,300 to 3,000 year old components at the Qayassiq site suggest that some groups of terrestrially focused peoples were interested in coastal environments and practiced more generalized settlement and subsistence patterns than previously recognized by Alaskan researchers. For this reason, the archeological resources of the Walrus Islands Archeological District may be likely to yield information affecting major disciplinary theories regarding the sequence, practice and regional distribution of human coastal adaptations in prehistory.

The most recent cultural components found in the Walrus Islands, between 3,000 and 200 years old, are extensive and well preserved. Limited archeological research indicates that these components have great potential to elucidate the role that technological innovation and changes in settlement and subsistence practices played in the development of historic Alaska Native populations in northwestern Bristol Bay. Studied in combination with data collected from sites of the Norton and Thule cultures in the interior and coastland of Southwest Alaska can provide foundational information shedding light on interrelationships of trade, conflict and migration between contemporaneous groups.

The significance of the Walrus Islands Archeological District is best categorized by the NHL theme "Peopling Places". In this section, the theme is discussed in relation to the precontact development of people in northwestern Bristol Bay under the headings: 1) Early Coastal Settlement of Bristol Bay, Alaska 6,300-3,400 years ago, 2) Population Expansion and Technological Innovation in Southwestern Alaska 2,700-1,000 years ago, and 3) Culture Contact and Amalgamation, 1,000-200 years ago.

Early Coastal Settlement of Bristol Bay, Alaska 6,300-3,400 years ago

The earliest cultural components found at the Qayassiq site (XNB-043) are contemporaneous with north Pacific maritime, Northern Archaic and Arctic Small Tool traditions and contain the earliest evidence for marine adaptation in the region. Though not as old, the Walrus Islands Archeological District can be placed in the same category as the Amalik Bay and Anangula National Historic Landmarks because all three provide evidence of

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the earliest occupations and marine adaptation for their regions, dating between 8,000 and 6,300 years old. Taken together, Anangula in the Aleutians, Amalik Bay in the western Gulf of Alaska, and Walrus Islands in Bristol Bay are representative of the earliest known occupations of the southern Alaska coast, excluding Southeast Alaska.

Since the last glacial maximum, shifting shorelines have confounded the ability to understand coastal archeology throughout the world. At the LGM, eustatic sea levels were 120 m lower than they are presently, and a great deal of land that is currently underwater was inhabited by Siberian migrants between 14,000 and 12,000 years ago (Dumond 1987, 2005a). By the Early Holocene, approximately 10,000 years ago, much of the Bering Sea continental shelf that is closest to the contemporary Alaska mainland shore was still exposed and inhabited, at least briefly, by the descendants of people who migrated from Siberia to the North American continent. As stated before, by 8,000 years ago, coastal Bristol Bay was glacier free, sea levels were 14 m below present, and the Walrus Islands, excluding Round Island, were probably connected to the mainland (Manley 2002). The movement of people into and through Alaska was likely played out in places on the Bering Sea continental shelf that are now underwater. The Walrus Islands, specifically the Qayassiq site, as well as the Anangula and Amalik Bay National Historic Landmarks, may be the only remaining Alaskan sites, which contain evidence of early coastal migrations.

Prior to the testing of the Qayassiq site, the earliest evidence of marine adaptation in Alaska, north of the Alaskan Peninsula, was found at the Iyatayet National Historic Landmark in Norton Sound on the northwestern coast of Alaska (Giddings 1964). At this coastal mainland site, there was evidence that Arctic Small Tool caribou hunters used the site, between 4,200 and 3,500 years ago, as a seasonal base camp to harvest seals from the shore. Across the Bering Strait in Siberia, data from the Zhokov site in the East Siberian Sea suggests that Mesolithic people regularly pursued reindeer and polar bears and occasionally hunted walrus and seal by 7900 RCYBP (Ackerman 1998; Pitul'ko 1993; Pitul'ko and Kasparov 1993).

We now know that at least 6,000 years ago, people hunted walrus on the beaches of Round Island. We know little about them or their technological expertise that would have enabled them to do this. Sea levels were approximately 4 m lower than they are at present (Manley 2002). Round Island was no longer connected to the Alaskan mainland by way of Crooked Island. Hagemeister Island and the Walrus Islands chain, excluding Round and Summit Islands, were connected to each other and the mainland, sometimes only at low tide. Hagemeister and the Walrus Islands would have looked much the same as today with the following exceptions: Hagemeister Island was larger than it is today, the shallow waters between Hagemeister and High islands would have been expansive mud flats, and High and Crooked islands would have formed one larger island with surrounding mud flats. Round Island would have been accessible by boat along the same route that is currently used: along the coast, by way of Summit Island, and then heading directly south. Round Island would also have been accessible from the western side of Togiak Bay, from Tongue Point, and farther southwest. Depending on how valuable walrus and other animals inhabiting Round Island were to early groups living west of Togiak Bay, these people would have had the option to travel a long distance along the coastline and then leapfrog from island to island to reach Round Island.

It is possible that Northern Archaic people in southwestern Alaska did not have watercraft during their initial visits to the Walrus Islands. There is no physical evidence to suggest Northern Archaic peoples utilized boats in southwestern Alaska. However, the presence of people on Round Island at a time when it was inaccessible in ice-free months (the months the male walrus haul out) without watercraft poses intriguing questions. People may have walked to Round Island, at low tide, to hunt sea mammals foremost for their skins and for oil and food. Hagemeister, Crooked, High, and Summit islands were potentially accessible by walking despite the difficulties of crossing mud flats. Sea mammals, including walrus have been documented on the other Walrus

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Islands and at Hagemeister Island as well as on the mainland in places such as Cape Pierce (Fall et al. 1991). As Northern Archaic people spread throughout Alaska, they may have encountered walrus and other sea mammal populations hauled out on mainland shores. They could have discovered the durability and many uses of sea mammal skin through hunting these animals, finding washed-up carcasses, or through trade with marine-based cultures in the Aleutians, Gulf of Alaska or elsewhere.

Ackerman (2004:155) finds it puzzling that some Northern Archaic peoples of southwestern Alaska lived near the coast but left no evidence of harvesting marine resources. The closest Northern Archaic site is located on the southern end of Kuskokwim Bay (approximately 100 miles from Bristol Bay) and the interpretation of the site reinforces the belief that Northern Archaic people hunted caribou almost exclusively. The artifact assemblage from the Security Cove site (XHI-009) is suggestive of

an encampment of interior hunters who replaced their broken spear points, butchered large game animals such as caribou (bifacial knives, choppers, utilized flakes), processed hides and possibly worked bone and antler (scrapers and graver/perforators), and perhaps caught (net weights) and dried a few fish (Ackerman 2004:155).

No charcoal samples were recovered from the Security Cove site. The placement of this site in the Northern Archaic tradition is based on the similarity of its side-notched points with those in early Northern Archaic components from the Onion Portage National Historic Landmark in northwestern Alaska, dated between 6000 and 5000 RCYBP (Ackerman 2004).

Farther inland, other sites, which Ackerman (2004) suggested are Northern Archaic in age, are more ephemeral than the Security Cove site (with the exception of the Pond site, see below). The Mumtruk Hill site (GDN-018), located near the village of Goodnews, and is a surface collection of artifacts ranging from Northern Archaic to historic in age. Stemmed points collected from the surface are similar to those in a late Northern Archaic phase at the Onion Portage National Historic Landmark dated to 4400-4300 RCYBP (Ackerman 2004:156). During a survey of the northern portion of the Goodnews River, Ackerman (2004:156) surface collected one side-notched projectile point which led him to postulate that Northern Archaic people of the region also hunted caribou in interior uplands as well as in coastal areas (like Security Cove and Mumtruk Hill).

Approximately 160 km inland and north from the Walrus Islands are four more Northern Archaic sites in proximity to Kagati Lake. Three of the sites, GDN-082, GDN-100, and GDN-158, contained surface-recovered side-notched points suggestive of the Northern Archaic. The Pond site (GDN-094) contained intact components with the same side-notched points, a stone driveline interpreted as a caribou corralling feature, and charcoal which returned a date of 4120±40 RCYBP (Ackerman 2004:159-160).

The regional expression of the Northern Archaic tradition near the Walrus Islands is not well known because there is limited material available for study. Most of the sites defined as Northern Archaic cannot be dated and are placed in the Northern Archaic tradition based on typological comparisons alone. With the exception of the Security Cove and Pond sites, the Northern Archaic assemblages found in the area are surface lithic scatters with limited context. Study of the Qayassiq site presents the unique possibility to define the regional expression of the Northern Archaic tradition because it has intact dateable components contemporaneous with the tradition, extensive artifacts, and identifiable faunal material (lacking in the other documented sites). The competing theories regarding migration, replacement, and the movement of ideas leading to the existence of the Northern Archaic tradition is conjecture with limited supporting data (Esdale 2008). The Qayassiq site is likely to play a definitive role in understanding the interactions of Northern Archaic peoples and contemporaneous maritime-adapted people to the east and south.

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After the earliest- dated occupations of the Qayassiq site, the Walrus Islands may have experienced an occupational hiatus of a thousand or more years, starting approximately 5,000 years ago and ending 3,700 years ago. By the next recorded occupation of the Walrus Islands, sea levels were between 1.4 and 2 m below present (Manley 2002). The configuration of the Walrus Islands mass would have been very similar to that of the present with the exception that Crooked and High islands were probably connected by low tide.

The next occupation of the Walrus Islands occurred at the Qayassiq site, between approximately 3,700 to 3,400 years ago. Three radiocarbon dates from intact sediments and one finely made sideblade from the same components lend credence to the idea that these people may have had an affiliation with the Arctic Small Tool tradition (Schaaf et al. 2007b; Schaaf 2015).

The closest sites with Arctic Small Tool components include DIL-153 and the Raleigh Knoll site located on the Wood River Lake system over 160 km inland and northeast of the Walrus Islands (Dumond 2005b). The Arctic Small Tool components at DIL-153 (with a mean age of 3488 ± 29 RCYBP) include slab-lined hearth features, finely made endblades, microblades, and scrapers, and one whetstone while the Raleigh Knoll site (2700 RCYBP) is only described as a temporary hunting camp (Dumond 2005b:71). According to Dumond (2005), both of these sites can confidently be associated with the Arctic Small Tool tradition. In the 1970s, Ackerman also located a surface scatter containing bifacial endblades identified as part of the Denbigh Flint Complex at Eek Lake 200 km to the northwest of Togiak (Workman 1980b:189). Comparison of the Round Island, DIL-153, Raleigh Knoll and the Eek Lake sites is not possible at this time. However, continued study of the Qayassiq site will determine if there is a relationship between those who lived in the Walrus Islands, approximately 3,700 to 3,400 years ago, and the Arctic Small Tool peoples who hunted inland.

The distance between these sites suggests a tenuous relationship, but it is possible that the people who lived at the various sites discussed above or at other locations closer to the Walrus Islands (that have not yet been found) may have incorporated hunting walrus at Round Island into their subsistence strategies. Like their predecessors, the people evidenced at the Qayassiq site may have hunted walrus regularly on a seasonal basis or as a fallback resource when food was hard to come by in the interior. As discussed before, the Iyatayet site is one example of Arctic Small Tool peoples who utilized both coastal and terrestrial resources. The Qayassiq site differs from the Iyatayet site in that people would have had to kayak across several kilometers of open water to get to Round Island.

The presence at the Qayassiq site of components that are contemporaneous with the nearby Northern Archaic and Arctic Small Tool sites provides the opportunity to better understand not only the regional expression of both traditions but also the relationship between them. The traditions are postulated to have different origins and studying artifacts from the extensive intact components at the Qayassiq site can address whether the assumptions regarding these origins are valid. For instance, it may be possible to help answer some of the following questions: Where is the most likely origin for Northern Archaic peoples? Is it possible they have Siberian origins even though some researchers (Ackerman 2008) believe the Northern Archaic toolkit is most similar to those of contemporaneous American cultural complexes? Did Arctic Small Tool peoples have Siberian origins? What is their relationship to Northern Archaic peoples? By studying the relationship between the Northern Archaic and Arctic Small Tool-contemporaneous traditions hinted at on Round Island, it will also be possible to address the evolution of marine adaptation in high latitude precontact cultures.

The Arctic Small Tool dated occupation at the Qayassiq site appears to be short-lived as it was on the northern Alaska Peninsula (Dumond 2005a, 2005b). Dumond (2000) has postulated that Arctic Small Tool people on the northern Alaska Peninsula were driven from the area by a volcanic eruption, which decimated the caribou herds

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and salmon runs. It is possible that the Arctic Small Tool-contemporaneous people on Round Island were also affected by a volcanic eruption. Levy et al. (2004:189) documented two tephra layers in the sediment cores from Waskey Lake, dated to 6,110 years ago and 3,560 years ago. Though these tephra are earlier than the Arctic Small Tool dated occupation on Round Island it is interesting that the Waskey Lake tephra (Ahklun Mountains, north of Bristol Bay) are consistent with Aniakchak tephra (Aleutian Range, east of Bristol Bay) found throughout western Alaska. The volcanic eruptions may have caused the hiatus in occupation at Round Island between the earliest component and the Arctic Small Tool affiliated occupations. More research is likely to uncover evidence of later eruptions that would have affected Arctic Small Tool-contemporaneous peoples living on Round Island. The earliest Waskey Lake tephra is similar in age to the earliest known occupation of Round Island. Is it possible that a volcanic eruption occurred approximately 6,100 years ago which affected the use of Round Island?

Schaaf et al. (2007b) noted that two stemmed projectile point bases and a ground slate lance point fragment were recovered from disturbed sediments that are suggestive of the Brooks River Strand Phase, dated between 5,200 to 4,400 years ago. This phase is associated with maritime-adapted cultures of the Gulf of Alaska and very different from the terrestrially oriented Northern Archaic peoples. Is it possible there is some connection between the people who hunted on Round Island, approximately 5,500-4,000 years ago, with those of the Brooks River Strand Phase? Comparison of the Walrus Islands archeological material with that of the Brooks River Strand Phase components represented in the Brooks River National Historic Landmark may address this question. The materials recovered from Round Island should also be compared with archeological sites in the Amalik Bay National Historic Landmark, where Gulf of Alaska cultures are well represented.

Population Expansion and Technological Innovation in Southwestern Alaska 2,700-1,000 years ago

The occupational hiatus between the Arctic Small Tool dated components at the Qayassiq site and those of Norton age found on Crooked, Round, and Summit islands lasted several hundred years, between approximately 3,400 to 2,700 years ago. More research is needed to determine if there truly is a lengthy hiatus between the Arctic Small Tool and Norton occupations, as there is on the northern Alaska Peninsula, or if components dated to this time range are, in fact, present in the Walrus Islands.

With the advent of the Norton tradition, there was a shift to using coastal resources, which was not present in the Arctic Small Tool tradition. Norton people continued to harvest terrestrial resources (caribou) and intensified fishing, but the focus on marine resources is evident from the presence of numerous large villages on the coast (Dumond 1987; Larsen 1950, Shaw 1986). The size of many Norton village sites indicates that human populations grew and became semi-sedentary as they turned their interests toward the ocean. Also new to the Norton tradition, outside of the Aleutians and Gulf of Alaska, was the placement of village settlements on islands including the Walrus Islands, Hagemeister Island, and Nunivak Island (AHRs 2010; Nowak 1982; Shaw 1979). With a large part of subsistence practices focusing on marine resources, new and varied technology to harvest marine mammals, sea birds, and shellfish became staples of the Norton toolkit (Dumond 1984). The prevalent use of bone, antler, wood, and plant materials by Norton peoples has been documented at sites such as Iyatayet National Historic Landmark, various locales on Nunivak Island, and the Manokinak site in the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta (Dumond 1984:99; Nowak 1973, 1982; Shaw 1983). Norton tradition peoples were the first to produce ceramics in southern Alaska. Moreover, the use of ground and polished slate increased (Dumond 1984).

As to the origins of the Norton tradition, Dumond (1982, 2000:14) noted that there is continuity between the Arctic Small Tool and Norton traditions evidenced in the finely made chipped stone tools present in both traditions as well as polished groovers, adze bits, and simple toggling harpoons. The most obvious source of

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Norton pottery is earlier ceramic-making Siberian cultures, while the polished and ground slate suggests connections to the marine-oriented cultures of the Gulf of Alaska (Dumond 2000). These people, who used slate by at least 5,000 years ago, are represented in the archeological sites of the Amalik Bay National Historic Landmark (Saleeby 2004). Dumond (1990, 2000) suggested that Norton cultures did not adopt polishing and grinding slate directly from Gulf of Alaska peoples, but came to it through the earliest of the three archeological cultures in the Norton tradition known as Choris (present only in northern Alaska approximately 2,800 and 2,500 years ago). Based on proximity alone, the presence of ground slate in Choris components before it was present in Norton components on the Alaska Peninsula is enigmatic (Dumond 1990).

Norton culture replaced Choris culture around 2,500 years ago on the American coasts of the Chukchi and Bering seas (Dumond 2000:14). Whether earlier Choris sites are present farther south than Kotzebue Sound is unknown because, according to Dumond (2000:14), "much of that area has been little explored archeologically." Norton tradition dated sites in the Walrus Islands (XHI-042, XHI-043, and XNB-043) range between approximately 2,700 and 1,000 years ago and present the opportunity to fill in the gap between the earliest Norton tradition sites on the western coast of Alaska and those on the Alaska Peninsula. More comprehensive dating of all of the Walrus Island sites on Crooked, Summit, and Round islands is required to confirm the span of Norton occupations in the region.

Dumond (2000:14-15) has postulated that the Old Whaling culture represented only at Cape Krusenstern National Historic Landmark, between 3,200 and 2,900 years ago, may be "a possibly related predecessor" of the Norton tradition by way of Choris culture. In Kotzebue Sound, the Old Whaling occupation directly precedes the classically defined Choris components, which also happen to be the earliest securely dated Choris components in Alaska (Dumond 2000:15). The presence of a shared marine adapted technology – ground slate, stone lamps, and labrets – found in Old Whaling and Choris toolkits is suggestive of origins to the south, in the Aleutians or the Gulf of Alaska. The southern cultures had advanced maritime economies and similar technology in place thousands of years before the Old Whaling culture (Dumond 2000:13). Dumond (2000:16) admitted, however, that there is nothing besides limited typological similarities to link the spatially and temporally separated cultures of the Aleutians, Gulf of Alaska, and Cape Krusenstern together. Continued research on the stemmed points and lance blades reminiscent of the Brooks River Strand Phase and Norton components in the Walrus Islands could possibly reveal a connection between the Gulf of Alaska, Aleutians, Old Whaling, and Norton cultures.

In a different interpretation, Mason and Gerlach (1995) have suggested that the Old Whaling, Security Cove, Palisades, and Wrangell Island Devil's Gorge assemblages, which contain side-notched tools, should be grouped within the "Chukchi Archaic" tradition. The Chukchi Archaic, defined by Mason and Gerlach (1995), is coastally adapted but technologically reminiscent of and/or related to the Northern Archaic. The Chukchi Archaic designation is significant because it links seemingly different sites spread over thousands of kilometers on the western Alaska coast to an assemblage in Russia (Devil's Gorge) as well as placing the origins of sea mammal hunting in the Chukchi Archaic period (Mason and Gerlach 1995:8). Further research into the earliest components in the Walrus Islands, at the Qayassiq site, may be relevant to determining the validity of the Chukchi Archaic as a tradition.

By 2,300 years ago, Norton people occupied several large semi-permanent villages in the Walrus Islands. The remains of twelve large villages (XHI-036, XHI-042, XHI-043, XHI-044, XHI-045, XHI-046, XHI-047, XHI-049, XHI-050, XHI-051, XHI-052, and XNB-043) are scattered across Crooked, Summit, and Round islands. Finely carved ivory, faunal remains, stone tools, charcoal, and wood encased in stratified middens can be found at many of these sites.

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Nearby Norton occupations that have been investigated include settlement clusters in Chagvan Bay, the Qikertarpak site (XHI-016) located on Hagemeister Island, and the Anuska Tommy site (GDN-233) on the Togiak River.

In Chagvan Bay (southern side of Kuskokwim Bay), Ackerman (1988) excavated four settlement clusters on a beach ridge, of which the earliest three were dated between 2700 and 900 RCYBP. Norton age artifacts recovered from three houses included linear and check-stamped pottery, finely made chipped stone tools, ground stone ulus and adze blades, whetstones, pumice abraders, net weights, and labrets. A progression in house form is noticeable at this site. The earliest settlement cluster (2700 to 1800 RCYBP) contained circular to oval houses without visible entryways. The second settlement cluster (1800 to 1600 RCYBP) contained oval to round houses without visible entryways, while the third settlement cluster (1500 to 900 RCYBP) contained oval to rectangular houses with some having visible entryways. Is this progression of house form present in the Walrus Islands? If so, what are the implications of changes in house form, i.e. does technology change, population increase, or is there noticeable social changes in Norton culture?

The Qikertarpak site (XHI-016) was characterized as a seasonal camp positioned to take advantage of seals, large bird colonies, and blue mussel beds present near Hagemeister Island (Bailey 1991). Test excavations in three house pits concluded in the discovery of two Norton components. The earliest, dated to 1210 ±80 RCYBP, is similar to the third settlement cluster at Chagvan Bay (1500 to 900 RCYBP) (Bailey 1991:94 and 97). The upper component (870±80 RCYBP, 830±60 RCYBP, 780±70 RCYBP) displays continuity with the lower in the continued dependence on chipped and ground stone and the lack of pottery in both components, yet there are distinct differences between the two (Bailey 1991:97-100). The upper component contains much more caribou antler and walrus ivory than the lower component does and the harvest of mussel decreases in the upper component. Seal, bird, and fish appear to have similar importance in both components. One stone lamp with seal oil residue is similar to those from the Kachemak archeological culture from Cook Inlet, which suggests that people from the Qikertarpak site may have had connections with cultures in the Gulf of Alaska. The presence of caribou antler suggests movement and possible trade between Hagemeister Island inhabitants and people on the mainland.

Bailey (1991:101) interpreted the upper component of the Qikertarpak site as a late Norton occupation that was contemporaneous with Thule people who lived at Old Togiak in Togiak Bay between 1,000 years ago and the Historic era. Markers of the Thule tradition such as antler weights (instead of Norton notched stone weights), ground slate projectile points, barbed harpoon points, and Thule-style ceramics were not recovered during Bailey's excavation. Bailey (1991) noted that people evidenced in the upper component also continued to use pecked stone lamps, a trait typical of the Norton tradition. The implication of Norton and Thule people co-existing is relevant to the next section and will be discussed there.

The Anuska Tommy site (GDN-233) is characterized as a seasonal caribou-hunting camp used by Norton people 1,200 years ago (Biddle 2001). Square to rectangular houses with no visible entryways and subsurface hearths are present at the site. Recovered artifacts include some ground stone and CCS chipped stone sideblades, endblades, and scrapers. The only faunal remains recovered at the site were burned bone fragments assumed to be caribou and one shell fragment possibly denoting coastal ties. The site is located on the Togiak River, but there is no evidence of fishing. Biddle (2001) took a holistic view of the region and considered the Anuska Tommy site in terms of seasonal subsistence practices. At one end of the subsistence spectrum are the upland interior sites such as the Anuska Tommy site where Norton peoples hunted caribou. On the other end are coastal sites, like the Qikertarpak site (and presumably those on the Walrus Islands), where people harvested seals, sea birds, shellfish, and probably berries.

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Analyses of the Norton components present on Crooked, Round, and Summit islands will be crucial to determining the relationship between contemporaneous coastal and interior sites. As postulated for the earlier occupations of the Walrus Islands, it is very likely that peoples in southwestern Alaska utilized a variety of resources including those seasonally available just off the coast as well as those found in the interior. Antler present in Norton components on Hagemeister Island and at XHI-042 and XHI-043 on Summit Island indicates an interest in interior resources. Continued research will also expound the relationship between Norton people living on the islands and those located on the mainland coast at places like Chagvan Bay. Did Norton people living on Hagemeister Island and the Walrus Islands trade with mainland Norton people? Were island people able to move unrestricted through the interior to harvest caribou and other terrestrial resources or were interior resources controlled by mainland Norton peoples? Did Norton people living on the islands control the export of walrus to the mainland? What evidence, if any, can be found in the Walrus Islands' Norton components that there was conflict over resources? Was conflict between coastal, interior, and island Norton groups inevitable or did culturally distinct groups control large territories that included island, coastal, and interior localities? If Norton peoples in northwestern Bristol Bay lived similarly to the historic Tuyuryarmiut, one cultural group, spread out over various villages and camps, may have controlled Togiak Bay, portions of the Togiak River drainage, and part (or all?) of the Walrus Islands. With the increase in population evidenced during the Norton era, it is probable that some conflict over resources occurred between culturally distinct groups. A holistic study of Norton components from the Walrus Islands would determine if one or more culturally distinct groups co-inhabited the Walrus Islands.

Culture Contact and Amalgamation in Togiak Bay 1,000-200 years ago

The principal theory regarding the transition from the Norton to the Thule tradition in Alaska is one of migration and the merging of two cultures (Dumond 1987, 2005a). The Thule culture originated in the Bering Strait region, possibly from the Okvik phase of the Old Bering Sea culture present on St. Lawrence and Diomedé islands, nearly 2,000 years ago (Dumond 1987, 2000). Thule peoples moved northeast and southwest very quickly. They traveled as far as Greenland by the second millennium AD (Dumond 2000:17). In Alaska, Thule culture was present in Togiak Bay at the Old Togiak site probably by 1,000 years ago and on the northern Alaska Peninsula by 1,000-900 years ago with no occupational hiatus between the two cultures (Dumond 2005a; Kowta 1963). On the northern Alaska Peninsula, Dumond saw just enough continuity between Norton and Thule material culture to indicate "an amalgamation of (dominant) newcomers with older residents" rather than a replacement of the in situ culture (Dumond 2005a:40).

Although there was a drastic shift in the overall appearance of the stone artifact inventories between the end of the Norton and the beginning of the Thule traditions...all significant Thule implement forms were foreshadowed during the time of the late Norton tradition, even if only in small numbers" (Dumond 1987:133-136).

In northwestern Bristol Bay, it is possible that Norton and Thule groups co-existed for centuries. As evidenced at Old Togiak, Thule people were present in Togiak Bay by 1,000 years ago. Bailey (1991:101) did not find Thule components at the Qikertarpak site on Hagemeister Island, and noted that people using a distinctly Norton toolkit resided at the site until at least 780±70 RCYBP. At least two dates from XHI-042 (610±50 RCYBP) and XHI-043 (1120±70 RCYBP), on Summit Island, could be associated with the Norton-Thule transition, but the material culture associated with the dates is unknown. Shaw (1986, 1998) noted that distinctly Norton and Thule components were found within the same site at some sites suggesting that Thule succeeded Norton components at some (or all?) locations in the Walrus Islands. The exact relationship between Norton and Thule people in the Walrus Islands is unknown and speculative at best, but would be better understood with analyses of the existing Crooked and Summit islands assemblages. The few radiocarbon dates

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recovered from Summit and Hagemeister islands indicates that people of possibly different cultures (Norton and Thule) were living on these islands at the same time as the Thule people who inhabited Old Togiak.

Mason (1998) documented warfare in the Bering Strait region between 1,400 and 1,000 years ago, possibly between Norton and Thule groups. Moss and Erlandson (1992) have also documented evidence of warfare, through the initial occupation of defensive sites, in Southeast Alaska, as early as 1,500 years ago with notable intensification of warfare occurring in the region approximately 1,000 years ago. The historic and precontact Aleuts and Kodiak Islanders were highly militaristic (Black 2004). These groups warred with each other as well as the Chugach, Dena'ina, Eyak, Tlingit, and Haida (Black 2004:141-142). According to Funk (2010), the Bow and Arrow War was a time of major conflict between various precontact cultural groups on the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta. The origin of the Bow and Arrow War is unknown, but various hypotheses estimate it may have begun as early as 1,000 years ago with the expansion of Thule groups or within the last few centuries as Russian merchants disrupted traditional trade patterns. Pieces of armor made of antler and wood similar to those used by the Alutiit people of Kodiak Island were recovered from Old Togiak (Kowta 1963:339-340), suggesting that, to some extent, people in Togiak Bay felt it was necessary to arm themselves.

Kowta (1963:498) postulated that skirmishes between the Old Togiak residents and other groups might have been precipitated by limited resources (declining seal populations) in northwestern Bristol Bay. The most definitive evidence of warfare, the presence of armor slats, is located in the most recent levels at Old Togiak. Conflict in northwestern Bristol Bay is further discussed in the section *Development of Ethnic/Social Boundaries*.

Archeologically, the shift from Norton to Thule traditions is marked by proficiency in maritime adaptation unparalleled in previous times as well as the move from more specialized subsistence practices to those that are generalized (Dumond 2000). While people from the Norton tradition skillfully harvested coastal and interior resources, technological innovations particular to the Thule tradition show a higher level of proficiency at harvesting myriad interior, coastal, and outer ocean resources and the ability to thrive in extreme environments.

The most intensive examination of Thule culture in northwestern Bristol Bay is the analysis of the Old Togiak site located on the eastern coast of Togiak Bay. Kowta (1963) excavated 153 m³ of sediment extending up to 3.5 m in depth and analyzed over 4,000 items. Many organic items related to subsistence practices and social life were preserved allowing for a detailed picture of Thule life at Old Togiak.

Kowta used relative dating methods to determine the span of occupation at Old Togiak. Kowta established that the occupants of Old Togiak abandoned the site before westerners encountered the Tulyuryarmiut in the late eighteenth century but after the sixteenth century based on the presence of bone and antler sled shoes (Kowta 1963:406). The estimation of the earliest occupation at Old Togiak is less secure and based on two lines of thought: the dissimilarities Kowta saw between the Old Togiak material culture and earlier cultures from the Bering Sea region and a derived rate of midden accumulation (Kowta 1963:415).

The archeological remains at Old Togiak show that the Tulyuryarmiut made pottery, polished slate, weaved plant materials, sewed animal hides, and worked wood. Sled runners and boat making implements present at the site indicate that the residents of Old Togiak traveled distances over water and snow covered land, presumably to hunt and trade. Stone, animal teeth, bone, ivory, and antler were used as tools and workable material to craft ceremonial masks, jewelry, dolls, toys, drum parts, etc. (Kowta 1963:472).

The subsistence practices of Old Togiak residents varied by season (Kowta 1963:453-456 and 461). During the winter, the Tulyuryarmiut fished with spears, lures, and hooked lines and possibly netted seals through holes in

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the ice. They also trapped foxes and possibly other land animals including wolf, beaver, land otter, and porcupine. In the spring, migratory birds were snared and shot, land mammals were likely hunted, and seals were harpooned at breaks in the ice. Bird eggs were probably collected in the late spring. Intensive fishing was conducted in the summer as well as bear and sea mammal hunting. Seals, walrus, whales, bearded seals, northern sea lions, and northern fur seals were harvested. Hunting of caribou and molting (temporarily flightless) migratory birds and berry picking was done in the late summer and fall. Mussels could have been collected whenever ice did not cover intertidal zones. Other important economic activities would have included collecting driftwood and grass.

Kowta (1963:457-472) noted that the subsistence practices of the Old Togiak residents changed through time and may have been caused by a decline in the seal populations. Kowta suggested that the decline of seal populations might have been the result of over hunting or environmental factors.

Over time, the Tuyuryarmiut adopted new methods for hunting seals outside of the summer season and winter hunting of caribou, wolf, and fox increased. Fishing technology, including salmon harpoon heads and composite parts of three-pronged salmon spears, is prevalent in the upper levels at Old Togiak while the decline in fishnets suggests an increase in winter fishing at the expense of summer fishing. Residents of Old Togiak also increased their harvest of birds and shellfish.

The Thule components at sites on Crooked, Summit, and Round islands present the ability to substantiate Kowta's (1963) Old Togiak chronology and determine exactly when Thule peoples came to northwestern Bristol Bay. As it now stands, there are no absolute dates to confirm the earliest Thule occupations in northwestern Bristol Bay beside the suspect date proposed by Kowta (1963).

Site Integrity

The extensive nature of the archeological deposits in the Walrus Islands Archeological District is evidenced by tens of thousands of cultural objects made of chipped and polished stone, bone, ivory, and wood recovered from limited excavations on Crooked, Round, and Summit islands. The remnants of ancient subsistence practices, such as fragmented shell, broken and cut bone, and charcoal bits, have been recovered as well. On Crooked and Summit islands, these deeply stratified deposits are known to extend at least 1.4 m in depth and likely extend deeper because many of the excavations did not reach sterile soil. At XNB-043, cultural material was found directly below the topsoil in all test units and, in Test 5, artifacts were recovered at a consistent and frequent rate throughout the soil matrix until 1.9 m below the surface, only 20 cm above bedrock. At almost all of the 14 archeological sites, numerous subsurface features, such as single and multi-room house pits and cache pits, are spread across the landscape in concentrations measuring between one quarter and thirteen acres in area. Considered together, the archeological sites in the Walrus Islands have a surface area of over 50 acres.

All but five of the sites in the Walrus Islands Archeological District have been subjected to varying levels of vandalism and/or erosion (AHRs 2010). According to AHRs files and Shaw (1986), sites on Summit Island were the most threatened by vandalism. The integrity and research potential of these sites, however, is assured by Shaw's excavation of intact cultural components at the most damaged sites, the presence of Sanctuary staff on Round Island, and past habitation of the ADF&G base camp on Summit Island. During Shaw's investigations, he and ADF&G officials made an effort to educate groups of people most likely to visit and potentially vandalize the Walrus Islands archeological sites (Shaw 1985). Since this effort and the limited presence of ADF&G employees at the base camp on Summit Island, systematic vandalism has not been reported in the Walrus Islands. The Qayassiq site has exceptional integrity as it has been protected by the continual presence of ADF&G employees since 1976. Ground disturbing activities conducted by Sanctuary

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employees has damaged only 3.5% of the deeply stratified multi-component site (Schaaf et al. 2007b). As evidenced by Shaw's (1985) intention to return to Crooked and Summit islands after the initial visit in 1982 (proposed excavations on Crooked Island did not come to fruition), there are intact cultural components on these islands that will be important to future research.

Erosion at these sites has not been directly addressed. However, by deterring vandalism at the Walrus Islands sites, it is very likely that the sturdy tundra vegetation typical of the area has had a chance to grow over exposed portions of sites in the last 25 years. The sites that did not show evidence of looting and erosion were mostly covered by vegetation, which limits visibility of the site and secures subsurface components. As Shaw (1986) and Schaaf et al. (2007b) both noted, blue joint grass colonizes disturbed areas and covers the ground with a thick protective mat.

The Archeological District is located in the Walrus Islands State Game Sanctuary in remote Bristol Bay, Alaska, where local communities are small and sparse along the coast. The islands are accessible to local residents only by boat and the most southern island, Round Island, is at least a two-hour boat trip from Togiak. During stormy weather and the winter months, traveling to Walrus Islands is virtually impossible. Commercial fishing brings many people into the area and is an important factor in the occurrence of site vandalism.

Research Potential and Topics of Interest

The integrity of the Walrus Islands Archeological District is very good and offers extraordinary research potential to learn more about regional culture history, Alaskan archeological traditions, ancient subsistence and settlement patterns, the origins and development of marine adaptation, intergroup warfare, the development of social/ethnic boundaries, and paleoenvironmental reconstruction. Organic preservation, as has been seen at XHI-042, XHI-043, and XNB-043, is excellent and offers a high level of detail atypical of Alaskan archeological sites. Specifically, the continued analysis of archeological materials from the Qayassiq site will work toward developing a culture history of the region.

Culture History: At present, the culture history of northwestern Bristol Bay is not well known. Limited archeological research, including Ackerman (1964, 1980, 1998, 2004, 2008), Bailey (1986, 1991), Biddle (2001), Kowta (1963), Larsen (1950), Schaaf et al. (2007b), Schaaf (2015) and Shaw (1979, 1986, 1998), has shed some light on the precontact cultures that lived in the region. The key, however, to developing a reliable regional chronology lies in continued research of the archeological sites in the Walrus Islands. Cultural components dating to most known archeological traditions between 6,000 years ago and present are represented at the Qayassiq site. This is 3,500 years older than had been previously understood based on Shaw's (1986, 1998) limited testing at XHI-042, XHI-043, XHI-044, XHI-046, XHI-051, XHI-057, and possibly XHI-045. Once the culture history of the Walrus Islands is placed in a regional context with comparison of sites on Hagemester Island, the coast, and the interior, it will be possible to consider the culture history of northwestern Bristol Bay in relation to other regions and Alaskan archeological traditions as a whole.

Prehistoric Economy: Analysis of the materials recovered from the Qayassiq site has given insight into the subsistence practices of precontact people who lived in the Walrus Islands. Identification of the faunal remains indicated that people came to the Qayassiq site at least seasonally to hunt walrus, sea lions, seals, and to a lesser extent, birds. The combined analysis of materials excavated in 2004 and 2008 has refined what is known about the economies of various groups of people who lived in the Walrus Islands between 6,000 years ago and contact. It should be possible to determine what species were most important to residents, the seasonality of certain subsistence practices, what technology and methods were used to hunt animals, and how subsistence practices changed over time and between cultural traditions (Schaaf 2015).

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Origins and Development of Marine Adaptation: The continued study of the Walrus Islands archeological sites will be crucial to research regarding the origins and development of marine adaptation in high latitude cultures. The Walrus Islands should be analyzed with consideration of other early sites that show marine adaptation. Such as, the Mink Island site located in the Amalik Bay National Historic Landmark, the Rice Ridge site and others dated to the Ocean Bay period present on Kodiak Island (see Fitzhugh 2003), the Anangula National Historic Landmark and Hog Island in Unalaska Bay, both of which are located in the Aleutian Islands, and the On Your Knees Cave site located on the Prince of Wales Island in Southeast Alaska.

The presence of components contemporaneous with Northern Archaic and Arctic Small Tool traditions suggests that the regional expression of both cultural traditions was on some level marine adapted. It is also probable that influences from the Aleutians or Gulf of Alaska, as suggested by Dumond (2000) and Schaaf (2015), created a unique habitation of the Walrus Islands between 6,000 and 3,000 years ago.

Development of Ethnic/Social Boundaries: The movement of Thule peoples into Norton territories involved the eventual replacement of one culture with another. On the northern Alaska Peninsula, the transition between the two cultures was relatively fast. In northwestern Bristol Bay, the concurrent presence of the late Norton people at the Qikertarpak site and a well-developed Thule culture at Old Togiak suggests that the transition from Norton to Thule involved interaction between groups that retained their distinct cultural identities centuries beyond initial contact. Pieces of body armor have been found at the Old Togiak site, which suggests site residents participated in some level of warfare (Kowta 1963:339-340). The movement of Tuyuryarmiut into Togiak Bay may have created economic stress and/or mistrust between the two groups resulting in the need to demarcate social boundaries and hunting territories. A possible line of research would be to test the hypothesis that the Bow and Arrow War started as a response to Thule peoples pushing into traditionally Norton territories (Funk 2010). Funk (2010:534) suggested that a more plausible hypothesis relates to the disruption of traditional trade systems by Russian merchants pushing into the Siberian market. The start of the Bow and Arrow War would have been relatively recent, approximately 300 years ago, which may correspond to the presence of body armor in the more recent components at Old Togiak. The possibility that Round Island was a refuge rock should also be explored (Schaaf 2015).

As noted by Moss and Erlandson (1992:74), along the North Pacific coast, many groups used elevated landforms, such as rocky outcrops or islands with steep rocky walls, as defensive sites. Round Island and possibly other islands in the Walrus Islands chain could have served as long term defensive sites. Local knowledge should be explored to determine the level of historic conflict experienced in northwestern Bristol Bay. At least one narrative that is held in the communal memory of Togiak tells of a man who went to Round Island to escape people who were trying to kill him during the Bow and Arrow War. This man returned several years later with a kayak made of walrus ribs and hide (Abraham, 2010 pers. com.). Besides talking with local community members, Funk (2010) has made apparent that ANCSA-mandated interviews collected by BIA agents between 1978 and 1991, are an exceptional resource to trace the history of use of the Walrus Islands as well as what is known about the Bow and Arrow War Days.

The sites in the Walrus Islands Archeological District collectively have the potential to address the rise in social complexity apparent in Norton and Thule cultures. Collins, Jr. (1940:549-550) suggested that, in the Bering Strait, access to large walrus populations allowed for an unrivaled social complexity in the Old Bering Sea Culture. It would be interesting to compare Norton and Thule components present on the Walrus Islands with those at Old Togiak, which Kowta (1963) suggested suffered from food shortages and increased rivalry. Norton and Thule occupations near Cape Newenham would also be important to this analysis. A comparison of Norton and Thule components between islands within the Walrus Islands chain may also demonstrate possible violent

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conflict and if people at Round Island fared better than other groups because of their immediate and large supply of walrus.

Paleoenvironmental Reconstruction: Combining data from faunal and sediment analyses will be important to reconstructing the paleoenvironment of the Walrus Islands. Climatic factors may explain gaps in occupation of the Walrus Islands, differences between cultural traditions, and differences between components belonging to one cultural tradition. As discussed previously, volcanic activity on the Alaska Peninsula may have influenced the occupation of the Walrus Islands, which will be discernable through study of sediments samples collected in 2008. Reconstructing the sea level history of northwestern Bristol Bay on a decadal, centennial, and millennial scale is imperative to understanding the ancient human history of the region.

Concluding Statement

The Walrus Islands Archeological District has the potential to become the cornerstone on which to build the culture history of Bristol Bay. It is the singular example of the precontact cultures that lived in the Central Yup'ik region in southwestern Alaska, between 6,300 and 500 years ago and an ideal nominee to the Registry of National Historic Landmarks (Schaaf 2010). Nowhere else in the region are sites so extensive, intact, and provide evidence of multiple and lengthy occupations extending over 6,000 years into the past. In the future, it will be possible to use archeological data from the Walrus Islands to learn more about the settlement and subsistence patterns of early maritime, Northern Archaic, Arctic Small Tool, Norton, and Thule peoples. Specific research topics include: 1) north Pacific early maritime influence and possible marine adaptation in Northern Archaic and Arctic Small Tool groups; 2) the role technological innovation played in Norton culture as it relates to village size, demography, sedentism, trade, and subsistence strategies; 3) the paleoenvironment and human adaptation to it; and 4) the creation and maintenance of social/ethnic boundaries which led to postcontact Alaska Native groups, such as the Tuvuryarmiut, as played out in the Norton-Thule transition.

The value of the Walrus Islands sites lies in considering them together, as a district, with an essential relationship to the land and water of the Sanctuary. From historic accounts, we know that all of the Walrus Islands played an integral part in the settlement and subsistence patterns of historic and precontact peoples. The Central Yup'ik translation for each island indicates they all have an equally important role to play despite the fact that archeological sites are not found on every island. The Twins are also known as *Nunevragak* or "temporary camping place" which suggests people used the island regularly, for short durations, when hunting sea mammals or snaring birds. Black Rock, a traditional place to collect seabird eggs, is visited regularly on a seasonal basis. In historic times, High Island was a regular haul out for walrus and may have been suitable for hunting, but not to camp because of the steep terrain. The Tuvuryarmiut also gathered berries and fished within the boundaries of the Sanctuary. These important activities would not leave behind enough material to accumulate into an archeological site.

The Walrus Islands Archeological District is significant on a national level because it is largely an untapped archeological resource, despite the fact that eight (XHI-042, XHI-043, XHI-044, XHI-045, XHI-046, XHI-051, XHI-057, and XNB-043) out of the 14 sites have been subject to some level of testing. This limited testing has not compromised site integrity and has confirmed that as a whole the archeological resources included within the sites nominated for the Walrus Islands Archeological District hold high integrity and have already yielded, or have the potential to yield, salient information regarding the peopling of places in and around the Alaskan Peninsula. Analyzed in comparison with longitudinal data recovered from sites already designated National Historic Landmarks at Amalik Bay and Brooks River, the sites of the proposed Walrus Islands Archeological District can yield important information about occupational sequences in and around the Gulf of Alaska. More importantly, this information can yield information about precontact people's responses to changing climatic

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conditions. The assemblages of Crooked and Summit islands present a vast amount of data applying to ongoing and future research questions, and they are yet to be analyzed. The results of the limited test excavations at the Qayassiq site are very tantalizing and have produced more questions than they have answered.

The site has much to say about complex interregional relationships over the past 6000 years and is conspicuous in revealing the reliability of walrus at summer haulouts as a factor in the cultural dynamics. Finally, it is possible that there are earlier occupations at Qayassiq, when the island stood at the edge of the exposed Bering Land Bridge plain as the sea rose to cover it, concentrating resources along its margin (Schaaf 2015:81).

The Walrus Island Archeological District has exceptional potential to make major scientific contributions to archeology and several other disciplines. The identified remains of marine mammals and seabirds associated with the cultural occupations at deeply stratified sites offer unique datasets for climate change, species evolution and conservation research (Schaaf 2015:81). National Historic Landmark designation will elevate recognition of its scientific importance, stimulate research and enhance appreciation and protection by the State of Alaska.

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Previous 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.
 Designated a National Historic Landmark.
 Recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey: #
 Recorded by Historic American Engineering Record: #

Primary Location of Additional Data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
 Other State Agency
 Federal Agency - National Park Service, Anchorage, Alaska
 Local Government
 University: Museum of the North, University of Alaska, Fairbanks, Alaska (Accessions UA 2005-56 and UA-2008-78).
 Other (Specify Repository):

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10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Acreage of Property: 41,489 acres

UTM References:	Zone	Northing	Easting
A	4	6526458	429455
B		6500076	421157
C		6494118	446413

Verbal Boundary Description: The proposed Walrus Islands National Historic Landmark is defined by a triangle, which encapsulates Crooked, Round, and Summit Islands as well as all the waters surrounding the islands and between them. Black Rock is located at the center of this triangle and is included in the proposed Landmark. The boundary of the proposed Landmark begins at Vertex A, located just north of Summit Island and heads 28 km (17 mi) southwest to Vertex B, which is located southwest of Crooked Island. From Vertex B, the boundary line runs 26 km (16 mi) east to Vertex C, which is located southeast of Round Island. A line that runs 37 km (23 mi) southeast to northwest from Vertex C to Vertex A completes the triangle.

Boundary Justification: The proposed Landmark includes all contributing sites, which are located on Crooked, Round, and Summit Islands. Though High Island and the Twins are known to be significant to historic and contemporary Yup'ik peoples living on the Alaskan coast, these islands were not included in the proposed Landmark because no archeological sites have been recorded on these islands. The waters surrounding and between Crooked, Round, and Summit Islands are included in the proposed Landmark because the variety of sea life that inhabited the Walrus Islands area were integral to the continued existence of precontact peoples. The inclusion of land and water in the proposed Landmark best represents the landscape and setting ancient peoples inhabited for the better part of 6,000 years.

WALRUS ISLANDS ARCHEOLOGICAL DISTRICT

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11. FORM PREPARED BY

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NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS PROGRAM
August 19, 2016

WALRUS ISLANDS ARCHEOLOGICAL DISTRICT

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- Table 2. Walrus Islands Radiocarbon Dates
- Table 3. Walrus Islands Contributing Sites Summary

Additional Item

Schaaf, Jeanne

- 2015 Report on Archeological Investigations at the Qayassiq Site (XNB-00043) Round Island, Walrus Islands State Game Sanctuary, Northern Bristol Bay, Alaska. Report to Alaska Department of Natural Resources, Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation Office of History and Archaeology, on file with UAF Accession 2008-078, Museum of the North, Fairbanks.

WALRUS ISLANDS ARCHEOLOGICAL DISTRICT

Table 1. Walrus Islands Archeological District Site Locations¹

UTM Zone 4

AHRS #	General Location	Northing	Easting
XHI-036	Central east coast of Crooked Island	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
XHI-042	Central east coast of Summit Island	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
XHI-043	Central west coast of Summit Island	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
XHI-044	Central west coast of Summit Island	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
XHI-045	Central west coast of Summit Island	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
XHI-046	North tip of Crooked Island	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
XHI-047	Northeast coast of Crooked Island	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
XHI-048	Northeast coast of Crooked Island	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
XHI-049	Central east coast of Crooked Island	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
XHI-050	Central east coast of Crooked Island	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
XHI-051	Southeast coast of Crooked Island	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
XHI-052	Central east coast of Crooked Island	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
XHI-057	Central east coast of Summit Island	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
XNB-043	Northeast coast of Round Island	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
	Noncontributing site		
N/A	Round Island Sanctuary cabins, outbuildings, trails, and campground	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]

¹ UTM's were taken from AHRS (2010).

WALRUS ISLANDS ARCHEOLOGICAL DISTRICT

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Table 2. Walrus Islands Radiocarbon Dates

AHRS#	¹⁴C Dates¹	Calibrated ¹⁴C Dates^{2,3}	References
XHI-042	610±50 RCYBP	No Data	Shaw (1986)
	2460±50 RCYBP	No Data	Shaw (1986)
XHI-043	1120+70 RCYBP	No Data	Shaw (1986)
	2230±60 RCYBP	No Data	Shaw (1986)
XNB-043	1680±30 RCYBP	1690-1530 Cal BP	Schaaf (2015)
	1960±40 RCYBP	1995-1825 Cal BP	Schaaf et al. (2007b)
	2010±40 RCYBP	2055-1880 Cal BP	Schaaf et al. (2007b)
	2200±40 RCYBP	2330-2120 Cal BP	Schaaf (2015)
	2230±40 RCYBP	2345-2140 Cal BP	Schaaf (2015)
	2250±40 RCYBP	2345-2145 Cal BP	Schaaf (2015)
	2260±30 RCYBP	2345-2160 Cal BP	Schaaf (2015)
	2330±40 RCYBP	2360-2320 Cal BP	Schaaf (2015)
	2560±30 RCYBP	2750-2545 Cal BP ⁴	Schaaf (2015)
	3070±30 RCYBP	3370-3210 Cal BP	Schaaf (2015)
	3280±40 RCYBP	3590-3405 Cal BP ⁵	Schaaf (2015)
	3280±40 RCYBP	3590-3405 Cal BP ⁵	Schaaf (2015)
	3350±40 RCYBP	3690-3480 Cal BP	Schaaf et al. (2007b)
	4330±40 RCYBP	5030-4840 Cal BP	Schaaf (2015)
	4520±40 RCYBP	5315-5040 Cal BP	Schaaf (2015)
	4610±40 RCYBP	5455-5145 Cal BP	Schaaf (2015)
4620±40 RCYBP	5465-5295 Cal BP	Schaaf (2015)	
4920±40 RCYBP	5730-5590 Cal BP	Schaaf et al. (2007b)	
5030±40 RCYBP	5905-5655 Cal BP	Schaaf et al. (2007b)	
5450±50 RCYBP	6310-6185 Cal BP	Schaaf (2015)	

¹RCYBP = radiocarbon years before present, with the "present" = 1950 A.D.

²Cal BP = absolute years before present (1950).

³Calibrated dates are maximum ranges at 2σ (95% probability).

⁴ 2320 ±58 RCYBP, 2090 -1810 Cal BP Adjusted for local reservoir correction using ΔR = 240+/- 50 (Pavlov Harbor).

⁵These radiocarbon samples were taken from two discrete test units.

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Table 3. Walrus Islands Contributing Sites Summary

Site	Description	Archeological Tradition	Area (acres)	Testing	References
XHI-036 Crooked Island I	Prehistoric Village	Norton? Thule?	1.9	No	AHRS (2010)
XHI-042 Summit Island #1	Prehistoric Village	Norton Thule	13	Yes	AHRS (2010) Shaw (1986)
XHI-043 Summit Island #2	Prehistoric Village	Norton Thule	9.2	Yes	AHRS (2010) Shaw (1986)
XHI-044 Summit Island #3	Prehistoric Village	Norton Thule	7.3	Yes	AHRS (2010) Shaw (1986)
XHI-045 Summit Island #4	Prehistoric Village	Norton? Thule?	0.9	?	AHRS (2010)
XHI-046 Crooked Island #1	Prehistoric Village	Norton Thule	8.9	Yes	AHRS (2010)
XHI-047 Crooked Island #2	Prehistoric Village	Norton? Thule?	0.2	No	AHRS (2010)
XHI-048 Crooked Island #3	Lithic Scatter	Norton? Thule?	Unknown	No	AHRS (2010)
XHI-049	Prehistoric Village	Norton? Thule?	1.9	No	AHRS (2010)
XHI-050	Prehistoric Village	Norton? Thule?	2.7	No	AHRS (2010)
XHI-051	Prehistoric Village	Norton Thule	400 m N to S	Yes	AHRS (2010)
XHI-052	Prehistoric Village	Norton? Thule?	0.9	No	AHRS (2010)
XHI-057	One House pit	Norton? Thule?	<1	Yes	AHRS (2010)
XNB-043 Round Island	Prehistoric Village, Historic Rock Rings	Early Northern Maritime Arctic Small Tool Norton Thule Historic	5.7	Yes	Schaaf et al. (2007b); Schaaf 2015

WALRUS ISLANDS ARCHEOLOGICAL DISTRICT**FIGURES AND PHOTOGRAPHS**

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- Figure 5. Profiles of XHI-042 and XHI-043 1982 Test Excavations (Shaw 1986: Figure 2)
- Figure 6. Thule Tradition Ivory Doll Face Recovered from XHI-043 (Shaw 1986: Figure 3)
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- Photo 2. A north-facing view from the highest point on Round Island. Walrus are visible on the beaches as well as the northwest-trending 2.5 km long spit that is exposed at low tide. In the distance, Crooked Island is visible to the west and Summit Island to the northeast.
- Photo 3. Artifacts recovered from disturbed levels in Test 3. A. mid-section of ground slate point, B. point stem, C. finely serrated point fragment, D. contracting stemmed point, E. large stemmed point base with ground edges, F. biface fragment, and G. stemmed point (from Schaaf et al. 2007b:31).
- Photo 4. Walrus skull with broken point from Test 3, Level 5, 57 cmbd. The tip of the arrow points to the charcoal sample dated to 4920 ±40 RCYBP, contemporaneous with the Northern Archaic tradition (from Schaaf et al. 2007b:32).
- Photo 5. A view of Test 5 with excavation of the lowest levels in progress. Note the sloping stratigraphy, with the highest points on the north side of the unit angling down toward the south. The south wall is noticeably moist because of frozen sediments that thawed with increased exposure. Thick concentrations of sea mammal bone and multiple black organic layers are visible in the east and

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south walls.

- Photo 6. An unusual projectile point base recovered from level 4 in Test 6.
- Photo 7. Two sections of a small stone lamp recovered from disturbed sediments in Test 6.
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- Photo 9. A north/northwest-facing view of Tests 9 and 10. Two whale ribs, most likely from a Norton house, protrude from the east wall. In Test 9, a hearth and possible post mold are visible in the lower levels, 115 cmbd.

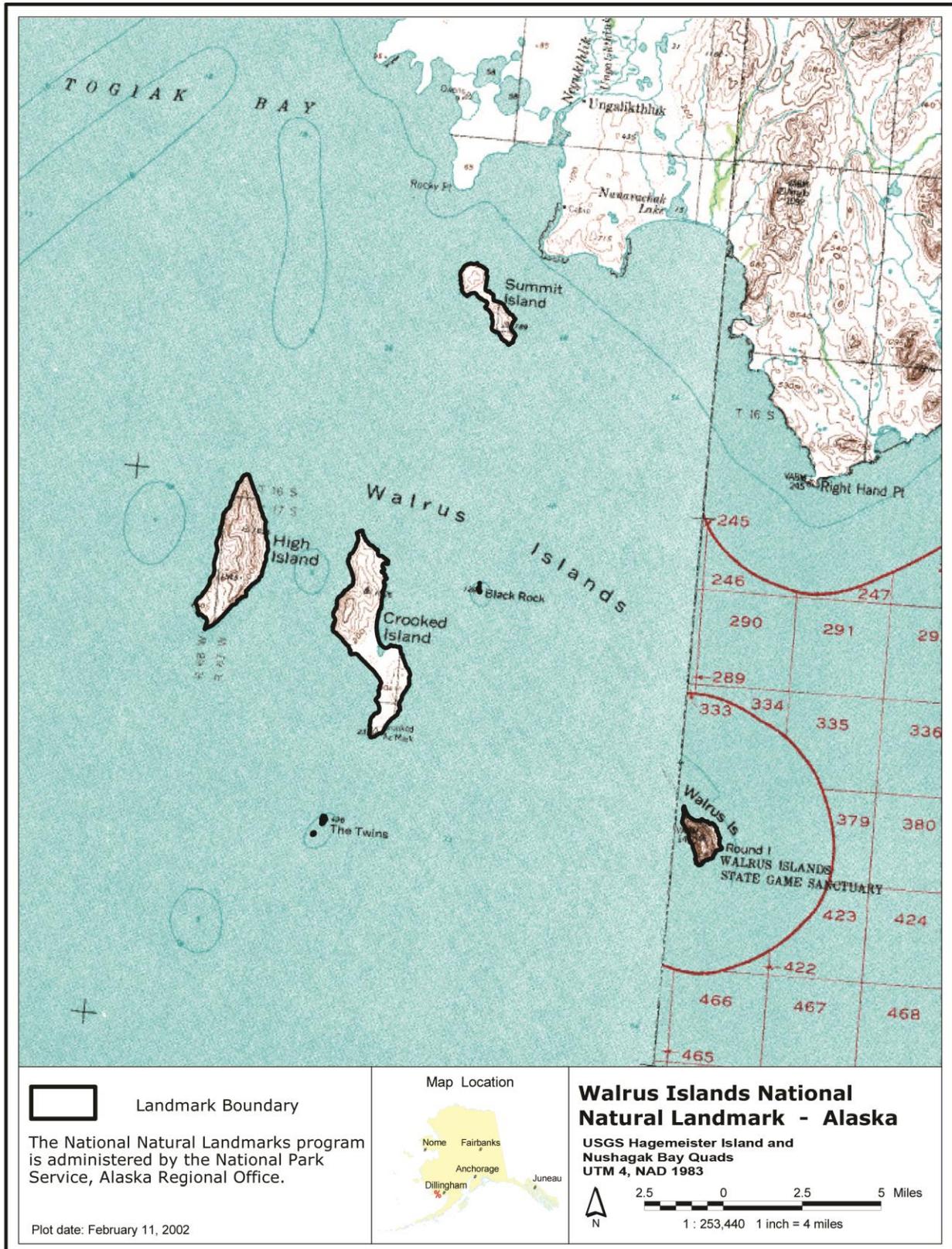


Figure 1: Walrus Islands State Game Sanctuary and National Natural Landmark, Bristol Bay, Alaska.

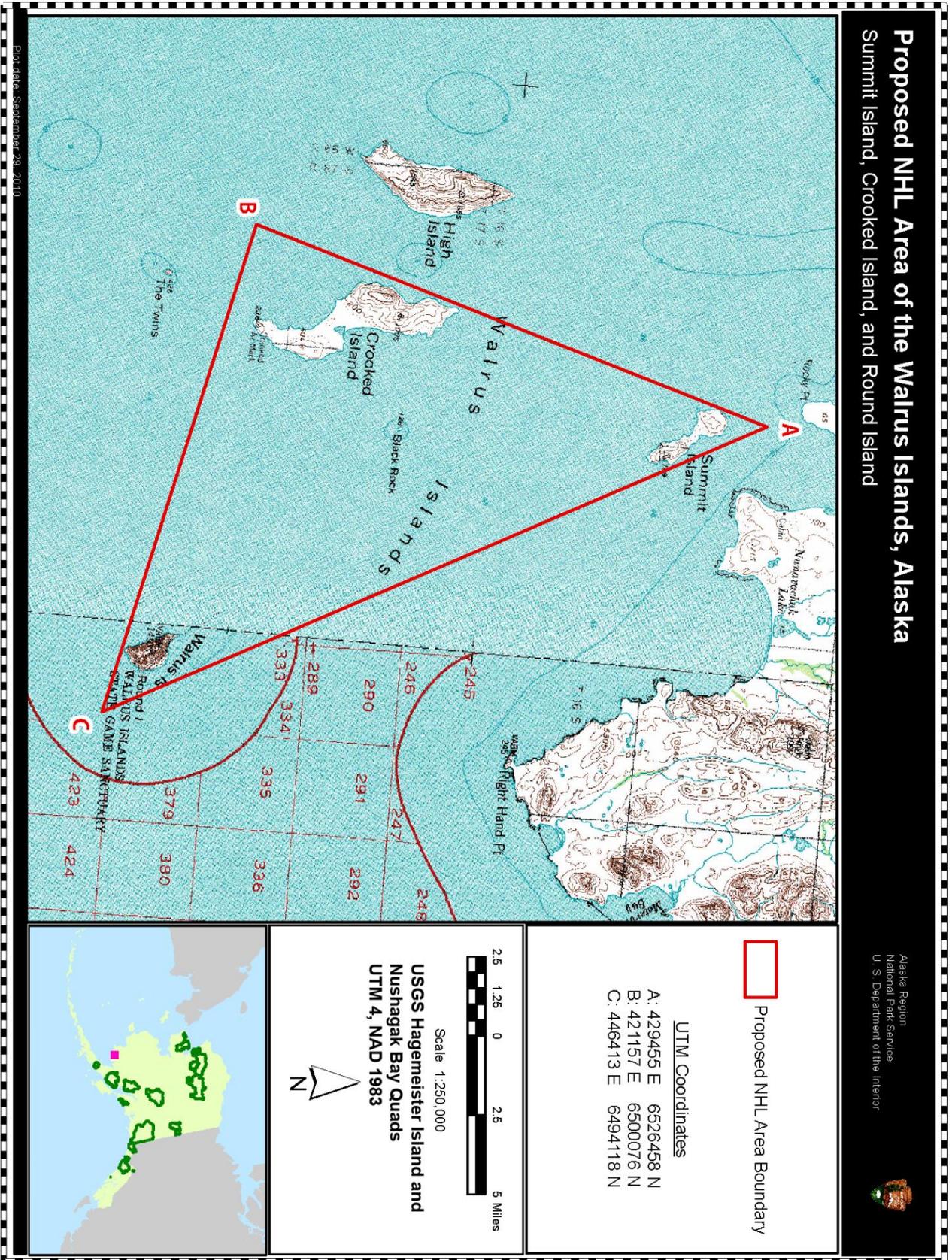


Figure 2: Proposed Boundary of the Walrus Islands National Historic Landmark, Alaska.

National Historic Landmarks

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Figures 3 and 4

REASON: FIGURES 3 & 4 CONTAIN SENSITIVE INFORMATION AS DEFINED UNDER SECTION 304

Some information about this property is restricted under law:

National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, section 304, 16 U.S.C. 470w-3(a)

- *Confidentiality of the location of sensitive historic resources*

Section 304

[16 U.S.C. 470w-3(a) – Confidentiality of the location of sensitive historic resources]

(a) The head of a Federal agency or other public official receiving grant assistance pursuant to this Act, after consultation with the Secretary, shall withhold from disclosure to the public, information about the location, character, or ownership of a historic resource if the Secretary and the agency determine that disclosure may –

- (1) cause a significant invasion of privacy;
- (2) risk harm to the historic resources; or
- (3) impede the use of a traditional religious site by practitioners.

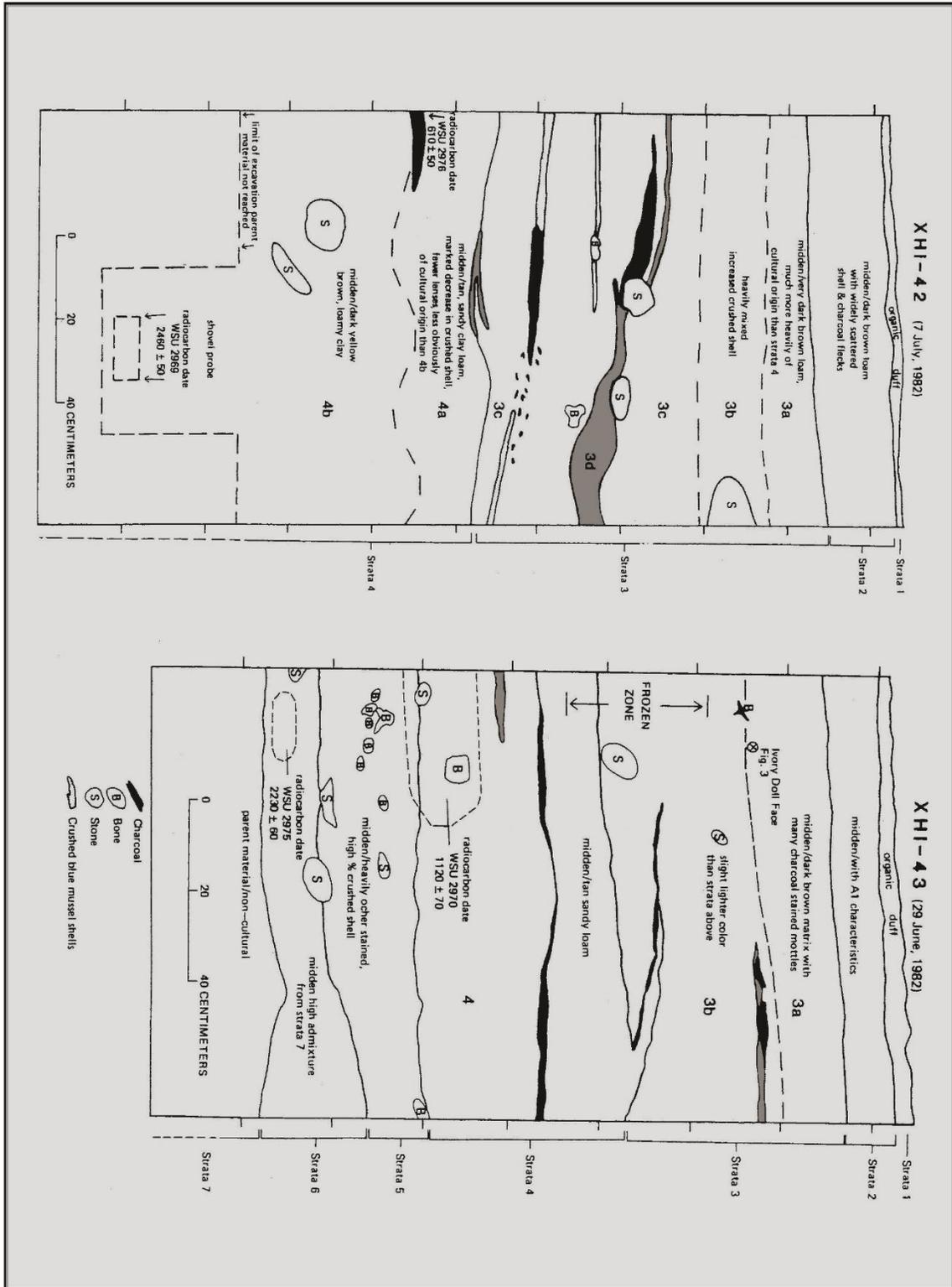


Figure 5: Profiles of XHI-042 and XHI-043 1982 Test Excavations (Shaw 1986: Figure 2).

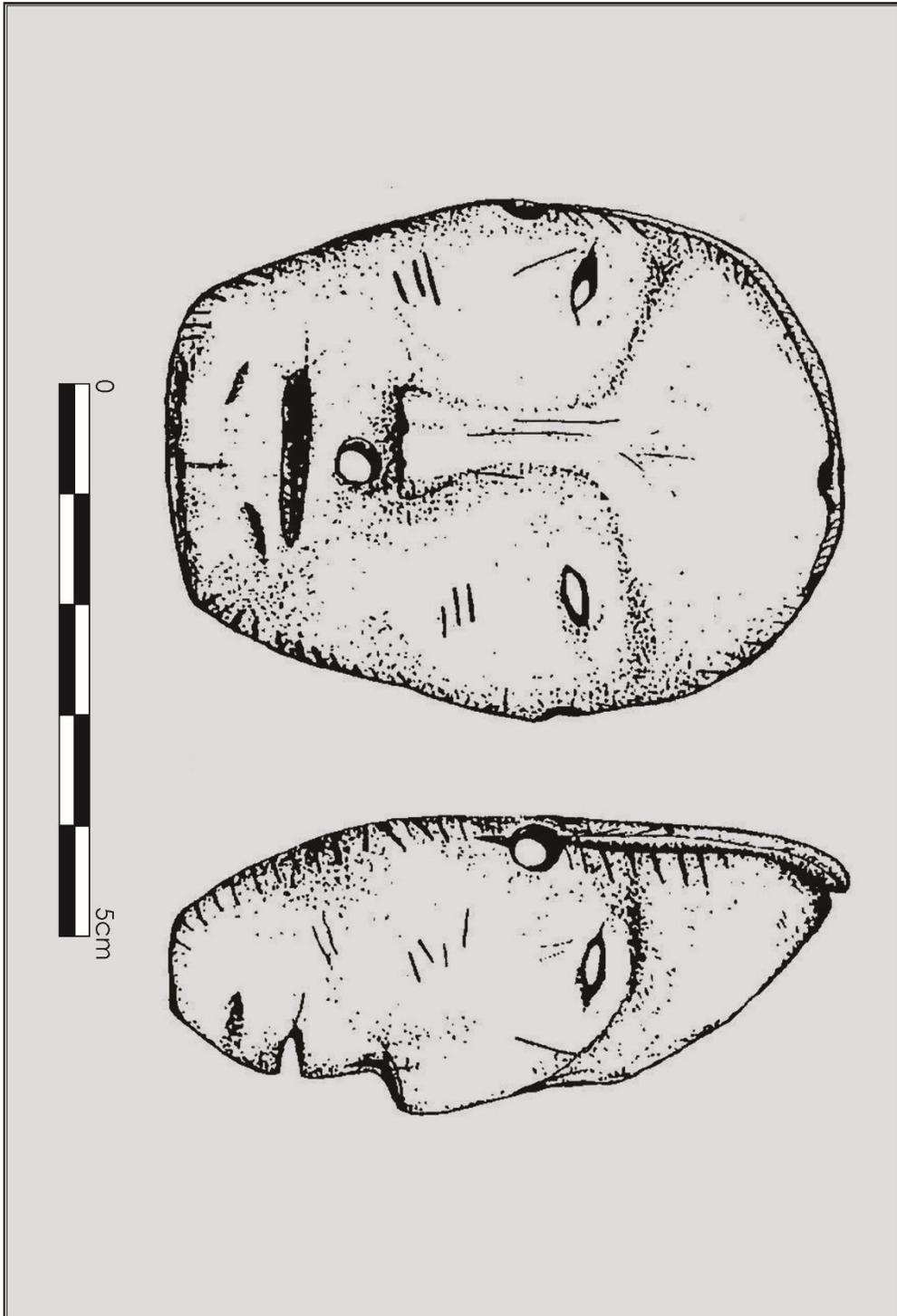


Figure 6: Thule Tradition Ivory Doll Face Recovered from XHI-043 (Shaw 1986: Figure 3).

National Historic Landmarks

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Figures 7, 8 and 9

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