

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**National Register of Historic Places Registration Form**

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions.

1. Name of PropertyHistoric name: APA Diamond NN CanneryOther names/site number: Trident South NaknekName of related multiple property listing: N/A

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

2. LocationStreet & number: 101 Cannery RoadCity or town: South Naknek State: Alaska County: Bristol Bay 060Not For Publication: ☐ Vicinity: ☐**3. State/Federal Agency Certification**

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this X nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance: national X statewide X local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

X A B X C X DJustin E. Buttner June 24, 2021
Signature of certifying official/Title: SHPO DateAlaska
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

APA Diamond NN Cannery

Bristol Bay, AK

Name of Property

County and State

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

Signature of commenting official:

Date

Title :

State or Federal agency/bureau
or Tribal Government

4. 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 the Keeper

Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

Private:

☒

Public – Local

☐

Public – State

☐

Public – Federal

☐

APA Diamond NN Cannery

Bristol Bay, AK

Name of Property

County and State

Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

Building(s)

☐

District

☒

Site

☐

Structure

☐

Object

☐

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing

Noncontributing

50

1

buildings

7

sites

2

structures

2

objects

61

1

Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Cat: INDUSTRY sub: Extractive Facility and Seafood Processing Site

Cat: Health Care Sub: Hospital

APA Diamond NN Cannery

Bristol Bay, AK

Name of Property

County and State

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Cat: INDUSTRY Sub: Support/Vacant

APA Diamond NN Cannery

Bristol Bay, AK

Name of Property

County and State

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

NO STYLE (except for the White House, which is LATE VICTORIAN)

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: _____

foundation: wood

roof metal, wood

walls metal wood, other

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary Paragraph

The Diamond NN Cannery Maritime Historic District is a 45.9 acre, rectangular-shaped industrial complex set over the confluence of Packers Creek and the Naknek River, of five major rivers that constitutes the Bristol Bay salmon fishery—the largest red salmon fishery in the world. The cannery was built to process Bristol Bay salmon and house and feed over 400 fishermen and cannery workers, who caught and canned millions of red salmon throughout 92 seasons.

The district comprises 51 buildings,¹ 7 sites, 2 structures, and 2 objects, united historically, functionally, and aesthetically by their collective relationship to the fishery. Docks, boardwalks, bridges, stairs, footpaths, and three-wheeler trails circulate throughout the cannery. The waterfront processing buildings are set on pilings and face northward, towards the river, with

¹ One building is noncontributing as it was built after the period of significance.

APA Diamond NN Cannery

Bristol Bay, AK

Name of Property

County and State

support buildings radiating east, west, and southward, around a shallow valley formed by Packers Creek, a small stream fed by a large, unnamed tundra lake. The cannery layout illustrates how cannery architects arranged buildings according to their specific role and relationship to the natural setting. The architectural design is logical and built to support the efficient production flow, from fish to can. Utilitarian and perched on pilings or mudsills, the buildings are constructed with wood and metal, gable roofs, and covered with corrugated iron. Designed for one purpose—to can salmon—each building functioned as either part of the processing area (cannery building), maintenance and storage (carpenter shop or salmon warehouse) living accommodates (mess hall or bunkhouse), special services (laundry or hospital) or administration (office or white house) and continues to convey essential details about the specific work and diverse laborers.

Most buildings functioned continuously with the same purpose until the cannery ceased canning fish in 2001, even outliving its founding corporation, the Alaska Packers Association.² Although some of the 51 buildings are deteriorating and overgrown with alders, the 131-year-old Diamond NN Cannery possesses integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association and is in excellent condition. It remains one of the best—and only—examples of an intact, century-old Bristol Bay salmon cannery³ and constitutes one of the most significant remnants of the canned salmon industry on the West Coast. Because it never experienced major modification, fire, or architectural decline, the Diamond NN Cannery is extraordinarily rare among Alaska's salmon processing facilities. Importantly, these historic buildings, sites, structures, and objects contain the underrepresented history of Alaska's canned salmon industry, as it spanned the 20th century.

Seven Aspects of Integrity

Location: The integrity of the location for the Diamond NN Cannery remains high. This is a unique location in the world due to its relationship to the salmon run. The Bristol Bay watershed in southwestern Alaska supports the largest sockeye salmon fishery in the world. All five species of Pacific salmon return to Bristol Bay rivers, and because no hatchery fish are raised or released, Bristol Bay salmon are wild. The most abundant species are sockeye or red salmon, and Bristol Bay produces 46% of the world's wild sockeye. Not only does Bristol Bay's salmon support economically sustainable commercial and sport fisheries, but the Alaska Native cultures present in Bristol Bay—the Yupik, Dena'ina, and Sugpiaq—are intact salmon-based cultures and represent some of the only remaining subsistence lifeways left in the world.

² Near all building that are considered "new" were built in the 1940s during APA's Rehabilitation period and are thus at least 70 years old.

³ Although a few centennial salmon canneries remain, nearly all of those were either modified due to fire or repurposed for freezing fish. The NN is one of the few canneries that continued to can only salmon for its entire existence.

APA Diamond NN Cannery

Bristol Bay, AK

Name of Property

County and State

Design: The integrity of design for the Diamond NN Cannery remains high. Use of landscape features such as the creek and harnessing the unique tide characteristics for passive cooling of canned salmon in the design and layout of the cannery complex demonstrate careful site selection, and the buildings reflect this design consideration. Building layout and organization also play an important role in telling the story of segregation, with multiple mess halls, bunkhouses, and other living quarters grouped by race/ethnicity and profession. Additionally, the spatial relationship of buildings, combined with the strategic locations of the Provisions Warehouse and fire suppression hydrants, illustrates the very real and constant threat of fire.

Setting: The integrity of the setting for the Diamond NN Cannery remains high. Historic plat maps illustrate the strategic location on the south banks of the Naknek River, straddling the small creek that would become known as Packers Creek. As the cannery increased production and expanded, the footprint of the complex grew while maintaining the historic core. With an average of 22-foot tides that drain the mouth of the Naknek River like a bathtub twice a day, the site of the NN Cannery, set along a deep channel that allowed for safe maritime navigation and longer dockside delivery at low tide—is by far, the most advantageous real estate on the Naknek River.

Materials: The Diamond NN Cannery retains integrity of materials. Due to the lack of raw building materials on site, all materials needed to build the cannery and its fishing vessels would have been brought up by ship. Buildings were rarely torn down and instead were given different purposes or used as storage. The presence of a dedicated carpentry shop at the cannery illustrates the ability to provide preventative maintenance for the numerous buildings, windows, doors, and dock. Vertical board and batten siding and horizontal shiplap siding are present on most of the bunkhouses and personnel buildings, which remain present and in good condition.

Workmanship: While the cannery does not generally exhibit highly sophisticated configurations or ornamental detailing, workmanship is best illustrated in its functional, practical, and economical construction methods. The barn-like style of the buildings is designed to endure Bristol Bay's volatile weather. The use of driven piles in the construction of the pier itself is not particularly unique. However, implementing that same technique for the foundations of structures elsewhere on site (such as the new messhall and bunkhouses) demonstrates a practical utilization of available resources and skillsets that may have contributed to the longevity of certain structures.

Feeling: The integrity of feeling—the ability for the Diamond NN Cannery to stimulate sensations recalling the period of significance—is strong. Visually, the historic property remains nearly unchanged, making it easy to visualize the work and people that once occupied the space, while the thriving Bristol Bay fishery continues to command the view from the dock. Although industrial hums of the cannery have since been silenced, maritime sounds of gulls,

APA Diamond NN Cannery

Bristol Bay, AK

Name of Property

County and State

boats, radio chatter, lapping tides, forklifts, four wheelers, and the constant wind continue to enhance the integrity of feeling. The quality that most conjures up feelings of former cannery work are the buildings' lingering odors. Intense aromas of fish, oil, coffee, bacon, baking-bread, steam, decaying wood, old nets, and musty rope collectively evoke the work activities that once took place in the associated buildings and remain an integral part of evoking cannery life.

Association: Although hundreds of canneries were built in Alaska, none possess the integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling of the Diamond NN Cannery, which is directly associated with Alaska's largest salmon packer, APA. Moreover, the Diamond NN Cannery serves as a historical repository of the cannery workers, a group of transient people, often overshadowed by APA's story. This was an oft-forgotten group, who contributed to one of Alaska's most significant industries. The Diamond NN Cannery retains the history of these underrepresented workers whose activities and history are reflected by and embedded in the industrial landscape contained within the 131-year-old historic property at South Naknek, Alaska.

Environmental Setting: The Largest Red Salmon Fishery in the World

The Diamond NN Cannery is situated near the village of South Naknek, on the south bank of the Naknek River, one of the five major rivers that constitute the Bristol Bay commercial salmon fishery. The cannery's coastal location is influenced by Bristol Bay's maritime climate, characterized by cool, humid weather conditions and strong, persistent winds. When the wind is calm, fog is common in the summer, where the average temperature is 62 degrees. The average temperature is 29 degrees in the winter, with an average of 45 inches of snowfall a year. The River usually freezes in mid-November, and breakup occurs in April/May.⁴ Geographically, the Bristol Bay salmon fishery boundary is divided into a 'West Side' and an 'East Side.' Anchoring the west side is the Nushagak River, where the historic fishery originated. The Bay's eastside consists of the Egegik and Ugashik river districts, located to the southwest of the Diamond NN Cannery, and the massive Kvichak River to the north, which drains Alaska's most significant salmon nursery and largest freshwater lake, Lake Iliamna. Flowing into the mouth of Kvichak River is the 5-mile-wide outlet of the Naknek River. Together, the merging rivers form a Y-shaped bay that constitutes Bristol Bay's Naknek-Kvichak Salmon District. Known to Bristol Bay fishermen and tendermen as "The Y," this conflux is the most productive red salmon fishing ground in the world.

Located on the north side of the Naknek River is the town of Naknek (population 544), the seat of government for the Bristol Bay Borough (population 981). In addition to Naknek, Bristol Bay Borough consists of South Naknek (46) and King Salmon (374), a former U.S. Army Airbase and early warning radar station. Where Dillingham is the population center of Bristol Bay's westside, Naknek is the eastside hub. The King Salmon airport, numerous shore plants, and the

⁴ Region 11, Bristol Bay Borough Area, Summary of Resources and Uses in the Region. Bristol Bay Area Plan, April 2005, 3-181.

APA Diamond NN Cannery

Bristol Bay, AK

Name of Property

County and State

Bristol Bay Port, representing the most extensive commercial freight dock in Bristol Bay and the designated shipping hub for communities from Dutch Harbor to Bethel, bustle with maritime activity throughout the summer fishing season. From early June until late July, the Bristol Bay Borough is inundated with approximately 30,000 outsiders for jobs related to the commercial salmon fishery.

Fronting the Diamond NN Cannery is the 35-mile long Naknek River, flowing west from Lake Naknek to Bristol Bay. It is common to observe salmon passing the cannery, arriving from an oceanic journey to their spawning grounds. These salmon represent the “escapement,” or the number of fish that Alaska’s Department of Fish and Game biologists allow upriver to produce the next generation of Bristol Bay salmon. Five salmon species migrate up the Naknek River, bound for five interconnected, glacially-carved lakes: Naknek, Iliuk Arm, Brooks, Coville, and Grosvenor, which lie at the center of Katmai National Park and Preserve. On a clear day to the east, the Valley of Ten Thousand Smokes’ peaks, the largest concentration of active volcanoes in the Ring of Fire, rise above the tundra flats, leveled as little as 9,000 years ago by Pleistocene glaciers.

Approximately 5,000 years ago, after the Pleistocene era released its icy grip, an ancient, super-size Naknek Lake breached, causing lake water to drain and ultimately formed the five extant lakes. Snaking its way to the Bering Sea was the Naknek River, allowing, for the first time, Pacific salmon to colonize the region. The migrating salmon carried nutrients from the ocean to the glacial barren region. Five thousand years of a tidally fluctuating Naknek River ceaselessly eroded the 30-35-foot bluffs that rise from a rocky beach. The Naknek River drains like a bathtub twice a day, exposing a mudscape of slick, grey clay at low tide. Like clockwork, the river roars back in, flooding the visible area with on average 22-foot tides that rush against the 30-foot pilings supporting the NN Cannery’s waterfront buildings.

There is a reason why APA’s NN Cannery was the first commercial salmon operation on the Naknek River. Early cannery and residents alike consider the location the most ideal on the river, for cannery architects knowingly took advantage of the river’s main channel that flows deepest in front of the cannery. More than any other shore operation on the Naknek River, the deep channel gave the NN Cannery a longer time to conduct maritime activities, dictated by the ebb and flow of Bristol Bay’s extreme tides. NN cannery also exploited those powerful tidal fluctuations by positioning the waterfront buildings over the river so that the rising tide naturally pushed cool air up through the floorboards and into Warehouse 1—aptly called the “cooling warehouse”—where cooked cans of salmon quickly cooled. Moreover, the shallow U-shaped valley formed by Packers Creek presented a perfect location to construct the cannery. Fresh water from a large tundra lake runs beneath the cannery and intersects the property. In the early days, cannery used the stream water to power the steam-driven machines of the cannery. Later, water for the cannery was piped in from a nearby tundra lake, aptly called Pump Lake, and more recently, wells were drilled. Formed by Packers Creek, the valley’s gentle slopes

APA Diamond NN Cannery

Bristol Bay, AK

Name of Property

County and State

provided the buildings modicum shelter from Bristol Bay's localized yet intense williwaw winds in the otherwise flat, mountainless surrounding tundra. Cannery workers once placed the marine vessels on ways, built into the eastside gradient, where they were stored throughout the winter. The bluffs, freshwater creek, and access to salmon stand out as vital environmental features that attracted Native people to this area and attracted the first commercial operators to the Naknek River's southern shore 131 years ago.

Narrative Description

Description of the NN Cannery Complex (see Cannery Map for details)

There is nothing visually remarkable about the NN Cannery. An observer once described the Alaska Packers Association (APA) salmon cannery as a "barn on stilts."⁵ And like the American architectural icon, these simple, timber-framed, open structures were designed to harvest and produce food and continue to play an integral role in coastal Alaska's economy, environment, and social systems. Salmon canneries, starting in 1878, began to construct hundreds of canneries along Alaska's shores. The Diamond NN Cannery is neither the oldest cannery in Alaska nor even in Bristol Bay. But none were as large, singularly focused, or lasting as APA's Diamond NN Cannery.

The Diamond NN Cannery stands out from all other salmon canneries in Bristol Bay. In 1988, cannery workers painted many of its historic buildings marine blue, the corporate color of the current owners, Trident Seafoods Corporation, currently the largest seafood company in the United States. Today the weathered buildings reveal earlier paint layers of "cannery red" and "battleship grey"—colors associated with the Alaska Packers Association, the original owner.

A 1961 article appearing in the corporate magazine, *The Del Monte Shield*, described the NN Cannery as a self-sufficient community, a complex that has changed little in the 60 years since the author visited South Naknek:

[South] Naknek, one of the largest salmon canneries in the world, is a sprawling, many-acre complex of battleship-gray buildings stitched together by boardwalks and steps leading uphill from its docks. Its buildings include a fish house, cannery, warehouses, powerhouse, boiler room, machine shop, bunkhouses, mess halls, office, superintendent's house, guest house, general store, hospital, radio shack, laundry—everything needed to see a small army of workers through

⁵ *The Big Land*, *The Del Monte Shield*, September 1961. Note: The Alaska Packers Association was owned Del Monte, or Cal Pack.

APA Diamond NN Cannery

Bristol Bay, AK

Name of Property

County and State

the short, intense season, and, in the case of the store, to help the handful of year-round residents in the nearby village through the long winters.⁶

Each of the 50 contributing buildings served one of five specific functions, categorized as:

- Processing (i.e., Cannery, Fish House)
- Maintenance and Storage (i.e., Carpenter Shop, Salmon/Boat Warehouse)
- Living Accommodations (i.e., Italian Bunkhouse, Filipino Mess Hall)
- Specialty Services (i.e., Hospital, Radio Shack)
- Administration (i.e., Office/Store, White House)

Likewise, buildings grouped by function were generally located in one of seven geographical areas, identified by a combination of natural features and cannery workers' colloquial association. The names for the locales or specific areas of the cannery complex changed and were reassigned over the years by cannery workers, who used the geographical names for wayfinding purposes. For clarity, the seven areas identified in the NN Cannery Maritime Historic District include:

- Fish House/West Dock
- Cannery/East Dock
- East Bluff/Old Air Strip
- Old "Chinatown"
- Lower Camp/Mess Hall Area
- Upper Camp
- West Bluff

Fish House/West Dock

The most recognizable area of the old NN Cannery is the waterfront, where maritime activities supported a fleet of Bristol Bay fishermen, tendermen, beach gang workers, and processors. The waterfront buildings protrude over the tidally influenced Naknek River, perched atop 30' pilings surrounded by a 412.5' long dock that provides a flat walkway and mooring for marine vessels. On the dock's far-west end are two slender finger piers. The north pier measures 30' x 211.7' and the south pier, which once allowed access to the beach and, in later years, a helicopter landing pad, measures 25' x 220'. Known as the Fisherman's Dock, the north pier provided fishermen a place to hang nets in the spring and mooring for the 32' double-ender sailboats, and after 1953, the 32' power gillnet boats returning from the fishing grounds. A massive pile driver (NAK-00292), an object used to pound the long cylinder 30' wood piles into the mudflats to secure the dock, is situated near the finger pier against the 80' long wood bulkhead, built in 1897, to hold back the eroding West Bluff. Running west-east and fronting the waterfront building is the main dock, which served as the central location for the cannery's seasonal maritime work: the arrival of the spring/fall cargo and fuel barges, boat maintenance,

⁶ *The Big Land, The Del Monte Shield*, September 1961.

APA Diamond NN Cannery

Bristol Bay, AK

Name of Property

County and State

the twice-daily, in-season delivery of salmon, the buzzing back and forth of machinists, carpenters, and beach gang on three-wheelers and four-wheelers, and the three-times daily "mug up," when the cannery's steam whistle signaled a 15-minute coffee break for cannery workers. The dock is layered with 2"x 12' plank decking and lined with 4"x 4' bull-rails, ladders, and cast-iron cleats. Large marine cargo containers still line the dock, as with skiffs and other maritime equipment. Marine lifts are positioned at each end of the dock, while the massive mobile American crane, used for lifting the 32' gillnet boats into and out of the water for midseason repairs and winter storage, remains situated on the dock between the Fish House and Warehouse 1. The crane replaced the cannery original three-mast redwood boom, which was cut down in the 1970s, and set to the village dump.

The waterfront buildings begin with the Fish House (NAK-00234) and Egg House (NAK-00284), situated on the dock's far west-end. A mechanical fish ladder, which has since been removed, carried salmon from the tenders into the Fish House via mechanized buckets and conveyor belts. The 1.5 story, blue-painted, metal-framed building also includes the Egg House Addition, added in 1966 on the building's west end, near the finger piers. The Fish House's most striking and unusual feature is its large, multi-paned window, extending the building's length and fronting the dock. The window filled the workspace with light, improving the laborers' quality of work conditions exponentially, and allowed for views of the cannery's waterfront activities, the north bank, and the ebb and flow of the Naknek River. The processing equipment, including four "Iron Chinks," which butchered the salmon, has since been removed. The walkway and stairs in the mezzanine level are collapsing, and the combined Fish House/Egg House space is currently being used for storage. But the ten fish bins are intact, as well as the windows, and the room still smells of grease and fish. The building retains all seven aspects of integrity: location, design, setting, workmanship, materials, feeling, and association.

To the southeast of the Fish House is the old refrigeration house (NAK-00236), which once supplied a cooling system for the salmon awaiting processing in the Fish House. Ten cedar holding tanks were built to hold excess salmon to the south of the Fish House, but the tanks have been removed, leaving ample open space on the dock. The Refrigeration building was converted into a pipe shop. The old refrigeration system was replaced in the late 1970s or early 1980s by a large Ice House (NAK-00289). The Ice House dispensed a mix of ice and air into the fish bins in the Fish House, creating "champagne" bubbles that circulated ice water and air throughout the mass of salmon, thus, extending the quality of the fish. The Ice House reflects the introduction of a plethora of food and safety measures implemented in the mid-20th century by the industry and government. The structure remains in good condition.

Cannery/East Dock

On the waterfront to the east of the Fish House is a large two-story Warehouse, called Warehouse 1 (NAK-00267), which runs north-south and sits on pilings over the river. The building was purposely set over the river to take advantage of the tides that push cool air up

APA Diamond NN Cannery

Bristol Bay, AK

Name of Property

County and State

through the ventilated floorboards on the first floor. This air naturally chilled recently cooked cans of salmon that were stored in the large open space known as the Cooling Warehouse. Occupying the second floor was the Can Shop, but, except for several defunct can lines, the can-forming machinery has been removed, rendered obsolete with new can technology. On the second floor, the Fisherman's Net Loft remains intact, with individual lockers still filled with fishing gear, forgotten personal items, garbage, 100-year-old graffiti, and modified benches for hanging nets. On the north end of Warehouse 1 are the Beach Gang office and rope locker. A stairway accessed from the waterfront was added in the 1980s, which led to the cannery foreman's office and an indoor gathering space with long tables and benches that offered cannery workers shelter for mug-ups in volatile weather.

The entire canning process radiates from the Cannery Building (NAK-00268), the heart of the historic property and the oldest existing building in the complex. The Cannery Building runs parallel to Warehouse 1, separated by a narrow wooden runway called "the Alley." The two large buildings are connected by an overhead passage allowing for movement between second floors. Fronting the Cannery Building is a large open space in the dock, where the Old Fish House once stood. Today the open space exposes the muddy beach below, littered with piles of old ballast, used by APA's Star Ships and likely dumped there over a century ago. The Cannery Building is set at an elevation much lower than the surrounding dock's height, indicating that the Cannery Building, and the pilings on which it is perched, is much older than the current dock other buildings it supports. Inside the Cannery Building were the processing lines, where, at the north end, cleaned salmon from the Fish House entered, and at the south end of the building, left in cooked tin cans. The canning line machinery—filler, clincher, and patching tables—has been removed, but the ten large iron retorts used to cook the salmon remain intact. Still in place are also the massive boilers, with two vertical steam stacks protruding through the roof of the Boiler Room (NAK-00285) that once powered the cannery machines and blew the cannery whistle, which notified cannery crews of meal and mug up breaks and the start or end of a long day.

To the east of the Cannery Building and situated on the most eastern side of the dock is a line of support buildings known as "the Shops," oriented north to south, that include the Port Engineer Shop (NAK-00269), Machine Shop, and Parts Room (NAK-00270), the Carpenter Shop (NAK-271), the Blacksmith Shop (NAK-00273), and the Paint Shop (NAK-00275). All the shops have retained their machinery, tools, and equipment, while the current owner still uses the Port Engineer Shop, Machine, Parts Shop, and the Carpenter Shop for support functions. These buildings were built as part of the APA Rehabilitation Plan in the mid-1940s, after the old east dock collapsed during a winter storm, taking with it the old carpenter shop, machine shop, and warehouse. The shops' location is also historically valuable because the buildings are situated at the site of the old saltery (NAK-00293), at the outlet of Packers Creek. The Port Engineer Shop and the Machine Shop and Parts Room appear to be built atop or near the original pilings.

APA Diamond NN Cannery

Bristol Bay, AK

Name of Property

County and State

Future investigation of this site may yield important information about the little-known saltery history and a new understanding of the Naknek River's Indigenous past.

To the south of the Cannery Building are two large metal-framed warehouses: the 76' x 109' Boat Storage Open Warehouse (NAK-00266) and the 76'x 325' (enclosed) Boat Warehouse (NAK-00272), which is the largest building on the property. Both were built during the cannery's Rehabilitation period in the 1940s. In addition to protecting commercial gillnet boats from the winter elements, the warehouses stored the canned salmon pack in the summer until it could be barged out at the end of the season. Today the warehouses continue to be used for miscellaneous maritime and vehicle storage, including the yellow Cushman, which served as the Mug Up cart. Situated to the south of the Open Warehouse is the New Power House (NAK-00265) that contains the diesel generator that supplied electricity to the cannery complex. Moving south is the Cannery Foreman's Cottage (NAK-00264), strategically positioned adjacent to both the power house and the cannery's processing area for quick access. The Foreman's house or cottage, with its covered porch, is associated with APA management history and is one of the older buildings on the property. It remains in good condition. To the south of the Cannery Foreman's Cottage is a neglected fuel shed (NAK-00263) that once served as the cannery's second power plant before the construction of the New Power House in the 1950s.

East Bluff/Old Air Strip

Providing access to the East Bluff and Old Air Strip from the waterfront is a part-boarded, partly cemented ramp that crosses over the Packers Creek outlet, running east between the Machine Shop (NAK-00269) and the Carpenter Shop (NAK-00271) and past the original site of the old saltery (NAK-00293). All that remains of the saltery's original four structures are old pilings. Further archeological and architectural investigation beneath the dock and around Packer Creek's mouth may yield new information about the saltery, its builder, Arctic Packing (whose founders are associated with the start of the Alaska Packers Association), and its little-known laborers. Also embedded into the beach near Packers Creek's outlet is a massive iron chain, a relic once used to anchor APA's scows, and tenders on the Marine Ways used to store the company vessels over the winter. Positioned laterally along the inclining slope is a site containing rotting and scattered remains of large wooden cradles and massive sleds (NAK-00294). Two winches (Lower Winch House NAK-0074) were used to pull the boats from the Naknek River and remain situated along the east slope. A site containing three dilapidated wooden fish scows (NAK-00295) is located near the upper winch site (NAK-00280). The vessels were likely abandoned in the 1930s when the Industry transitioned its scows to power.

Moving eastward, up the U-shaped valley gradient where the terrain plateaus on a bluff east of the cannery is a small cottage. The cottage, in good condition, was built to house the outside foreman, also called the Beach Gang Boss, whose job was to oversee the cannery's carpentry and maritime activities. Colloquially called the "Love Nest" (NAK-00282), probably for its more isolated location, the small cottage has unobstructed views of the Diamond NN Cannery's east elevation, waterfront, and the Naknek River. Also located on the East Bluff is the old APA

APA Diamond NN Cannery

Bristol Bay, AK

Name of Property

County and State

Airstrip (NAK-00296), built by the local Pen Air pilot, George Tibbetts, to move company managers and machinists throughout the APA canneries Bristol Bay and Chignik (Diamond C). When the State of Alaska built the South Naknek Airport in the 1970s, the gravel strip was abandoned and littered with boats, obsolete machinery, slime line, steam engines, hundreds of stacked rusted iron trays, and other maritime debris engulfed by alders. To the west of the old APA Airstrip and situated on the east slope's incline is the APA Graveyard (NAK-00297), surrounded by a dilapidated white picket fence. The graveyard served as the final resting place for the ethnically and religiously diverse cannery workers and still contains graves of Italian fishermen and Chinese and Mexican cannery workers. Today, dense alders are consuming the Packer Creek valley and pose a significant threat to the cannery's historic resources. The density of the alders prevented a detailed investigation of the site. With the property owner's permission, it is highly recommended that the alders are removed and the graveyard documented and preserved.

Old "Chinatown"

Moving up the eastside of Packers Creek, at the toe of the inclining slope, are four, 20' x 30', identical, dilapidating buildings, once painted red and used to house non-White cannery workers (NAK-00276, NAK-00277, NAK-00278, and NAK-00279). Each building is partitioned into two bunk spaces with individual doors for entry and windows for light. Situated in the southeast portion of the property and purposely isolated from the rest of the cannery buildings, these four buildings collectively tell a story of the historically underrepresented minority workers who served as the cannery crew. This cluster of buildings remains in the cannery area referred to as "Chinatown," even though Mexican, Japanese, Korean, Filipino, Puerto Rican, and African American cannery workers lived there too. It is unknown how many individuals lived in one bunkhouse at one time, but it was likely a crowded living space. Before the 1940s, several other buildings made up the Diamond NN Cannery's so-called "Chinatown" (see Section 8 for details.) Two associated buildings—a larger bunkhouse and a mess hall and store, also called the slop chest, and two of six identical bunkhouses were torn down in 1951, leaving the existing buildings for storage space. Each building contains various items, including old windows, one-hundred-year-old machine parts, nails, nuts and bolts, pieces of old wooden salmon egg boxes, and discarded electrical and plumbing equipment. Although in poor condition, the buildings contain graffiti dating back to the 1910s, covering interior walls that speak to the former occupants' identity. Together, the buildings, and the subsurface area that constituted "Chinatown," have the potential to yield important information about the cannery's international workforce.

Lower Camp/Mess Hall Area

To the west of "Chinatown," on the west side of Packers Creek, is "Lower Camp," where the mess hall complex is situated. A boardwalk, serving as a significant causeway that connects the Lower Camp to the Waterfront building, provided cannery workers a path to the mess hall. The first buildings encountered in Lower Camp are two support buildings—a freezer and a cooler

APA Diamond NN Cannery

Bristol Bay, AK

Name of Property

County and State

(NAK-00261 and NAK-00262). A long, rectangular net storage building (NAK-00260) is positioned across from the support buildings. Although neglected, the building is historically significant. It served as the original "White" Mess Hall, reflecting the pattern of racial segregation that existed at the Diamond NN Cannery and other canneries throughout Alaska. In the 1950s, an L-shaped New Mess Hall (NAK-00259) was built to replace the Old White Mess Hall, but the cannery's eating facilities were not fully integrated until 1979. The New Mess Hall is more extensive and contains a kitchen, bakery, machinist galley, cannery crew galley, and "Blue Room," where the office crew and supervisors ate. The ground in the lower camp is uneven and slopes towards Packers Creek. Thus, the Mess Hall is built on pilings and mudsills that extend the building's east elevation over Packers Creek. Beneath the Mess Hall, among the pilings, it appears that animal pens were built in the space between the ground and the supporting foundation. This building continues to be used and utilizes the original galley equipment, utensil, dishes, tables, etc. The building's interior and exterior are in excellent condition. The building was modified by the current owners in recent years, in that the wall between the Blue Room and Machinist Galley (the Yellow Room) was removed, but its integrity remains intact and conveys information about how crews ate, where they ate, and what they ate over the decades.

Between 1947 and 1979, the NN Cannery had a third Mess Hall, the Old Filipino Mess Hall (NAK-00258), which served the Filipino and Native workers and is representative of cannery policies that enforced racial segregation while simultaneously reflecting the racial integration of the cannery workscape after 1979. This mess hall is located directly south of the New Mess Hall, and a 27' covered passage connects the two buildings. This two-room building was converted into dry storage for the New Mess Hall, Cooks' Quarters, and Fisherman's Laundry sometime in the early 1980s. The building, also built on pilings extending the east elevation over Packers Creek, is in good condition. A dilapidated barbeque pit near the south entrance reflects the social activities associated with the Old Filipino Mess Hall.

Additional buildings associated with the Mess Hall Complex include the Provision Warehouse (NAK-00254), a two-story building in excellent condition, located south of the Filipino Mess Hall, and the Old Barn (NAK-00253) situated at the far south end of the cannery complex. The Old Barn, reflecting the cannery's early food supply, is badly dilapidated and in poor condition. But the building, along with the associated stockade/junk yard site (NAK-00298), retains yet-to-be-discovered information about the vast supply network required for Alaskan canneries to operate in such isolated places.

In addition to buildings associated with the Mess Hall Complex, a small structure was once used as the soldering house located at the far southeast end of the junkyard. There are also two bunkhouses located in Lower Camp. Constructed to the north of the Old Barn, southwest of the Provisions Warehouse, is the Old Filipino Bunkhouse (NAK-00255), a two-story building, measuring 30' x 120' at the West Hill's toe with 38 dorm-style rooms. Constructed during APA's

APA's Diamond NN Cannery Maritime Historic District

Bristol Bay, AK

Name of Property

County and State

1946 Rehabilitation period, the Filipino Bunkhouse, or Bunkhouse 5, is one of the newer bunkhouses in the NN Cannery property. It was built on mudsills, which have recently collapsed, causing the entire building to pancake onto the ground. The building is currently unsafe to enter. The second building, the Old Native Bunkhouse (NAK-00257), is situated west of the Old Filipino Mess Hall. It is a smaller, two-story bunkhouse, measuring 30' x 80' and has only 26 rooms. The Native Bunkhouse, or Bunkhouse 4, was one of the first buildings constructed to house cannery workers, making it over 100 years old. Over the years, it has housed machinists, the beach gang crew, mess hall cooks, and transient Alaska Native laborers. Despite its age, the bunkhouse is in good condition. For reasons unknown, it is the only bunkhouse painted yellow.

Upper Camp

The cannery's three other large, two-story bunkhouses are in Upper Camp, situated above the shallow valley of Packer's Creek. Upper Camp is accessed by stairs leading up from between the Old Native Bunkhouse (NAK-00257) and the Old White Mess Hall (NAK-00260) and across from the New Mess Hall (NAK-00259). The multi-directional staircase leads to The Old Italian Bunkhouse (NAK-00252), also called Bunkhouse 3, situated on the southwestern end of the property and adjacent to the South Naknek Village. This bunkhouse was constructed in 1910, about the same time as the Old Native Bunkhouse. It housed fishermen from the fishing nations of the Mediterranean who came to Alaska by way of central California, where many started as gold miners supplementing their income by fishing on the Sacramento River. In the early years—before 1951—the fishermen worked directly as employees for APA. Although being one of the oldest buildings, the Old Italian Bunkhouse is in fair-to-good condition. The original building measured 54' x 75,' but a bathroom addition measuring 23' x 30' was added later. The top floor is boarded shut to discourage vandalism and is inaccessible. The second floor is accessible and reveals the building's unique floor plan. Instead of a dormitory-style layout, each floor has an open space with large tables and benches, surrounded by 14 bunkrooms. The open space allowed for and reflected the robust social interaction and cooking preferences customary of the building's Mediterranean occupants.

To the north of the Old Italian Bunkhouse is Bunkhouse 2 (NAK-00251), running east-west, and farther north, Bunkhouse 1 (NAK-00250), running north-south. Both bunkhouses were constructed during the Rehabilitation period and are identical in size, construction, and dormitory design. Both are built on pilings, measure 20' x 120,' have 38 rooms, and are in good condition. These bunkhouses were constructed to house fishermen, including the Scandinavians, whose original bunkhouse was demolished in the 1940s.

To the northwest of Bunkhouse 2 is the Women's Bunkhouse (NAK-00248), which is a prefabricated building constructed in 1972. The Women's Bunkhouse has 15 rooms and measures 40' x 100.' The building was not built to last. Its cheap construction is typical of temporary housing from the 1970s. Although architecturally unimpressive, the Women's

APA Diamond NN Cannery

Bristol Bay, AK

Name of Property

County and State

Bunkhouse matters for its association with the Diamond NN Cannery's increasingly female crew, likely generated by the demand by women workers in the Egg House after 1966 and the passage of the Equal Opportunity Act of 1972. Finally, two large red cedar water tanks (NAK-00290) stand south of the Women's bunkhouse. These tanks replaced the original four water tanks that stood in the exact location. The structure offers insight into the cannery's water supply and self-containing infrastructure.

Included in Upper Camp and running from south to north is a cluster of APA buildings associated with the local story of South Naknek. To the east of the Women's Bunkhouse and west of Bunkhouse 1 is the Hospital (NAK-00249), built in 1914. The hospital at South Naknek was one of seven healthcare facilities built by APA in Alaska. In addition to providing medical care to employees and local residents, the building is associated with one of the most significant episodes in the 20th century: the Spanish influenza pandemic, which hit Bristol Bay in the summer of 1919. The Hospital building is 106 years old and is in excellent condition. Its gabled covered porch, shingled siding, and tongue-and-grove interior make the Hospital one of the few architecturally distinct buildings on the property. Although the Hospital was converted into a bunkhouse for female supervisors and office workers after APA dissolved in 1982, it still retains the feeling of a medical facility. The hospital signage, lighting, cabinets, and even the X-ray machine remain in place. To the northeast of the hospital was a Native graveyard. The current village graveyard is located about 100 yards to the west, on property owned by the Russian Orthodox Church. It is unknown whether the graves were moved off the APA property or if only the grave markers were relocated. It is unclear how or if this graveyard was associated with the Hospital.

To the north of the Hospital is the oil tanks site, enclosed by a chain-link fence, which supplied fuel to the cannery's boilers and power generator through a complex infrastructure of surface and subsurface piping. Just to the north of the oil tanks is the Cannery Winterman's House (westside) and Radio Room (eastside) Duplex (NAK-00244). This building was constructed in 1933 to replace outdated structures serving the same purpose. To the west of the duplex are four ancillary buildings (NAK-00245, NAK-00246, NAK-00247, and NAK-00288), varying in poor to fair condition, that were built to support the winter men's activities (and still do today). To the west of the Radio Room, or Radio Shack, is a small defunct boiler house (NAK-00285) that was utilized to power the communications system and may have been the first powerhouse supply electricity site to the cannery. With improved technology, the radio side of the building was discontinued in the 1980s. Despite the change in corporate ownership since 1982, a winter man and his family still live in the building and protect the company assets during the off-season. Although lived in and improved, the original floor plan or structure has not been changed. Therefore, the Winterman's House remains in excellent condition.

To the north of the Winterman's House is the New Laundry building (NAK-0042), built as part of the Rehabilitation Plan that served as a point of entry for resident Native women seeking

APA Diamond NN Cannery

Bristol Bay, AK

Name of Property

County and State

cannery work. Today the building is in good condition. Although the old laundry machinery has been removed, the building still conveys the feeling of its industrialized domestic activities. Finally, situated to the east of the Laundry and the north end of Upper Camp is a 7-room building for male office employees and cannery crew supervisors called the Crow's Nest (NAK-00243), likely for its position at the highest elevation in the property. Because the current owner still uses this building as a bunkhouse, it too remains in good condition.

West Bluff

Situated in the northwest corner of the property, on the bluff overlooking the Naknek River, are buildings associated with APA management and the NN Cannery administration. Down the stairs and across the boardwalk from the Crow's Nest is the Old Office (NAK-00239), built on mudsills and situated along the gradient of a gentle slope that slides towards Packers Creek. The Old Office Building, which included the superintendent and bookkeeper offices, the Post Office, and Old Store, was converted into the Married Quarters in the 1980s but has maintained integrity and is in good condition. However, its covered porch and railing are beginning to fall apart. Its position in the cannery complex served as an intersection of the processing area, the maintenance and storage area, and the living and accommodations area, placing the Old Office building at the center of activity. Moving up in elevation to the west is a two-story warehouse building called Warehouse 5, built in 1935, which once served as the Cannery Store (NAK-00240). The first story served as a storeroom and upstairs was the retail area, which the winter man kept open for residents year-round. A conveyor belt built on the staircase was used to carry heavy boxes from first-floor storage to the second floor, reflecting the building's historic period of use as the store. In the late 1970s, APA decided to close the store for economic reasons, and the top floor was converted into a Recreation Hall, named after the NN Cannery Superintendent, Norman Rockness. The hardwood floors, foosball table, pop machines, and pool tables continue to convey the social activities the space afforded to cannery workers there from the 1980s until the cannery stopped processing salmon in 2001.

Built to the north of the Old Store/Rec Hall is a walking bridge, elevated over uneven ground covered in the summer by tall grass. The bridge grants easy access to the Hotel (NAK-00241), situated at the crown of the West Bluff, with unobstructed views of the Fish House, finger piers, the waterfront activities, and fishing grounds at the mouth of the Naknek River. Built about the same time as the Hospital, the Hotel resembles its shingled-siding, gabled roof, and unique architectural design. The boardwalk and railing (built with old sailboat masts) surrounding the Hotel and the stairway to the finger piers are rotted. The bluff behind the bulkhead is eroding. Eventually, the Hotel will fall to the dock and beach below. It was called the "Red House," indicating that the building was painted red, but it has also been painted grey, and yellow, the same color as the Old Native Bunkhouse. After the Old Office was converted into the Married Quarters, the Hotel served as the administration office for the superintendent and his staff in the 1980s. Space, however, was a constant issue, especially with new regulations that led to the need for additional positions pertaining to Quality Control. When Trident Seafoods purchased

APA's Diamond NN Cannery Maritime Historic District

Bristol Bay, AK

Name of Property

County and State

the cannery in 1995, Superintendent Gary Johnson purchased two double-wide trailers modified and fused, side by side. The trailers served as the new Superintendent's Office (NAK- 00286) and remain so to this day. Although the building is not considered a contributing resource because it was added after the period of significance, the building's location is important for archaeological reasons. Its placement, to the west of the Hotel on the bluff, is practically on top of the old Native village, *Kiniaak*. The location, which is not part of this nomination, is culturally vital to the area and may yield new information about the Naknek River's indigenous cultures, settlement patterns, and resource uses that predate the Novarupta eruption in 1912.

Completing the circular tour around the NN Cannery complex are the final two buildings: The White House (NAK-00237), otherwise known as the Superintendent's Dwelling, and a small, corresponding building called the White House Annex, or colloquially called the Chicken Coop (NAK-00238), added in 1922. Now consumed by tall grass, a footrail ran eastward from the Hotel, down the gradual slope, past the north end of the Rec Hall, and coming to a stop at a wooden porch, attached to the south end of the Chicken Coop. The modest, rectangular building was painted white and served as a guest house and bunk for the night watchman. Because it was used until just recently, the building remains in fair condition. The porch, covered with flaking white paint, splits directions from the Chicken Coop, running either down a set of stairs to a covered pathway, connecting to the Old Office porch, or running east, to the semi-wraparound-porch surrounding the White House, the dwelling for every NN Cannery superintendent.

The White House (NAK-00237) is one of the few buildings in the cannery complex that exhibits architectural aesthetic and design and is not built simply for practical purposes. The cottage, painted white with blue trim, contains five rooms and two bathes, features large bay windows in the master and guest bedrooms, the living room, and dining rooms, including a small room off the kitchen that served as "servant's quarters." The building was built around the turn of the century using California redwood to accommodate the cannery superintendent. Its central position in the cannery complex underscores the superintendent's role and responsibilities in administering the self-contained operation. The White House interior features a large dining room and living room to entertain corporate officials and visitors. Ceramic figurines found in the dining room hint of gifts exchanged during visits to the White House by Japanese fish buyers or other contractors. The White House has retained its furniture and interior fixtures, including radios, record player, curtains, rugs and runner, beds, wooden chairs, guest room dresser and mirror, oak dresser in Master bedroom, dishes, 54" dining room table with extension and rounded ends, oak dining chairs with wine-colored upholstered armchairs, two built-in buffets with glass doors, an icebox, built-in wooden shower, and 6' wood-rimmed bathtub. Notable features include a button attached beneath the dining table that, when pushed, rings a bell in the kitchen. The ringing bell signaled a "servant," who worked from and

APA Diamond NN Cannery

Bristol Bay, AK

Name of Property

County and State

slept in a small room on the kitchen's east side.⁷ In 1950, the foundation and heating were repaired and improved, and the original layout remains intact. Still, the foundation is deteriorating, and if the building is to be saved, it will need to be stabilized.

The vantage point from the bluff on which the White House was built, once afforded superintendents a clear, unobstructed view of the river. Today the bluff is overgrown with alders. The White House, however, remains situated adjacent to the main cannery buildings. A staircase descends eastward to the dock, allowing easy access to the fish house and cannery. At the base of the stairs is a large anchor (NAK-00291) painted white. Some believe that the anchor came from a wrecked Navy ship. Turning west to the Fish House and finger piers marks the start of the cannery tour.

Trident Seafoods purchased the property in 1995. The corporation canned fish at South Naknek until 2001, when it decided to cease canning and convert the property into a fisherman's camp. In 2016, Trident Seafoods vacated its southside facility, intermittently using the cannery as a support site for its other Bristol Bay operations. Without seasonal maintenance, the 131-year-old cannery and historic buildings, structures, objects, and sites face serious threats, including alder and willow overgrowth, severe weather, extreme high tides, looting, vandalism, and its biggest threat, fire.

Description of NN Cannery's Salmon Canning Operation

In 1897, APA employed ten Native and ten white cannery hands at the NN Cannery. By far, the largest group consisted of 102 Chinese cannery workers who processed the salmon. In the first few years of cannery operation, the Chinese made all the cans, received the fish on the dock, tossed the salmon into bins from the boats, and conducted all aspects of labor that prepared the salmon product for shipment. As Moser reported, "They [the Chinese workers] receive the fresh fish at one cannery door and place them at the other in tin cans, boxed, ready for shipment. They have their own bosses, are ready to work at any and all hours, and apply themselves strictly to the work for which they are paid."⁸

The process began when company fish scows and tenders, positioned at the fishing grounds, collected recently caught salmon from the gillnet fishermen and transported the catch to the cannery wharf. The fish were then transferred to the holding bins by Chinese laborers armed with pews (single tined forks). These men stood knee-deep in fish on the steamer or scow, impaled one or two fish at a time, and in a rapid movement, tossed them to the top of the wharf, where others, also using pews, tossed them into bins. According to Moser, these men

⁷ It is unclear when the superintendent stopped using a servant and ate meals in the "blue room" at the mess hall, but it was likely sometime in the 1950s.

⁸ Moser, Jefferson. 1899, *The Salmon and Salmon Fisheries of Alaska*, pp. 23-24.

APA Diamond NN Cannery

Bristol Bay, AK

Name of Property

County and State

were "experts in the use of these implements," which produced "a constant stream of fish (that) seems to flow from the steamer or scow to the wharf and thence to the bins."

Once in the fish house, salmon flowed from the bins to the butcher's tables, where the fish were cleaned by hand. The technique employed by Chinese cannery workers impressed Moser: "A stream of water removes the dirt and slime as the fish are transferred to the tables, where the 'butcher,' after removing the head, seizes the fish by the tail, grasping it at the caudal peduncle, and with a few rapid strokes removes the fins, with one slash opens the fish along the ventral line, and by another removes the viscera." The cleaned salmon were then transferred to water tanks, where other Chinese workers washed and scraped it and removed the tail. Once cleaned, the salmon were transferred to fish bins that fed the cutting machine.⁹

There, men fed the cleaned salmon into the cutting machine, which sliced the salmon transversely in sections to the exact length of the can. Moser described the machine as having a large wooden, cylindrical carrier, with ledges or rests on the outside the length of the carrier, wide enough to hold the fish. The fish was then cut by gang-knives, which were circular and fixed on an axle. The revolving knives ceaselessly sliced through conveyed fish, sending the severed salmon to the filling table.

At the end of the 19th century, one filling machine could fill 800 cases (38,400 cans) per day. The NN cannery had four filling machines, then adapted to what the industry called "talls," or a one-pound can. At this time, the smaller "flats," or half-pound cans, were filled by hand. The filling machine consisted of a receiving platform, where the empty cans were filled by hand. Moser described the filling method as starting with a cannery worker, who fed divided fish into a hopper, from which the salmon is conveyed to the can underneath, and by a gentle pressure of a piston is pressed into the can, where the movement of the machine simultaneously conveys the filled can to a table and an empty can into position to be filled. The movement was so rapid that a continuous stream of filled cans poured on the table. Here the filled can was inspected and weighed. If a can was not quite full, workers on the canning line added a small quantity of fish, called a "patch," from a supply kept for this purpose.

Once filled, the cans were placed on a belt that carried them to a machine to be topped with lids fed by Chinese workers through a separate opening. As the cans emerged with the tops on, an attachment crimped the edge firmly around the can body, where they were carried by a belt, turned, and rolled down a trough to the soldering machine. An endless revolving chain passed over the can near the top and rolled its edge into the molten solder. As it emerged from the soldering machine, the can rolled down a trough and under several jets of water to cool. As the cans emerged from the trough, they were placed on a table where Chinese sealed by hand

⁹ Moser, 1899, 26.

APA Diamond NN Cannery

Bristol Bay, AK

Name of Property

County and State

a central vent in the lid, which was left open in the topping and soldering process to let air escape if the cans became too hot.¹⁰

After Chinese workers closed the central vent, the cans were placed vertically in large open trays made of heavy strap iron, which could hold 96 cans, the equivalent of two cases. The filled trays were lifted by tackles and iron tongs and lowered into a square wooden tank filled with water heated by steam to inspect for leaks. Again, Moser was impressed by the Chinese skill. "The experienced eye of the Chinese tester at once detects a faulty can by the escape of air, and the can is removed with a pair of tongs and placed aside, where one or more solderers remedy the defects."¹¹ After removal from the hot water, the trays were placed one on top of another and carried along rails into the retorts for the first cooking.

The cans were cooked by steam in iron retorts. The process cooked the fish and softened the bones so that they become edible and did not spoil the product. In the early days, canned salmon was cooked twice, once for 60 minutes, then from 70 to 80 minutes in the second round. In between, the cans went through a process called "blowing" or "venting" to relieve pressure within the can during the first cooking that could cause it to burst. Again, the skill of the Chinese workers played an important role. Armed with small wooden mallets, skilled workers tapped rapidly the top of one can after another and made a small hole in each that allowed the steam inside to escape. After blowing, the vents were immediately re-soldered, and the trays were placed back in the retort for the final cooking. After this, cannery workers rechecked the cans for leaks. Moser observed that the Chinese were experts at this technique. The most skilled worker would pass a tenpenny nail over the cans, striking the top of each, and simply judging by the sound, the expert worker knew whether there were any defects.¹²

Although the Diamond NN Cannery continued to can salmon throughout the next century, the canning process Moser observed in 1900 experienced significant technological transformation. The U.S. Fish Commission agent reported that the cannery's first machine configuration consisted of three fillers, three toppers, two solderers, one fish-cutter, and nine retorts. Fish were transferred from scows to the old Fish House by cable cars running on an inclined plane and operated by steam. Moser noted that APA installed automated can-makers, which reduced the need for Chinese laborers to solder the cans by hand. The process had not yet been perfected. Only 30 percent of the cans were made on the ground, with the remainder being brought from San Francisco. That year, the Chinese cannery workers packed 61,816 cases of salmon, 1,356 salted barrels, and 1,141 half barrels. A 100-pound tin plate was used for can bodies, and a 90-pound plate for tops, all imported. The entire pack was labeled APA's highest-grade salmon and exported abroad, underscoring the value the corporation placed on its NN Cannery.

¹⁰ Moser 28-29

¹¹ Moser 29

¹² Moser 29-31

APA Diamond NN Cannery

Bristol Bay, AK

Name of Property

County and State

One of the most revolutionary machines introduced to the canned salmon industry (and is the likely reason people remember the Chinese workers) is the mechanical butchering machine, introduced in 1904, which removed the tail, fins, and eviscerated the fish. Considered an engineering marvel, the machine, nevertheless, had a dark side. It was patented and named "The Iron Chink," invented to mimic the movement of the human butchers. The hand butchers held power and prestige in the cannery order, but bottlenecks remained an issue. The introduction of the iron butchering machine to canneries like the Diamond NN removed bottleneck issues but significantly reduced the Chinese butchers' ability to wield power. Mechanization, however, did not supplant the need for fish processors. After the Chinese Exclusion Act in 1882, Chinese laborers slowly aged out of the industry. By WWI, the NN Cannery China Gang consisted primarily of less-skilled Mexican, Puerto Ricans, and African American workers hired through the Contract System. With unionization on the rise in the 1930s, Filipino cannery workers ended the corrupt labor contract system and filled most NN Cannery jobs.¹³

Over the decades, the NN Cannery adopted other technological changes and improvements. The "Sanitary Can," introduced in 1904, eliminating the need for soldering by fastening lids with a double-seamed crimper. This led to the can re-forming machine. The can bodies were collapsed at the factory, which could be reshaped into perfectly rounded cylinders by a machine to which the bottom end was attached. This reduced labor and freed up shipping space for the cannery ship's trip north to Alaska and became known as the three-piece can with its side body, bottom, and top. The re-forming process was eliminated in the 1980s with the introduction of the two-piece can, which included the side body and bottom stamped from a single sheet of metal. The formed can bodies used for salmon were slightly tapered to allow them to be stacked and easier to ship to remote areas such as South Naknek.

The filler machine was improved, using circular knives to cut fish into sections and automatically filling cans at a rate of 200 per minute. Salmon-filled cans were inspected, weighed, and tops loosely crimped. The cans then entered a vacuum closing machine that extracted the air and sealed the cans, preventing the need for a second cooking in the retort.

Once sealed, the cans move onto iron trays or "coolers" stacked six or seven high on small cars to go to the retorts for cooking. By the 1950s, the most modern of the big pressure cookers was at APA's NN Cannery and could take up to twelve carloads, over 8,000 cans, at a time.²¹ Cooking was typically conducted at 246-degree F. for ninety minutes under ten pounds pressure. Power hoses and elevators were used at the waterfront to move salmon from boat to bin, eliminating the need to paw fish from the tally scow to the dock. The old fish house was torn down and relocated to the west side of the warehouse in 1949.

¹³ APA Records, NN Cannery China Contracts, 1897-1920s. Alaska State Library, Juneau, AK.

APA Diamond NN Cannery

Bristol Bay, AK

Name of Property

County and State

By the 1970s, the NN cannery operated four lines, with a relatively unchanged process. The process started with the cleaned salmon that now traveled from the sliming table via conveyor belt to an elevator that sent salmon into the Cannery building's Filler bins. These bins ensured a constant supply of fish to the rotary fish fill. The filler cut the fish into a size compatible with the can size, filled the cans, and added a measured amount of salt via the salter. Depending upon the size, species, and quality of fish, the filler could fill approximately 250 cans per minute.

After being filled, the cans traveled through to the weighing machine, which set aside lightweight cans, where cannery patchers added tiny pieces of fish until the cans met the required total weight. The filled cans continue through the clincher, can washer, and at the end of the line, a vacuum seamer. With the air sucked out, the cans enter a second washer and then into a tray loader conveyor. The trays full of cans were stacked with the air hoist and pushed into one of 10 horizontal retorts where they are pressure cooked for a specified time. After cooking, the cans were removed from the retorts, placed in a chlorinated water bath, which ended with the introduction of stacked cans in the 1980s, and taken to Warehouse 1 for air cooling.

Today, most cannery equipment has been removed from the NN Cannery building except for the massive retorts. The building, however, has changed little and still strongly reflects the process, the evolution of technologies, and activities that were conducted in the space for over a century.

Contributing Resources

1. Fish House (New), NAK-00234, 1947

Current Description: The New Fish House, measuring 116' 8" x 76' 10," is built on the waterfront, on the west side of the dock. The building is supported by piles and 3"x 12' planks. The building is constructed with a steel frame and corrugated galvanized iron siding. The gable roof is constructed with fiberglass panels, which allows added light. The north wall that looks out onto the dock and river is comprised of large multi-lite windows that span to the roof eave. The window is unique in Alaska canneries. It allows additional light into the work area and visually connected the fish house laborers to the dock's maritime activities. The Fish House is a one-story building with mezzanine levels to access ten fish bins. The fish bins span the entire south end of the building, each measuring 1284 cubic feet with sloped floors. Today, none of the equipment remains in the Fish House, and the space is being used as storage by the current owner, Trident Seafood. The front stairs to the bins have collapsed, several windowpanes are missing, vandals have covered the interior with obscenities and garbage, and recent flood waters have taken out the head-grinder located in the bowels of the Fish House. However, the building has retained extraordinary historical and architectural integrity and still conveys the work activities that occurred there.

APA Diamond NN Cannery

Bristol Bay, AK

Name of Property

County and State

Location: On the waterfront, west of Warehouse 1 near Fisherman's Pier 2, on the west side of the dock. LAT, LONG: 58.717327, -157.000134

Historic Function: The new Fish House was constructed in 1946 as part of APA's Rehabilitation Plan and first operated the following year. The original fish house was located on the east side of the dock, at the front/north end of the Cannery Building, and was removed in 1949, after the current Fish House was built. The New Fish House was equipped with four Model G Iron Chinks, which were transferred from the Old Fish House, and one Model K, for 5 Iron Chinks. From 1947 into the 1980s, the New Fish House ran six identical lines that prepared the salmon for canning.

A covered conveyor belt carried the fish through Warehouse 1 and into the Cannery Building for canning.¹⁴ In the 1980s, the Fish House layout was modified, and the process was streamlined. The five Iron Chinks were condensed to two of the more efficient Model Ks. Additionally, the six sliming tables were combined into one central table. Although the fish's general flow changed, the building itself remained the same, including the large window that gave the slimers added light and a visual connection to the river and waterfront activities. The same process was conducted in the Fish House until the cannery stopped canning fish in 2001.

2. Egg House Addition, NAK-00284, and Cooler, NAK-00235, 1966

Current Description: The Egg House Addition, measuring 48' x 80,' is situated on the west end of the New Fish House, and the Egg Cooler (NAK-00235), measuring 24' x 32,' is situated on the south end of the addition. The building is built on the dock pilings, is steel framed with corrugated metal siding, and gable roof. There is a 26' x 26' loft with stairs that served as office space. The Egg House remains in good condition. Trident Seafoods currently uses the space for storage. The Egg House was used to process the salmon roe, which was sold to the Japanese market.

Location: The Freezer building is attached to the south elevation of the Egg House Addition. LAT, LONG: 58.717317, -157.000515

Historic Function: Added in 1966, the Egg House at the NN Cannery was one of three egg houses in Bristol Bay. These three egg houses represent the first of their kind to process salmon roe in Bristol Bay. The freezer was added to freeze the eggs for up to five days. Architecturally uninspired, the process, nevertheless, proved to be very lucrative. This made the Egg House the most valuable building in the entire cannery complex.¹⁵ The Egg House remains in good condition and conveys the importance of Japan's role in the salmon industry. Japanese both purchased and processed the roe, making the Japanese important and influential players in the salmon processing operation and industry-wide. The Egg House reflects the international

¹⁴ "NN Cannery Flow Plan, February 26, 1970," Alaska Packers Association Company Correspondence, APA Naknek Collection.

¹⁵ Ibid

APA Diamond NN Cannery

Bristol Bay, AK

Name of Property

County and State

market and female cannery workers' increased role at the NN Cannery. It was one of the first places to process roe in Bristol Bay and still maintains strong historical integrity.

3) Pipe Shop, Refrigeration House, NAK-00236, 1953

Current Description: Built on the west fish-holding dock, the building's L-shaped plan measures ~59' x 27' and runs east-west. It has a wood floor, wood frame with metal clad siding, a shed roof pitched to the south, 17' roof peak. Although its purpose changed, the building structure has remained the same since it was built in 1953.

Location: South of Fish House. LAT, LONG: 58.717160, -157.000454

Historic Function: Located on the Fish Holding Dock, between Fish House and the wood bulkhead built at the base of the west bluff, the Old Refrigeration House cooled twelve cedar Brine Tanks, 13' x 17' deep, built in 1953 to hold surplus salmon if bins in Fish House were full. In 1956 the tanks were "used on three different occasions, making it possible for the holding of 280,000 fish that would have been impossible to take without the holding equipment."¹⁶ A burlap fish covers draped over a wooden framework protected fish from sun and seagulls. The Refrigeration House was a pack-ice machine and chilling tanks, which circulated air and kept Brine Tanks cool. With the technological updates, the Brine Tanks were rendered impractical and eventually removed in the early 1980s. A modern Ice House, which sent ice directly to the Fish House's bins, was built in the late 1970s. This updated cooling system had a "champagne system" that circulated air into the bins. Afterward, the Old Refrigeration House was converted into a Pipe/Welder's Shop.

4) Cannery, NAK-00268, 1895-1896

Current Description: The Cannery Building is a rectangular-shaped building measuring ~60' x 280'. It was built on driven piles that extend the waterfront building over the river. The floor was built with 2' x 12' planks and later overlain with fiberglass. Its rustic wood frame is constructed with 8' x 10' wood beams with a mix of horizontal wood lap siding and metal (corrugated galvanized iron) siding. 2' x 10' rafters support the metal-clad gable roof. The building is one floor, two-story equivalent, mostly open plan with some mezzanine levels. Running NE/SW, the Cannery Building includes the main canning building with two small engine rooms, the retort area, and a boiler room addition (NAK-00281). The second story has one room that use to run cans from the can loft (in Warehouse 1 to the cannery below. The Retort Addition was added around 1900 and is 46' to the highest roof peak. The Old Fish House, originally located on the front end of the main cannery building, was removed in 1949.

Location: On the waterfront, east of Warehouse 1 LAT, LONG: 58.716924, -156.998963

¹⁶ Naknek 1956-57 Operations, APA

APA Diamond NN Cannery

Bristol Bay, AK

Name of Property

County and State

Historic Function: The Cannery Building remains the oldest in the historic property. Its purpose, from the year it was constructed to the year the cannery shut down, was to can salmon. APA made plans to replace the aging building in the 1940s, but funding in the postwar years never materialized. Except for minor repairs and constant maintenance, removal of the fish house in 1949, and moving the boiler house from the east side to its permanent site at the building's south end, the Cannery Building has not significantly changed since it was constructed before the turn of the 20th century. Today the cannery equipment has been removed, but the building has changed little, and still strongly conveys the evolution of technologies and activities that were conducted in the space for over a century.

5) Boiler House, NAK-00285 (also called Fire House), 1890

Current Description: The old Boiler Room from the original layout (1897) was moved to its permanent location, at the southern end of the Cannery Building, probably after 1910, and was referred to as the fire room. In 1941 the Boiler room Included three 72" x 16' horizontal return tubular boilers, 125-pound pressure, full cast iron flush front, ninety-six 3-1/2" tubes, grate bars, and regular fixtures fitted for oil burning. Modified by California Boiler Works in San Francisco, the boilers were set on concrete and brick set on piles and held in brick and steam dome, cast iron brick stays, rods, and wood gallows frame. The number of boilers was increased to four in the early 1950s.

Location: South of Cannery, behind retorts. LAT, LONG: 58.716566 -156.999158

Historic Function: The NN Cannery and the birth of the power industry took place simultaneously. Powering the cannery were steam-generated boilers. A boiler is a box formed by tubes that uses fire inside the box to heat water into steam. Surrounding those tubes and completely encasing the walls and the fire box area are the BRIL, including brick, refractory, insulation, and lagging materials. From early on, the cannery used oil instead of coal probably because oil provided more thermal content than coal, the oil burned less smoke, it was easier to store on ships sailing north, and it transferred easier via pipes. The thick black oil fired the boiler, which heated water and generated steam, which powered the belt and line shaft-driven machinery throughout the cannery.

6) Warehouse 1, Nak-00267, 1913

Current Description: Located west of the Cannery Building, Warehouse 1 is a two-story gable frame building measuring 60' x 366'. Built on wood pilings (over the river) and rocks (inland). First floor 12' high, second floor 10' high to plate. The Warehouse floors are made from 2' plank; walls are corrugated galvanized iron, the roof is corrugated galvanized iron. Fifty 12 light 10"x14" check rail windrows provide light to the interiors. On the 2nd floor, there is sixty-two 12 light 10"x14" check rail windows. This is a two-story gable roof frame warehouse building, 60' x 366', built on wood pilings (over the river) and rocks (inland)—the first floor 12' high, second floor 10' high to plate. The Warehouse is built on piling, floors are made from 2' plank, walls are corrugated galvanized iron, the roof is corrugated galvanized iron. Fifty 12 light 10"x14" check

APA Diamond NN Cannery

Bristol Bay, AK

Name of Property

County and State

rail windrows provide light to the interiors. On the 2nd floor, there is sixty-two 12 light 10"x14" check rail windows.

Location: West of Cannery Building, LAT, LONG: 58.716930, -156.999469

Historic Function: The first story contained one large room used for storage and cooling the cans after being cooked in the retorts (located in the Cannery Building). Additionally, the building held the beach bosses' office, gear locker, and cannery clerk's office. The second story contained one large room that served as the can loft, which also included the old casing and labeling lines and one good size room for rope lockers and fisherman's net loft. The can shop utilized eight reformers, four flangers, four seamers, and four reform lines.

By the 1970s, the can shop was fully mechanized. The cooled cans were stacked with an air hoist on the first floor, then moved from the cooling area by a monorail conveyor. The conveyor transported the cans to a tray inverter (unloader), where labeler, caser, gluer, and compressor machines labeled the cans, stacked them in cases, and placed the storage warehouse. At the season end, the filled cases were removed from the storage warehouse via forklift and sent to the dock, where they were loaded onto power scows, barges, and steamships and transported to Blaine Terminal. By the 1970s, all salmon canned in Alaska were labeled at APA's plant in Blaine.

7) Warehouse 3 Winter Boat Storage, NAK-00272, 1949

Current Description: Built on the dock, the Warehouse has a steel frame, metal-clad siding, and metal-clad gable roof. It has one floor, a two-story equivalent, and an open plan. It measures 127' x 76,' runs north-south, and is 26' to roof peak. The building is open on the north end to allow for cannery traffic to move more freely in this area which is a major "intersection."

Location: South of Cannery Building, LAT, LONG: 58.716264, -156.999224

Historic Function: Warehouse 3 was constructed as part of the Rehabilitation Plan and used to store boats and pallets during the winter. This building replaced several older buildings, including Old Warehouse 2, Old Warehouse 5, and the relatively new Cooks and Waiters Bunkhouse, which had been constructed in the 1930s. The building served in this function until the cannery closed in 2014.

8) Warehouse 2 Salmon/Winter Boat Storage, NAK-00266, 1946, 1949

Current Description: Built on driven pilings and 3" x 12" planks, the Salmon/Winter Boat Storage Warehouse is steel framing throughout, has corrugated galvanized iron siding, and metal and fiberglass panel clad gable roof. The building has one floor, a two-story equivalent, and mostly open plan. It measures ~77' x 325' running north-south and is 28' to roof peak. Most of the warehouse was built in 1946. The 80' front end of the warehouse was built in 1949. A

APA Diamond NN Cannery

Bristol Bay, AK

Name of Property

County and State

welding station was added in the 1980s. The building contains one large room for storing canned salmon through the season and boat storage duration during the winter.

Location: Southeast of Cannery, west of Carpenter and Blacksmith's Shops, LAT, LONG: 58.716178, -156.998634

Historic Function: This building was constructed as part of the 1940s Rehabilitation plan. It is the largest building in the cannery complex, and several buildings were torn down to make room, including the Old Warehouse 4, and Old Paint Locker. The building was constructed to store canned salmon during the season and fishing boats during the winter. After the salmon season ended, APA shipped canned salmon to its headquarters, first in San Francisco, the Seattle, and finally Blaine Washington, where the tins were distributed to markets worldwide. In winters before 1951, the cannery stored the Columbia River Fishing Boats in this warehouse. In 1941, APA maintained 86 of these boats; each was 29' x 9' 2" Columbia River Fishing boats with centerboard and rudder, mast, sail, and standard equipment. They were all built by George Kneass in San Francisco and APA at Alameda.¹⁷ After 1951, the warehouse continued to store the power conversation boats, driftnet boats, and bow pickers owned by APA fishermen and later independent fishermen, who fished for APA. Except for serving as a preseason volleyball court in the 1980s, the warehouse building filled the same function until the cannery closed.

9) Love Nest, New Winter Watchman's House, NAK-00282, 1948

Current description: This is a one-story cottage with 1/3 basement that measures 21' 6" x 30' 6." It was built on a mudsill foundation, has shiplap flooring covered with plywood and linoleum. It has a wood frame, rustic siding, and a shingled roof. There are two entries, kitchen, living room, bedroom, and bathroom. The building has a well and pump.

Location: On the west side of Packers Creek, east of Marie Ways on the bluff. LAT, LONG: 58.716553, -156.996659

Historic Function: This cottage was constructed as part of APA's Rehabilitation Plan to house the year-round carpenter. In 1974, it was used by bookkeeper Gary Johnson to house his family, which represented the first time that wives and children accompanied an APA employee to South Naknek for the summer. The Beach Gang/Carpenter Boss later used the Love Nest. In 1977, superintendent Tom Takeoka proposed a new management structure at NN, which created a new position. Duties included scheduling and supervising the carpenter crew, port engineer, electricians, plumbers, power plant, machine shop, waterworks, and managing the pre and post-season beach gang. Bob Metevier served as the NN Cannery's longtime outside foreman, who lived in the cottage with his wife Sylvia. Sylvia worked as APA's Bookkeeper. Because the cottage was associated with couples and families and was set apart from the rest of the cannery complex, cannery people gave it the unofficial name, the "Love Nest." The

¹⁷ Diamond NN Cannery Appraisal, 1941.

APA Diamond NN Cannery

Bristol Bay, AK

Name of Property

County and State

building remains standing and in good condition. The dense alders surrounding the buildings were recently removed, allowing for an excellent view of the Naknek River and the cannery's east elevation.

10) Port Engineer Shop, Engine Repair Shop, Salt House, NAK-00269, 1948

Current Description: Although built in 1948 as part of the Rehabilitation Plan, the Port Engineer Shop is built on original pilings, giving the building the same elevation as the Cannery Building. These buildings predate the current dock and thus are at a lower elevation. The one-story has a wood floor, wood frame, metal-clad siding, and a metal-clad gable roof. It measures 40' x 45' x 18,' running north-south.

Location: Northeast corner of dock and north of Machine Shop, LAT, LONG: 58.717181, -156.998337

Historic Function: This building replaced the original salt house that collapsed, along with the northeast portion of the original dock, after a storm in 1943. Situated at the northeast end of the main dock, the building sits on tall pilings pounded into the mud. Its original purpose was to store salt. Thus, its former name is the Salt (storing) House. The building was converted into the Port Engineer Shop in the 1960s. By then, fishermen were independent of the company. They could hire the port engineer to work on their marine engines—a service conducted for free when the fishermen fished for the cannery as employees. The building served in this function until the cannery closed in 2014 but is still used in a limited capacity to assist marine vessels.

11) Machine Shop & Parts/Stock Room, NAK-00270, 1946

Current Description: Built alongside the main pier on pilings, the Machine Shop measures 42' x 128.' It is a one-story building, running north-south, and is 25' to roof peak. It has a 3" x 12' plank wood floor, a steel frame, metal-clad siding, and a metal-clad gable roof.

Location: South of Port Engineer Shop. Road to Old NN Airstrip runs east past Stock Room. LAT, LONG: 58.716817, -156.998309

Historic Function: Located at the site of the Saltery, the Machine Shop/Stock Room was one of the first buildings constructed during the Rehabilitation Plan. The dual-purpose building was needed after the dock collapsed in 1943, taking the deteriorating Old Machine and Blacksmith Shop and Old Warehouse 3. The north end of the building contained the machine and electric shop, which utilized a lathe, cable winch, power hack saw, hydraulic pipe bender, balancing scales, arbor press, hand stencil cutting machine, compressor, welding, and cutting unit, and shaper. The south end contained a stock room, which supplied a variety of tools and equipment. The building served in this function until the cannery closed in 2014.

APA Diamond NN Cannery

Bristol Bay, AK

Name of Property

County and State

12) Carpenter Shop NAK-00271, 1946

Current Description: Built alongside the main pier on pilings, the Carpenter Shop measures 40' x 110,' runs north-south, and is 24' to roof peak. It is a one-story building with mezzanine levels. It has 3' x 12' wood planks floor, steel frame, metal-clad siding, and metal-clad gable roof.

Location: East of Salmon Warehouse and south of Machine Shop/Stock Room. The road runs past the north end to Old NN Airstrip on the plateau of East Hill. LAT, LONG: 58.716202, -156.998245

Historic Function: Built after the dock collapsed in 1943, as with the Machine Shop/Stock Room, the Carpenter Shop was one of the first buildings constructed during the Rehabilitation Plan. The new Carpenter Shop replaced the deteriorating Old Carpenter Shop (Warehouse 4), located near the New Salmon Warehouse 2. The New Carpenter Shop was built just west of the Marine Ways and required the dismantling of four buildings located in the area referred to as "Chinatown." These buildings included the large Cannery Crew (Chinese) Bunkhouse, Store and Mess Room, washroom, and toilet. The new building contained a drafting room, caulking room, tool room, and carpenter shop. The building served in this function until the cannery closed in 2014.

13) Blacksmith Shop, NAK-00273, 1946

Current Description: This 20' x 31' building was constructed on mudsills. It has earth floors, a wood frame, metal siding, and a metal roof. The building is dingy but still maintains historic and architectural integrity.

Location: Southeast of Carpenter Shop. LAT, LONG: 58.715909, -156.99815

Historic Function: Built in 1946, the Blacksmith Shop served as the former tool house for the construction gang in charge of the Rehabilitation Plan in 1946. The building was moved to its current location to be used as a Blacksmith Shop in 1947. The building was abandoned and later utilized as a pipe shop. The building, however, maintains historic integrity for the one-room Blacksmith Shop still contains original workbench, tools, and forge.

14) Paint Locker, NAK-00275, 1946

Current Description: This one-story iron-clad building measures 24' x 44' x 10'. It is built on a pile foundation, has 2' x 12' plank floor, corrugated galvanized iron walls, and a gable roof.

Location: south of Salmon Warehouse. LAT, LONG: 58.715536, -156.998571

Historic Function: This building contains one, large room for storing gas, paints, and oil. The painting was critical for both exterior and interior maintenance. Over the decades, the cannery

APA Diamond NN Cannery

Bristol Bay, AK

Name of Property

County and State

buildings were painted several colors, including "APA Red," "Battleship Grey," and "Trident Blue." The building served in this function until the cannery closed in 2014.

15) Chinese Bunkhouse 1/Storage, (aka Mexican Bunkhouse) NAK-00276, 1910

Current Description: This is a one-story building, measuring 20' x 30'. It is a wood-framed building, built on a mudsill foundation with 2' x 6" T&G flooring, rustic walls, and a shingle roof. The building was partitioned into two rooms, and once had 2-panel doors and space for two 12 Light 10' x 14" check rail windows on each side. The four buildings are dilapidated, filled with old bed and window frames, egg box parts, discarded electrical parts, old tools, machine parts, nuts, and bolts. Graffiti covers the walls, created over the years by anonymous workers.

Location: East of Old Filipino Mess Hall, LAT, LONG: 58.715488, -156.998268

Historic Function: One of four remaining buildings of a cluster of ten buildings canners and laborers alike referred to as "Chinatown." The cluster of buildings was originally built to house and feed the Chinese cannery crew, who were the first cannery workers employed at NN Cannery. The buildings consisted of a Chinese Mess House & Store House (30'x145'x8'), a large bunkhouse called "China House" (30'x60'x10'), six smaller bunkhouses (20'x30'x10'), a small washroom (18'x30'x9') and an outhouse (10'x17'x8'). The cluster of buildings, described as "badly dilapidated" in the 1945 Rehabilitation Plan report, is identified on the report's corresponding NN Cannery Plat.¹⁸ In the 1940s, the China House and Mess Hall, the washroom, and toilet were torn down to make way for the New Salmon Warehouse and Carpenter Shop. The only remaining buildings from "Chinatown" include four small bunkhouses that served as housing for the NN diverse crew. Over the years, inhabitants of the bunkhouses also included cannery workers from Japanese, Mexicans, Filipinos, Puerto Ricans, Koreans, African Americans, and Hawaiians.¹⁹ The buildings were in such deplorable condition that a new Filipino Bunkhouse and Mess House was constructed as part of the Rehabilitation Plan between 1946 and 1949. Two of the six small bunkhouses were demolished in 1951. The four remaining bunkhouses were used for miscellaneous storage and remain standing today.

Although the four "Chinese Bunkhouses" had not been inhabited by cannery workers for 50 years, evidence of former inhabitants exists. On the exterior of Bunkhouse 1, undefined symbols can be viewed emerging through the layers of old red paint, possibly Chinese characters. Inside, the buildings are full of scattered tools, old equipment, machinery, widows, electrical gear, and wood eggbox parts. Some buildings are unsafe to enter. Importantly, Graffiti fills the walls, some dating back to the 1920s. At about the same elevation as a bunkbed, on one the wall, is a drawing of a woman, perhaps a sweetheart back home. There are Spanish surnames, a tabulation of hours worked, the date, and hometown. The ironic words "Ponce Club," a famous resort for the rich in Puerto Rico, are scribed in bold print over one of the

¹⁸ Ibid

¹⁹ MS 9, Series 1, Box 1, 2, 3.

APA Diamond NN Cannery

Bristol Bay, AK

Name of Property

County and State

doors. On the side of a wooden barrel, full of nuts and bolts, is scribbled, "APA, NN 1898," instructions possibly, to the original shipper. Near the top of the barrel is an indecipherable Chinese character. It is recommended that the Chinese Bunkhouses are investigated before they collapse. Historical archeologists may offer further understanding about how the underrepresented communities, who participated in America's capitalized economy and the industrialization of Alaska, lived, ate, coped, socialized, and engaged when they were not canning salmon.

16) Storage, Chinese Bunkhouse 2, NAK-00277, 1910

LAT, LONG: 58.715482, -156.998106

Same as Bunkhouse 1

17) Storage, Chinese Bunkhouse 3, NAK-00278, 1910

LAT, LONG: 58.715374, -156.998299

Same as Bunkhouse 1

18) Storage, Chinese Bunkhouse 4, NAK-00279, 1910

LAT, LONG: 58.715373, -156.998137

Same description and function as Bunkhouse 1, but Bunkhouse 4's foundation has been compromised by the bank's erosion and is in greater danger than the other three buildings of collapsing.

19) Lower Winch Engine House 2, NAK-00280, 1910

Current Description: The Lower Winch House is an 18' x 20' x 8' gable roof, iron-clad building built on a mudsill foundation at Ways 2. There were three 6 light 10" x 14" sash windows. It housed a 7'-1/2" x 10" single drum steam winch with a 4-gypsy head, cast iron subbase, modified by American Hoist & Derrick Co.

Location: Southeast of Carpenter Shop on the slope. LAT, LONG: 58.714767, -156.997570

Historic Function: The building housed a winch that was used to pull company vessels up onto Marine Ways 1 for winter storage.

20) Old White Mess Hall (Net and Gear Storage), NAK-00260, 1913

Current Description: This one-story building measures ~50' x 60', runs north-south, is 30' to roof peak. The building has a mudsill foundation, double 1" plank flooring, is wood-framed, has iron-clad siding, and a gable roof. The building is dilapidated, and the south end has collapsed and has since been removed.

Location: South of Electric Powerhouse. LAT, LONG: 58.715792, -156.999739

APA Diamond NN Cannery

Bristol Bay, AK

Name of Property

County and State

Historic Function: The original building measured 50' x 120' x 10' and served fishermen, tallymen, machinists, carpenters, office crew, and women in its four dining rooms—a Native Dining Room, A Mechanics Dining Room, Fisherman's Dining Room, and The Blue Room (office crew). It had 3 storerooms, steward's quarters, 2 bakeshops, washroom. It used 3 Ingle range ovens, French range oven, steam jacket kettle, electric bake oven, 3 shelves, ice cream freezer, stew kettles, steam cooker, and a motor-driven potato peeler. It included enough kitchen utensils and enamelware for 300 men, who ate at nine 3' x 18' tables on eighteen 18' benches. The White Mess Hall also included 3'x10' serving tables, a 10' cabinet, fearless dishwasher, waiters sleeping rooms. The building was converted to storage after the New Mess Hall was completed in 1951. Although much of its architectural integrity diminished, the building reflects the segregation policies and racial attitudes that were prevalent at the NN Cannery and throughout all salmon canneries in Alaska, which may still provide important information about how workers responded to such discrimination.

21) Old Power House Acid/Oil Storage, NAK-00263, 1944

Current Description: This one-story building measures 20' x 36'. The foundation/floor is a cement slab. It is a wood-framed building with a corrugated galvanized iron siding and metal roof.

Location: Next to old Mess House, south of Foreman's House. LAT, LONG: 58.715992, -156.999845

Historic Function: This building started as a one-story garage and was converted into the Generator House or Electric power Plant in 1944. The Building contained one large room for a diesel-electric plant. It was converted to a storage building after the new powerhouse was constructed in 1957 and remains in the same state today.

22) Provisions and Net Storage, Warehouse 6, NAK-00245, 1914

Current Description: This two-story, wood-frame warehouse measures 50' x 90'. The first story is 12,' the second story 12'. It is built on a mudsill foundation, has a 2" plank floor, corrugated galvanized iron walls, and gable roof. The building remains in good condition. Hanging on the second floor is a sailing mast, used by the Bristol Bay double-ender salmon boats before 1951. After that year, powerboats were allowed in Bristol Bay, and fishermen repurposed the sailing mast to hang nets.

Location: South of Filipino Mess Hall. LAT, LONG: 58.714994, -156.999229

Historic Function: This two-story building served as a provision warehouse and net storage for fishermen. It contained a small office for the provision clerk on the first story and 2 rooms for provisions storage. There is a small room for twine and miscellaneous gear storage and one large space for a net loft on the second floor. The building is purposely located far from the

APA Diamond NN Cannery

Bristol Bay, AK

Name of Property

County and State

cannery operation, for if a fire were to occur, cannery personnel would still have access to food and other provisions. The building served this original purpose through the duration of the historic period.

23) Misc. Equipment and Parts Storage, Old Barn, NAK-00253, 1910

Current Description: This one-story, iron-clad building measures 30' x 50' x 10'. It is built on a mudsill foundation, has 2" plank floor, corrugated galvanized iron walls, and a gable roof. There are remnants of two 6' x 8' sliding corrugated galvanized iron doors. It's worn and in deplorable condition. Use as a barn became obsolete in the 1930s and was used to store miscellaneous defunct cannery equipment, representing the early cannery process, including old flywheels, conveyor belts, and gears.

Location: South of Bunkhouse 5. LAT, LONG: 58.714593, -156.999538

Historic Function: The original purpose for the barn and surrounding stockade was to house pigs to feed the cannery crew. There was also a small garden nearby. The actual use was discontinued, and the barn was used to store outdated cannery equipment. The building fell into disrepair over the years.

24) Old Cold Storage, NAK-00261, 1944

Current Description: This one-story building measures 18' x 23.' It is wood-framed and built on mudsills. It has a gabled, corrugated metal roof. There is a gabled covered entry and addition for the engine room. The building contains 1 chill room, 1 freezing room, and an engine room.

Location: East of Old White Mess Hall and North of new Mess Hall. LAT, LONG: 58.715794, -156.999425

Historic Function: Cold Storage was used for perishables and built to support the old mess hall. It was later used by staff in the New Mess Hall.

25) Meat House, NAK-00262, 1947

Current Description: This one-story support building measures 25'9" x 42'6". It is wood framed with wood siding.

Location: North of Old Cold Storage and east of Old White Mess House. LAT, LONG: 58.715890, -156.999412

Historic Function: This building was constructed as part of the Rehabilitation plan in the 1940s. It was built to support the New Mess Hall, located just to the south. This building was the primary cold storage building until a freezer was installed between the Mess Halls in the early 1980s.

APA Diamond NN Cannery

Bristol Bay, AK

Name of Property

County and State

26) Old Filipino/Native Messhall, (Fisherman's Laundry) NAK-00258, 1947

Built on a woodpile foundation, one-and-a-half story Old Filipino Native Mess Hall measures ~50' x 90,' runs east-west, and is 24' to roof peak. It has wood floors, a wood frame with vertical board and batten siding, a metal-clad gable roof. An enclosed walkway connecting the New Mess Hall on the north side is approximately 40' long. It contained a dining room for Alaska Natives and Filipino cannery workers, one kitchen, and a lavatory.

Location: South of New Mess Hall. LAT, LONG: 58.715309, -156.999101

Historic Function: The Old Filipino Mess Hall, built at a site where Fishermen once hung nets, was erected from material salvaged from the machine shop warehouse and the old Chinese Messhall, which was tore down in the 1940s. APA established Affirmative Action Standard Procedures by 1974 that set goals in hiring ethnic minorities and women and desegregating the mess hall.²⁰ New rules, combined with lawsuits sparked by the passage 1972 Equal Opportunity Act, led to the integration of NN's mess halls. After the New Mess Hall was integrated, the Old Filipino Mess Hall served as storage and cook's quarters. The front (west) portion was converted into a laundry for Fishermen. The ancillary Fire Pit, although dilapidated, served as a site for celebrations and other cannery social gatherings.

27) New Mess Hall, NAK-00259, 1950-51

Current Description: The New Mess Hall is built on a woodpile foundation. It has 1x4' T&G flooring, is wood-framed, has horizontal lap siding, and a metal-clad hip roof. This one-and-one-half-story building projects out over Packers Creek to the east. It is an L-shaped plan, with a ~60' x 80' main structure running north-south, with the east section, 40' x 50', running north-south, and 24' to the roof peaks. The building contains one large mess hall and two ancillary dining rooms, one kitchen, one bakery, two pantries, and two lavatories. The Kitchen/Bakery is equipped with a Rotary, Revolving Oven, Steam Chef Dishwashing Machine, Donut fryer, electric Frigidaire Refrigerator, electric floor dough mixer, dual fryer, stainless steel counters, sinks, baker's table, ice cream maker, and potato cutter. The main mess hall contained 26 tables with ten attached seats, and the Blue Room had six tables and 24 chairs, which remain in place. The main dining room connects to the Fisherman Laundry/Old Filipino Mess Hall on the south side via an enclosed walkway approximately 40' long. After 2000, the interior wall between the two ancillary dining rooms was removed to create one large room. Beneath the building, there appear to be wooden pens for livestock.

Location: Between Filipino Mess Hall and Old Cold Storage. LAT, LONG: 58.715568, -156.999193

²⁰ "EEOC ACT" Folder, APA Naknek Collection

APA Diamond NN Cannery

Bristol Bay, AK

Name of Property

County and State

Historic Function: The New Mess Hall was built to replace the Old White Mess Hall, which was too small. The new location was the site where the Old Scandinavian Bunkhouse and other supporting buildings once stood. Those buildings were torn down in the 1940s to make room. The main dining hall was initially built to accommodate fishermen. After independence, fishermen had to purchase meals, coupled with a series of class-action lawsuits in the 1970s that challenged longstanding segregation policies, the New Mess Hall became the primary dining room for the entire ethnically diverse cannery crew. The second dining room, locally called the Yellow Room, was reserved for the machinists—workers who needed to eat quickly and return to the cannery to grease the machines before canning commenced. The third room—the Blue Room—was reserved for the office crew and specialized workers, who ate family style were served by a waitress. The Mess Hall was equipped with modern equipment designed to feed over 200 people, seven meals a day. The schedule consisted of Breakfast, 10 am Mug Up, Lunch, 3 pm Mug Up, Dinner, 9 pm Mug Up, Midnight Meal. The cannery workers daily life revolved around this fixed schedule. The mess hall's historic and architectural integrity remains high, while the building continues to be used and the meal schedule unchanged to this day.

28) Native/Machinist Bunkhouse, NAK-00257, 1910

Current Description: This two-story building measures 30'x80'x20'. It was built on mudsill foundation, has wood floors, a wood frame, rustic walls, and a gable, corrugated galvanized iron, and shingled roof. The Bunkhouse has 26 rooms and two showers, and toilet rooms. APA supplied workers with beds and mattresses, bedding, tables, chairs, dressers, and mirrors. A three-sheet iron heating stove with pipe provided heat.

Location: West of Filipino Mess Hall. LAT, LONG: 58.715347, -156.999647

Historic Function: The sole purpose of the bunkhouse was to house cannery workers. It is one of the oldest buildings and was initially constructed to house the Machinists. Then, it served as the Native Bunkhouse for Alaska Natives coming from outside of Bristol Bay for work for an extended period of time. By 1941, a south toilet addition and a west toilet addition were added. The bunkhouse was remodeled in 1967, during which the heating system was improved. The bunkhouse returned to its original purpose to house Machinists sometime after 1947. It is also the only cannery building painted yellow.

29) Cannery Workers (Old Filipino) Bunk House and Change Room, NAK-00255, 1946

Current Description: This two-story building measures 30' x 120.' It is built on a mudsill foundation, has 1x4" T&G flooring, wood frame, board and batten siding, and corrugated iron, gable roof. The bunkhouse contains 38 rooms, and both floors include showers and a toilet area. According to numerous firsthand accounts, both floors have common areas with a long table and benches for socializing, which were used for gambling. Each room has graffiti and makeshift furniture left behind by former cannery workers. A Changing Room was built just north of the Bunkhouse entrance, which allowed cannery workers to remove their books and

APA Diamond NN Cannery

Bristol Bay, AK

Name of Property

County and State

gear before entering their rooms. Today, the building is at risk. The foundation recently collapsed, making the building unsafe to enter. And the Changing Room (NAK-00256), filled with old bed frames, is dilapidated.

Location: South of Old Native Bunkhouse. LAT, LONG: 58.714849, -156.999560

Historic Function: The bunkhouse was built to replace the old cannery worker living quarters that were located in the area referred to as "Chinatown." Although APA dropped using ethnics labels to name buildings and called this the "cannery workers" bunkhouse, it was nevertheless where the Filipino cannery workers and Alaska Native workers lived. Unionization, particularly local 37, is entwined with the story of this building.

30) Bunkhouse 3/Old Italian Bunkhouse, NAK-00252, 1910

Current Description: This two-story building measures 54' x 75' x 20'. This bunkhouse was built on a mudsill foundation. It has double 1" floors, a wood frame with rustic walls, and corrugated metal and shingled gable roof. There is a 25' x 30' addition that contains the bathrooms on the west end of the bunkhouse. There are exterior stairs that allow access to the second floor. This building has a unique floor plan. Instead of a dormitory-style layout, each floor has central common areas, with 14 bunkrooms radiating around the space. The open space, long used for cooking and other gatherings, includes a long table and benches.

Location: Southeast of Bunkhouse 2. LAT, LONG: 58.715105, -157.000370

Historic Function: Like the Machinist/Native Bunkhouse, the Old Italian Fisherman's Bunkhouse is one of the oldest bunkhouses associated with the pre-rehabilitation period. The layout reflected the fishermen's social nature, who preferred to cook their food and socialize together. By 1946, the building needed an update. While waiting for materials to arrive that summer, construction crews traveled to the Diamond M Cannery, located downriver and mothballed. They tore down an old bunkhouse and hauled the materials to the Diamond NN Cannery. The construction crew rebuilt the old two-story building following the construction style as new bunkhouses they were building.²¹ By the 1960s, the fishermen moved out, and the Fish House crew inhabited the first floor and the cannery crew on the second. As one of the oldest buildings, Bunkhouse 3 continued to function as a bunkhouse until the cannery stopped canning in 2000. The graffiti covering the walls are associated with the cannery workers and reflects people who lived there. This building maintains its original function and historic integrity.

²¹ 1946 Rehabilitation file.

APA Diamond NN Cannery

Bristol Bay, AK

Name of Property

County and State

31) Bunkhouse 1 NAK-00250, 1946

Current Description: Two-story building measures 30' x 120'. It was built on a mudsill foundation. It has 1x4" T&G flooring, wood frame, board and batten siding, and a corrugated iron gable roof. The bunkhouse contains 38 rooms, and both floors include showers and a toilet area. Both floors have a common area located at the south end of the building, with a long table and benches for socializing. The table is littered with graffiti carvings, reflective of the ethnic groups who inhabited the space for numerous seasons.

Location: North of Bunkhouse 2. LAT, LONG: 58.715621, -157.000202

Historic Function: This building was part of the Rehabilitation Plan and has housed everyone from machinists to the office crew and carpenters. The dominant group to occupy in Bunkhouse 1 has been fishermen, who lived there until the cannery closed. This building maintains its original function and historic integrity.

32) Bunkhouse 2, New Scandinavian Bunkhouse, NAK-00251, 1946

Current Description: This two-story building measures 30' x 120'. It is built on a mudsill foundation. It has 1x4" T&G flooring, wood frame, board and batten siding, and a corrugated iron gable roof. The bunkhouse contains 38 rooms, and both floors include showers and a toilet area. Both floors have common areas located at the south end of the building, with a long table and bench for socializing. The table is covered in graffiti carvings. The walls and doors of the individual bunkrooms are also covered with graffiti, including the political expressions of the fishermen who lived there. Behind Bunkhouse 2, to the west, is a Barbeque pit, which was used for celebrations, including the independence of Croatia.

Location: South of Bunkhouse 1. LAT, LONG: 58.715312, -157.000431

Historic Function: This building was part of the Rehabilitation Plan and was built to replace the Old Scandinavia Bunkhouse, located in the lower camp, and described in 1945 as in "very bad condition, unfit for housing any kind of people and should be dismantled." The new bunkhouse housed the Scandinavian fishermen, but by the late 1970s, living quarters were designated by job titles rather than race. Therefore, Bunkhouse 1 and 2 housed fishermen, regardless of their various ethnicities. The Bunkhouse was used into the 21st century and has maintained its historic and architectural integrity.

33) Women's Bunkhouse, NAK-00248, ca. 1971

Current Description: The one-story Women's Bunkhouse measures 40' x 100'. It is a wood-framed prefabricated building with a wood floor and gabled roof. The Bunkhouse has two covered porch exits, one on the north end and the other on the south end. 15 rooms housed the female cannery workers. There is a kitchen area for social gatherings and limited cooking. This building maintained its original function into the 21st century.

APA Diamond NN Cannery

Bristol Bay, AK

Name of Property

County and State

Location: West of the Hospital. LAT, LONG: 58.715571, -157.001491

Historic Function: The Women's Bunkhouse was built to accommodate the increasing female labor force beginning, albeit slowly, in the late 1960s. The Women's Bunkhouse was opened in 1971.

34) Hospital, NAK-00249, ca. 1913

Current Description: This one-story building measures 30' x 60' x 10'. It is built on a mudsill foundation, has a double 1" floor, wood frame, shingled walls, and shingle gable roof. The building has twenty-two 12 light 10" x 14" check rail windows, ten 4-cross panel doors, two panel, and sash exterior doors, and one pair of 4-cross panel doors. On the north front end of the building there is a 6' x 10" gable roof covered front porch with open sides, a railing and five 48" tread steps that lead up to the front door. The back south end has a 5' x 6' enclosed rear step with shingled siding and roof. The interior contains rooms that once housed a Doctor's Office, Doctor's bedroom/study, pharmacy room, one ward with five beds, two wards with two beds in each, Nurse's bedroom, one dark room for X-rays, two lavatories, one supply room, one large hall, and one back entry hall.

Location: southwest of Bunkhouse 1. LAT, LONG: 58.715475, -157.000756

Historic Function: The Hospital is one of the oldest buildings in the District. APA supplied their station with medical staff (Doctor and Nurse) who tended to their cannery workers and fishermen's healthcare needs. The hospitals also provided care to the local residents, whether they worked for the Company or not. Medical staff faced their most significant challenge in 1919 when the Spanish Influenza epidemic hit Bristol Bay. The NN Hospital Doctor and Nurse cared for the sick, buried the dead, and housed the children orphaned by the disease. The Hospital continued to care for residents and cannery workers, tending to everything from bear attacks to occupational injuries to the common cold. Equipment included an electric sterilizer, metal operating table, Profexray machine, microscope, medical pans, and cabinets filled with drugs and medicines. In the 1970s, the APA cannery reduced its services to residents to emergencies only. After APA dissolved in 1982, the cannery halted healthcare services. The Hospital was converted into a bunkhouse for female office workers and supervisors, reflecting the workforce's increase of women. Although the Hospital's function and purpose changed, the building was never architecturally modified. The "Hospital" and "Doctor's Office" signage still hangs above the door to the light fixtures in the old surgery room to the X-ray machine that still leans against the hospital's interior wall has retained strong historic and architectural integrity.

35) Old Radio Shack/Winterman's House Duplex, NAK-00244, ca.1936

Current Description: This one-story duplex building measures 30' x 62' runs east/west, and is 20' to the roof peak. It was built on a concrete block foundation, has double 1" flooring, wood frame, T1-11 siding, and metal-clad gable roof. The basement was added in 1949. With the

APA Diamond NN Cannery

Bristol Bay, AK

Name of Property

County and State

introduction of new communications technology, the radio room became obsolete, and the building was repurposed in the 1980s to house just the winter watchman and his family. The structural integrity of the building was not changed.

Location: Upper Camp, south of New Laundry. LAT, LONG: 58.715987, -157.000966

Historic Function: The Duplex was built for the dual purpose of housing the winter watchman and providing a link between the cannery and the outside world. The building represents two important, yet distinct functions: Radio communications and off-season safeguarding of the APA assets.

36) Old Boiler Room, Light Plant, Radio Power Room, NAK-00282, date unknown.

Current Description: This one-story support building measures 14' x 24.' It is wood-framed and rustic siding.

Location: East of Duplex. LAT, LONG: 58.716010 -157.000588

Historic Function: This building may have been the first electrical power source for the cannery before it was moved to the second electrical building in the Lower camp. The Boiler Room/Light Plant/Radio Power Room generated power for the Radio Shack until new power sources forced canners to abandon the plant in 1950. Although no longer used as a power plant, the building remains standing.

37) Old Garage, NAK-00245, 1935

Current Description: This one-story garage measures 20' x 24' x 8.' It has a concrete floor, wood frame, corrugated galvanized iron walls, and gable roof. Includes three 8'x8' sliding metal doors with track and hangers, three 12 light 10"x14" check rail windows, and two 6 light 10"x14" sash. The garage included battery charging panels, a workbench, and tools.

Location: West of Winterman's House. LAT, LONG: 58.715959, -157.001419

Historic Function: The Old Garage was built for the winter watchmen to work on various projects year-round. It is filled with items used by Winter Watchman today.

38) CAT Garage, NAK-00246, 1946

Current Description: This one-story, one-room garage measures 32' x 42'. It is built on mudsills under studs. It has a dirt floor, corrugated galvanized iron siding, and roof.

Location: West of Old Garage, near Winterman's House. LAT, LONG: 58.715992, -157.001633

Historic Function: housed the bulldozer that canners used to level roads into and out of the cannery, the airstrip, and other uses. The building is old but is still used today as a garage.

APA Diamond NN Cannery

Bristol Bay, AK

Name of Property

County and State

39) New Laundry, NAK-00242, 1947

Current Description: this one-story building measures 38'x38'. It was built on mudsills, has 1'x4' T&G flooring, board and batten siding, and a corrugated galvanized iron gable roof. The building contains one large laundry room, one linen room, one dry room, one bedroom for the laundress, one lavatory, and one closet.

Location: Upper camp, west of Office Crew Bunkhouse/Crow's Nest. LAT, LONG: 58.716206, -157.000938

Historic Function: The new laundry building was constructed to provide laundry service. The New Laundry replaced the Old laundry, which was located near the Old Scandinavian Bunkhouse in lower camp. It was built in 1947 as part of the APA Rehabilitation Plan. It was first used in 1949 after the machinery was transferred from the old site. The laundry was used well into the 21st century and has retained historic, architectural, and cultural integrity.

40) Crow's Nest, Old Office Crew Bunkhouse, NAK-00243, 1946

Current Description: This one-story building measures 30' x 50'. It is built on mudsills, wood frame, board and battens siding, and corrugated iron gable roof. The building contains one social hall, seven bunk rooms, and one washroom. Stairs lead from the front door to the ground level, leading to the intersection of the Old Office and Store Building, Warehouse 1, and the Power House. At the bottom of the stairs was a gas-fueling station that no longer exists.

Location: East of Laundry in Upper camp, near site of Old Wireless House. LAT, LONG: 58.716206, -157.000278

Historic Function: Housed the Construction Crew in 1946. Then was used as the Office crew Bunkhouse, and finally, became a bunkhouse for male supervisors.

41) Cannery Foreman's House, NAK-00264, 1910

Current Description: This one-story cottage measures 24' x 30' x 10'. It is built on a mudsill foundation, has a double 1" floor, wood frame, corrugated galvanized iron walls, and gable roof. The building contains four rooms and baths, nine 12-light 10"x14" check rail windows, eight 4-cross panel doors.

Location: South of New Power House and north of Old Power House. LAT, LONG: 58.716138, -156.999871

Historic Function: Although this is one of the older buildings, its function never changed. The purpose of the Foreman's house was to house the Cannery foreman and his family. The cannery foreman was responsible for overseeing the Fish House and Cannery operation and supervised the machinists. He reported directly to the Superintendent. The Foreman's House retains both historic and architectural integrity.

APA Diamond NN Cannery

Bristol Bay, AK

Name of Property

County and State

42) Diesel Generator House, Power House, NAK-00265, 1957

Current Description: This one-story building measures 32' x 48'. It has a concrete floor, framed metal-clad siding, and metal roof.

Location: South of Warehouse 1 and north of Forman's House. LAT, LONG: 58.716334, -156.999750

Historic Function: Building contained on large room for a diesel-electric plant, which supplied electricity to the cannery.

43) Superintendent's Dwellings, White House, NAK-00237, 1910

Current Description: This one-story cottage measures 56' 5" x 43' 3", including a 9' x 9' room off the kitchen that served as "servant's quarters." The gable cottage is built on a mudsill foundation on grade, has a double 1" wood floor, a wood frame, wood horizontal lap siding, a metal-clad, cross gable roof. The one-and-one-half-story building runs north-south. The White House contains five rooms and baths, seventeen 12-light 10" x 14" check rail windows, three 6 light 10" x 14", large bay windows in the living room and dining room, and two exterior panel doors. The north porch has a 10'x10'x12' gable roof with screed sides. The south porch is 6' x 30' and built on a mudsill foundation. The porch extends to a 6' x 30' bridge to the Old Office and Store, and it is built on a mudsill foundation, with 2" planks, 2"x 4" railings, four tread steps, each 6' wide. There was a 50' tapered fir flagpole with halyards to the west of the building, but all that remains is the concrete foundation. The building contains a living room, master bedroom, guest bedroom, dining room, pantry, servant room, hallway. There is evidence of a fire in the kitchen and attack. Some of the original items, furniture, and fixtures remained in the White House, including radios, record player, curtains, rugs and runner, beds, wooden chairs, guest room dresser and mirror, oak dresser in Master bedroom, dishes, 54" dining room table with extension and rounded ends, oak dining chairs with wine-colored upholstered armchairs, two built-in buffets with glass doors, an icebox, built-in wooden shower, and 6' wood-rimmed bathtub. Notables include a button located on the dining table's underside that rang a bell in the kitchen. The bell signaled a "servant," who worked from and slept in the room on the kitchen's east side. In 1950, the foundation and heating were repaired and improved, but the original layout remains intact today. The White House was the only NN Cannery building painted white, hence the name. Moreover, it is the only building in the entire cannery complex that exhibits architectural aesthetic and design and is not built simply for practical purposes.

Location: East of Hotel, west of Warehouse 1, on the north bluff overlooking the waterfront. LAT, LONG: 58.716793, -157.000091

Historic Function: The purpose of the White House, from the time it was built to the present, was to serve as the living quarters for the Superintendent. Adjacent to the main cannery

APA Diamond NN Cannery

Bristol Bay, AK

Name of Property

County and State

buildings, the White House and connected stairs to the dock below allows easy access to the fish house and cannery, and atop the hill affords a clear, unobstructed view of the river.

44) White House Annex, Guest Dwelling, Chicken Coop, NAK-00238, 1922

Current Description: A one-story, 15' x 27' x 8' gable building, built on a mudsill foundation. The building has double 1" floors, stud walls, corrugated galvanized iron outside, and a 3-ply veneer inside. Rooms are divided by 3-ply veneer partition walls, and there is a 3-ply veneer ceiling. 2x4 rafters hold up the corrugated galvanized iron roof.

Location: West of White House. LAT, LONG: 58.716759, -157.000294

Historic Function: The Guest House, APA asset 8205, was built to provide additional housing for the White House. It is divided into two bedrooms, a single bathroom, and a room for its water heater. A 10-foot extension was added to the northern (far) end in 1952. Also called the "Chicken Coop." It is still used for this purpose today.

45) Married Quarters, Old Office, Old Store, Old Post Office, NAK-00239, ca. 1913

Current Description: This one-story building measures ~15' x 30' and runs north-south. It is built on a mudsill foundation on grade, with wood floors, wood frame, and metal roof. It has eleven 4-cross panel doors, nineteen 12 light 10" x 14" check rail windows, and a hinged batten door. The building has a large front porch, 6' x 60', with shed roof wood construction. A raised walkway behind the building provides access to the Store Warehouse 4 and Chicken Coop.

Location: South of White House and southwest of Warehouse 1. LAT, LONG: 58.716518, -157.00020

Historic Function: This building served as the APA Office and combined Store. Working there were the superintendent, bookkeeper, other administrative workers, and the storekeeper. The Office contained a 12' standing wall desk with 3 drawers and an 8' L-shaped counter with drop lead and cupboard base. Administrators assisted visitors perched atop revolving oak high stools. They filed paperwork a single drawer steel transfer file and monitored the time with a 9" diameter ship's clock. They labored at oak desks, which held ledger sorting boxes, desk lamps, adding machines, merchant electric calculator, glass inkwell sets, desk blotters, assorted loose leave records, account books, etc., and a small typewriter on a stand. They sat on oak swivel office chairs, stored valuable information in a cast-iron safe, and geodetic maps covered the walls. There was a sleeping room for the bookkeeper. The store had 20' L-shaped counters, shelves, 6' oak counters, and 10' high cases. The store had grocer computing scales, a roll billing machine, 60" slope top desk, Douglas chair, Fairbanks Morse Exact weight scales, plug tobacco cutter, American flag, 2-wheel caster truck, feather duster, and mail sorting box. In the 1960s, the store was moved to the top of Warehouse 4 and was open year-round. By the late 1970s, the store was closed permanently, as it was no longer making a profit. In the 1980s, the Office

APA Diamond NN Cannery

Bristol Bay, AK

Name of Property

County and State

was moved to the Old Hotel, while the Old Office and Old Store were covered to quarters for employees with families.

46) "Rockness" Recreation Hall, Store, Warehouse, 4, NAK-00240, 1935

Current Description: A two-story, 34' x 80' x 18' gable building, on mudsill foundation, 2" plank floors, wood frame, corrugated galvanized iron walls, and roof. The first floor was used as storage. The second floor was converted into a new store and later a recreation hall. On the north end of the building, there is a stock room and bathroom. The building still contains storage downstairs, including old office equipment and company records, and upstairs a foosball game and pool tables remain.

Location: Southeast of Hotel. LAT, LONG: 58.716549, -157.000450

Historic Function: The NN cannery store and later recreation or rec hall was previously known as Warehouse 4, APA asset 9486. It was built in 1935 next to the old General Office and Store building to serve as a warehouse. The store was moved in the early 1960s to the top floor of Warehouse 4. They featured a wide variety of merchandise, and not all were connected to cannery work. Local residents could buy guns, ammunition, food, clothing, and other items. Carvel Zimin recalled the cannery stores operated year-round. Around 1979, the NN Store was closed for financial reasons.²²

47) Hotel, Old Office, Old Night Watchman's, Red House, NAK-00241, 1913

Current Description: One-story, six-room gable 36' x 36' x 8' cottage, built on mudsill foundation, double 1" floors, wood frame, shingle and shiplap siding, and shingled roof. Seven 12 light 10" x 14" check rail windows, ten 6 light 10" x 14" sash, and 5 cross panel doors. There is a safe in the northeast room, reflecting the building's time as the main office. It was built the same year as the Hospital and is constructed with similar material.

Location: Northwest of Store Warehouse LAT, LONG: 58.716702, -157.000781

Historic Function: The Hotel, APA asset 9487, also referred to the "Nightmen's Bunkhouse" and the "Red House," as it was likely painted red and served in contrast to the "White House," next door, is linked by a bridged boardwalk to the roadway and a short footpath from the Guest House, behind the Store/Rec Hall. In addition to serving as a guest house and nightmen's quarters, the Hotel served as the Office for several years in the 1980s. Although the Hotel is one of the oldest buildings in the cannery complex, it remains historically and architecturally intact.

²² Johnson Interview

APA Diamond NN Cannery

Bristol Bay, AK

Name of Property

County and State

48) Double Wide Office, ca. NAK-00286, ca. 1995

Current Description: Contemporary office space for the superintendent and other Trident Seafoods personnel. The building was included after APA dissolved in 1982.

Location: West bluff, west of Hotel. LAT, LONG 58.716529, -157.001287

Historic Function: The structure is constructed from two doubled-wide manufactured trailers. It was added in the 1990s and adapted into administrative office space for the superintendent and his office crew. Because this building was added after the period of significance, it is not considered a contributing resource associated with the District. However, it is situated on top of the Old Village site and has the potential to yield significant archeological knowledge of the surrounding area.

49) Gas and Oil House, NAK-00287, date unknown

Current Description: This one-story support building measures 15' x 25." It is building on pilings, has a wood floor and ramp leading up to the building.

Location: Northwest of the Radio Shack/Winterman's Duplex. LAT. LONG 58.716046 - 157.001481

Historic Function: This building was used to power the winter men's house in the off-season. The building housed fuel oil tank on wood that could hold 950 gallons. Today the Old Boiler Room and storage shed continued to be only for storage and gardening by the winter men's family.

50) Shed, Shirley's Green House, NAK-00288, date unknown.

Current Description: This small wood support building measures 8' x 12'. It is currently used as a greenhouse by the present winter men's wife, Shirley Zimin.

Location: West of the Winterman's House. LAT, LONG 58.716002 -157.001340

Historic Function: Support building for winter watchman.

Structures

51) Ice House, NAK-00289, ca. 1975

LAT LONG 58.717182 -156.999732

The ice house made ice that was automatically carried into the fish house via a ladder and conveyor belts. This structure was added as the industry became more concerned about contamination issues and complying with new health and occupational standards.

52) Water Tanks, NAK-00290, ca. 1952

LAT LONG 58.715157 -157.001288

The cannery originally had four large tanks built atop large pilings, which were dismantled in 1952. The new tower had two 18'4" x 13'11" redwood tanks with a 25,000-gallon capacity and was 41' high. The new tanks were built at the old site, southwest of the hospital.

APA Diamond NN Cannery

Bristol Bay, AK

Name of Property

County and State

Objects

53) Anchor, NAK-00291, ca. 1800s

LAT LONG 58.716946 -156.999771

The large anchor, painted white and supported by three large beams, sits at the bottom of the stairs leading to the White House and marks the entry point from the living area to the NN Cannery's waterfront. It is possible that the anchor at NN Cannery came from a Navy ship or it is possibly one of APA's "Star" Ships, which sailed to Bristol Bay from San Francisco, and utilized these large anchors. The *Star of France*, *Star of Greenland*, and *Star of Lapland* sailed to Naknek in 1914.²³ Although romantic sounding, APA considered the tall ships floating warehouses, which they used to cheaply haul supplies, fishermen and cannery crews to Alaska from San Francisco and haul workers, along with a season's worth of canned salmon back to the West Coast where it was sold to markets around the world.²⁴ There is a similar iron kedge anchor of the CHARLES E. MOODY that has lain next to the D&D Restaurant and Hotel on the highest point of uptown Naknek since 1962.²⁵ It is recommended that historians examine the anchor in more detail.

54) Pile Driver, NAK-00292, date unknown

LAT LONG 58.716927 -157.000712

The pile driver was used to build the original cannery dock. There are two discarded pile drivers. One is in the junkyard at the end of Lower Camp, while the other is on the dock, near the bulkhead, near the finger pier. Appraisers described a floating pile driver built at Naknek 1923 that consisted of a 20x42x4'6" heavy timber frame scow, fitted with 40' gins and engine house, double drum steam donkey engine, pile driver hammer, and regular equipment.

Sites

55) Arctic Packing Saltery Site, NAK-00293, 1890

Current Description: All that remains at the site are pilings. Closer investigation under the cannery dock may yield new information about the historic saltery.

Location: at beach level at the confluence of Packers Creek and the Naknek River. LAT LONG 58.717004 -156.997981

²³ Laurence Freeborn, *The Silver Years of the Alaska Canned Salmon Industry*, National Geographic Society, 1976.

²⁴ For details around the Star Fleet and APA's salmon canneries you can view the APA documentary by John Sabella on YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=61DP3hF2KoA>.

²⁵ Penelope Goforth, *Memory of Northwestern Fisheries Company Cannery Ship, Charles E Moody Lives on in Naknek*. http://www.cybricat.com/akmh/present/moody_100515.pdf?fbclid=IwAR1Z-eETuINMi6G5XIOuZSGHPoDCzE6Cws7rG4c0NDERUpLhmsWkdi9JV4.

APA Diamond NN Cannery

Bristol Bay, AK

Name of Property

County and State

Historic Function: The saltery represents the first structures built on the property and was the first associated with the commercial salmon fishery on the Naknek River in Bristol Bay. The saltery was constructed by the Arctic Packing Company in 1890. The original cluster included the Salting House, a 36' x 60', one-story gable-roof, frame iron-clad building extending to the river's high-water mark. It was built on pilings and contained two redwood tanks to salt salmon. The other buildings included a Fish House, 20' x 25', constructed of canvass and board and built on mudsills, and included an adjoining Tank House for water. It was built just southeast of the main Salt House.²⁶

The Arctic Packing Company merged with the Alaska Packers Association (APA) in 1893. APA constructed a cannery at the saltery site in 1895 but continued to salt salmon at the saltery to supply the growing demand from Japan for dry salted fish. Additionally, salting continued at APA's Naknek Station due to the large sockeye salmon run that could overwhelm the operation. Thus, APA continued to salt the surplus for several decades after constructing the cannery in 1895.²⁷ Fish Commissioner Jefferson Moser noted that "Every cannery in Bristol Bay ... is fitted for salting salmon. When the fish run in such numbers that the cannery cannot utilize all, the plus goes to the salting tanks."²⁸

In 1900, the same year the Fish inspector visited Bristol Bay, canneries salted a combined 16,778 barrels.²⁹ According to Moser, the method employed in the saltery was to salt the fish down in wooden brine tanks or vats and leave them until they had thoroughly shrunk. The fish were then washed, resalted, and placed in barrels. A barrel of salted fish contained 200 pounds (approximately 40 to 52) fish.³⁰ "Saltery gangs," those workers assigned to the saltery, were paid \$30 per month and 15 cents a barrel.³¹

Photographs from ca. 1914-1916 show piles of salt barrels near the location of the Naknek Station Saltery, indicating that APA utilized the saltery for several decades. However, the salting process diminished as cannery technology improved. Its giant brother, canned salmon, so overshadowed the salt salmon trade that it was difficult for agents to record the barrels produced. In 1901, Moser described the salt trade's fate in Bristol Bay as being "swallowed up by canned salmon. By the 1920s, it appears that the cannery at Naknek had supplanted the obsolete saltery and used the building for other purposes.

²⁶ 69 Survey, 1892.

²⁷ Moser, Jefferson F. (1899) *Salmon Investigations of the Steamer Albatross in the Summer of 1898*, Bulletin of the United States Fish Commission, vol.21, 1899, Washington, DC: Government Printing Office, 21.

²⁸ Moser, Jefferson F. (1902) *Salmon Investigations of the Steamer Albatross in the Summer of 1900*, Bulletin of the United States Fish Commission, vol.21, 1901, Washington, DC: Government Printing Office, 189.

²⁹ Ibid

³⁰ Moser, Jefferson F. (1902) *Salmon Investigations of the Steamer Albatross in the Summer of 1900*, Bulletin of the United States Fish Commission, vol.21, 1901, Washington, DC: Government Printing Office, 189.

³¹ ³¹ Moser, Jefferson F. (1899) *Salmon Investigations of the Steamer Albatross in the Summer of 1898*, Bulletin of the United States Fish Commission, vol.21, 1899, Washington, DC: Government Printing Office, 21.

APA Diamond NN Cannery

Bristol Bay, AK

Name of Property

County and State

In 1941, appraisers described Salt House 1 as a one-story, gable roof, iron-clad framed building, 30' x 57' x 8' high to eaves. It was built on a piling foundation, had a 2" plank floor, corrugated galvanized iron walls, and roof. There were six light 10"x14" sash, two 12" 10x14" check rail windows, two 8'x7' sliding corrugated galvanized iron doors and three-hinged batten doors. Inside the building still contained the plank net tanks and caster cooler table and seemed to be used to store items such as a pile driver hammer and anchors. Moorings alongside the Salt House consisted of 1 anchorage chain, 20 fathoms long, attached to a 1,500-pound patent anchor. Salt House 2, or the saltery's "Old Fish House," was described by the same appraisers as a one-story, iron-clad frame building, 40' x 90' x 9' high. It was built on the beach, on a mudsill foundation, with 2" plank partial floor, partially open sidewalls, and corrugated galvanized iron endwalls and roof. It has two 12 light 10x14" sash and one 8'x8' sliding batten door. Inside, it still had the 10'x6' wood stave, redwood salt tanks but was described as also being used for storage.³²

In 1943, the east side of the dock collapsed, and Salt House 1 was lost. 1945, APA surveyed the cannery buildings and recognized the remaining saltery building Salt House 2, as the "oldest structure on the premises." The building was "located practically at Beach level. It is an open shed with wood frame and corrugated iron roof and is carried on blocks and underpinnings." It is unclear what happened to the saltery. The building was likely dismantled during the Rehabilitation period in 1946-1949.³³ Although the building is gone, the site still conveys historic feeling and setting.

56) Upper Winch Engine House 1 Site, NAK-00294 and Ways Site, 1910

Current Description: The Upper Winch House was a 16' x 22' x 8' gable roof iron-clad building at the top of Ways 3. It was built on a mudsill foundation, 2" plank floor, and had three 6 light 10x14" sash windows. It housed an 8"x14" single drum double geared steam winch with 2 gypsy heads, cast iron subbase, and 2000' 7/8" wire rope. The building is dilapidated and all that remains at the site are the scattered remains of the winch.

Location: Southeast of Provisions Warehouse, atop the east hill. LAT LONG 58.714764 - 156.997569

Historic Function: Housed the winch, which was used to pull company's vessels up on to Marine Ways 2 & 3 for winter storage. The Winch House is associated with the Marine Ways. APA built three structures that constituted the Marine Ways. **Marie Ways 1** had two lines, 600' long. It was built on 300 6' fir piles (5' on centers), and 10,000' 1200' lin. ft. 10x12" sills. **Ways 2** had two lines, 535' long. It was built on 214 6' fir piles and 20,700' 1070 lin. ft. 10x12" sills and 3800' 1600 lin. ft. 2x12" planks. **Ways 3** had two lines, 920' long, built on 290 plies, averaging from 6-12' 2750 lin. ft. 2x12" planks. The Cradles, which the hulls of the marine vessels, were

³² 1941 Cannery Appraiser, APA Collection, Center of Pacific Northwest History, Bellingham, AK.

³³ 1954 Cannery Assessment, APA Collection, Alaska State Library, Juneau, AK.

APA Diamond NN Cannery

Bristol Bay, AK

Name of Property

County and State

made of 12' x 55' steel, 2 lines had a 50' heavy wood cradle for *Sannak*, and 10 other heavy wood cradles were averaging 25' long. Today, the marine ways are dilapidated, collapsed, and rotted. All that remains at the site are pilings and scattered rotten wood.

Historic Function: From 1910 to ca. the 1950s, the Marine Ways stored APA's transport vessels during the off-season. In the summer, these vessels would be positioned as a strategic location in the river, and commercial fishermen would deliver their catch to the tenders/scows. Before introducing power, tenders would pull the scows to the cannery's waterfront, where tallymen would offload and count each fish using a pew. By 1941, such vessels included 4 tenders, 7 gas boats, 5 Tally Scows, 2 power scows, and 16 scows:

Tenders

- Steamer *Sannak* was a wooden hull single screw cannery tender with rounded stern and sharp bow, with raised pilot house, engine house, and galley above deck. It was wired with a 32-volt lighting system, had a steam anchor winch, and was operated by 5 crewmen. It was built in 1911.
- *Brant*, wooden hull, twin screw cannery tender with rounded stern and sharp bow, raised pilot house, galley, radio room, stateroom, toilet on deck. It was operated by 4 crewmen.
- *Curlew*, wooden hull, single screw cannery tender with rounded stern and sharp bow, raised pilot house, galley and radio room. Operated by 4 crewmen.
- *Rail*, wooden hull single crew cannery tender with sharp bow, rounded stern, raised pilot house, crew 1

Gas Boats

- *Auk*, wooden hull, single screw gas boat operated by 3 crewmen.
- *Duck*, wooden hull, single screw, gas boat, operated by 1 crewman.
- *Gony*, wooden hull, single screw, gas boat, raised pilot house and galley, aft rounded stern and sharp bow, operated by 4 crewmen.
- *Grebe*, wooden hull, single screw, gas boat sharp bow and rounded stern, operated by 4 crewmen.
- *Condor*, wooden hull, single screw, gas boat, operated by 1-4 crewmen.
- *Crane*, wooden hull, single screw, gas boat, radio, operated by 1-4 crewmen.
- *Pigeon*, wooden hull, single screw gas boat, operated by 1 crewman.

Tally Scows

- *Topaz*, heavy timber frame tally scow, fitted with tally house, winches, sleeping and mess equipment, built in Alameda, California.
- *Opal*, heavy timber frame tally scow, fitted with tally house, winches, sleeping and mess equipment, built in Alameda, California.
- *Pearl*, heavy timber frame tally scow built in Naknek 1920.
- *Ruby*, heavy timber frame tally scow built in in Naknek 1919.

APA Diamond NN Cannery

Bristol Bay, AK

Name of Property

County and State

- *Garnet*, heavy timber frame tally scow built in Naknek 1904 and rebuilt in 1924.

Power Scows

- *Seal*, twin screw wooden hull power scow, operated by 3 crewman crew 3 with sleeping, mess equipment and winches. Built in Seattle, 1939.
- *Walrus*, twin crew wooden hull power scow, operated by 2 crewmen. Built in Seattle, 1941.

Naknek Lighters

- Scow 1 84' x 26' x 6'6" timber framed fish scow, built in Naknek 1928.
- Scow 2 84' x 26' x 6'6" timber framed fish scow, built in Naknek 1936
- Scow 3 84' x 26' x 6'6" timber framed fish scow, built in Naknek 1941
- Scow 4 84' x 26' x 6'6" timber framed fish scow, built in Naknek 1915
- Scow 5 84' x 26' x 6'6" timber framed fish scow, built in Naknek 1917
- Scow 6 84' x 26' x 6'6" timber framed fish scow, built in Naknek 1918
- Scow 7 70' x 24' x 6', 72-ton heavy timber frame oil lighter, built in Naknek 1931
- Scow 8 72-ton heavy timber frame fish scow built in Naknek 1916
- Scow 9 72-ton heavy timber frame fish scow built in Naknek 1918

Scow 10 (in Ugashik)

- Scow 11 72-ton heavy timber frame fish scow built in build at Naknek 1924
- Scow 12 72-ton heavy timber frame fish scow built in build at Naknek 1919
- No 13
- Scow 14 heavy timber frame fish scow built in Naknek 1919
- Scow 15 heavy timber frame fish scow built in Built Naknek 1927
- Scow 16 heavy timber frame fish scow built in Built at Alameda 1939
- Scow 17 66x22x6'9" timber frame fish scow size bought from Carlisle Packing Co in 1921
- Scow 18 heavy timber frame fish scow built in Naknek 1939

By the 1970s, the power scows/tenders fleet included many of the same vessels as first reported in 1941, in addition to new boats acquired to serve APA's expanding onshore plants. Several boats could make the trip south, but others continued to reside over the winter. In the 1970s, those vessels included Walrus, Seal, Ugashik I, Ugashik II, Cachalot, Dolphin, J-SI, Manatee, Porpoise, Narwhale, Tally scows: Topaz, Ruby, Naknek 5, Naknek 8, Larson Bay 5, Old Scow, APA II APA 3, APA U-11 and several other wooden scows. The size of the vessels had expanded, too, and outgrew the marine ways at South Naknek. Thus, APA began storing its fleet at its Diamond J Cannery, on the Kvichak River, and at the Diamond O Cannery, located downriver from NN Cannery, sometime after WWII.³⁴ Several of the tenders continued to serve the fishery and were used in the 21st century. Additional investigation is needed to determine site boundaries.

³⁴ APA Records, South Naknek Collection.

APA Diamond NN Cannery

Bristol Bay, AK

Name of Property

County and State

57) Three Flat Scows Site, NAK-00295, ca 1930s

Current Description: Remains of three dilapidated and collapsed flat scows sitting in a row. The area surrounding the old scows is overgrown with alders.

Location: at the top of Marine Ways 3. LAT LONG 58.714857 -156.997187

Historic function: Once lined on scow ways, the vessels have since fallen and collapsed. For three decades, the flow scows were hulled to the fishing grounds by tenders, to which fishermen, working from Columbia River sailboats, delivered their catch. Tenders then towed the scows back to the cannery onshore. In the 1930s, the industry transitioned to power scows and ceased using flat scows. Although worn and rotting away, the three scows reflect the pre-power age in Alaska's commercial fishing industry, as well as the contribution Naknek played in building the flat scows, which were central to the fishery in its early stages years.

58) NN Cannery Airstrip Site, "Naknek International Airport," NAK-00296, ca. 1947

Current Description: The Old NN Airstrip runs north-south and parallels the length of the NN Cannery Property. The Old NN Airstrip is no longer used and is covered with alders and littered with old boats, vehicles, retort trays, and processing equipment.

Location: East and parallel to NN Cannery property. LAT LONG 58.715585 -156.996355

Historic Function: The "Naknek International Airport," as the Company called it, was bladed by cannery personnel during the Rehabilitation Phase in 1947. Like most of the Bay's early landing strips, construction was overseen by famed local bush pilot George Tibbetts. According to APA, the airstrip was created "for a suitable landing field for a small plane."³⁵ The APA strip at the NN Cannery is also associated with Pilot Point resident Orin Seybert, who founded Peninsula Airways in 1955. Seybert flew APA personnel to their various canneries throughout Bristol Bay and Chignik. This service helped him incorporate and purchase the fixed base operation in King Salmon, near the Naknek Airbase. By 1969, Seybert combined business with George Tibbetts, who operated Tibbetts Fields in Naknek. APA rented a building on the Naknek Airbase in 1966 that was equipped with communication devices to transmit messages between King salmon and APA's station in Bristol Bay, Chignik Larson Bay. In 1972, the NN Airstrip ceased operations after the State of Alaska constructed the South Naknek Airstrip (Naknek 2 Airfield) in the 1970s. Although abandoned, the NN Airstrip represents the transition from ships to airplanes as a primary mode of transport of the transient workers and fishermen to Bristol Bay canneries.

³⁵ New Construction requested for NN for 1947, APA Collection, Alaska State Library, Juneau, AK.

APA Diamond NN Cannery

Bristol Bay, AK

Name of Property

County and State

59) Chinese/Company Graveyard Site, NAK-00297, ca. 1910

Current Description: A dilapidated fenced area contains both fallen and faded Chinese and Christian grave markers. The area is currently overgrown with alders, making it difficult to access the site. Thus it is challenging to determine its size.

Location: On the slope, northeast of "Chinatown." LAT LONG 58.715945 -156.997311

Historic Function: It is unknown when the graveyard was established. U.S. Survey 2957, conducted in 1949, first mentions an "APA graveyard" and describes the site as a "fenced private graveyard used exclusively by the Alaska Packers Association." The location bears S.14 degree 06'E, 3.64 chs., which is the current location of the graveyard. The surveyor noted 15 graves of fishermen and employees (perhaps Chinese workers) and no Alaska Natives graves. This would make sense since there was a Native graveyard located between Bunkhouse 1 and the Crow's Nest, which was moved to the Orthodox Church property sometime around 1916. In the 1980s, several of the Chinese grave markers at the NN Cannery were photographed, and the names were identified as Dang Du Wong (died 1936), Foo Yak Yong (died 1926), and Yang How Gwon, date unknown.

60) Stock/Junk Yard Site, NAK-00298, ca 1895

Current Description: The area located at the south end of the cannery property has been the dumping ground for defunct equipment and discarded furniture, boxes, retort trays, piping, belts, retorts, building materials, even automobiles, and boats. The area has been bulldozed over the years, so it is unknown what may be buried at the site. Still standing, however, is the Solder House, which is a 14'x14'x8' gable roof iron-clad building with a concrete floor, 2"x6" stud framing, corrugated galvanized iron walls, and roof. Inside were two pot brick solder furnaces with steel smokestack, a lead sinker casting machine, and a 36" hydraulic lift truck.

Location: South of the Provisions Warehouse. LAT LONG 58.714692 -156.999123

Historic Function: The junkyard had been the site of discarded items since the cannery's beginnings in 1895. The Solder House was associated with the early phase of the cannery when Chinese workers soldered the tin cans by hand.

61) Fuel Oil Tanks, NAK-00299, date unknown

58.715797 -157.000868

Both small and large fuel tanks were situated at various locations over the years. In the 1950s, several tanks were located next to the Forman's House and on the bluff near NN Hotel that has since been removed. The oil tanks' current location is between the Hospital and the Old Radio Shack/Winterman's House. A large white fence encompasses six oil tanks. The oil drove the boilers that powered the cannery and ran the powerhouse that provided the cannery campus with electricity.

APA Diamond NN Cannery

Bristol Bay, AK

Name of Property

County and State

Previous Investigations of NN Cannery

NN CANNERY ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT

By Rhea Hood, NPS Archeologist

The archaeological record of the Naknek Drainage region dates as far back as 8,500 years ago. It is generally accepted that the region may have been settled as early as 10,000 years ago, as the Pleistocene drew to a close and its Ice Age glaciers covering southwestern Alaska had retreated. The deficiency of archaeological sites that date to the Early Holocene is attributed to a variety of coastal geological activities having occurred in southwestern Alaska and a general, gradual pattern of sea levels rise throughout the mid to late Holocene (Crowell et al. 2003; Mann et al. 1998). Thus, the resource-rich coastal areas and islands that might have been occupied by early maritime settlers were subjected to erosion and submergence and leaving very little trace for archaeologists to find.

Archaeological research in the Naknek Drainage area has mainly focused on the northern bank of the river and within the Katmai National Park and Preserve (about 20 miles east of South Naknek), where the river's headwaters issue from Naknek Lake. The region's archaeological history has been carefully charted by Don Dumond since the 1960s (Dumond 1971, 1981, 1986, 1987, 1994, 2005, 2011; Dumond and Van Stone 1995). With analyses of tools, house types, and food remains, he categorizes a series of four technological phases in the human history of the region (Dumond 1981, 2011).

The stratigraphic sequence of volcanic tephra on the upper Alaska Peninsula is fundamental to understanding the sequence of cultural events and the effects of volcanic events on the landscape and people. In the Naknek Drainage area, excavations expose four major tephra falls in the past 7,500 years (Dumond 2005:6). Although the tephra layers are clearly defined in the upper drainage at the Brooks River Archeological District National Historic Landmark, downriver, excavations have found the ash layer sequence to be somewhat obscured with less exact correlation between sites. Dumond refers to the ash layers along the Naknek River as: 1912 Eruption, Prehistoric 1, Prehistoric 2, and Prehistoric 3, despite the lack of direct correspondence of Prehistoric 1-3 between sites. (Dumond 2011:158). Deciphering the deposition series along the Naknek River will require additional data from future archaeological testing.

The oldest known sites on the Alaska Peninsula are found around the Ugashik Lakes area, about 75 miles south of Naknek River. There are few traces from the earliest settlements in the Naknek area that Dumond calls the Koggiung phase of the Paleoarctic tradition, however, known sites of greatest age are often found on upland terminal moraines holding back the large periglacial lake characterizing this region. These sites are radiocarbon dated to around 9,000 to 8,000 years ago. These Paleoarctic sites contain no organic artifacts or structural remains, only stone tool remnants – blades and the stone cores from which the blades were chipped. Archaeologists infer that because the tool types match those from the same time period in

APA Diamond NN Cannery

Bristol Bay, AK

Name of Property

County and State

other areas of Alaska that it is highly likely they focused on the same inland resources and mainly caribou. Archaeologists have yet to discover sites in the Naknek Drainage area that were occupied between 8,000 to 5,000 years ago, though lithic scatters in upland areas suggest people were present on the landscape (Dumond 2011:95).

The archaeological record of the region resumes with the Kittewick period, which lasts to about 3,800 years ago. More broadly across Alaska, this technological trend is known as the Northern Archaic tradition. During this period, subsistence practices on the northwestern area of the Alaska Peninsula had diverged so that inland communities were invested in terrestrial resources and coastal communities were committed to marine resources. There were two distinct culture phases living side by side in the Naknek Drainage area during this period. The sites found near the banks of Brooks River suggest that these early settlements were primarily focused on caribou and other inland resources. Although they relied on the same subsistence resources as the previous Paleoarctic peoples, the tools they used were very different in shape, manufacturing style, and rock type.

The following Gomer period (around 4,000 to 3,000 years ago) is characterized by the technological trends of the Arctic Small Tool tradition, where subsistence remains show people in the Naknek Drainage inland are now concentrating on fish as well as caribou. At this time in the Naknek Drainage area, people were building their semi-subterranean houses in small clusters along the banks of Brooks River where they found the best opportunities for fishing (Dumond 2011). This period saw many settlements widespread along the Brooks River. In the meantime, fish, and sea mammal remnants at archaeological sites on the Gulf of Alaska coast tell the story of cultures prospering in their coastal environment. Following this period is what appears to be a lapse in human settlement of the region, lasting for a few hundred years. Significantly, the mysterious hiatus in settlements following the Arctic Small Tool tradition occurs all over Alaska.

The third archaeological period in the Naknek region, the Brooks River period (2,100 to 1,000 years ago), followed the widespread cultural hiatus. The Brooks River period's technology is considered a participant in the broader Norton tradition, which is found from Alaska's northern coast to the Alaska Peninsula (Dumond 2011; Workman 1982). The Norton tradition is known for the introduction of pottery to Alaska. Besides a subsistence focus on seals and caribou, the period is marked by an increase in use of net weights that indicate an increased reliance on salmon. The NAK-00011 site, approximately one and a half miles upriver from South Naknek, was a large village area that is relatively dated to the Brooks River period (Dumond 1973).

The subsequent Naknek period (about 1000 AD until the Novarupta eruption of 1912), follows the technological trends of the widespread Thule tradition. Many of today's residents of the Naknek Drainage region are direct descendants of Naknek period communities. The Naknek Drainage, during this period, was a juncture between dominating forces. The Thule tradition

APA Diamond NN Cannery

Bristol Bay, AK

Name of Property

County and State

spread south across the Alaska Peninsula, and its influences are noted in the concurrent Koniag tradition on the Kodiak Islands. The Thule tradition is typified by a wide variety of tools, particularly those made from ground slate, also gravel-tempered pottery (Dumond 2011). Likewise, cultural influence flowed from the Gulf of Alaska region to the peninsula's inland area. Koniag influence is noted in the house forms, tool types, and art motifs (from rock art and etched pebbles) present in Brooks River Bluff phase sites (Dale Vinson, personal communication 2018). Then around 1800 AD, Aglurmiut (a Yup'ik group) from the Kuskokwim Drainage to the north moved into Sugpiat (Alutiiq) territory at the western end of the Naknek Drainage. The Russian fur trade eventually dominated Naknek Drainage area and others on the Alaska Peninsula.

The ethnogenesis of today's Naknek Drainage culture is considered to begin with the Aglurmiut incursion of the area in the early 1800s, who had been pushed south, out of the Lower Kuskokwim Drainage area, towards Naknek River, pushing the Sugpiat further inland to the east (Dumond 2011; Feldman 2001; Harritt 1997).

In 1818, Paugvik was first recorded on a map by Russian explorer Korsakovskiy, who remarked that it was an "Alegmiut" village. It is unknown if the term Alegmiut was self-identified by the residents of Paugvik or if that was a name they were called by an outside group. Archaeological research corroborates the incoming Aglurmiut taking over the village of Paugvik, and the uprooted Sugpiat residents moved upriver to villages closer to Naknek Lake (Dumond and VanStone 1995; Harritt 1997). Paugvik is now an archaeological site a few miles west of South Naknek, on the northern shore of the Naknek River outlet to Kvichak Bay.

Artifacts and house ruins at the Paugvik Village site (NAK-00002) indicate that it was occupied until the 1880s when residents began to move to surrounding villages (Dumond 2011:37; Dumond and VanStone 1995; Feldman 2001). Houses at Paugvik were single-roomed with a tunnel entrance (Dumond 2011:37). Artifacts were a combination of Yup'ik tools made from local resources and those of European origin, such as china, metal, and glass beads.

The six-mile stretch between Paugvik at the Naknek River outlet and Old Savonoski Village (Nunamiut) at the Naknek Lake, served as an unoccupied border zone that the Aglurmiut and Naknek Lake villages both avoided in order to prevent conflict between the groups. A hundred years later, after the influenza epidemic of 1919, the declined population no longer feared the type of territorial competition that had required such demarcation of territories.

There are a handful of archaeological sites that had been occupied during the 19th Century in the Naknek Drainage area other than the Paugvik site.

In 1829, maps of Russian explorer Vasilev's journeys show a Kougumik village on the southern bank of the Naknek River, across the river mouth from Paugvik. It is unknown if previous

APA Diamond NN Cannery

Bristol Bay, AK

Name of Property

County and State

explorers in the region, Korsakovkiy's crew, didn't see Kougumik on the southern bank in 1818 or if the village was settled after their visit. Archaeological site NAK-00012—likely Kougumik village (locally known as Qinuyang or Qennuyang) (Dumond 1973:17, 2010)—is at the Bumble Bee Seafoods Cannery, approximately 1 mile west of South Naknek and the NN Cannery. This site has been disturbed by various human activity and most of its area eradicated by cannery structures. A collection of artifacts from the site, gathered by a local hobbyist, was examined by an archaeologist in the early 1970s. That particular collection represented the early period of Russian contact. A cultural resource assessment conducted in 1978 at the Bumble Bee Seafoods property recorded six house depressions and indications of past artifact looting (Dumond 1973:17). Because NAK-00012 has not been archaeologically tested, little is known about the Qinayung (Kougumik) village site.

In the Upper Naknek Drainage, there is the Nunamiut Village site (Old Savonoski site, XMK-00001) and the Grosvenor and Savonoski River sites (XMK-00002, XMK-00102, and XMK-00003). During a 2017 National Park Service archaeological survey along the Savonoski River, several previously unknown sites were documented, and shovel tests produced trade beads at some of these (Vinson, personal communication 2018).

The Nunamiut site on the Savonoski River and the XMK-00002 site on Grosvenor River encompass both precontact and postcontact time periods. Earlier houses at the Nunamiut site are rectilinear shaped with side rooms and contain only artifacts from before European contact. Later houses are single roomed, walled with "vertical split logs and a flat, sod-covered roof (Davis 1954: Figure 14; Dumond 2011:41). The XMK-00003 site on the Grosvenor River might be the remains of Kanigmiut village, mentioned in vital statistics of the early 20th century (Dumond 2011:29), or Alinnak village referenced in a Russian map illustrated in 1831 (Dumond 2011:27, 43). None of the sites were re-settled after the 1912 Novarupta eruption.

Linguistic studies and archaeological evidence suggest that the Naknek Drainage people were of a single cultural group by the end of the 18th century, during the time of their encounter with Russian explorers and the incursion of Aglurmiut from the north (Dumond 2011; Feldman 2001). Artifacts indicate that trade had become common between groups on the Alaska Peninsula by the time Russian ships arrived.

Following initial Russian exploration of the region, a smallpox epidemic greatly reduced the populations on the Alaska Peninsula. The violence of introduced diseases persisted and was devastatingly harsh during the 1919 influenza epidemic. The rapid loss of community members laid waste to the communally based subsistence economy, and many children were orphaned. The losses from the influenza outbreak were a catalyst for migrations and drastic cultural changes all over Alaska.

APA Diamond NN Cannery

Bristol Bay, AK

Name of Property

County and State

The launch of cash-based industries, like the saltery in South Naknek and subsequent NN Cannery, and reindeer herding operations, brought cultural changes to the region now being explored by the current examination of the Cannery's history. The archaeological record is expected to greatly augment the archival, historical, and ethnographic record of the NN Cannery and this breakthrough period.

Recorded Archaeological Resources in South Naknek

Site name	AHRS	Description
▪ Elevation of the Holy Cross Church	NAK-00022	A National Register of Historic Places property, recognizing its Russian Orthodox church architecture. It was built in early 1900s and includes a segregated cemetery.
▪ NAK-00160	NAK-00106	A precontact village site. Reported as being beneath the NN Cannery buildings but never confirmed (Shaw 2003).
▪ Old South Naknek	NAK-00161	Adjacent to the eastern boundary of the NN Cannery property (Feldman 2001; Shaw 2003).
▪ Bulldozer Push Mound	NAK-00163	A pile of debris at the intersection.
▪ Longie Creek Family Fish Camp	NAK-00162	A fish camp east of the South Naknek city dock, about 1 mile east of the NN Cannery property.
▪ NAK-00012	NAK-00012	Kougumik village archaeological site at the Bumble Bee Seafoods cannery, approximately 1 mile west of NN Cannery.

APA Diamond NN Cannery

Bristol Bay, AK

Name of Property

County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

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

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

- ☐ A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
- ☐ B. Removed from its original location
- ☐ C. A birthplace or grave
- ☐ D. A cemetery
- ☐ E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- ☐ F. A commemorative property
- ☒ G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

APA Diamond NN Cannery

Bristol Bay, AK

Name of Property

County and State

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

ARCHEOLOGY/Historic Aboriginal and Historic non-Aboriginal
COMMERCE

Architecture

ETHNIC HERITAGE/ Native American, German, Italian, Scandinavian,
Chinese, Filipino, Japanese, Black, Mexican, Puerto Rican, Pacific
Islander HEALTH/MEDICINE

INDUSTRY

SOCIAL HISTORY/Labor History, Women's History, Civil Rights
MARITIME HISTORY

1890-1982

Period of Significance

Significant Dates

1890 Arctic Packing constructs the first saltery on the Naknek River

1894 APA converts saltery into a cannery

1919 Spanish Influenza outbreak in Bristol Bay

1946-1947 APA's Rehabilitation Plan

1965-1966 NN Cannery/Japanese Corporations begin processing salmon roe for Japanese
markets

1979 Racial segregated housing and mess halls ends

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Cultural Affiliation

Alutiiq-Sugpiaq, Yupik, Chinese, Mexican, Puerto Rican, German, Scandinavian, Italian,
African American, Filipino, Japanese.

Architect/Builder

Arctic Packing Co.

Alaska Packers Association

APA Diamond NN Cannery

Bristol Bay, AK

Name of Property

County and State

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The Alaska Packers Association's *Diamond NN Cannery* complex comprised mainly of vernacular wood and steel frame buildings, many on wood pilings, represents a self-contained community of industrial, support, administration, and housing resources built to serve the hundreds of cannery workers and fisherman employed during Alaska's relatively brief salmon season. The complex's layout and building forms reflect industrial efficiency and company employment practices and policies, including the enforced segregation of various workers throughout much of the 20th century and the inclusion of those workers in later years. Currently, only two Alaska canneries are listed in the National Register of Historic Places, and neither cannery represents Bristol Bay, the world's largest commercial red salmon fishery. As one of Bristol Bay's most extensive, singular-focused, and long-lasting cannery operations, APA's Diamond NN Cannery is historically significant on a local and statewide level because it was part of a larger pattern of commercialized salmon packing that occurred throughout Alaska and the Pacific Slope for over 150 years. Throughout that time, the cannery was a cultural hub that today serves as a stage for telling the story of the ethnically diverse, historically underrepresented community who labored at the cannery and contributed to Alaska's economy. The cannery's contributing 50 buildings, seven sites, two structures, and two objects provide an exceptional glimpse into the twentieth-century canning industry's interworkings. Therefore, the Diamond NN Cannery is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A, C, and D.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least one paragraph for each area of significance.)

Criterion A: From the Owner to the Worker: The Story of America in Coastal Alaska

The Diamond NN Cannery was part of the broader pattern of commercialized Pacific salmon packing that, before 1937, was the third-largest extractive industry in the American West, with greater value than gold and copper mining in Alaska.³⁶ The Pacific canned salmon industry began in California in 1864 and soon spread north to the Columbia River and Puget Sound. The first cannery was built at Old Sitka, Alaska, in 1878, with canneries in Cook Inlet, Cordova, Karluk, and Chignik quickly following. By 1884, salmon canners arrived in Yupik country at the Nushagak River, on the far west reaches of Bristol Bay, the easternmost arm of the Bering Sea. The Diamond NN Cannery started as a saltery in 1890, built on the Naknek River, located on Bristol Bay's eastside, in the homeland of Alaska's Sugpiaq people. Four years later, the saltery

³⁶ Gregory, Homer E. and Kathleen Barnes, *North Pacific Fisheries with Special reference to Alaska*. New York, 1939; Friday, Chris. *Organizing Asian American Labor: The Pacific Coast Canned-Salmon Industry 1870-1942*. Temple University Press, 1994.

APA Diamond NN Cannery

Bristol Bay, AK

Name of Property

County and State

was converted into a cannery. Except for two years during World War II, the NN Cannery canned salmon until it ceased operations in 2001. Today, we understand the cannery to be the first commercial enterprise on the Naknek River and one of the longest-lasting associated with the Bristol Bay fishery—the largest and most sustainable sockeye salmon fishery in the world.

The Diamond NN Cannery was built by the Del Monte subsidiary, the Alaska Packers Association (APA), a corporate juggernaut that dominated Alaska's fishing industry and was part of a technological, commercial, and capital system that transformed the way the world preserved, cooked, and ate food.³⁷ APA bookkeepers assigned the cannery the initials, NN, possibly for NakNek, and drew a diamond around the cannery abbreviations—hence, APA's well-known trademark, "the diamond canneries." Described as "influential Western decision-makers" and "empire builders," APA became a major player in national and northern politics.³⁸ According to historian David Arnold, these men helped transform Alaska from a national folly into America's "Last Frontier."³⁹ Companies, such as the Alaska Packers Association, dominated Alaska's salmon market, accounting for 70% of the total salmon pack and owning or controlling 90% of its canneries. Contained in its century-old buildings are stories that underpin the historical manifestations of colonialism, capitalism, incorporation, industrialization, immigration, world wars, global pandemics, statehood, resource management, unionization, segregation, and civil rights. The packing and preparing of salmon for commercial sale transformed the Bristol Bay region. "Of all the agents of change," writes ethnographer James Vanstone, "none had a greater or more lasting effect...than the commercial fishing industry"⁴⁰ From its establishment as a four-building saltery, to its expansion into a globally reaching, 51 building industrial complex, the NN Cannery, as anthropologist Alan Boraas suggests, "represented the Industrial Revolution of the North."⁴¹

Just as strong runs supported canneries, salmon provided a stable resource for Alaska Native communities living in the Bristol Bay watershed for thousands of years. Katmai Sugpiaq migrated downriver to South Naknek after the Novarupta volcano destroyed the Savonoski village in 1912.⁴² The Spanish Flu pandemic of 1919 drove surviving Native residents to seek cannery work. Thus, the most significant Diamond Cannery building related to the Alaska Native experience is the Hospital and its association with the Spanish influenza pandemic, which killed

³⁷ Katherine J. Parkin, *Food to Love: Advertising and Gender Roles in Modern America*. University of Pennsylvania Press, 2006.

³⁸ Phyllis DeMuth and Michael Sullivan, eds, *Guide to the Alaska Packers Association Records, 1891-1970*, Alaska Historical Library, Juneau, 1983.

³⁹ David Arnold, *Fishermen's Frontier: People and Salmon in Southeast Alaska*, University of Washington Press, 2011.

⁴⁰ Vanstone, James. *Eskimos of the Nushagak River: An Ethnographic History*. Seattle: University of Washington Press, 1967.

⁴¹ Boraas, Alan. "Turning Point Photo Exhibit," *Peninsula Clarion*, November 21, 1996.

⁴² Dumond, Don E. 2010. "Alaska Peninsula Communities Displaced by Volcanism in 1912." *Alaska Journal of Anthropology* vol. 8. no. 2.

APA Diamond NN Cannery

Bristol Bay, AK

Name of Property

County and State

more Alaskans per capita than anywhere globally, including the estimated 200 people who died the Naknek River alone.⁴³ When the epidemic hit Bristol Bay in the spring of 1919, cannery doctors treated Native residents ravaged by the disease. Ancillary to the hospital was the Radio Shack, the most extensive and efficient wireless apparatus in Bristol Bay. It handled all communications between the cannery and the outside world, which was critical during the outbreak. A cannery doctor and a nurse attended to people inflicted with the flu, most of whom all died and left behind an orphaned generation. These healthcare providers saved many Native children, but they would grow up disconnected from their culture.⁴⁴ Documenting the Hospital and shedding light on the historical events that occurred there will help uncover the industry's underlying value to local residents, as well as its costs. Listing will not only add to the National Register the first Bristol Bay property associated with the Spanish influenza pandemic—one of the most historically significant events in the 20th century. By bringing this story to the forefront, we will articulate the complexities between residents and the cannery and help heal a community still suffering from the residual impacts of cultural loss.

Despite traditional lifeways lost to cannery work, Native residents became significant contributors to and caretakers of the operation. Historically, they supplied salmon to the cannery, constituted the “spring/fall” crew that readied and winterized the cannery, and served as winter watchmen who protected the collective structures and stored boats throughout the offseason. The cannery's operational longevity is a testament to such Native vigilance. Cannery buildings that convey the Native experience and influence on cannery work include the Laundry, where Native women not only found jobs but controlled the workspace and activities therein. Equally significant are the Native Bunkhouse and the “white” Mess Hall, both of which reveal the ethnic and racial segregation policies prevalent in all Alaska salmon canneries. Moreover, because the cannery property has never been archeologically investigated, the grounds have the potential to continue the Brooks River archeological story and offer a more complete interpretation of the Naknek River's cultural past.

Another NN Cannery underrepresented group was the skilled European immigrants. They built the double-ender Bristol Bay salmon boats and the so-called “barns on stills,” where the salmon was canned. Ludwig “Louis” Heinrich Bernhard Watty, was one such immigrant from Frintrop, Germany. Ludwig settled in Alameda, California, where he worked as a skilled carpenter on several Art Nouveau buildings in San Francisco, Oakland, Berkeley campus. Alameda was also the home of the APA Start fleet, and it is likely how Ludwig ended up working as a carpenter in Naknek in 1914. Photos show that Ludwig used his carpentry skills to build APA's Dimond O Cannery, situated about one mile from the Diamond NN plant.⁴⁵ Unfortunately, only scant

⁴³ Alfred Crosby, *America's Forgotten Pandemic: The Influenza of 1918*, 2nd ed (Cambridge University Press., 2003). For discussion on the manifestation of the pandemic in Alaska see pages 228-264.

⁴⁴ Alaska Packers Association. (1923) *Service: The True Measurement of Any Institution Lies in the Service it Renders*. APA Collection, Alaska State Archives, Juneau Alaska.

⁴⁵ Family correspondence, “Ludwig “Louis” Heinrich Bernhart Watty,” Letter sent Jan. 2020.

APA Diamond NN Cannery

Bristol Bay, AK

Name of Property

County and State

information remains of the carpenters who built APA's diamond canneries, and stories like Ludwig provide a modicum of insight into who these men were.

Before 1952, the year that marks the end of sail in Bristol Bay, APA also employed mostly immigrants from fishing nations of Italy, Croatia,⁴⁶ Norway, and Sweden to gillnet salmon from double-ender sailboats. The only remaining properties associated with the sailboat fishermen are the net lockers and the Old Italian Bunkhouse, constructed in 1910. Historians have traced the origin of Bristol Bay's Italian fishermen to two locations: a Sicilian colony in Tunisia and Palermo's province on the island of Sicily. In both communities, fishing was the primary occupation.⁴⁷ Immigrants from these old-world communities migrated to the West Coast in the 19th century. Almost all arrived on a quest for California gold. Italian families settled in cannery towns like Black Diamond (Pittsburg), California, located on the lower Sacramento River, which eventually led them to fish the waters of Bristol Bay (see appendix for details.)

The Italian fishermen were considered a minority class of cannery workers. According to U.S. Fisheries inspector Jefferson Moser, the fishermen from Scandinavian countries such as Norway, Sweden, and Finland were called "north countrymen," or the "white crew." In contrast, those from Italy and Greece were called "Dagos," and placed by the canners in a lower tier of the cannery pecking order.⁴⁸

Axel Widerstorm, whose father was captain of the *Star of France*, took photographs of Italian fishermen, mainly from the Sacramento River, dressed in traditional clothing from the old country, capturing a lighter and more personal moment aboard APA's Star Ships.⁴⁹ The ship's destination was the Naknek River and the Diamond NN Cannery. The California newspaper, *Pittsburg Post Dispatch*, reported their return of the Sicilian fishermen aboard the Alaska Packer's *Star of France* in September 1913:

About eighty of the Alaskan fishermen arrived in San Francisco Thursday evening on the *Star of France*. Many of them immediately came to Pittsburg to see their family and friends, returning to the city to receive their earnings for the trip. *The Examiner* says Friday morning. ...The Alaska Packer's ship, *Star of France*, Captain Widerstrom, arrived from Kennek [sic] (Naknek) yesterday after a passage of 16 1/2 days. *The France* carried 187 Europeans, 169 Japanese and

⁴⁶ Croatian fishermen represent a second wave of immigrant fishermen who arrived in large number after WWII. They are mostly associated with Bunkhouses 1 and 2 which were built in the 1940s.

⁴⁷Russell M. Magnaghi, "Italian Contributions to the Development of Alaska." In *Italian American* (1991) pp 167-180.

⁴⁸Moser, Jefferson F. (1899) *Salmon Investigations of the Steamer Albatross in the Summer of 1898*, Bulletin of the United States Fish Commission, vol.21, 1999. Washington, DC: Government Printing Office.

⁴⁹ Alex Widerstrom Collection, San Francisco Maritime National Historic Park.

APA Diamond NN Cannery

Bristol Bay, AK

Name of Property

County and State

Chinese who have been employed in fishing and in the canneries and 32,372 cases of canned salmon.⁵⁰

The returning Pittsburg fishermen lived in NN Cannery's Italian Bunkhouse, which had a unique layout. Instead of a dormitory-style, each of its two-story levels has a central common area surrounded by 15 bunkrooms. The main space, long used for cooking, gambling, and other social gatherings, includes a long table and benches. The layout reflects its former occupants' social nature, who preferred to cook their own food (rather than eating the messhall) and socializing together. Stories say that the Italians would ship trunks filled with hardtack and red wine northward.⁵¹

The Italian Bunkhouse was located on the property boundary between the cannery and South Naknek villages, where local residents remember socializing with the Italian fishermen. "They would put together big parties to go to Diamond M beach, and we would dig clams," remembered South Naknek resident Trefon Angasan, who was a child in the 1950s. "Buckets and buckets of clams. And they would come up to the house, and they would soak them out, and they would cook it. You know, steam them in garlic, and bring their French bread and their wines. You know, that's how I grew up."⁵²

Besides Europeans, Asian immigrants also labored at the NN Cannery. In fact, in the early years of the canned salmon industry, the processing crews came primarily from China. (for more details, see the historic contexts in the appendix.) One of the most lasting, telling, and unapologetic depictions of the Asian cannery workers to remain in Alaska canneries is a machine called the "Iron Chink." The revolutionary machine was invented to mimic and eventually replace the human butchers, who cleaned the salmon by hand—a critical task assigned to the Chinese workers. Machines, however, did not supplant Asian processors, as indicated by numerous cannery buildings built in later years to accommodate a diverse group of workers. However, the butchering machine exponentially reduced Chinese butchers' status, eventually pushing the human workers into historical obscurity.

The grouping of four small Chinese bunkhouses, built around 1910, are some of the cannery's oldest structures. They were built to house the earliest cannery processors indicate that Asian workers were vital to the operation from the beginning. Although the Asian cannery workers were necessary, they were nevertheless isolated from the rest of the cannery complex, suggesting segregation and pacification policies. The plain design of these four structures represents the "no-frills" architecture that served a purely functional purpose. Moving Asian

⁵⁰ *Pittsburg Post Dispatch* on April 13, 1913, as printed in Earl Hohlmayer, *Looking Back III: Takes of Italian Fishing Pioneers of Pittsburg, Monterey & Alaska* (E&N Hohlmayer: Antioch, CA), 2002, 105.

⁵¹ Tim Troll correspondence.

⁵² Trefon Angasan, NN Cannery Project Jukebox, University of Alaska Fairbanks.
<http://jukebox.uaf.edu/site7/nncannery>.

APA Diamond NN Cannery

Bristol Bay, AK

Name of Property

County and State

workers from the four bunkhouses to a larger, two-story building in later years suggests that the Asian workforce was surging as cannery lines mechanized. But the change in the building's name from "China House" to "Mexican Bunkhouse" denotes the impact of national laws such as the 1882 Chinese Exclusion Act and the Geary Act, passed in 1902. These laws made the exclusion of Chinese immigrants permanent. As a result, Alaska's skilled Chinese laborers were eventually replaced with the less-skilled and historically lesser-known Mexicans, Puerto Ricans, Hawaiians, and African Americans cannery hands.

The Mexican workers, the largest ethnic group to labor at the cannery before WWII, reflect the diversity and underrepresented history of the cannery workers at the NN Cannery (see Labor Contractors, appendix). Forgotten in historical narrative and memory, these essential workers left behind graffiti etchings on the old bunkhouse walls, which collectively represent the only enduring trace of their existence. Written in English and Spanish are scribbles ranging from "I was here" dates, numbers of hours worked, drawings of girlfriends, and even a reference to a Puerto Rican place name. The graffiti is one of the few tangible links to the NN Cannery's Latino workers. It offers clues of the cannery's social milieu. Notably, the graffiti connects Alaska to the nation's broader immigration story, especially those from Mexico who worked in central California's fruit packing industry.

Likewise, African Americans made up the so-called China Gang in the nineteen-teens. The Black cannery workers were erased from their role as essential workers and exploited by industry promoters who used racialized imagery on labels to sell canned salmon to Southern markets during Reconstruction. Although there is no category for "Hawaiians" or "Polynesians" in the APA corporate records, oral testimony from local residents recalls that the NN Cannery did hire Polynesian cannery laborers. These workers were possibly enumerated in the category marked as "miscellaneous." Continued research to better understand the Polynesian connection remains in progress. However, we know that more unionized groups eventually pushed Mexican, Puerto Rican, Hawaiians, and African Americans out of the canned salmon labor force.⁵³ This diverse and little-understood workforce contributed to the most prosperous era in the history of the canned salmon industry. They are also directly connected to the organization of California Packing Corporation, later known as Del Monte. This underrepresented period in cannery history is critically important, for it offers a global lens into the entire canning industry and provides insight into how the Diamond NN Cannery connected to this broader history.

Over the decades, some Asian workers experienced upward mobility within the cannery order. Before the Great Depression, Filipino schoolboys—the *Alaskeros*—made their way to Alaska canneries to seek work to pay for college and would transform the labor system through the

⁵³ Baunach, Leo. "The International Fishermen and Allied Workers of America," *Working Waterfronts*, University of Washington. http://depts.washington.edu/dock/IFAWA_pt1.shtml.

APA Diamond NN Cannery

Bristol Bay, AK

Name of Property

County and State

Union's power by the 1940s. The postwar years saw Filipino workers transition into skilled positions such as machinists and carpenters. The Dimond NN Cannery's Filipino Mess Hall's construction suggests that crew size was relatively large and necessary to the canning operation. Still, the Filipino Mess Hall also reveals a darker story of racial segregation. The presence of a separate "white" Mess Hall and the Filipino Mess Hall underscores this discrimination. The shuttering of the Filipino Mess Hall (converting it to a provisions warehouse and fishermen's laundry), combined with the construction of a single Mess Hall for all cannery workers, signifies a shift in company policy. Forced by Filipino unionization and legal action, the policy shift eventually led to an integrated cannery workforce.⁵⁴ (For more information, see the historic contexts in the appendix.)

Japanese cannery workers also labored at the NN Cannery in the early days. But what makes the Japanese role at the cannery stand out occurred after WWII, when the U.S. government allowed America's one-time-enemy to re-engage in international commercial imports and exports. The introduction of the Egg House in 1966 reflects the economic importance of the packed salmon roe, a specialty food prepared for Asian palates. The salmon roe, or fish eggs, was packed by Japanese technicians, sold by Japanese brokers, and considered far more valuable than the canned fish product. Bilingual Japanese personnel were hired to supervise both the Fish House and Egg House.⁵⁵ Understanding these groups' ability to adapt to their circumstances and even move beyond them broadens our interpretation of the Asian experiences in Alaska canneries. (For more information, see the historic contexts in the appendix.)

Historically, Chinese, Japanese, Mexicans, Puerto Ricans, African Americans, Polynesians, Filipinos, Croatians, Italians, Scandinavians, Sugpiaq, and Yupik Natives, men as well as women, the young and the seasoned, worked side by side at the Diamond NN Cannery at one time or another. Significantly, they also died together, as underscored by the Diamond NN Cannery Graveyard, including Chinese and Catholic graves. Together, these historically underrepresented, cosmopolitan groups connected Alaska to the broader world and created Bristol Bay's ethnically diverse, economically vital cannery culture. The story of NN Cannery's workforce echoes the words of Maritime Historian Joel Stone, who wrote,

"The maritime community has always been the earth's most diverse and cosmopolitan population, going back to the days of seagoing vessels where Caucasians, Asians, and Africans worked together for centuries."⁵⁶

⁵⁴ Ron Chen, *Remembering Slime Domingo and Gene Viernes: The Legacy of Filipino American Labor Activism*, (Seattle: University of Washington Press, 2012).

⁵⁵ Dougherty, W.P., Mr. "Tashiyo Goes to Kodiak." In *Alaska Advocate*, Vol. 2, 49, December 7-13, 1978.

⁵⁶ Joel Stone, *Interpreting Maritime History at Museums and Historic Sites*, Rowman & Littlefield, 2017.

APA Diamond NN Cannery

Bristol Bay, AK

Name of Property

County and State

Without a doubt, canneries were and continue to be natural resource extractors—they used technical and organizational skills, engineering knowledge, and energy to transform natural resources—sockeye salmon—into a commodity for world markets. But canneries like APA’s Diamond NN Cannery are also important maritime and labor history sites that retain the overlooked stories of America’s past. To fully understand the value of the canned salmon industry as it expanded from San Francisco Bay to Bristol Bay, historian Donald Worster suggests that historians consider “the ethnic histories of the residents, migrants, and immigrants involved in the extraction of the region’s great natural wealth.”⁵⁷ Whether they came from China, Mexico, the Philippines, or simply upriver, the Diamond NN Cannery workers found dignity through their laborious interactions. Their diverse traditions left a mark on Alaska’s history and culture. Their work mattered.

But despite their skill and labor, Diamond NN Cannery workers, like cannery workers everywhere, existed in the shadows, only to be marginalized, exoticized, or ignored by writers, curators, even park managers in the popular narratives of Alaska’s most important salmon fishery. They collectively constitute Alaska’s “invisible cannery people,” a multi-ethnic and multi-cultural population that is poorly understood. Their work and collective customs and traditions shaped the cannery’s labor landscape, and yet, despite the global importance of canned salmon, the workers’ stories remain historically overlooked. The collective knowledge of the mechanical operation, physical labor, and the salmon themselves collectively held by these minority laborers formed the cannery’s industrial backbone. The Diamond NN Cannery’s 61 contributing properties—both together and individually—retain and convey cannery workers’ personal experiences and collective contributions.

Today, the cannery’s discarded machine parts, broken boardwalks, skeletal remains of bunkhouses, and graffiti etchings on the walls are all that remain of Bristol Bay’s forgotten workforce. Yet, these abandoned artifacts are essential because they provide historical insight and a comprehensive understanding of the natural, cultural, and economic history that once occurred in the buildings still standing on the Naknek River banks. Like the salmon, cannery people connected the land-based operation to the Pacific waterscape and beyond.

The Diamond NN Cannery is significant for its profound ability to explain the significance of Alaska’s canned salmon workplace and assign historical meaning to the cannery people who labored therein. Its association with Alaska’s canned salmon industry represents the corporate story via the Alaska Packers Association and the labor story via the diverse groups who constituted the cannery workforce. Although located on the Bering Sea’s far western shores, the NN Cannery’s industrial buildings still retain a remarkably “American” story of business, immigration, and cultural connections. As one contemporary observer put it, *“The NN Cannery is the great American story no one knows about.”*⁵⁸ Therefore, because the Diamond NN

⁵⁷ Donald Worster, *Under Western Skies: Nature and History of the American West*, Oxford University Press, 1992.

⁵⁸ Filmmaker Scott Jensen while visiting the historic property in July 2019.

APA Diamond NN Cannery

Bristol Bay, AK

Name of Property

County and State

Cannery Maritime Historic District is associated with events that have significantly contributed to our history's broad pattern, it qualifies for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A.

Criterion C: A Century of Salmon Cannery Construction

The NN Cannery is one of the most illustrative representatives of a large, remote salmon cannery on the West Coast. The 50 contributing buildings collectively convey the self-sufficiency, skilled construction techniques, and practical utilization of the natural environment that evolved over a century. Unlike many other Bristol Bay canneries, the NN complex never saw major damage due to fire and was never repurposed for anything other than canning salmon.

The cannery has extraordinary physical integrity. Not only is the integrity of the complex strong, but the building layout and organization convey the story of segregation as well as its efficient industrial complexity. While the cannery does not exhibit highly sophisticated configurations, ornamental detailing, or workmanship, it illustrates functional, practical, and economical construction methods. The barn-like style of the buildings was designed to endure Bristol Bay's volatile weather.

The buildings retain their original construction materials, particularly lumber imported from the Pacific Northwest and California. The use of driven piles in the construction of the pier itself is not unique. However, implementing that same technique for the foundations of structures elsewhere on-site (such as the new messhall and bunkhouses) demonstrates a practical utilization of available resources and skillsets that may have contributed to the longevity of specific structures. Architectural features such as the window fronting the Fish House are unique for Alaska canneries and greatly improved the working conditions inside.

A dedicated carpentry shop at the cannery illustrates the ability to provide maintenance for the operation at a remote location. Specific buildings such as the machine shop, the power house, the carpenter shop, and the old forgery in the blacksmith shop represent the skilled workforce necessary to maintain the buildings and dock.

Therefore, because The Diamond NN Cannery Maritime Historic District embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, and construction method, it qualifies for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C.

Criterion D: Repository of New Information

The NN Cannery Maritime Historic District has the potential to provide new information about the ethnically diverse transient workers. The cannery may yield new information about the Spanish-speaking workers whose representation in the historical record is absent and the

APA Diamond NN Cannery

Bristol Bay, AK

Name of Property

County and State

Indigenous residents, who have maintained a longstanding relationship to the salmon, the Naknek River, and the cannery.

Historic archeological investigations at the NN Cannery can help determine the exact location of the original saltery and better understand the discarded industrial objects. Areas such as "Chinatown" may have archaeological evidence that can provide more information about the lives of the cannery's underrepresented workforce. Particular focus should include (but are not limited to) the little-known Mexican, Puerto Rican, Hawaiian, and African American workers. Other areas of interest within the maritime district that may yield important information about cannery work and the underrepresented cannery communities include the Fisherman's Net Loft, Junk Yard, Company Graveyard, and the deteriorated Flat Scow site.

In addition to information about the cannery, archeological investigations might provide information about people in the area before the cannery opened. Packers Creek, which runs beneath the cannery and intersects the historic property, stands out for its archaeological potential to shed light on the region's Indigenous people due to its proximity to the coast, confluence with the Naknek River, and as a source of reliable freshwater. Because commercial buildings have occupied the area since the late 19th century, the property has never been archeologically investigated. U.S. surveyors, however, noted the presence of a Native village and graveyard west and south of the cannery buildings. Historic photographs of the Old South Naknek Village suggest that the village was located at the same site as the Superintendent's Office for the same reason: the river's unobstructed views.

Therefore, because The Diamond NN Cannery Maritime Historic District has the potential to yield information about our history, it qualifies for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion D.

The Diamond NN Cannery: Historic Period of Use, 1890-1982

The Alaska Packers Association operated the NN Cannery from 1890-1982. In this time, the property expanded from a 4-building saltery to a 51-building industrial complex. The 92 years of industrial growth is divided into seven periods: *Incorporation, 1890-1895; Establishment, 1895-1915; Resiliency, 1916-1945; Rehabilitation, 1946-1949; Postwar, 1949-1966; Compliance, 1966-1979; End of an Era, 1979-1982.*

Diamond NN Cannery Superintendents

H.C. Jensen, 1892 to 1893

W. Bankowski, 1894 to 1897

Andrew Nielson, 1898 to 1916

Dick Lea, 1917 to 1918

John Frederick Heinbockel, 1919 to 1940

Frank Phillips, 1940 to 1944

APA Diamond NN Cannery

Bristol Bay, AK

Name of Property

County and State

Frank Elliot, 1944 to 1951

Hank Bison, 1952 to ca. 1965

Norman Rockness, ca. 1965 to 1977

Tom Takeoka 1977 to 1978

Gary Johnson 1979 to 1995

Period One: Incorporation, 1890-1895

In 1890, Arctic Packing Company built a saltery near a freshwater creek (later called Packers Creek), about five miles from the Naknek River's mouth on its south bank. H.C. Jensen served one season as the saltery's superintendent. A few years earlier, 1884, Arctic Packing Company owners Carl Rohlffs and Henry Fortmann had built the first cannery in Bristol Bay on the Nushagak River. With success, Arctic Packing expanded to the Naknek River to test the location, first as a saltery. A year later, in 1891, Rohlffs died, leaving Fortmann in charge. That same year, with the high number of commercial operations canning salmon, the market for canned salmon became saturated. In response, most Alaska canners joined the Alaska Packing Association in 1892, organized to control production and sell the canned salmon surplus. The following year, Arctic Packing Company reincorporated the profit-sharing organization as the Alaska Packers Association (APA). APA consisted of the nation's leading canners, including George Hume, who, along with his brothers, established the first salmon cannery on the West Coast; William Bradford, who built the third cannery in Bristol Bay and hired the first Italian fishermen to fish the Bay; Francis Cutting, whose interests in canning, launched the American Can Company and Del Monte Corporation; and Louis Sloss, Jr., whose father was the longtime president of the Alaska Commercial Company. Together, Fortmann and Sloss controlled 25 percent of APA's stock. Fortmann was elected the APA's first president.

In 1894, Sloss dismantled the Thin Point cannery and rebuilt it at Arctic Packing Company's saltery on the Naknek. Serving as the Naknek station's first superintendent was W. Bankowski, who ran the cannery from 1894 to 1897. The plan included the installation of three fish traps around the mouth of the river. Not everyone was happy about this prospect. That year, L.A. Pederson, who had built a saltery on the north side of the Naknek, wrote a letter to the U.S. Commissioner of Fish and Fisheries warning the government of the Naknek developments: "They [APA] are also making preparations to put up a cannery across the river from me," wrote Pederson. "I learn from good authority that their idea is to put traps on my side of the river also, so that I will be entirely shut out." Pederson continued to express concern about APA's presence on the south side of the Naknek River. "All I have made in and out of Alaska I have put in improvements at my cannery site, and it seems a strange law to me which will allow a huge corporation like the Alaska Packers Association to down a poor many."⁵⁹

⁵⁹ Letter to Marshall McDonald from L.A. Pederson, January 28, 1895. *The Seal and Salmon Fisheries and General Resources of Alaska*, Vol. 2, Washington: GPO, 1898, pp. 432-433.

APA Diamond NN Cannery

Bristol Bay, AK

Name of Property

County and State

Despite Pederson's concerns, Naknek River was not suited for traps. The ebb and flow of tides cemented the need for the Columbia River sailboats and gillnet fishermen to pursue salmon for canners in Bristol Bay. Pederson later built a cannery at his saltery site, which, although modified over the century, continues to operate today. By 1895, NN Cannery began to can salmon caught by Italian and Scandinavian fishermen and processed by a crew of Chinese cannery workers. The saltery continued to fill barrels of surplus salmon until cannery machinery improved around the 1920s.

Period Two: Establishment, 1895-1917

Soon after incorporation, APA began assembling its northbound fleet, the full-rigged sailing vessels, collectively called the "Star" fleet. APA's Star Fleet included the *Star of India*, the *Star of France*, the *Star of Bengal* (which sank off Alaska's southeast coast), and the *Star of Alaska* (current on display at the San Francisco Maritime National Historic Park and renamed the *Balclutha*.) These tall ships sailed under the Association's red, blue and black flag ensign.⁶⁰ In the first year of operation, the former Arctic Packing plant packed 22,000 cases of canned salmon. By 1900, APA produced 70% of Alaska's total salmon pack and owned or controlled 90% of its canneries. Industry insiders referred to the corporate owners as "influential Western decision-makers" and "empire builders." In 1900, canneries were still described by their original buildings rather than by the profit-sharing corporation. For example, when U.S. Fisheries Inspector Jefferson Moser visited South Naknek in 1900, he referred to the Naknek station as the Arctic Packing Co. cannery.⁶¹ It is about this time that APA renamed its canneries. Following a pattern of naming its Star Fleet, the corporation began assigning each shore plant an initial surrounded by a chevron, an accounting symbol designating "at." As APA expanded from its Nushagak <N> Cannery to the other major Bristol Bay rivers, they continued to identify their assets with the diamond-shaped chevron. The cannery at Ugashik was named <U>. Egegik's cannery was <E>. They called the cannery on the Kvichak (pronounced "kwee-jack") the phonetically sounding <J>. They gave the Arctic Packing cannery on the south bank of the Naknek River the initials NN, possibly for NakNek, i.e. <NN>, adding the South Naknek station's Diamond NN to what became APA's well-known trademark: "the diamond canneries."⁶²

Underscoring APA's legacy are its efforts to modernize Alaska's canned salmon industry and preserve its history. The company installed a modern communications system in Bristol Bay. It won medals for introducing a mechanical canning line at the 1900 World's Fair in Paris. APA introduced the first canned salmon recipe book at the 1904 World's Fair in St. Louis and displayed its world-class museum collection of bidarkas, cannery models, and international souvenirs. During this time, APA built the first cannery buildings at South Naknek, eventually absorbing the saltery into its infrastructure.

⁶⁰ "Alaska Packers Association," *Del Monte Shield*. (1949.)

⁶¹ "Museum: Early Days of APA," *Del Monte Shield*, (August 1951).

⁶² For the sake of consistency <NN> Diamond NN will simply be written as NN throughout this document.

APA Diamond NN Cannery

Bristol Bay, AK

Name of Property

County and State

Overseeing the early construction period was longtime cannery superintendent Andrew Nielson, who served from 1898 to 1916. During this period, the first buildings consisted of the Cannery, Boiler Room, and the original Warehouse 1. The original dock was built to support the waterfront buildings. An APA Office building, which served the office staff and store, was built for the superintendent, bookkeeper, and other office staff to conduct administrative duties. Except for the dock, which has been rebuilt several times over the century, these buildings remain intact. Three Marine Ways were built on the east hillside to store the fish scows during the winter. Although the ways collapsed, both winches remain, along with scattered remains of chains and wire. APA constructed warehouses 3, 4, 5, 6 to house the machine shop, carpenter shop, and salmon storage. These buildings were demolished in the 1940s and replaced with more durable structures that provided the same functions.

To house fishermen, APA built two bunkhouses, one for the Italians and a second for the Scandinavians. The Italian bunkhouse, although modified with a bathroom addition in the 1940s, remains intact. The first processors at the NN Cannery were Chinese, who, in the early days, soldered the tin cans by hand. The Solder House, located in the Junkyard site, also stands. A cluster of buildings was constructed on the east side of Packer's Creek at the toe of the hill to house the Chinese workers. Colloquially "Chinatown," the buildings are noticeably set apart from the rest of the cannery complex. Four of the seven original buildings still stand but are in poor condition and at risk of collapse. To house the cannery machinists, carpenters, and other skilled laborers, a third bunkhouse was built in Lower Camp. The White House and Foreman's House, both still standing, were built close to the APA Office building, which too is standing. The Hotel and a Winterman's House were built on the bluff to the west of the White House.

From the beginning, mess halls at the NN Cannery were segregated. Cannery people ate at two different mess halls. One was in the Chinese Camp (demolished in the 1940s), while the other, the Old White Mess Hall, was in Lower Camp, and situated in a more central location. Although dilapidated, part of the Old White Mess Hall remains standing. Supporting the Mess Hall were buildings and sites associated with food, such as the Provisions Warehouse, barn, and associated stockyard. Photographs from 1917 show a small garden in the vicinity. These buildings remain standing and range from poor to good condition.

Buildings that offered special services were also constructed during this early phase. A Hospital, which remains standing and is in good condition, was built in the Upper Camp around 1913, with the Marshal's House/Jail constructed next door. The jail was demolished in the 1940s. An APA company graveyard was established near the top of the east hillside near the Marine Ways. Photographs of the "APA Graveyard in Naknek" show crosses with Euro-American, Mexican, and Chinese graves. Alder growth prevents investigation of this site. Also built were structures associated with wireless communications that are referenced in reports from 1919. A U.S. Survey of the property in 1922 shows a wireless station (old radio shack), operator quarters, and a boiler room that generated the power. Except for the defunct boiler room, none of these buildings remain.

APA Diamond NN Cannery

Bristol Bay, AK

Name of Property

County and State

Rather than coal, oil fueled the NN Cannery and powered its steam-driven machinery from 1895 to the present. Electricity was also utilized early on. The first boiler house built to generate electricity and power, the Radio Shack, was installed in Upper Camp across from the wintermen's duplex.

The NN Cannery's water supply originally came from Packers Creek, which runs through the plant property, and at one point, constructed a small dam at the south end of the property. Cannery also siphoned water from a nearby lake, about 8,000 feet southeast of the cannery. Water was later piped from Pump Lake, a much larger freshwater source, about 3,000 feet, or a bit over a half-mile, to the southwest.

Period Three: Resiliency, 1916-1941

In 1916, APA joined fruit and vegetable canners to form the California Packing Corporation, or CalPak, known later by its tradename Del Monte. The merger, combined with the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882 and the federal government waiving immigration restrictions for Mexicans during World War I, account for a spike in Mexican laborers at the NN Cannery during this time. Underscoring the transition from Chinese to Mexican workers at the NN Cannery shifted from the placename "Chinese Bunkhouses" to the "Mexican Bunkhouses."⁶³ In 1919, the Spanish influenza epidemic ravaged southwest Alaska, devastating Native villages throughout Bristol Bay. Staff at APA's NN Hospital responded to Native deaths and survivors. Because the flu dislocated so many Native people, a policy was established that offered work to the local residents during the winter months. The procedure marked the start of the cannery's "spring-fall crew." The year 1919 brought the local people even further tragedy. During World War I, Bristol Bay suffered its first red salmon run collapse caused by overfishing due to government demands for canned salmon. In 1922 the salmon industry peaked when 7,240,00 cases of one-pound cans were packed for a total value of 50 million dollars⁶⁴. The following year, the pack plummeted 60 percent and prompted a years-long debate on fishery management. In 1923, President Harding created the Southwest Fisheries Reservation to protect salmon. Incorporated into the reservation system were APA proposals to ban powerboats, fish traps, and seines in Bristol Bay, designed to regulate the number of salmon caught by fishermen to ensure the canneries could process the catch promptly. A year later, Congress passed the White Act, an idea proposed by APA, to replace the reservation system.

Meanwhile, work at the NN Cannery carried on. Dick Lea served one year as superintendent from 1917 to 1918. In 1919, John Frederick Heinbockel became superintendent at the Diamond NN Cannery and would serve in that capacity until 1940. In addition to managing the Naknek

⁶³ "Appraisalment of Alaska Packers Association Diamond NN" General Appraisal Company, 1941. APA Collection, Center for Pacific Northwest Studies, Bellingham, WA.

⁶⁴ "The Salmon Industry" General Notes. APA History Folder, APA Collection, Center for Pacific Northwest Studies, Bellingham, WA.

APA Diamond NN Cannery

Bristol Bay, AK

Name of Property

County and State

station, Heinbockel oversaw four other operations: Diamond O and M, situated on the Naknek River, and Diamond E and U, located on the Egegik and Ugashik Rivers, respectively. During this period, APA carpenters built the White House annex (Chicken Coop), a Store Warehouse next to the Office/Store building, a garage for the winterman, a duplex to replace the deteriorating Radio Shack and Winterman's House, cold storage near the mess hall, and a Cooks and Waiters bunkhouse. The electrical power plant was moved from Upper Camp to Lower Camp to a location south of the Forman's House in 1922, and three wooden scows were left on their ways and abandoned after the conversion to power scows in the 1930s. Likewise, APA began selling off its Star Fleet, the last fleet of commercial sailing vessels on the West Coast, replacing the square-riggers with steam or diesel-powered ships. Except for the Cooks and Waiters Bunkhouse, all of the cannery buildings constructed during this time remain standing while the scows have since dilapidated and collapsed.

The cannery stayed open despite a government proposal to close the fishery in 1935 and, in 1938, production peaked at 278,000 cases. By 1937, APA's "diamond canneries," including the NN Cannery, had produced more revenue than all the minerals mined in Alaska, including gold. In 1941, APA commissioned the General Appraisal Company to determine the value of its NN Cannery assets. The appraisal assigned value to every building, machine, furniture, and tool.⁶⁵

Period Four: Rehabilitation, 1942-1949

After Heinbockel died of a heart attack, Frank Phillips ran the cannery from 1940 to 1944. This period brought considerable change once again when the Diamond NN and other APA canneries closed after the Pearl Harbor bombing in 1941 and the attack on Dutch Harbor in 1942. The NN Cannery reopened the following year under the federal "Cannery Concentration" program. During and after WWII, APA began to consolidate its Alaska operations. The corporation moved its headquarters from San Francisco to Seattle to shorten northbound ships' distance to Alaska. Frank Elliot became superintendent in 1944 and served until 1951. Elliot oversaw the postwar period of cannery consolidation. By 1945, APA had shut down canning operations at Diamond M and O and concentrated on modernizing its canning efforts around the NN plant. In 1946, APA approved a Rehabilitation Plan, for which cannery superintendent Elliot requested \$1.2 million for upgrades. In 1946, Diamond NN was closed for the second time to commence rehabilitation.⁶⁶ Buildings constructed included: a new office crew bunkhouse (Crow's Nest) at the site of the old Radio Room, three new Bunkhouses, new blacksmith shop, new machine shop, and stock room, new carpenter shop, two new salmon/boat warehouses, a new mess hall for minority workers and associated barbeque pit, a meat house, fresh paint house, new laundry, port engineer shop, a second Winterman's House, a "Cat" garage for

⁶⁵ "Appraisement of Alaska Packers Association Diamond NN" General Appraisal Company, 1941. APA Collection, Center for Pacific Northwest Studies, Bellingham, WA.

⁶⁶ 1946 was the last time the NN closed for the duration of a salmon season, until it permanently halted production in 2001.

APA Diamond NN Cannery

Bristol Bay, AK

Name of Property

County and State

bulldozers needed for road and airstrip leveling, and a new fish house and westside dock. Several buildings were torn down to make way for the cannery rehabilitation.

On hearing about the Diamond NN and other Alaska canneries' rehabilitation plans, CalPak, APA's parent company, was incensed by what its president saw as an excessive funding request. CalPak, thus, approved only \$302,000 for rehabilitation and only \$82,000 for the NN Cannery. Although APA superintendents ignored the budget guidelines and went forward with the plan in 1946, some of the line-item actions listed in the Rehabilitation Plan, i.e., move the Hospital, replace the Cannery Building, and rebuild the White House, were put on hold indefinitely. It was during this period that Hank Bison became the NN superintendent.

Period Five: Postwar, 1949-1966

By midcentury, the canned salmon industry had long since peaked. The postwar years brought scientific, technological, and labor activities to Bristol Bay, significantly impacting the NN Cannery. Hank Bison became superintendent in 1952.

Now headquartered in the Pacific Northwest, APA began to support the formation of the University of Washington's Fisheries Research Institute in 1947 to better understand the science of salmon and restore Alaska's declining runs. However, in 1951, politics trumped science. Bristol Bay fishermen went on strike, a moment in Bristol Bay history reflecting the culmination of decades of unionization. The 1951 strike presented a conflict between independent fishermen and those who fished for canneries and was fueled on all sides by Bristol Bay's red scare. The strike resulted in lifting the ban on powerboats that unceremoniously ended Bristol Bay's age of sail. That same year, APA's Diamond J Cannery on the Kvichak and Diamond NC on the Nushagak closed permanently, while Diamond NN continued expanding its footprint.

The building endeavors during the postwar era included the new Mess Hall in 1950-1951. They also added in 1953 a Refrigeration Building and 12 refrigeration tanks located behind the fish house to hold surplus salmon. A New Diesel Power House was built in 1957 to replace the Lower Camp's ineffective power plant. But by far, the most impactful addition was the Egg House in 1966. That year three canneries began packing roe in Bristol Bay, and Diamond NN was one of them. The retention of the salmon roe increased the value of the salmon product and introduced more females into the workplace. Still, by the end of the period, APA's power declined and relocated its headquarters from Seattle to its Semiahmoo Cannery at Blaine, Washington. At the same time, Norm Rockness served as the NN Cannery superintendent through the 1960s.

Period Six: Compliance, 1966-1979

The 1960s and 1970s started with CalPak adopting the brand name Del Monte after a popular Monterey golf resort and ended with a botulism incident that killed two people. Instead of new

APA Diamond NN Cannery

Bristol Bay, AK

Name of Property

County and State

construction, APA responded to an era characterized by new regulations stipulated by laws such as the Occupational Safety and Health Administration Act in 1970 and the Equal Opportunity Act of 1972. By 1974, APA had established Affirmative Action Standard Procedures that set goals in hiring more ethnic minorities and women. The only significant addition to the property was the Women's Bunkhouse, built in 1971, reflecting women's increase in the cannery workforce. Likewise, APA budgets outlined tasks identifying updating, improving, and making the cannery workplace safer. The discontinuation and eventual removal of the exterior salmon bins from behind the Fish House and the addition of the ice plant designed to improve the quality of post-mortem salmon represents increased Food and Drug/OSHA regulations.

Equally impactful was the Alaska Cannery Workers Association (ACWA) formation and the 1973 and 1974 lawsuits filed against three Alaskan salmon packers, alleging discrimination under Title VII of the 1964 Civil Rights Act. The 1977 decision in *Domingo v. New England Fish Company (NEFCO)* led to industry-wide desegregation. At NN Cannery, bunkhouses were integrated, and the Filipino Mess Hall was converted into storage for the New Mess Hall and a Fisherman's Laundry in 1979.

Meanwhile, in 1978 the industry was hit hard by a botulism incident. Two deaths in Britain were linked to a single can from the Pacific American Fisheries cannery in False Pass. A year later, R. J. Reynolds Tobacco bought Del Monte. APA headquarters moved again, this time to Bellevue, Washington.

Period Seven: End of an Era, 1979-1982

In 1977, Superintendent Norm Rockness died and was replaced by Tom Takeoka, who worked to improve the NN processing efficiency and quality control along with assistant superintendent Gary Johnson. Johnson represented a new and the last generation of APA superintendents. In 1982, the industry faced another botulism incident, in which two deaths in Belgium were linked to cans from NEFCO's Ketchikan cannery. The flaw in the Ketchikan can was found in several cans from other canneries, including Egegik, and was linked to can reforming processes. The FDA recalled 60 million cans of Alaska salmon. With competition from the cheaper canned tuna, APA sold off its diamond canneries, including the NN Cannery, to the Midwest conglomerate Con Agra. Del Monte was sold to KKR, Texas Pacific, Del Monte Pacific Ltd., Big Heart Pet Foods, which is now J.W. Smuckers. Despite the APA's liquidation, the NN Cannery under the new corporate leadership continued to can fish. Throughout the 1980s and 1990s, it was the most productive cannery in Alaska.

Postscript: From APA to Trident Seafoods, 1987-2016

In 1987, Con Agra merged with Trident Seafoods to operate its salmon canneries. Then, in 1995, precisely one hundred years after APA built the NN Cannery, Trident repurchased itself from Con Agra, becoming the largest seafood company in the United States. The NN plant became known as Trident South (Trident also owned the cannery on the Naknek River's northside,

APA Diamond NN Cannery

Bristol Bay, AK

Name of Property

County and State

called Trident North). In 2001, the aging cannery produced its last canned salmon pack, ending a century-long run of canning salmon. Trident kept the facility open as a fisherman's camp, which provided boat storage and logistical support for its vast operation. In 2016, the former NN Cannery permanently closed to fishermen. Boats were removed from the warehouse. But due to the need for lodging and waterfront space, the facility remains open to limited support.

Conclusion

The NN Cannery processed millions of red salmon and was part of an industry that played an important role in Alaska, the West Coast, the Pacific Rim, and beyond. Its influence extended from local, state, national, and even to global stages, which shaped economic, cultural, and environmental activities from the late 19th century to the present. The NN Cannery was a place where thousands of people made a living. From its bunkhouses to the boardwalks, many of the cannery structures exhibit the underrepresented. Memories of machinery, the mess halls, and mug-ups continue to draw meaning to the community who once labored therein. The Pacific salmon, diverse crews, canned products, and corporate owners connected the NN Cannery to a global web. Its shutdown in 2015 marked the end of an era.

In a 1928 draft report on Alaska's Salmon Industry, APA President A.K. Tichenor, who took over operations when Fortmann retired, attributed APA's success to the skilled and dependable cannery people:

The company sends to Alaska each year over 4,000 men and employs in addition, a large number of Eskimos, Indians, and other residents of Alaska. 1,000 are Superintendents, Physicians, Bookkeepers, Mechanics, Beachmen, etc. About 1,000 are Fishermen, and the balance consists of other cannery employees. Many nationalities are represented amongst these men, but the Fishermen are usually composed of Italians and Scandinavians. These races [men from fishing nations] seem fitted for this particular branch of the industry.

The more salient features of the Alaska salmon industry are the amount of effort that must be expended in assembling the outfit of material and personnel, their transportation to the fishing grounds, the making of cans, cases, etc. the driving of traps and preparation of fishing gear, upon arrival. The repair of wharves and buildings carried away or damaged by ice and snow during the long winters—so that when the "run" starts the plant may be ready in every particular way.

Owing to the shortness of the canning season, which lasts only about four weeks in Bristol Bay, and the short time which we have for the preparation of the pack, the loading and shipment of salmon in the transporting vessels, before winter

APA Diamond NN Cannery

Bristol Bay, AK

Name of Property

County and State

sets in, it is essential that the outfit be completed in every respect and that the personnel be composed of men who are dependable and willing workers.⁶⁷

The Diamond NN Cannery was a meaningful place of work for thousands of cannery workers. Moreover, the work—patching, sliming, canning, cooking, carpentry, beach gang, and laundry service—connected cannery workers. Work created a community represented by different races, backgrounds, gender, and places. And through the shared work experience, the NN Cannery linked laborers through time and space. The cannery's interrelated buildings, bunkhouses, and boardwalks and the people who worked and lived in them reflected the universal Aristotelian principle that *the whole is great than the sum of its parts*.

"I will always remember the smell of a cannery," explains Brad Angasan. "It's really hard to explain because there's a form of familiarity that indoctrinates a sense of home, like the smell of the cookhouse when you're walking by the cookhouse. Or the smell of Devona's baking, you know. Those memories stand out the most to me—the smell of the store. You know, walking into the store and, you know, all the -- all the perfumes of the detergents, and, you know, the smell of all the merchandise, the spring merchandise that came in—the smell of the boats in the -- in the covered warehouse. You know, the -- the carpenter's smell of fresh-cut wood. The cedar -- cedar plank boats. Steve Alaniz [carpenter], you know. Someone like him, I mean, who just lived in sawdust. Those are -- those are fantastic memories. So, to me, the cannery was a living organism because it came to life, and it thrived."⁶⁸

When the owner, Trident Seafoods, closed the NN Cannery in 2015, it opened a rare window for historians to collect the stories of the "dependable and willing workers." Today, the historic NN cannery is a stage from which important, albeit underrepresented, history can be discovered and interpreted. From the Chinese butcher, the Native laundry lady, the Filipino slimer, the immigrant fisherman, the resident winterman, to the Japanese egg house technician, each cannery hand played an essential role in the broader process. Their collective stories remind us that no one group or individual associated with the NN Cannery experienced life there in the same way. And that is an important lesson. For how historians understand the past and how we perceive and relate to each other today.

⁶⁷ A.K. Tichenor, Value of the Canned Salmon Industry, draft, 1928. APA Collection, Center of Pacific Northwest Studies, Bellingham, WA.

⁶⁸ Brad Angasan, NN Cannery Project Jukebox. NN Cannery Project Jukebox, University of Alaska Fairbanks. <http://jukebox.uaf.edu/site7>.

APA Diamond NN Cannery

Bristol Bay, AK

Name of Property

County and State

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Name of Property

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Bristol Bay, AK

Name of Property

County and State

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APA Diamond NN Cannery

Bristol Bay, AK

Name of Property

County and State

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NN Cannery Project Jukebox, University of Alaska Fairbanks:

Interviews:

Mary Brown

Gary Johnson

Oscar Panaranda

Orin Seybert

Brad Angnasan

Trefon Angasan

Carvel and Shirly Zimin

Bob and Sylvia Metiever

Wayne Matta

Private Collections

Mike Rann, Marysville, Washington

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 # _____

_____ recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

APA Diamond NN Cannery

Bristol Bay, AK

Name of Property

County and State

Primary location of additional data:

☒ State Historic Preservation Office

☐ Other State agency

☐ Federal agency

☐ Local government

☐ University

☐ Other

Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): NAK 00300

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 45.9

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: _____

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

District Boundary Justification

The following points represent the boundary (listed clockwise, LAT LONG, decimal degrees, NAD83 Alaska Albers):

1. A- LAT, LONG: 58.717328, -157.002186
2. B- LAT, LONG: 58.717519, -157.001150
3. C- LAT, LONG: 58.717619, -157.001156
4. D- LAT, LONG: 58.717756, -157.000464
5. E- LAT, LONG: 58.717800, -156.998103
6. F- LAT, LONG: 58.718042, -156.996658
7. G- LAT, LONG: 58.718364, -156.995400
8. H- LAT, LONG: 58.718775, -156.994200
9. I- LAT, LONG: 58.714578, -156.994156
10. J- LAT, LONG: 58.714578, -156.997297
11. K- LAT, LONG: 58.713486, -156.997297
12. L- LAT, LONG: 58.713489, -157.000058
13. M- LAT, LONG: 58.714894, -157.000044
14. N- LAT, LONG: 58.714897, -157.001661
15. O- LAT, LONG: 58.715911, -157.001653
16. P- LAT, LONG: 58.715911, -157.002189

APA Diamond NN Cannery

Bristol Bay, AK

Name of Property

County and State

Or

UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

☐ NAD 1927 or ☐ NAD 1983

1. Zone:	Easting:	Northing:
2. Zone:	Easting:	Northing:
3. Zone:	Easting:	Northing:
4. Zone:	Easting :	Northing:

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

See map

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary is defined by US Surveys 2875, 1581, 69 (as amended), 1424, and 2957. To capture the pier which projects out into the Naknek River, the boundary was extended to include the pier perimeter, plus an additional offset plus an additional offset of 25m to encompass the immediate maritime setting. It consists of 51 buildings, 2 structures, 2 objects, and 7 sites that constitute the cannery complex and maintain historical integrity.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Katherine Ringsmuth PhD
organization: The NN Cannery History Project
street & number: 12005 Broadwater Drive
city or town: Eagle River state: AK zip code: 99577
e-mail: Katmaikate@aol.com
telephone: 907-830-2251
date: May 1-2019

APA Diamond NN Cannery

Bristol Bay, AK

Name of Property

County and State

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A USGS map or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)



APA Diamond NN Cannery

Bristol Bay, AK

Name of Property

County and State

Buildings

1. Fish House
2. Egg House Addition
3. Refrigeration House
4. Cannery
5. Boiler Room
6. Warehouse #1
7. Warehouse No. 3
8. Warehouse No.2
9. Love Nest
10. Port Engineer Shop
11. Machine Shop/Stock Room
12. Carpenter Shop
13. Blacksmith Shop
14. Paint Shop
15. Cannery Crew Bunkhouse #1
16. Cannery Crew Bunkhouse #2
17. Cannery Crew Bunkhouse #3
18. Cannery Crew Bunkhouse #4
19. Winch House Lower
20. Net Loft/Old "White" Mess Hall
21. Old Power House
22. Provisions Warehouse
23. Storage/Barn
24. Old Cold Storage
25. Cold Storage/Meat Locker
26. Fisherman's Laundry/Filipino Mess Hall
27. New Mess Hall
28. Machinist /Old Native Bunkhouse
29. New Cannery Crew Bunkhouse /Change Room
30. Bunkhouse No. 4/Old Italian Fisherman's Bunkhouse
31. Bunkhouse (Fisherman's) No. 1
32. Bunkhouse (Fisherman's) No. 2
33. Women's Cannery Crew Bunkhouse
34. Women's Bunkhouse/Hospital
35. Winter Watchman/Old Radio Shack
36. Old Boiler House/Radio Power Room
37. Old Garage
38. Cat Garage
39. Laundry
40. Crow's Nest

41. Forman's House
42. Power House
43. White House
44. Chicken Coop
45. Family Housing/Old Office Old Store
46. Old Store/Warehouse #4
47. Old Office/Hotel
48. Old Village graveyard

Structures

49. Ice House
50. Anchor
51. Water Tanks
52. Fuel Tanks
53. Pile Driver (not pictured)

Sites

54. Saltery
55. Winch Engine and Marine Ways site
56. Flat Scow Site
57. Air Strip
58. Graveyard
59. Junk Yard
60. Gas and Oil House Site

APA Diamond NN Cannery

Bristol Bay, AK

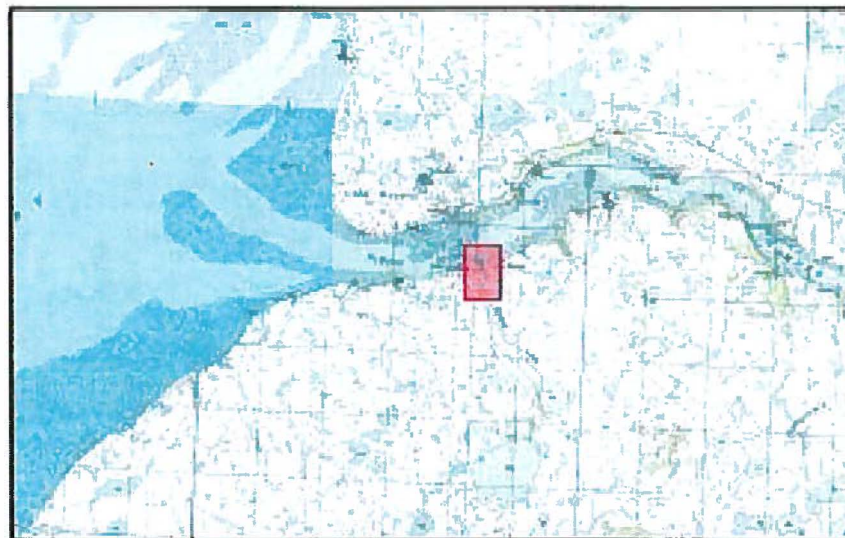
Name of Property

County and State

- **Maps:**



Location Map, State
Bristol Bay



Location Map, Region
National River

APA Diamond NN Cannery

Bristol Bay, AK

Name of Property

County and State



Boundary Site Map

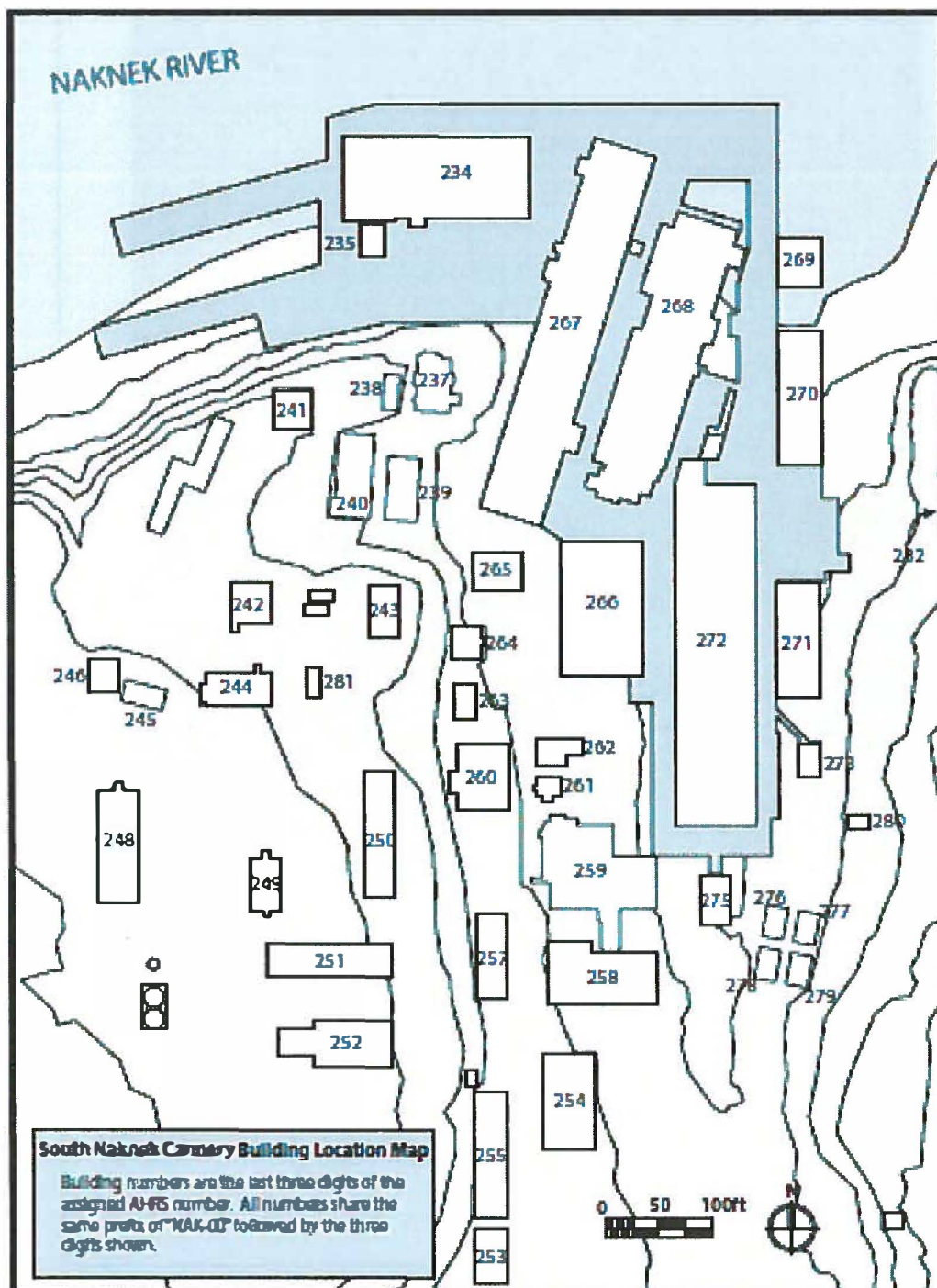
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| 2. B- LAT, LONG: 58.717519, -157.001150 | 10. J- LAT, LONG: 58.714578, -156.997297 |
| 3. C- LAT, LONG: 58.717619, -157.001156 | 11. K- LAT, LONG: 58.713486, -156.997297 |
| 4. D- LAT, LONG: 58.717756, -157.000464 | 12. L- LAT, LONG: 58.713489, -157.000058 |
| 5. E- LAT, LONG: 58.717800, -156.998103 | 13. M- LAT, LONG: 58.714894, -157.000044 |
| 6. F- LAT, LONG: 58.718042, -156.996658 | 14. N- LAT, LONG: 58.714897, -157.001661 |
| 7. G- LAT, LONG: 58.718364, -156.995400 | 15. O- LAT, LONG: 58.715911, -157.001653 |
| 8. H- LAT, LONG: 58.718775, -156.994200 | 16. P- LAT, LONG: 58.715911, -157.002189 |

APA Diamond NN Cannery

Bristol Bay, AK

Name of Property

County and State

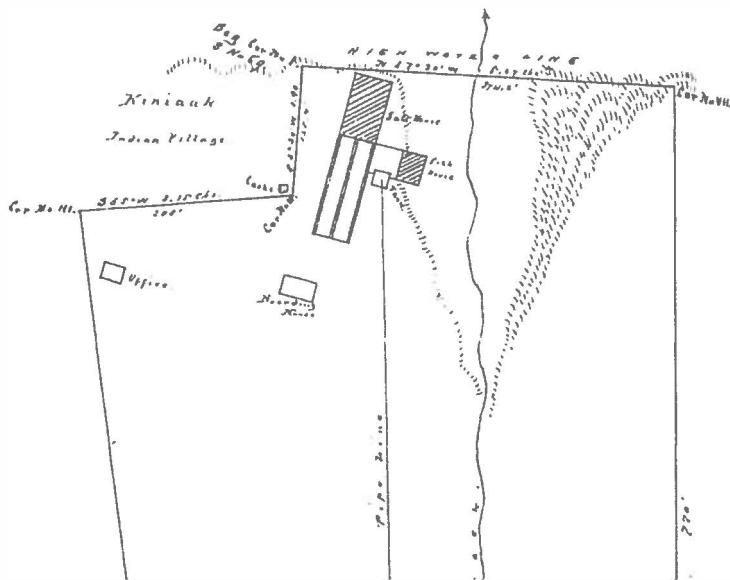


APA Diamond NN Cannery

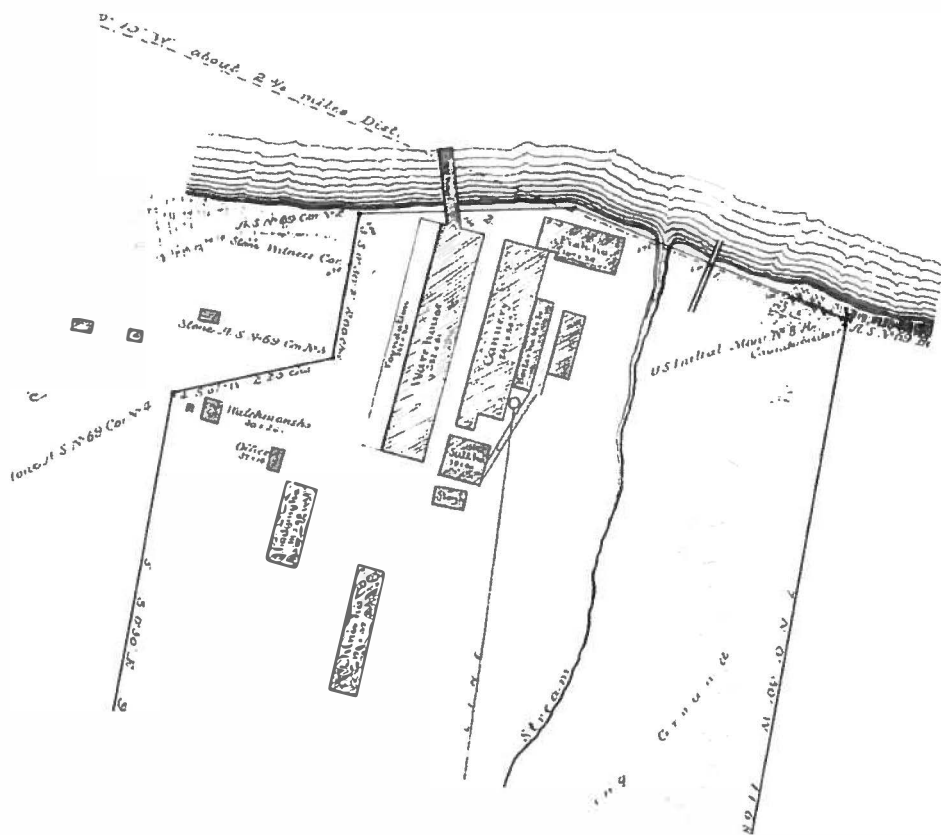
Bristol Bay, AK

Name of Property

County and State



US Survey 69, Naknek Fishing Station, July 20-21, 1892



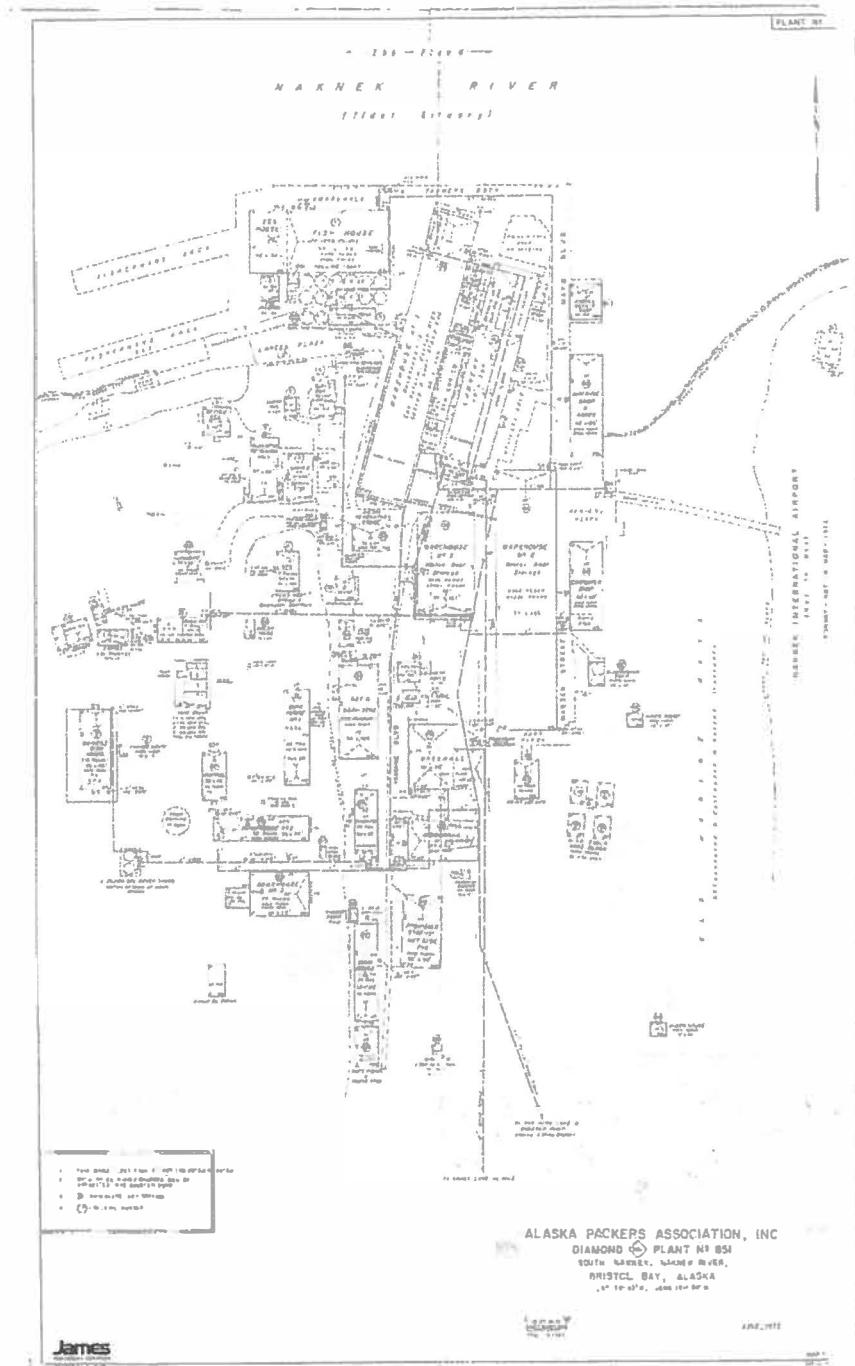
US Survey 69
Naknek Fishing Station, July 29, 1897

APA Diamond NN Cannery

Bristol Bay, AK

Name of Property

County and State



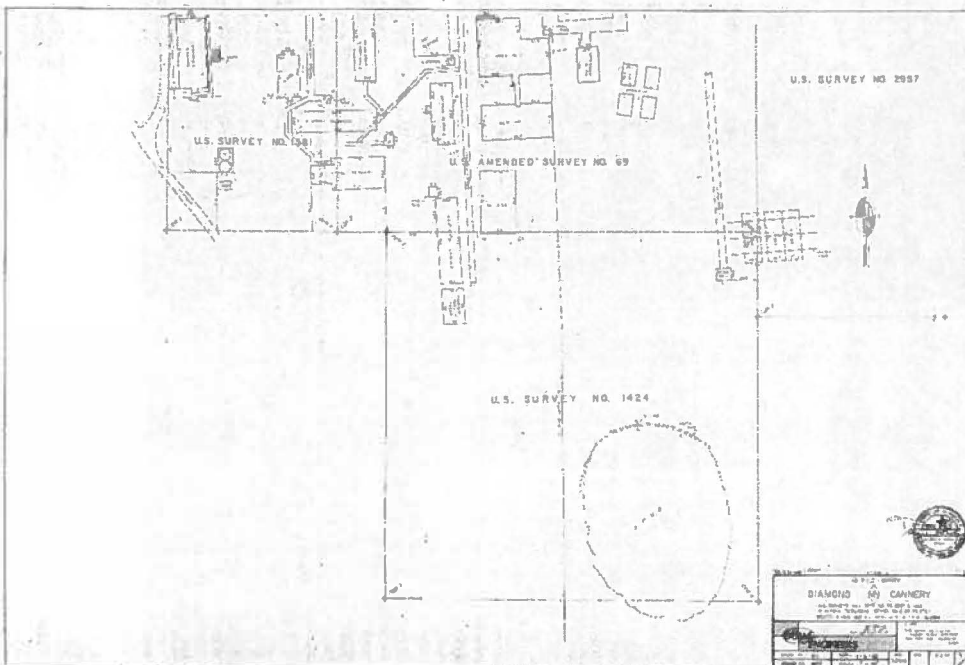
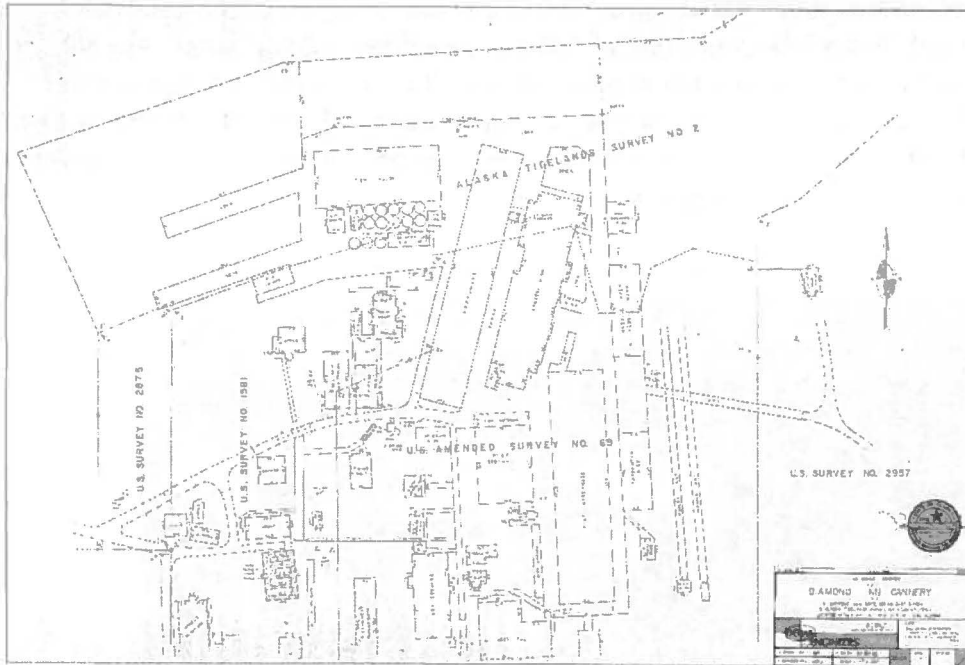
The NN Cannery,
South Naknek, 1979,
Alaska Packers
Association. Courtesy
of Trident Seafoods

APA Diamond NN Cannery

Bristol Bay, AK

Name of Property

County and State



The NN
Cannery,
1982, Alaska
Packers
Association.
Courtesy of
Trident
Seafoods

APA Diamond NN Cannery

Bristol Bay, AK

Name of Property

County and State

Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Numbers indicate the location of photographs listed in the photo log.



APA Diamond NN Cannery

Bristol Bay, AK

Name of Property

County and State

Photo Log



Name of Property: NN Cannery Maritime Historic District and South Naknek Village

City or Vicinity: South Naknek

County: Bristol Bay **State:** Alaska

Photographer: Anne Pollnow

Date Photographed: July 2017

Description: Aerial of NN Cannery at low tide.

APA Diamond NN Cannery

Bristol Bay, AK

Name of Property

County and State



Name of Property: NN Cannery Maritime Historic District

City or Vicinity: South Naknek

County: Bristol Bay **State:** Alaska

Photographer: Katherine Ringsmuth

Date Photographed: July 2016

Description: NN Cannery Complex looking northeast, with Naknek River in background.

2 of 26

APA Diamond NN Cannery

Bristol Bay, AK

Name of Property

County and State



Name of Property: NN Cannery Maritime Historic District, Fish House

City or Vicinity: South Naknek

County: Bristol Bay State: Alaska

Photographer: Katherine Ringsmuth

Date Photographed: July 2016

Description: NN Cannery Fish House, built in 1947, with unique window fronting the dock.
Northeast elevation.

APA Diamond NN Cannery

Bristol Bay, AK

Name of Property

County and State



Name of Property: NN Cannery Maritime Historic District, Cooling Warehouse or Warehouse 1

City or Vicinity: South Naknek

County: Bristol Bay State: Alaska

Photographer: Katherine Ringsmuth

Date Photographed: July 2016

Description: NN Cannery Cooling warehouse, built in ca. 1914. West elevation.

APA Diamond NN Cannery

Bristol Bay, AK

Name of Property

County and State



Name of Property: NN Cannery Maritime Historic District, Cannery Building

City or Vicinity: South Naknek

County: Bristol Bay State: Alaska

Photographer: Katherine Ringsmuth

Date Photographed: July 2016

Description: NN Cannery Building, ca. 1897. The oldest building was used to can salmon until 2001. Southwest elevation.

APA Diamond NN Cannery

Bristol Bay, AK

Name of Property

County and State



Name of Property: NN Cannery Maritime Historic District, Cannery Building

City or Vicinity: South Naknek

County: Bristol Bay **State:** Alaska

Photographer: John Wachtel, National Park Service

Date Photographed: July 2016

Description: The front on the NN Cannery Building. Note that the space in front of the building was the site of the Old Fish House. North elevation.

APA Diamond NN Cannery

Bristol Bay, AK

Name of Property

County and State



Name of Property: NN Cannery Maritime Historic District, Chinese Bunkhouses

City or Vicinity: South Naknek

County: Bristol Bay State: Alaska

Photographer: Katherine Ringsmuth

Date Photographed: July 2016

Description: NN Cannery four Chinese bunkhouses, build in ca 1910. Although area today is called "Chinatown," APA referred to the four buildings as the "Mexican Bunkhouses" in the 1940s. West elevation.

APA Diamond NN Cannery

Bristol Bay, AK

Name of Property

County and State



Name of Property: NN Cannery Maritime Historic District Graveyard

City or Vicinity: South Naknek

County: Bristol Bay State: Alaska

Photographer: Katherine Ringsmuth

Date Photographed: July 2016

Description: NN Cannery Graveyard, which is associated with the Chinese workers. This was an integrated cemetery, with Chinese, and Italian fishermen. The graveyard is at serious risk due to overgrowth of the alders.

APA Diamond NN Cannery

Bristol Bay, AK

Name of Property

County and State



Name of Property: NN Cannery Maritime Historic District Old Filipino Mess Hall

City or Vicinity: South Naknek

County: Bristol Bay State: Alaska

Photographer: Katherine Ringsmuth

Date Photographed: July 2016

Description: NN Cannery Old Filipino Mess Hall reflects the segregated eateries at the NN Cannery. In 1979, the Filipino Mess Hall was closed and converted into a Fisherman's Landry while the cannery crew mess hall was integrated. Southeast elevation.

APA Diamond NN Cannery

Bristol Bay, AK

Name of Property

County and State



Name of Property: NN Cannery Maritime Historic District Mess Hall

City or Vicinity: South Naknek

County: Bristol Bay **State:** Alaska

Photographer: Katherine Ringsmuth

Date Photographed: July 2017

Description: NN Cannery Mess Hall, built in 1949-50. Northeast elevation.

APA Diamond NN Cannery

Bristol Bay, AK

Name of Property

County and State



Name of Property: NN Cannery Maritime Historic District Old White Mess Hall

City or Vicinity: South Naknek

County: Bristol Bay State: Alaska

Photographer: Katherine Ringsmuth

Date Photographed: July 2016

Description: NN Cannery Old White Mess Hall. Now mainly dilapidated, this is likely one of the oldest building and reflects both the segregation and integration that occurred at the NN Cannery.

APA Diamond NN Cannery

Bristol Bay, AK

Name of Property

County and State



Name of Property: NN Cannery Maritime Historic District Bunkhouse 1

City or Vicinity: South Naknek

County: Bristol Bay State: Alaska

Photographer: Katherine Ringsmuth

Date Photographed: July 2016

Description: NN Cannery Bunkhouse 1. This bunkhouse was built in 1946 to house fisherman. West elevation.

APA Diamond NN Cannery

Bristol Bay, AK

Name of Property

County and State



Name of Property: NN Cannery Maritime Historic District Bunkhouse 2

City or Vicinity: South Naknek

County: Bristol Bay State: Alaska

Photographer: Katherine Ringsmuth

Date Photographed: October 2018

Description: NN Cannery Bunkhouse 2, was built in 1946 as part of APA's Rehabilitation program designed to replace the old Scandinavian bunkhouse.

APA Diamond NN Cannery

Bristol Bay, AK

Name of Property

County and State



Name of Property: NN Cannery Maritime Historic District Bunkhouse 3

City or Vicinity: South Naknek

County: Bristol Bay State: Alaska

Photographer: Katherine Ringsmuth

Date Photographed: October 2018

Description: NN Cannery Bunkhouse 3, built in 1910, was the original Italian Fisherman's Bunkhouse. It has a unique open floor plan, which is different than the other bunkhouses that are dormitory style. Northeast elevation.

APA Diamond NN Cannery

Bristol Bay, AK

Name of Property

County and State



Name of Property: NN Cannery Maritime Historic District Bunkhouse 4

City or Vicinity: South Naknek

County: Bristol Bay State: Alaska

Photographer: Katherine Ringsmuth

Date Photographed: July 2017

Description: NN Cannery Bunkhouse 4, originally built in ca. 1910 to house Native workers from outside of South Naknek, this bunkhouse later house carpenters and machinist as well. It is the only bunkhouse painted yellow.

APA Diamond NN Cannery

Bristol Bay, AK

Name of Property

County and State



Name of Property: NN Cannery Maritime Historic District Bunkhouse 5

City or Vicinity: South Naknek

County: Bristol Bay State: Alaska

Photographer: Katherine Ringsmuth

Date Photographed: July 2016

Description: NN Cannery Bunkhouse 5 was built as part of the rehabilitation plan to replace the "Chinese Bunkhouses," and house the cannery crew. Because the crew by this time was predominately Filipino, the bunkhouse was called the Filipino Bunkhouse until racial segregation of the housing area ended in 1979.

APA Diamond NN Cannery

Bristol Bay, AK

Name of Property

County and State



Name of Property: NN Cannery Maritime Historic District Hospital

City or Vicinity: South Naknek

County: Bristol Bay State: Alaska

Photographer: Katherine Ringsmuth

Date Photographed: October 2018

Description: NN Cannery Hospital, built in 1914, was one of seven medical centers APA supplied in Alaska. It is historically significant for its association with the Spanish Influenza outbreak that occur in summer 1919. When APA dissolved it was converted into a bunkhouse for the increasing female workers. Northeast elevation.

APA Diamond NN Cannery

Bristol Bay, AK

Name of Property

County and State



Name of Property: NN Cannery Maritime Historic District Hotel

City or Vicinity: South Naknek

County: Bristol Bay State: Alaska

Photographer: Katherine Ringsmuth

Date Photographed: July 2016

Description: NN Cannery Hotel, built around 1914 to house guests and maritime workers. Its unique use of shingles is similar to that of the hospital and were likely constructed by the same builder. South elevation.

APA Diamond NN Cannery

Bristol Bay, AK

Name of Property

County and State



Name of Property: NN Cannery Maritime Historic District Old Office

City or Vicinity: South Naknek

County: Bristol Bay State: Alaska

Photographer: Katherine Ringsmuth

Date Photographed: July 2016

Description: NN Cannery Old Office. The building was built around 1910 and was used as the main office for the superintendent and bookkeeper. The old Cannery Store and post office were also housed in the building. In the 1970s to increase space, the store moved to Warehouse 4. After APA dissolved, the old office was converted into quarters for married couples and families. East elevation.

APA Diamond NN Cannery

Bristol Bay, AK

Name of Property

County and State



Name of Property: NN Cannery Maritime Historic District Winterman's House

City or Vicinity: South Naknek

County: Bristol Bay State: Alaska

Photographer: Katherine Ringsmuth

Date Photographed: July 2017

Description: NN Cannery Winterman's House. Built in 1934, this building served as a duplex to house the winterman and radio shack. With improved communications technology, the Radio Shack was no longer needed. Today, the winterman and his family continue to live in this house and protect the cannery assets during the off-season. Northeast elevation.

APA Diamond NN Cannery

Bristol Bay, AK

Name of Property

County and State



Name of Property: NN Cannery Maritime Historic District Old Store/Rec Hall

City or Vicinity: South Naknek

County: Bristol Bay State: Alaska

Photographer: Katherine Ringsmuth

Date Photographed: July 2016

Description: NN Cannery Warehouse 4, built in 1935, was used to house retail supplies for the Company Store. The first floor was converted into the store. In the 1979s, the store was closed, and the space used as a rec hall for cannery workers. Southwest elevation.

APA Diamond NN Cannery

Bristol Bay, AK

Name of Property

County and State



Name of Property: NN Cannery Maritime Historic District White House

City or Vicinity: South Naknek

County: Bristol Bay State: Alaska

Photographer: Katherine Ringsmuth

Date Photographed: July 2016

Description: NN Cannery White House, built in ca. 1910, is architecturally the most unique building, reflecting a Late Victoria style. This was the home of the superintendent. Southeast elevation.

APA Diamond NN Cannery

Bristol Bay, AK

Name of Property

County and State



Name of Property: NN Cannery Maritime Historic District Boardwalk

City or Vicinity: South Naknek

County: Bristol Bay State: Alaska

Photographer: Katherine Ringsmuth

Date Photographed: October 2018

Description: NN Cannery boardwalk to mess hall area. Thousands of feet of boardwalk provided for circulation. Looking south.

APA Diamond NN Cannery

Bristol Bay, AK

Name of Property

County and State



Name of Property: NN Cannery Maritime Historic District Flat Scow Site

City or Vicinity: South Naknek

County: Bristol Bay State: Alaska

Photographer: Katherine Ringsmuth

Date Photographed: July 2016

Description: NN Cannery Flat Scow Site consists of the remains of three flat scows. When power scows or tenders were introduced in the 1930s, it is likely that these salmon boats were abandoned. Bob Kings walks across the side of the vessel for scale. Looking east.

APA Diamond NN Cannery

Bristol Bay, AK

Name of Property

County and State



Name of Property: NN Cannery Maritime Historic District, Anchor

City or Vicinity: South Naknek

County: Bristol Bay State: Alaska

Photographer: Katherine Ringsmuth

Date Photographed: July 2016

Description: NN Cannery Anchor is situated at the bottom of the stairs to the White House and marks the west end of the dock's entrance. The anchor's origin is unknown but conveys the maritime history associated with the NN Cannery.

APA Diamond NN Cannery

Bristol Bay, AK

Name of Property

County and State



Name of Property: NN Cannery Maritime Historic District

City or Vicinity: South Naknek

County: Bristol Bay **State:** Alaska

Photographer: Katherine Ringsmuth

Date Photographed: July 2017

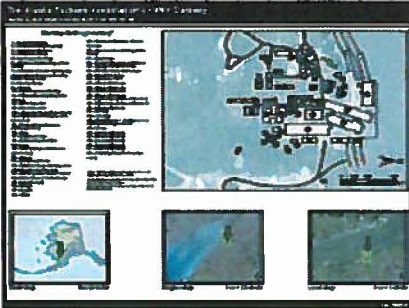
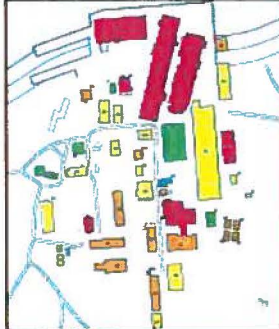







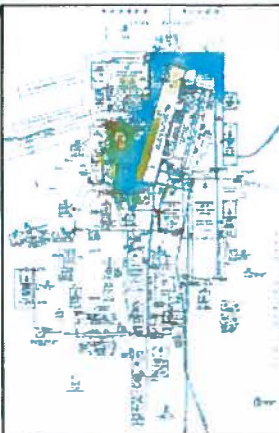
Description: NN Cannery (facing North) at high tide situated on the south bank on the Naknek River. Photographed are all 61 contributing properties.

APA Diamond NN Cannery

Bristol Bay, AK

Name of Property

County and State

NPS Providing Technical Assistance to the NN Cannery History Project Through the Heritage Assistance Program			
<p>The National Park Service is about more than just parks. The Alaska Region - Heritage Assistance Program offers a wide range of preservation technical assistance to National Historic Landmark owners, Alaska Native Groups, commercial, and historic property owners throughout Alaska. Our interdisciplinary team of cultural resource professionals includes archaeologists, historians and historical architects who can assist our partners in working to preserve their heritage.</p>			
2016	<p>The Alaska Native Center of the NN Cannery</p>  		
<p>Staffing in 2016, the National Park Service (NPS) provided initial technical assistance in the form of a site visit to evaluate the overall architectural and historic integrity of the structures remaining on site. The team also obtained basic dimensions for the majority of the structures.</p> <p>After the site visit, a map and chart describing the structures that remained the greatest integrity was produced in order to help preserve historic efforts.</p>			
2017	    	<p>The NPS continued their support in 2017, this time in an effort to gather information that would be necessary for producing a National Register nomination.</p> <p>GPS points were collected at building corners, which could be paired with the data collected on the previous site visit. Data was also collected at the nearby cemetery.</p> <p>The team had been researching historic plans and maps of the cannery complex in order to better understand the site's evolution over the years. By doing so, themes and patterns emerge to inform targeted research.</p>	<p>GPS points were recorded for a minimum of 2 corner points per building where possible. These two points allow for accurate placement of the building's footprint which was overlaid on the previous map.</p>
2018	 	<p>This is not a photograph, rather millions of 3D points collected from the High Definition Laser Scanner. Called a "point cloud" the data can be viewed in different ways to reveal important information about the structure.</p> <p>In this photograph, the High Definition Laser scanner can be seen in the bottom left as it acquires more data of the surrounding site.</p>	 <p>Overlaid onto the point cloud are the 1951 map. The map is a photograph of a 1951 map, which has 17 different positions on the site.</p>

APA Diamond NN Cannery

Bristol Bay, AK

Name of Property

County and State

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.