

**LDIR#051**

**HISTORIC**

**PRESERVATION**

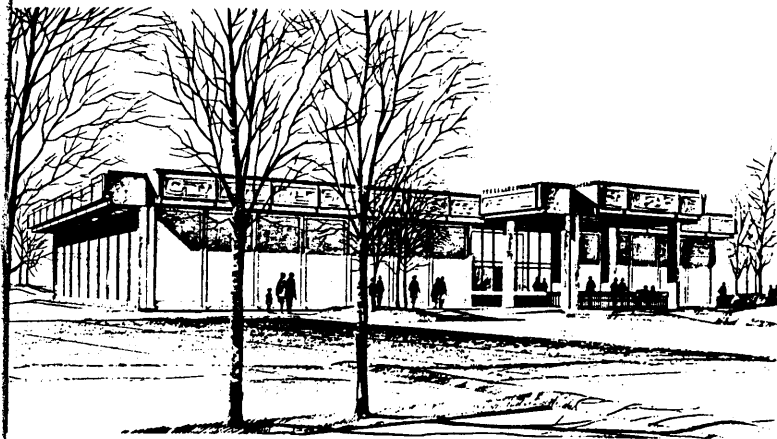
**MATERIAL**

**BACKGROUND**

**MATERIAL**

**1969-1970**

# **ALASKA HISTORICAL SOCIETY**



## **SECOND ANNUAL MEETING**

**FRIDAY-SATURDAY-SUNDAY  
NOVEMBER 15-16-17, 1968**

**HISTORICAL AND FINE ARTS MUSEUM  
121 SEVENTH AVENUE, ANCHORAGE**



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

ALASKA DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS

P.O. BOX 7002

ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99501

IN REPLY REFER TO

NPAEN-PR-E

10 November 1969

Dr. Paul J. F. Schumacher  
Regional Archaeologist  
National Park Service  
450 Golden Gate Avenue  
P. O. Box 36063  
San Francisco, California 94105

Dear Dr. Schumacher:

For some months this District has been considering potentials for beach erosion control along the north shore of Point Hope, Alaska, in the vicinity of the Old Tigara and Ipiutak archaeological sites.

Under present conditions, structural protection for the Point Hope beach area appears to be economically unjustified. Therefore, further loss and eventual total destruction of the archaeological sites is a serious threat. On the basis of historical measurements between 1880 and 1967, an estimated beach loss of approximately 8 to 9 feet per year is projected. At this rate, of the 575 feet of Old Tigara ridge depth remaining, 75 percent (300 ft) will be lost in 34 years, with total loss (100 percent = 575 feet) in 65 years. However, the site loss may occur much sooner due to flooding and topping of the beach ridge. The Ipiutak site is more evenly distributed along greater lengths of beach ridge; therefore, threatened attack will extend to 85 percent loss of the site in 415 years and total loss (100 percent) in 485 years. This can be misleading, since because of the greater number of ancient habitation sites at Ipiutak, the average house loss per year (1880-1967) is 1.8 compared to 2 per year at Old Tigara.

One facet of our study is the need to determine the relative importance and value of the antiquities within the area and to obtain information concerning any plans for further exploration and development of these ancient sites.

The purpose of this letter is to obtain your comments as to the importance and value of these sites and the possibilities of archaeological salvage work in the threatened areas. We are particularly interested in

TOTEM POLE SURVEY OF SOUTHEASTERN ALASKA

Report of Field Survey and Follow-up Activities

June - October 1969

Wilson Duff (editor)  
Jane Wallen  
Joe Clark

The Alaska State Museum, Juneau, Alaska  
October, 1969