COMMUNITY MAP

# NUIQSUT

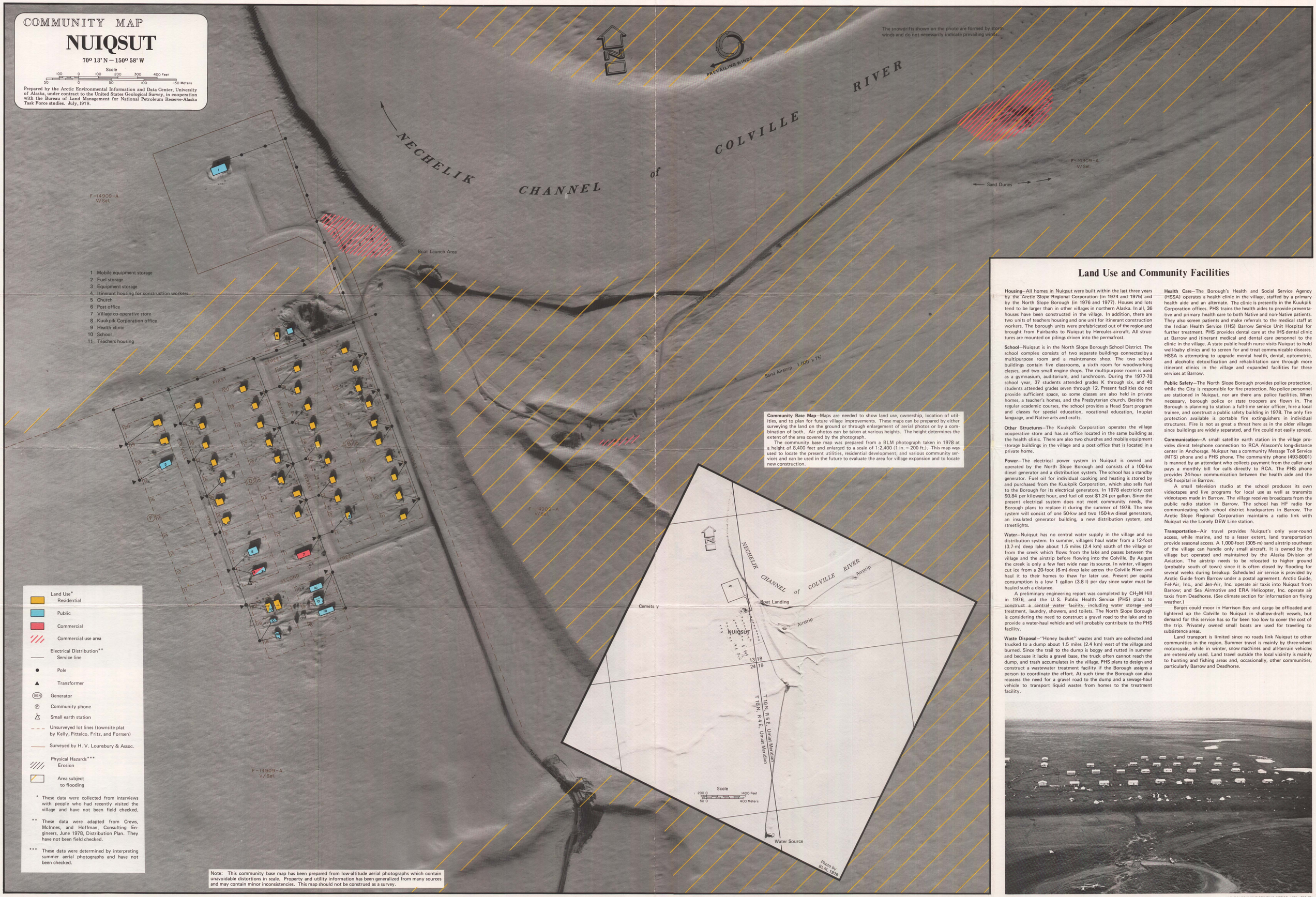
70° 13' N — 150° 58' W

Scale

100 0 100 200 300 400 Feet

50 0 50 100 150 Meters

Prepared by the Arctic Environmental Information and Data Center, University of Alaska, under contract to the United States Geological Survey, in cooperation with the Bureau of Land Management for National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska Task Force studies. July, 1978.




Note: This community base map has been prepared from low-altitude aerial photographs which contain unavoidable distortions in scale. Property and utility information has been generalized from many sources and may contain minor inconsistencies. This map should not be construed as a survey.

**Community Base Map**—Maps are needed to show land use, ownership, location of utilities, and to plan for future village improvements. These maps can be prepared by either surveying the land on the ground or through enlargement of aerial photos or by a combination of both. Air photos can be taken at various heights. The height determines the extent of the area covered by the photograph.

The community base map was prepared from a BLM photograph taken in 1978 at a height of 8,400 feet and enlarged to a scale of 1:2,400 (1 in. = 200 ft.). This map was used to locate the present utilities, residential development, and various community services and can be used in the future to evaluate the area for village expansion and to locate new construction.

## Land Use and Community Facilities

**Housing**—All homes in Nuiqsut were built within the last three years by the Arctic Slope Regional Corporation (in 1974 and 1975) and by the North Slope Borough (in 1976 and 1977). Houses and lots tend to be larger than in other villages in northern Alaska. In all, 36 houses have been constructed in the village. In addition, there are two units of teachers housing and one unit for itinerant construction workers. The borough units were prefabricated out of the region and brought from Fairbanks to Nuiqsut by Hercules aircraft. All structures are mounted on pilings driven into the permafrost.

**School**—Nuiqsut is in the North Slope Borough School District. The school complex consists of two separate buildings connected by a multipurpose room and a maintenance shop. The two school buildings contain five classrooms, a sixth room for woodworking classes, and two small engine shops. The multipurpose room is used as a gymnasium, auditorium, and lunchroom. During the 1977-78 school year, 37 students attended grades K through six, and 40 students attended grades seven through 12. Present facilities do not provide sufficient space, so some classes are also held in private homes, a teacher's homes, and the Presbyterian church. Besides the regular academic courses, the school provides a Head Start program and classes for special education, vocational education, Inupiat language, and Native arts and crafts.

**Other Structures**—The Kuukpik Corporation operates the village cooperative store and has an office located in the same building as the health clinic. There are also two churches and mobile equipment storage buildings in the village and a post office that is located in a private home.

**Power**—The electrical power system in Nuiqsut is owned and operated by the North Slope Borough and consists of a 100-kw diesel generator and a distribution system. The school has a standby generator. Fuel oil for individual cooking and heating is stored by and purchased from the Kuukpik Corporation, which also sells fuel to the Borough for its electrical generators. In 1978 electricity cost $0.84 per kilowatt hour, and fuel oil cost $1.24 per gallon. Since the present electrical system does not meet community needs, the Borough plans to replace it during the summer of 1978. The new system will consist of one 50-kw and two 150-kw diesel generators, an insulated generator building, a new distribution system, and streetlights.

**Water**—Nuiqsut has no central water supply in the village and no distribution system. In summer, villagers haul water from a 12-foot (3.7-m) deep lake about 1.5 miles (2.4 km) south of the village or from the creek which flows from the lake and passes between the village and the airstrip before flowing into the Colville. By August the creek is only a few feet wide near its source. In winter, villagers cut ice from a 20-foot (6-m)-deep lake across the Colville River and haul it to their homes to thaw for later use. Present per capita consumption is a low 1 gallon (3.8 l) per day since water must be hauled such a distance.

A preliminary engineering report was completed by $CH_2M$ Hill in 1976, and the U. S. Public Health Service (PHS) plans to construct a central water facility, including water storage and treatment, laundry, showers, and toilets. The North Slope Borough is considering the need to construct a gravel road to the lake and to provide a water-haul vehicle and will probably contribute to the PHS facility.

**Waste Disposal**—"Honey bucket" wastes and trash are collected and trucked to a dump about 1.5 miles (2.4 km) west of the village and burned. Since the trail to the dump is boggy and rutted in summer and because it lacks a gravel base, the truck often cannot reach the dump, and trash accumulates in the village. PHS plans to design and construct a wastewater treatment facility if the Borough assigns a person to coordinate the effort. At such time the Borough can also reassess the need for a gravel road to the dump and a sewage-haul vehicle to transport liquid wastes from homes to the treatment facility.

**Health Care**—The Borough's Health and Social Service Agency (HSSA) operates a health clinic in the village, staffed by a primary health aide and an alternate. The clinic is presently in the Kuukpik Corporation offices. PHS trains the health aides to provide preventative and primary health care to both Native and non-Native patients. They also screen patients and make referrals to the medical staff at the Indian Health Service (IHS) Barrow Service Unit Hospital for further treatment. PHS provides dental care at the IHS dental clinic at Barrow and itinerant medical and dental care personnel to the clinic in the village. A state public health nurse visits Nuiqsut to hold well-baby clinics and to screen for and treat communicable diseases. HSSA is attempting to upgrade mental health, dental, optometric, and alcoholic detoxification and rehabilitation care through more itinerant clinics in the village and expanded facilities for these services at Barrow.

**Public Safety**—The North Slope Borough provides police protection, while the City is responsible for fire protection. No police personnel are stationed in Nuiqsut, nor are there any police facilities. When necessary, borough police or state troopers are flown in. The Borough is planning to station a full-time senior officer, hire a local trainee, and construct a public safety building in 1978. The only fire protection available is portable fire extinguishers in individual structures. Fire is not as great a threat here as in the older villages since buildings are widely separated, and fire could not easily spread.

**Communication**—A small satellite earth station in the village provides direct telephone connection to RCA Alascom's long-distance center in Anchorage. Nuiqsut has a community Message Toll Service (MTS) phone and a PHS phone. The community phone (493-8001) is manned by an attendant who collects payment from the caller and pays a monthly bill for calls directly to RCA. The PHS phone provides 24-hour communication between the health aide and the IHS hospital in Barrow.

A small television studio at the school produces its own videotapes and live programs for local use as well as transmits videotapes made in Barrow. The village receives broadcasts from the public radio station in Barrow. The school has HF radio for communicating with school district headquarters in Barrow. The Arctic Slope Regional Corporation maintains a radio link with Nuiqsut via the Lonely DEW Line station.

**Transportation**—Air travel provides Nuiqsut's only year-round access, while marine, and to a lesser extent, land transportation provide seasonal access. A 1,000-foot (305-m) sand airstrip southeast of the village can handle only small aircraft. It is owned by the village but operated and maintained by the Alaska Division of Aviation. The airstrip needs to be relocated to higher ground (probably south of town) since it is often closed by flooding for several weeks during breakup. Scheduled air service is provided by Arctic Guide from Barrow under a postal agreement. Arctic Guide, Fel-Air, Inc., and Jen-Air, Inc. operate air taxis into Nuiqsut from Barrow; and Sea Airmotive and ERA Helicopter, Inc. operate air taxis from Deadhorse. (See climate section for information on flying weather.)

Barges could moor in Harrison Bay and cargo be offloaded and lightered up the Colville to Nuiqsut in shallow-draft vessels, but demand for this service has so far been too low to cover the cost of the trip. Privately owned small boats are used for traveling to subsistence areas.

Land transport is limited since no roads link Nuiqsut to other communities in the region. Summer travel is mainly by three-wheel motorcycle, while in winter, snow machines and all-terrain vehicles are extensively used. Land travel outside the local vicinity is mainly to hunting and fishing areas and, occasionally, other communities, particularly Barrow and Deadhorse.



☆ U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 1978—797-471