

Land Use and Community Facilities

Housing—Most of the houses at the old site will be relocated at the new village. As the need for new housing is determined, building programs sponsored by the North Slope Borough, the Arctic Slope Regional Corporation, and the Bureau of Indian Affairs will begin. These new houses will probably be mounted on pilings or gravel pads to insulate the permafrost from the heat of the structure.

School—Point Lay is in the North Slope Borough School District. The school complex consists of two leased buildings—one has two classrooms, and the other is used as a combination vocational education classroom, storage area, and kitchen. During the 1977-78 school year, five students attended grades K through six, and four students attended grades seven through 12. With the relocation of the village, a school will be built at the new site. Construction is scheduled to begin during the summer of 1978.

Other Structures—Two lots at the new site have been allocated to the Cully Corporation for construction of its office and a cooperative store. Other lots have been reserved for the construction of a mobile equipment storage building, a National Guard armory, a hotel, and a church.

COMMUNITY MAP

POINT LAY

69° 46' N — 163° 03' W

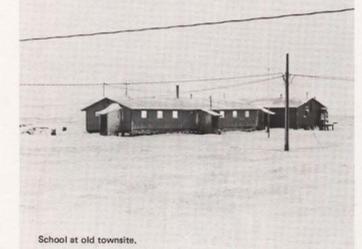
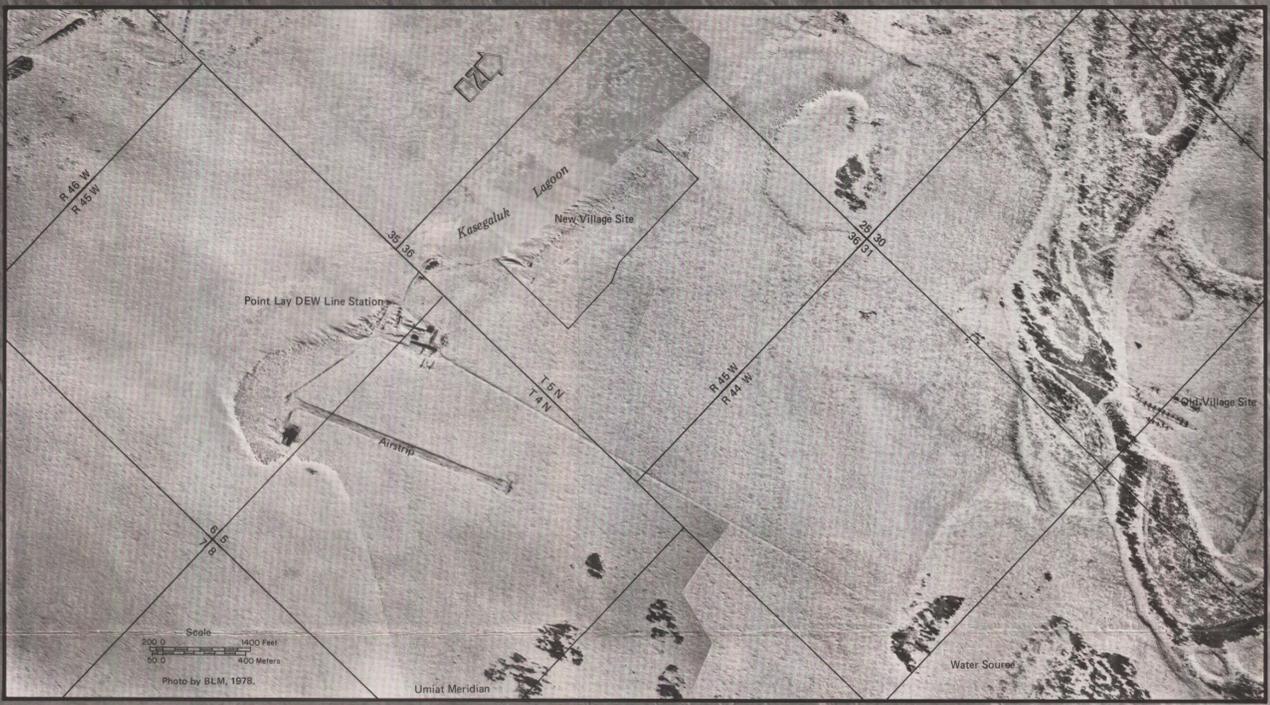
Scale
0 100 200 300 400 Feet
0 50 100 150 Meters

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.

Land Use *

- Residential
- Public
- Survey line (unapproved survey by H.V. Lounsbury and Associates)

* These data were collected from interviews with people who had recently visited the village and have not been field checked.



School at old townsite. Darbyshire and Associates

Power—The electrical power system in Point Lay is owned and operated by the North Slope Borough and consists of a 25-kw and a 30-kw diesel generator and a distribution system. The school also has a standby generator. Fuel oil for individual cooking and heating is stored by and purchased from the Cully Corporation, which also sells fuel to the Borough for its electrical generators. Diesel fuel for power generation is paid by monthly consumer donation, and heating and cooking fuel oil cost \$1.05 per gallon in 1978. Construction of an electrical system at the new village site should begin in the spring of 1979. It will probably consist of two 50-kw diesel generators, an insulated generator building, a distribution system to serve the entire village, and streetlights.

Water—Point Lay has no central water supply in the village and no distribution system. Villagers haul water from the Kokolik River upstream from the community in summer and cut ice from a lake across the river in winter. Since almost all of the villagers live on the barrier island at the original site in summer, river water is transported several miles by boat. When the river gets saline because of onshore winds or other causes, villagers must travel further upstream for potable water. Several small lakes east of the village are occasionally used as water sources both summer and winter. The DEW Line station hauls water from a lake 1.5 miles (2.4 km) to the east.

Per capita consumption is estimated at 2 gallons (7.6 l) per day. There are no storage tanks larger than about 10 gallons (28 l) in individual homes. The 15 people at the DEW Line station use 33 gallons (125 l) per person per day. The U. S. Public Health Service has no plans to build a central facility. With relocation to the new site, villagers will use the existing DEW Line station access road to their water source at the lake.

Waste Disposal—All wastes from the old village on the barrier bar are dumped about a half mile (0.8 km) north of the village on the bar or on to the ice in winter. Privies are also sometimes used. The dump site for the new village, where virtually no one lives in summer, is about three tenths of a mile (0.5 km) east of the new village. Oil drums and other debris are scattered on the beach. The North Slope Borough and the U. S. Public Health Service plan to provide a sewage collection vehicle and to design a sewage treatment system in the future.

Health Care—A health aide, trained by the U. S. Public Health Service (PHS), provides preventative and primary health care to both Native and non-Native patients. The aide also screens patients and makes referrals to the medical staff at the Indian Health Service (IHS) Barrow Hospital for further treatment. The village has no clinic, so the aide's home serves as a health station. PHS provides dental care through the IHS clinic at Barrow and itinerant medical and dental care personnel to the village. A state public health nurse holds well-baby clinics and screens and treats communicable diseases. The Borough's Health and Social Service Agency wants 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, and since the village is unincorporated, fire protection as well. No police personnel are stationed in Point Lay, nor are there any police facilities. When necessary, borough police or state troopers are flown in. As the new village becomes more settled, a borough officer will be stationed there. Major fires should not be as great a threat since new structures are being built with enough space between them to preclude fire spreading from one to another.

Communication—There is no satellite earth station located in the village, and none is planned. RCA Alascom will be installing a community phone in late 1978 that will be linked by VHF radio to the Point Lay DEW Line station. From there, calls will be transmitted by microwave to Barrow, where they will become part of the Barrow exchange.

Without an earth station, the village receives no commercial television. However, 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, and the health aide uses a radio to consult with the IHS hospital in Barrow.

Transportation—Air travel provides Point Lay's only year-round access, while marine and, to a lesser extent, land transportation provide seasonal access. There is a 600- to 800-foot (180- to 240-m) sand airstrip at the old village site on the barrier island. It is soft, unmaintained, and has no navigational aids, so it is seldom used. Instead, the 3,519-foot (1,056-m) gravel airstrip of the DEW Line station handles most air traffic, but five-days' prior landing clearance must be obtained from the Air Force. Arctic Guide furnishes scheduled air service from Barrow under a postal agreement. Also, Arctic Guide, Fel-Air, Inc., and Jen-Air, Inc. fly air taxis out of Barrow. (See the climate section for information on flying weather.) Marine transportation is used during ice-free periods, especially for heavy and bulky items. A Pacific Alaska Lines' barge visits Point Lay once a year with fuel and other cargo. Due to the shallow nearshore area and the lack of docking or storage facilities, cargo must be lightered to shore by barge or small craft. Arctic Lightering of Kotzebue provides most of these services. Privately owned small boats are used for traveling to subsistence areas.

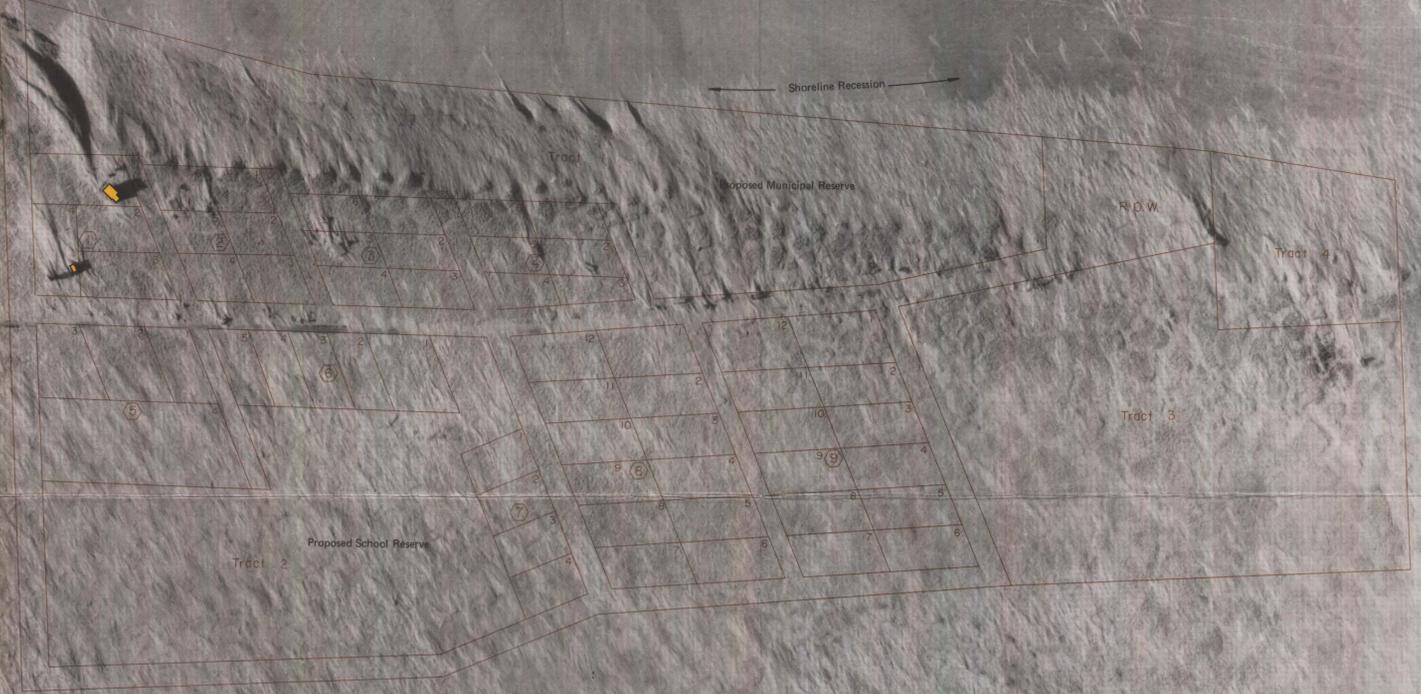
Land transportation is limited since no roads link Point Lay to other communities in the region. Overland travel during summer is difficult and infrequent, but during winter when the tundra is frozen, snow machines and all-terrain vehicles are extensively used. Land travel outside the local vicinity is mainly to hunting and fishing areas and, occasionally, to other communities.

The snowdrifts shown on the photo are formed by storm winds and do not necessarily indicate prevailing winds.



Point Lay DEW Line Station

KASEGALUK LAGOON



Gravel Airstrip 3,519 x 100'

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.