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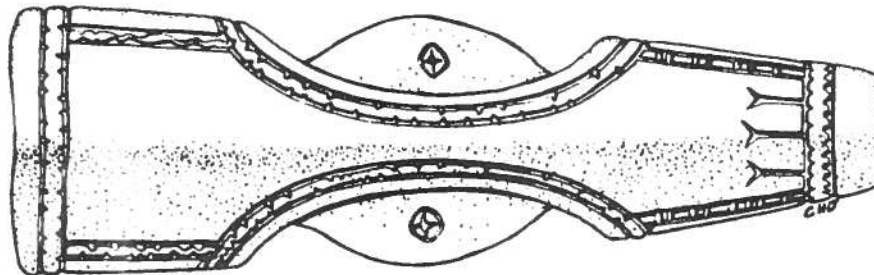
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THULE ESKIMO PREHISTORY ALONG
NORTHWESTERN HUDSON BAY

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features around the peninsula during our short stay. This number represents an estimated half to two-thirds of the total. There are six to ten additional tent rings and strong tent foundations located on the western lobe of the peninsula. Figure 72 illustrates the position of 53 tent rings and strong tent foundations, one *imuksuk*, five possible kayak rests, and one other marker-like feature.

The tent rings and strong tent foundations are all circular but differ widely in specific shape (Figs. 84-86). Some are divided into two halves by a line of stones across the center; others consist of two or three circles built side-by-side. One tent ring has within it three lamp stands, and another has a small meat cache built next to it. At least six rings are arranged directly on bedrock rather than on loose surface gravel. These features range between 2.5 x 2.5 m to 6 x 5 m in size.

One large composite *imuksuk* of four stones and a few very small pebbles is illustrated in Figure 88.

Included with kayak rests here are three features made up of pairs of stones. One of these (Fig. 87) consists of three pairs of stones with one single stone stood at one end on the edge of a burial cairn. The distances between stone uprights and the end stone are three, four, and four and a half meters. Another feature of this sort is made up of three pairs of stones and still a third consists of two pairs. According to Hakuluk, these features were for holding a kayak set on its side between the stones. However, since a kayak would not fit between some of these pairs (for instance, the middle pair in Fig. 87) and since one reason for having a kayak rest is to keep the skin boat up and away from dogs, I suspect that these were not actually boat rests. Because they resemble sighting devices, I took the magnetic orientations of their long axes and found they were oriented 20-200°, 30-210°, and 50-230° of magnetic north. Since there is little consistency, I presume they were not used for any astronomical alignment. Their use remains a mystery.

Finally, the only organic materials which we observed around any of these features were a few seal bones near recent tent rings close to the eastern shore. We therefore have no way to estimate the age of these features by artifactual comparison. Some rough estimates of relative age are possible on the basis of lichen cover (see Figs. 84-87), but I expect a wide temporal spread to be represented by these features.

The Igluligardjuk Site: KiJi-3

Site Setting

The Igluligardjuk site (63°20'N., 90°40'W.) was briefly described by Mathiassen (1927: 110-113) from notes compiled by Freuchen who tested the site in 1923.

The site lies approximately 500 m to the east of the present village of Chesterfield (Fig. 1), at the tip of a peninsula forming the lower corner of Chesterfield Inlet. It is marked by the presence of semi-subterranean houses, burial cairns, tent rings, boat rests, and meat caches.

The houses are situated near the crest of a large grass-covered hill sloping to the east and the open Hudson Bay (Fig. 90). The grass area measures approximately 400 m long by 100 m wide and is oriented 70-250° of magnetic north or approximately east-west. Exposed bedrock on both sides delimits the corridor of grass. Three or four raised beach ridges are discernible between the top of the slope and the present beach, running perpendicular to the slope and the rock edges. Three ponds are within about 100 m of the houses to the south.

From the house area, it is possible to view the open Hudson Bay for approximately 200° to the east and south.

The vegetative cover around the houses is made up largely of *Betula glandulosa*, *Empetrum nigrum*, *Ledum polustri*, and *Vaccinium uliginosum*. The house depressions proper have *Elymus arenarius* and *Poa* sp. around their upper slopes and willows and *Empetrum* in the house centers.

Igluligardjuk Houses

Although Freuchen (personal field notes, 1923; Mathiassen 1927: 110-13) describes the arrangement of 18 houses in five rows, it is difficult to see this order. Figure 89 is a sketch map to scale of the 18 houses at the site. Each large room has been designated here as a house, following Freuchen, even though several of these depressions share a common entranceway. While the compound houses are clustered near the center of the house area, simple one-room houses are found along the periphery. Dimensions of these structures are given in Table 4.

There is no way of determining prior to excavation whether the smaller houses were used for storage places or functioned in some other manner than the larger houses. It is presumed because of their close proximity that the individual house occupations were more or less contemporaneous.

Freuchen (Mathiassen 1927: 111-12) states that he briefly tested two of these houses during 1923 while participating with the Fifth Thule Expedition. As he included no map with his notes, it is difficult to determine now which houses these were. Only one house, identified in Figure 89 as House 17, has most of the flagstones cleared of vegetation and appears to have been partly excavated. This apparently is Freuchen's House 7. The left-hand platform area, when facing the house from the entrance passage, has not been excavated. There are no noticeable backdirt piles nearby and if this is the house tested, the fill was removed from the immediate area or has been graded away. It

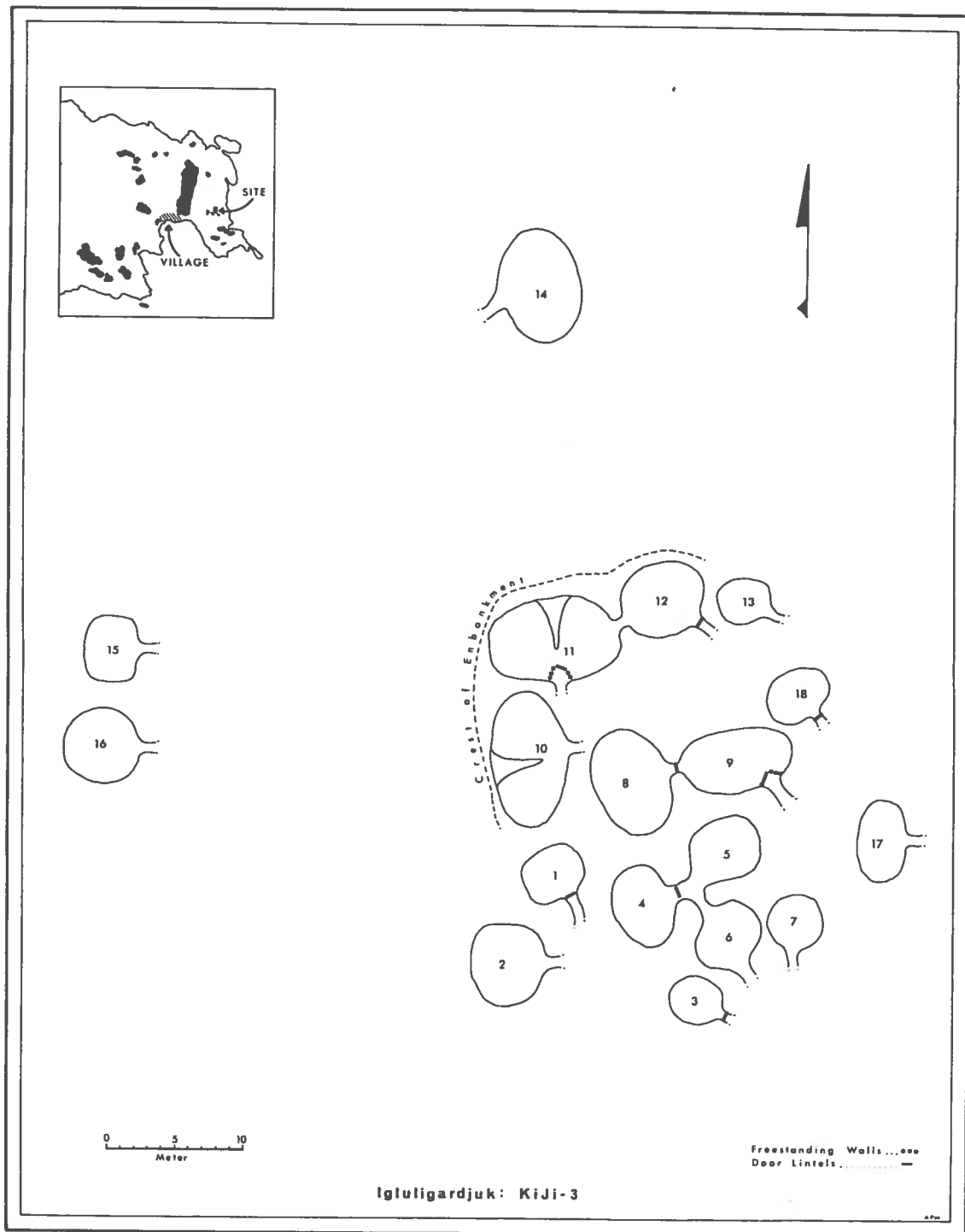


Fig. 89 Igluligardjuk. Sketch of house ruin locations. Black areas on the inset indicate ponds and lakes.

Table 4

Igluligardjuk House Ruins

House No.	Approx. Plan Dimension (meters)	Remarks
1	5 x 4.5	House excavated (see text)
2	6 x 5.5	Shallow
3	4 x 3.5	Lintel; many exposed rocks; shallow
4	6 x 4.5	Lintel; deep; many exposed rocks
5	5 x 4.5	Deep; many exposed rocks
6	5 x 4	Shallow
7	4 x 4	Shallow
8	8 x 5.5	Lintel; deep
9	8 x 4.5	Lintel; rock wall at entrance; deep; many exposed rocks
10	10 x 6	Possible lintel; deep; rock partition; many exposed rocks
11	9.5 x 6	Lintel; rock wall at entrance; deep; many exposed rocks
12	6.5 x 5.5	Lintel; deep
13	4 x 3.5	Shallow
14	8.5 x 6	Many exposed rocks
15	5 x 4	Many exposed rocks; shallow
16	5.5 x 5.5	Many exposed rocks; shallow
17	6 x 3.5	Freuchen tested (?); shallow
18	5 x 4	Lintel; shallow; many exposed rocks

was impossible to determine which house was the second one tested by Freuchen, but his House 4 probably corresponds to our House 4, 5, or 6.

Because some stone partitions were built adjacent to the doorways in two of the houses, Freuchen (Mathiassen 1927: 112) was led to believe that the original ruin had been reused as *qarmats* or autumn houses. Having inspected the depressions twice, I am not convinced that major rebuilding has taken place within the depressions. The exposed and intact walls and doorways are very probably original with the respective houses.

No middens are discernible around the house entrances although we presume much animal refuse was scattered about the houses by their occupants.

Entrance Passages

Besides the lintel area found in the excavated House 1, there are at least seven other lintels fully erect or tumbled over but clearly

identifiable (Fig. 89). Most of the lintels and associated doorways are in deeper rather than shallower houses.

Although the lintels are typically long subangular stones weighing upwards of 150 lbs, there is little standardization in the uprights supporting the lintels. In at least four houses, the supports are single upright stones of about the same height. In another house, two rocks are stacked per side for the supports (Fig. 98). In still another house, one support is made of two stacked rocks whereas the other one is made up of four stacked rocks (Fig. 97).

From the *in situ* doorways and from estimates of original positioning in others, it is possible to calculate approximate doorway size. The doorway height, to the bottom of the lintel, ranges for three measurable examples between 60-65 cm, width between the uprights varies between 43-67 cm for five examples, and thickness through the doorway ranges between 32-57 cm for four examples.

Platforms

It was possible to detect definite platform outlines beneath the heavy turf in two of the houses, Houses 9 and 18. In the former is a platform ledge bifurcating the oval house but the platform extends into the left-front quadrant with a narrow space between the rear and the front platforms. In House 18, the platform has much the same arrangement but the space between the rear and the left-front portions is a V-shaped notch.

Walls

As is suggested below in connection with the one excavated house at this site, the walls of deep winter houses are the most susceptible structural units to be destroyed by post-occupation vandalism. However, in the unexcavated house depressions, it was possible to find short *in situ* wall sections to get some idea of the original rock coursing.

The wall adjacent to the doorway in House 9, for example, has five courses exposed and probably two or three more beneath these (Fig. 99). The intact wall of House 5 has four and five courses exposed, and the wall adjacent to the doorway of House 11 has six courses exposed and perhaps more beneath these.

All of these wall sections are crudely fitted and the stones are not dressed. As discussed at greater length in a following section, balancing of large, heavy, irregular stones on one another is a common element in all these wall constructions.