



**Birnirk National Historic Landmark
Utqiagvik, Alaska**

The Birnirk National Historic Landmark (known locally as Pigniġ) sits on the Chukchi Sea coast in the town of Utqiagvik, Alaska. The Birnirk archeological tradition is the earliest instance of Iñupiat culture in northern Alaska. This tradition lasted from about 500 CE to 900 CE (Common Era). The technology that developed at this site (and other Birnirk sites) supported population expansion across the arctic regions of North America and Greenland. Pigniġ is Iñupiaq for 'joint' and describes the lagoon of the archeological district. The landmark is made up of a series of mounds on beach ridges. The mounds reach up to 14-feet tall and are dimpled with the sunken remains of house ruins and cache pits. Today, the National Historic Landmark remains a popular area for duck hunting.