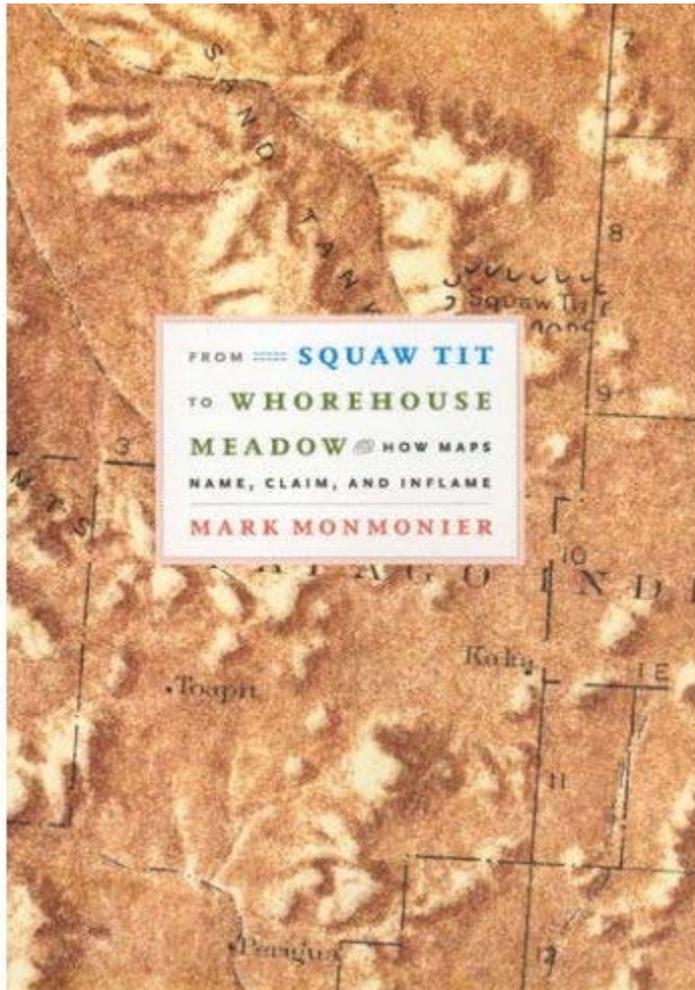




Geog 126: Maps in Science and Society

Maps and Language: Contested
Words

The source



The Chapters

- Naming and Mapping
- The Quest for a National Gazetteer
- Purging Pejoratives
- Body Parts and Risque Toponyms
- Going Native
- Your toponym or mine
- Erasures
- Inscriptions

BGN Rules

The following five principles have been followed by the Board in national geographic name standardization for over 100 years:

- The Roman alphabet is used as normally employed in the English language.
- Precedence is given to names in local usage.
- Names established by Act of Congress are official by law.
- Names of political subdivisions, bounded areas of administration, structures, and establishments — as determined by the appropriate, responsible public or private authorities — normally are recognized as official.
- One name, one spelling, and one application are authorized for each geographic entity.

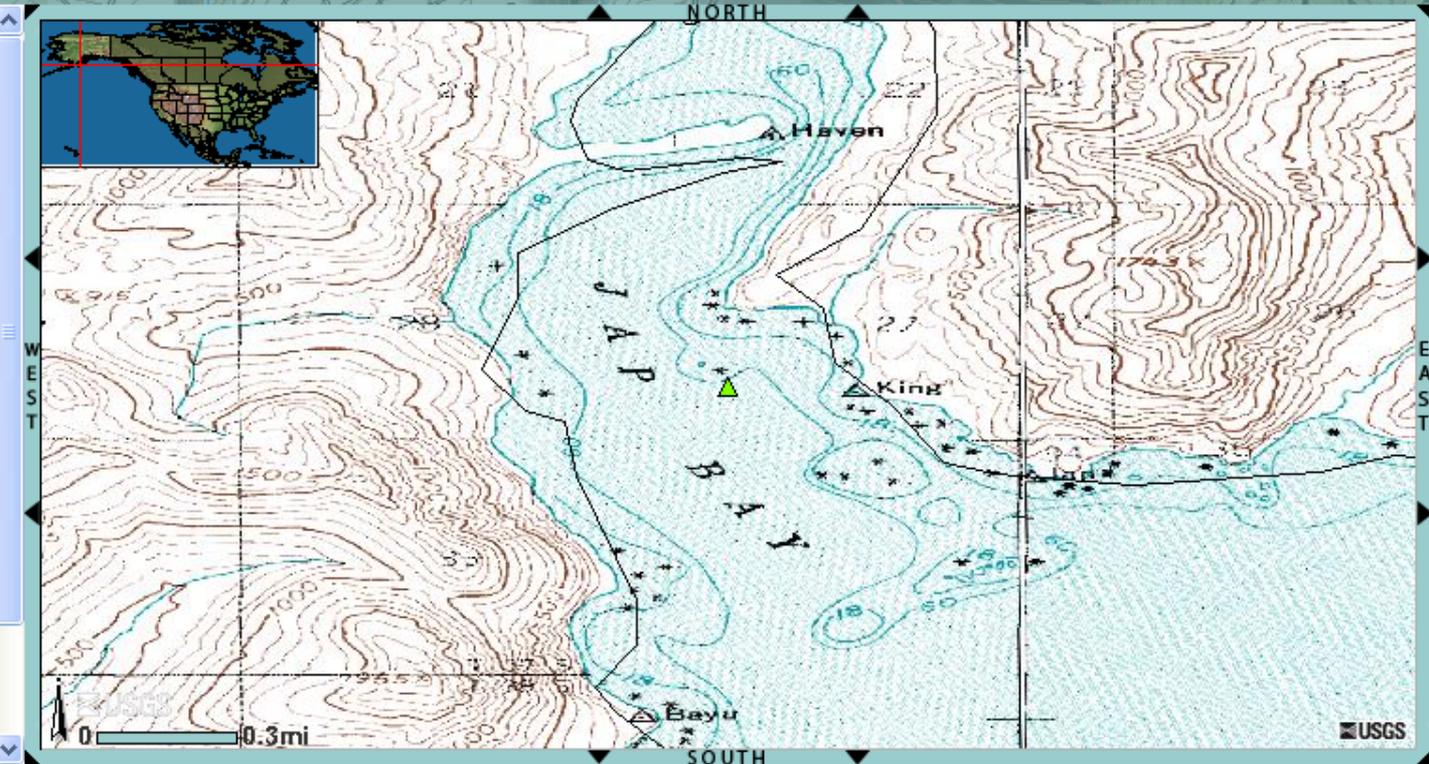
Additional rules

- Derogatory names or names that cause confusion are unacceptable.
- Duplicate names within a local political jurisdiction are not normally approved.
- Within wilderness areas, unnamed features remain unnamed, unless a name is required for purposes of safety, education, or area administration.
- Ownership of land is not sufficient grounds to justify Board approval of a commemorative name.

No offense

- These are all actual examples, given in Monmonier's book
- In each instance, the BGN has ruled on the names, usually changing them
- I think you will agree that the changes were in order!

- Overview
- Zoom In
- Zoom Out
- Zoom Back
- Find Place
- Full Extent
- Re-center
- Identify
- Elevation
- Measure
- Clear
- Bookmark
- Print



Scale: - +

Layers Legend

- Elevation
- Environmental Monitoring/Assessment
- Geographic Names
 - NAMES
 - Administrative Features (GNIS)
 - Communities (GNIS)
 - Cultural Features (GNIS)
 - Geographic Features - Ice (NSIDC)
 - Historical Features (GNIS)
 - Landform Features (GNIS)
 - Populated Places (MRP)
 - Structures (GNIS)

Refresh Map

USNG: 5V MD 60011 10961 (NAD83)

Partners: USGS | NOAA | NOAA Coastal Services Center (CSC) | U.S. Forest Service | U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service | National Coastal Data Development Center (NCDDC) | National Snow and Ice Data Center (NSIDC) | National Environmental Satellite, Data and Information Service (NESDIS) | National Climatic Data Center

U.S. Department of the Interior, U.S. Geological Survey | Contact: National Map Team
 URL: <http://nmviewgc.cr.usgs.gov/> (F91) | Last modification: 09/14/2005
[Privacy Statement](#) | [Disclaimer](#) | [FOIA](#) | [Accessibility](#)

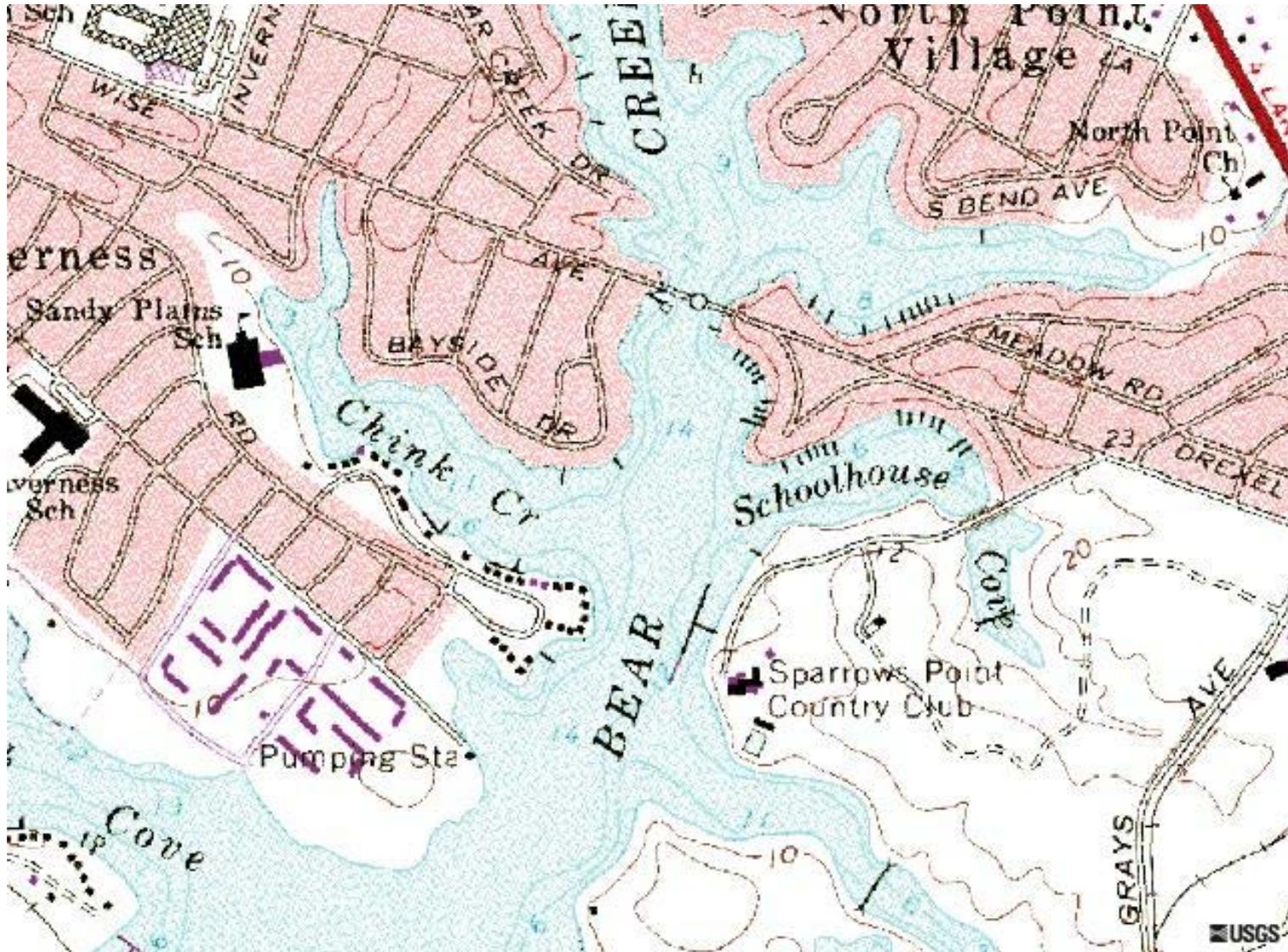


Waiting for nmviewgc.cr.usgs.gov...

Jap Bay, Alaska

- **AGREED:** that the name “Jap” in geographic names be considered derogatory, and is to be avoided in federal publications by changing the name to “Japanese,” “Nisei,” or by formally proposing another acceptable name. (January 8, 1974)

Pejorative or historical?

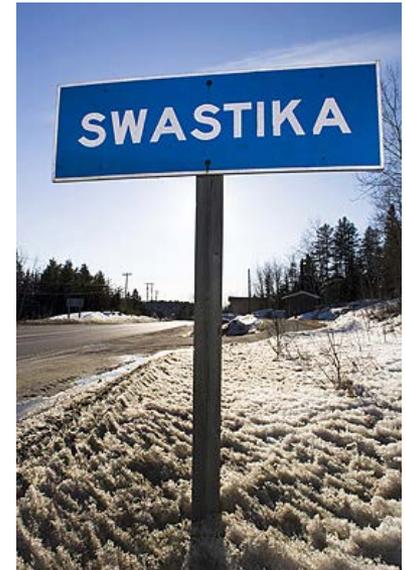


But....

- Chink Creek, MD
- “A definitive name origin is unknown but it is believed the word “chink” is derived from the native term “chinqua” and translates to “large” or “great”

Derogatory toponyms

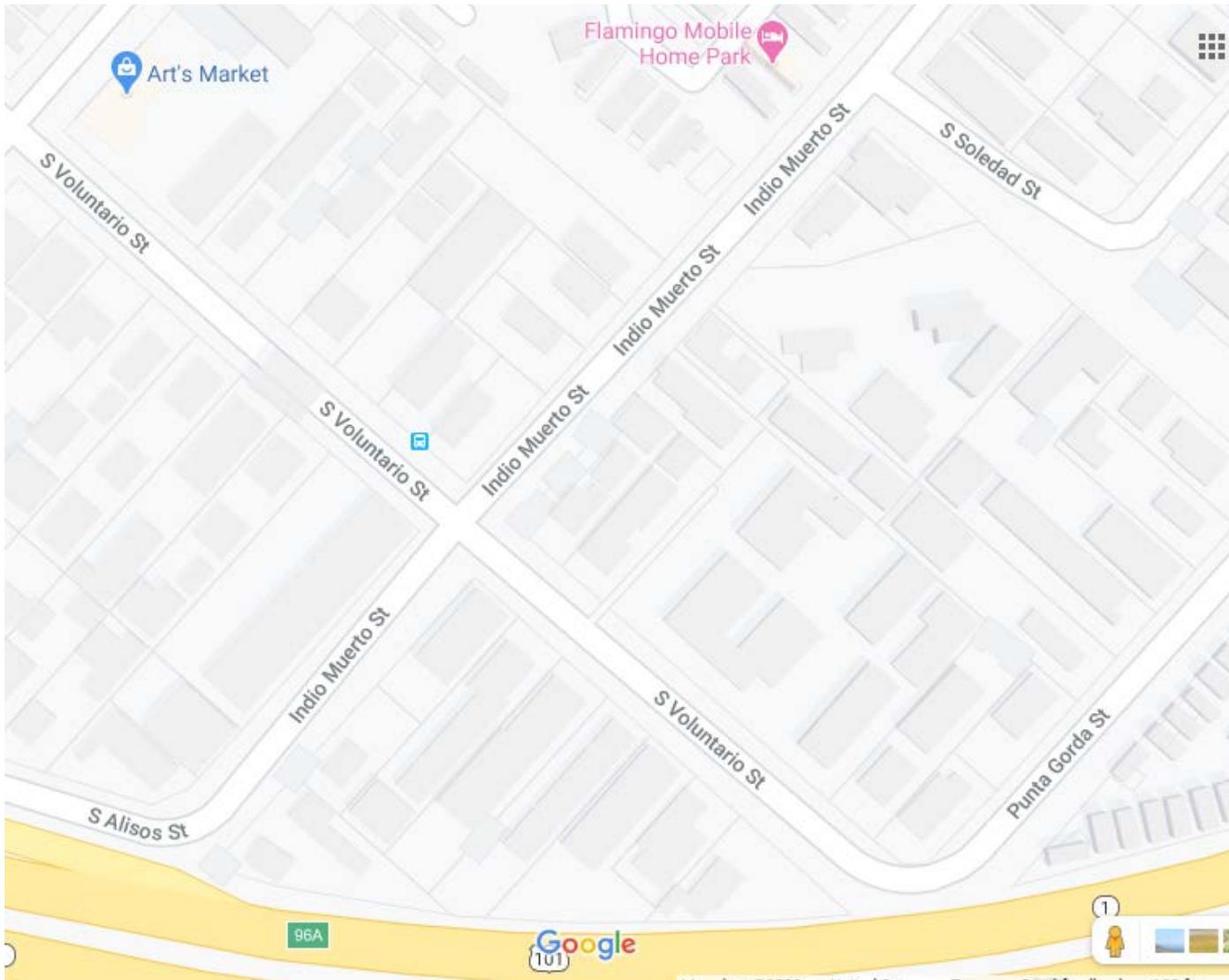
- Swastika, Ontario
- Proposed renaming in 1940 after Winston Churchill
- Citizens ripped down the official sign and replaced it with “To hell with Hitler. We had the swastika first”

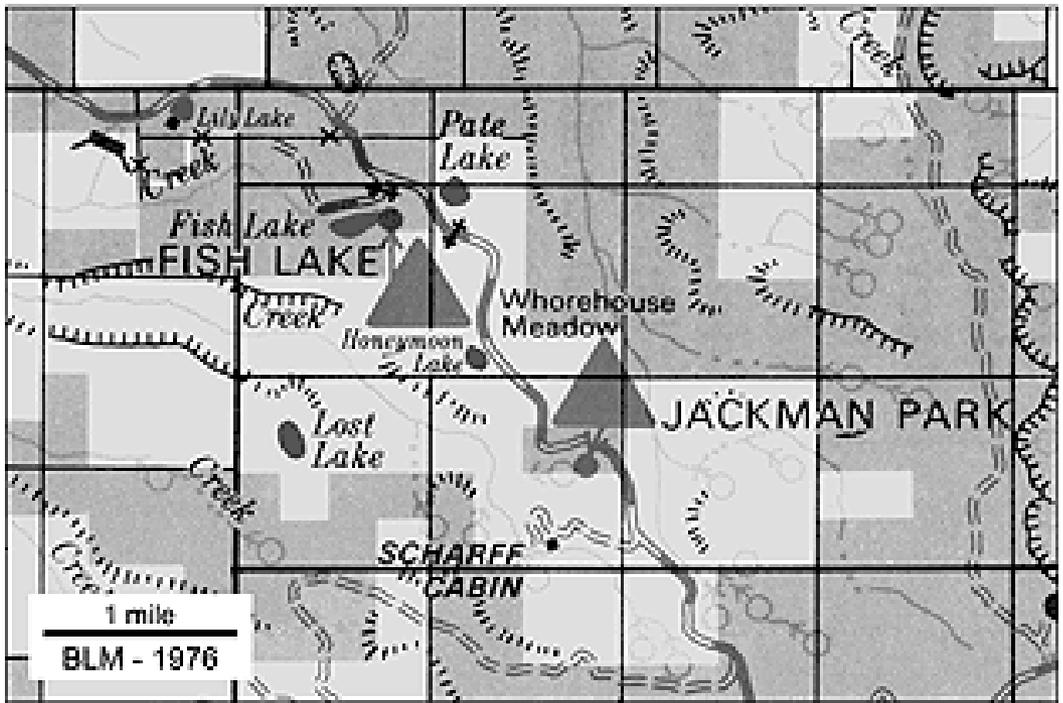
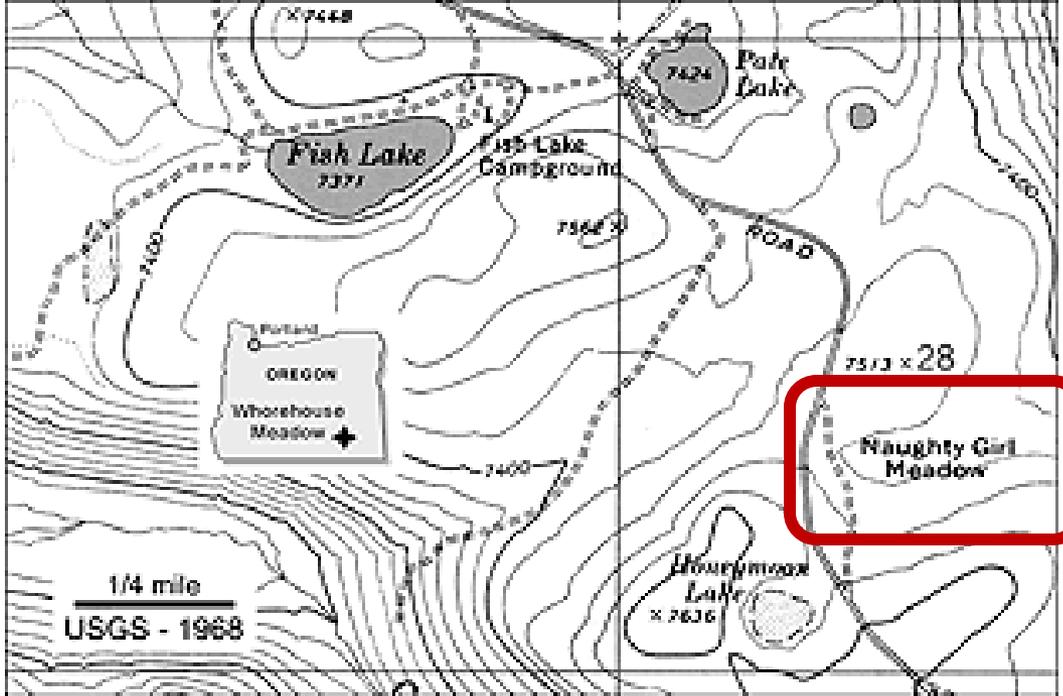


Other derogatory names

- “sex and feces are not the only nonracial names to incite objections.” (Monmonier)
- Acid Factory Brook, RI -> Factory Brook
- Cripple Creek
- BS Gap, AZ
- S.O.B. Hill, UT
- S.H. Mountains (now Kofa, AZ)
 - Originally named “S H Mountains” by soldiers or miners because of the similarity of the lower peaks to outhouses”
 - When ladies came into the area the interpretation became “Short Horn Mountains” in 1900

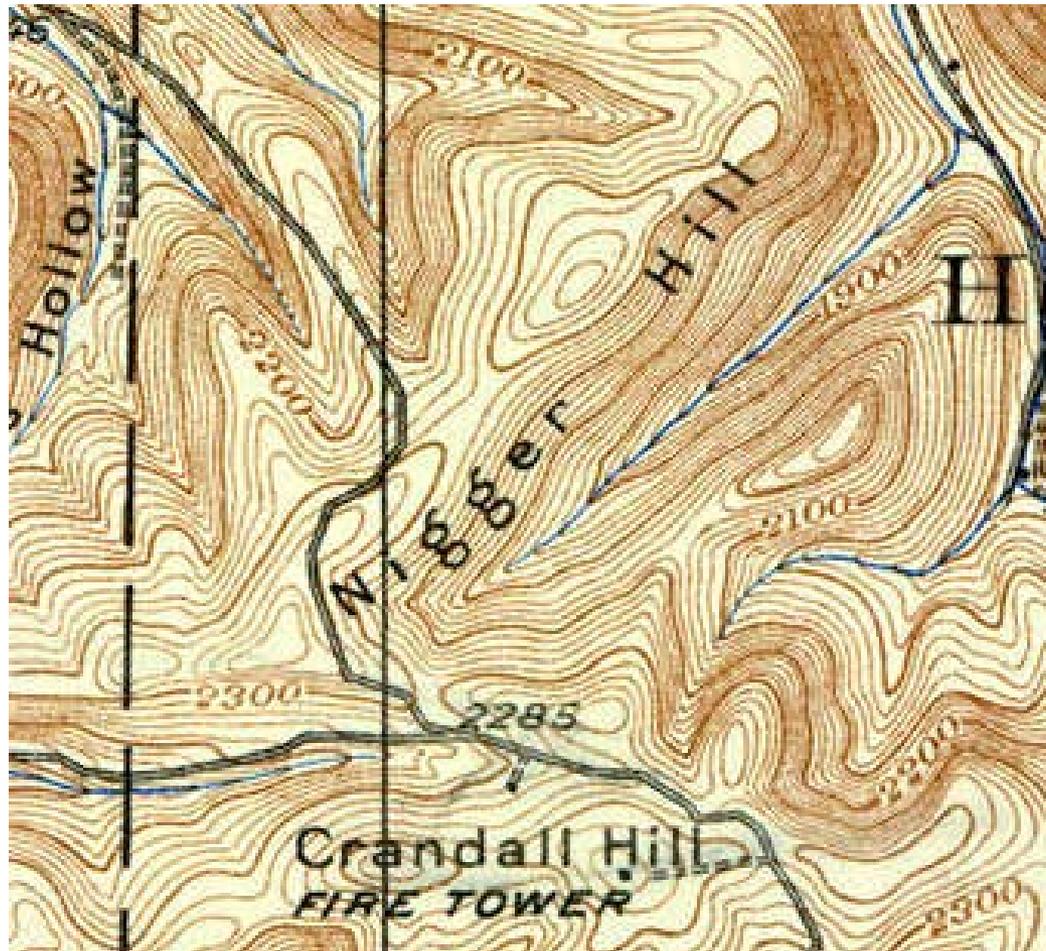
Santa Barbara: Dead indian street



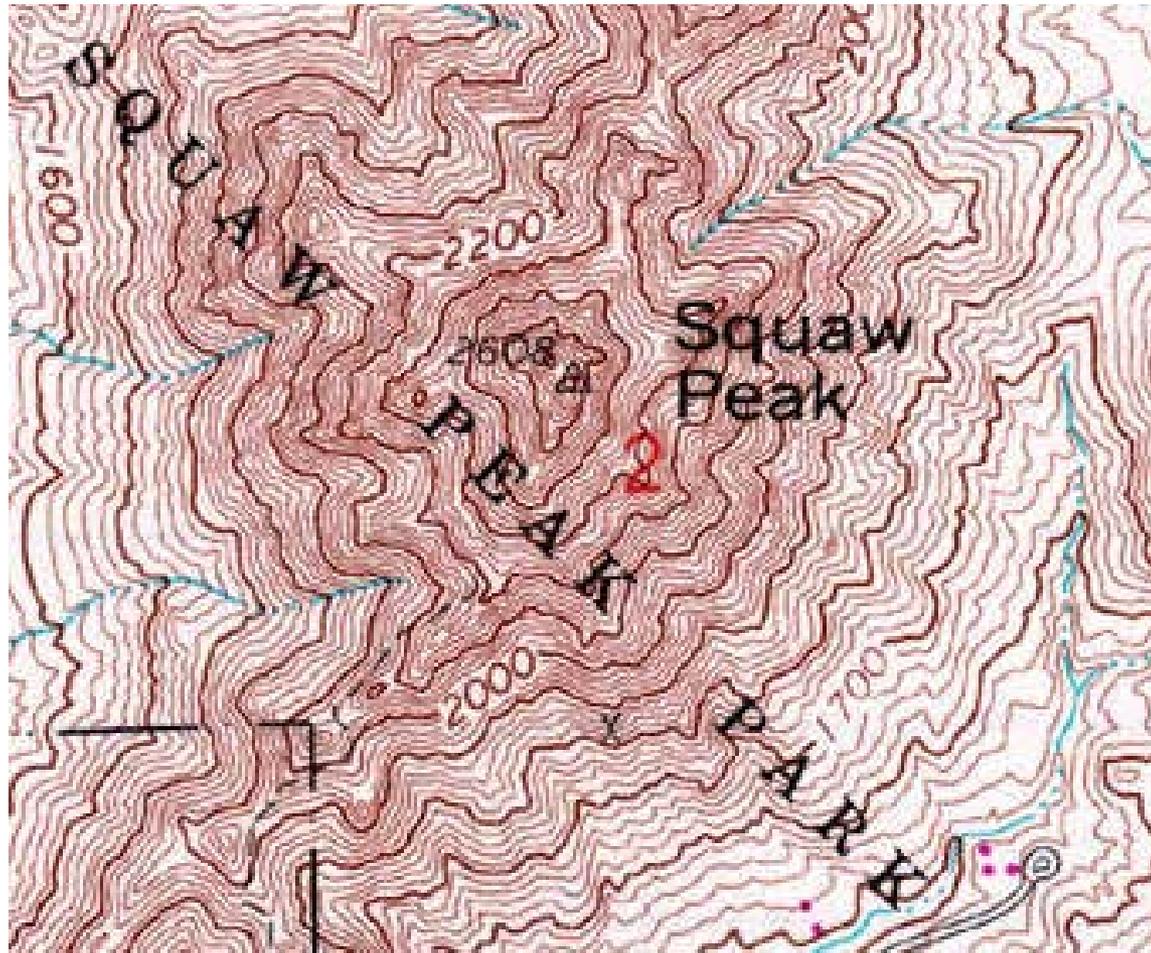


Naughty
Girl
Meadow

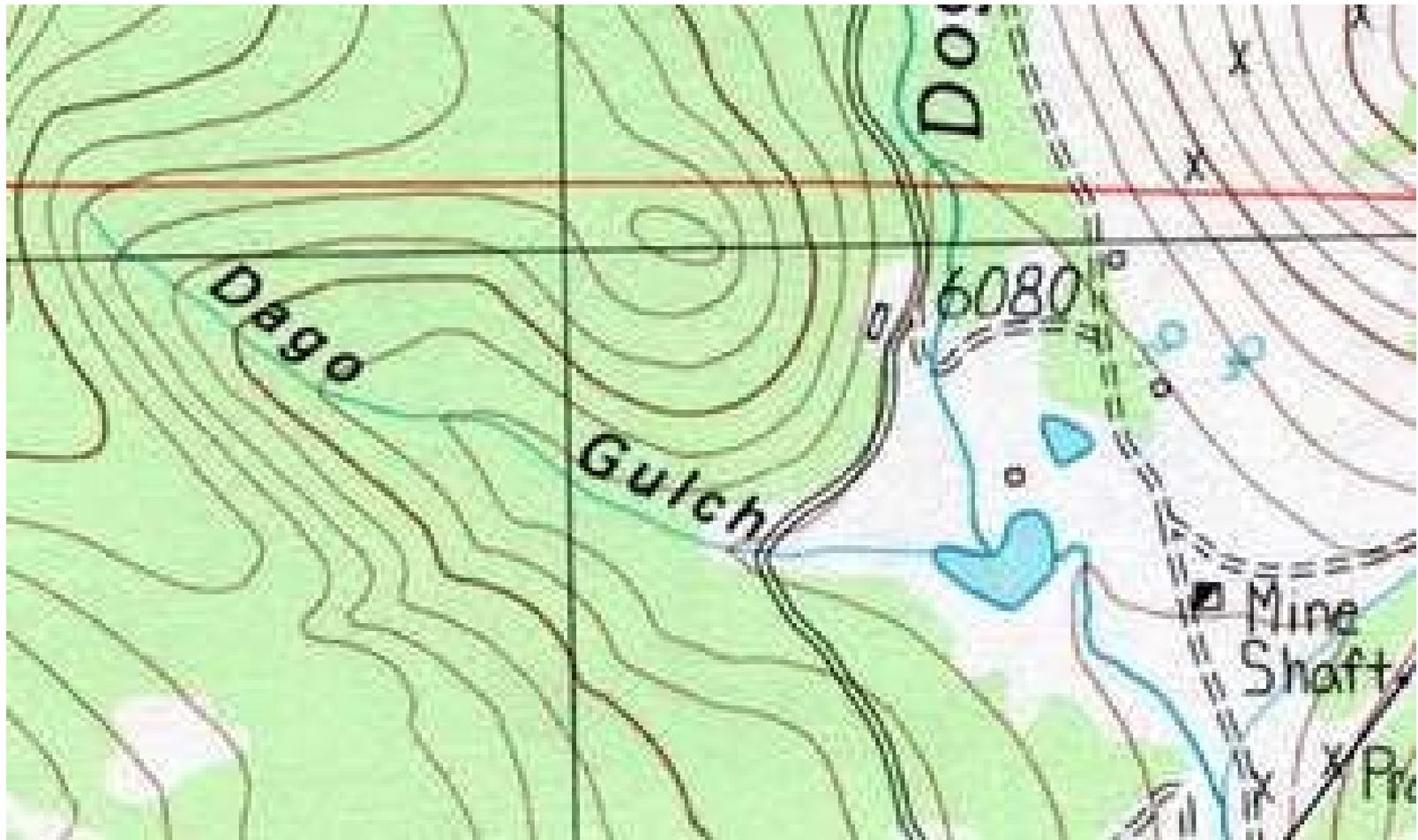
Excerpt from the Coudersport, PA, 15-minute USGS
quadrangle map (1938)



Excerpt from the Sunnyside, AZ, 7.5-minute USGS
quadrangle map (1982)



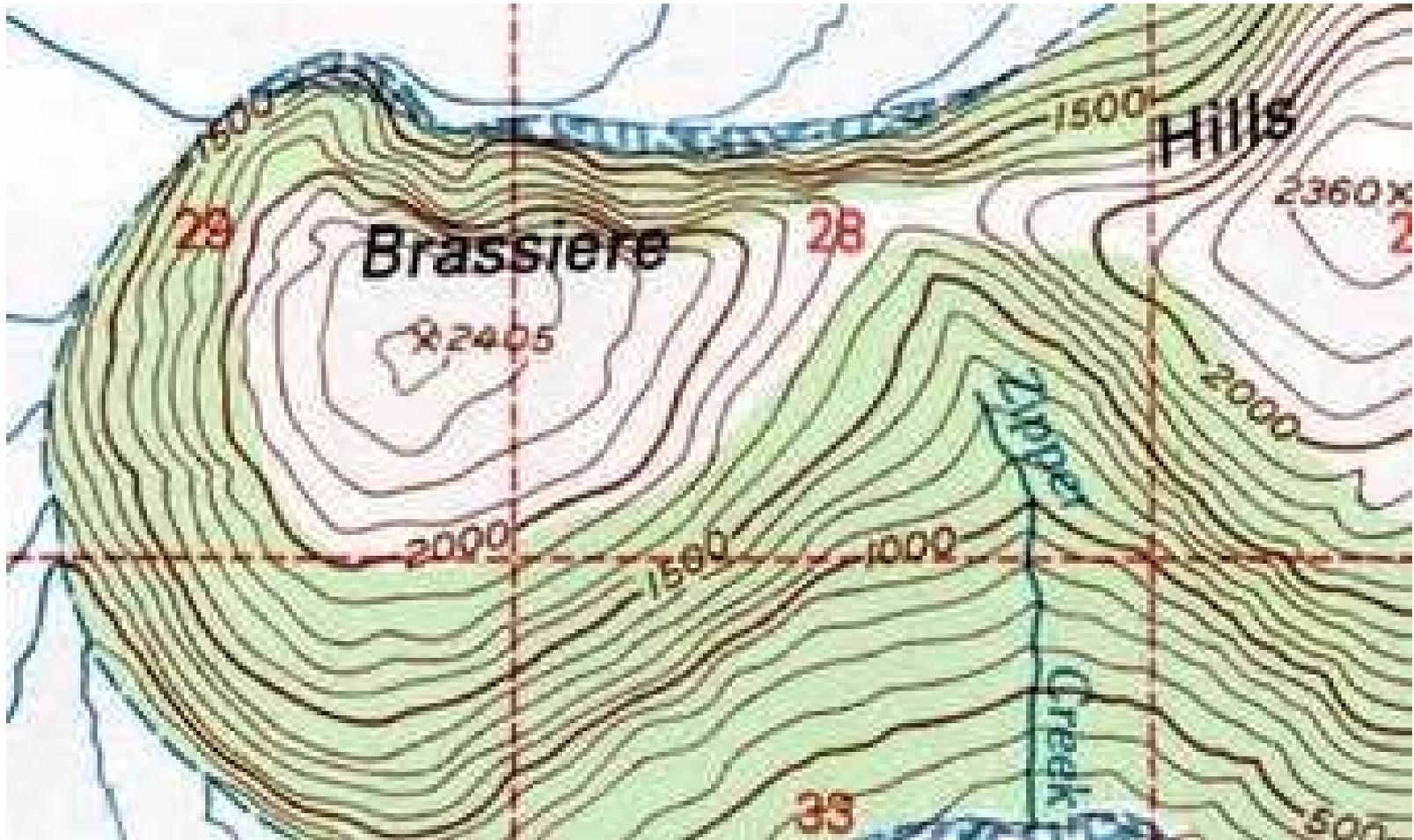
Excerpt from the Greenhorn Mountain, MT 7.5-minute
USGS quadrangle map (1989)



Excerpt from the Commodore, PA 7.5-minute USGS
quadrangle map (1993)



Excerpt from the "Juneau B-1, Alaska" 1:63,360-scale
USGS quadrangle map (1997)



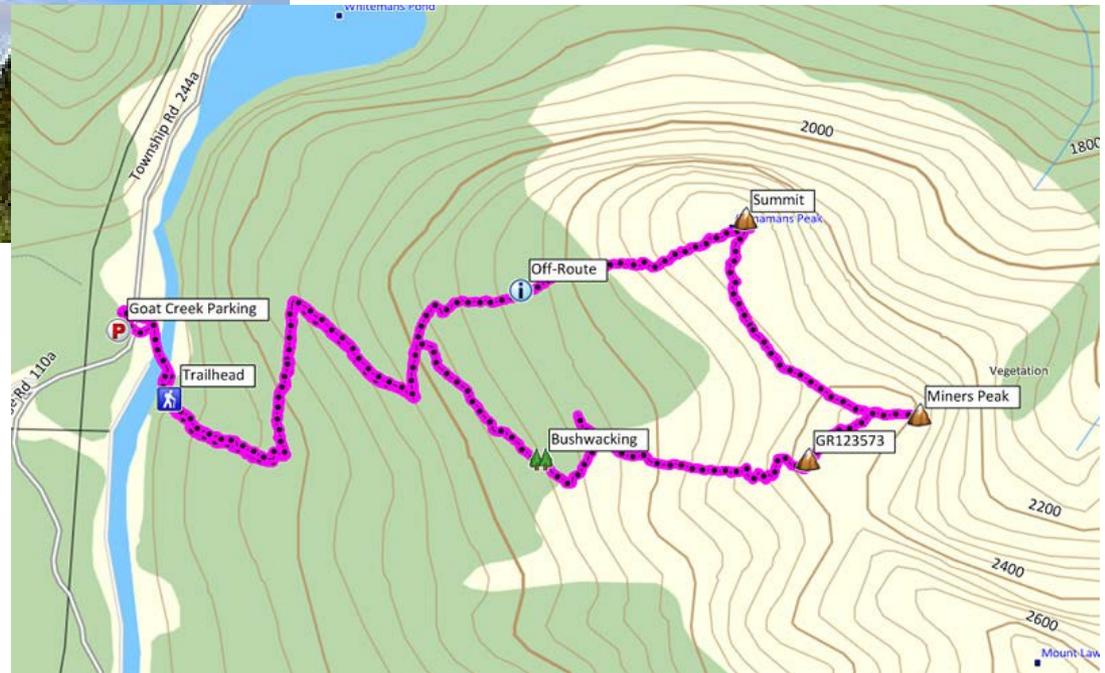
Enter the BGN

- Prohibited local use of racially, ethnically, and scatalogically offensive toponyms

From the MapRoom Blog

- In 1886, a Chinese labourer named Ha Ling, working as a cook in a mining camp near Canmore, Alberta, climbed a nearby mountain on a bet
- The peak he scaled became known locally as Chinaman's Peak
- The name was given official status, based on historical usage, in 1980
- A campaign began to have the name changed, on the grounds that "chinaman" was offensive and derogatory
- By 1997, after a long debate, that name was dropped, and the peak — the northwest summit of Mount Lawrence Grassi — is now known as Ha Ling Peak.

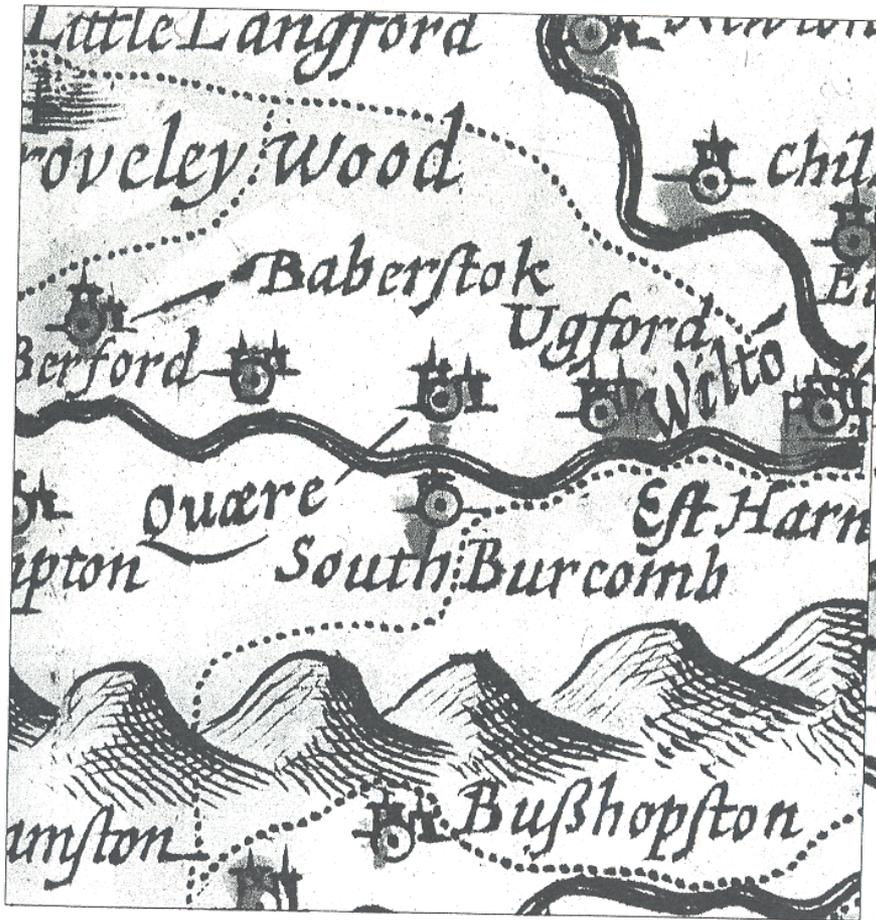
Ha Ling Peak



From the “Maproom weblog”

- Canadian Pacific Railway station along its Kettle Valley line had its name changed in 1940
- Originally named after Field Marshal Philippe Pétain, the “Hero of Verdun” in the First World War
- Pétain was renamed Odlum due to Pétain’s role as head of the collaborationist French Vichy government.
- Ironically, the Pétain Glacier, in Alberta’s Kananaskis region, kept its name —not under the purview of the CPR

Placename errors and copying



(Left) Detail from Speed's map, showing the 'village' of Quare.

(Below) Detail from Robert Morden's map of 1685, copied uncritically from Speed's. British Library 7 Tab. 51.



(Opposite) Map of Wiltshire by John Speed, first published in 1610-11, copied with additions from a map by Saxton of the 1570s. It was still being reprinted from the same plate in the 1770s with only minor changes. London: Sudbury & Humble, 1611-12. British Library Maps C.7.c.20.

Novi, Michigan

- Several popular but historically inaccurate explanations have been given for the origin of the name Novi.
- One version is that it was named after the 6th tollgate (No. VI) on the Grand River toll road. However, the township was named in 1832 and the toll road was not constructed until the 1850s.
- A similar claim is made about the township being stop number 6 on the railroad.
- However, the Holly, Wayne and Monroe (now CSX) railroad was not constructed through the township until 1870 - 1871, almost 40 years after it was named.

The Novi legend continues....

- Goes back to 1830 in a meeting discussing the separation from Farmington and establishment of their own identity and township.
- The meeting record shows that the name Novi was expressed as an option and voted upon.
- "Republic" and "Beluah" were up for consideration
- The reason why the name Novi was selected will never be known
- A good clue exists in an old letter kept at Novi city hall.
- In 1936, the office of the Yugoslavian Consulate in Chicago sent a letter to Novi officials stating that many people in Yugoslavia have heard of a town called Novi in Michigan, and believe that there is a connection between the cities.
- The letter also suggested that the story of our city's name was rooted in the actions of a young Yugoslavian soldier who fled to the United States to recover from a heartbreaking tale of misadventure; and that he had influence over our city's name as a type of tribute to his lost love.
- They reported that this story was a romantic legend in their town and they were looking for clues to its authenticity.
- No record of such a soldier or his influence exists.

Going native: Nunavut



The high one



McKinley vs. Denali

- Original name, Denali, an Athabaskan word meaning “the high one” (plus other names)
- Highest peak in North America
- Acquired the name Mount McKinley in 1896
- William A. Dickey, a prospector who admired McKinley’s vigorous defense of the gold standard, named it for the Republican presidential candidate William McKinley
- In 1901, McKinley was assassinated and promptly commemorated by a rampant nationwide renaming of streets, parks, and high schools
- Native Alaskans in the 1970s ramped up the campaign to restore the name Denali
- In 1980, with the support of Alaskans peeved that McKinley had never visited or had kind words for Alaska, they convinced the National Park Service to change the name of Mount McKinley National Park to Denali National Park.

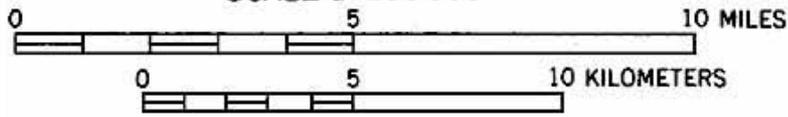
Denali

- Efforts to rename the mountain thwarted 1975-2009 by Republican congressman Ralph Regula (elected 1973) who represents McKinley's hometown, Canton, Ohio
- Every two years, a few days after a new Congress convenes, Regula introduces a bill calling for the mountain to retain the name McKinley.
- Bills are referred to a committee that takes no action, their mere introduction is sufficient to trigger a BGN regulation that suspends action on any name "also being considered by the Congress or the Executive Branch."
- Retired in January 2009 after 18 consecutive terms
- Change endorsed in 1975 by the Alaskan legislature, which made Denali the official name for state maps.
- U.S. Representatives Betty Sutton and Tim Ryan, both of Ohio, assumed Regula's role and introduced H.R. 229 which reads: "Notwithstanding any other authority of law, the mountain located 63 degrees 04 minutes 12 seconds north, by 151 degrees 00 minutes 18 seconds west shall continue to be named and referred to for all purposes as Mount McKinley."[\[](#)
- Many state and commercial mapmakers honor the board's actions, its decisions officially affect only federal usage.)

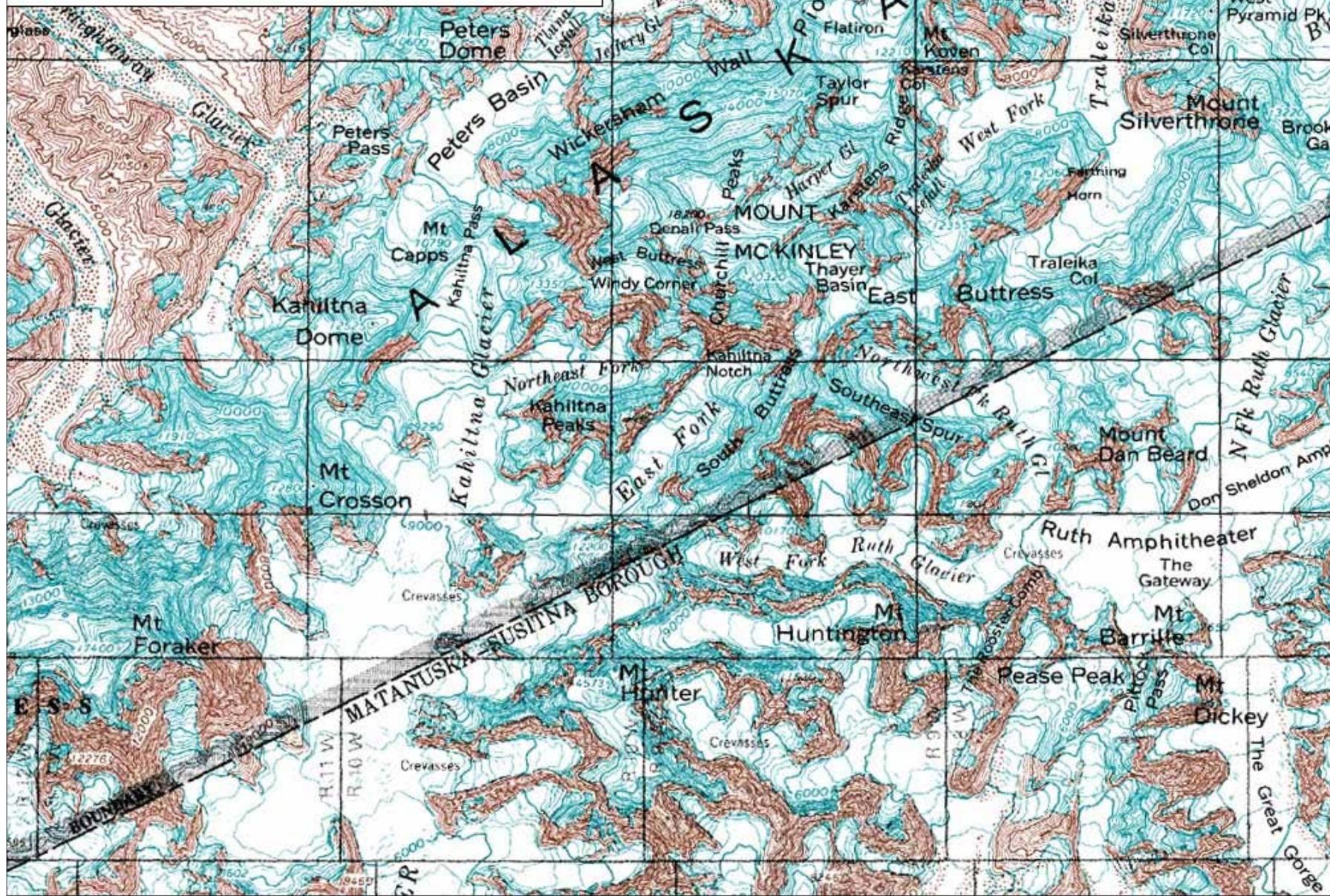
Mount McKinley

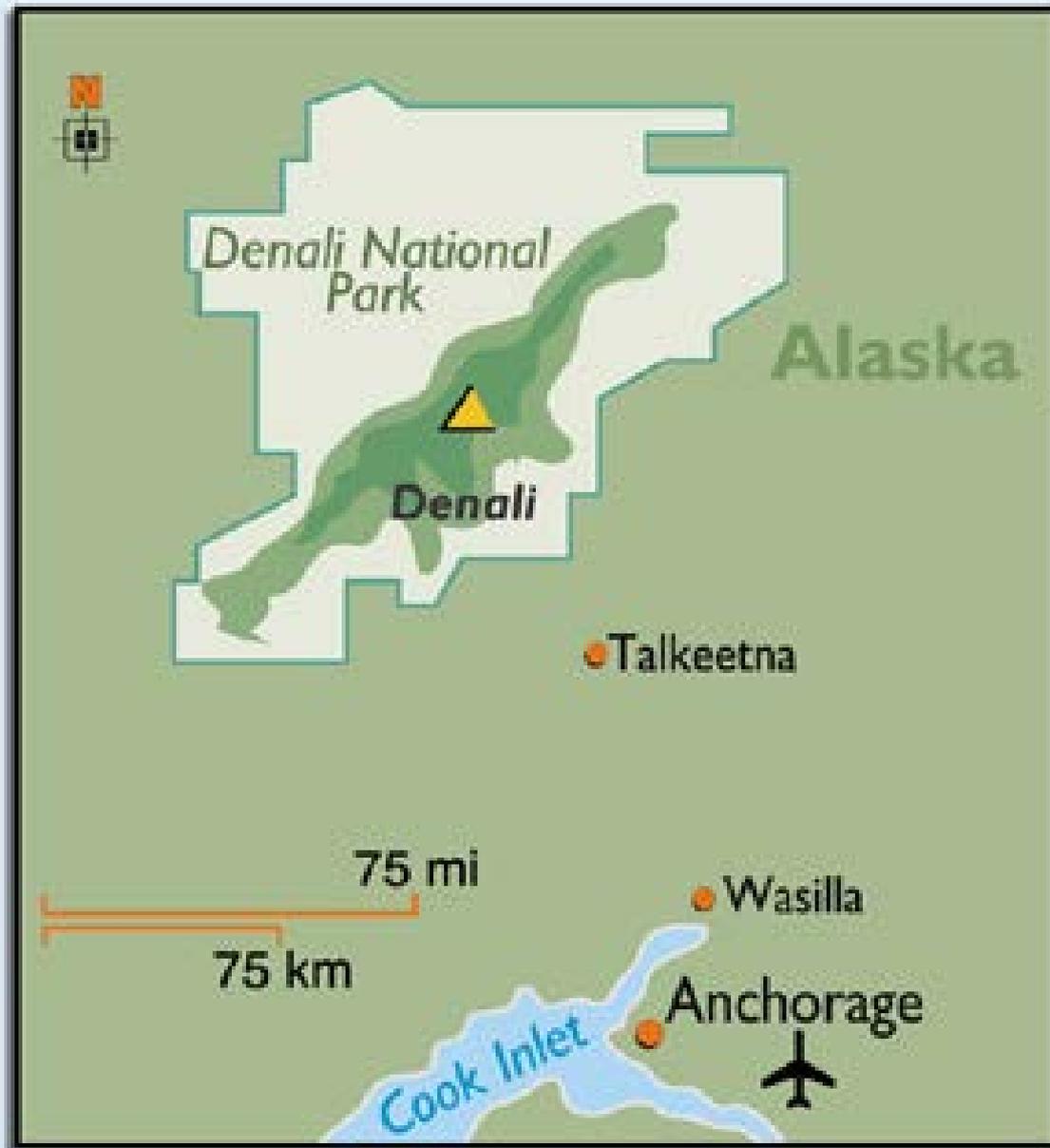


SCALE 1:250 000



CONTOUR INTERVAL 200 FEET





Commemorative Quarter 2012



The Last Word?



THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR
WASHINGTON

ORDER NO. 3337

Subject: Change of the Name of Mount McKinley to Denali

Sec. 1 **Purpose.** The purpose of this Order is to change the name of Mount McKinley to Denali.

Sec. 2 **Background.** On March 11, 1975, Governor Jay S. Hammond of the State of Alaska, in furtherance of a resolution passed by the Alaska State Legislature, formally requested that the Secretary of the Interior direct the United States Board on Geographic Names (Board) to change the name of "Mount McKinley" to "Denali." Denali is a local Athabascan name for the mountain, which is the highest in North America and is located entirely within Denali National Park and Preserve, Alaska. The mountain was originally named after President William McKinley of Ohio, but President McKinley never visited, nor did he have any significant historical connection to the mountain or to Alaska.

The requested name change is consistent with the Board's substantive policies and is supported by the State of Alaska. While the Board does have a policy of deferring action when a matter is being considered by Congress, contradictory bills on this issue have been proposed by various members of Congress since the late 1970s. Under 43 U.S.C. §§ 364-364f, the Secretary of the Interior may take action in matters "wherein the Board does not act within a reasonable time." The statute also directs the Secretary to "promulgate in the name of the Board ... decisions with respect to geographic names and principles of geographic nomenclature and orthography."

Sec. 3 **Authority.** The authority for this Order is 43 U.S.C. §§ 364-364f.

Sec. 4 **Renaming of Mount McKinley.** This Order changes the name of Mount McKinley in the State of Alaska to Denali.

Sec. 5 **Implementation.** The Board is responsible for following its usual procedures to immediately implement this name change, including changing the mountain's name in the Board's Geographic Names Information System and notifying all interested parties of the name change.

Sec. 6 **Expiration Date.** This Order is effective immediately and will remain in effect until it is amended, superseded, revoked, or automatically expires. This Order shall automatically expire when the Board notifies me that it has notified all interested parties, changed the name in the Board's Geographic Names Information System, and taken all other appropriate actions to implement the name change.

Date: AUG 28 2015



- August 31, 2015
- WASHINGTON, D.C. - President Barack Obama is using a clause in a 1947 law that created the U.S. Board on Geographic Names to strip former President William McKinley's name from North America's tallest mountain peak and instead call it by its traditional Native American name: Denali.
- The move caps decades of political tussling between Ohio and Alaska over the mountain's official name. But the fight may not be over, with some Ohio officials questioning whether Obama had the right to make the change.
- To get around their objections, Interior Secretary Sally Jewell invoked a provision in the 1947 law that created the board, which lets the interior secretary authorize name changes "if the board does not act within a reasonable time."

Last last word?

BBC - Homepage x id ORCID x CNN Trump asked about renam

Secure | https://www.cnn.com/2017/10/24/politics/trump-denali-mt-mckinley/index.html

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CNN politics 45 CONGRESS SECURITY THE NINE TRUMPAMERICA 2018 f t i q

Trump asked about reversing Obama to rename Denali as Mt. McKinley

By [Dan Merica, CNN](#)
Updated 2:36 PM ET, Wed October 25, 2017

National Park Service

MORE FROM CNN

- Adam West, Glen Campbell and others left out of Oscars' 'In...
- The Lonely Island's hilarious rejected Oscars song deserves a...

Ad

2:04 PM 3/6/2018

A resolution?

- After the 2016 presidential election, President Trump and Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke reportedly asked Alaskan senators Dan Sullivan and Lisa Murkowski if they wanted Trump to reverse the name change
- The two senators told Trump that they did not want this to happen, and Trump agreed not to reverse the name change

Essential Diacriticals

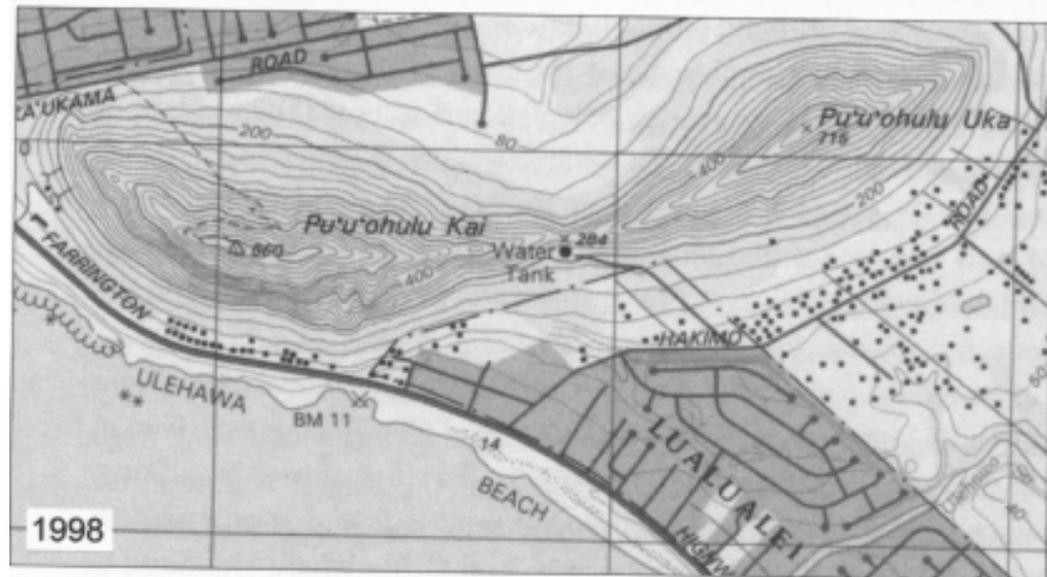
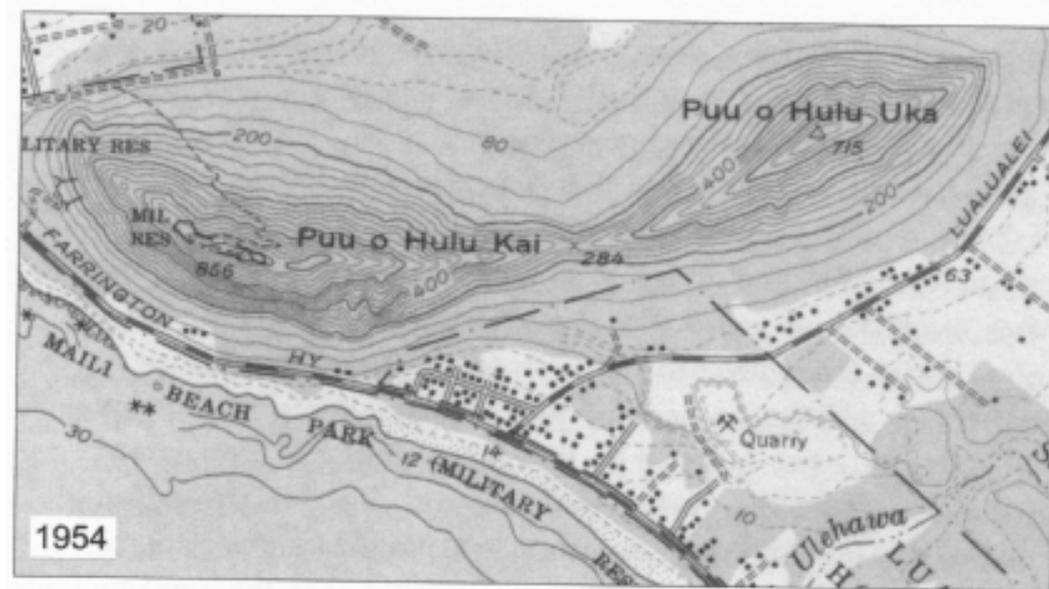


Figure 5.3. Excerpts from 1954 (*above*) and 1998 (*below*) editions of the U.S. Geological Survey's Waianae, Hawaii (now Wai'anae), 7.5-minute quadrangle map, published at 1:24,000, reflect the recent acceptance of diacritical marks for traditional Hawaiian feature names. The more recent USGS map, revised with aerial imagery flown in 1998, reflects boundary and name changes through 2000, when it was printed.

Your toponym or mine



Sea of Korea (www.korea.net)

- The National Geographic Information Institute under the Ministry of Construction and Transportation disclosed 2008 research on the evolution of Korea on foreign maps.
- The study looked at 400 old maps from the United States, France, England and other European nations that included the Korean Peninsula.
- The paper is a review of rare Western maps on the Korean Peninsula and a study of the changes in Korean topography and the proper names of places and how these changes affected the image of Korea abroad
- “Korea” began to appear on Western maps starting in the mid-16th century
- For the first 200 years, Korea was illustrated as an island instead of a peninsula
- Information on geography, sea names, and borders began to appear only in the 18th century.
- By the 19th century, the maps started carrying more specific information on the East Sea and its islands like Ulleungdo and Dokdo.



Matteo Ricci Map
of the Far East
1602

Korea since 1725

- The East Sea (Donghae) was marked "Sea of Corea" or "Mer de Coree" in the late 17th century as seen on maps like England's Senex map in 1725 and France's "Carte De L'Empire Du Japon" by Jacques N. Bellin in 1752 and others
- Lapie's map (France, 1832) that marked South China Sea as Sea of China, East China Sea as Sea of Coree and the present East Sea as Sea of Japan, depicting confusion of names around that time
- Before "Sea of Corea" took hold, the water was also referred to as "Sea of China" and "East Sea"
- "Sea of Japan" began to appear commonly starting from the 19th century, growing in tandem with Japan's ambition to take over the Korean Peninsula
- State of Virginia Governor, United Nations, IHO, Japan, Russia have all weighed in on the controversy



Senex's map on Asia (England, 1725) that marked East Sea as "Eastern Sea or Corea Sea".

- Such an error in a well known website as yours comes as a surprise since we regard you as one of the world's best. Using a proper name for the body of water between the Korean peninsula and the Japanese archipelago is not simply a question of changing the name of a geographical feature. It is rather a part of national effort by the Korean people to erase the legacy of Japanese Imperialism and to redress the unfairness that has resulted from it. It is an absolutely mistaken thing to hear one side of story and follow. If we let this kind of things alone, it brings about a serious problem to disturb order of International society. ...
- As a member of VANK, I urge you to use “East Sea” to describe the body of water in question or both Korean and Japanese designation simultaneously (e.g. “East Sea/Sea of Japan”) in all your documents and atlases.



Erasure: Tall Kisan and Al Birwa

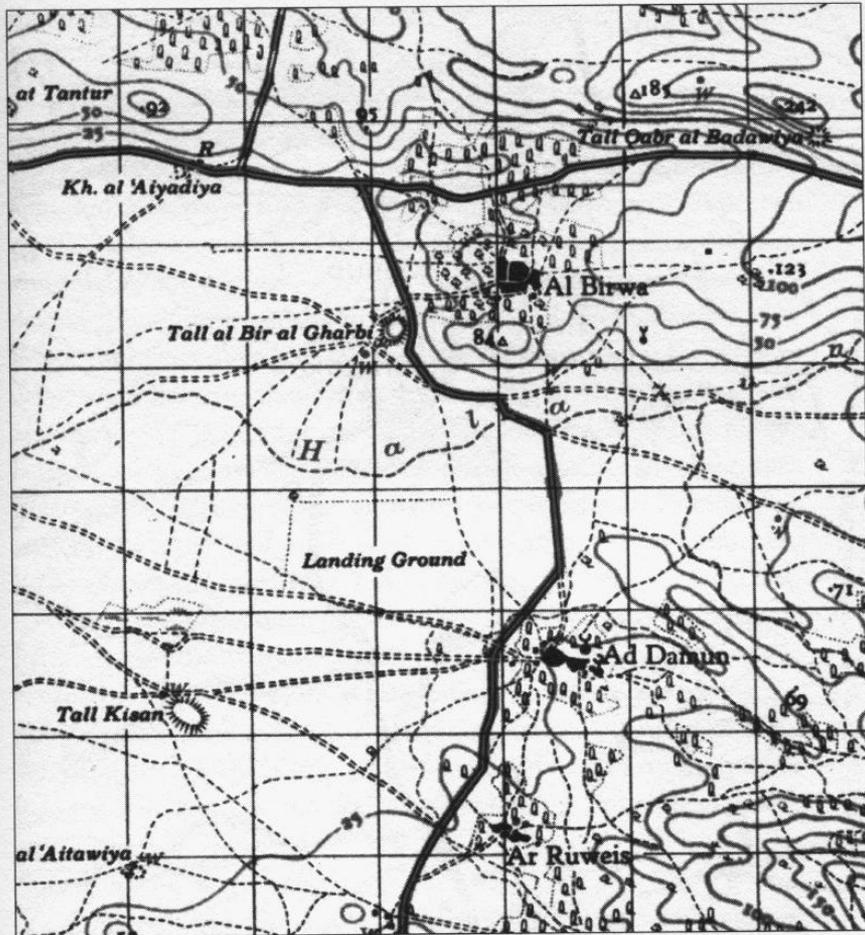


Figure 7.4. The vicinity of Tall Kisan and the village of Al Birwa as portrayed on Sheet 2, Haifa, of the 1:100,000 Map of Palestine, published by the Survey of Palestine in 1943. Excerpt has been enlarged to approximately 1:62,500. Grid lines 1 km (0.76 mile) apart afford a sense of scale.

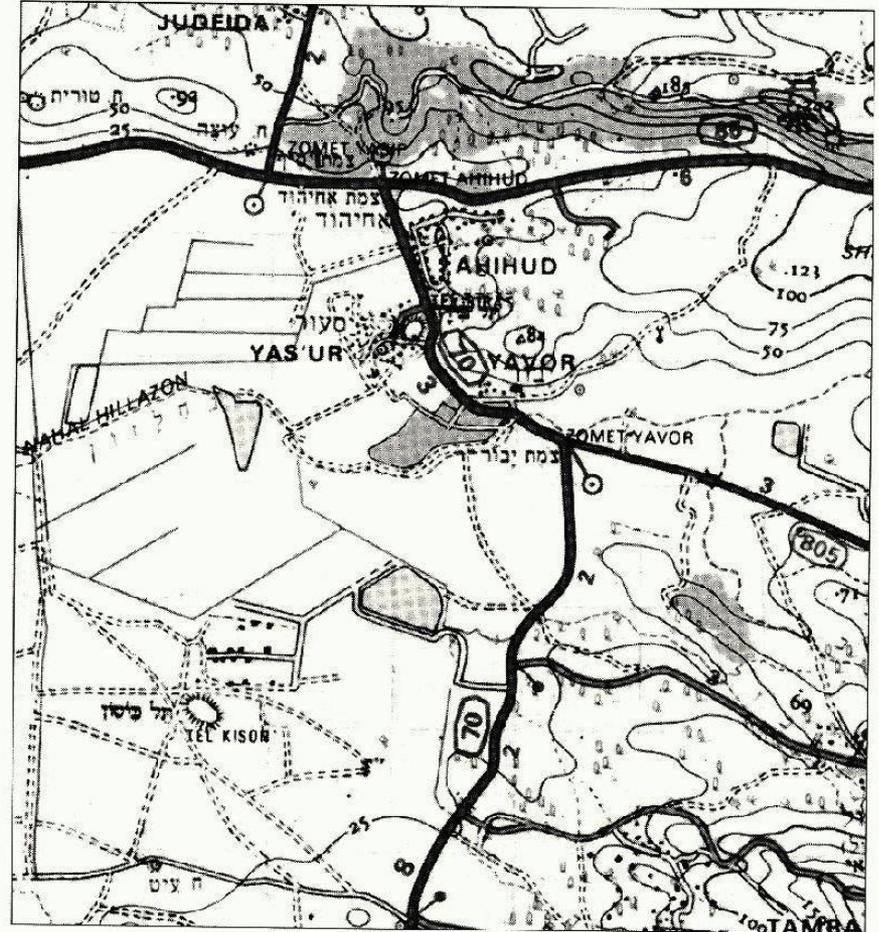
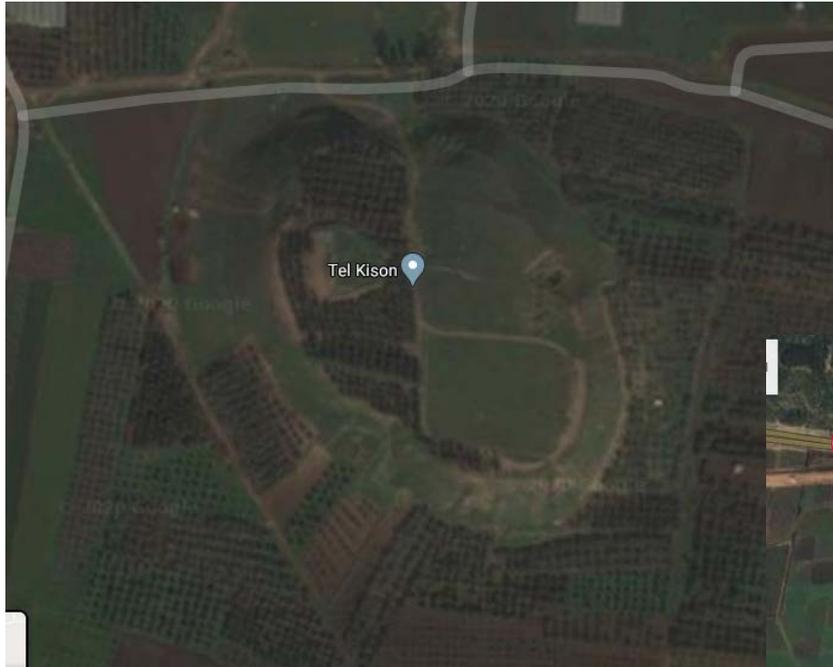


Figure 7.5. Tel Kison and the site of the abandoned village of Al Birwa as portrayed on Sheet 3, Hefa, of the 1:100,000 Map of Israel, published by the Survey of Israel in 1988. Excerpt has been enlarged to approximately 1:62,500 and cropped to correspond to the area shown on figure 7.4.

Today on Google maps



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al birwa israel (1 - 10)

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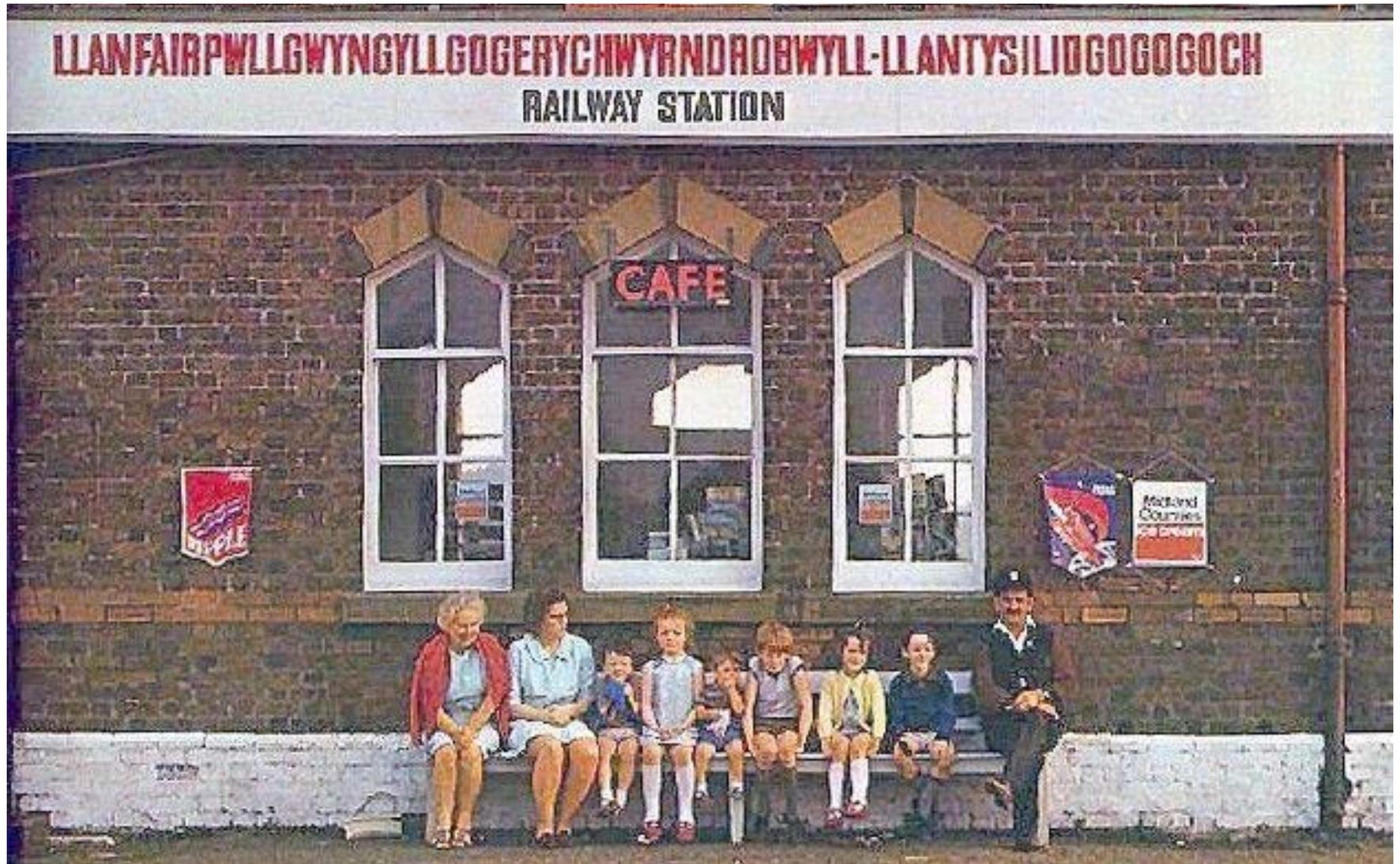
Image © 2008 DigitalGlobe

Pointer 32°54'16.45" N 35°11'47.09" E elev 265 ft Streaming 100%

Google

Eye alt 123

Inscriptions



Reagan's Legacy

The mission of the Ronald Reagan Legacy Project is to honor the legacy of our 40th president, Ronald Reagan. The Reagan Legacy Project aims to fulfill its mission by naming significant public landmarks after President Reagan in the 50 states and over 3,000 counties of the United States, as well as in formerly communist countries across the world. For more information, please contact Karri Bragg at kbragg@atr.org or (202) 785-0266.

Links of Interest

- [How the United States Won the Cold War by Warren E. Norquist](#)
- [Current list of Reagan dedications](#)
- [What Can I Do to Preserve Reagan's Legacy?](#)

Blog Archive

- ▼ 2008 (3)
 - ▼ February (2)
 - [Reagan Day in Maine! Thanks to the great efforts... Happy Birthday Ronald Reagan! In honor of Presid...](#)
 - January (1)
 - 2007 (13)
 - 2006 (23)
 - 2005 (6)

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 08, 2008



Reagan Day in Maine!

Thanks to the great efforts of Mary Adams in the great state of Maine, President Reagan's birthday was celebrated in style (jelly

beans included!) at the State House in Augusta. Despite heavy snow, dozens gathered for a press conference to celebrate the life and legacy of one of our nation's greatest presidents. It was truly a wonderful event and we hope several states will emulate this in the future! Thank you Mary for inviting the RRLP to celebrate Reagan Day in Maine!

Washington-Reagan National Airport



BGN rules for commemorative naming

- **Section 1**—The U.S. Board on Geographic Names will consider proposals for assignment of the names or nicknames of deceased persons to geographic features in the United States and areas under the jurisdiction of the United States. The Board will not consider names that commemorate or may be construed to commemorate living persons. In addition, a person must be deceased at least 5 years before a commemorative proposal will be docketed for consideration.
- **Section 2**—The person being honored by the naming should either have had a direct long-term association with the feature or have made a significant contribution to the area or State in which it is located.
- **Section 3**—A proposal commemorating an individual with an outstanding national or international reputation will be considered even if the person was not directly associated with the geographic feature.
- **Section 4**—All commemorative name proposals must meet the same basic criteria required of any other name proposal.

It's Super Tuesday

Transactions | The National | GEOG 126 - W | www.geog.ucs | (18) LinkedIn | Korea.net | unikorea | GNIS Detail - | + -

viewer.nationalmap.gov/advanced-viewer/

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CLOVERLEAF RD
Big Mosquito Lake
Big Mosquito Lake

Scale: 1:18,056
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The National Map: National Boundaries Dataset, 3DEP Elevation Program, Geographic Nam...

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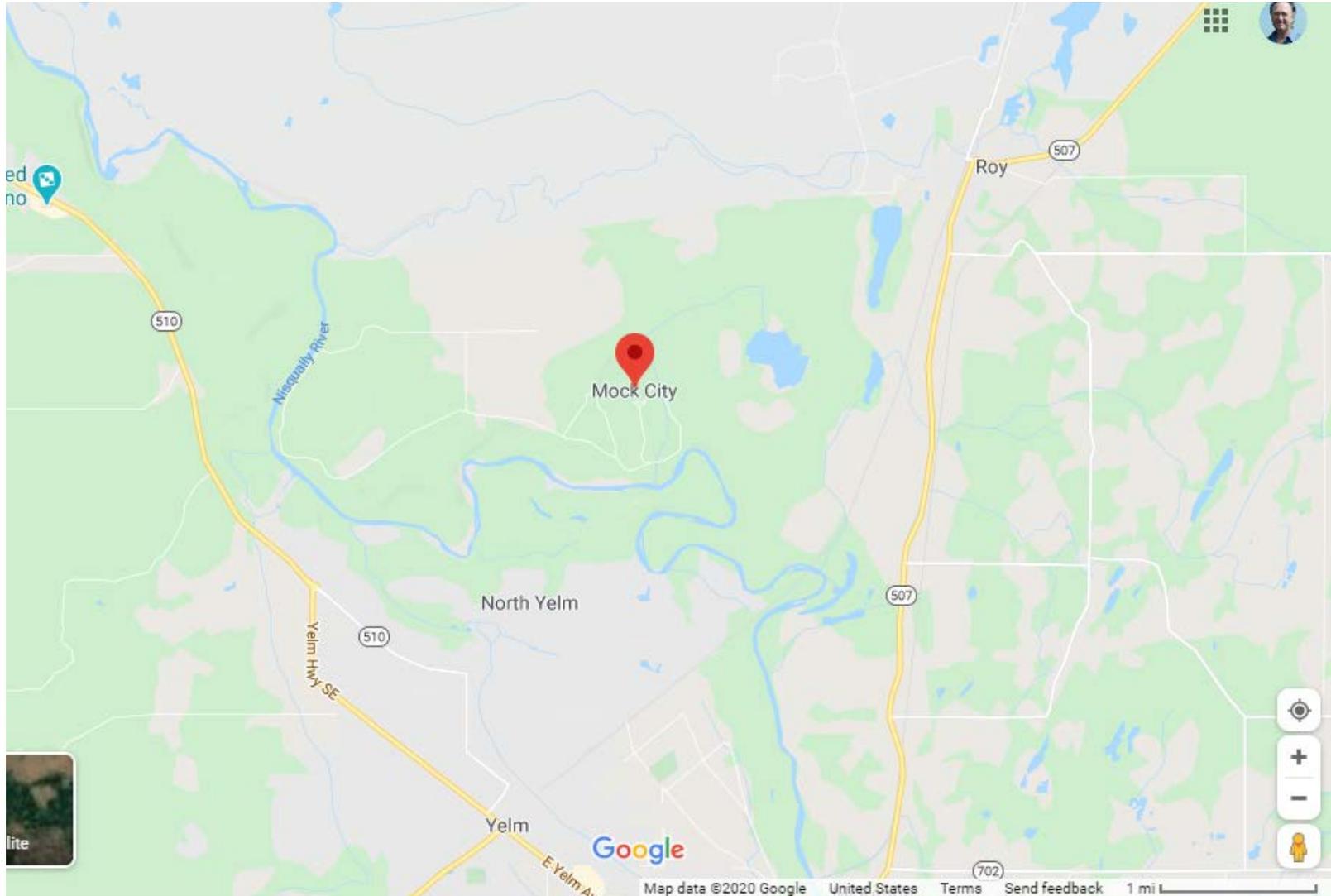
Accident, MD



Hell, MI



Mock City, Washington

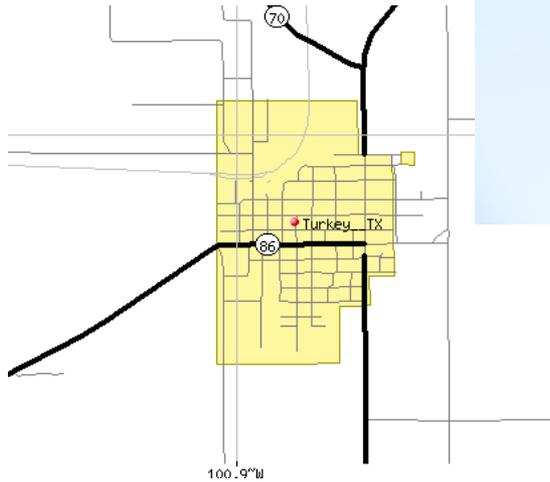
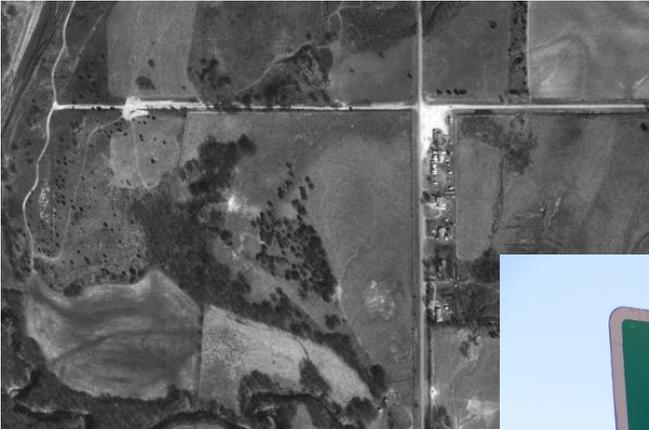


“Survival City” Yucca Flats, NV

https://www.smithsonianmag.com/videos/category/history/intense-footage-of-fake-towns-used-for-1950s_1



Some fun places



The danger of public input



Summary

- BGN has a difficult mission to “police” US place names
- Place names are assigned for different motives, e.g. occupation, commemoration
- Names evoke power and emotion, especially native names
- Naming and renaming can be very contentious
- Considerable variation worldwide, and renaming remains rampant