



Field report from the journey to North-East Greenland 2016



Alabamahuset secured!

In the summer of 2016, after several years of preparation, a Nanok team succeeded in completing a culture historical preservation of Alabamahuset on Shannon Ø in accordance with the directions from Greenland National Museum. Furthermore, another Nanok team completed the restoration of Ørnereden and Tolvmandsbarakken as well as inspected and repaired several huts in the Ella Ø region. Read about this and much more in this report.

Introduction

This year Nordøstgrønlandsk Kompagni Nanok has completed its 26th field season. Our two field teams have completed two extensive and very different programmes.

The first field team arrived at Daneborg on 27 July and was flown farther out to Alabamahuset on Shannon a few days later. Here, during the following two weeks, the team completed a substantial culture historical preservation of Alabamahuset, Ejnar Mikkelsen and Iver Iversen's old iconic overwintering house. The practical preparations have been comprehensive and in the making for more than five years in close collaboration with the Greenland National Museum in Nuuk. The exacting ice conditions and accessibility have made the practical logistics relatively complicated; but now the project has been successfully completed, and we are very pleased with this.

The other Nanok team arrived on Ella Ø on 9 August. The team had two main tasks: firstly, to finish the restoration of Ørnereden and Tolvmandsbarakken started by Nanok in 2015, and secondly, to inspect, maintain and resupply the huts in the Ella Ø region that previously have been restored by Nanok. These and other tasks were completed. Moreover, it was very gratifying to find that none of the buildings on Ella Ø had been ravaged by bears during the past year. Since there evidentially had been bears in the area, one can assume that the bearproofing of the houses in 2015 has worked as intended, probably in combination with the removal of provisions from the houses, which instead were put in bearproof containers.

Through conversations with current Sirius men, it is nice to learn that the interest in using and preserving the old historic huts has never been greater. Several of the young sledge patrol members have expressed that they have begun to opt out of staying in the good and practical Sirius tent, if there is a restored hut nearby.

This field report is also available in English and Danish at: www.xsirius.dk/nanok.html

Again this year, Nanok was actively involved in the visit of Sirius training course in Nuuk, where the aspirants visited relevant authorities and institutions. It was very positive to see the interest among the new Sirius men for Nanok's work.



AAGE V. JENSENS FONDE

First and foremost Nanok sends a warm thank you to our main sponsor, Aage V. Jensens Fonde, for never-failing trust and support. Without this continuous support, Nanok would not be able to complete its work.

We also owe a special thanks to a range of the Danish military units and individuals that readily have helped manage many logistic challenges, not least in connection with the preservation of Alabamahuset. Many units have contributed, including Arctic Command, The Sirius Sledge patrol, Education- & Maintaining Section Greenland, Defence Guard Mestersvig, the inspection vessels "Triton", "Thetis", "Knud Rasmussen" and "Ejnar Mikkelsen".

Also, a great thank you to the MarinBasis/Daneborg team for a positive and complaisant collaboration.

A warm thank you for the great support that family and friends give to the dispatched Nanok'ers, who spend at least an entire summer vacation working for Nanok. Furthermore, a great thank you to the large circle of individuals who continuously show positive interest in our work and support this.

Finally, a warm thanks to all other excellent collaborators as well as private and public authorities that in different ways have contributed to make our work possible.

On behalf of Nanok,

Peter Schmidt Mikkelsen

Field report for the "Alabama team" 2016

Tasks

The Alabama team had the following tasks:

- a) to complete culture historical preservation of Alabamahuset on Shannon Ø in accordance with the directions from Greenland National Museum
- b) to inspect, count and do maintenance of Nanok's depot in Daneborg
- c) to inspect/receive goods/equipment for Nanok at Daneborg
- d) to prepare for the Nanok expedition 2017

The Alabama team

Rasmus Gregersen (Sirius '01)
Jens Chr. W. Gottfredsen (Sirius '77)
Bjørn Duus Mikkelsen
Kristian Aamand Petersen

Preparations and overview

In the summer of 2015, the Navy's inspection vessel "Thetis" had freighted food, materials and tools out to the hut. This summer, when we landed in helicopter at Alabamahuset, we were very pleased with the preparations that had been made last year. The helicopter's maximum limit was 450 kg, us inclusive, so it would have been impossible also to transport food, wood and tools on the same flight. Everything stood untouched in the hut, and we started by pulling out our materials and making an overview of the task: Inside the hut nothing stood taller than the 30 cm pile of boards which once had been attached as different



Alabamahuset is situated on the island Shannon (red circle) in North-East Greenland

furniture and fixtures, except for the stove, the bench, which was more or less intact, and an end wall on the bunk beds. The bottom layer on the floor can best be described as a 5-10 cm layer of composted clothes, books and furniture mixed with a few items that must have been on the shelves, on the table, under the bed and in boxes. The framework of the house was missing some roof boards, some wall planks and also the door. Outside of the house there was almost no sheathing left. Very few fillets were holding a bit of roofing felt and sailcloth. In addition, very little of a zinc plate was left on the porch. Around the house, huge amounts of items lay scattered, pieces of wood, ammunition, blown-down roof boards, a trapper sledge, expedition equipment and parts from the ship.



Arrival at Alabamahuset. We try to make an overview of the situation.



Alabamahuset inside upon arrival



The bottom layer on the floor can best be described as a 5-10 cm layer of composted clothes, books, and furniture mixed with some items that must have been placed on shelves, on the table, under the bed and in boxes standing around.



First priority was to be able to stay overnight inside the hut because of the great risk of bear visitors. Also, a tarpaulin was needed over the roof, so the house could dry up.

First priority: to stay overnight in the hut

Our first priority was to be able to stay overnight in the hut because of the great risk of bear visitors in the area, so after having taken photos of the ground around the hut, our first task was to clear out everything from the hut. We made an effort to take everything out in the order and correlation in which it had fallen down over the years, and everything was placed in numbered piles. When boards, furniture, coal stoves and boxes under the beds had been carried outside, there was only the layer of compost on the floorboards left. This we put into rubbish bags, and it was later put into a wooden frame 20 m west of the hut with all the extra wood from the hut that we could not find any use for.

Now that the hut had been cleared, we could assess the conditions of the floor and the construction better, and it was evident that all wood from 50 cm above ground needed

to be dried up, so we put a tarpaulin over the roof and windows, holes and door. Then we installed a Nanok coal stove, where the stove previously had been, and made a fire.

The floor

The floor was assessed first as we needed to determine, if the original floor was so damaged that there would have to be placed another on top. The 7 cm thick ship planks of hard pinewood were soaked but showed no signs of rot or dry rot. So we decided to focus on drying up the floor and caulking holes and cracks.

Foundation/sill

Inspection of the foundation and the lower planks outside the wall planks also had high priority. Originally, the hut was built on sand and grit, and then the same material was piled up the walls to prevent draught in the hut. This we removed to get an idea of



We removed all moisture binding material around the hut, made room for airing under the roofing felt of the walls and dug out to make a drop away from the hut. When boards, furniture, coal stoves and boxes under the beds had been carried outside, the only thing left was the layer of compost on the floorboards. We put this into rubbish bags, and it was later put into a wooden frame 20 m west of the hut with all the extra wood from the hut that we could not find any use for.



On the east wall, the freestanding pillar by the bunks' bearers was a mystery. The two east-facing bunks' bearers were attached in some characteristically recessed fenders. On the other side of the pillar there were identical fenders.

the need for extra support in case of rot. We were able to ascertain that the hut is built on three floors, where the lowermost was very damp and showed signs of incipient rot. Two deck planks, the one on the north wall and the one north of the porch on the west wall, showed much rotting, but are still connected. We assessed that the deck planks had no significance for the stability of the hut and that the authentic appearance of the hut was best maintained with the original deck planks, so these were kept for drying-up. We removed all moisture binding material around the hut, made room for airing under the roofing felt of the walls and dug out to make a drop away from the hut. Next, with the available materials and larger stones, we built a snow guard up the walls of the hut, which will help ventilate under the hut in the summer and quickly become sealed with snow in the winter.

The roof

The missing boards had blown less than 10 meters away from the hut and were reattached without any difficulties. A single extra jack rafter was installed out of necessity to scaffold the roof surface facing north. All the roof boards were re-nailed so the roofing felt was not put on an unstable base.

The walls

Inside to the right of the door, there was a hole as tall as a grown man in the wall, where early photos show a type of pipe peeping out next to the window. The size of the planks that lay in correlation with this made it impossible to put the pipe in its original place, and therefore we built the wall without the pipe. The wall planks were full of holes filled with the tree nails that were originally used for the ship.



All of the roof boards were re-nailed so the roofing felt was not put on an unstable base.



Walls and roof were covered with inner roofing felt, which was nailed on with 25 mm roofing nails. 18,000 roofing nails in total with 5 cm in between.

Lots of the nails had fallen out, and we found them around the house and put them back. Many wall planks were loose because of weathered iron nails. These were nailed back on. On the outside of the walls were old boards, fillets and window frames, which held in place roofing felt, zinc plate and sailcloth. These were measured, photographed and taken off with the hardwood wedges that we had brought. A few fillets were so thin, worn after a 100 years of wind, that they split and had to be glued, before they could be reinstalled.

Finish roof and walls

Walls and roof were covered with inner roofing felt which was nailed on with 25 mm roofing nails; 18.000 in total with 5 cm in between. Next, in an increased state of fire readiness, the outer roofing felt was melted on with overlap considering water from above and the predominant wind directions (NE and SW). On the roofing felt of the walls the original fillets etc. were attached precisely where they had been installed previously. Outside, to the left of the door, a shovel holder with shovel was put up.



The outer roofing felt was melted on with overlaps considering water from above and the predominant wind directions (NE and SW).

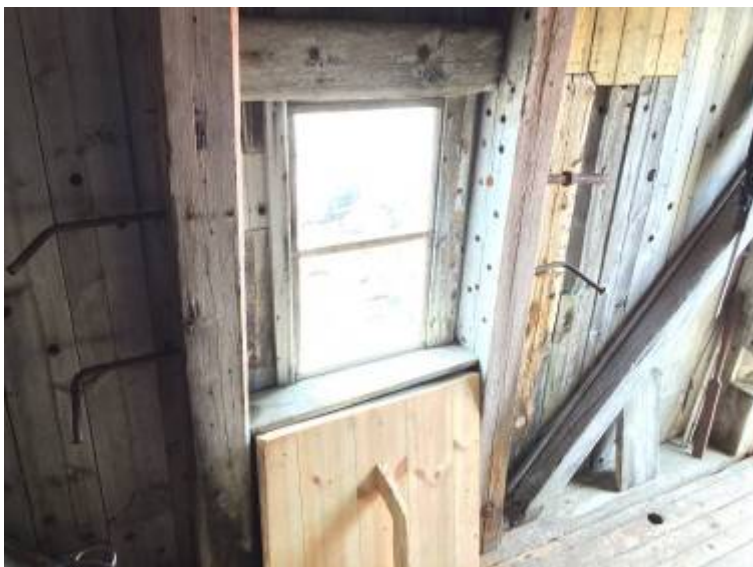


On the roofing felt of the walls the original fillets etc. were attached precisely where they had been installed previously.

Windows

There are two windows in the south wall of the porch and the main room. A thorough investigation of the windows revealed some soft paper/felt that had been used for sealing.

There were no remains of kit, which for this reason was not applied. Instead the window frame was accurately prepared and Perspex was inserted. The original, delicate window fillets were reinstalled, and a bar for the



Because of the visits from the bears, we decided to produce shutters for the windows to improve the bearproofing of the hut. We installed the shutters on the inside to keep the original appearance outside.



Unfortunately, the new, replicated sign and the new door did not reach us in time. Instead, a temporary sign and a solid door were produced from available materials.

There remains room for installing the replicated sign and the new door, though, when the opportunity arises.

main room's two-pieced window was produced.

We had visits from 5 polar bears during the 12 days we were renovating the hut. The bear alarms work as intentioned. Due to these visits, we decided to produce shutters for the windows to improve the bearproofing of the hut. We installed the shutters on the inside to keep the original appearance outside.

Door and sign

By the entrance of the door we found handle and door spring, hinges and keyhole frames. However, we did not find any trace of a door. Its fate remains a mystery. We expected the door to be missing, and there had been taken measurements for and produced a ship door in teakwood similar to the door seen installed in original photos from 1910. Similarly, measurements had been taken, and an exact copy of the original Alabama-sign, seen installed over the door in original photos, had been produced. Door, sign and some lighter roofing felt for the roof (in a colour corresponding to the lighter sailcloth that originally covered the roof) unfortunately stranded in Reykjavik due to a stupid mistake by the Icelandic shipping company. Instead, a temporary sign and a solid door were produced from available materials and uniform roofing felt was used for the walls and roof. There is space available for the replicated sign above the new door, which has the same outer measurements as the teak door, so both sign and door will be easy to replace when the opportunity arises.

Bunks/shelves

As mentioned earlier, all the bunks, partitions and shelves were damaged when we arrived. It was a big puzzle assembling the fixture and installing the things exactly like they had been, and it involved the work of comparing the position of each plank and board to the nail holes. On the east wall, the freestanding pillar by the bunks' bearers was a mystery. The two east-facing bunks'



It was a big puzzle assembling the fixture and installing the things exactly like they had been, and it involved the work of comparing the position of each plank and board to nail holes.



The last details are taking form.

bearers were attached in some characteristically recessed fenders. On the other side of the pillar there were identical fenders. As we found some planks used for sealing the lower east-facing bunk, it became evident that the identical fenders marked the location of the last two bunks, which the house naturally had had when the six crew members were living there. The remaining wall fillets supported this theory. When Ejnar Mikkelsen and Iver Iversen returned, they had decided that they did not need six bunks. Therefore they removed two bunks and improved the remaining bunks with the materials and moved the stove to a better position.

Stoves

When we arrived, we found the old coal stove and an old ship coal stove. The door hinges on both of them were in such a poor condition that they no longer could be used. We put the old, round ship stove outside. The old coal stove we put on the porch. Thus it stands where it stood, when Ejnar and Iver

returned from their expedition and found an empty hut, filled with snow, instead of a ship with a crew. We have blocked up the stove with rocks because the legs are unstable and loose in their sockets. We have set up a Nanok stove in the location where the old coal stove was. The place already had a feed through for the stovepipe and was chosen for the functional stove of the house by Ejnar and Iver. When we used the stove to dry up the hut, we realised the need for installing a reflecting screen against the wall and a cover plate on the floor. As a cover plate we used the end of the old water drum, visible next to the kitchen tent on the photos from 1910. The round shape of the cover plate also called for a round reflecting screen, which was produced from the materials in which the Nanok stove had been packed. The original feed through was a 250 mm pipe, which must have served as a kind of deck feed through on the ship. The stovepipe for the Nanok stove is 100 mm so this left some room for rain and snow to enter. To seal this hole, from the torn zinc plates lying around



The round shape of the cover plate called for a similar round reflecting screen which was produced from the materials in which the Nanok stove had been packed.



Captain's table before and after restoration.

in the area, there were produced two sockets for the top and the bottom, fitting hermetically on both pipes. Stones have been put in between top and bottom snow packing and heat proof 'isolation' toward the roof. The height of the stovepipe was adjusted several times to find the optimal draught, and three anchor wires have been secured in the top of the pipe. The wires are strands from one of the staves of the ship. The two anchor points on the east wall are zinc ribbons originally used as cover/strengthening of wooden boxes on the ship. The anchor point on the roof is a fitting matching the one installed in the almost intact skylight south of the hut.

Captain's table

In the middle of the pile of wood pieces on the floor, we had found the sad remains of a peg joined ship table with flap, drawer and grommets for wallmounted hooks on board the ship. It had been twisted many times. The pieces were many, and the damages extensive. After four days of gluing, fitting,

adjusting and modifying, the table is once again fine and functional in its old spot by the bench between the bunks.

The periphery around the hut

As a prelude to the restoration, we took photos of the entire area around the hut from the roof. Then we placed the contents of the hut in a 5x10 meter area in front of the door. To be able to work on the outer walls, we removed a great many things that we otherwise would have trampled into pieces. We installed bear alarm around the house, using the plugs lying around the place. We burnt on roofing felt, having to remove abandoned ammunition and sailcloth from the hot area. We took materials for the restoration, and we changed the construction of the stonewall around the house and used stones from the area around the hut for this. Finally we put the round ship coal stove outside and set up the earlier mentioned area for the pile of compost from the hut as well as the boards and pieces of wood we did not find any use for.



Bjørn attaches the "Kapt: Mikkelsen" sign to the wall. Captain Ejnar Mikkelsen was Bjørn's great-grandfather.

Additional work

In addition to Alabamahuset, we performed the following tasks: Reparation of kitchen door in Sandodden [425-1]. It was pulled off the hinges and installed with screws. Also, hinges and barrel bolts were adjusted and modified on the back door of Sandodden, on Skindskuret (the fur hut) next to Sandodden, as well as on building 9. The old Zackenberg station [438-2] and Fiskerhytten [438-4] were counted, and loose roofing felt at the north-east corner of Fiskerhytten was nailed back on. Furthermore, Pashuset [433] was visited and inspected. Additionally, the lath rack for the sledges in front of Hotel Karina were completely renovated, strengthened and painted with wood protection. The post lath rack was moved and all sledges were attempted arranged in historically chronological order. Photos were taken of all the sledges for further verification of year of construction in Nanok and Sirius circles. Hotel Karina was tidied up, vacuumed and cleaned. Sandodden and all other Nanok depots on Daneborg were counted. The new container that arrived with the ship was set up by MarinBasis. Inside we have assembled

the four shipped shelving units and moved the tools, all of Nanok's Jet A1, coal and 800 out of 1400 litres of petrol into the container.

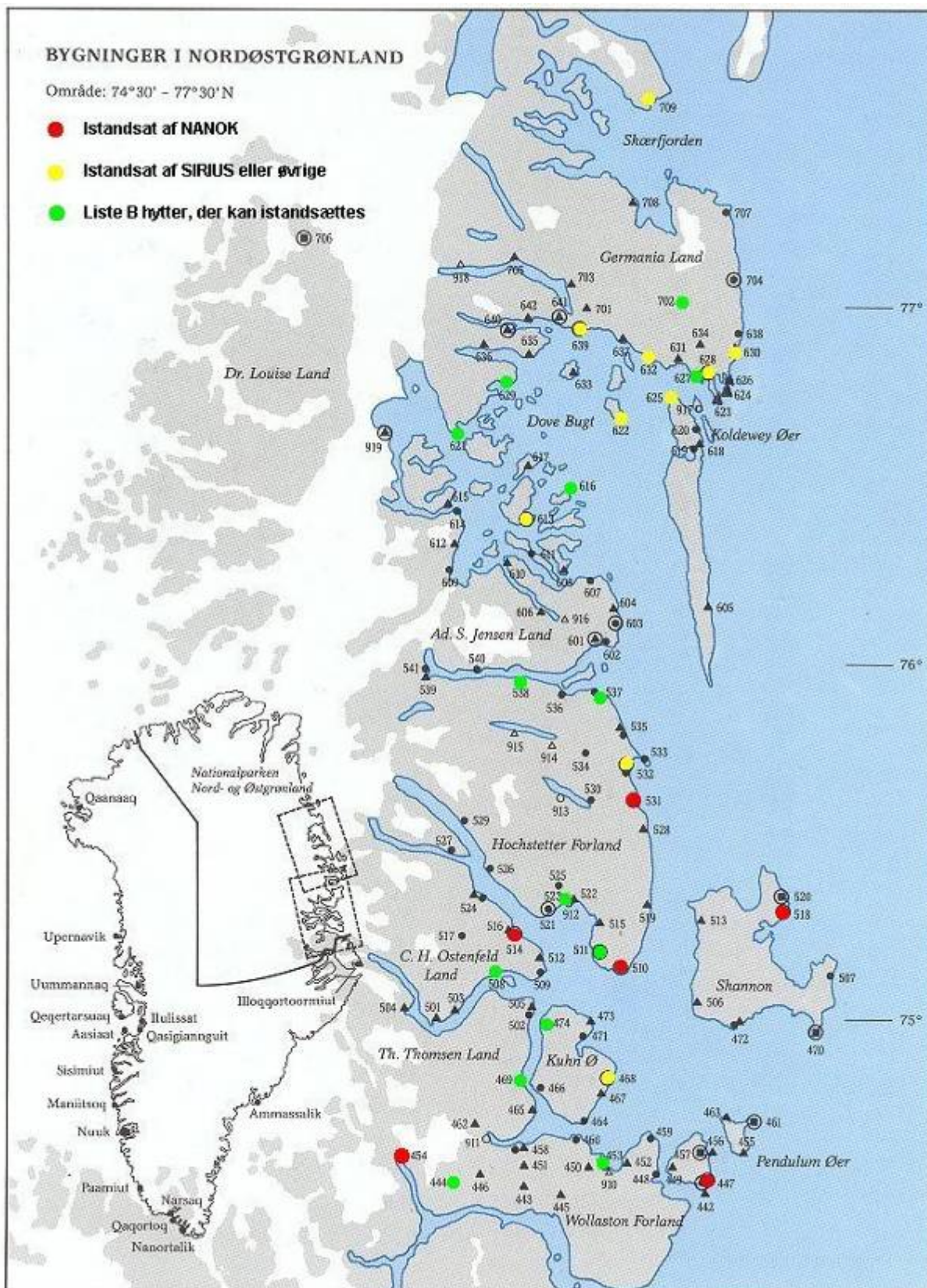
Conclusion

The Nanok team's task was to renovate Alabamahuset. Preparations and agreement of the extent of the task as well as execution have taken place in collaboration with The Greenland National Museum. Logistically, we owe a great thank you to MarinBasis/Daneborg, Sirius, "Thetis" and "Triton" for never-failing support when the task needed assistance.

Rasmus – Jens Chr. – Bjørn – Kristian



The "Alabama team" 2016: From the left: Rasmus Gregersen, Bjørn Duus Mikkelsen, Jens Chr. W. Gotfredsen, Kristian Aamand Petersen

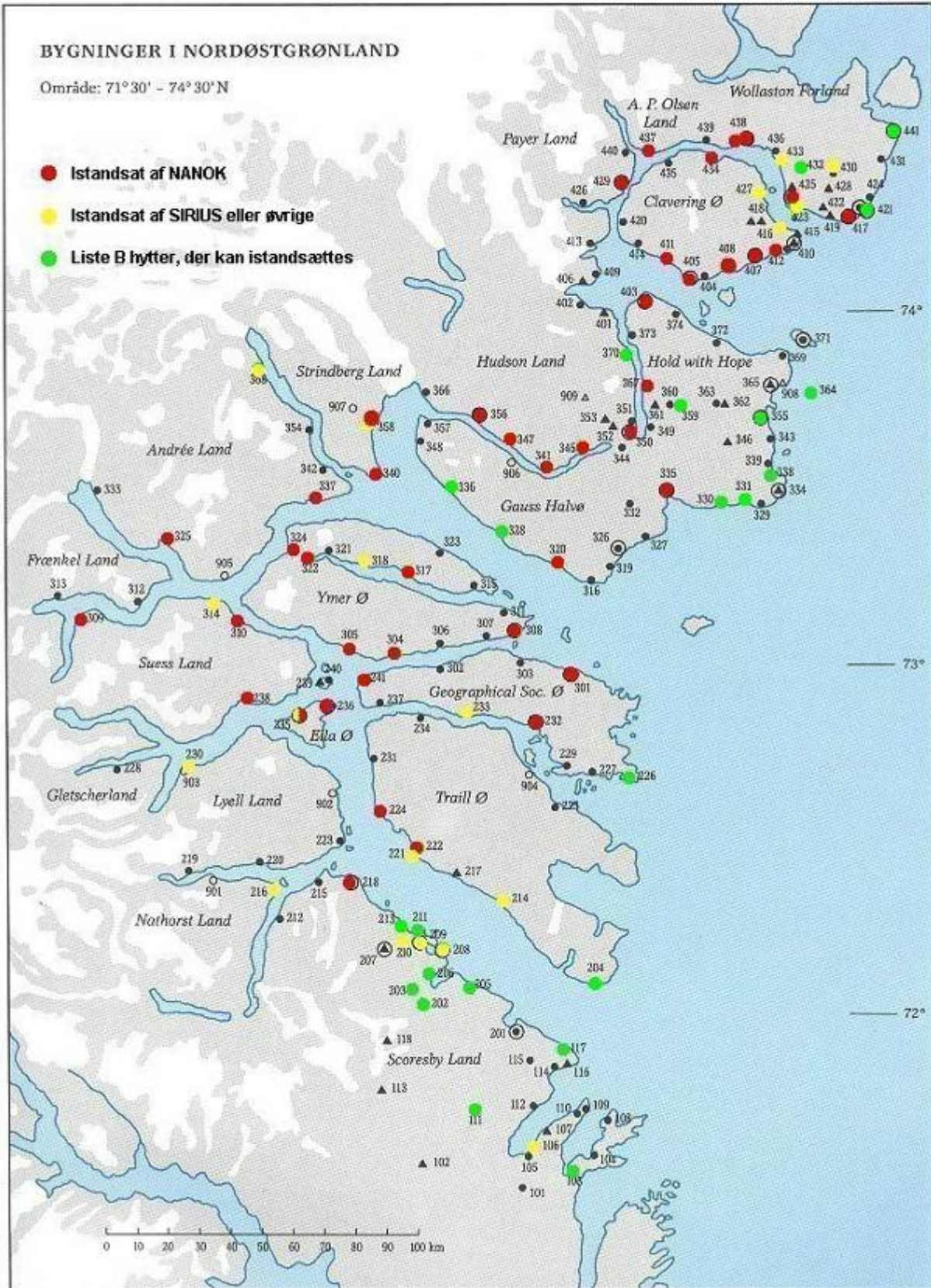


The maps on this and opposite pages show the maintenance status for the old huts, houses and stations in North-East Greenland. The sites marked red or yellow can be expected to be in reasonably usable condition. Other sites, however, cannot be expected to be usable. Sites marked green are other huts with the classification B, which Nanok may renovate and maintain in the coming years.

BYGNINGER I NORDØSTGRØNLAND

Område: 71° 30' - 74° 30' N

- Istandsæt af NANOK
- Istandsæt af SIRIUS eller øvrige
- Liste B hytter, der kan istandsættes



Field report for the "Ella Ø team" 2016

Tasks

The Ella Ø team had the following tasks:

- a) to complete Nanok's restoration of Ørnereden and Tolvmandsbarakken started in 2015
- b) to complete maintenance on and resupply the huts in the Ella Ø region previously refitted by Nanok
- c) to inspect, count and do maintenance of Nanok's depot on Ella Ø
- d) to receive goods for Nanok on Ella Ø
- e) to prepare for the Nanok expedition 2017

The "Ella Ø team"

Peter Schmidt Mikkelsen (Sirius '77)

Jesper Mølbæk Stentoft (Sirius '97)

Torben Jeppesen (Sirius '98)

Journey to and arrival at Ella Ø

The three participants started their journey on 8 August 2016 from their homes in East-, West- and South-Jutland respectively and met in the train to Copenhagen. Later that day with Icelandair to Island and an overnight stay at Hotel Kjarnar Lundur in Akureyri. The following day via Constable Pynt to Ella Ø where we arrived at 4.00am in the most beautiful sunshine. We were well received by the six fit Siriusfupper: Sebastian '13, Frank '14, Christoffer '15, Joris '16, Anton '16 and Mikkel '16. We housed ourselves in Ørnereden and had a look at our equipment and buildings. Before 'closing-time' we had also taken off the tarpaulins of "Agsut" and "Brebøl".



Once more, lodgers in Ørnereden.

Everything was intact, and nothing had been ravaged by polar bears during the winter. A good start of a new season.

Preparation and starting tasks

The following two days on Ella Ø were spent partly preparing the good ship "Agsut" for a new season and partly starting the first actual task. When the Ella Ø team in 2015 departed for home, they had completed a fundamental restoration and cleaning of Tolvmandsbarakken and Ørnereden. What still remained was to replace and paint the damaged ceiling plates in Ørnereden and to paint all of Tolvmandsbarakken inside from floor to ceiling. These tasks were now begun.

One of the very best things about Ella Ø is that one mostly has peace and quiet for working, but for a few hours in the afternoon 11 August the station was severely overpopulated during a visit by the cruise icebreaker "Kapitan Khlebnikov" and its 78 tourists.



Ella Ø with Tolvmandsbarakken and Nanok's equipment container in the foreground.



Preparing and launching "Agsut".

Collecting supplies in Mestersvig

12 August started as another beautiful and clear day. We rose at 5am, and about 7am we were on our way towards Mestersvig to collect the goods that had arrived with RAL's "Arina Arctica" earlier that week. On the way we made a stop to check Kongeborgen [224-2]. It turned out to be worth the while as a bear had visited the hut and left door, window and shutter smashed. Fortunately, we were well prepared for this, and a few hours later we could resume our trip towards Mestersvig where we arrived just in time to be invited for a fantastic supper. After the meal, the leader of the station, Lars, readily helped us localise our goods. We also had time for a trip back to Nyhavn where we found that all Nanok's provisions had been destroyed by bear. The place was in need of a thorough cleaning and tidying. We did this the following morning, where all our provisions in Nyhavn were

discarded. At the same time, we did a systematic tidying and counting in our part of the garage building. In the afternoon we made a trip with "Agsut" to Hamna [208] to assess its condition: It needs an exhaustive restoration and cleaning. The plan is that this will happen in 2020, and it will look great again when that time comes. The next morning at 8am, with a completely loaded "Agsut", we started the journey back to Ella Ø. Just before midday we reached Kap Peterséns [218], which needed to have adjusted and secured the stovepipe, mended some holes in the roofing felt and a few other trifles. When this was fixed, we continued north through Narhvalsund to Ella Ø, where we arrived at about 9pm.

Work continues on Ella Ø

The following morning, 15 August, the work continued with painting and furnishing Tolvmandsbarakken inside. Every where



Left: Kongeborgen [224-2] has received a new door. Middle: Tidying damaged provisions in Nyhavn. Right: Reparation of roofing felt on Kap Peterséns.



Renewing the old, rotten tires of "Agsut"s cradle.



we used custom-made linseed oil painting in authentic colours. When we arrived at Ella Ø, the barracks, besides a kitchen-dining area, also had five rooms, each furnished with a bunk bed. However, we soon realised that two of the rooms were too small to be properly functional. Therefore we took down the partition between these, so Tolvmandsbarakken now has four functional rooms, each with a double bunk bed. By 17 August we had got so far with painting and furnishing that we could move from Ørnereden into Tolvmandsbarakken. There was also lit a fire in the central coal stove and a nice warmth quickly spread through the entire house. The stove works well, by the way. It burns without



Tolvmandsbarakken was painted inside from floor to ceiling. It takes time, but it is worth the while. In the middle the central coal stove of the barracks can be seen.



*The Siriusfopper on Ella Ø.
Front from left: Frank '14, Sebastian '13, Christoffer '15.
Back from left: Mikkel '16, Anton '16, Joris '16*



Left: In several of the rooms in Ørnereden the bear had destroyed the ceiling plates in 2013.

Right: New ceiling plates mounted and ready for painting.

any difficulties for days, as long as it is fed with a shovelful of coal from time to time.

Meanwhile we had also dealt with some other tasks at the station. We had renewed the old, rotten tires on the cradle for "Agsut" and mounted a new hp emergency motor on Brebøl-jollen. Furthermore, Jesper had exchanged the defect Eagle echo sounder in Brebøl-jollen with a new Lowrance Elite7 Ti echo sounder, which, despite Jesper's persistent effort and adjustments, only works at relatively low speed, as expected, unfortunately.

In Ørnereden, Torben had renewed the masonite ceiling plates and fillets which the bear had torn down in the autumn 2013. Plates and fillets were finally painted with linseed oil paint in the authentic colour.

In the meantime, it had been agreed with Education- & Maintaining Section Greenland (EMSG) that Nanok can set up another container for equipment next to our existing container. At the same time EMSG had offered to clear the Bellevue shed and



The rooms in Tolvmandsbarakken are not big, but functional and authentic.



The kitchen-dining area in Tolvmandsbarakken after painting.



Left: The CTD is dragged in. Right: The hut journal is checked in Kap Hedlund hytten [230-2].



Left: Kap Hedlund hytten [230-2]. Right: Maristua [236]

instead make it over to Nanok, which now can use Bellevue for storage of vessel gear. A practical agreement for both parties. When the agreement was in place, we began refurbishing our container. All wood and timber, taking up almost half the space, were moved out and put in a pile in front of Tolvmadsbarakken, from where it will be moved into the new container, once it is set up in 2017. Instead of the timber, shelves of steel were put up, where all our provisions,

which now have been sorted, can be kept bearproof and easily accessible from now on. We also levelled a site for the new container next to the existing.

An extra job in the fjords

In 2015, with the news that Nanok is furnishing Tolvmadsbarakken into an open expedition house, also parts of the marine research community have become interested in starting new investigations in the fjord



Hisingers Gletscher in Dicksons Fjord.



At Nordenskiöld's Glacier in the bottom of Kejsers Franz Josephs Fjord.

area around Ella Ø – probably as soon as summer 2017. In that connection, earlier this year Nanok received an enquiry from Arctic Research Centre (ARC), Aarhus University, if we could complete some preliminary oceanographical measurements in the area, i.e. of Conductivity (salinity), Temperature and Depth (pressure) (CTD) as well as depth transect (echo sounder). As the object of the refitting of Tolvmandsbarakken is to give not only Nanok but also research projects an improved base in the area, and as we were in the area anyway, naturally, we took on this interesting extra job. The practical execution took place on 18 August where we at 8am left Ella Ø in Brebøl-jollen Ø to complete the measurement. When we returned to the station that same evening at 10pm, we had travelled approximately 300 km in the Kempe fjord area (see map) and completed CTD measurements of 26 different localities on the way. In addition, we had checked both Kap Hedlund hytten [230-2] and Maristua [236], both being in good condition.

Preparing inspection of the area's huts

The following two days, 19-20 August, we attended to several big and small tasks on Ella Ø, including adjusting fender windows, making a new kitchen drain for Tolvmandsbarakken and furnishing Bellevue for our vessel equipment. Furthermore, we prepared everything for our second main task: a week's sail with "Agsut" to do maintenance and resupply the huts in the Ella Ø region which had been renovated by Nanok previously.

Maintenance of and resupply huts

On 21 August at 8.30am we left Ella Ø with "Agsut" heavily loaded with timber, fuel, coal, tools, equipment and supplies. In a breezy headwind and back draught, but in excellent sunshine, we chugged through the waves, slowly but steadily, in Antarctic Sund to our first destination, Bjørnheimen [310]. A few hours later the hut once again was in perfect condition and supplied with a new and much needed outer door and a new stovepipe. At 4pm we could continue inwards, in decreasing wind, to the bottom



Rendalshytten [309], Renbughytten [325] and Kap Ovibos hytten [340] all in good condition.



I will be right here waiting for you... /// Doo-doo-doo, lookin' out my back door...

of the Kejsers Franz Josephs Fjord – a beautiful evening sail.

Before departure from Ella Ø, we had promised the nice Siriusfupper to deliver some footwear (cros) for them in Siriushytten in Engdalen. The next morning, when we were in the hut, we suddenly had a visit from a bear that curiously observed us through the window. When it after a while looked like it also would like to jump through the window to visit us, we decided to fire a shot in front of it to scare it off. Frightened, it ran down to the fjord, plunged into the water and swam out. Later that day, as we were approaching Rendalshytten [309] at Paradisdalen, it turned out that a bear was walking around close to the hut. We scared it off with three warning shots. The hut, however, was completely undamaged and was only missing a shovel, which we supplied it with. Furthermore, we removed all present provisions, which we have also done in all the other old huts. It just attracts bears, and everyone brings plenty of their own provisions nowadays. From Paradisdalen we continued to Renbugthyttan [325] in Isfjord, arriving just past midnight. Shortly after departure from Paradisdalen, we saw a bear strolling along the beach, and we agreed that it was the third time that day,

we saw the same bear.

The following day, 23 August, when we departed Renbugthyttan, the hut was in a tip-top condition once again with new window, shutter and shovel holder. Next stop on our route was Varghyttan [324] in Blomsterbugten. It was in good condition and was only supplied with a new hut journal. We then continued to Ragnildshytten [337] at Grejsdalen, where we arrived about 8pm. Here the outer door had been smashed completely, and therefore the hut received a new door. The following day we continued to Strindberg, and on the way we checked Kap Ovibos hyttan [340], which was in perfect condition. After breakfast the following morning, 25 August, we started the different projects on the two Strindberg houses, [358-2] and [358-3]. The stovepipe of the A-house (Nordfjordhuset) is seriously corroded and should be renewed as soon as possible. Jesper took measurement for this and other parts on the A-house that also need renewing and did an emergency repair of the stovepipe. The old, Norwegian house (Strindberghuset) needed a new coal stove, and as we had a Nanok stove on board, it was installed and tested. Also, a handful of other repairs on the house was done.



Left: New stovepipe on Strindberghuset [358-3]. Right: Emergency repair of stovepipe on Nordfjordhuset [358-2].



Left: Repairing Kap Humboldt [308]. Middle and right: Laplace [301] before and after.

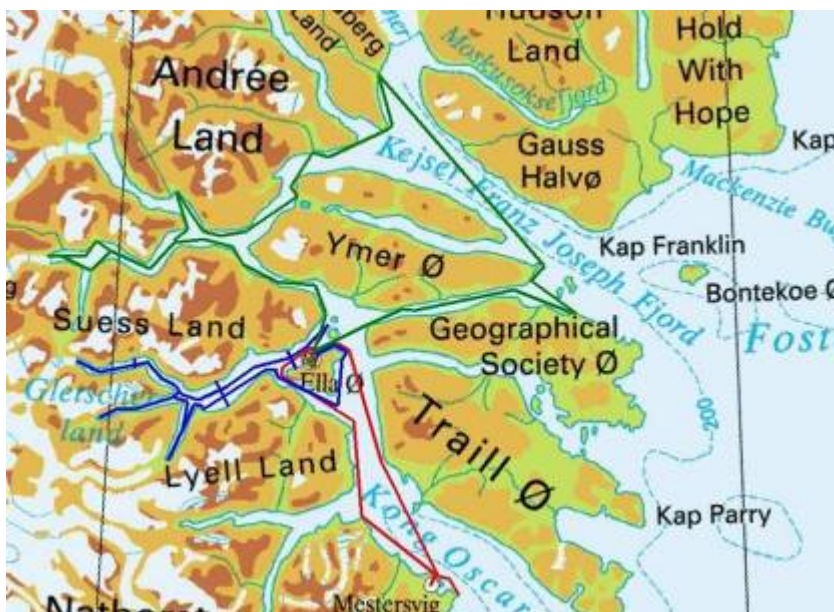
The following morning we left Strindberg making for Kap Humboldt [308]. We arrived at 5pm and right away repaired the damages on the house, i.e. two shattered windows and missing roofing felt several places. Next morning we continued to Laplace station [301] in calm, sunny weather. No less than three windows and shutters of Laplace were destroyed by bear. Immediately we began our tasks and finished by 4pm. Considering the remaining time and tasks on Ella Ø, we decided to leave for Ella Ø straight away. In headwind we worked our way west through Sofia Sund and stopped by Arentz Hytten [304] and the Svedenborg [241] hut, which both appeared intact. After yet another nice and long day, we arrived at Ella Ø by 1am. The Siriusfupper were gone now. They had closed down their part of the station and left a few days earlier.

Stripping and journey home

The time for our departure rapidly drew closer, and the days 28-30 August went by

fast with stripping and winter preparations on Ella Ø. As always the vessels were pulled ashore, cleaned, conserved and finally covered with tarpaulins. All materials and equipment – inside as well as outside – were counted and photographed. In the late afternoon 30 August we received a short visit from some scientists and crew members from the patrol vessel "Knud Rasmussen", working in the area. The next day appeared "Ocean Nova", another cruise ship, and while we were packing the last things before departure, the tourists walked around and enjoyed the scenery.

At midday, Norlandair's Twin Otter arrived to pick us up. Half an hour later we had closed and shuttered the last areas and begun the journey home. Journey with Twin Otter to Akureyri with short stops in Mestersvig and Constable Pynt. From there to Reykjavik and Keflavik before we, the next morning, 1 September 2016, landed in Copenhagen Airport, just in time to catch the 6.55 express train back to Jutland.



The navigation routes of the Ella Ø team:

Red (Agsut): 220 km

Blue (Brebøl): 340 km

Green (Agsut): 500 km

In total: 1.060 km

Number of huts/stations inspected / maintained / resupplied on sails: 16 pcs.



Lt: Preparing of Brebøl-jollen for winter. Rt: Brebøl-jollen and "Agsut" ready for overwintering.

Conclusion

We completed all the planned tasks, not least owing to a fantastic, beautiful weather throughout the entire period. At the same time, we identified a number of things that could improve the functionality of Tolvmandsbarakken, e.g. supplementary furniture, and we installed running warm and cold water in the kitchen.

Several times we received benevolent help from many sides, not least from EMSG, Arctic Command, Sirius, "Triton" and Defence Guard Mestersvig. We are very grateful for this assistance.



Next to Nanok's existing equipment container there has been made ready for an additional equipment container.

Jesper – Torben - Peter



*The "Ella Ø team" 2016 at Bjørnheimen [310], where a new exterior door was installed:
From the left: Torben Jeppesen, Jesper Mølbæk Stentoft, Peter Schmidt Mikkelsen.*

On Nanok

Nordøstgrønlandsk Kompagni Nanok is a private, non-profit organisation founded in 1992 upon the former *Østgrønlandsk Fangstkompagni Nanok A/S*, founded in 1929.

The aim of Nanok is a.o. *to contribute to disseminate knowledge of North-East Greenland and its cultural history and to contribute in securing the cultural monuments and buildings in the area.*

Nanok consists of a private group of seven persons, the Board. These are: Peter Schmidt Mikkelsen (managing director), Jens Erik Schultz, Tommy Pedersen, Palle V. Norit, Søren Rysgaard, Fritz Ploug Nielsen and Jesper Mølbak Stentoft (treasurer). Nanok's accountant is Aka Lynge. Torben E. Jeppesen assist with material purchase. Nanok's logistics centre is managed by Kristian Nevers. Besides the above mentioned, a number of private individuals, Nanok'ers, participate actively in the Nanok's work. All work in Nanok is voluntary and unpaid.

Each summer, Nanok dispatch a field team of typically six participants divided into two teams who work in North-East Greenland for three to five weeks. The result of this work is documented and published in a field report. The expedition participants are chosen by the board. In the years 1991-2016, a total of 160 Nanok'ers – or more than 75 private individuals – has been dispatched to North- East Greenland.

To perform its tasks, Nanok controls a considerable amount of expedition equipment; nevertheless, Nanok possesses no property in Greenland.

Nanok's work is financed by the Aage V. Jensens Fonde. The organisation is furthermore supported by Royal Arctic Line as well as a number of private contributors. Among Nanok's many supportive partners are: Norlandair, Arctic Research Centre, Arctic Science Partnership, Greenland Self Government, The Greenland National Museum & Archive, Greenland Institute of Natural Resources, Arctic Command, The Sirius Sledge patrol, Defence Guard Mestersvig and Education- & Maintaining Section Greenland.

Since 1991 Nanok has repaired and maintained approx. 50 cultural historic buildings and has for this effort gained considerable recognition from The Greenland Self Government.

In the years 2003-2007, encouraged by The Greenland Self Government of the time, Nanok worked out a new, unique structural survey of all cultural historical cabins and stations in North-East Greenland. The records are available free of charge for The Greenland National Museum & Archive in Nuuk. Extensive material from these surveys, including photos and GPS positions, is published in the book "North-East Greenland 1908-60. The Trapper Era" (Mikkelsen 2008).

Nanok has had a formal cooperative agreement with The Greenland National Museum & Archive since 2010.



List of North-East Greenlandic stations and huts renovated by Nanok 1991 - 2016:

No.	Name	Renovation year	No.	Name	Renovation year
201	Antarctichavn	2001 (crushed 2002)	347	Petrahytten	2011
218	Kap Peterséns	1998	350	Loch Fyne	1993, 2007
224-2	Kongeborgen	2001	356	Hoelsbu	1999, 2000, 2007
222	Holm Bugt hytten	2001	358-3	Strindberghuset	2013
232	Sverresborg	2014	367-2	Mellemhuset	2010
235	Ørnereden, Ella Ø	2015, 2016	403	Krogness	2010
235	Tolvmandsbarakken	2015, 2016	405	Eskimonæs	1998
236	Maristua	2008	407	Elvsborg	2007-2008
238	Mineralbukta	2010	408	Dødemandsbugten	2013-2014
241	Svedenborg	2011	411-2	Norma hytta	2010
301	Laplace	2009	412	Dahl Skær hytten	2010
304	Arentz hytten	2008	417	Kap Herschell	2002
305	Namdalshytten	2010	425	Sandodden/Karina	1994-2000, 2007, 2009
308	Kap Humboldt	1997	429	Moskusheimen	1994
309	Rendalshytten	2010	434	Leirvågen	2008
310	Bjørnheimen	2008	438-2	Zackenbergt	1991-1992
317	Brøggers hytte	2012	438-4	Fiskerhytten	2008
320	Smedal	2012	437	Bjørnesstua	2008
322	Noa Sø hytten	2008	447	Germaniahavn	1999
324	Varghytten	2002, 2007	454	Fjordbotten	2013
325	Renbugtshytten	2010	510	Hochstetter	1996, 1998
335	Myggbukta	1999, 2002, 2011	514	Ny Jonsbu	1995
337	Ragnhilds-hytten	2008	518	Alabamahuset	2016
340	Kap Ovibos hytten	2000, 2007, 2012	531	Ottostrand	2009
341	Halle	2011	---	Kap Moltke /Brønlundhus	2001
345	Bråstad	2011			

Source of hut numbers and names: Peter Schmidt Mikkelsen: North-East Greenland 1908-60 The Trapper Era. The Scott Polar Research Institute (SPRI), University of Cambridge (2008).

