Basket Island  
San Juan County - New Name

Township: 36N  
Range: 2W  
Section: 9

USGS Quad: Eastsound

Location Description: Island; 0.15 acres; located in West Sound off Orcas Island, NE of Picnic Island.

Proposal Summary: Basket Island: island; approx. 0.15 acres; located in West Sound off Orcas Island, NE of Picnic Island; the name is associated with the adjacent Picnic Island; San Juan County, Washington; Sec 9 T36N R2W, Willamette Meridian; 48°37'43"N, 122°57'28"W USGS map - Eastsound 1:24,000.

The name was chosen by the proponent in reference to nearby larger Picnic Island. The name "Picnic Island" appears on Google Maps, but is not the official name according to the GNIS. BLM maps have referred to the feature as "Trinka Rock", due to correspondence from 1969 from the proponent of Picnic Island. The proponent for Picnic Island stated that "it was given the name after my little girl, because it has always been her island, as she spent free time on the rock as a little girl."

In 1969, the US Coast Guard and Geodetic Survey said that it was not feasible to name the island "Trinca's Island", as it was too small to appear on nautical charts.

Proponent:
Alex Levine  
14 Virginia's Lane  
Eastsound, WA  98245

Proposal Received:  10/15/2019  
Initial Consideration:  10/26/2021  
Final Consideration:  4/26/2022

WA Committee Decision:  Approved for Final
WA Board Decision:  
US Board Decision:
Opinions:
San Juan County Council - WAITING FOR RESPONSE
San Juan Historical Museum - WAITING FOR RESPONSE
San Juan County GIS - WAITING FOR RESPONSE
San Juan County Emergency Management - WAITING FOR RESPONSE
San Juan County Public Works - WAITING FOR RESPONSE
WA State Historical Society - WAITING ON RESPONSE
Catherine Bryant (Landowner) - WAITING ON RESPONSE
Betsy Wareham - IN FAVOR
**Basket Island**: island; approx. 0.15 acres; in San Juan Islands National Monument (Bureau of Land Management) in West Sound off Orcas Island, NE of Picnic Island; the name is associated with the adjacent Picnic Island (BGN 1977); Sec 9, T36N, R2W, Willamette Meridian; San Juan County, Washington; 48°37′43″N, 122°57′28″W; USGS map – Eastsound 1:24,000; Not: Trincas Island, Trinka Rock.

Proposal: new name for unnamed feature  
Map: USGS Eastsound 1:24,000  
Proponent: Alex Levine  
Administrative area: San Juan Islands National Monument (Bureau of Land Management)  
Previous BGN Action: None  
Names associated with feature:  
GNIS: No record  
Local Usage: Trincas Island; Trinka Rock (Bureau of Land Management; local environmental and ecological groups)  

Case Summary: The new name Basket Island is proposed for an officially unnamed 0.15-acre island in West Sound off Orcas Island in San Juan County. The name is a reference to the nearby, larger Picnic Island (BGN 1977) located just to the southeast and connected at low tide. The island is a parcel of land in the Bureau of Land Management’s San Juan Islands National Monument.

The island is currently labeled as Basket Island on Google Maps and the proponent provided this as evidence that it had no other name in local use. However, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has used the name Trinka Rock for this island since the 1980s. More current documents, including the BLM’s 2017 “San Juan Islands National Monument Site Catalog” and the 2018 “San Juan Islands National Monument Draft Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement” (and subsequent final reports) refer to the island as Trinka Rock, while noting that other islands in the National Monument are unnamed. BLM documents do not note the origin of the name, but the documents from the 1977 BGN decision for the nearby Picnic Island do.

In 1969, the owner of what was then officially known as Sheep Island wrote to the U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey (C&GS) to ask that his island’s name be changed on charts to Picnic Island. He also stated that the island now proposed as Basket Island “has been referred to as Trinkas Island ever since I first occupied Picnic Island. It was given this name, after my little girl, because it has always been ‘her’ island. She spent all of her free time on this little rock as a little girl and I feel it only proper that it should bear her name.” In a subsequent letter, the owner of Picnic Island used the spelling “Trinca’s Island.” In response, the C&GS replied:
“It would not be feasible for us to add at this time the name Trinkas Island to the unnamed rock you described. Cartographically the feature is too small to be named on charts of the scale that are now being published. Although in general the Board on Geographic Names policies, to which we adhere precludes the naming of features for living persons, it is always possible that such a ruling will have been altered by the time we publish charts large enough to include the name.”

The individual named Trinca is still living, and it is unclear when or why the BLM began using the spelling “Trinka.”

The island is unnamed on USGS maps, National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration charts, and State of Washington maps.

BLM received a comment from a San Juan County resident in response to the 2015 “San Juan Islands National Monument Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement—Scoping Report” which stated:

“I am aware of numerous rocks or small islands in the San Juans that carry local or informal names. A few examples: Iceberg Point Rocks, Outer Bay Rocks, Trincas Island in Westsound, Indian Island in Eastsound, Pear Point Rocks, Dinner Island Rocks, Pudding Island. None of these are approved names and thus, may not appear on federal documents (e.g., charts or topos). As BLM will be managing some of these, I think identifying these locations (as well as formalizing their names) would be an important activity.”

Proposed by: Alex Levine
Submitted by: same
Prepared by: M. O’Donnell
Case ID: 5452
Reviewed by: J.Runyon

Date: 10/14/20
Date: same
Date: 12/21/20
Quarterly Review List: 442
Date: 12/21/20
U.S. Department of the Interior
U.S. Geological Survey

APPENDIX C.

Domestic Geographic Name Report

1. Use this form to recommend a feature name or to suggest a name change.
2. For features on Federal lands, coordinate requests with the agency (U.S. Forest Service, National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management, etc.) for the administrative area in which the feature is located.
3. On the reverse side of this form give information on the local usage and authority for recommended name.
4. For more information about the Geographic Names Information System or the National Gazetteer program, contact the U.S. Board on Geographic Names at 703-648-4544.
5. Return this form to:
   Executive Secretary for Domestic Geographic Names
   U.S. Geological Survey
   523 National Center
   Reston, VA 20192

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Action Requested:</th>
<th>Recommended Name: Basket Island</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>X Proposed New Name X</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Application Change</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Name Change</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| State: | Washington |
| County or Equivalent: | United States of America |
| Administrative Area: | |

Specific Area Covered:

- **Latitude:** 48°37'42.7" N
- **Longitude:** 122°57'28.5" W
- **Mouth End Center**

- **Latitude:** __° __' __" N S
- **Longitude:** __° __' __" W
- **Heading End**

| Section(s) | Township(s) | Range(s) | Meridian | Elevation |.
|-------------|-------------|----------|----------|-----------|

- **Type of Feature** (stream, mountain, populated place, etc.): Island

- **Is the feature identified (including other names) in the Geographic Names Information System (GNIS)?**
  - Yes
  - No
  - Unknown

  If yes, please indicate how it is listed: There are no names listed

- **Description of Feature** (physical shape, length, width, direction of flow, etc.): This is a 50 sq ft x 50 sq ft small island directly adjacent to the better known (and larger) Picnic Island in West Sound on Orcas Island, Washington, USA

Maps and Other Sources Using Recommended Name

- **Maps and Other Sources Using Recommended Name** (include scale and date)
  - Only Google Maps currently has it listed as Basket Island.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Other Names (variants)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Maps and Other Sources Using Other Name

- **Maps and Other Sources Using Other Name** (include scale and date)
**Name Information** (such as origin, meaning of the recommended name, historical significance, biographical data (if commemorative), nature of usage or application, or any other pertinent information):

Is the recommended name in local usage?  **Yes**  
No, if approximately how many years? **Unknown**, it is currently only visible in google maps.

Is there local opposition to, or conflict, with the recommended name? **No**  
(If yes, explain)

For proposed new name, please provide evidence that feature is unnamed: **According to all maritime charts, Washington state maps and published records there is currently no name that could be found for this small public island. The only evidence of a name for this island is currently Basket Island which is visible on Google Maps.**

Additional information:
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Authority for Recommended Name</th>
<th>Mailing Address and Telephone</th>
<th>Occupation</th>
<th>Years in Area</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

May 1995
Hi Jennifer,

Thanks for the prompt response! The name "Basket" is in relation to the adjacent larger island named "Picnic Island", cute huh?!

I will work on getting a few local residents to send letters of support. Betsy Wareham (cc’d) owns the marina adjacent to Picnic and Basket Islands. Should I have them email you directly or is there a different form of communication that you would prefer?

Thanks again :)

Best,
Alex

On Thu, Oct 15, 2020 at 6:25 PM BGEXEC, GS-N-MAC <bgnexec@usgs.gov> wrote:

Dear Mr. Levine,

This acknowledges your proposal to the U.S. Board on Geographic Names to apply the new name Basket Island to a small unnamed island adjacent to Picnic Island in San Juan County. The Board
is responsible for standardizing geographic names for use by the Federal Government, and its members must approve any new name before it can appear on Federal maps and products.

Thank you for submitting the completed application by email. You are correct that our office remains closed and we have very limited access to the mail room. A physical copy is not necessary.

We will prepare a case brief for the proposal and add it to the Board’s next Quarterly Review List for consideration by all interested parties. In order to complete the brief, can you provide the reason for selecting “Basket” . . . is it in relation to “Picnic”?

(By the way, you may be interested to know that when the former owner of Picnic Island submitted a proposal to the Board in the mid-1970s to change the previous name Sheep Island to Picnic Island, he also asked that the smaller island be named for his daughter. However, because the Board does not allow names that honor living people, it could not be accepted. The island has remained unnamed.)

Local opinion is important to the Board, so by a copy of this response, we are forwarding your proposal to the Washington State Committee on Geographic Names for its review and a recommendation. As part of its research, the WSCGN will request opinions from the county government and any local or state agencies that it determines might have an interest. We will also ask NOAA to comment, and in accordance with Federal policies regarding Tribal consultation, we must ask all federally recognized American Indian tribes if they have an opinion. If you can gather additional support from local residents or a local historical society, we would welcome that for the file. Any additional comments can be submitted to us at BGNEXEC@usgs.gov or to the WSCGN at https://www.dnr.wa.gov/about/boards-and-councils/board-natural-resources/committee-geographic-names. The executive secretary of the WSCGN may also contact you directly to discuss the state’s naming process.

Once all parties have provided input and after the WSCGN has submitted its recommendation, we will present the proposal for Basket Island to the U.S. Board for discussion and the final decision. The entire process typically takes several months, or more likely longer since we don’t know if the WSCGN has been able to meet during the pandemic. Nonetheless, we will notify you of the outcome of the decision.

Thank you for your interest in the geographic names of Washington. Please let us know if you have any questions.

Regards,
Jennifer Runyon, research staff
U.S. Board on Geographic Names
U.S. Geological Survey
Reston, Virginia  20192
(703) 648-4550
https://usgs.gov/geonames
Hello,

At the risk of me sending this to your physical address where there may not be anyone at the office, I am formally submitting an application to name an unnamed small island in Washington state (attached).

Please let me know if I should also send a physical copy to your offices:

U.S. Board on Geographic Names
U.S. Geological Survey
12201 Sunrise Valley Drive MS 523
Reston, VA 20192-0523

Thank you in advance.

Best,
Alex Levine
Mr. William C. Bryant  
P.O. Box 31  
Orcas, Washington 98280

Dear Mr. Bryant:

The name Picnic Island will appear on the next new edition of our nautical chart 6379, as mentioned in my letter to you of April 30, 1969 and inquired about in your letter of October 30, 1969. Our investigation into your request of last April convinced us that the Sheep Island to which you referred should be changed to Picnic Island, and we marked our master copies of chart 6379 for that change. Unfortunately, a new edition of that chart had been issued in January 1969 so the printed edition of this name will naturally have to wait until the next new edition is issued, which may be more than a year hence. Please be assured, however, that the name Picnic Island will replace Sheep Island when that new edition comes out.

As mentioned in my letter of April 30, 1969, the scale of our charts in that area is too small to accommodate the name Trincas Island for the unnamed rock you described. Perhaps, if larger scale charts are printed at some future date the name could then be applied. It is a policy of the U.S. Board on Geographic Names that features should not be named on Federal charts after living persons, but perhaps by the time a chart of such a scale to permit the naming of that rock is published, that policy might have been altered. I am sure that you understand, however, that the charting scale prevents the naming of the rock at this time.

I hope the above has been helpful to you, and I appreciate the historical information you provided us about Picnic Island. Please let us know whenever the Coast and Geodetic Survey can be of further service.

Sincerely yours,

Albert A. Stanley  
Executive Assistant.

U.S. COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY

November 6, 1969

C511

FILE COPY
Dear sirs:

Last April Captain Boyer of the Chart Division, Coast and Geodetic Survey forwarded to your office a letter suggesting among other things that the name of Sheep Island, Chart 6379, be changed to its locally known name of Picnic Island. We bought the island in 1952 and subsequent inquiries on Orcas indicated that no one knew where the name Sheep came from nor were there ever any sheep kept there. There was confirmation however from several of the older island pioneers that the island was used for Sunday picnicking and clam feasts and prior to that a hiding place for the Indian squaws during Indian raids from Canada. We have found several remains buried in squatting position under the Jupipers while clearing rocks away. And of course huge clam shell mounds.

The island was called either Flower or Picnic and it is the fond wish of my family and I that the name be officially renamed to Picnic. The small rock adjoining Picnic is a Government owned island, so we have been told, and has a huge gnarled Juniper which we have protected from that peculiar breed that saws limbs off for decorations. The rock was supposed to go with Sheep but the Real Estate man goofed and is not ours. Nevertheless, the rock has been Trinca's Island named after our daughter and we respectfully request that it be given her name instead of rock which is no name. The Department of Natural Resources of the State have already earmarked her name on their maps.

Very truly yours,

William C. Bryant

Reference C 32 x 3
Mr. William C. Bryant  
S.S. HALAULA VICTORY  
P.O. Box 31  
Orcas, Washington 98280

Dear Mr. Bryant:

The name Picnic Island will appear on the next new edition of our nautical chart 6379 and in the next edition of Coast Pilot 7 in place of Sheep Island, as suggested in your letter of April 14, 1969. It appears that local usage favors Picnic Island, and it is our desire to keep the names on our charts as close as possible in accord with local usage.

It would not be feasible for us to add at this time the name Trinkas Island to the unnamed rock you described. Cartographically the feature is too small to be named on charts of the scale that are now being published. Although in general the Board on Geographic Names policies to which we adhere, precludes the naming of features for living persons, it is always possible that such a ruling will have been altered by the time we publish charts large enough to include the name.

I appreciate your interest in geographic nomenclature, and please let us know whenever the Coast and Geodetic Survey can be of service.

Sincerely yours,

Albert A. Stanley  
Executive Assistant  
to the Director
William C. Bryant  
Chief Engineer, S. S. Halaula Victory  
p.O. Box 31, Orcas Washington 98280

To  
U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey  
Rockville, Md. 20852

April 14, 1969

Dear Sirs:

I would like to bring to your attention some changes that should be made to Pacific coast chart #6379. I have owned the island shown on your chart as Sheep Island since 1952. The description of the channel between my island and Orcas Island, both on the above chart and in Coast Pilot #7, is grossly incorrect. The Pilot states, "Sheep Island in the southern part of the cove, is connected to the shore at low water;...." After spending many summers and winters on my island, I have found that the channel at its narrowest part, about 125 feet, between the unsurveyed rock shown on the chart and the shore of Orcas; never has a depth of less than 1.5 feet even at a tide 3 feet below the datum (mean lower low water). The bottom here consists of soft mud and sand. Never in the memory of any Islander has this channel been dry or closed to navigation by vessels of 15 foot draft. The channel is always kept navigable by a strong current action generated by strong prevailing winds and a funneling of tidal currents between steep, rocky sides of my island and the adjacent lime Quarry.

Because many of the boats in my area use this channel and outsiders would not, otherwise know of its existence, I feel that the foregoing changes should be made. In addition the name Sheep Island is incorrect. The proper name of the island is Picnic Island. It has had this name ever since Orcas Island was first occupied by white men, for it has always been the Islanders' favorite picnic spot. The small unsurveyed island has been referred to as Trinkas Island ever since I first occupied Picnic Island. It was given this name after my little girl, because it has always been "her" island. She spent all of her free time on this little rock as a little girl and I feel it only proper that it should bear her name. Thanking you for your consideration, I remain,

Sincerely,

William C. Bryant

William C. Bryant

WCB/tfh
Hi Caleb and Mary,

Happy New Year! How are you and your families doing? I hope that everyone is staying healthy and that you were able to celebrate the holidays in some way. My son James turned 2 in October and loved the lights, the presents, and the cookies. We were able to visit with my parents for Christmas and with my wife's parents for New Year's.

I believe the Jenny sent you a notice of the most recent Review List 442, posted on December 31, 2020 and that she already notified you about the proposal to apply the new name **Basket Island** to a small island between Orcas Island and Picnic Island in San Juan County at 48.628488, -122.957862.

Caleb, were you able to follow up with the proponent about the WSCGN process?

Since Jenny notified you about the proposal in November, we discovered that the Bureau of Land Management uses the name "Trinka Rock" for the small island. Maybe you saw this as well. The island is a unit within their San Juan Island National Monument, and they have many unofficial (to the BGN at least) names for many small islands in the area. (Some of these names are in common local use and the local BLM office may come back with some additional proposals. I asked them about it right before the holidays and we'll talk about it more this month. Just a heads up.)

Trinka Rock is published in:

- [https://books.google.com/books?id=03Shp54G_KkC](https://books.google.com/books?id=03Shp54G_KkC)
- [https://eplanning.blm.gov/public_projects/nepa/49041/62641/67883/Published_Scoping_Report_Supplement.pdf](https://eplanning.blm.gov/public_projects/nepa/49041/62641/67883/Published_Scoping_Report_Supplement.pdf) (as "Trinca Island" in an email from a local)

The name first showed up in the correspondence that led to the **Picnic Island** BGN decision in 1977. Trinca or Trinka was the daughter of the owner of the larger island and he wished to have that name plotted on Coast and Geodeitic Survey charts in addition to changing Sheep Island to Picnic Island. He stated that "The
Department of Natural Resources of the State have already earmarked her name on their maps" but I couldn't find any official State name for the island. Does the State consider the island unnamed? The only sources I found for "Trinka Rock" were BLM sources or references that clearly derived from BLM use.

The individual named Trinca is still living and it's unclear where the spelling "Trinka" came from. The BGN could not consider this name official because it does not meet the Commemorative Names Policy. However, the proposed name Basket Rock conflicts with the name in local use, even if the proponent doesn't know of any other names. Basket Rock is shown on Google Maps, but we don't know the source of this name.

We haven't notified the proponent about the name in local use and may let you take care of that through the WSCGN process.

There is no formal recommendation from BLM yet. Our Tribal comment period deadline is March 9, 2021 and I know you will also reach out to specific Tribes on your own.

I think that covers it for now. The proposal packet and the 1969 correspondence from the owner of the adjacent island is attached. Let me know if you have any questions, and please send us any updates you get from the proponent or other sources throughout the review process.

Take care and we hope to see you at a future COGNA meeting whenever that may be.

Matt

Matt O'Donnell | Xcellent Technology Solutions, Inc.
Contractor in support of U.S. Board on Geographic Names | Domestic Names Committee
Phone: 703-648-4553
Email: mjodonnell@contractor.usgs.gov
Room 2B101
(working remotely until further notice)
Hi Caleb,

Wanted to send these photos that show the "Basket handle" formed from the bent over tree on the Island to be added to the proposal - I think it provides a lot of context around the name proposal.

Best,
Alex
On Wed, Mar 16, 2022 at 11:10 AM MAKI, CALEB (DNR) <CALEB.MAKI@dnr.wa.gov> wrote:

Thanks Alex! I’ll add this one (and any others sent my way) to your proposal. Thanks again!

Caleb A. Maki
Photogrammetry Supervisor – Engineering Division
Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR)
Phone: 360-902-1280 / Fax: 360-902-1778
caleb.maki@dnr.wa.gov
www.dnr.wa.gov

From: Alex Levine <alex.levine1@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 15, 2022 3:22 PM
To: MAKI, CALEB (DNR) <CALEB.MAKI@dnr.wa.gov>
Subject: Re: Basket Island Geographic Name Request

External Email
Comments

Received
My name is Betsy Wareham, and my family has owned and operated West Sound Marina since 1974. We always thought it odd, that the little Island adjacent to West Sound Marina and Picnic Island never had a name. In addition to “Basket” its been called, among other things, “Government Island” “The Little Island” and “The Rock Pile”. Alex Levine suggested formally naming the island “Basket Island “, which just fits. It ties right in to “Picnic Island” and also fits its diminutive size. The name has caught on here. Alex has gone through the channels to officially name the island. As a long time community member of West Sound, myself and my family wholeheartedly support naming the island “Basket Island”

Sincerely,
Betsy Wareham
President and Owner
West Sound Marina, Inc
The name was chosen by the proponent in reference to nearby larger Picnic Island. The name "Picnic Island" appears on Google Maps, but is not the official name according to the GNIS. BLM maps have referred to the feature as "Trinka Rock", due to correspondence from 1969 from the proponent of Picnic Island. The proponent for Picnic Island stated that "it was given the name after my little girl, because it has always been her island, as she spent free time on the rock as a little girl."

In 1969, the US Coast Guard and Geodetic Survey said that it was not feasible to name the island "Trinca's Island", as it was too small to appear on nautical charts.