

DEC 31 2015

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions.

1. Name of PropertyHistoric name: St. Matthew's Episcopal ChurchOther names/site number: Alaska Heritage Resources Survey Site No. FAI-00110Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

2. LocationStreet & number: 1029 First AvenueCity or town: Fairbanks State: AK County: Fairbanks North Star Zip Code: 99701Not For Publication: ☐ Vicinity: ☐**3. State/Federal Agency Certification**

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this X nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property X meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

 national statewide X local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

X A B C DJoan M. Anderson24 December 2015

Signature of certifying official/Title:

Date

Alaska

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official:

Date

Title :

State or Federal agency/bureau
or Tribal Government

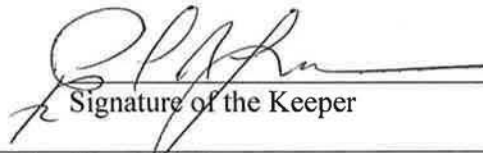
St. Matthew's Episcopal Church
Name of Property

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4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- ☒ entered in the National Register
☐ determined eligible for the National Register
☐ determined not eligible for the National Register
☐ removed from the National Register
☐ other (explain:) _____


Signature of the Keeper

2/12/2016
Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- Private: ☒
Public – Local ☐
Public – State ☐
Public – Federal ☐

Category of Property

(Check only one box.)

- Building(s) ☒
District ☐
Site ☐
Structure ☐
Object ☐

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Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	<u> </u>	buildings
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	sites
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	structures
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	objects
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Religion/religious facility

Social/civic

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Religion//religious facility

Social/civic

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7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Late 19th and Early 20th Century American Movements: Rustic

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property:

Foundation: cement

Walls: log

Roof: wood shingle

Other:

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary Paragraph

St. Mathew's Episcopal Church, completed in 1948, is a 20th Century American Rustic Style building. The 40' x 25' building is constructed of milled D logs with butt-and-pass corners. The gable end of the primary elevation has diagonal logs in the gable. The building replaced the original 1904 log church that burned in 1947. The original carved altar, lectern, communion rail posts and bell, saved from the fire, are significant features of the building. Since its construction in 1948, changes have been to add stained glass windows, improve the lighting fixtures and heating, and to strengthen the building structurally. The church stands on the south side of First Avenue and faces north toward the Chena River. It is just west of the historic commercial center of the city of Fairbanks. To the south and immediate west is a residential neighborhood.

Narrative Description

On February 8, 1947, a fire destroyed the original St. Matthew's Church. Church leaders had started planning for a larger church the year before; after they determined the 1904 building was in poor condition. They had hired Bell and Upjohn Architects, an East Coast firm, to design a church with a similar feel as the original and reusing elements of the original church.

Hobart Upjohn was from a family of architects known for designing churches. Richard Upjohn, his grandfather, introduced the Gothic Revival Style to churches in the United States. Hobart had designed a number of churches in North Carolina. St. Matthew's is reflective of the 20th Century American Rustic Style. It mimics the original church that had been built from log out of necessity. The Fairbanks church was one of Hobart's last projects; he died in 1949.

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Located just outside downtown Fairbanks, St. Matthew's faces First Avenue and the Chena River. The 40' x 25' building is constructed of milled D logs with butt-and-pass corners. The roof is a steeply pitched gabled roof with wood shingles. The front gabled primary façade has a lower projecting gable roofed vestibule. A log cross is set into the log wall above the paired diagonal wood panel vestibule entrance doors. Another cross, painted white, is atop the building on a small projecting gable that covers the church bell.

The bell is from the original church. Cast in 1905 in Troy, New York the bell is inscribed with *O Ye Frost and Cold, Bless Ye the Lord; Praise Him and Magnify Him Forever*. A plaque on the front door of the church reads *To all who are joyful and thankful * to all who mourn and need comfort * to all who are weary and need rest * to all who are friendless and wish friendship * to all who pray and to all who do not, but ought * to all who sin and need a Saviour, and to whoever will *** this Church opens wide the door and in the name of Christ the Lords & says – WELCOME.*

The church is 11,787 square feet, and is divided into three sections: the vestibule, nave, and chancel. The vestibule is centered on the front of the church under the gable roof, stepping in 6' on each side from the body of the nave and towards the street 10'8". The vestibule has stained vertical wood boards on the walls and ceiling and a stained glass window on each side wall, one showing the missionary Bishop Peter Trimble Rowe at a simple altar.

The chancel and passageway to the parish house are off center from the nave. The west wall of the chancel steps in 3' to the east of the main body of the nave and the passageway steps out 5' 4" to the east. The passageway is covered with a steeply pitched shed roof.

The D log walls of the nave have five evenly placed windows on the east and west elevations. The original casement windows have been replaced by stained glass windows depicting Alaskan events significant to the church, and Easter and Christmas scenes with Alaska Native people. The nave is entered from the vestibule through a pair of partially glazed wood paneled doors. Both doors have stained glass windows depicting the cross. The inside walls of the nave are vertical stained wood boards. The truncated roof is divided into five flat planes to make an arch. The ceiling is Celotex panels painted cream with stained wood strips covering the joints between panels. Twelve rows of pews line the aisle. The aisle and area in front of the pews is covered in red carpet. A wood paneled pulpit extends from the choir into the nave. At the front of the nave is a doorway to a small passageway that leads to the Parish Hall. The walls and ceiling of the passageway are covered in stained shiplap siding.

Up three steps from the nave is the chancel. The chancel narrows from the 26'8" of the nave to 15'2". The chancel walls are stained plywood panels. The ceiling of the chancel is a barreled arch with Celotex panels and wood stripping. The first half of the chancel has four pews for the choir that face the center of the chancel. A step leads from the carved post and brass communion rail to the sanctuary where the carved wooden altar is located up three more steps.

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The altar, lectern, and communion rail are from the original church. Hudson Stuck saw Isabel M. Emberley, a nurse at St. Matthew's Hospital, carving the top of a cigar box in 1905 and got her to work with members of the congregation to carve the altar, lectern, and communion rail for the church. Carved from oak shipping crates, the pieces have similar leaf motifs and Latin inscriptions.

Since 1948, a fire sprinkler system and baseboard heat have been added. The nave and choir light fixtures have their original wrought iron frames, but the parchment shades were replaced in the 1980s with Plexiglas. In the early 1990s steel buttresses on the east and west elevations were added to support the nave walls and deflect the load from the roof.

The Parish Hall, built in 1941, stands to the south of the church, and the rectory built in 1931 to the west. Both have been substantially altered with additions and renovations. They are not included in the nomination. They do not affect the church's historic integrity. In fact, they show the church's long-standing commitment to the community and support for social programs.

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8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- ☒ A. Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- ☐ B. Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☐ C. Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ D. Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

- ☒ A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
- ☐ B. Removed from its original location
- ☐ C. A birthplace or grave
- ☐ D. A cemetery
- ☐ E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- ☐ F. A commemorative property
- ☒ G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

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Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Religion

Social History

Period of Significance

1948-1973

Significant Dates

N/A

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Upjohn, Hobart and Bell, Thomas

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph

St. Matthew's Episcopal Church, established when Fairbanks was founded in 1904, has played a significant role in the history of the community. From the start, St. Matthew's congregation has embodied the philosophy of the first Episcopal Bishop of Alaska, Peter Trimble Rowe, and pioneering missionary Archdeacon Hudson Stuck focusing on the welfare of the people of Fairbanks and the surrounding Native and rural communities. Founded as a supply camp for miners, Fairbanks quickly grew to be a city. It had social services such as the hospital and library that St. Matthew's provided, as well as government offices, and was a hub for river and trail transportation. St. Matthew's always looked to serve all people in Fairbanks, not solely church members, and is respected for its caring outreach programs. The church through the years was a leader in starting social services in the community. Notably, in the 1960s it started an alcohol rehabilitation program and soup kitchen for the community. The period of significance starts in 1948, when the current church was constructed to replace the earlier one that burned in 1947. The period of significance ends in 1973, when the alcohol rehabilitation program St. Matthew's initiated was turned over to the City of Fairbanks, although the church continues to serve the community as a church and as a center for social services. The ending date is less than fifty years ago. The significance of initiating the alcohol rehabilitation program to the community of Fairbanks addresses the criteria consideration of a property achieving significance within the past fifty years.

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Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

From the start in 1896 of the Episcopal Church's mission in Alaska, the church has offered more than religious services in the camps, Native villages, and communities where it opened missions. Under the inspired early leadership of Bishop Peter Trimble Rowe, in a number of Alaska's mining camps it built and operated hospitals and reading rooms and helped the destitute with food and shelter. In Native villages, Episcopal missionaries recorded information about the people, their stories, and took photographs. Episcopal missionaries also fought for recognition of Native Alaskans voting, hunting, fishing, and land rights.

Upon hearing news in 1903 of the new gold mining supply camp along the Chena River, Rowe directed the priest at nearby Circle City, Charles Rice, to visit the new campsite and obtain several lots for a mission. In February 1904, Rowe visited the camp, by then named Fairbanks. He found the lots purchased the year before occupied by claim-jumpers, but the city council donated two lots to the church. Rowe hired workers to construct a hospital, reportedly the first frame building in town, and the Episcopal Church operated it until 1915. He made arrangements for construction of a church to follow.

Archdeacon Hudson Stuck arrived in Alaska in September 1904 and Rowe assigned him to Fairbanks to oversee construction of the hospital and of St. Matthew's Church. The community was invited to the first church services on Sunday, October 16, 1904, at 11 a.m. and 8 p.m. Charles E. Betticher, the first Episcopal pastor assigned to St. Matthew's, arrived in August 1905. After Betticher's arrival, Stuck left Fairbanks to do mission work at other Interior Alaska places. He and several other Episcopal missionaries opened stations throughout the Tanana Valley. They implemented Bishop Rowe's philosophy and started hospitals and schools along with building churches. At Fort Yukon, Stuck fought to keep teaching of the Native language at the school there. The rural missions became an independent program in 1914, and Archdeacon Boyd Bentley moved the office for them to Nenana because it had better access for boat travel on the Tanana and Yukon rivers. The mission program head office was reestablished at St. Matthew's in the 1950s. Under Bishop Rowe's leadership, by 1942 the Episcopal Mission expanded to 24 places in Alaska.

Fairbanks quickly became a government center with a courthouse and general land office, was a river and road transportation hub, supply center for miners and trappers, and was home to several churches. Along with St. Matthew's, the Roman Catholic Immaculate Conception Church (listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1976) was constructed in 1904 and its St. Joseph's Hospital opened in 1906. The Presbyterians started a mission a short distance downriver at Chena in the winter of 1902-1903, and built its First Presbyterian Church in 1904 (now at Pioneer Park).

From the start, the Fairbanks Episcopal Mission included a reading room, in the church until 1909 when they built the George C. Thomas Library (designated a National Historic Landmark

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in 1976). St. Matthew's sent magazines and books to mining camps into the early 1920s. The church operated the library until they transferred it to the city in 1942. Also, the church held kindergarten classes and hosted the first Boy Scout Troop in Fairbanks. Most famously, the 1915 meeting between Tanana chiefs and government officials, when the chiefs said they did not want reservation established for their people, was held at the Thomas Library.

After Rowe died in 1942, Bentley was elected bishop. The same year, Albert Jones became the rector at St. Matthew's, and served until 1951. During his tenure, Fairbanks grew rapidly and changed dramatically as the military established Ladd Field and completed the Alaska Highway and many civilians came to work on these projects. After the war ended, Cold War programs kept the military presence and brought more civilians to the community.

On February 8, 1947, a fire destroyed the church's Lumpkin Hall, built in 1911, and the sanctuary end of St. Matthew's Church. Planning for a larger church had started in 1946, as the old structure was in poor condition. After the fire, the members elected to build the new church on the same site. The new church was designed to pay homage to the original log church. It, too, was log, and it incorporated the original bell, altar, lectern, and communion rail saved from the original church. The first service in the new church was on Christmas Eve 1948.

Before he left in 1948 to be Director of the Overseas Department for the Church, Bishop Bentley had set in motion a plan to move his offices from Nenana to Fairbanks. Bill Gordon, the new bishop, moved to Fairbanks with his family in 1948. An addition to St. Matthew's Parish Hall was built in 1952 for the bishop's offices. Gordon learned to fly in 1949 and purchased an airplane to better serve the 53 outlying mission stations. Rural Alaskans visiting Fairbanks frequented St. Matthew's to see the bishop. Gordon also brought volunteers from the lower 48 states to serve in the missions, especially in the summer months. Two rooms in the Parish Hall were used for lodging for volunteers. They also were used by women missionaries from the rural areas when they came to Fairbanks to have their children.

In 1959, William Warren became rector at St. Matthew's and led it through the turbulent 1960s. St. Matthew's initiated several social programs needed in Fairbanks but, at the time, not supported or run by government agencies. One was to reach out to newcomers to Fairbanks, who came from Native villages, with the military, or to attend the university, and in the late 1960s, to work in the oil industry. The welcoming congregation grew; from 100 in the 1940s to 250 in the 1960s, and in 2015 to 1,200 members. Warren realized the community needed a place for people to gather outside of the bars. He also saw a desperate need for programs to help those addicted to alcohol. Under his leadership, St. Matthew's worked with the Methodist, Roman Catholic, and Presbyterian churches in the 1960s to start COMPAS, the Community Property and Service Corporation. Its first program was an alcohol rehabilitation program. The Methodists agreed to share their church and parish hall with St. Matthew's, and St. Matthew's Parish Hall became a dormitory. After five years the city took over the program. Warren left in 1973.

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Today, St. Matthew's serves coffee, tea and snacks to the community daily and helps residents and transients in need of social services. Its doors are open every day from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. to the homeless. Alcoholics Anonymous, veterans support groups, Native communities, and yoga classes for those in recovery meet at St. Matthew's. The church has an outreach ministry visiting and caring for the elderly in the Pioneer Home, elderly and sick unable to leave their homes, and prisoners.

St. Matthew's Episcopal Church, on the site of the original building and incorporating several significant furnishings saved from the original church, represents the association of the Episcopal Church with Fairbanks that started in 1904. The 1948 building was designed to remember the original church. It has been little altered since its construction. In Fairbanks it is an important and recognizable landmark not only for church members. It is respected in the community for its social outreach. For more than one hundred years, St. Matthew's Church has provided religious and social services to residents of and visitors to Fairbanks.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

Allen, Gerald, "Upjohn, Hobart Brown (1876-1949)." *North Carolina Architects & Builders*, NCSU Libraries, 2009. <http://ncarchitects.lib.ncsu.edu/people/P000078>

Bonnell, Ray. "St. Matthew's Episcopal Church Retains Rustic Beauty," *Fairbanks Daily News-Miner*, March, 6, 2011.

Griese, Arnold, and Ed Bigelow. *O Ye Frost and Cold: The History of St. Matthew's Church, Fairbanks, Alaska 1904-1979*. Fairbanks, Alaska: St. Matthew's Episcopal Church, 1980.

Kennedy, Michael S., editor. *The Church in Alaska's Past*. Anchorage, Alaska: Office of History and Archaeology, Division of Parks, 1979.

Phillips, Carol A., editor. *A Century of Faith: Centennial Commemorative, 1895-1995, Episcopal Diocese of Alaska*. Fairbanks, Alaska: Centennial Press, 1995.

Thomas, Tay. *An Angel on His Wing: The Story of Bill Gordon, Alaska's Flying Bishop*. Wilton, Connecticut: Morehouse Publishing, 1989.

"Significant Architects Associated with the Julia L. Butterfield Memorial Hospital," *Cold Spring (New York) Historic District Review Board*. December 2012.
http://coldspringny.gov/Pages/ColdSpringNY_HistoricDistrict/Butterfield_Hospital/butterfield_hospital

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Previous documentation on file (NPS):

N/A

- ☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
☐ previously listed in the National Register
☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register
☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____
☐ recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- ☐ State Historic Preservation Office
☐ Other State agency
☐ Federal agency
☐ Local government
☐ University
☒ Other

Name of repository: Archives of the Episcopal Church, Austin, Texas

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): AHRS Site No. FAI-00110

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Less than one acre

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: _____

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

- | | |
|------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Latitude: 64.845820 | Longitude: -147.730680 |
| 2. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 3. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 4. Latitude: | Longitude: |

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Or

UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

☐ NAD 1927 or ☐ NAD 1983

- | | | |
|----------|-----------|-----------|
| 1. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 2. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 3. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 4. Zone: | Easting : | Northing: |

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

Lot 3A. Block 19, Fairbanks Town Site.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundaries of the nominated property is the footprint of the church on the lot. The Parish Hall behind the church and rectory a short distance west are not included.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Edmund Gaines, Member of Vestry
organization: St. Matthew's Episcopal Church
street & number: 1030 Second Avenue
city or town: Fairbanks state: Alaska zip code: 99701
e-mail: epg74@yahoo.com
telephone: 907.687.1963
date: November 6, 2015

Assisted by Caitlan Dowling, Intern, Alaska Office of History and Archaeology, 550 West 7th Avenue, Suite 1310, Anchorage, Alaska 99501-3565, 907.269.8721.

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Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log

Name of Property: St. Matthew's Episcopal Church

City or Vicinity: Fairbanks

County: Fairbanks North Star State: Alaska

Photographer: Edmund Gaines

Location of Original Digital Files: 1030 Second Avenue, Fairbanks, Alaska 99701

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera, date photographed:

AK_Fairbanks_St. Matthew's Episcopal Church_0001, taken August 21, 2015
Front façade, camera facing southwest

AK_Fairbanks_St. Matthew's Episcopal Church_0002, taken September 1, 2015
East façade, camera facing west

AK_Fairbanks_St. Matthew's Episcopal Church_0003, taken August 21, 2015
West façade, camera facing east

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AK_Fairbanks_St. Matthew's Episcopal Church_0004, taken September 4, 2015
Northeast corner, camera facing southwest

AK_Fairbanks_St. Matthew's Episcopal Church_0005, taken September 1, 2015
Interior, camera facing south

AK_Fairbanks_St. Matthew's Episcopal Church_0006, taken September 1, 2015
Interior, camera facing north

AK_Fairbanks_St. Matthew's Episcopal Church_0007, taken October 8, 2015
Interior hallway, camera facing south

AK_Fairbanks_St. Matthew's Episcopal Church_0008, taken August 21, 2015
Altar, camera facing south

AK_Fairbanks_St. Matthew's Episcopal Church_0009
Stained glass window inside vestibule, camera facing northwest

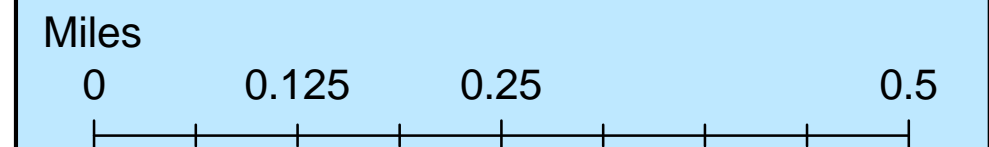
Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

St. Matthew's Episcopal Church

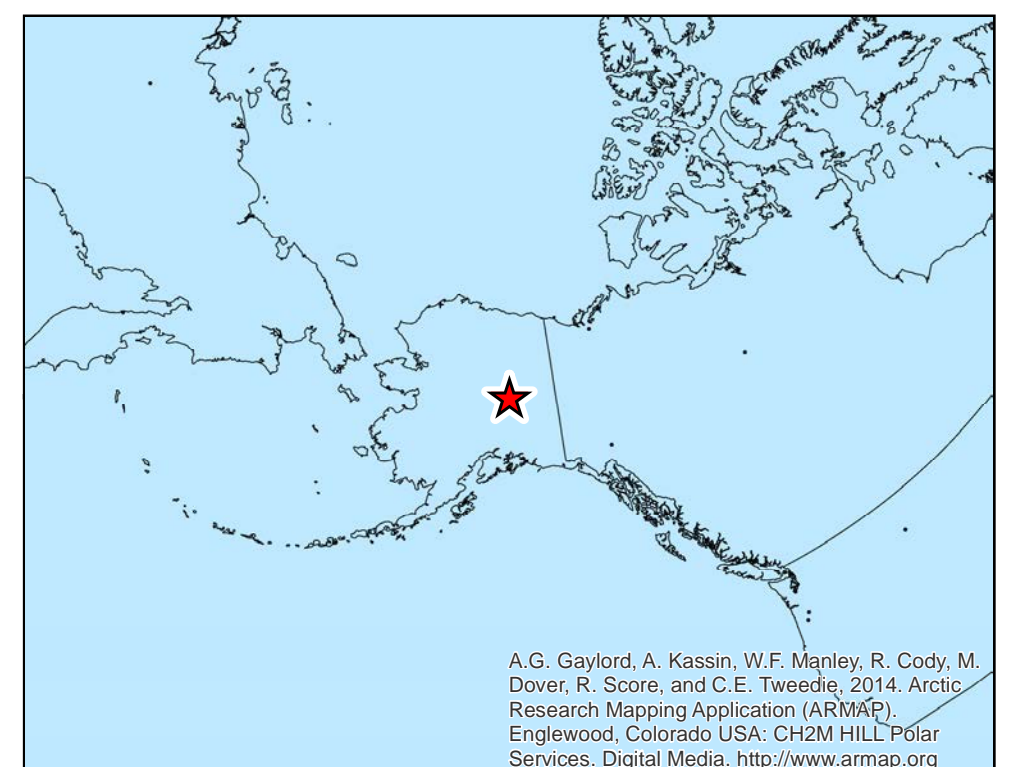
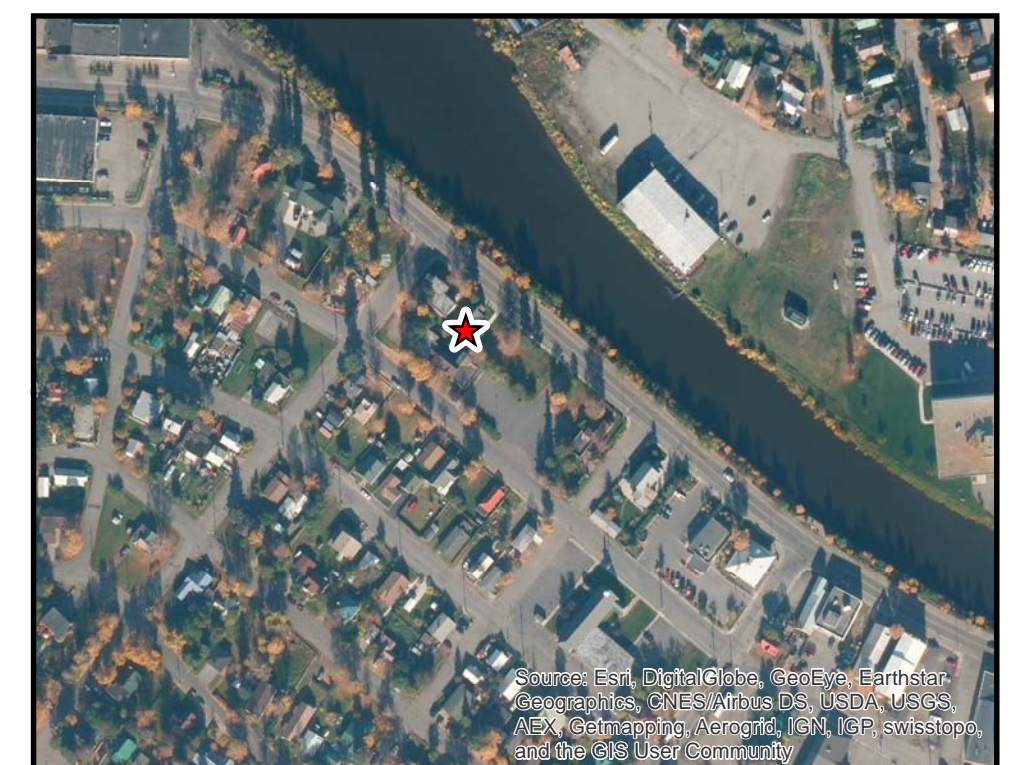


Fairbanks, Alaska



★ Center Point

Lat: 64.845820 N
Long: -147.730680 W



A.G. Gaylord, A. Kassin, W.F. Manley, R. Cody, M. Dover, R. Score, and C.E. Tweedie, 2014. Arctic Research Mapping Application (ARMAP). Englewood, Colorado USA: CH2M HILL Polar Services. Digital Media. <http://www.armac.org>



EPISCOPAL CHURCH
WILSON, VT.
ST. MATTHEW'S
WILSON, VT.

St. Matthew's
Church
Wilson, VT.

PARKING
PARKING









THE
EPISCOPAL CHURCH
TALKEEN, AK
✠
ST. MATTHEW'S
TALKEEN, ALASKA

St. Matthew's
Church
✠ Episcopal ✠









UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY St. Matthew's Episcopal Church
NAME:

MULTIPLE
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: ALASKA, Fairbanks North Star

DATE RECEIVED: 12/31/15 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 1/21/16
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 2/05/16 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 2/15/16
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 16000001

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: Y
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: Y SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

___ACCEPT ___RETURN ___REJECT _____DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

St. Matthew's Episcopal Church is locally significant under National Register Criterion A in the areas of Religion and Social History. Completed in 1948, the modest rustic-style, milled-log church served as an important center for religious and social service activities in Fairbanks and the surrounding region. In particular, the church sponsored important outreach programs providing valuable social services to local Native and rural communities (library, hospital care, soup kitchen, alcohol rehabilitation, etc), as well as serving as the administrative hub to outlying religious mission stations scattered in rural Alaska. [The current documentation does not discuss the building's potential under National Register Criterion C, nor does it contain sufficient local context to render an appropriate evaluation at this time, but the potential may to exist for consideration as a good, local example of early 20th-century rustic church design.

RECOM./CRITERIA Accept Criterion A

REVIEWER Paul R Lusignan

DISCIPLINE HISTORIAN

TELEPHONE _____

DATE 2/12/2016

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.

ALASKA HISTORICAL COMMISSION
VOTING RECORD FOR NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INDIVIDUAL PROPERTY AND DISTRICT NOMINATIONS

Date: December 8, 2015

It is moved that **St. Matthew's Episcopal Church qualifies** for the National Register of Historic Places under criterion/criteria **A**; criteria consideration/considerations **A, G**; level of significance **local**, period significance is **1948-1973**, the areas of significance are **religion and social history**. The property is associated with Alaska Comprehensive Historic Preservation Plan theme/themes **intellectual and social institutions**.

Moved by: **Douglas Veltre** Seconded by: **Terrence Cole**

Vote on motion:

IN FAVOR	OPPOSED	ABSTAIN	RESULT
Cole		Bittner	Passed 5-0-1
Hawfield			
Jensen			Rejected
Veltre			
Waugaman			Tabled

If tabled or rejected, reasons or instructions on how to proceed:

Other comments:

The City of Fairbanks and the Fairbanks North Star Borough are Certified Local Governments. The Mayors of the city and borough sent letters supporting the nomination. The Joint Fairbanks Historic Preservation Commission reviewed the nomination package and also found the property eligible for listing in the National Register.

**Alaska CLG National Register of Historic Places
Nomination Review Report Form**

Property name: St Matthew's Episcopal Church
Address: 1029 First Ave, Fairbanks, Alaska 99701
Certified Local Government:
Date of public meeting when nomination reviewed: December 1, 2015

Criteria of significance (For more information on the criteria see *National Register Bulletin: How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation*)

- ☒ Criterion A: Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to our history.
- ☒ Criterion B: Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☐ Criterion C: Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period or method of construction, or represents a work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction (a district).
- ☐ Property has yielded or may be likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.
- ☐ None of the above.

Integrity (For more information on integrity see *National Register Bulletin: How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation*)

- ☒ The property retains authentic historic character from its period of significance.
- ☐ The property has been significantly altered and no longer retains authentic historic character from its period of significance.

Review comments

Commission

- ☒ The commission recommends that the property is significant, retains integrity, and is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.
- ☐ The commission recommends that the property does not meet the criteria of significance and/or no longer retains integrity and is not eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.
- ☐ The commission chooses not to make a recommendation on the nomination. An explanation of the lack of a recommendation is attached.

Chief Elected Official

- ☒ The chief elected official recommends that the property is significant, retains integrity and is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.
- ☐ The chief elected official recommends that the property does not meet the criteria of significance and d/or no longer retains integrity and is not eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.
- ☐ The chief elected official chooses not to make a recommendation on the nomination. An explanation of the lack of a recommendation is attached.

Attach additional sheets for further comments.

James Allan
Signature, CLG Commission Chair
Printed name: JAMES ALLAN

[Signature]
Signature, Chief Elected Official
Printed name: for Karl Kassel

12/1/15
Date

12/2/15
Date



Fairbanks North Star Borough

Mayor's Office

809 Pioneer Road P.O. Box 71267 Fairbanks, AK 99707-1267 T.(907)459-1300 F. (907)459-1102

December 4, 2015

Joan M. Antonson, Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer
Department of Natural Resources
Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation/Office of History and Archeology
550 West 7th Avenue, Suite 1310
Anchorage, AK 99501-3565

Re: 3330-1-1 St. Matthew's Episcopal Church

Dear Ms. Antonson,

It was my honor to review the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form for St. Matthews Episcopal Church. The Narrative Description and Narrative Statement of Significance accurately reflect the historical and archeological significance of St. Matthews in this community.

Please accept my enthusiastic support for St. Matthews' nomination to the National Register of Historic Places. I look forward to its inclusion alongside our nation's historic places worthy of preservation.

Thank you for your consideration. Please don't hesitate to contact me directly if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Karl W. Kassel'.

Mayor Karl Kassel

Cc: Mayor Eberhart, City of Fairbanks



CITY OF FAIRBANKS

John Eberhart, Mayor

800 CUSHMAN STREET
FAIRBANKS, ALASKA 99701-4615

OFFICE: 907-459-6793

FAX: 907-459-6787

mayor@ci.fairbanks.ak.us

November 23, 2015

RECEIVED

NOV 30 2015

OHA

Joan M. Antonson, Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer
DNR/Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation-Office of History and Archaeology
550 West 7th Avenue, Suite 1310
Anchorage, Alaska 99501-3565

Re: St. Matthew's Episcopal Church

Dear Ms. Antonson:

I have reviewed the material and application sent to my offices regarding St. Matthew's Episcopal Church being considered for the National Register of Historic Places.

I am personally familiar with St. Matthew's Episcopal Church and have been there numerous times for a variety of events important to our community.

The history of the church and its place as an important landmark in Fairbanks is well known. St. Matthew's was at one point the only medical care in the area, the first library, and the first kindergarten. Currently, about 1200 persons attend church at St. Matthew's, over half of whom are Alaska Natives.

As Mayor of the City of Fairbanks, I support the nomination of St. Matthew's Episcopal Church to the National Register of Historic Places.

Thank you for your inquiry and consideration. Please contact me if you have any questions or if you need any further information.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "John Eberhart", is written over a horizontal line.

Mayor John Eberhart

cc: Mayor Kassel, FNSB



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR BILL WALKER

Department of Natural Resources

RECEIVED 2280

DEC 31 2015

Nat. Register of Historic Places
National Park Service

DIVISION OF PARKS
Office of History & Archaeology

550 West 7th Ave., Suite 1310
Anchorage, Alaska 99501-3565
Main: 907.269.8721
E-mail: oha@alaska.net

December 24, 2015

Re: 3330-2 St. Matthew's Episcopal Church

J. Paul Loether, Deputy Keeper
National Register of Historic Places
National Park Service 2280, 8th Floor
1201 I (Eye) Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20005

Attn: Paul Lusignan

Dear Paul:

Enclosed is National Register of Historic Places documentation for St. Matthew's Episcopal church in Fairbanks, Alaska. The disk contains the true and correct copy of the nomination.

The Alaska Historical Commission, the state review board, found St. Matthew's Episcopal Church eligible for listing on December 8, 2015. Their voting record is attached. The property is in the boundaries of the City of Fairbanks and the Fairbanks North Star Borough, two of Alaska's Certified Local Governments. The joint Fairbanks Historic Preservation Commission reviewed the nomination and found the station eligible as well. Its voting record is included in the nomination package along with letters from each mayor.

A member of St. Matthew's Vestry prepared the nomination, assisted by Alaska Office of History and Archaeology staff. Prior to the Alaska Historical Commission meeting a statewide press release went out with specific mention of National Register documentation review, and the mayors were notified and provided about the program, results of listing, and how to comment or object to the listing. I concur with the eligibility of St. Matthew's Episcopal Church and have signed the nomination.

Alaska Historical Commission members determined St. Matthew's Episcopal Church eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under criterion A. The Fairbanks' commission added B to recognize the beloved rector who is retiring, but understand that since he is alive the Alaska Historical Commission members did not find it eligible under criterion B. They found criteria considerations A and G apply and are adequately addressed in the nomination. Commission members said the property is associated with the Alaska historic preservation plan theme of intellectual and social institutions. The areas of significance are religious and social history. The period of significance for the property is 1948-1973, starting when the church opened and ending with the social program they undertook was turned over to the city.

National Register of Historic Places

December 24, 2015

Page 2

If you have any questions regarding the documentation please contact me at j.o.antonson@alaska.gov or 907.269.8714. Thank you!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Joan M. Antonson".

Joan M. Antonson

Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

Enclosures: 2 disks, signature page