

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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RECEIVED	AUG 21 1979
DATE ENTERED	JUN 6 1980

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

Russian Orthodox Church Buildings and Sites in Alaska

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 8 of 53

QUAD: Afognak *Alaska*

1. Nativity of Holy Theotokos Church (AHRS SITE NO. AFG-080)
2. LOCATION
  - a. NA
  - b. Afognak
  - c. NA
  - d. Alaska
  - e. 02
  - f. Kodiak *Alaska*
  - g. 150
3. AHRS: April 10, 1979
4. FAIR
5. UNALTERED
6. ORIGINAL SITE

This is an enduring shell of a classic small R. O. church structure that served for decades as the chapel for an isolated community. The main space of the church is contained in a rectangular structure measuring 38'3" in depth and 26'8" in width, surmounted by a medium gable roof. An octagonal tent-shaped cupola, approximately 7.5' in diameter, 5' to a side, rises perpendicularly from the interior ceiling through the 4/5th eastward segment of the roof ridge. This is capped by a traditional cross rising perpendicularly from the peak of the octoid to become the high cross of the church.

A rear shed extension to the altar end of the building extends the shape of the building and roof line at a slightly reduced scale. The entry end of the building features a rectangular bell tower, 11'10" in width, 12' in depth, rising to a height of approximately 33', 3' higher than the central church rectangular building, and surmounted at its center point by a cross which rises upward to a point second only to the peak of the cross at the cupola's peak. While the bell tower base serves also as an entryway and airlock, there is an additional entryway before the passage through the bell tower, providing an additional wind break. This reflects again the basic rectangular structure with medium gable roof, on

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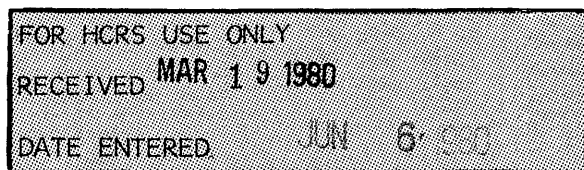
line with and on a scale still more reduced from that of the rear (east) end structure, measuring 11'10" in width and 6'11" in depth. (I. Philemenof, Undated floor plan; Kreta/Merculief, Photos).

This is chronologically the third of three R. O. churches in this community, and stands on property of the R. O. Church. The earliest church, of undocumented date, was built at the site of the old Aleut cemetery. The second church building, constructed sometime late in the 19th century, near the present church site, was, by local tradition, smaller than the present structure, and relatively unadorned, so far as external design is concerned. The present building was begun in 1901, completed in 1905. A tidal wave generated by the 1964 Alaskan earthquake washed out most of the community, but the church was unharmed. The community moved to Port Lions and the church building remains in its original location, presently unused, on property belonging to the Orthodox Church. (Wallace, 1974, 31).

The building was constructed of logs, and remains basically sound. At some later date the entire external vertical area of the building was covered by siding. The siding is of an archaic modified novelty variety, with no rabbet edge, tapered along both upper and lower edges of each siding board, probably planed off from common lumber. The building's site is at high water mark on the ocean's edge, and the ocean is washing up and under the wooden pilings which form the building's foundations. The owners believe that the adjacent settlement will be reactivated, and the building, which is still basically sound, will be moved further back from the ocean's edge, but on the same parcel of land, and returned to full use. (Kreta, Notes).

QUAD: Bethel

1. St. Jacob's Church (AHRS SITE NO. BTH-009)
2. LOCATION
  - a. NA
  - b. Napaskiak
  - c. NA
  - d. Alaska
  - e. 02
  - f. Bethel *Dan*
  - g. 050



## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 1 of 6

QUAD: AFOGNAK (A-3)

Nativity of Holy Theotokos Church, Afognak (AHRS SITE NO. AFG-080)

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION: Building is sited on U.S. survey map sheet 454a-d, enclosed. Sited on point of land jutting southeastward beyond general waterfront line on U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management, Photographic Atlas of Alaskan Communities (Anchorage, Alaska State Office, Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Department of the Interior, n.d.), "Afognak 1962".

QUAD: BETHEL (C-8)

St. Jacob's Church, Napaskiak, Alaska (AHRS SITE NO. BTH-009)

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION: Building is the largest man-built structure in the community, occupies the southernmost building site in the community, which is the entire south boundary of the graveyard, as sited on Photographic Atlas, "Napaskiak (sic) 1962". Sited also on "City of Napaskiak and Oscarville, Alaska," aerial photo map (Douglas, Alaska, State of Alaska, Department of Highways, 1972, 1973).

QUAD: COLD BAY

Holy Resurrection Church, Belkofski (AHRS SITE NO. XCB-020)

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION: Building is sited on U.S. Survey map sheet 758, enclosed.

QUAD: CORDOVA (C-5)

St. Michael the Archangel Church, Cordova (AHRS SITE NO. COR-021)

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION: Building is the first structure on the east side of an untitled north-south road running south from Chase Avenue, parallel to and 200 feet west of LeFever Street, as sited on U.S. Survey map sheet 656, enclosed. Also sited on BLM Photographic Atlas, "Cordova, 1963" and, on State of Alaska, "City of Cordova, Alaska," aerial photo map, (1972).

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Orthodox Russian Church Buildings and Sites in Alaska

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 10 PAGE 1 of 15

QUADRANGLE NAME: Afognak (A-3)

LOCATION: Afognak

NAME OF PROPERTY AND AHRS NUMBER: Nativity of Holy Theotokos Church  
(AHRS SITE NO. AFG-080)

QUADRANGLE SCALE: 1: 63, 360

UTM REFERENCE:

ZONE: 0 5

EASTING: 5 1 4 0 1 8

NORTHING: 6 4 2 9 6 9 9

QUADRANGLE NAME: Bethel (C-8)

LOCATION: Napaskiak

NAME OF PROPERTY AND AHRS NUMBER: St. Jacob's Church (AHRS SITE NO. BTH-009)

QUADRANGLE SCALE: 1: 63, 360

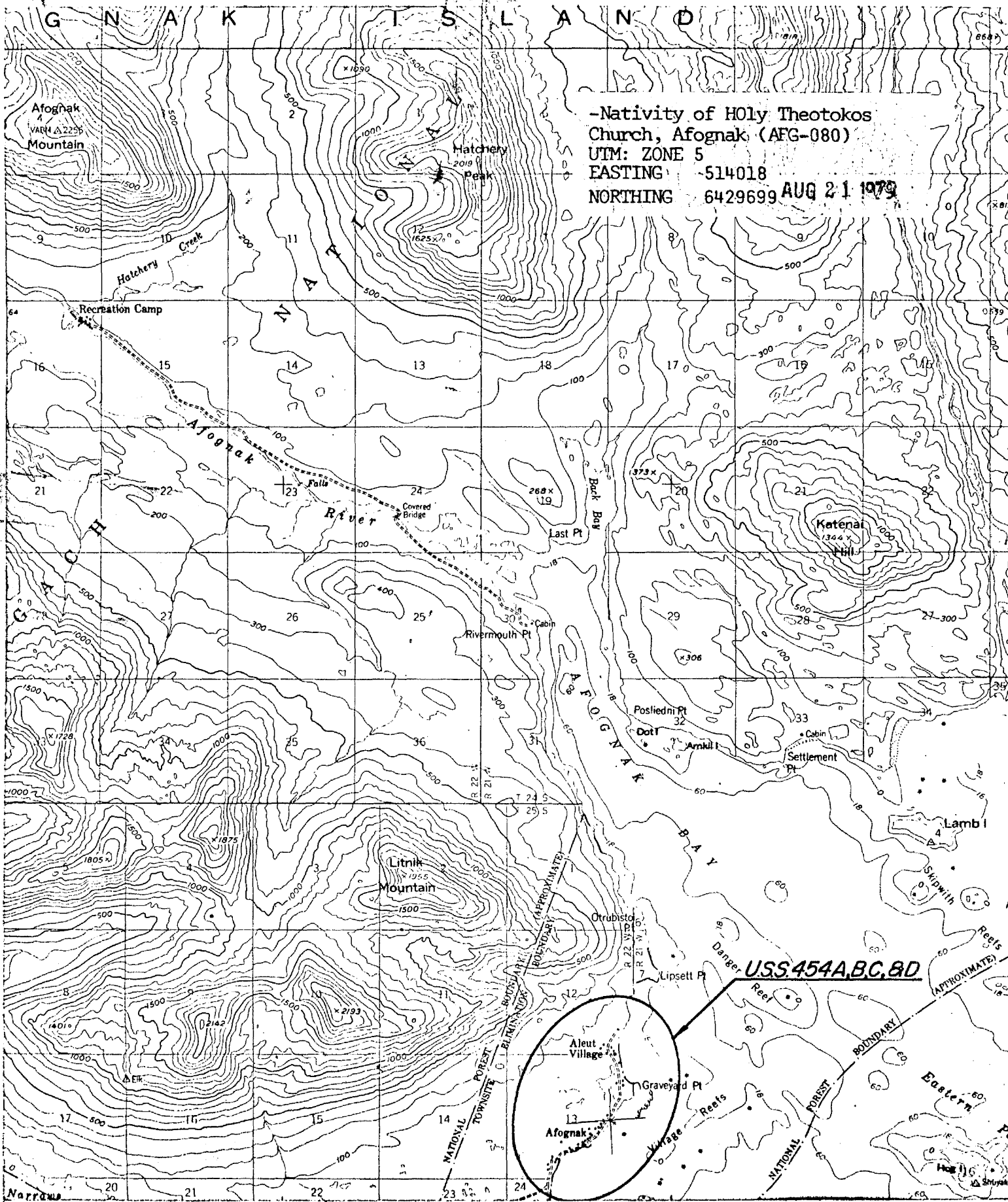
UTM REFERENCE:

ZONE: 0 4

EASTING: 3 4 9 2 1 4

NORTHING: 6 7 3 3 2 6 8

-Nativity of Holy Theotokos Church, Afognak (AFG-080)  
UTM: ZONE 5  
EASTING 514018  
NORTHING 6429699 AUG 21 1979



**USS 454A, BC, & D**

Afognak (A-3)

Afognak

U.S.S. 454a-d