UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM



Russian Orthodox Church Buildings and Sites in Alaska

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smaller onion-shaped figure that rises from a rather narrow cylinder from the peak of a pyramidal-shaped roof covering the single bell in a high bell tower on four legs, that stands directly before the main front entrance to the old church.

QUAD: Samalga Island

1. St. Nicholas Church (AHRS SITE NO. SAM-022)

- 2. LOCATION
 - a. NA b. Nikolski martinger c. NA d. Alaska e. 02 f. Aleutian Islands Division g. 010
- 3. AHRS DATE: May 18, 1973
- 4. CONDITION: Good
- 5. ALTERED
- 6. ORIGINAL SITE

Nikolski is situated on the southern tip of Umnak Island. According to tradition the present church is at least the fourth on the island. The first, built sometime during the 19th century, was destroyed by fire. The second, built on the west side of the creek, of sod -- a grass roof and grass floor -- caught fire from the stone lamps used inside it, and burned in 1898. The third church was built between 1898-1900 a few miles from the present church site, where the village was then located. This third church was moved, about 1918, to the present site, where it was replaced by the present St. Nicholas R.O. Church about 1930. (Kreta, Notes; Wallace, 1974, p. 52).

This 49-year-old church retains the basic three-element design, plus an almost independent bell tower, reminiscent of earlier R.O. village churches, but to that is added eclectic details of proportion that are significant to the genre. From west to east the three main sections measure, longitudinally, 7'6", 34', and 12', respectively; and, in width, 24', 28', and 24', respectively.

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The larger than usual nave segment is also taller than usual, rising up high enough for a second story, but having windows only at the ground level. It is capped by a low-angle pyramidal roof, from the peak of which rises a small cupola, crowned by an onion-shaped dome, from which spires a R.O. cross. The altar (east) extension and the vestibule are both foreshortened appendages covered by medium-angle gable roofs whose peaks touch the lower edge of the roof eaves of the main section. At the west end, abutting the vestibule, is a fully enclosed porch enclosed within the first level of a bell tower, from whose pyramidal roofed peak rises an onion-shaped dome and then spires the high cross of the church. The entire appearance is one of mass. The simple detailing, however, coupled with small, economically severe, windows, suggests an almost Shaker design influence. Again, this design modification may have resulted from interaction with new ideas of other religious groups active in Alaska. (Ibid.; Kreta/Merculief, Photos).

QUAD: Seldovia

- 1. Saints Sergius and Herman of Valaam Church (AHRS SITE NO. SEL-018)
- 2. LOCATION
 - a. NA
 - b. English Bay
 - c. NA
 - d. Alaska
 - e. 02
 - f. Kenai-Cook Inlet Division
 - g. 120
- 3. AHRS DATE: May 18, 1973
- 4. CONDITION: Good
- 5. ALTERED
- 6. ORIGINAL SITE

The present location of English Bay was the first Russian outpost on Cook Inlet, then known as Fort Alexander, or Alexandrovsky Redoubt. It was established between 1784 and 1786. K. T. Khlevnikov described the settlement as it was in

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QUAD: RUSSIAN MISSION (C-1)

St. Sergius Chapel, Little Russian Mission (also known as Chuathbaluk) (AHRS SITE NO. RUS-015)

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION: Tallest elevation in remote Alaskan Native village, sited at northeast end of only and main community road, 750 feet on the road line from high tide mark, as sited on U.S. Survey map sheet 872, enclosed. Also sited on BLM <u>Photo-</u> <u>graphic Atlas</u>, "Russian Mission (Little) 1963".

QUAD: RUSSIAN MISSION (C-4)

St. Seraphim Chapel (Old Church), Lower Kalskag (AHRS SITE NO. RUS-017)

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION: Building is on Lot 7, Block 3, U.S. Survey map sheet 4414, Lower Kalskag Townsite, per letter from George E. M. Gusafson, Bureau of Land Management Alaskan Townsite Trustee, to Very Reverend Joseph Kreta, March 21, 1974.

QUAD: Samalga Island

St. Nicholas Church, Nikolski (AHRS SITE NO. SAM-022)

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION: Building is sited on U. S. Survey map sheet 808, enclosed. Also sited on BLM Photographic Atlas, "Nikolski 1967".

QUAD: SELDOVIA (B-6)

Saints Sergius and Herman of Valaam Church, English Bay (AHRS SITE NO. SEL-018)

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION: Building is sited on U.S. Survey map sheet 368, enclosed. Also sited on BLM Photographic Atlas, "English Bay (Alexandroeska) 1962".

QUAD: SELDOVIA (B-5)

St. Nicholas Chapel, Seldovia (AHRS SITE NO. SEL-023)

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION: Building is sited on U. S. Survey map sheet 371, enclosed. Also sited on BLM <u>Photographic</u> <u>Atlas</u>, "Seldovia 1963"; and, on State of Alaska, "City of Seldovia Alaska," aerial photo map (1971, 1972)

Form No. 10-300a (Kev. 10-74) UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR FOR NPS USE ONLY NATIONAL PARK SERVICE RECEIVED AUG 2 1 1979 JUN 6 1980 NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES DATE ENTERED **INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM** Orthodox Russian Church Buildings and Sites in Alaska 10 CONTINUATION SHEET **ITEM NUMBER** PAGE 11 of 15 QUADRANGLE NAME: Russian Mission (C-4) LOCATION: Lower Kalskag NAME OF PROPERTY AND AHRS NUMBER: St. Seraphim Chapel (old church) (AHRS SITE NO. RUS-017) 1: 63, 360 OUADRANGLE SCALE: UTM REFERENCE: ZONE: 04 EASTING: 4 3 0 3 2 8 NORTHING: 6 8 1 9 9 3 8 QUADRANGLE NAME: Samalga Island Nikolski LOCATION: NAME OF PROPERTY AND AHRS NUMBER: St. Nicholas Church (AHRS SITE NO. SAM-022) QUADRANGLE SCALE: 1: 250, 000 UTM REFERENCE: ZONE: 0 2 EASTING: 677140 NORTHING: 5 8 6 9 7 5 5



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