

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

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**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

received

date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

**1. Name**

historic Holy Ascension Orthodox Church

and or common Church of the Holy Ascension

**2. Location**

street & number N/A

not for publication

city, town Unalaska

vicinity of

state Alaska

code

county

code

**3. Classification**

**Category**

\_\_\_ district

\_\_\_ building(s)

\_\_\_ structure

site

\_\_\_ object

**Ownership**

\_\_\_ public

private

\_\_\_ both

**Public Acquisition**

\_\_\_ in process

\_\_\_ being considered

N/A

**Status**

occupied

\_\_\_ unoccupied

\_\_\_ work in progress

**Accessible**

yes: restricted

\_\_\_ yes: unrestricted

\_\_\_ no

**Present Use**

\_\_\_ agriculture

\_\_\_ commercial

\_\_\_ educational

\_\_\_ entertainment

\_\_\_ government

\_\_\_ industrial

\_\_\_ military

\_\_\_ museum

\_\_\_ park

\_\_\_ private residence

religious

\_\_\_ scientific

\_\_\_ transportation

\_\_\_ other:

**4. Owner of Property**

name Alaska Diocese, Orthodox Church in America

street & number Box 728

city, town Kodiak

vicinity of

state Alaska

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. U.S. Bureau of Land Management

street & number 701 C Street

city, town Anchorage

state Alaska

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title Alaska Heritage Resources Survey (#UNL005)

has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date June 6, 1971

federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records

Office of-History & Archeology, Alaska State Division of Parks  
Pouch 7001 (555 Cordova)

city, town

Anchorage

state Alaska

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## 7. Description

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**Condition**

excellent  
 good  
 fair

deteriorated  
 ruins  
 unexposed

**Check one**

unaltered  
 altered

**Check one**

original site  
 moved    date .....

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**Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance**

See Continuation Sheet, No. 7.

## 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> social
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

**Specific dates** 1882, 1894-96      **Builder/Architect** Bishop's House: Mooser & Piser, San Francisco, CA, and Alaska Commercial Co., Unalaska.

**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)**

### Significance

The Holy Ascension Orthodox Church at Unalaska and its associated Bishop's House are the most outstanding reflections of a Russian heritage which has permeated the Aleutian Chain from the 1750's to the present. The site was the source of a Russian missionary outreach which was so successful that to this day most Aleuts, who are still a majority of the population of the Aleutian Islands, consider Orthodoxy an integral part of their culture. The site is associated as well with the career of the first resident Orthodox bishop of Alaska, Innocent (also know as Rev. Ioann Veniaminov), who also made lasting contributions to architecture, linguistics, ethnography, historical documentation, public health, and cultural adaptation, and recently has been canonized a saint of the Orthodox Church world-wide. From its beginnings, the church was identified with education and literacy; from the 1890's, the church also was a provider of social services and administration for a vast region. Its influence was wide-spread throughout northern Alaska, and it was a counterpart to the Cathedral in Sitka, which also is a National Historic Landmark. The church itself, built in 1894-1896 in the cruciform style, with three altars, is the oldest church of this type in Alaska. Its utensils, mostly associated with Bishop and Saint Innocent, are especially fine, and its ikons are of rare quality. The ikonostasis of the Chapel of St. Innocent also demonstrates the craftsmanship and artistry of the Aleut people themselves.

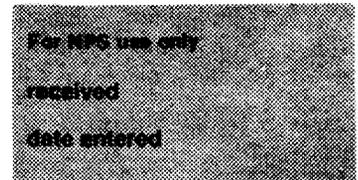
### HISTORY:

See Continuation Sheet, No. 8.



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7. Physical Description and Appearance - Continuation Sheet

The Church of the Holy Ascension National Historic Landmark is in the village of Unalaska on the island of Unalaska in the Aleutian Archipelago, Alaska. This island is 800 miles southwest of Anchorage, the nearest large city, and is a two-hour flight distant.

The site is on a neck of land which is bounded on the north by Iliulik Bay and on the south by the Iliulik River. Iliulik Harbor is to the east. A bridge across the narrow channel of this harbor connects Unalaska to the suburb of Dutch Harbor on Amaknak Island. The site is bounded on the north by Broadway Avenue and on the south by Bayview Avenue. There is no street to the east, only a fence separating the church from nearby dwellings. Cathedral Street is a very short street at the western end of the property, running between Broadway and Bayview. (figure 1-town sketch map)

The Historic Landmark consists of the church and a house, both on land designated "The Russian Greek Mission Reserves," which as a whole comprises tracts A, B, and C, or 1.51 acres on the enclosed Plat Map from U. S. Survey No. 853, dated Nov. 12, 1908 (figure 2). The church is on Tract A (0.60 acres), the "Bishop's House" on Tract C (0.59 acres), 457 feet distant, and is noted as the Schoolhouse on the 1908 map. Tract B connects the two and is presently vacant but once contained the U. S. Customs Office, the property being leased from the Orthodox diocese. There is one non-contributing structure on the site, a small furnace house which has been built to serve the Bishop's House. The 800 feet west of the house to the boundary of the site consist of vacant land. Both the church and the house sit somewhat apart from the residential and commercial areas of the community, on a low rise between the bay and the river, the church appearing as a demarcation point between the canneries at the end of the spit and the village to the west (figures 3 and 4).

Unalaska is the principal community of the Aleutian chain. Presently it is an administrative and economic center for the burgeoning fish-processing industry of the Bering Sea. The Orthodox parish which bears its name included, at the time the church was built, ten chapels strung along the Aleutian Chain. Today, the parish is somewhat more restricted, but still covers an expanse of more than 1000 miles from Atka (800 miles west of Unalaska) to the Alaska Peninsula. The congregation of the Church of the Holy Ascension is almost entirely Aleut.

Exterior Description of The Church of the Holy Ascension

(Note: The official church records of 1895 provide measurements for this church, but they vary considerably from on-site measurements by

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National Park Service staff. A HABS-HAER project for the church is proposed for 1985.)

The Church of the Holy Ascension is designed in the shape of a cruciform, with apse and bell-tower (figures 5 and 6). The facade measures 79 feet, 8½ inches; its depth is 86 feet, 11 inches. Each of the interior functions of the church is expressed in each elevation. The building is wood framed with 8 ¾ inch redwood shiplap siding painted white; it is built on a wooden base with a water line at two feet, 4 inches.

The bell tower is the western-most portion of the building, forming an entry vestibule into the church (figure 7). It extends 13 feet 8 inches from the body of the church and is 14 feet, 6½ inches wide. The tower is approximately 52 feet high and has corner boards. The top of the tower is edged with a cornice which has molded fascia and a plain soffit. The cornice's middle portion is gabled, flanked on either side by horizontal portions. Directly below the gabled portion of the cornice is a circle of molding. Two crosses superimposed on a circle are to either side of the large circle. This decorativemotif is on the north, south, and west walls, while only the crosses are present on the east wall (figure 8). An octagonal cupola is at the top of this tower. A plain wood collar forms the base of the cupola. The drum is composed of eight eight-paned arched windows through which the cross beams of the tower are visible. Capping the drum is an onion-shaped dome, topped by a three-bar Orthodox cross. The tower has four-over-four light sash windows on the second-story level on the north, west, and south elevations. The bells are at this site, the windows being opened when they are rung. The windows have molded lintels, plain vertical trim and plain sills. At ground level, the north and south elevations of the tower have a molded panel door with vertical molded trim topped by a plain lintel. On either side of these doors are single-pane windows with molded lintels and plain sills. The south door functions as the main entry to the church. On the ground level of the tower's west elevation is a double molded door with eight panels; it is arched with a plain pilaster and vertical trim capped with a plain pediment.

Directly east of the bell tower is the narthex or predvor (before the doors). (figures 9 and 10) This portion is 37 feet 7 inches wide, with the bell-tower centered on its western facade. The narthex has a gabled roof on the west elevation. The south and north elevations are identical containing a six-over-six light double-sash window that has plain vertical trim and sill trim with a molded lintel. The west (gabled) elevation has a single-paned arched window with plain sill and vertical trim and molded lintel flanking each side of the bell-tower.

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The nave of the church is directly attached to the east of the narthex and measures 37 feet 7 inches wide by 63 feet 4½ inches deep. This central portion of the church is capped by a pyramidal roof. At its peak is an octagonal cupola (figures 11 and 12). The drum of the cupola is composed of eight, eight-paned arched windows placed on a plain octagonal collar. The cupola and the dome, of wood and tarpaper, are the same as those over the bell-tower. The three-bar cross on this dome, however, has a pin on top to discourage birds from perching. The paper on this dome was replaced and painted four to five years ago and is still bright and in good condition. The dome over the tower has not been refurbished in many years due to the difficulty of reaching it.

The north and south elevations of the church are identical, having chapels extending from their eastern halves (figures 9 and 13). There is also a six-over-six light double-sash window with plain vertical trim and molded lintels just to the west of the chapel extension and at ground level. These windows have a plain sill with a boxed panel in the area directly below. The west elevation of the nave has only a small exterior exposure above the gabled roof of the narthex. Within these triangular areas, there is a two-over-two light hung-sash window which has a plain sill and vertical trim with a molded arched lintel above. The exposed areas of the east elevation of the nave above the roof of the apse and the chapels are plain.

Chapels extend from the nave on both the north and south elevations, 31 feet from the west end of the narthex (figures 13 and 14). Both chapels (St. Innocent on the north and St. Sergius on the south) are identical in elevation and facade. These chapel wings extend 21 feet from the nave and are 32 feet 4½ inches deep. The west elevations are plain with no openings. The north/south elevations of each chapel have, in their eastern half, a six-over-six sash window with plain vertical trim, molded lintel, plain sill and with a molded box panel below. On the western half of the north/south chapel elevations there is a molded panel door with plain vertical trim and topped by an entablature. The east elevations of the chapels each contain two windows of the type described for the north/south elevations. A hip roof tops the chapels peaking at the cornice height of the nave with a small three-bar Orthodox cross.

The eastern-most portion of the church is the apse which extends 9 feet, 10½ inches from the nave, having the same width as the nave (37 feet, 7 inches). (figures 14, 15, 16) The apse has a hipped roof which peaks at the nave's cornice height. There are two windows on the eastern elevation of the apse and one on both the north and south elevations; they are identical to those described for the chapels.

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All roofs of the church are wood shingles painted red, with the exception of the two onion domes which are wood covered with tarpaper, which is painted green. The structure's cornices are made up of molded fascia, plain soffits, and molded friezes.

Interior of the Church of the Holy Ascension

The entry door of the Church of the Holy Ascension is on the south side of the bell-tower. The first floor of the bell-tower, as the rest of the interior, is sheathed with tongue-and-groove beaded boards painted white. The molding around the doors and windows in all parts of the church is painted blue. There also is molding with a frieze at the ceilings and a kickboard at the floor; these also are painted blue. The floor, of flush-laid boards, is painted red throughout the church.

The semi-circular double six-panelled "front" doors of the bell-tower at the west end of the tower are barred, and are used only for major events such as weddings or the entry of the bishop (figure 17). One panel of the six is missing and has been boarded over. The hinges on the door appear to be original. There are loose floor boards near the south door which is the entry to the church. The door on the north wall is nailed shut. Between the window and door on the north and south walls is a 4 x 4 engaged pier on a low pedestal. There is a glass lantern on a stand to the left of the double-doors leading into the narthex. A brass oil lantern hangs from the ceiling.

The narthex contains a coat rack and bulletin board, and has a brass chandelier with candles. Doors on both the south and north walls lead to storage, the one on the north for linens, the south door providing access to a small room used for general storage and with the stairway to the belfry, choir loft and the tower (slide no. 2). The molding trim in this room is also painted blue, although it has not been recently painted.

Double-panelled doors lead from the narthex to the nave (figure 18). Immediately to the south of the door and on the west wall of the nave is a semi-enclosed area on a one-foot raised platform. It has a railing and spindled balusters which are painted white with blue trim. This area contains a roll-top desk which is used for storing candles for sale at services. There is a small glass-front cabinet on the west wall within this semi-enclosed space, for display of items for sale. On the south side of the west wall are brackets for holding the heavy rope which raises and lowers the large ornate candelabra hanging from the center of the nave and other brackets for the cords which control the height of the votive candles before the ikonostasis. These ropes disappear through holes in the ceiling and are controlled by pulleys

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above the ceiling. On the north side of the west wall is a bench. An oil stove, of modern vintage, is also on this side near the back, well away from the walls. There is a hand-rail on the west, north, and south walls, up to the doors leading to the chapels. This, as well as the trim, is painted blue. A strip of blue molding about three-fourths of the way up the wall encircles the nave and on the eastern wall marks the top tier of the ikonostasis. Above the entry to the nave is a semi-circular choir loft, also with a rail and balusters, decorated as the platform below (figure 19).

The wooden floor, which is painted red, has a red runner carpet from the narthex to the steps which lead to the ikonostasis and the altar area behind it. The steps and platform (the amvon) are painted in the blue paint of the trim. There is carpeting in the areas on either side of the nave where the people stand, but much of the floor is uncovered. The ceiling is flat, and painted white, except for an area in the middle (figure 20). Here there is a large blue painted circle with a large white star in the center of the circle and smaller white stars surrounding it. From the middle of the center star, the immense candelabra is suspended by means of the rope noted above. Blue molding with a 12 to 18 inch frieze encircles the ceiling.

On the north and south walls of the nave are the entrances to the two chapels, the Chapel dedicated to St. Innocent of Irkutsk being on the north (figure 21) and the Chapel of St. Sergius of Radonezh on the south (figure 22). The door to the Chapel of St. Innocent is within the right half of a double arch marked by blue molding; the arches are supported by non-structural square posts, abutting the wall, which are painted white with blue molded trim. The arches are a decorative feature, rather than an opening, although there is some belief in the community that the arches were open at one time. At present, one enters the chapel through a rectangular door hung within the right arch. A glass-front display case is placed within the left arch. It contains a number of treasures dating from the founding of the parish in 1824 and which are believed to have been used by its first priest, Rev. Ioann Veniaminov, now St. Innocent. The entry into the other chapel, dedicated to St. Sergius of Radonezh, is through a rectangular hung door, defined by blue molding. There is no arch on this southern wall.

The east wall of the nave is dominated by the focus of the room, which is the ikonostasis (figures 23 and 24). The ikon screen extends across the width of the church and fills approximately three-fourths of the eastern wall, in two tiers. It is approached by way of a three-step platform (the amvon), the steps before the Royal (central) Doors forming a semi-circle into the nave. A wooden railing painted white with gold trim and with spindled balusters encloses the amvon. There are four

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gates in the railing, the two before the Royal Doors being in the same style as the rail, but the gates leading to the two Deacon's Doors on the left and right being wood panels with decorative cut-outs. All gates swing outward. Within this enclosure, before the ikonostasis, is a lectern on the right for the choir director, 8 brass candlestands and two ikons on stands.

The frame of the ikon screen is of wood, painted white with gold trim and decorated on the base with gold crosses within panelled insets and at the top by delicate carved molding. The five ikons on either side of the central (Royal) doors are on linen and are separated by a small semi-circular column with gold trim (figures 25 and 26). They are, from left to right (north to south), St. Alexander Nevski, St. Vladimir, St. Steven (on the Deacon's Door), the Transfiguration of Christ, the Mother of God (Theotokos), the Royal Doors, the Christ Without Hands, the Ascension of the Lord, St. Michael the Archangel (on the Deacon's Door), Saints Cyril and Methodius, and St. Nicholas. The ikons are each within an arched frame. The shape of these arches is reflected in an entrance arch over the central gateway. This arch is of uncertain derivation, as it does not appear in early photographs (See figure 33). The Royal Doors are arched within a rectangular frame and have geometric curved cut-outs around the five ikons of the Evangelists and of the Annunciation; these ikons are round. An historic brass candlestand, in excellent condition, stands before eight of the ikons. Above the Royal Doors is the ikon of the Last Supper in a decorative frame, which takes the shape of a cupola, with a lace-like border carved of wood. The second tier of the ikonostasis consists of an ikon mural on linen which stretches across the entire top of the frame and behind the ikon of the Last Supper. This mural is believed to have been sent to the church by the last tsar of Russia; a photograph taken ca. 1910 shows the east wall without this mural. The top border of this mural is the blue molded trim which surrounds the walls of the nave. Above it are three ikons. An ikon of The Ascension is in the middle; on either side are two larger ikons. All of the ikons on the ikonostasis are badly soiled. At one point in the recent past, the ikons were covered with furniture polish; over time, this has darkened and nearly obscured them entirely. Attempts to clean the ikons on the lower tier with various commercial cleaning agents have been partially successful, but have not been pursued for fear of permanently damaging the paint. The ikons in the upper tiers are too dark to distinguish their subjects.

The upper tier of the nave, that is, above the molded trim, has several ornamental features. There are twenty-two decorative doric columns in bas relief, these having no structural purpose, around the north, south, and east walls; they are painted deep red with gold trim, and are decorated with a gold cross and diamond. On the east wall above the

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ikonostasis, in addition to the ikons noted above, there are four round sun-bursts, made of twisted metal, painted gold. In the center of the two outer sun-bursts is a star, while the two nearest the altar have a cross. On the north and south walls, between the columns are 12 ikons painted on wood with an eight-point star painted gold forming a background and frame. Above each is a free-standing sun-burst halo made of twisted metal painted white. The center "panel" on each of the side walls contains a cross within a torch with a somewhat larger halo above.

Within the nave are several ikons of note. On stands on either side of the steps of the central portion of the amvon are two ikons in the Byzantine style, both dated 1821; on the left is an ikon of the Virgin of Kazan (slide no. 5) and on the right is Christ the Saviour. These are especially fine. Affixed to the right side of the altar rail is an ikon of scenes from the life of the Virgin; it is double-framed behind glass and is said to be a miracle-working ikon, with a relic imbedded. It was received at the church between 1907 and 1916, sent from Russia by an anonymous donor. On the south wall is a fine ikon of St. Panteleimon, presented to the church by the St. Panteleimon Brotherhood in 1896; it is covered by a silver riza, and has an antique brass votive candle-holder before it, suspended from a rope through the ceiling. There are numerous ikons on the north, south, and west walls, many of fine quality. A list of the ikons is on file at the church and also in the National Park Service Alaska Area Office. Absent from this list, compiled in 1975, is an ikon, which was not on public display, but is referred to in an article noted in the history section of this report. It is an ikon of the Transfiguration donated to the Church at Unalaska by its first pastor, Metropolitan (now Saint) Innocent in 1870 (slide nos. 9 and 10). It is on the upper back wall of the ikonostasis within the sanctuary.

The altar area, or sanctuary, of the church was not open for inspection, due to church regulations, although the room could be photographed from the doorways (figure 27 and slide nos. 7 and 8. The altar is dominated by a cross and a large gold tabernacle (which holds the reserved sacrament), with porcelain and enamel insets; it is encased in a glass covering. Above it is a canopy depicting the descent of the Holy Spirit. The altar room itself is strikingly large and brightly lighted, with four windows, two on the east wall (the rear) and one on each of the north and south walls. In the left corner are both the Table of Oblations containing the vessels used for the Eucharist and the case on which rests the cloth ikon of Christ (plashchinitza) used only on Good Friday. The right (south) side of the sanctuary has a rack for vestments and a cupboard for church records.

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Chapel of St. Innocent of Irkutsk

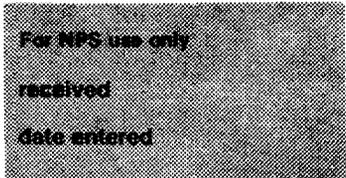
The chapel to the north is much like the nave, with white walls of tongue-and-groove beaded board and blue molded trim at the ceiling line, around the doors and windows, and for a kickboard. The ceiling is lower than the nave's, and there is no trim three-fourths of the way up the wall. There is a hand railing on the north, south, and west walls; here, it is painted grey. On the south wall, to the west of the doorway are floor-to-ceiling shelves, containing books, many of which appear to be very old.

The ikonostasis in this chapel is of special interest (figure 28 and slide no. 11). It is probably original to the first church on the site (1825) and has a number of hand-carved details worked by local Aleut craftsmen. It is of beaded tongue-and-groove boards painted white and bisects the room but does not reach the ceiling. Attached to the top edge is a free-standing carved wooden floral design repeated 4½ times. (figure 29 and slide no. 12). This decoration is painted blue, white and gold. The molding on the perimeters of the ikonostasis and around its doors is painted gold and, according to church documents, is hand-carved. Small gold rosettes carved of wood adorn the top front of the screen above the top tier of ikons. The ikons along the top of the screen are believed to have been on the Royal Doors of the first church at Unalaska. They are attributed to a local Aleut artist, Vasilii Kriukov, and depict the customary Royal Door scenes, being of the four evangelists, Saints Mathew, Mark, Luke, and John, and of the Annunciation and the Virgin. The Royal Doors are latticed with a sunburst of carved wood filling the arch of the frame. The six ikons on the lower tier of the ikonostasis are of relatively modern derivation; they are, from left to right, St. Nicholas, St. Steven (on the Deacon's Door), the Mother of God, the Royal Doors with six small round ikons of the customary subjects, noted above, Christ the Saviour, the Archangel Michael on the right Deacon's Door, and St. Innocent of Irkutsk, in whose name the chapel is dedicated. The ikons on the Deacons' doors were purchased in 1900 by the Church Brotherhood. The ikon of the Last Supper is semi-circular, in a carved wooden frame of the same vintage as the ikonostasis, that is dating from the early 19th century. The frames of the Deacons' Doors, like that of the Royal Doors, are arched, with hand-carved decorative molding. Below the ikons are hand-carved panelled insets framing an ornate cross, and a straight molding trim running the length of the ikonostasis. All of the trim on the ikonostasis is painted gold, except for the topmost rail which is blue.

The furnishings of the chapel, in addition to the ikons around the walls, include three ikon stands, two antique candle-stands, a lectern for the choir director and/or reader, a bench along the west wall, and a

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brass chandelier with candles. There is an old oil stove in the north-west portion of the room, well away from the wall.

There is a door to the outside on the north wall of the chapel, but it is nailed shut. There is a window on the north wall, with a light curtain covering, and another window on the south wall, also lightly curtained, which looks onto the amvon, or platform before the ikonostasis in the nave. This window is double-hung sash, with six-over-six lights; it is narrower than the exterior windows, and does not have a lintel.

The altar area was not available for inspection, due to church regulations.

St. Sergius Chapel

This chapel, opening from the south side of the nave, is less decorative than the Chapel of St. Innocent of Irkutsk. Its molding is the same as in the nave and the other chapel, and it also has a grey painted wooden handrail around three walls. It also has a door to the outside which is nailed shut, and both a window to the outside on the south wall, and a window into the nave.

The ikonostasis here is not ornamented, except by the ikons and a small carved wooden form in a diamond shape above each (figure 30 and slide no. 13). Like the other chapel, it does not reach the ceiling and has a trim of blue molding along the top. Each of the ikons is in a similar gold frame, and all are of a late 19th century, Victorian style. The three door frames of the ikonostasis are rectangular, with blue molding. Each has, however, a semi-circular hung door. The Royal Doors are latticed with the top cut out to form an inverted semi-circle; within this semi-circle is a spikey sun-burst, on a short post. The ikons on the ikonostasis, from left to right are St. Innocent of Irkutsk, St. Steven on the left Deacon's Door, the Holy Protection of the Virgin, the Royal Doors, Christ the Saviour, St. Michael the Archangel on the right Deacon's Door, and St. Sergius of Radonezh, in whose name the chapel is dedicated.

The furnishings of the room include three ikon stands, four candlestands in front of ikons on the ikonostasis, a bench along the west wall, and a simple chandelier for candles. The room is heated by an old wood stove in the northwest corner.

The altar room was not available for inspection, due to church regulations.

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The Bell-tower

The bells are reached by way of a stairway in the storage-room opening from the south wall of the narthex. At the landing above the narthex is a door to the right leading to the choir loft. The bells are to the left across a bridgework constructed over exposed joists and rafters. This "second-floor" space is used for storing seasonal paraphernalia. The bracing beams for the tower are completely exposed here, many of them bolted together (slide no. 15). The cupola here, as well as in the nave, leaks and there is plastic sheeting draped around the beams, and numerous buckets strategically placed to catch the drips. There are seven bells of graduated size. There is a double-hung sash window on the three outside walls of the tower. A wall ladder on the north wall leads to the cupola thirty feet above.

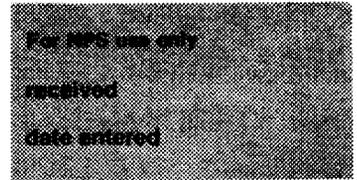
The choir loft is infrequently used. It is attached to the west wall of the nave and held by means of two iron rods which protrude through the ceiling of the nave. It is surrounded by a railing with spindled balusters, painted white with blue trim. It contains only a lectern for a choir director. A ladder on the west wall to the north of the loft door, through a trapdoor, leads to the space above the ceiling of the nave and provides access to the cupola above it. The elaborate support system of the roof and the cupola is evident here. The beams cross within the cupola and are clearly visible through the windows in the cupola drum. Where they show, they are painted white (see figure 11). There is no flooring here, only bridge-work over the joists holding the ceiling of the nave, which are at three-to-four-foot intervals.

Changes to the Structure

From an undated photograph in the Alaska Historical Library, it appears that the nave at one time did not have windows in its upper west facade above the narthex roof (figure 31). This was changed at an early date, for a photograph ca. 1910 clearly shows the windows (figure 32). There has been very little additional alteration over the years. The main changes entail the removal of various trim items from the bell-tower which consist of: 1) the removal of spires on the top corners at the base of the cupola, 2) the removal of false balconies on the second story window, 3) removal of a belt line above the second-story windows, 4) removal of the lower half of the cornice fascia board, and 5) the removal of the entablatures above the tower's north and south elevation's doors. With these five exceptions, the exterior of the church appears today much as it did at the turn of the century.

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The interior of the church of the Holy Ascension also has changed very little since its construction in 1894-96. A photograph ca. 1900-1913 shows the ikon wall of the nave without the long mural of the second tier and without the ikon affixed to the altar rail (figure 33). The walls also are plain above the molding strip, lacking the artificial columns, starbursts and the small ikons. The double arches at the entry to the Chapel of St. Innocent suggest that there may at one time have been an opening through both, but there is no documentary evidence of this. Aside from these few items, the interior of the church is essentially the same as when it was built some ninety years ago.

The church is well-maintained, the interior being painted every five years, and the exterior every three years. It is clean and light, spacious, and pleasing to the eye, the ikons being of particularly fine quality, several in the Byzantine tradition. The ikonostasis in the Chapel of St. Innocent reflects both elements of folk art as well as local ikonography and is especially noteworthy.

The Bishop's House

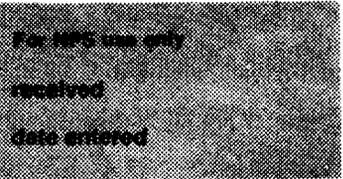
The so-called "Bishop's House", located on Tract C of the Russian Greek Mission Reserves, is a 2 x 6 framed structure having six-inch redwood shiplap siding running horizontally, and redwood shingles. Its dimensions are 28 by 32 feet, comprising 1050 square feet (figures 34 and 35). The house has a two-story central section which is 12 feet 10 inches wide by 33 feet 7½ inches deep, and two one-story wings on its east and west sides which are 12 feet 6 inches wide and 23 feet 11 inches deep. The central two-story portion contains a foyer and living room on the first floor and a front study and study/library on the second floor. (See 1881 architectural plans.) Built long and narrow, this portion of the house's south and north elevations are half-hexagonals topped by a gabled roof with half-hexagonal ends. The cornices on the entire structure are molded fascia with plain soffits (figure 36). The second story cornices have ornate friezes with intricately carved wood corbel blocks (figure 37). Friezes on the first floor cornices are plain.

The wings of the structure contain a bedroom and anteroom in the west wing and a dining room and kitchen in the east wing. Each of these wings has a half-hip roof, peaking against the second story of the central portion of the house.

The east and west elevations of the house are plain, containing no openings (figure 38). On the north elevation the wings each have a six-over-six sash window with plain trim, sill and lintel. The central

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two-story section of the house has three bays, each forming a plane within one-half of a hexagon, and containing a window on the first and second stories; these windows are similar to those in the wings. All corners of the structure have 1 x 6 vertical molding, and between floors there is 1 x 6 horizontal molding.

The south elevations of the wings are the same as those on the north. The south elevation of the central portion, however, differs in that the central bay of the first floor contains the entry to the building (figure 39 and 40). This entry is a molded panel door with a two-light transom with plain vertical trim and lintel. Above this entry is a small portico roof that is supported by two intricately carved wood corbels with a carved circle and cross motif at their bases. On the second floor there are windows in the central and east bay with the west bay blank. The windows throughout the building are of the same type described above.

The foundation of the building is constructed of three wythes of brick laid in running bond with flush joints. At various places the brick is laid in an English bond to tie the wythes together. Some time after original construction, a layer of plaster was placed over the foundation to protect the soft brick. In a recent restoration, cement has been poured under the house and a cement coating has been laid over the foundation, with ventilation grills at several points.

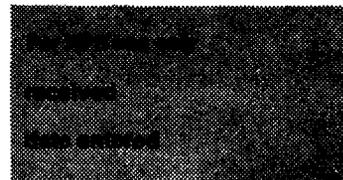
Originally the interior of this structure was panelled with two-inch beaded tongue-and-groove boards, laid vertically (figure 41). The 12-foot ceilings were panelled in the same way. An eight-inch molding ran horizontally along the walls about 48 inches from the floor. In all rooms, there were 5½ inch moldings at the floor and the ceiling. The carved stairway in the center of the house is of varnished mahogany and is in excellent condition (figures 42 and 43). There were many layers of wallpaper (figure 44), including some Russian newspapers, the remnants of which are still visible on the stripped walls (figure 45). At present the interior is gutted in connection with an on-going restoration project, organized by the Unalaska Aleut Development Corporation.

Changes to the Structure

Photographs dating from as early as 1885, five years after construction, show that the house was actually part of a larger complex which included an orphanage/schoolhouse and housing for teachers in the school (figures 46-49). The school was attached to the west wing, which perhaps explains the windowless gable on the second floor. Although used for other purposes from the 1930's on, the complex was intact and essential-

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ly unchanged, although in disrepair, until 1960 when a fire destroyed the school house and badly singed the west wall of the house (figures 50 and 51). The house was then boarded up, and has been vacant to the present. In 1976 the first effort at restoration was made when a new redwood shingle roof was added. In 1977 some of the siding was replaced, the floor joists were re-built, some insulation was added, and a sprinkler system was installed. Portions of the sub-flooring were replaced in 1978 along with other minor repair work. Beginning in 1979, the building's exterior was fully restored under the direction of a historic architect, and correction was made in the non-historic work done earlier (figures 52-54). Historic Preservation Funds and a grant from the City of Unalaska financed the project. The money was not sufficient, however, to finish the interior, although insulation, plumbing, and electrical work have been completed. A furnace house with duct work to the main structure also has been constructed in a compatible style.

Condition of the Site

Both the Church of the Holy Ascension and the Bishop's House stand on a low rise between the Illiliuk River and Illiliuk Bay, with roads between them and the bodies of water (figure 55). Hence, there are no structures either north or south of them. The Bishop's House is the closest building to the west of the church and is separated from it by 457 feet which is a vacant field, overgrown with weeds. There are no structures within 800 yards west of the Bishop's House. Thus, it stands somewhat isolated on a low knoll, easily visible from the roads. There are a few houses within a hundred yards of the apse of the church, but they are not on church property, and are clearly separated from it by both a fence and low shrubs.

Both buildings because of their present isolation appear somewhat different from the days of their early history. A photograph from the turn of the century (figure 56) shows structures, both commercial and residential, to the east and west of both the church and the Bishop's House, the space between the two being completely occupied, rather than vacant as at present. The present isolation of these two historic buildings, however, enhances their distinction within the village of Unalaska, marking as they do the historic boundaries of the Russian Greek Mission Reserves.

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8. History - Continuation Sheet

Unalaska is one of the islands of the Aleutian archipelago. On its northern shore lies the only deep-water port between Yokohama, Japan and Kodiak, Alaska. Only 100 miles to the east is Unimak Pass, the prime deep-water channel, through the treacherous waters of "the Chain." Unalaska's exceptional maritime location, enhanced by the rich marine resources around it, have made it a center among the Aleutian islands since it was first encountered by Russian mariners and fur-traders in the years between 1759-1780.<sup>1</sup> Its name (nagun Aliakhekhikh) suggests its importance to the Aleuts themselves, meaning "large island similar in size to the Alaska Peninsula" or "another Alaska".<sup>2</sup> By the end of the 18th century, Unalaska Island was a major post for the Russian-American Company, which enjoyed a monopoly in the fur commerce of the region and acted as a quasi-government for the Russian Empire. A permanent Russian settlement had been noted on the island by Captain James Cook in 1778,<sup>3</sup> and in 1821, another world traveler, the artist L. Choris painted a watercolor of the village of Iliuliuk (the Aleut name for the village which is now Unalaska) with a wooden octagonal chapel at its western edge. (figure 1).

This chapel in the village presently called Unalaska had been built by the mariner and Russian-American Company manager, Fedor Burenin in 1808 and was dedicated to the Ascension of Christ into Heaven.<sup>4</sup> It was usual that the Russian promyshlenniki (fur traders), having settled permanently and developed a fortified post, would build a place for religious services. In the Orthodox practice, laymen may perform a good part of the ritual, keeping the church active during intervals between visits by a priest. In the Aleutians, the intervals were often very lengthy indeed. Before 1808, a few priests had called at Unalaska while on board ships en route to other ports. They had baptized the indigenous population and performed liturgies, but the first major missionary effort in the Unalaska region was by the monk Makarius, sent in 1795 to the Aleutians from Kodiak. He was a member of the first religious mission which Russia sent to the colonies in North America and had arrived at Kodiak in 1794. Makarius baptized all the Aleuts "formerly unbaptized."<sup>5</sup> While the religious efficacy of such a practice may raise more than a few eyebrows, there was policy behind it. The religious mission at Kodiak was assigned to take over the administration of baptism and thereby to correct the abuse of this rite by some of the promyshlenniki. According to one knowledgeable source, because the indigenous population had rapidly declined due to brutal treatment and new diseases, the competition among the traders for the remaining able-bodied Aleuts was intense:

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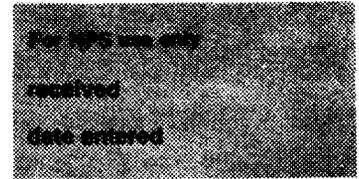
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Several of the Russians were forced to take measures to increase the number of . . . workers at their disposal. They tried to acquire more workers by convincing Aleuty to accept baptism. Since baptized Aleuty revered their godfathers as their true fathers, they served them willingly and, exclusively; no Russian could lure away another's converts.

The man who wrote these words was Rev. Ioann Veniaminov. He arrived at Unalaska in 1824 at the age of 27 to be the settlement's first Orthodox priest. Within five years of his arrival, he had developed an Aleut alphabet and founded a school in which he trained others to read both Aleut and Slavonic, the language of the Russian church. He had also built a church, with a belltower and two cupolas, to replace the chapel (figure 2). After ten years at Unalaska, in which he also established Orthodox communities on a number of Aleutian islands and in the Nushagak region of the Alaska mainland, he was transferred to the capital of Russian America, Novo Arkhangelsk (Sitka) to work with the Tlingits, who had been resistant to Christian evangelism. He enjoyed success there as well, also developing a Tlingit alphabet and vocabulary, thereby encouraging literacy, while he also established a native church. His vaccination of several chiefs against smallpox, thus saving them and their families, during an epidemic, not only aided his religious mission, but also contributed greatly to public health. Father Ioann in 1840 was consecrated as Innocent, Bishop of Kamchatka, the Kurile and Aleutian Islands, and in 1858 became an archbishop. In 1870 he was named Metropolitan, or head of the church, of Russia, and in 1977, he was canonized by the Orthodox Church as a saint. His career in Alaska included not only the afore-mentioned linguistic and cultural achievements, but also architecture, ethnographic studies, and educational policies and institutions. His histories of the Orthodox mission in Alaska are informative and reliable even today. He has the distinction of being the only Russian praised by such dissimilar historians of Alaska as the 19th century American Hybert Howe Bancroft and the modern Soviet ethnographer Svetlana Federova for his ethnographic and linguistic contributions, which are still authoritative. In his first year as bishop at Sitka, he designed St. Michael's Cathedral, which, until it burned in 1966, was a premier example of Russian church architecture in North America and is still a National Historic Landmark in its reconstructed form. The clock which he constructed for the bell-tower was still functioning at the time of the fire. He also built and designed furniture for the Russian Bishop's House (now part of Sitka National Historical Park), which was his residence as well as a theological seminary. While priest at Unalaska and later bishop at Sitka, he founded elementary schools for the education of both Russian and native children. He also founded a Theological Seminary in Sitka in 1841 which

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trained scores of Alaska natives for a variety of services and occupations, but principally to return as educated leaders and/or priests in their home communities. Many of the students of this seminary went off to San Francisco or St. Petersburg for advanced training and came back for assignment as teachers and priests.

This many-faceted, energetic man began his Alaskan career, however, in Unalaska. The church which he designed was literally erected by his own hands, he being an accomplished carpenter and the workmen imported from Sitka being unequal to the task.<sup>10</sup> He incorporated Aleut craftsmanship into the structure as well. The ikonostasis, which was installed in 1829, was, he wrote, "a fine ikonostas, with finely wrought columns and carved [and] gilded frames of Aleut workmanship."<sup>11</sup> This ikonostasis is believed to be preserved in the present church in the Chapel of St. Innocent of Irkutsk.<sup>12</sup>

The priests who followed Father Ioann at Unalaska continued to travel among the eastern Aleutian islands and the communities along the Bering coast of the mainland. Thus, for example, Father Ioann's successor, the Rev. Grigorii Golovin visited Mikhailovskii Redoubt (St. Michael) on Norton Sound in 1843 in order to baptize and teach.<sup>13</sup>

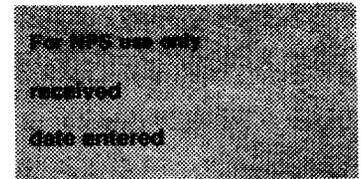
Unalaska was by mid-19th century the seat of an extensive parish with some 17 chapels; it further possessed a fine church deemed worthy of this distinction. But Aleutian weather respects few man-made structures and by the 1850's, the church needed to be replaced. The new structure was erected in 1858 by Rev. Innokenty Shaiashnikov, who has left us a detailed report of the building and its furnishings. In this report, he tells us that timbers from the old church, built by Veniaminov, were used for the new. Also, the old church "stood to the north of the present [1858] building."<sup>14</sup> A small house-like covering was erected over the site of the old altar and is visible in photographs of the "Shaiashnikov church." (figure 3)

The priest Innokenty Shaiashnikov was himself a man of note, distinguished not only for his carpentry, but also as a linguist, teacher, and musician.<sup>15</sup> He served as a missionary to the Eskimos of the Yukon region in the mid-1840's before becoming priest at Unalaska in 1848. He also was an Aleut, one of a growing number of native leaders educated by the Russian-American Company and the Orthodox Church in Alaska and placed in positions of responsibility. He served the parish for 35 years, until 1883.

The Orthodox Church in Alaska went into a period of decline in the years just before and after the sale of Alaska to the United States in 1867.

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The bishops who succeeded Innocent (Veniaminov) lacked his administrative finesse and zeal, and the clergy dwindled in number and training. Following the sale, the diocesan seat was removed from Sitka to San Francisco, and the bishops resided there, making occasional journeys to the most accessible parishes in Alaska. In the early 1880's, however, a bishop took special interest in Alaska and saw Unalaska as an especially dynamic site which had had continuing pastoring.<sup>16</sup> From an account in the official Russian church publication, we have the following report on the decision which led to the construction of the Bishop's House, which still stands in Unalaska and is part of this National Historic Landmark:

During the inspection of the Aleutian Diocese in the year 1880, His Eminence Nestor, in person and on the spot, discovered that in some parishes the housing for the clergy was very decrepit and inconvenient, in danger of collapse and that it was impossible [for the clergy] to continue to reside therein; in other localities there was no housing whatsoever, either for the priests or for the songleaders. The situation demanded that either repairs be undertaken or new construction begin.

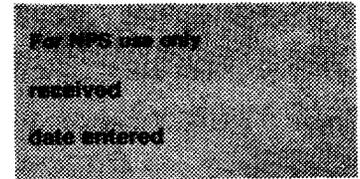
Moreover, he considered the Island of Unalaska the focal point of the diocese from which it was possible to maintain communications with other islands of the Aleutian archipelago as well as with the localities on the mainland, that is, with the Alaska Peninsula, the shore of Bristol Bay and Kuskokwim Bay. His Eminence, [therefore], held it imperative as well as functional to construct at Unalaska a small house for the Archhieraerus [Bishop]. He himself could reside in this house temporarily while touring from time-to-time his far-flung bishopric.

In 1880, in the absence of such a facility, His Eminence was forced to take up quarters in the house of the Alaska Commercial Company, sharing them with all the employees and skilled laborers. Out of the 56 days he spent there, there were hardly five when, by ten o'clock in the evening, silence descended following a full day's labors.

The reader of the Unalaska church, subsequently consecrated priest, lived at that time in a so-called barabora, an earthen hut with but a single window. His Eminence ordered that a small but suitable house be built for the Reader, at a cost of \$600.

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Further, in the opinion of His Eminence, it was absolutely necessary to construct at Unalashka a school. . .

Keeping all these considerations in mind, and wanting to allay the situation which had reached the point of "crying sorrow," His Eminence entered into an agreement with a Mr. Newbaum, Director of the Alaska Commercial Company [to build the structures according to plans approved by Bishop Nestor, at locations which he designated, at a total cost not to exceed \$15,000, and with money loaned by the Company at 5% interest].

. . .  
The Holy Synod [in St. Petersburg], having heard the proposal . . . rendered the following resolution: "The conclusion reached by the Economic Department [confirming the Bishop's proposal of a contract with the Alaska Commercial Company and allocation of diocesan funds] is to be approved". . . (3 March 1881)<sup>17</sup>

Regarding the school, this account continues:

In a second representation to the Holy Synod, also dated November 11, 1880, His Eminence Nestor reports as follows:

. . .  
In order to act effectively among the native population, it is imperative that Orthodox clergy, but especially the priests themselves, know the local native languages. His Eminence, having command of English and French languages, personally experiences the inconvenience of such lack of knowledge of the Aleut language when on tour of his bishopric. . .

Considering all this, His Eminence held it necessary to establish on the island of Unalashka a school for preparation of future priests and preachers of the Word of God from among the natives [emphasis in original].

His Eminence proposed to enroll in this school initially at least two boys from each people [tribe - plemia], so that each would be able to converse in his native language and not forget it. It was planned that they be instructed in God's Law and the Russian language, as well as English, and gradually to prepare them to become preachers of the Word of God in the language of their birth. The boys assembled at Unalashka, the central point of the Aleutian archipelago, would remain in a familiar climatic environment, to which they are accustomed in their homeland, and would have the same food and clothing as they use at home.

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He proposed that the Unalashka school should have a supervisor as well as a teacher, a native who knows Russian and Aleut languages, and has had a proper preparation. He would be under immediate supervision by the local priest.

Should the experience prove it necessary, the Unalashka students could always later on be sent to the San Francisco school to complete their education. . . .

The Holy Synod, absolutely recognizing the cogency of His Eminence's Aleutian proposal, in the decision[s] rendered June 24 to July 17, 1881, determined that His Eminence Nestor be give permission to develop the school on the island of Unalashka as an experiment along the lines suggested by him.<sup>18</sup>

The residence and school were built for the Orthodox diocese by the Alaska Commercial Company in 1882, according to plans of a San Francisco architectural firm commissioned by Bishop Nestor (see attached drawings). Bishop Nestor, however, did not live to see the completion of his proposal, nor was the school operative along the lines he suggested until the next decade. He died at sea off the coast of Norton Sound while on a pastoral journey around the diocese. His body was recovered, and in 1883 he was buried near the porch of the Church of the Holy Ascension in Unalaska. A large marble marker was supplied by the Alaska Commercial Company; it is still north of the entry to the present church, although the grave itself is now under the porch.<sup>19</sup> The Company also supplied the grave marker for the venerable priest, Rev. Innokenty Shaiashnikov, who had died in 1883.<sup>20</sup>

Although the residence, popularly known as the Bishop's House, and the school were built as ordered, the idea of a true pastoral school lay dormant until 1893, and the administrations of Rev. Nicholas Rysev and Rev. Alexander Kedrovsky. Under the direction of the Aleut priest, Rev. Rysev, an orphanage for boys was attached to the primary school and the curriculum enlarged to prepare these young men for service to the church. Reverend Rysev also had successfully petitioned the Holy Synod in St. Petersburg for permission to build a new church, the 1858 structure having also fallen victim to the harsh Aleutian weather. Although the authorization was given, Rev. Rysev was transferred, and the oversight of construction and development of the school fell to a new priest, a graduate of Vologda Theological Seminary in Russia.

Reverend Alexander Kedrovsky arrived as a young man at Unalaska in 1894. The church which arose during the first years of his administration was an imposing edifice, having three altars. Only St. Michael's Orthodox

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Cathedral in Sitka could rival it in size, design, and religious treasures. The bishop of that day, Nicholas, in greeting the congregation during a visit to Unalaska in 1897, shortly after the church had been formally consecrated, is reported by his secretary to have said, "The church at Unalaska is really the best among all the Alaskan churches. . . . [It contains both] beautiful art work and pure Russian architecture."<sup>21</sup>

The reason for the construction of such an imposing church in a small Aleutian village may be found in the importance of Unalaska as an economic center and in the administrative changes within the Orthodox diocese. Following the sale of Alaska to the United States, the Alaska Commercial Company took over most of the commercial activity of the Russian-American Company. Ships traveling between the mainland and the other islands, notably the Fur-Seal Islands (the Pribilofs), had to stop at Unalaska. In the 1880's Dutch Harbor, adjoining the village, became a major coaling center for the ships plying the Bering Sea for whale, fish, and other marine resources. The community had grown enough so that by 1900 it was reported to have a hotel and dance hall, 12 saloons and to be an active shipbuilding center.<sup>22</sup> After the turn of the century, fish processing began as an industry on the island itself. In other words, the island economy was good, as witnessed by the size of the brotherhood treasury, which will be discussed below. The Orthodox church also made Unalaska an administrative center for all of northern Alaska. Beginning in 1893, the priest in residence there was also the dean of a new district which included not only the Aleutian parish and the two parishes of St. George and Sts. Peter and Paul on the Pribilof Islands, but also Belkovsky on the Alaska Peninsula, St. Michael on Norton Sound, Nushagak on the Bering Sea Coast and the Yukon and Kuskokwim parishes in southwest interior Alaska.<sup>23</sup> There were only two administrative districts for Alaska within the diocese, Sitka, which had a cathedral, and Unalaska. The new church at Unalaska provided an equivalent prestige to that community. It is to this day the only church with three altars, besides the cathedral in Sitka, and may technically be termed a cathedral because of the number of altars. The new priest in charge of the construction has provided an account of the building of this church:

In 1894, from June to October, yet another church rose in place of the older, deteriorating one, [this] with two side chapels, through the efforts, diligence, and care for the glory of God of the local parishioners, costing them more than \$9,000. This most recent church to the glory of the Holy Ascension of Our Lord is constructed of siding (redwood) with a shingle roof and two cupolas (one atop the belltower and the other over the main body of the church). . . .

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The right chapel [of St. Sergius] was consecrated on September 4, 1894, the left on January 30, 1895, and on August 18, 1896 the church and all the altar tables were consecrated by His Eminence Nicholas, Bishop of the Aleutians and Alaska. For the main church, ikons on linen for the ikonostasis were purchased, costing \$535. In memory of the sacred coronation of the Tsar and Lord of all the Russias, Nicholas II (14 May 1896), . . . the grateful parishioners of Unalaska parish have expressed a wish to acquire ikons on canvas for the second tier of the ikonostas of the main church in order to include in the number of ikons those which would portray St. Nicholas the Miracle-worker and the Holy Tsaritsa Aleksandra, patron saint of the Tsar and Ruler of All the Russias, now happily enthroned; before these ikons at every service a lamp would be lighted, the oil for which would always be provided by the parishioners.

There is attached to the church an ikon, "Transfiguration of Our Lord," on wood, covered by a silver frame (7x6 verskov<sup>24</sup>), sent with the blessings of Metropolitan Innokentii [Veniaminov], with his own inscription [dated] June 27, 1870.

The property of the church, according to the inventory compiled in 1896, consists of \$18,316.81. In the accounts of the Ecclesiastical Administration of the Holy Synod there is a church sum of \$1,185.59 and a chapel account of \$907.93, for a total of \$2,093.52.

The church also has the archbishop's charter on the occasion of the consecration of the first (1824) church, given by Bishop Mikhail of Irkutsk, Nerchinsk and Yakutsk, to Fr. Ioann Veniaminov. On this charter are noted the consecrations of all the subsequent churches.

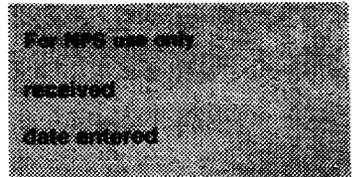
The Unalaska church abounds in every type of property which could be of use to the church.

Inside and outside, the church is painted with white oil-  
[based] paint; in the main church there is a choir loft above  
the entrance to the church. The church is enclosed by a  
wooden fence.<sup>25</sup>

It is not clear from either the official church registers<sup>26</sup> or Rev. Kedrovsky's published account whether the new church was on the precise site of the 1858 church, although that seems probable. The altar site

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of the first church, built by Veniaminov in 1825-26, which had been covered by a memorial structure, is no longer evident, and very likely was incorporated within the altar of the Chapel of St. Innocent, which like the first church, is north of the nave of the present church. It also seems that the chapels were not merely added to to the existing structure, as the latter was described in the church registers as being badly deteriorated;<sup>27</sup> further, the dimensions of the church were considerably larger than the old, the nave of the old being 31½ feet [13½ arshin<sup>28</sup>] long x 24½ feet [10½ arshin] wide, while the new nave was 63 feet 4½ inches long by 37 feet 7 inches wide. In all probability, the old church was demolished, except for the altar, which was protected and used during construction, and a larger, more grand edifice emerged in place of and on the site of the old church. Some of the timbers of the old church may have been used in the new, as was customary. The documents also do not guide us in the matter of the ikonostasis which had been in the 1858 church. Rev. Shaiashnikov in his report on the construction of the church in 1858, noted:

The ikonostasy is of wood, carved, of local craftsmanship, painted white, and in appropriate places decorated with gilt.

. . .

The ikonostasy was made at the time when the first church was built. It was made by local parishioners. When the new church was built, the ikonostasy was<sup>29</sup> renewed, that is, somewhat touched up with paint and gilt.

Local tradition at Unalaska, and the style of the ikonostasis itself, suggest that the ikon screen created in 1824 by Aleut craftsmanship is now in the Chapel of St. Innocent. A further indicator is that the chapel is only slightly narrower than the width of the old church (20 feet for the chapel, 24½ feet for the church); hence, the ikonostasis would have fit with only minor trimming.

The Church of the Holy Ascension built during 1894-1895, being the third church of that name in the village of Unalaska, is still standing in 1984, having required only normal structural repair of the roof and the belltower and one replacement of the cupolas in ninety years. It was designated a National Historic Landmark in 1971.

The immediate parish served by this fine church consisted in 1894 of eight villages within the Aleutian archipelago, in addition to Iliuliuk (Unalaska), with 889 communicants. The village of Iliuliuk was by far the largest with 230 individuals on the church rolls, of which 108 were creoles (of mixed Russian and native parentage) and 122 were Aleuts.<sup>30</sup> Besides the Orthodox church, there was by 1894 an active Methodist

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mission with an orphanage for girls in the village; the American public school was also lodged at the mission. Rev. Kedrovsky reported that in 1897 there were, therefore, "as many as 40 heterodox [non-Orthodox] (Protestants of various sects), almost all men (there are only 3 or 4 heterodox women)."<sup>31</sup>

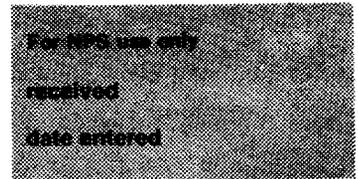
The Reverend Kedrovsky brought great energy to the Unalaska parish. In addition to direction of the church construction, he organized a Temperance Society in 1895 and a parish brotherhood in 1898. He also assumed direction of the school, which was dedicated as the Ioann Veniaminov Missionary School, and sought to incorporate many of the ideas of Bishop Nestor into its format. The teachers for the school were both educated local people, such as the interpreter Leontii Sivtsov, and also Russians properly trained in theological seminary. The deacon, Vasilii Kashevarov, a creole and son of the priest at Kodiak, was educated at the San Francisco Cathedral School; he was a teacher in the Veniaminov Missionary School and was also ordained a priest, completing his years in the Nushagak parish.<sup>32</sup> Reverend Kedrovsky also initiated a weekend school for the children in the American school under direction of the Methodist mission, all of whom were Orthodox.<sup>33</sup> Further, he began evening classes for adults to deepen their understanding of church ritual, history, and teaching. The graduates of the Veniaminov School often went on to higher education or to service in other parts of Alaska or the continental United States. Among these was Nikifor Amkan, an Eskimo who came to the Veniaminov School as a boy from the Nushagak region on the Bering Sea coast, and after graduation from the Veniaminov School was apprenticed to the priest at the Yukon Mission; within only a few years he was ordained a priest and served the Yukon and Kuskokwim missions for many years in the early 20th century.<sup>34</sup> Similarly, Daniil Yachmenev, a student at the school went on to become a priest in the "Lower 48."<sup>35</sup>

The Temperance Society, formed in 1895, provided both lectures and published materials for the school on the evils of alcohol. In 1907 the Bishop commended the parish for publishing a special Temperance Handbook with illustrations and quotations from the Scriptures and the Church Fathers regarding sobriety. The bishop explained the significance of this project:

This [booklet] was created in Unalaska, translated into the Aleut language and published by our diocesan press on beautiful paper with vignettes as well as ikons of Christ the Saviour, in an edition of 1200. Following the example of the Unalaskans, this [booklet] was taken by the people of Tatitlak [on Prince William Sound], who published it in Tlingit and

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English in the same quantity. The Kodiak, and finally the Afognak [peoples], followed suit, publishing it in English and the language of Kodiak.<sup>36</sup>

Further, one of the finest ikons in the church, that of St. Panteleimon, patron saint of the Society, was donated to the church in 1896 by its members.<sup>37</sup>

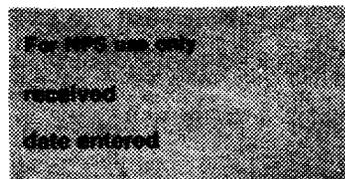
The parish brotherhood also had vigorous and beneficial activity during the years around the turn of the century. Reverend Kedrovsky, in a report in 1904 on the organization's fifth anniversary, demonstrated how its two aims of moral edification and charitable works were carried out. It had provided financial support for the orphanage, a lying-in home for expectant mothers and the services of a mid-wife, the training of girls in handiwork which might be sold for income, burial of the dead, and aid for widows. The financial base for these charitable works came from the brotherhood treasury, which in its first five years collected \$1171 from dues, donations, and fines, while there were \$944 in expenditures. In addition to charitable works, there were purchases for the beautification of the church: the ikon of the Last Supper, which is on the second tier of the ikonostasis of the nave (1902), ikons for the deacon's doors in the Chapel of St. Innocent (1900), and an enclosed frame for the ikon of "Our Lady" (1901), which had been given to the church by the monks of Mt. Athos in Greece. They also rotated detail<sup>38</sup> for the upkeep and maintenance of the church and the cemetery.

In the 33 years between the end of Alexander Kedrovsky's administration as priest and dean at Unalaska in 1908, and the Second World War, there were a number of individuals who continued the tradition of Unalaska's dominance, although hard times fell on the village itself as the maritime trade and economy shifted and the Russian Revolution ended financial support for Orthodox churches in North America. The most notable individual in these interim years was Rev. Alexander Panteleev, who was priest at Unalaska for four years between 1909 and 1913. This Russian has left us a charming and informative account of his travels about the parish, reflecting unabashed delight in the Aleutians and the Aleuts.<sup>39</sup> He later became Bishop of Alaska, with the new name of Alexei, and returned to spend several years at Unalaska in the late 1930's. He is warmly remembered by older persons in the Unalaska community. One of his legacies is the transcription of a number of Orthodox hymns into Aleut, and the composition of original religious choral music in Aleut. These are still sung in Aleut congregations today.

World War II wreaked havoc on the Aleutians, whole villages being evacuated to camps in southeastern Alaska. The chapels at Attu and Atka

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were totally destroyed during the war, the latter being burned along with the other structures in the village in a scorched earth defense against Japanese invasion. Many of the other chapels were looted and the buildings desecrated. The situation at Unalaska was dire. The natural amenities of the harbor provided the base for an immense military establishment at Dutch Harbor, where at one time 60,000 troops were based, poised for service in the War in the Pacific. In July, 1942, the 111 Aleut villagers were relocated to an abandoned cannery on Etolin Island in Southeast Alaska. With only a few hours' notice, the village managed to remove every sacred item, including the immense chandelier, from the church and put them in safe-keeping. Two different accounts are told of this operation, one party who was present saying the treasures were crated and shipped with the villagers to Southeast Alaska,<sup>40</sup> another attesting that everything was buried in trenches on the grounds surrounding the church.<sup>41</sup> Virtually every item, however, was preserved, and restored to the church after the war.

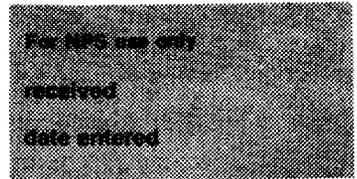
The Bishop's House was fully utilized during the war years, although not as a school. The orphanage and parochial school had continued into the 1930's, and served as the residence of the priest until the beginning of the War in the Pacific. Father Dionysius was the last Orthodox priest to live in the Bishop's House, in 1940-41. While the military held sway in Unalaska-Dutch Harbor, the facilities of the residence and orphanage were used as apartments for the officers.<sup>42</sup> After the war, the building stood empty. The priests lived in a small dwelling between the House and the church, and the church school was taught in the priest's home. In 1960, Rev. Basil Nagoski was restoring the old school to make it usable once again, when on the very day of the dedication, the school burned to the ground and the west elevation of the Bishop's House to which it was attached was seriously damaged. At that time, then, the Bishop's House was boarded<sup>43</sup> up and stood unattended until attempts in the late 1970s to restore it.

The story during the years since World War II has been one of survival, rather than of growth. When the people returned to Unalaska, they painted the great old church, repaired its roof, replaced the damaged cupolas entirely, re-hung the ikons, and resumed worship. For a number of years, however, Unalaska did not have a permanent priest. This situation was remedied in 1967, when Father Ishmail Gromoff, a native of St. Paul Island, was assigned to the parish. He is there today. On May 10, 1970, the Church of the Holy Ascension was designated a National Historic Landmark.

The parish which Rev. Gromoff now visits by commercial and chartered airlines is much diminished from its height at the turn of the century.

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After World War II, the villagers of Attu, Kashega, Chernovskii, and Makushin were relocated to Atka and Unalaska and the former villages allowed to disintegrate. There are no longer chapels in these villages nor at Biorka. The ikons in these abandoned chapels were gathered up by the Unalaska priest, Rev. Nagoski, in the 1950's and may today be seen around the walls of the Chapel of St. Sergius in the Unalaska church.<sup>44</sup> Besides Unalaska, only Atka, Akutan, and Nikolski (on Umnak Island), of the old parish entities remain. Several communities in the old Belkovsky parish on the Alaska peninsula have now come under the jurisdiction of the Unalaska priest. Rev. Gromoff now calls, on request, at King Cove, False Pass, and Sand Point for religious services. Of these three, only Sand Point has a reader to sustain religious observances in the priest's absence, and all three communities meet in private homes, rather than in a chapel. In all, there are today some 450-475 persons in the far-flung Unalaska parish.

Whether they meet in a home or chapel, or attend services infrequently, the Aleuts of the Chain still look to the Church of the Holy Ascension as their cathedral and consider it an especially significant part of their heritage, as Orthodoxy itself is deemed an inextricable part of what it means today to be Aleut.<sup>45</sup> Today, however,<sup>46</sup> the Aleuts living in Unalaska are a minority of the population of 1400,<sup>46</sup> and the number of parishioners available to keep up the church is small and elderly.<sup>47</sup> There are now two other religious congregations on the island which compete for loyalty. The commitment to the Church of the Holy Ascension is intense, however, and the church is regularly painted both inside and out by the parishioners, and its grounds are well-maintained. Costs of heavy maintenance, such as foundation, roof and cupola repair are, however, beyond the means of this population. Historic Preservation Funds in 1978-79 accomplished roof repair and some work on the cupola over the nave, but the ravages of weather are unceasing. Nonetheless, the Church of the Holy Ascension, now among the oldest churches in Alaska,<sup>48</sup> and the oldest of the cruciform style, is a living institution, and a visual reminder of the important role of both Russian contact and the Orthodox religion, not only among the Aleuts, but in North America as well.

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Endnotes

<sup>1</sup>Svetlana G. Federova, The Russian Population in Alaska and California -- Late 18th Century - 1867, trans. and ed. by Richard A. Pierce and Alton S. Donnelly, Materials for the Study of Alaska History, No. 4 (Kingston, Ontario: Limestone Press, 1973), 110-114.

<sup>2</sup>Alexander Kedrovsky, "Istoriko-statisticheskoe opisanie Unalashkinskago Voznesenskago prikhoda [Historico-statistical Description of the Unalaska Holy Ascension Parish]," Amerikanskii pravoslavnyi vestnik ["Russian Orthodox American Messenger"], I (June 13-27, 1897), 418. This article is the first of a four-part series in Numbers 20-23 of volume I (1896/1897). The pages are sequential throughout the volume. This journal will be cited hereafter as, ROAM, with page number(s).

<sup>3</sup>Federova, Russian Population, 111.

<sup>4</sup>Lydia T. Black, "The Church of Father Ioann" (unpublished manuscript, 1978), 1-3. This manuscript is the most complete history available on the early churches at Unalaska, containing several translations from Russian church documents.

<sup>5</sup>Kedrovsky, "Historico-statistical Description," ROAM, I, 440.

<sup>6</sup>Robert Nichols and Robert Croskey, eds., trans., "The Condition of the Orthodox Church in Russian America: Innokentii Veniaminov's History of the Russian Church in Alaska," Pacific Northwest Quarterly, 43 (April 1972), 42.

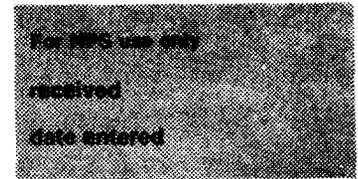
<sup>7</sup>Ibid., 41. The editors describe Veniaminov's history as "a basic source for the early history of the Russian Orthodox church in Alaska."

<sup>8</sup>Hubert Howe Bancroft, History of Alaska, 1730-1885 (Darien, Conn.: Hafner Publishing Co., 1970; originally published 1886), 701, fn. 6, comments, "In his Letters [sic] Concerning the Islands of the Unalaska District . . ., Veniaminov shows that he had become thoroughly acquainted with the Aleuts, their language, customs, and history, and his work is the most reliable book on the subject."

<sup>9</sup>Federova, The Russian Population, 19: "Veniaminov's work is a thorough and serious investigation, containing priceless material on the history, ethnography, linguistics, minerology, flora and fauna of the Aleutian Islands . . ."

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<sup>10</sup>Black, "The Church of Father Ioann," 6-7.

<sup>11</sup>Ioann Veniaminov, Zapiski ob ostrovakh Unalashkinskogo otdela [Notes on the Islands of the Unalaska District], (3 vols. in 2; St. Petersburg: The Russian American Company, 1840), I, 174; cited in Lydia Black, "The Curious Case of the Unalaska Icons," Alaska Journal, 12 (Spring 1982), 10.

<sup>12</sup>Black, "The Curious Case of the Unalaska Icons," 10.

<sup>13</sup>Church of the Holy Protection, Mikhailovskii Redoubt (St. Michael), Archives of the Alaska Diocese, Kodiak Alaska, microfilm No. 9; see Barbara S. Smith, Russian Orthodoxy in Alaska: A History, Inventory, and Analysis of the Church Archives in Alaska with an annotated bibliography (Anchorage, Alaska: Alaska Historical Commission, 1980), 88, for listing of contents of the records of Rev. Gregory Golovin.

<sup>14</sup>Holy Ascension Orthodox Church, "Vedomost' o tserkvi...1879 [Register of the Church...1879]," Alaska Church Collection, Library of Congress, Washington, D. C., cited in Black, "The Church of Father Ioann," 9; hereafter, "Shaiashnikov 'Register'," in Black, "Church of Father Ioann."

<sup>15</sup>Barbara S. Smith, "Cathedral on the Yukon," Alaska Journal 12 (Spring, 1982), 52-53.

<sup>16</sup>Kedrovsky, "Historico-statistical Description," ROAM, 1, 465-466, gives the following list of clergy with their dates:

Ioann Veniaminov, 1824-1834

Grigorii Golovin, 1834-1844

Andrei Sizoi, 1844-1848

Innokentii Shaiashnikov, 1848-1883.

Nicholas Rysev, 1885-1893

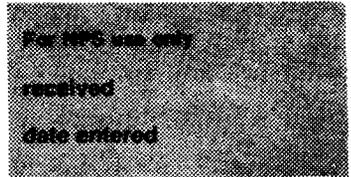
Hieromonk Mitrofan (Guselnikov), 1893-1894

Alexander Kedrovsky, 1894-

<sup>17</sup>"Measures Undertaken by His Eminence Nestor, Subsequent to the Diocesan Inspection," trans. by Lydia T. Black from undated clipping in Archives, Alaska Diocese, Kodiak, Alaska. It is from a Russian periodical, probably the official journal of the Russian Holy Synod, Tserkovnyi pravoslavnyi vestnik [Orthodox Church Messenger], 3-14. From internal evidence, the date of publication would be 1881 or 1882, as this is a report of actions by the Holy Synod.

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<sup>18</sup>Ibid.

<sup>19</sup>Ray Hudson, in interview with author, Anchorage, Alaska, August 18, 1984.

<sup>20</sup>Kedrovsky, "Historico-statistical Description," ROAM, I, 442.

<sup>21</sup>"Puteshestvie Ego Preosviashchestva Preosviashchenneishago Nikolaia, Episkopa Aleutskago i Aliaskinskago, po Aliaske [Travels of His Eminence Nicholas, Bishop of the Aleutians and Alaska, Around Alaska]," ROAM, I (August 1-13, 1897), 485.

<sup>22</sup>Murray Morgan, Bridge to Russia, Those Amazing Aleutians (N. Y.: E. P. Dutton & Co, 1947), 130-132, cited in CNL Designs, "The Bishop's House, Unalaska: A Preservation Project (unpublished report; Anchorage, Alaska, 1979).

<sup>23</sup>Kedrovsky, "Historico-statistical Description," ROAM, I, 466.

<sup>24</sup>vershok (pl. verskov) equals 1 3/4 inches.

<sup>25</sup>Kedrovsky, "Historico-statistical Description," ROAM, I, 441-442.

<sup>26</sup>Holy Ascension Orthodox Church, "Vedomost' o tserkvi . . . 1894...1895...1899 [Register of the Church . . . for 1894...1895...1899], Box D95, Alaska Church Collection, Library of Congress, Washington, D. C. (Hereafter, "Unalaska Church Register," with date.)

The accounts from the Kedrovsky years use the formula phrase "v meste i na meste [in place of and on the site of]" without the precision of either Veniaminov or Shaiashnikov, who clearly indicate the location of the new construction to the old. The confusion arises because this stock phrase is used in describing the location of the Shaiashnikov church in the historical section of the registers of the 1890s, whereas Shaiashnikov himself in his own account of 1879 (see note 14 above) clearly states that his new church was slightly to the south of the former. Hence, the phrase in the later registers is unreliable.

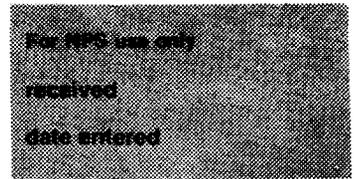
<sup>27</sup>"Unalaska Church Register," 1895.

<sup>28</sup>arshin equals 28 inches.

<sup>29</sup>"Shaiashnikov Register'," in Black, "The Church of Father Ioann," 10.

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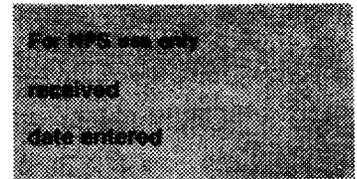
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- <sup>30</sup>"Unalaska Church Register," 1894, 22 and verso.
- <sup>31</sup>Kedrovsky, "Historico-statistical Description," ROAM, I, 439.
- <sup>32</sup>Kedrovsky, "Historico-statistical Description," ROAM, I, 466.
- <sup>33</sup>Kedrovsky, "Historico-statistical Description," ROAM, I, 495.
- <sup>34</sup>"Travels of [Bishop]... Nicholas...Around Alaska, ROAM, I, 485. There are many references in ROAM to Amkan, through 1917.
- <sup>35</sup>Daniil Yachmenev, "Of Blessed Memory" (re: Fr. Apollinary Kedrovsky), ROAM, 19 (1916), 474, describes his experience at the Veniaminov School eight years after leaving Unalaska.
- <sup>36</sup>Bishop Innokentii (Pustynskii), "Otchet o sostoianii Aliaskinskago vikariatstva za 1906 god [Report on the Condition of the Alaska Vicariate for 1906], ROAM, 11 (May 1-14, 1907), 169.
- <sup>37</sup>Personal observation by the author. A plaque on the ikon so states.
- <sup>38</sup>Alexander Kedrovsky, "Piatiletie tserkovno-prikhodskago Bratsva na ostrove Unalashke (1898 g. - 6 Dekabria - 1903 g. [Five Years of the Church-parish Brotherhood on the Island of Unalaska (December 6, 1898 - 1903)]", ROAM, 8 (April 1-14, 1904), 137-140.
- <sup>39</sup>Panteleev, Alexander, "Pokhodi po Aleutskim ostrovam [Journeys Among the Aleutian Islands], ROAM, 14 (1910), 270-272, 286-288, 304-306, 317-319; 15 (1911) 56-59, 77-78, 95-96, 170-171, 336-339; 16 (1912), 372.
- <sup>40</sup>Personal interview with Walter Dyakanoff (Unalaska, July 21, 1984), village elder and church starost' (caretaker, sexton) for many years.
- <sup>41</sup>Personal interview with Philemon Tutiakoff (Unalaska, July 22, 1984), village elder and presently church reader.
- <sup>42</sup>Personal interview with Ray Hudson, August 18, 1984 in Anchorage, Alaska. Mr. Hudson is a teacher in the public schools of Unalaska, and an authority on Unalaska history.
- <sup>43</sup>CNL Designs, "The Bishop's House, Unalaska." An excellent history of the Bishop's House and its importance to the Aleut community is contained in a background report done by Carrie Reed for the architectural firm, CNL Designs, of Anchorage, Alaska. Copies of this

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report are available from the Unalaska Aleut Development Corporation, Unalaska, Alaska or from the Office of History and Archeology of the State of Alaska, Division of Parks, Anchorage, Alaska.

<sup>44</sup>Personal interview with Ray Hudson, August 18, 1984, in Anchorage, Alaska.

<sup>44</sup>On this point, see Richard Dauenhauer, "The Spiritual Epiphany of Aleut" (unpublished manuscript; Anchorage, Alaska: Alaska Native Foundation, Center for Equality of Opportunity in Schooling, 1978), as well as CNL Designs, "The Bishop's House, Unalaska," section on "Community Profile and Historic Resources Inventory."

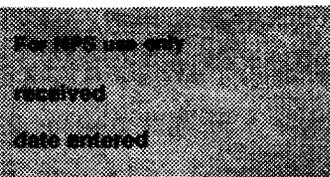
<sup>46</sup>City of Unalaska, Planning Department, Draft, 4.

<sup>47</sup>According to Rev. Ishmail Gromoff, the present number of people on the church rolls is 175-200. In a personal interview, Walter Dyakanoff told the author (July 21, 1984) that, as caretaker, he finds it hard to find enough parishioners willing to work on the church.

<sup>48</sup>The oldest standing Orthodox church is at Belkovsky on the Alaska Peninsula. It was built in 1881, but has been out of use for many years. Both the church at Juneau (1894) and Kenai (1895) are roughly contemporaneous with the Unalaska Church of the Holy Ascension, and all three have active congregations. The Unalaska church, however, is of a scale and richness far exceeding the smaller churches.

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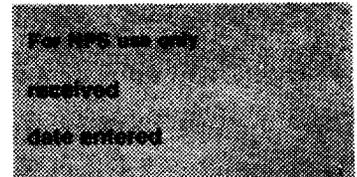
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"Puteshestvie Ego Preosviashchestva Preosviashchenneishago Nikolaia, Episkopa Aleutskago i Aliaskinskago, po Aliaske [Travels of His Eminence Nicholas, Bishop of the Aleutians and Alaska, Around Alaska]," Amerikanskii pravoslavnyi vestnik [Russian Orthodox American Messenger], I August 1-13, 1897, 484-485.

Unpublished material

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CNL Designs, "The Bishop's House, Unalaska: A Preservation Project." Unpublished report. Anchorage, Alaska, 1979. Available through Unalaska Aleut Development Corporation or State of Alaska, Division of Parks, Dept. of History and Archeology, Anchorage, Alaska.

Dauenhauer, Richard. "The Spiritual Epiphany of Aleut." Unpublished manuscript. Anchorage, Alaska: Alaska Native Foundation, Center for Equality of Opportunity in Schooling, 1978.

Unalaska, City of. Planning Department Draft, n.d.

Church Documents

Washington, D. C. Library of Congress. Manuscripts Division. Alaska Church Collection. Vedomost' o tserkvi . . . 1894, 1895, 1899 [Registers of the Holy Ascension Orthodox Church for 1894, 1895, 1899]. Box D95.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

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received  
date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number 9

Page 4

Interviews

Dyakanoff, Walter. Unalaska, Alaska. Interview with author, July 21, 1984.

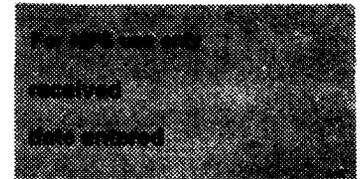
Gromoff, Rev. Ishmail. Unalaska, Alaska. Interviews with author, July 21-25, September 17, 1984.

Hudson, Ray. Unalaska, Alaska. Interview with author in Anchorage, Alaska, August 18, 1984.

Tutiakoff, Philemon. Unalaska, Alaska. Interview with author, July 22, 24, 1984.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Continuation sheet

Item number 10

Page 2

10. Verval Boundary Description and Justification - Continuation Sheet

The Holy Ascension Orthodox Church National Historic Landmark, at Unalaska, Alaska, is on Tracts A, B, and C of the Russian Greek Mission Reserves, pursuant to Act of Congress, June, 6, 1900, and recorded on U. S. Survey No. 853, November 12, 1908.

The boundaries of the Holy Ascension Orthodox Church National Historic Landmark conform to the historic plat being tracts A, B, and C of the Russian Greek Mission Reserves. The Church is on tract A, the Bishop's House on tract C; tract B, a vacant lot, connects the two structures. There is one non-contributing structures on the site, a small furnace house to serve the Bishop's House, which is constructed in a like style and does not impair the integrity of the property.

ILIULIUK  
BAY

BAYVIEW AVENUE

BROADWAY AVENUE

ILIULIUK RIVER

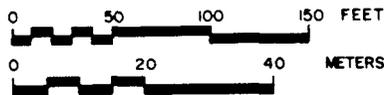
BISHOP'S HOUSE

CHURCH

**CHURCH OF THE HOLY  
ASCENSION**

— UNALASKA —

(UTM ZONE 3, 5970681 m N, 399117 m E)  
SCALE: 1" = 40'



DRAWN BY:

NAME AND LOCATION OF STRUCTURE

SURVEY NO.

HISTORIC AMERICAN  
BUILDINGS SURVEY  
SHEET OF SHEETS

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

PLAT

— OF —

U.S. Survey No. 253

— OF THE —

RUSSIAN-GREEK MISSION RESERVES

— situate at —

UNALASKA DISTRICT OF ALASKA

AREA:

TRACT A	0.60 acres.
" B.	0.32 "
" C.	0.59 "
" D.	2.10 "
" E.	1.91 "

Total Area: 5.52 Acres.

Scale: 1 inch = 1 Chain.

Variation: 12° 00' East.

Assurveyed under Contract No. 22 dated Dec. 1, 1906.

by John A McQuinn, U.S. Deputy Surveyor, Sept 23-27, 1907.

U.S. Surveyor General's Office.

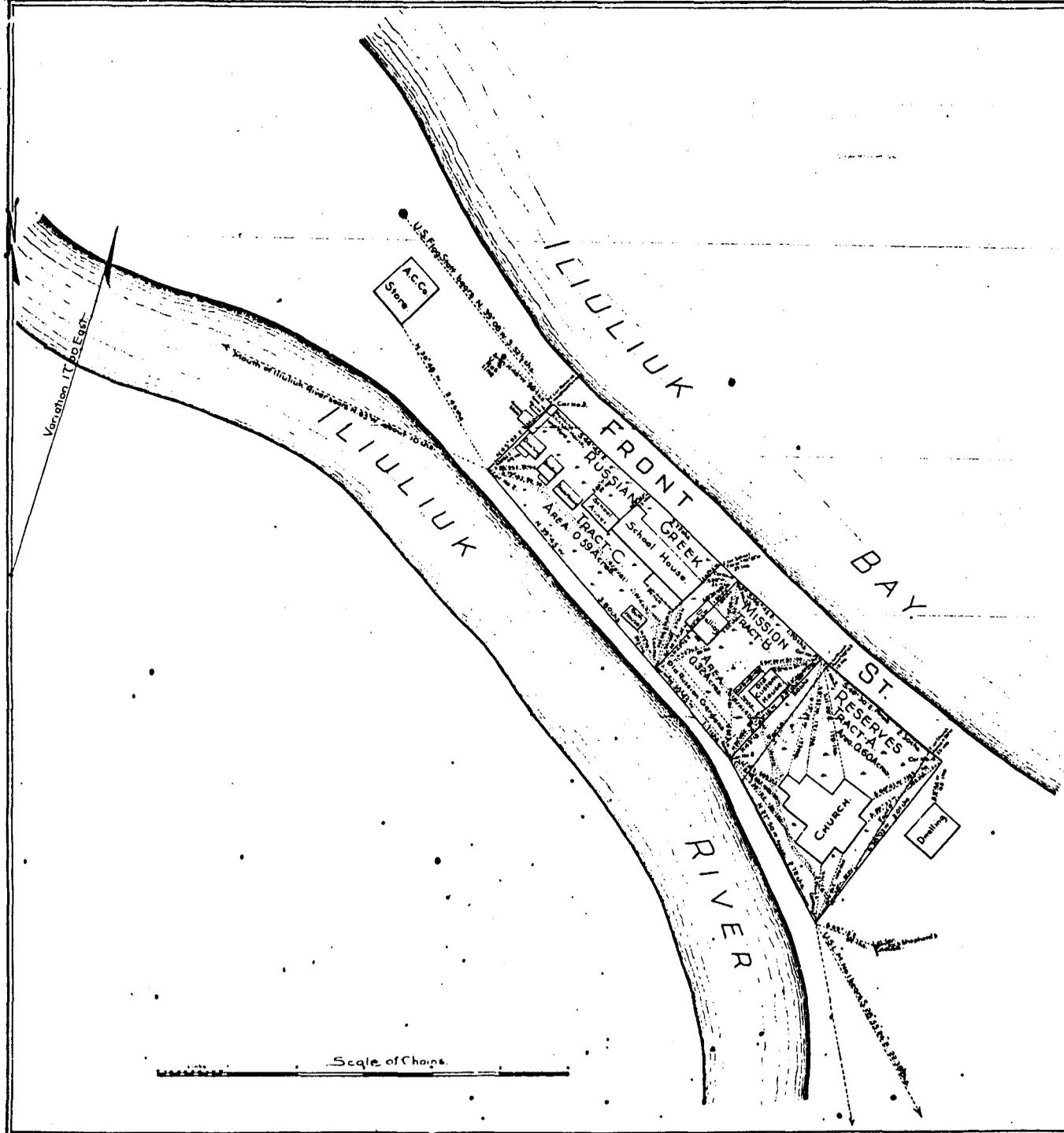
Juneau, Alaska, Nov. 12, 1908.

The map hereon delineated of the Russian Greek Mission Reserves at Unalaska, Alaska, is strictly conformable to the field notes of the survey thereof on file in this office, which have been examined and approved.

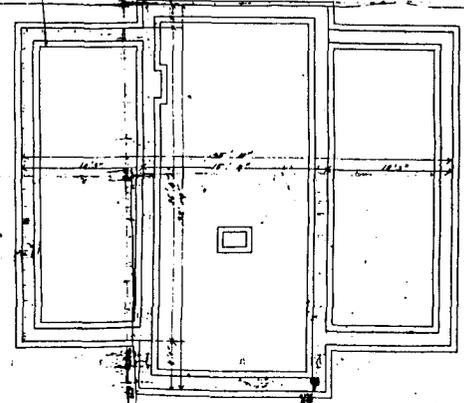
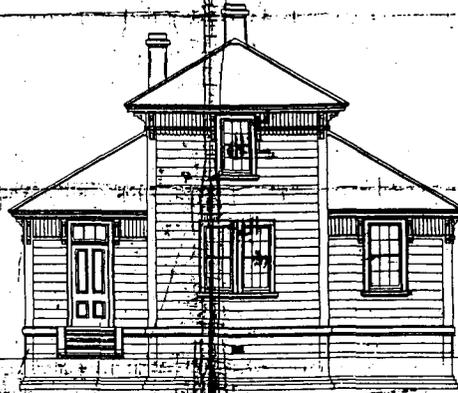
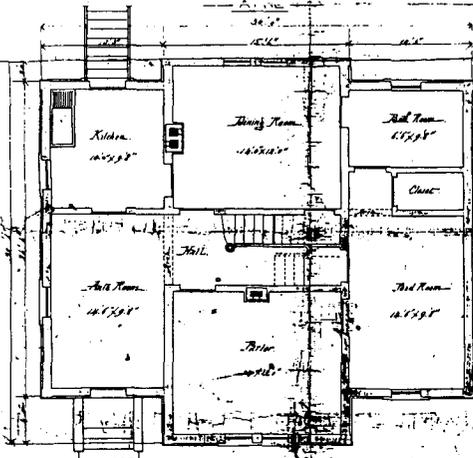
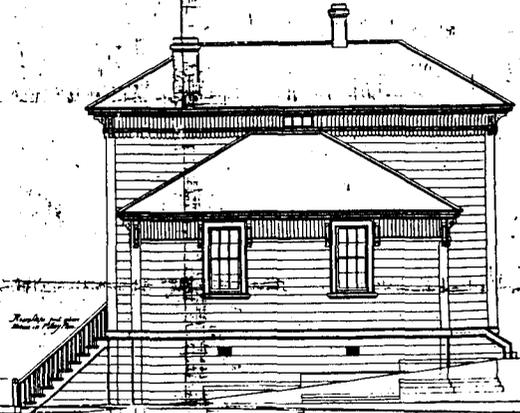
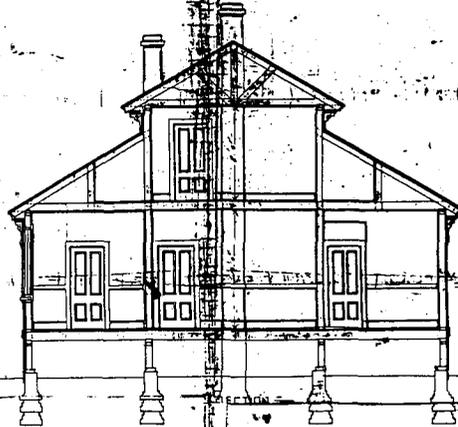
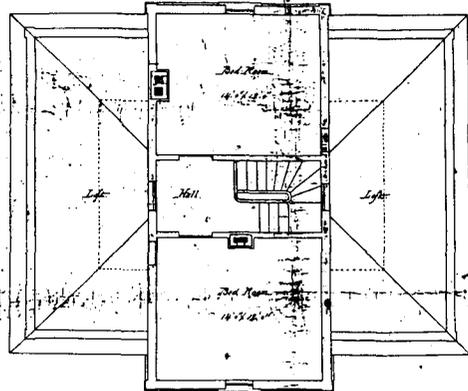
*Map delineated*

U.S. Surveyor General for

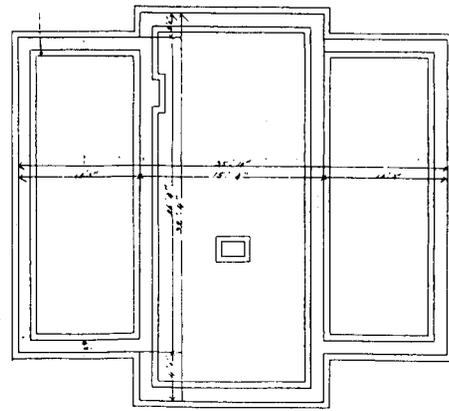
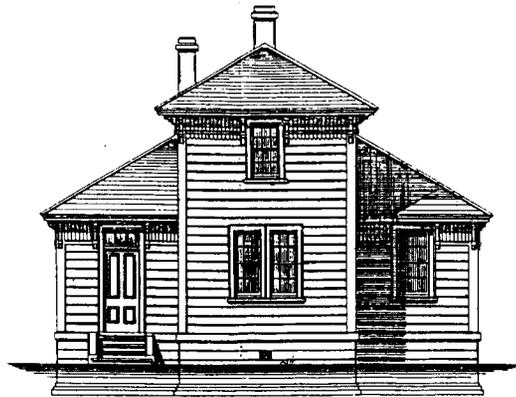
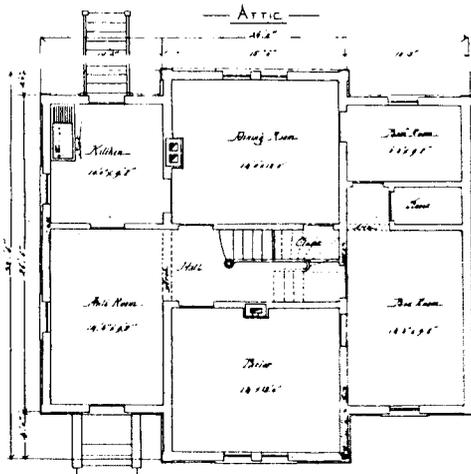
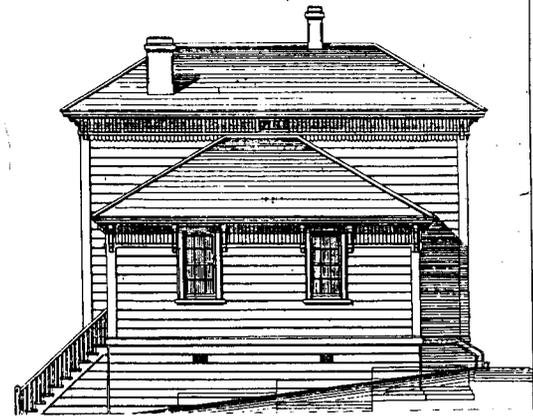
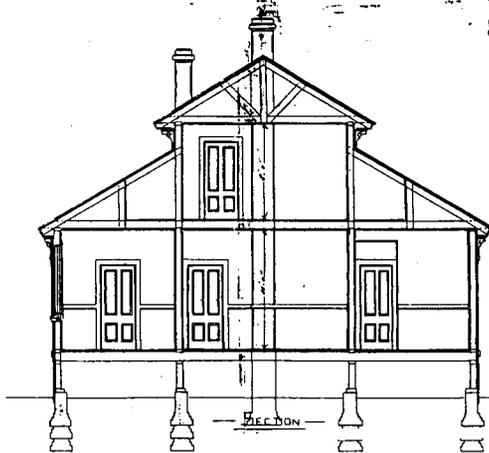
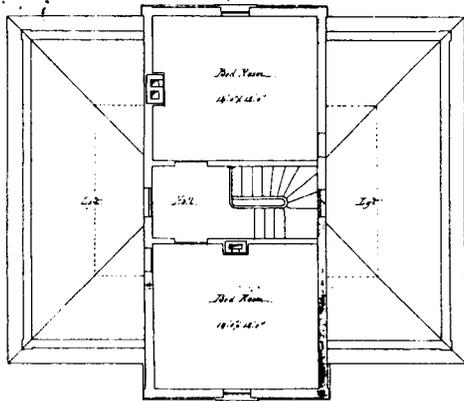
ALASKA.



Drawing I B, Top left



Worcester & Davis Architects  
100 West Main Street  
Lowell, Mass. - U.S.A.



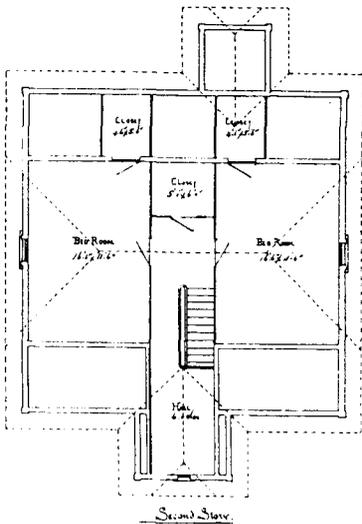
— FIRST STORY —

— FRONT ELEVATION —

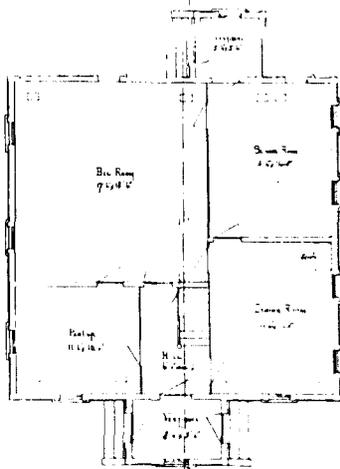
— FOUNDATION —

2  
1/2" = 1' 0" scale

Moser & Pissis Architects  
1100 Broadway, New York  
New York - 10038



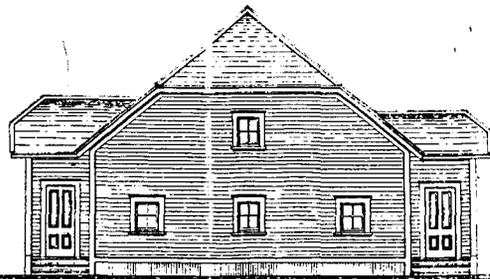
Second Storey



First Storey



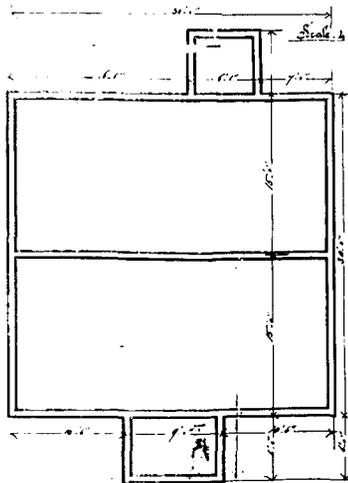
Front Elevation



Side Elevation

SCHOOL HOUSE to be ERECTED  
At UNALASKA, Alaska.

Wagner & Davis, Architects  
San Francisco Cal. and Honolulu



Foundation Plan



Section through A B



# United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

IN REPLY REFER TO:

A1619-DOS

APR 13 1970

Memorandum

To: Secretary of the Interior  
Through: Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife, Parks, and Marine Resources *LP 4/14*

From: <sup>Acting</sup> Director, National Park Service

Subject: National Historic Landmark recommendations, 61st meeting of the Advisory Board on National Parks, Historic Sites, Buildings and Monuments

Enclosed herewith is the memorandum of the Advisory Board on National Parks, Historic Sites, Buildings and Monuments summarizing its findings and recommendations on the National Survey of Historic Sites and Buildings partial theme study of "Colonial Architecture." This memorandum makes two principal recommendations: (1) That 77 sites encompassed by this study be declared eligible for National Historic Landmark status. These are listed under Sections A, B, C, and D of the memorandum; (2) That 41 of these sites be given further consideration in long range plans for addition to the National Park System.

We recommend that you approve the Advisory Board's memorandum, and that it be returned to this office to become a part of the permanent record of actions recommended by the Board and approved by you.

*Harthon L. Bice*

Enclosure

Approved: APR 15 1970

*Walter Hickel*  
Secretary of the Interior



# United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

IN REPLY REFER TO:

October 8, 1969

## Memorandum

To: Secretary of the Interior

From: Chairman, Advisory Board on National Parks, Historic Sites, Buildings, and Monuments

Subject: National Survey of Historic Sites and Buildings: Partial study of "Colonial Architecture" comprising sites in eighteen States and the District of Columbia

The Advisory Board on National Parks, Historic Sites, Buildings, and Monuments, at its 61st meeting in Washington, D. C., October 6-9, 1969, having carefully evaluated the partial study of "Colonial Architecture," submits the following statements with recommendations:

A. Of the sites included in the study, the following are recognized as nationally significant in illustrating or commemorating the history of the United States, and it is recommended that they be declared eligible for designation as Registered National Historic Landmarks with boundaries, as appropriate, described in attachments:

### Alaska

1. Church of the Holy Ascension, Unalaska
2. Church of the Assumption of the Virgin Mary, Kenai

### California

3. Anza House
4. Jose Castro House
5. Estudillo House
6. Fort Ross Commander's House
7. Fort Ross Russian Orthodox Church
8. Guajome Ranchhouse
9. Los Alamos Ranchhouse
10. Los Cerritos Ranchhouse
11. Monterey Old Town Historic District
12. Petaluma Adobe
13. San Diego Mission Church
14. San Juan Bautista Plaza Historic District
15. San Luis Rey Mission Church
16. Vhay House

Delaware

17. Aspendale

Florida

18. Llambias House
19. Oldest House
20. St. Augustine Town Plan Historic District

Illinois

21. Church of the Holy Family
22. Pierre Menard House

Louisiana

23. Keller (Homeplace) Plantation House
24. Lafitte's Blacksmith Shop
25. Mayor Girod House
26. Madame John's Legacy
27. Parlange Plantation House
28. Presbytere

Maryland

29. Brice House
30. Chase-Lloyd House
31. Chestertown Historic District
32. His Lordship's Kindness
33. London Town Publik House
34. Montpelier
35. Mount Clare
36. Resurrection Manor
37. Tulip Hill
38. West St. Mary's Manor
39. Wye House

Missouri

40. Louis Bolduc House

New Mexico

41. San Estevan del Rey Mission Church
42. San Francisco de Assissi Mission Church
43. San Jose de Gracia Church

North Carolina

44. Chowan County Courthouse
45. Cupola House
46. Palmer-Marsh House
47. Single Brothers' House

South Carolina

48. Brick House Ruin
49. William Gibbes House
50. Hampton Plantation
51. Heyward-Washington House
52. Middleburg Plantation
53. Pompion Hill Chapel
54. St. James' Episcopal Church, Goose Creek
55. St. James' Episcopal Church, Santee
56. St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

Texas

57. Mission Concepcion
58. Spanish Governor's Palace

Virginia

59. Brandon
60. Bruton Parish Church
61. Carter's Grove
62. Christ Church, Alexandria
63. Kenmore
64. Sabine Hall
65. James Semple House
66. Shirley
67. Waterford Historic District
68. Wythe House
69. Yeocomico Church

Washington

70. Fort Nisqually Granary

B. Three sites included in the portion of Colonial Architecture that considered the Middle Colonies are recognized as nationally significant and it is recommended that they be declared eligible for designation as Registered National Historic Landmarks:

1. William Trent House, New Jersey
2. Christ Church, Pennsylvania
3. Carpenters' Hall, Pennsylvania

C. Two sites included in this study are recognized as nationally significant in Theme IV, "Spanish Exploration and Settlement." It is recommended that they be declared eligible for recognition as Registered National Historic Landmarks:

1. La Purisima Mission, California
2. Cathedral of St. Augustine, Florida

D. Two sites not originally included within this study are recommended for designation as National Historic Landmarks within Theme XX, Subtheme, "Architecture."

1. El Santuario de Chimayo, New Mexico
2. Peyton Randolph House, Virginia

E. Other Recommendations:

1. That the following sites be placed in the category of "Other Sites Considered:"

California

- (1) Avila House
- (2) La Casa de Cota de la Cuesta
- (3) La Casa de Eduardo de la Cuesta
- (4) Covarrubias Adobe
- (5) De La Guerra Adobe
- (6) El Cuartel
- (7) Guadalupe (Olivera) Ranch House No. 1
- (8) Hill-Carrillo Adobe
- (9) Ortega House

- (10) Plaza Church
- (11) Rocha House
- (12) San Diego Old Town Historic District
- (13) San Juan Capistrano Mission Church

District of Columbia

- (14) Alva Belmont House

Illinois

- (15) Cahokia Courthouse
- (16) Cahokia Historic District

Louisiana

- (17) Darby Plantation House
- (18) Ormond Plantation

Maryland

- (19) Emmanuel Protestant Episcopal Church
- (20) Genesar
- (21) Hammond Manor House
- (22) Kilmarock (Burleane Hall)
- (23) Ogle Hall
- (24) Otterbein Church
- (25) Patuxent Manor House
- (26) St. John's Episcopal Church, Broad Creek
- (27) St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Kent County
- (28) Talbot County Court House
- (29) Third Haven Meeting House
- (30) Trinity Episcopal Church, Dorchester County

Missouri

- (31) Jean Baptiste Valle House

New Mexico

- (32) San Geronimo de Taos Mission Church

North Carolina

- (33) Bath Historic District
- (34) St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Edenton
- (35) St. Thomas Episcopal Church, Bath
- (36) Tryon Palace, Original (West) Wing

South Carolina

- (37) Branford-Horry House
- (38) Fenwick Hall
- (39) Medway Plantation
- (40) Thomas Rose House
- (41) Col. John Stuart House
- (42) Sword Gate House

Virginia

- (43) Berkeley Plantation
- (44) Brafferton Hall, College of William and Mary
- (45) The Glebe House
- (46) Noland's Ferry House
- (47) Pohick Church
- (48) President's House, College of William and Mary
- (49) Smithfield Plantation
- (50) Tazewell House

West Virginia

- (51) Crane (Lord Fairfax) House
- (52) Mordington (Happy Retreat)
- (53) Governor Tiffin House

2. That the following sites be given further study under this theme:

California

- (1) Olivas Adobe
- (2) San Gabriel Mission Church

Colorado

- (3) Baca House

Connecticut

- (4) Hatheway House

Delaware

- (5) Christ Church, Laurel
- (6) Prince George's Chapel

Florida

- (7) Spanish Treasurer's House

Louisiana

- (8) African House, Melrose Plantation
- (9) Creole Cottage
- (10) Louis Arceneaux House
- (11) E. D. White Memorial Cottage
- (12) Voisin Plantation House
- (13) Spanish Custom House
- (14) Erariste Blanc House
- (15) Montegut House
- (16) Bank of the United States
- (17) Absinthe House
- (18) Cathedral of St. Louis

Maryland

- (19) Carroll Mansion
- (20) Providence Plantation
- (21) Queen Anne's County Courthouse
- (22) Horatio Sharp (Rideout) House
- (23) Scott House
- (24) St. John's Episcopal Church, Hillsboro
- (25) St. Luke's Episcopal Church, Church Hill
- (26) St. Luke's Episcopal Church or Tuckahoe Chapel, Queenstown
- (27) Old Wye Church
- (28) Doughoregan Manor

New Mexico - Florida

- (29) Pascual Martinez Ranch House
- (30) Santa Fe and Albuquerque and Pensacola town plans

North Carolina

- (31) Breezeway type of Colonial House
- (32) Edenton Historic District
- (33) Hayes Plantation House
- (34) Sycamore Plantation

South Carolina

- (35) Edward's House
- (36) Edisto Hall

Virginia

- (37) Battersea
- (38) Blandfield
- (39) Carlyle House
- (40) Dulaney House
- (41) Elmwood
- (42) Hanover Tavern
- (43) Hanover Courthouse
- (44) King William Courthouse
- (45) Long Bridge Ordinary
- (46) Marmion
- (47) Powhatan Courthouse
- (48) Powhatan Tavern
- (49) Three-story wooden row houses, south side of 200 block of Prince Street in Alexandria
- (50) Smithfield Courthouse
- (51) Washington Historic District
- (52) Wetherburn's Tavern
- (53) Fincastle Historic District

West Virginia

- (54) Harewood
- (55) Sweet Springs

F. The National Park System includes the following structures that are Importantly Related to this study:

1. Tumacacori National Monument, Arizona
2. Castillo de San Marcos National Monument, Florida
3. Fort Matanzas National Monument, Florida

4. Hampton National Historic Site, Maryland
5. Nelson House, Colonial National Historical Park, Virginia
6. San Jose Mission Church, Texas

G. Forty-eight sites related to this theme have been classified as possessing national significance in other theme studies. These are:

Importantly Related to Colonial Architecture

1. Russian Mission Orphanage, Alaska
2. San Xavier del Bac Mission Church, Arizona
3. Carmel Mission Church, California
4. Larkin House, California
5. Old Custom House, California
6. Royal Presidio Chapel, California
7. Santa Barbara Mission Church, California
8. Sonoma Pueblo Historic District, California (with boundaries enlarged and defined in the attachments)
9. Savannah Historic District, Georgia
10. The Cabildo, Louisiana
11. Ursuline Convent, Louisiana
12. Vieux Carre Historic District, Louisiana
13. Jackson Square, Louisiana
14. Colonial Annapolis Historic District, Maryland
15. Hammond-Harwood House, Maryland
16. Maryland State House, Maryland
17. Whitehall, Maryland
18. Ste. Genevieve Historic District, Missouri
19. Palace of the Governors, New Mexico
20. Old Salem Historic District, North Carolina
21. Miles Brewton House, South Carolina
22. Robert Brewton House, South Carolina
23. Charleston Historic District, South Carolina (with boundaries enlarged and defined in the attachments)
24. Drayton Hall, South Carolina
25. Mulberry Plantation, South Carolina
26. St. Michael's Episcopal Church, South Carolina
27. Presidio de La Bahia, Texas
28. Alexandria Historic District, Virginia
29. Bacon's Castle, Virginia
30. Christ Church, Lancaster County, Virginia

31. Colonial Williamsburg Historic District, Virginia
32. Gadsby's Tavern, Virginia
33. Gunston Hall, Virginia
34. Mount Airy, Virginia
35. Mount Vernon, Virginia
36. St. Luke's Church, Virginia
37. Stratford Hall, Virginia
38. Adam Thoroughgood House, Virginia
39. Tuckahoe Plantation, Virginia
40. Westover, Virginia
41. Wren Building, College of William and Mary, Virginia

Also Related to Colonial Architecture

42. Erskine House, Alaska
43. St. Michael's Cathedral, Alaska
44. Commandant's House, Presidio of San Francisco, California
45. Las Trampas Plaza Historic District, New Mexico
46. Salem Tavern, Old Salem, North Carolina
47. The Alamo, Texas
48. Rising Sun Tavern, Virginia

H. The Board recommends that the Old State (Colony) House in Newport, Rhode Island, a Landmark previously placed in the category of Also Related to Colonial Architecture, be noted as being Importantly Related to Colonial Architecture.

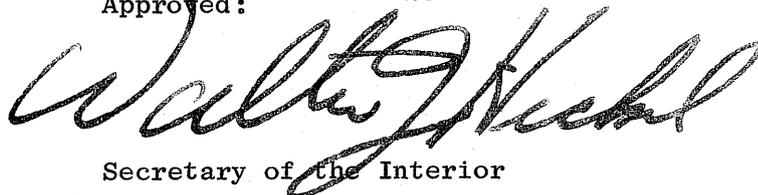
I. The following sites are judged of such prime significance as to merit further study for possible addition to the National Park System. It is recognized that many, such as Colonial Williamsburg, are being adequately preserved at present and are not available. Because unforeseen contingencies may change present circumstances, such sites should nevertheless be identified as potential units of the system and noted for long-range consideration in the evolution of the National Park System Plan.

1. Russian Mission Orphanage, Alaska
2. San Xavier del Bac Mission Church, Arizona
3. Fort Ross, California
4. Guajome Ranchhouse, California
5. Los Alamos Ranchhouse, California
6. Monterey Old Town Historic District, California

7. Petaluma Adobe, California
8. Royal Presidio Chapel, California
9. Santa Barbara Mission Church, California
10. Church of the Holy Family, Illinois
11. Parlange Plantation House, Louisiana
12. Vieux Carre Historic District, Louisiana
13. Colonial Annapolis Historic District, Maryland
14. Resurrection Manor, Maryland
15. Tulip Hill, Maryland
16. Whitehall, Maryland
17. Wye House, Maryland
18. Ste. Genevieve Historic District, Missouri
19. San Estevan del Rey Mission Church (Acoma), New Mexico
20. San Jose de Gracia Church (Las Trampas), New Mexico
21. Old Salem Historic District, North Carolina
22. Charleston Historic District, South Carolina
23. Drayton Hall, South Carolina
24. Mulberry Plantation, South Carolina
25. St. James Episcopal Church, Goose Creek, South Carolina
26. St. James Episcopal Church, Santee, South Carolina
27. Mission Concepcion (San Antonio Missions Park Proposal), Texas
28. Presidio de la Bahia (Goliad Complex), Texas
29. Alexandria Historic District, Virginia
30. Brandon, Virginia
31. Bacon's Castle, Virginia
32. Christ Church, Lancaster County, Virginia
33. Colonial Williamsburg Historic District, Virginia
34. Gunston Hall, Virginia
35. Mount Airy, Virginia
36. Mount Vernon, Virginia
37. St. Luke's Church, Virginia
38. Shirley, Virginia
39. Stratford Hall, Virginia
40. Adam Thoroughgood House, Virginia
41. Westover, Virginia

  
Emil W. Haury

Approved: APR 15 1970

  
Secretary of the Interior