

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	AUG 21 1979
DATE ENTERED	JUN 6 1980

Russian Orthodox Church Buildings and Sites in Alaska

CONTINUATION SHEET

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

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

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

QUAD: Bethel

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

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3. AHRS DATE: May 18, 1973
4. CONDITION: Excellent
5. ALTERED
6. ORIGINAL SITE

This church is an example of extension, enlargement, preservation, and appropriate modernization of a small public use structure that continues after many decades to perform its basic function.

The building is now a complete rectangle, 62' in length, 23' in width. The easterly 4' was added at a date unknown, and the 26' which comprise the west end of the building was added in several segments over a period of years. The remaining 32' comprises the original church building, erected at a date not yet documented, but early in the 20th Century. The overall design of the exterior, as enlarged and elongated, is integrated to present the classic 20th century version of an effective merger of the Russo-European and remote Alaskan architectural mission style. (Unsigned Floor Plan, St. Jacob's Church, May 28, 1976; Kreta/Merculief, Photos.)

The original building was a rectangle, 32' in length and 23' in width, covered by a medium-angle gable roof, surmounted by one, or, possibly two, octagonal cupola(s) surmounted by cross(es) or onion-shaped dome(s) and cross(es). If one, then it was approximately one-third of the distance eastward on the roof ridge line from the west (front) end of the building. If two, that would have been the higher point, and the other would have been at the same point as the present lesser and most easterly dome and cross, now situated approximately 5' from the present east end of the roof ridge. The original building was fenestrated along each of the latitudinal walls by three vertically oriented rectangular window sashes of six lights each, which remain in the altered building. At some point the east (altar) end of the building was extended eastward approximately 5', with the altar space behind the holy screens occupying the easterly 14' of the interior. The 26' west end of the building was added in two segments, one of 14' and the other of 12' at two different times. When the easterly of the two segments, the one of 14', was added, the north and south walls were each fenestrated by an additional (south) window, approximating the three already in place on those walls of the original building. (Ibid.)

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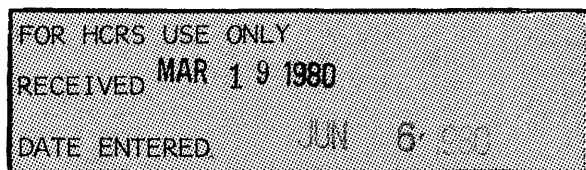
The western end of the structure is of recent vintage, perhaps twenty or so years. It was designed nominally to extend the building further, but encompasses sophisticated detailing. The exterior siding and roof continue faithfully the lines of the remainder of the structure. Within the walls, the new section houses an entry vestibule, with sets of outer and inner doors, separated by a vestibule 7' deep by 23' wide. Above the vestibule the roof line is broken at the ridge by a square bell tower, fenestrated on each side by four-lighted window sashes, decorated by window surrounds plain on three sides, double-curved on the upper side.

The bell tower is surmounted by a medium-angle truncated hip roof, embraced two feet from its periphery by a crossed latticework fence, to give the appearance of a small roof deck. Each of the four corners of the 1' high fence is marked by a cross. From the center of the deck area rises an octagonal slatted cupola, enclosing a bell, surmounted by a formal onion-shaped crown and the high cross of the church. (Ibid.)

The space before the outer entrance door is protected by an open porch covered by a low-angle gable roof set upon four main corner posts, with two slimmer posts forming an entranceway opening at the front center, and the balance of the porch skirted by a stick latticework fence that repeats the design and scale of the deck fencing of the bell tower, though here the fencing is five feet high rather than 1' high. The roof edge is scalloped at its western edge, and this decoration is repeated in the gable tip of the open porch. There is additional decoration of the front entrance in the form of a star over the open porch, affixed to the front wall, and three small crosses across the gable of the front porch. The entire building and the main fenestrated body of the bell tower are sheathed in a novelty-type siding, while the vertical surface of the superior vertically slatted cupola is covered vertically by corrugated metal.

QUAD: Cold Bay

1. Holy Resurrection Church (AHRS SITE NO. XCB-020)
2. LOCATION
  - a. NA
  - b. Belkofski
  - c. NA
  - d. Alaska



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QUAD: AFOGNAK (A-3)

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

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

QUAD: BETHEL (C-8)

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

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

QUAD: COLD BAY

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

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

QUAD: CORDOVA (C-5)

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

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

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QUADRANGLE NAME: Afognak (A-3)

LOCATION: Afognak

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

QUADRANGLE SCALE: 1: 63, 360

UTM REFERENCE:

ZONE: 0 5

EASTING: 5 1 4 0 1 8

NORTHING: 6 4 2 9 6 9 9

QUADRANGLE NAME: Bethel (C-8)

LOCATION: Napaskiak

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

QUADRANGLE SCALE: 1: 63, 360

UTM REFERENCE:

ZONE: 0 4

EASTING: 3 4 9 2 1 4

NORTHING: 6 7 3 3 2 6 8