

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

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 14 of 53

The main front entranceway vestibule combines an ornamented canopy with an overhead bell tower. The cross motif, noted above over the window sashes, is repeated over each opening in the front entryway, but here the design similarity ceases, and the design of the front entryway is from some source other than that which inspired the details of the main building. A virtually identical arched entranceway is to be seen in a contemporary addition to Sandringham Castle, a country home of the British Royal Family in East Anglia, England. The entryway to this church is open at ground level through three arch-surmounted doorways, on its north, west, and south facades, with the east face being congruent to the church west wall. The upper level, or bell tower, of the entryway or vestibule, echos these three outer openings with smaller versions of the same arch-forms. The whole is surmounted by a low-angle gable roof, which is abrasive to the design element of the main building roof angle, and is surmounted by a cross added at a later date. This later dated cross is identified by the small ball at its base. This reflects the widespread use of three-dimensional curvilinear forms as a basis for the elevated crosses, in the tradition of those churches built and ornamented in the eclectic Byzantine-Russian-Alaskan-R.O. tradition. (Ibid.).

The interior of the church is as finished as the exterior, wainscoted throughout, even into the overhead octagonal dome and the cupola into which it telescopes. Unique among such small R. O. Churches is the choir loft, at the west end of the church, above the inner entrance door. This is built above an entrance vestibule that is 10'1" and extends completely across the width of the building. The stairway to the choir loft runs up the south side of the vestibule. The choir loft is distinguished by an arched convex-shaped gallery railing of graceful design. (Ibid.)

QUAD: Cordova

1. St. Michael the Archangel Church (AHRS SITE NO. COR-021)
2. LOCATION
 - a. NA
 - b. Cordova
 - c. NA
 - d. Alaska
 - e. 02
 - f. Cordova-McCarthy
 - g. 080

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 15 of 53

3. AHRS DATE: May 18, 1973
4. CONDITION: Good
5. UNALTERED
6. ORIGINAL SITE

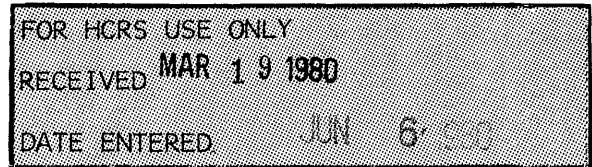
The present building was built in 1925. As the building approached its fiftieth anniversary, early in this decade, the entire interior was reconstructed inside the 1925 shell, providing insulation and strength against the high winds and inclement weather common to this area. This church building exemplifies a virtually unadorned exterior, due to constant wind damage. Consequently, virtually all ornamentation is reserved for interior decoration. The exterior is rectangular shape with a medium gable roof, and a modest entry vestibule echoing the main roof line angle. Each of the longitudinal (north and south) walls is fenestrated by three double hung 12-pane window sashes. Two additional windows in the east (altar) wall have been boarded up. (Kreta, Notes; Wallace, 1974, 111, Plate 143; Kreta/Merculief, Photos).

The only overt adornment to the outside is a modest squared cupola surmounted by a pyramidal roof. From the peak of the pyramidal roof rises the high cross of the church. A second cross rises a foot above the peak of the west (entranceway) gable, and a third cross adorns the space above the front (west) exterior entranceway door. (Ibid.)

The present interior, inside the shell of the 1925 church, measures 44' in length and 23' in width. The exterior austerity is modest, due to necessity. The lack of onion or bulb-shaped apertenances indicates that the tradition is that of the Belkofski R. O. Church, rather than the Byzantine tradition of exterior ornamentation and symbolism. The interior of this church, however, is in keeping with the tradition of the R. O. Church in Alaska, which is taken up below, in Item #8.

QUAD: Iliamna

1. St. Nicholas Chapel (AHRS SITE NO. ILI-042)



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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 1 of 6

QUAD: AFOGNAK (A-3)

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

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

QUAD: BETHEL (C-8)

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

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

QUAD: COLD BAY

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

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

QUAD: CORDOVA (C-5)

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

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

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Orthodox Russian Church Buildings and Sites in Alaska

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 10 PAGE 2 of 15

QUADRANGLE NAME: Cold Bay

LOCATION: Belkofski

NAME OF PROPERTY AND AHRS NUMBER: Holy Resurrection Church (AHRS SITE NO.
XCB-020)

QUADRANGLE SCALE: 1: 250, 000

UTM REFERENCE:

ZONE: 0 3

EASTING: 6 9 0 2 4 9

NORTHING: 6 1 0 8 1 8 7

QUADRANGLE NAME: Cordova (C-5)

LOCATION: Cordova

NAME OF PROPERTY AND AHRS NUMBER: St. Michael the Archangel Church (AHRS
SITE NO. COR-021)

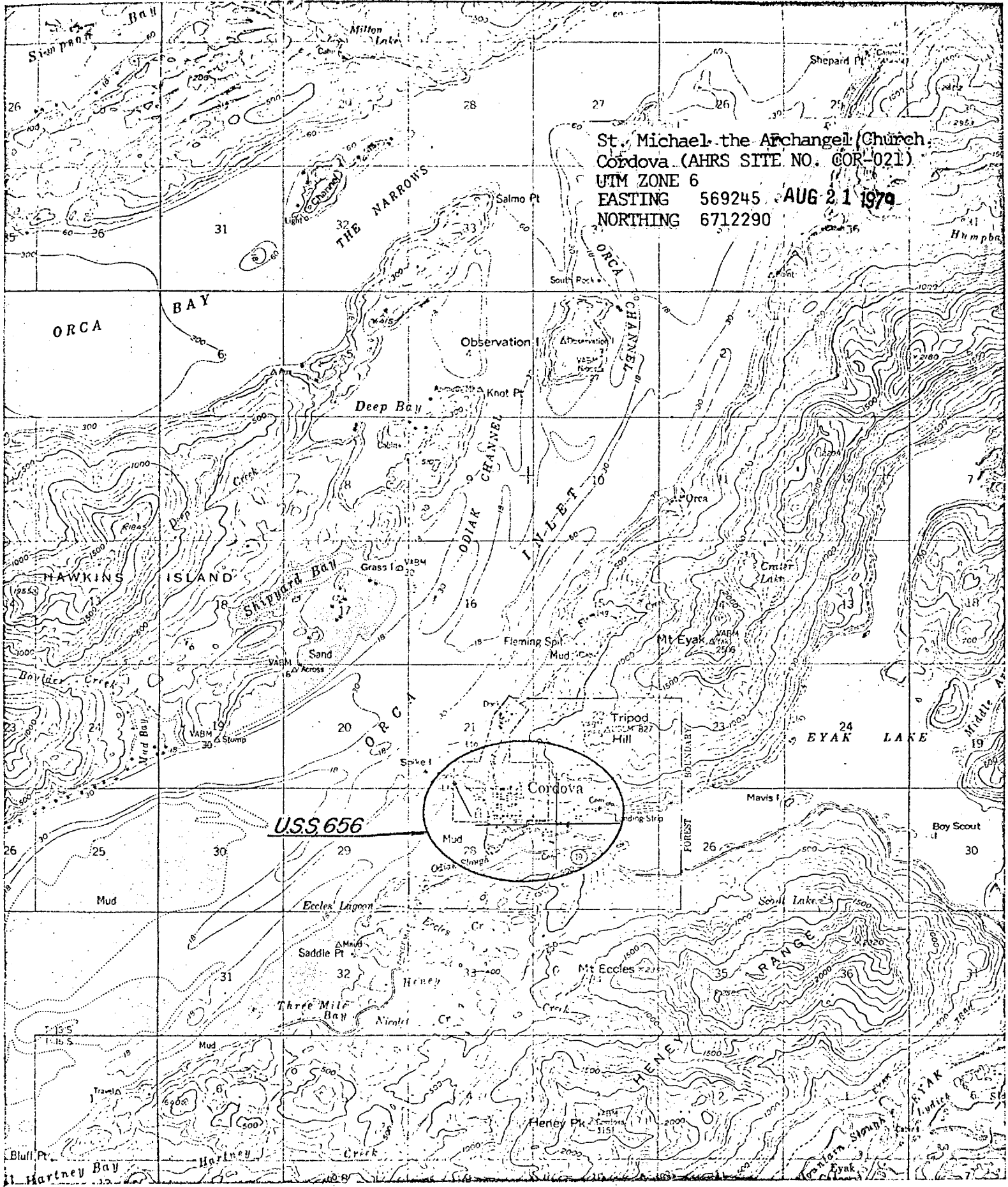
QUADRANGLE SCALE: 1: 63, 360

UTM REFERENCE:

ZONE: 0 6

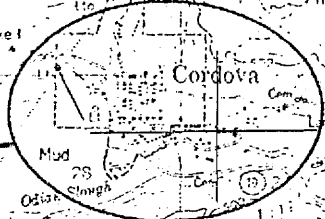
EASTING: 5 6 9 2 4 8

NORTHING: 6 7 1 2 2 9 0



St. Michael the Archangel (Church
 Cordova (AHSR SITE NO. COR-021)
 UTM ZONE 6
 EASTING 569245 AUG 21 1970
 NORTHING 6712290

USS 656



Cordova C-5

Odiak (Cordova) #31

U.S.S. 656

PLAT
of
U.S. Survey No. 656
of the

Russian Greek Church Mission Reserve
situate
at

ODDIAK
District of Alaska

Scale 1.00 chain to the inch
Variation 28°20' East
Area 2.94 Acres

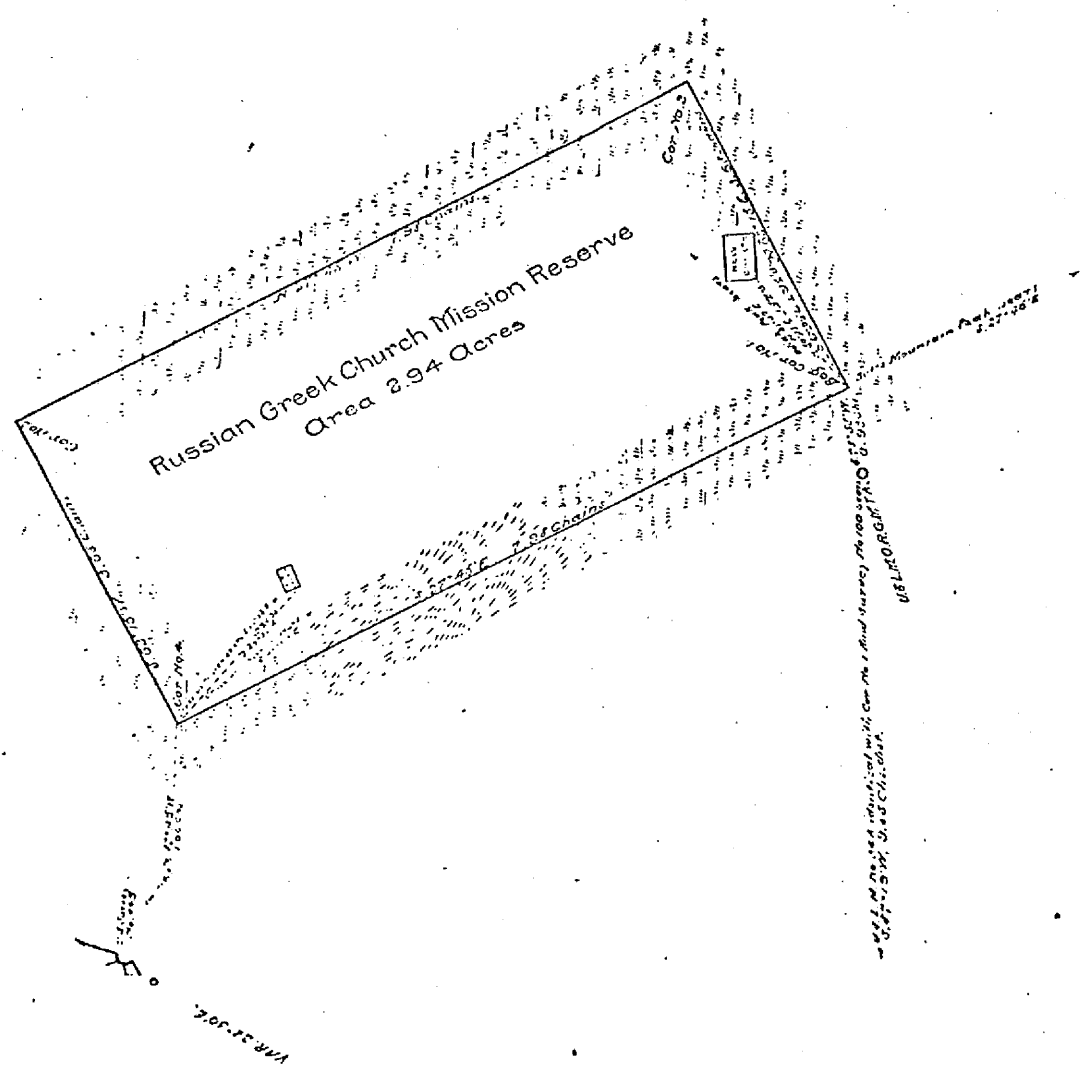
As surveyed under Contract No. 4, dated April 15, 1904.

by
Frank H. Lacey
U.S. Deputy Surveyor
September 14, 1905.

U.S. Surveyor General's Office
Juneau, Alaska, April 2, 1904.

The map, heron delineated, of the Russian
Greek Church Mission Reserve of Oodjak
District, is strictly conformable to the field
notes of the survey thereof, on file in this
office, which have been examined and
approved.

M. J. Schmitt
U.S. Surveyor General, Alaska.



Scale