

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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This is, essentially, a centrally balanced design, with the three major elements measuring in length, from west to east, 12'3", 26'9", and 14'6", respectively; and, in width, 12'5", 23'11", and 15'1". The main chamber is fenestrated by pairs of vertical window sashes of varying size and numbers of lights, on its north and south walls; the vestibule by a half-height window of two panes on its north wall and a single-leaf, vertically-paneled, door on its south wall. The altar segment is lighted by a pair of 3-pane windows, one pane horizontal, and two panes vertical. All the windows are bordered by uniformly made unornamented surrounds, and, from a distance, appear symmetrical.

The main entrance is at the west wall of the vestibule, through a pair of double-leaf vertically-paneled doors, with an open-sided porch over which a low-angle gable roof provides some protection. Above the level of this open porch roof there is an overhanging extension of the roof of the vestibule, from which hangs a single bell, set into an opening in the top of the west wall of the vestibule. (I. Philemonof, Floor Plan, July 29, 1973; Kreta/Merculief, Photos).

The roof of the central chamber is a low-angle hip, with the entire hip covered by an octagonal cylinder upon which rests an onion-shaped dome from which spires the high cross of the church. The roofs of the east and west chambers are medium gabled, and from the mid-point of the ridge line of each springs a lesser model of this same cross-surmounted figure, maintaining the central balance design of the structure. The outer walls of the building are covered by shingles, the roof surfaces by galvanized metal. (Kreta/Merculief, Photos).

QUAD: Russian Mission

1. St. Seraphim Chapel (Old Church) (AHRS SITE NO. RUS-017)
2. LOCATION
 - a. NA
 - b. Lower Kalskag
 - c. NA
 - d. Alaska
 - e. 02
 - f. Kuskokwim Division
 - g. 160

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3. AHRS DATE: May 18, 1973
4. CONDITION: (Old church) Poor
5. UNALTERED
6. ORIGINAL SITE

In this community are two R.O. church structures, one dating from the middle of the 19th century, and the other constructed in 1975 and blessed in December 1975. The new church is used for current services. The old church is at least the second church building in the community. Tradition says that the first was built here in 1843 by one Semen Lukin, and that this extant older church is either an enlargement of that or a church constructed some years later in the 19th century at a date not yet ascertained. (Kreta, Notes; Wallace, 1974, p. 71).

The old standing church is in the best tradition of a merger of the heritage of log cabin construction and of the tri-part churches of the R.O. faith in Americanized Alaska. This is, essentially, a centrally balanced structure, whose elements measure, from west to east, longitudinally, 14'3", 19'10", and 11'4", and, in width, 17'4", 19'8", and 15'8". All three segments are enclosed by squared logs and surmounted by low-angle up-and-down stepped gable roofs sheathed in corrugated metal. One suspects that the center chamber roof, and possibly the end segment roofs, was (were) at one time low angle hip in conformation. The mid-point of the ridge line of the high center roof is surmounted by the church high cross spiring from the peak of an onion-shaped figure rising from an octagonal-surfaced cylinder. At the west wall of the vestibule is a double-leaf entrance door, each leaf made up of six small horizontal panels, set directly into a wall of squared logs. The building is constructed totally of squared-off logs, joined by overlapping dovetailing at the corners and in straight butt joints where logs are not full length for a side. This is a unique example in Alaska, perhaps in North America, of a building of logs of this type, size, function, and antiquity. (Ibid., I. Philemonof, Floor Plan, July 30, 1973; Kreta/Merculief, Photos).

The old church has a cross spiring from an onion shape on an octagonal-sided cylinder from the center point of the roof ridge of the nave, with a lesser, but similar, form rising from the center of the ridge line of the roof of the altar section. However, in this instance, the high cross of the church spires from a

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

QUAD: Samalga Island

1. St. Nicholas Church (AHRS SITE NO. SAM-022)
2. LOCATION
 - a. NA
 - b. Nikolski *not suggest*
 - c. NA
 - d. Alaska
 - e. 02
 - f. Aleutian Islands Division
 - g. 010
3. AHRS DATE: May 18, 1973
4. CONDITION: Good
5. ALTERED
6. ORIGINAL SITE

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

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

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QUAD: RUSSIAN MISSION (C-1)

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

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

QUAD: RUSSIAN MISSION (C-4)

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

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

QUAD: Samalga Island

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

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

QUAD: SELDOVIA (B-6)

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

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

QUAD: SELDOVIA (B-5)

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

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

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QUADRANGLE NAME: Russian Mission (C-4)

LOCATION: Lower Kalskag

NAME OF PROPERTY AND AHRS NUMBER: St. Seraphim Chapel (old church) (AHRS SITE NO. RUS-017)

QUADRANGLE SCALE: 1: 63, 360

UTM REFERENCE:

ZONE: 0 4
EASTING: 4 3 0 3 2 8
NORTHING: 6 8 1 9 9 3 8

QUADRANGLE NAME: Samalga Island

LOCATION: Nikolski

NAME OF PROPERTY AND AHRS NUMBER: St. Nicholas Church (AHRS SITE NO. SAM-022)

QUADRANGLE SCALE: 1: 250, 000

UTM REFERENCE:

ZONE: 0 2
EASTING: 6 7 7 1 4 0
NORTHING: 5 8 6 9 7 5 5