

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

|                  |             |
|------------------|-------------|
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| RECEIVED         | AUG 21 1979 |
| DATE ENTERED     | JUN 6 1980  |

Russian Orthodox Church Buildings and Sites in Alaska

CONTINUATION SHEET

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Even though built at a relatively late date in comparison to some of the finer remaining R. O. Churches, the designs in this one are a pool fed from a number of streams. The basic design is organized among the traditional three segments, plus an open entry porch that serves to integrate the design into the angle of the hill. The overall length of the three segments, more than 68', and the maximum width of 26'11", are in pleasing proportion to the wall heights and the medium high angle of the stepped gable roofs. In front (west) of the vestibule there is yet another small roof over the entrance outside the door that in design offsets the otherwise heavy bulk of the cupola that rises above the vestibule. This serves, in turn, as the base for an eight-windowed octagonal parapet, surmounted by a great green onion-cap form which spires the high cross. Throughout the building is an array of windows designed to enhance every aspect of the design from the altar to the highest point of the onion-shaped crown. The design embodies the best of tradition and the best of eclecticism for a living church, especially one in a place remote from most of the eastern and western worlds from which it springs. (Kreta, Notes; Kreta/Merculief, Photos; I. Philemonof, Floor Plan, August 26, 1973).

QUAD: Pribilof Islands

1. Saints Peter and Paul Church (AHRS SITE NO. XPI-003)
2. LOCATION
  - a. NA
  - b. St. Paul Island
  - c. NA
  - d. Alaska
  - e. 02
  - f. Aleutian Islands Division
  - g. 010
3. AHRS DATE: May 18, 1973
4. CONDITION: Excellent
5. ALTERED
6. ORIGINAL SITE

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According to legend, the first Russian sailors to land on St. Paul Island in the Pribilofs, in 1779, built a small chapel. That served until 1819, when another church was erected on the island's highest hill. The 1819 church was an outstanding visual feature of the island, having a red roof adorned with white crosses. The present church was built in 1907, with funds provided by the Alaska Commercial Company and the sealers themselves. As in the case of St. George Island, the smaller and less accessible of the two islands, St. Paul Island has a small R. O. church of architectural distinction. (Kreta, Notes; Wallace, 1974, 2, 43-44, Plates 44, 45, 46).

As originally built, this was one of the most ambitiously designed and effectively executed small churches of the Byzantine tradition in Alaska. It was a completely conceived design of three major elements, balanced in both its vertical and horizontal aspects. The domes were damaged by the repeated great wind storms of this part of the world, and were replaced over the course of time by shapes less easily destroyed by the elements. The niceties of design details so complementary to the original conception have been modified to the point of austerity, retaining architectural distinction, while not altering its utility.

As originally constructed, the main chamber was then, as now, a rectangle, 33' long by 26'6" wide. It was covered by a medium angle hip roof truncated by a hexagonal cupola with open arches, surmounted by a flat onion-shaped dome from which spired the high cross of the church. The roof is now a medium-angle gable, with only an inset at the west end for the original clock tower, which remains the only tower above first floor grade. The east (altar) extension, which held a slightly lesser example of the same onion edifice as the central chamber, is also now a clean-faced gable roof. The vestibule, which also was covered by a hip roof, also has been modified to a gable roof. However, with elimination of the cupola and crown which rose from the old clock tower, and the clock faces themselves, the clock tower still stands. The high cross now rises from the pinnacle of the clock tower, and other crosses from the east end of the roof ridge lines of the main and altar chambers. At the west entrance to the vestibule was the main door, protected from the always inclement weather by a permanent canopy, then the only gable type roof on the premises. This roof remains, and the entryway has been enclosed in a classical Greek design motif, possibly influenced by whatever influenced design of the R. O. church at Karluk. The roof line over the front entrance door is a plain pediment, and the doorway is bordered by squared columns. The door is two-leaved, with a double overhead light, the first of an unusual design featuring a central ellipse, which is repeated on the north and south walls of the entryway, and surmounted by a classical fan-light. All the

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other windows of the building -- six in the main chamber, two in the altar section, two in the vestibule, and three at the lower level of the clock tower -- were modified at the time this entryway was enclosed and converted to Greek Revival style. Windows in the east (altar) walls were closed. The west window in the clock tower was closed and the north and south windows were diminished. All the windows formerly were surmounted by plain but attractive triangular pediments. In this conversion, all the pediments were converted to flat shelf entablatures. This serves to give the church the severe appearance of a New England meeting house, whereas it formerly was a prime example of art combined with craftsmanship that produced a small public building of identifiable heritage. The present building is a utile evolution, the present state of a distinguished R. O. architectural heritage on this island. (Ibid.; I. Philemonof, Floor Plan, August 28, 1973; Kreta/Merculief, Photos).

QUAD: Russian Mission

1. St. Sergius Chapel (AHRS SITE NO. RUS-015)
2. LOCATION
  - a. NA
  - b. Little Russian Mission (also known as:) Chuathbaluk
  - c. NA
  - d. Alaska
  - e. 02
  - f. Kuskokwim Division
  - g. 160
3. AHRS DATE: May 18, 1973
4. CONDITION: Excellent
5. UNALTERED
6. ORIGINAL SITE

This church site is known as "Little Russian Mission" on the Kuskokwim River to distinguish it from its counterpart, Russian Mission, on the Yukon River. By tradition, this church was built in 1891 by Father Ivan Orlov. The size and conformation of the structure support design and construction during that period. (Kreta, Notes; Wallace, 1974, 71, Plate 89).

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**CONTINUATION SHEET**

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QUAD: NUSHAGAK BAY (D-2)

St. Nicholas Church, EkuK (AHRs SITE NO. XNB-011)

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION: Building is sited on U.S. Survey map sheet 862, enclosed. Also sited on BLM Photographic Atlas, "EkuK 1963".

QUAD: NUSHAGAK BAY (D-2)

Transfiguration of Our Lord Chapel, Nushagak (AHRs SITE NO. XNB-012)

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION: Building is sited at center of base of panhandle of Russian Greek Mission Reserve, survey diagram enclosed, sited north of Bergman's Lot and east of Mitleendorf's Lot, on U.S. Survey map sheet 866, enclosed. Also sited on BLM Photographic Atlas, "Nushagak 1963".

QUAD: PORT MOLLER (B-2)

St. Nicholas Chapel, Sand Point (AHRs SITE NO. XPM-007)

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION: Building is sited in remote Alaskan Native village on prominent lot adjacent to waterfront at south border of town burial ground at head of navigation on Humboldt Harbor.

QUAD: Pribilof Islands

St. George the Great Martyr Orthodox Church, St. George Island (AHRs SITE NO. XPI-004)

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION: Building is sited on town lot in community of St. George, center of front stoop 400 feet due east of high water mark and 1,888 feet west 42° north of community main fuel supply tank. Sited on BLM Photographic Atlas, "St. George 1967".

QUAD: PRIBILOF ISLANDS

Saints Peter and Paul Church, St. Paul Island (AHRs SITE NO. XPI-003)

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION: By virtue of steeple and high cross, building is highest elevation on tombolo formation in area between village cove and Lukanin Bay, as sited on U.S. Survey map sheet 4800, enclosed. Also sited on BLM Photographic Atlas, "St. Paul 1967".

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Orthodox Russian Church Buildings and Sites in Alaska

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 10 PAGE 10 of 15

QUADRANGLE NAME: Pribilof Islands

LOCATION: St. Paul Island

NAME OF PROPERTY AND AHRS NUMBER: Saints Peter and Paul Church (AHRS SITE NO. XPI-003)

QUADRANGLE SCALE: 1: 250, 000

UTM REFERENCE:

ZONE: 0 2

EASTING: 5 4 3 8 0 5

NORTHING: 6 3 2 5 6 0 0

QUADRANGLE NAME: Russian Mission (C-1)

LOCATION: Little Russian Mission (also known as: Chuathbaluk)

NAME OF PROPERTY AND AHRS NUMBER: St. Sergius Chapel (AHRS SITE NO. RUS-015)

QUADRANGLE SCALE: 1: 63, 360

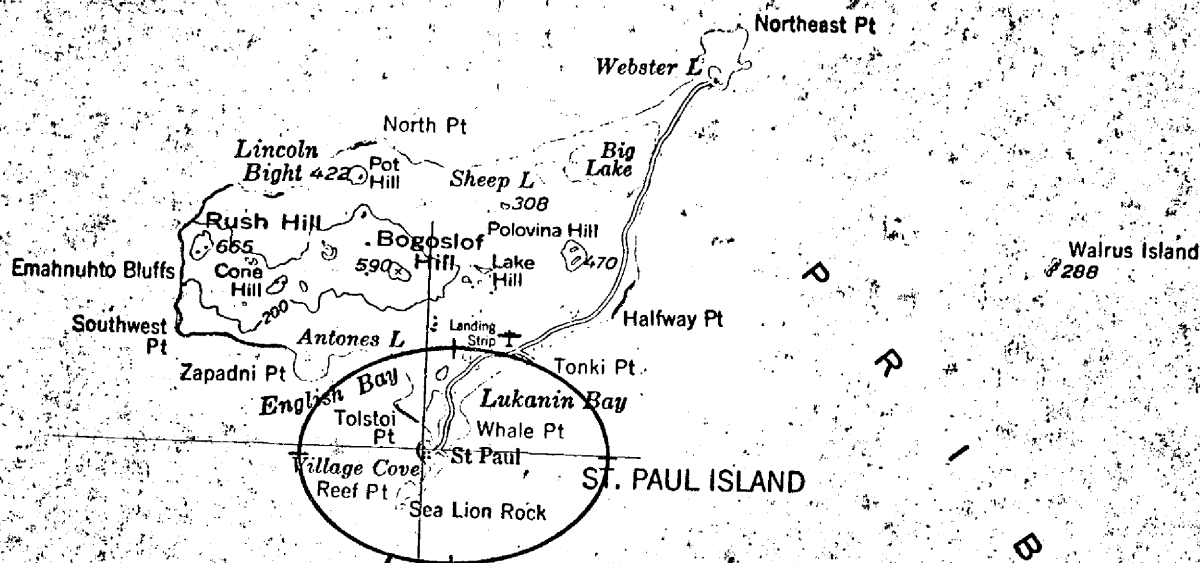
UTM REFERENCE:

ZONE: 0 4

EASTING: 4 8 7 2 2 3

NORTHING: 6 8 2 6 2 8 6

Saints Peter and Paul Church,  
 St. Paul Island (AHR SITE NO.  
 XPI-003)  
 UTM ZONE 2 **AUG 21 1979**  
 EASTING 543805  
 NORTHING 6325600



U.S.S. 4800

B E R I N G

Pribilof Islands

Saint Paul

U.S.S. 4800