

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED DEC 30 1977
DATE ENTERED MAY 22 1978

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

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC Holy Transfiguration of Our Lord (Orthodox) Chapel (AHRS Site No. KEN-046)
AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER Mile 135, Sterling Highway
CITY, TOWN Ninilchik
STATE Alaska
VICINITY OF Alaska, at large
COUNTY Kenai-Cook Inlet Div
CODE 02
CODE 120

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:
			<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Diocese of Sitka and Alaska, Orthodox Church in America
STREET & NUMBER Box 479
CITY, TOWN Sitka
VICINITY OF Alaska
STATE 99835

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. District Recorder
STREET & NUMBER Drawer "I"
CITY, TOWN Kenai
STATE Alaska 99611

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE Alaska Heritage Resource Survey (AHRS)
DATE May 18, 1973
FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Office of History and Archaeology
CITY, TOWN Anchorage
STATE Alaska

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Setting

Holy Transfiguration of Our Lord Chapel faces west, looking towards Cook Inlet and the mountains of the Alaska Range. To the south is Ninilchik, a small fishing village with a population of less than one hundred. As one approaches Ninilchik from the north, the chapel stands against the skyline.

Exterior

Built on modified cruciform plan to overall dimensions of about 20' by 50' (see attached plan), the frame church is faced with white shiplap on its exterior walls and roofed with dark shingles. All windows (see photographs 1, 2, and 3 for fenestration), framed with plain moulding, are double hung sash with twelve lights, except for those in the west tower. Here, two windows with six lights faced in each direction beneath an onion dome capped with an Orthodox cross. Beneath the vestibule roof, a small four light window pierces the north and south walls. Over the transept, an octagonal tower, with four six-light windows, is capped by another onion dome and Orthodox cross. At the east end of the medium gable roof is another onion dome with cross. A single metal stove pipe stick out from the tarpapered roof on the south slope of the roof between the west and transept towers. At the west end, an open porch leads to the interior of the church.

Interior

A single plain door on the west face leads into the vestibule. This, undecorated, provides access to the nave through double doors. In the nave are an oil stove, bookcase, and a few chairs on a tile floor. The amvon separates the nave from the sanctuary. Icons and religious objects adorn the interior. An ikonostas with painted doors separates the sanctuary from the rest of the church.

A small attic has no furnishings.

Access to the church may be gained by contacting church officials at Kenai.

Legal description: Tract C, USS No. 367, August 15, 1904.

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 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 type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1901 (construction) BUILDER/ARCHITECT Alexi Andreev Oskolkoff

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Significance

Holy Transfiguration of our Lord chapel, regardless of the direction from which one approaches, looms on the skyline as the symbol of Ninilchik's past. As such, it reflects the religious, educational and social traditions of the inhabitants and an institution that has molded those traditions.

Historical Background

At least one of six Creole and Russian pensioners' settlements established by the Russian American Company on the Kenai Peninsula in mid-nineteenth century, Ninilchik today retains strong impressions of Russian culture.

The founding of the village presents an interesting aspect of Russian American Company administrative policy. According to law, Company employees were not authorized to reside permanently in Alaska. In 1835, this policy was reversed due to requests of promyshlenniki (fur hunters), many of whom had married Native women and produced offspring (Creoles). By the "Supreme Command" of 1835, former employees, their families, and Creoles could remain in Alaska and establish special settlements. The Company was obligated to "select and donate a site, build a comfortable dwelling, furnish agricultural tools, seeds, cattle and fowls, and supply the pensioners receiving all this with provisions enough to support him and his wife for one year." (Elliott, 1886: 85-86) The Company was also obliged to purchase all of the surplus produce of the new settlements. Such was the founding of Ninilchik.

With the sale of Alaska, many Creoles remained in Ninilchik. Ivan Petrov, U.S. Census officer, noted in the early 1880's that the Ninilchik population was composed of only fifty-three Creoles. He also observed "Each family has quite a large garden patch of turnips and potatoes, yielding enough to allow the owners to dispose of a large surplus to traders and fishermen. They have quite a herd of cattle....The young men of the settlement go out to hunt the sea-otter at Anchor Point, or even lower down the coast." (Petrov, 1884: 27) By 1890, some sixteen Indians as well as a few whites had joined the Creole population; but the community's cultural essence remained rooted in its Russian heritage with Russian remaining the first language of the population and education and social fabric conforming to the standards of the Orthodox Church.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Elliott, Henry W., OUR ARCTIC PROVINCE, New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1886.
 Federova, Svetlana, THE RUSSIAN POPULATION IN ALASKA AND CALIFORNIA, trans, and ed.
 R.A. Pierce and A.S. Donnelly, Kingston, Ontario: Limestone Press, 1973.
 U.S. Dept. of the Interior, Census Office, REPORT ON THE POPULATION, INDUSTRIES, AND
 RESOURCES OF ALASKA, by Ivan Petrov. Washington, D.C.: USGPO, 1884; REPORT ON POPULATION
 AND RESOURCES OF ALASKA AT THE 11TH CENSUS: 1890. Washington, USGPO, 1893.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY .037

UTM REFERENCES

A	0,5	5,7,3,7,20	6,6,5,7,6,1,0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Tract C, USS 367, August 15, 1904

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Very Reverend Archpriest Joseph P. Kreta, Chancellor

ORGANIZATION

Diocese of Sitka and Alaska, Orthodox Church in America

DATE

September 26, 1977

STREET & NUMBER

Box 55

TELEPHONE

(907) 486-3854

CITY OR TOWN

Kodiak

STATE

Alaska 99615

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

William H. Housheer

TITLE

State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

12/15/77

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

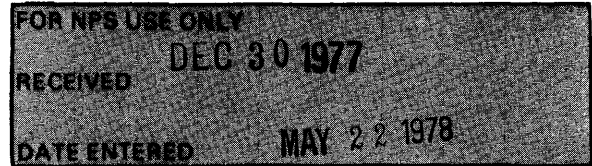
ATTEST:

William Cole
 DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE *5-22-78*
 MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER
 DATE *4-26-78*

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE



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

Holy Transfiguration of Our Lord (Orthodox) Chapel, Ninilchik, Alaska (AHRS Site No. KEN-046)

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 1

Alexi Andreev Oskolkoff was the chief architect. He was born at Fort Ross, California, in 1844, lived in Sitka, and was sent from there to Ninilchik to oversee construction of the church in 1901. The church replaced another structure, built below the present church site in the middle of Ninilchik village, reportedly shortly after 1846 when Ninilchik was founded.

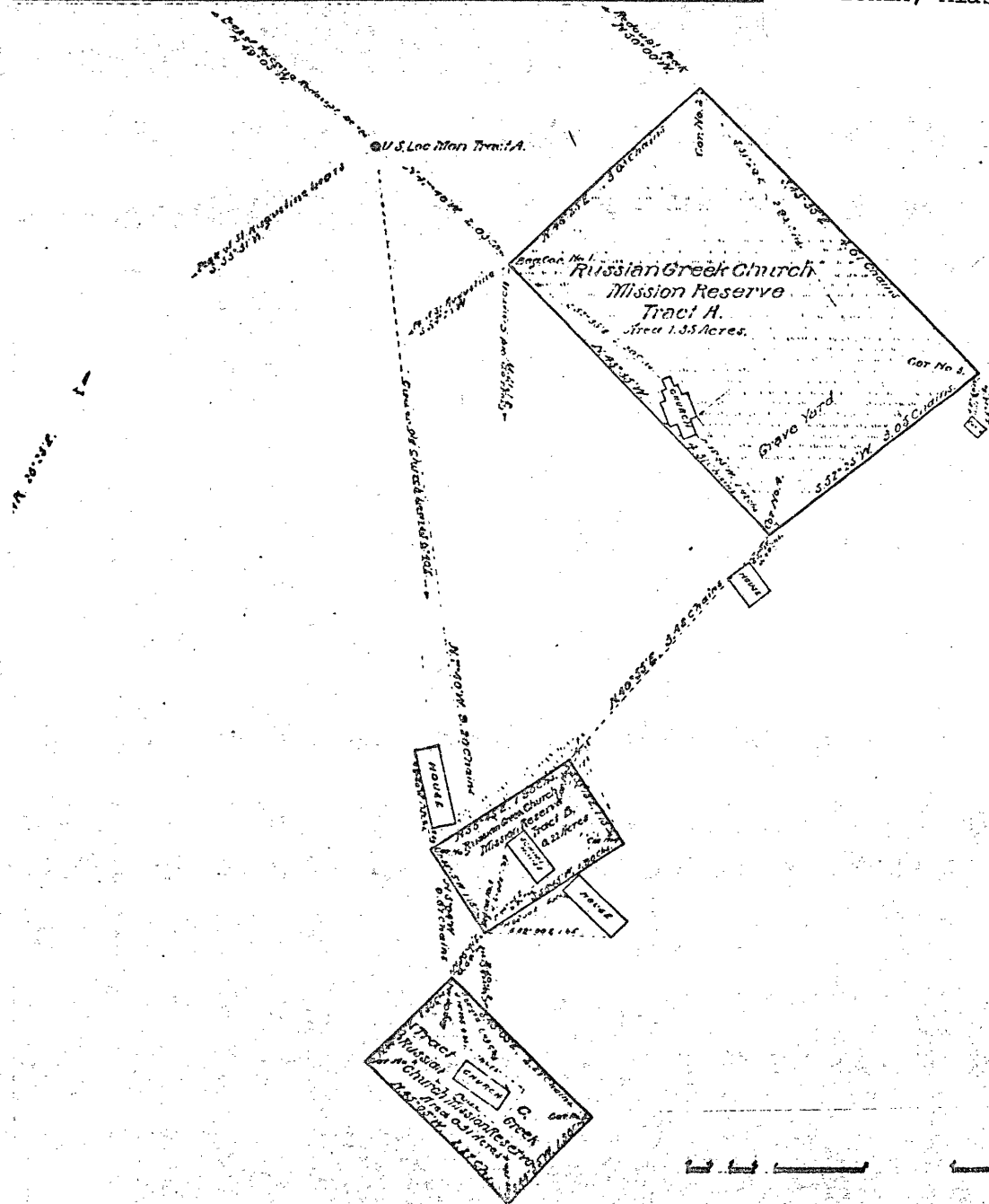
Fr. Bortlovsky from Kenai came to Ninilchik to dedicate the Holy Transfiguration of Our Lord Chapel in 1901.

Since then, the Russian atmosphere of Ninilchik has been retained, reinforced principally by the always present church, although the community has been served by visiting priests from Kenai and other nearby settlements. Only one other building in the community, an old school house, is believed to survive with Russian associations reminiscent of Ninilchik's origins and it has been greatly altered with concomitant loss of integrity.

Holy Transfiguration of Our Lord
 Orthodox Chapel
 AHRS Site No. KEN-046
 Kenai-Cook Inlet Division
 Ninilchik, Alaska

DEC 30 1977

MAY 22 1978



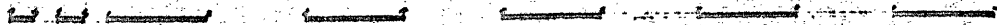
PLAT
 of
 U.S. Survey No 367
 of the
 Russian Greek Church Mission Res.
 Under Act of June 6 1900
 SITUATE
 AT
 NINILCHIK
 District of Alaska
 AREA
 TRACT A 1.35
 TRACT B 2.2
 TRACT C 0.63 Total 4.18 Acres
 Scale 1 Ch. to 1 inch
 Variation 26°25' East
 As surveyed under contract No 12 dated April
 by
 Albert Casey
 U.S. Deputy Surveyor
 August 15 1904

U.S. District Surveyor's Office
 Sitka, Alaska Nov 26 1904

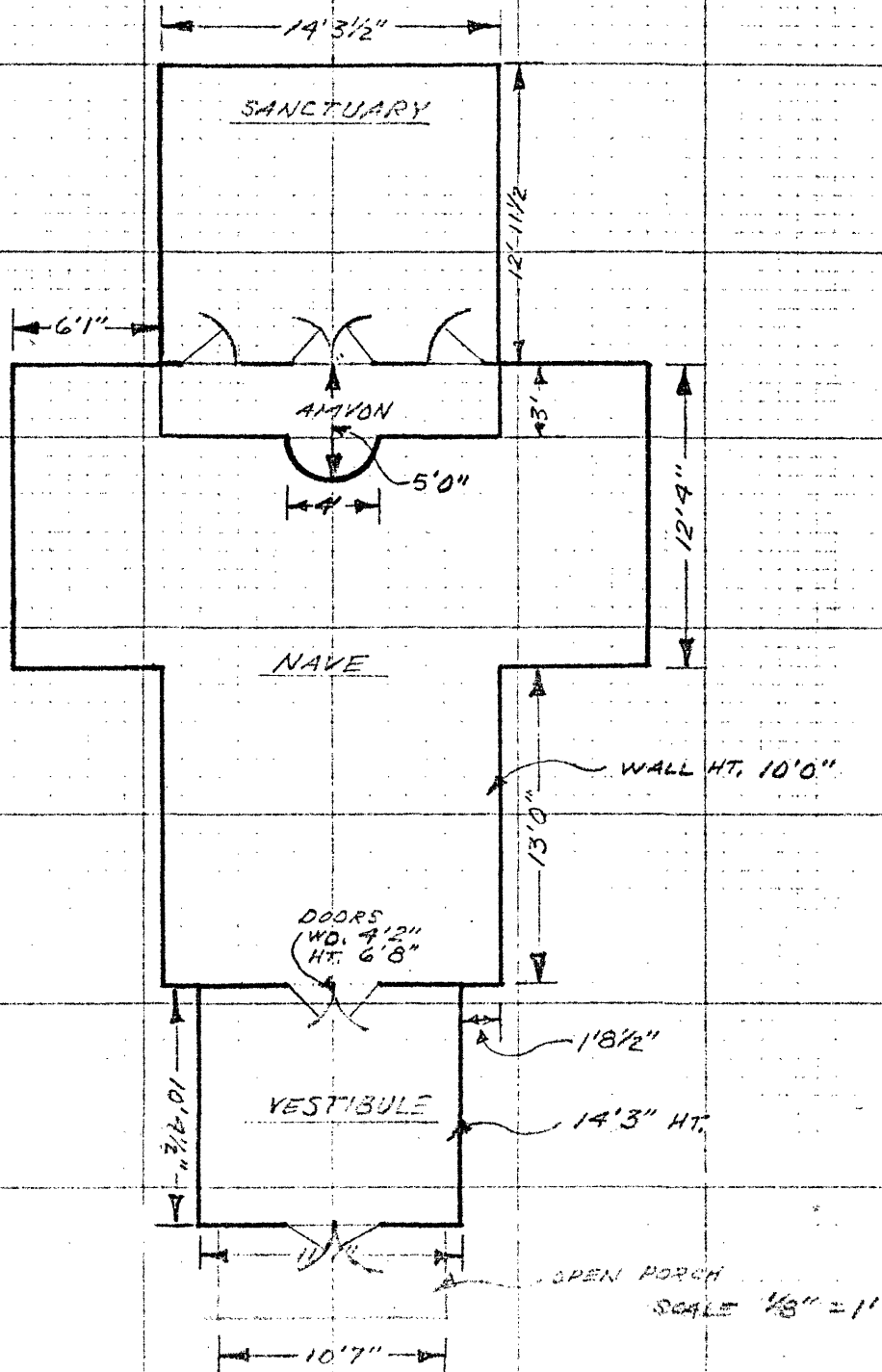
The above map of the Russian Greek Church
 Mission Reserves at Ninilchik Alaska is
 strictly conformable to the field notes of
 survey thereof on file in this office and
 have been examined and approved

M. L. Dietz
 U.S. District Surveyor

Scale



ORIGINAL NOT AVAILABLE



**HOLY TRANSFIGURATION
OF OUR LORD CHAPEL
NINILCHIK, ALASKA**

SURVEY DATE 6-21-73
DRAWN BY I. PHILEMONOFF

