

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 29 of 53

This is a cannery community constructed on twelve acres of land, near the Nushagak River. There is no school and only a few families remain here year round. The church was built in 1918 or 1919, replacing an older church of undetermined vintage, and has been enlarged. Typical of these small churches, but for the modest church symbols, the building would be mistaken for a rural schoolhouse. (Kreta, Notes; Kreta/Merculief, Photos).

When constructed, this building was a rectangle, approximately 21' in length by 16' in width, covered by a low-angle hip roof. This is the present nave segment of the structure. The two sets of double-hung windows on the north and south walls were original equipment. At some unspecified date 13 feet were added to the length of the west end and the chamber enlarged. Another 12-light double-hung window sash was added to the south wall extended, but the parallel space on the north wall was at that time utilized either for an entrance or a small window, probably the former. The hip roof was extended to a gable at the west end. The chamber then was 34' in length and 16' in width. Subsequently an enclosed entranceway vestibule was added to the west wall, with a pyramidal roofed cupola atop the roof, and the high cross rising from its peak. Another cross rises from the east end of the main roof ridge, and over the double-leaf entranceway there is an attempt at symbolism in the form of sunburst or rainbow that appears to have more Native than R. O. tradition at its root. (Ibid.)

QUAD: Nushagak Bay

1. Transfiguration of Our Lord Chapel (AHRS SITE NO. XNB-012)
2. LOCATION
 - a. NA
 - b. Nushagak
 - c. Clark's Point
 - d. Alaska
 - e. 02
 - f. Bristol Bay Division
 - g. 070
3. AHRS DATE: May 18, 1973
4. CONDITION: Fair

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5. UNALTERED
6. ORIGINAL SITE

The present church was built in 1904, the third R. O. house of worship in this community. The first, a small chapel, was built soon after establishment of a Russian outpost here, somewhere between 1818 and 1832. In 1860, the Russian-American Company, at the request of R. O. church authorities, ordered the construction of a new church to replace the original small chapel. The 1860 church was the last structure of importance to be built here (then called Aleksandrovskiy Redoubt) during the Russian period, and was conceived on a comparatively grand scale, with such materials as nails, roof tiles, doors and windows sent from Sitka. (James W. Van Stone, "Nushagak," Alaska Journal, II, No. 3 (Summer 1972), 49-53, 50, 52; Dillingham High American History Class 1972-73, The Last of Yesterday, Dillingham, 1973, 34; Wallace, 1974, 89).

The 1860 church was replaced in 1904 by the present church, which has stood idle since 1959 or 1963. This building presents an eclectic statement of one architectural tradition springing from the Belkofski and Karluk churches, the introduction of more pronounced Byzantine details, in the form of enlarged onion-shaped domes, together with the niceties of New England meetinghouse neatness, even to the grandly executed sweeping entrance stair, superfluous here, but picturesque. The nave and altar sections of the church are one unit, with a high-angle gable roof. The north and south walls are marked by four double-hung 6-light window sashes, spaced three to the east and one to the west, on each wall, and matching windows on the north and south walls of the entryway. Each of the window frames is capped by a triangular pediment, a classical Greek effect, reminiscent of the squared pillars in the R. O. church at Karluk. The entryway is a reduced scale enclosure of the main chamber, with a triangular pedimented western (front) face over the front entrance doors that reflects the main roof pediment and the triangular pediments over each window frame. The front door is a handsome double leaf at the head of a grand, wide, balustraded staircase, further reinforcing an arch-Greek revival motif. Above the entry vestibule roof is a squared cupola, with double-hung, single-pane lights, on the north, west, and south faces, repeating the design of the main level window frames. The cupola is covered by a low-level pyramidal roof, from whose peak rises a handsomely modeled large onion-shaped dome and the high cross of the church. The cupola, dome, and cross are repeated at only slightly lesser scale at the east (altar) end of the roof ridge. But for these two outstanding symbols, this could

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be a small church on a New England village green. (Dillingham, 1972, p. 45). Though no longer in use, with the virtual abandonment of this once thriving place, the building is a voice from the architectural past of the R. O. church in Alaska. (Ibid.)

QUAD: Port Moller

1. St. Nicholas Chapel (AHRS SITE NO. XPM-007)
2. LOCATION
 - a. NA
 - b. Sand Point
 - c. NA
 - d. Alaska
 - e. 02
 - f. Aleutian Islands Division
 - g. 010
3. AHRS DATE: May 18, 1973
4. CONDITION: Poor
5. UNALTERED
6. ORIGINAL SITE

This church building was constructed in 1936. During recent years it has fallen into disrepair, and all religious artifacts have been removed to a private home, where services are presently conducted. Even in its deteriorated state, the building is protected from vandalism and swept and kept neat. (Kreta, Notes).

This is a building of strong religious statement, clear and expressive. As modest as the building is in size, there is no question upon first glance that it is a building of some important public function. The nave and sanctuary are housed in a gable-roofed rectangular chamber of good proportions, fenestrated by three large double-hung 12-light window sashes on the north and south walls. At the west end is a commanding square tower that houses the vestibule on its first level, rises to a truncated pyramidal roof above its second level, and supports a handsome open-work octagonal bell tower marked by arches set into each of the

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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 Mitlendorf'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 8 of 15

QUADRANGLE NAME: Nushagak Bay (D-2)

LOCATION: Ekuk

NAME OF PROPERTY AND AHRS NUMBER: St. Nicholas Church
~~Elevation of Holy Cross Church~~ (AHRS SITE
NO. XNB-011)

QUADRANGLE SCALE: 1: 63, 360

UTM REFERENCE:

ZONE: 0 4

EASTING: 5 2 6 5 3 5

NORTHING: 6 5 1 7 4 7 9

QUADRANGLE NAME: Nushagak Bay (D-2)

LOCATION: Nushagak

NAME OF PROPERTY AND AHRS NUMBER: Transfiguration of our Lord Chapel (AHRS
SITE NO. XNB-012)

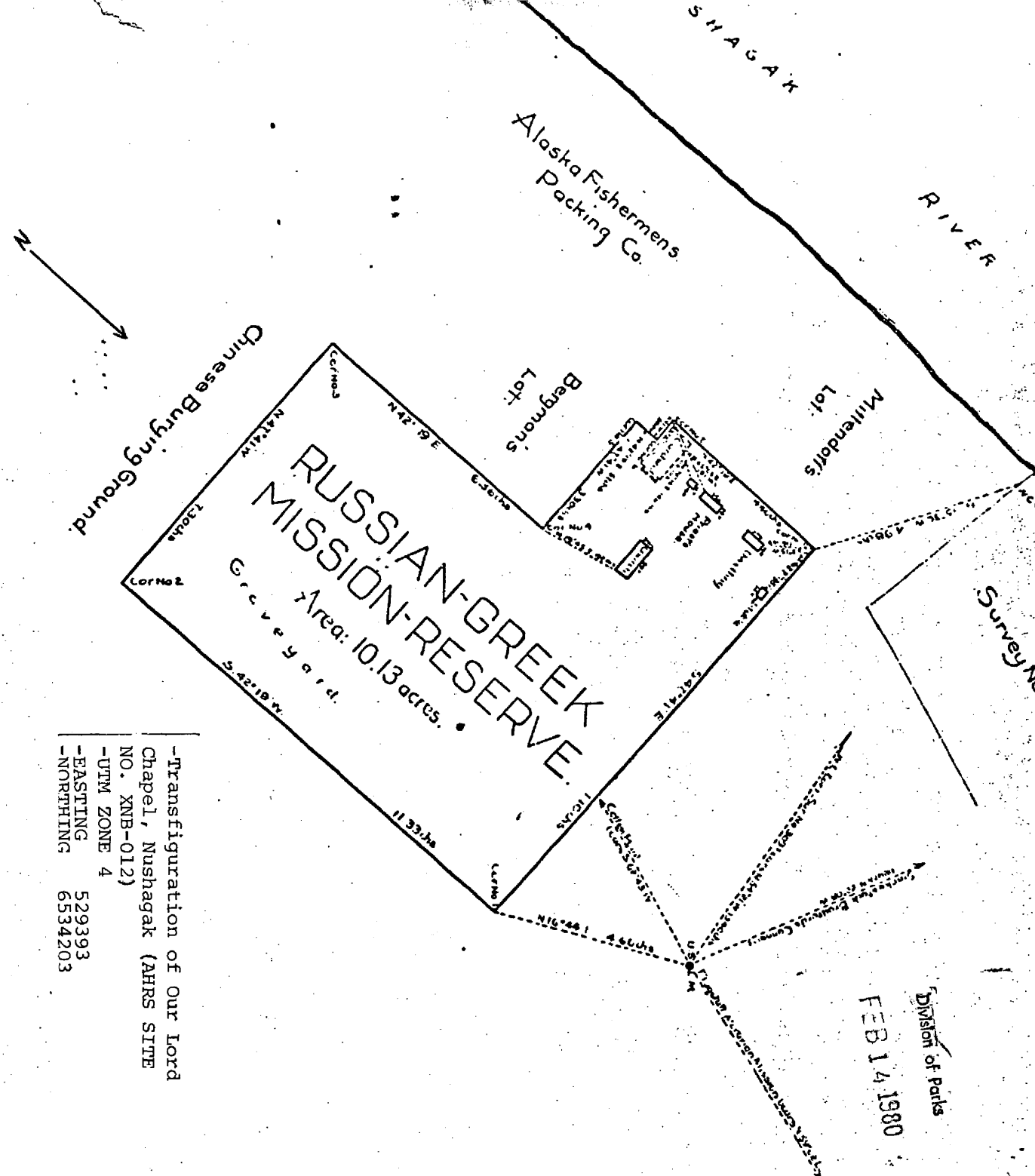
QUADRANGLE SCALE: 1: 63, 360

UTM REFERENCE:

ZONE: 0 4

EASTING: 5 2 9 3 9 3

NORTHING: 6 5 3 4 2 0 3



Division of Parks
 FEB 14 1980

- Transfiguration of Our Lord Chapel, Nushagak (AHR5 SITE NO. XNB-012)
- UTM ZONE 4
- EASTING 529393
- NORTHING 6534203

OF THE
RUSSIAN-GREEK MISSION RESERVE
 VILLAGE OF
NUSHAGAK
 DISTRICT OF ALASKA

AREA
10.13 ACRES
 Scale of 200 chains to 1 inch
 Variation 21°34 East

Assurveyed under Contract No. 23 dated June 25 1908
 by
Clinton Gurnee,
 U.S. Deputy Surveyor.
 May 21 22 1908

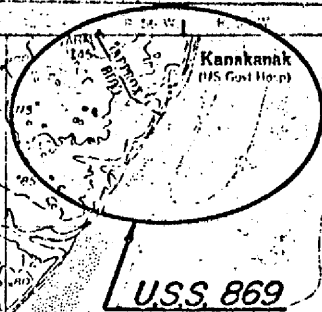
U S SURVEYOR GENERAL'S OFFICE

Juneau Alaska. May 21. 1908

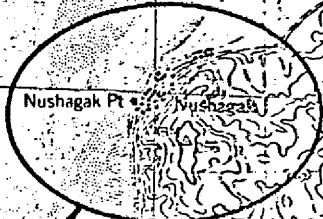
The map hereon delineated of the Russian Greek Mission Reserve in the village of Nushagak, Alaska is strictly conformable to the field notes of the survey thereon on file in this office, which have been examined, and approved

W. W. Adair
 U.S. Surveyor General for
 ALASKA

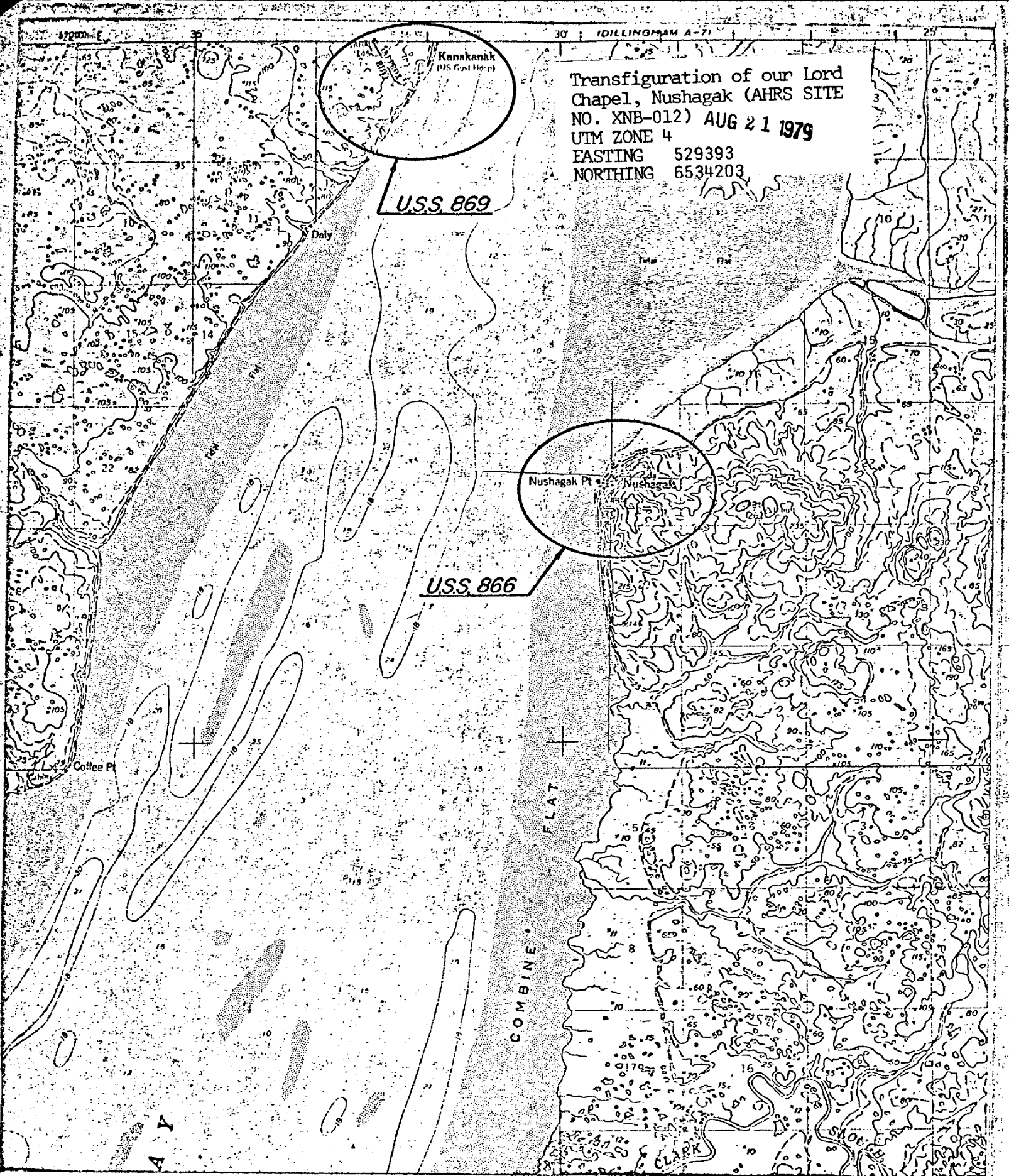
Transfiguration of our Lord
Chapel, Nushagak (AHR SITE
NO. XNB-012) AUG 21 1979
UTM ZONE 4
EASTING 529393
NORTHING 6534203



U.S.S. 869



U.S.S. 866



Nushagak Bay (U-2)

Nushagak U.S.S. 866

Kanakanak U.S.S. 869

U.S.S. 866

U.S.S. 869