

NHL

12-15-75

Theme: 96

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	
DATE ENTERED	

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

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

(AHRs SITE

Alaska Native Brotherhood Hall, Sitka Camp No. 1 NO. SIT 001)

AND/OR COMMON

ANB HALL

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

456 Katlean Street

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Sitka

VICINITY OF

Alaska

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

Alaska 998

02

Sitka Division

220

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input 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	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC ACQUISITION	<input type="checkbox"/> ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER: cultural

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Sitka Camp No. 1, Alaska Native Brotherhood/Sisterhood

STREET & NUMBER

Box 556, Mt. Edgecombe Post Office (907) 747-8561

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Sitka

VICINITY OF

Alaska

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

District Recorder

STREET & NUMBER

Box 910

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Sitka

Alaska

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

Alaska Heritage Resource Survey (AHRs)

DATE

August 20, 1971

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Alaska Division of Parks, 323 E. 4th Avenue

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Anchorage

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		

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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Alaska Native Brotherhood/Sisterhood Hall of Local Camp No. 1, Sitka, sits between Katlean Street and the waters of Sitka harbor. The building is in the area to which the Sitka Tlingits returned some twenty years after being defeated by the Russians at the 1804 battle of Indian River. The area has been occupied by them since that time.

Approximately 40 x 60 feet, this structure is of wood frame construction. It is rectangular in shape, consisting, from external appearance, of two stories and an attic. The front end is on solid ground, facing out upon a street. Most of the length of the building, all the way to its back end, projects out over water, supported upon six rows of vertical wood piles. The interior is organized as an auditorium, two stories in height, with partitioned spaces at front and rear ends of the building.

The rear of the auditorium is toward the front wall, while the stage is at the back end of the building, over the water. There appears to be a lobby-type partition separating the entrance doors from the main auditorium on the first floor, and an office space on the second floor front, separated from the main two-story high auditorium. The backstage area has four windows, two at first floor and two at second floor level, and is partitioned off from the main auditorium by the proscenium arch and wall. Within the auditorium a narrow gallery is hung at second story level along the rear and two side walls, with access to the gallery apparently by a stairway at the rear of the auditorium. A door from the left front of the auditorium opens out directly upon a boardwalk pier along the left side of the building which extends further out over the water than this building.

The exterior of the building appears to be covered by wood siding and shingles applied at several different periods of time. The contrasts in weathering of the siding and the roof indicate that the building has been subject to at least two modifications and enlargements. It appears as if the original section of the building consisted of the rear three quarters of the first floor and the same segment of the attic. It appears that the front quarter of the first floor and the front quarter of the attic were added at a later date, and that the roof was raised and the four walls elevated, to create the second floor level at a later date

# 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 checked="" 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 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: 1912, Alaska Native Brotherhood founded; 1914, Camp No. 1 hall built

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

### Significance

Alaska Native Brotherhood, Sitka Camp No. 1, is the original local chapter of this pan-Alaska native organization that, for most of the first half of the twentieth century, was the only such group representing Alaska's natives. Built in 1914, the Sitka ANB Hall is the headquarters of this camp and its counterpart in the Alaska Native Sisterhood.

Founded in 1912, apparently an outgrowth of efforts by Tlingits to fight discrimination by restaurants and movie houses, the Brotherhood is a federation of local camps. Although there are now scores of these, the Sitka group is distinguished by its role as the first local camp and by the fact that Sitka's large native population for a long time made it one of the parent organization's most powerful elements.

During its lifetime, the Alaska Native Brotherhood/Sisterhood has been instrumental in gaining full citizenship for Alaska's natives (by supporting such legislation as extension of the Indian Reorganization Act to Alaska) and in curbing discrimination. More recently, the group has been an important force in preserving native heritage through support of projects such as "Alaska Totems; a heritage in peril", restoration of Chief Shakes Community House, and passage of the Alaska Historic Preservation Act.

Today, the hall at Sitka continues to serve the native community, as camp headquarters, in which many social events and ceremonies such as funerals are held, and as offices for administrators of the Indian Education Act and Alaska Legal Services. Owned by Camp No. 1, the building is open to visitors when these offices are open, as well as during the many cultural activities occurring there.

### Historical Background

When Europeans first "discovered" Alaska in 1743, they did not come to an empty land. Significant populations of

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Drucker, Philip, The Native Brotherhood: Modern Intertribal Organization on the Northwest Coast, Bulletin 168, Bureau of American Ethnology, 195.  
 Gsovski, Vladimir, "Russian Administration of Alaska and the status of the Alaska Natives", Senate Document No. 152, 81st Congress, 2d Session, 19  
 Hope, Andrew III, "Founders of the Alaska Native Brotherhood", booklet published at Sitka, April 1975.  
 Minute Book of Sitka Camp No. 1, Alaska Native Brotherhood, unp., Sitka.

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1/4

UTM REFERENCES

A	0, 8	47, 9	40, 7	63	2, 29, 08	B					
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING			ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING			
C						D					

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Lot 10, Block 5, USS 2542B

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

William S. Hanable

ORGANIZATION

Alaska Division of Parks

DATE

December 15, 1975

STREET & NUMBER

323 E. 4th Avenue

TELEPHONE

(907) 274-4676

CITY OR TOWN

Anchorage

STATE

Alaska

**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.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

*Russell W. Calillo*

TITLE

*State Historic Preservation Officer*

DATE

*Jan 22, 1976*

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
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still. Below the first floor level, a skirt or siding shields the tops of the pilings, and probably provides additional protection to the underside of the structure.

The front of the building, at the first floor level, has a pair of double leaf, single panel entrance doors, set in a centered recession, framed by a plain wood surround. Centered in each of the left and right panels at the first floor level are pairs of twin wood framed double hung sliding windows. Three pairs of similar windows are set at the center and quarter marks along the front of the building at the second floor level. The right hand side of the building has no access openings or fenestration. The left hand side has one door, from the auditorium to the wooden pier which runs along that side of the building. At the water end of the building there are four windows, backstage of the auditorium. At the second floor level are two double-light hinged frame windows. At the first floor level is one similar window and one window of the same size containing six small lights.

The tin covered medium gable roof overhangs all four surfaces. It is trimmed at the front and back ends by plain ~~boxed~~ <sup>boxed-banded</sup> ~~cornices~~, each with seven unadorned corbel-like supports in ~~brackets~~ the form of triangular struts. The bottom edges of the long sides are unadorned.

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Aleuts, Eskimo, and Indians occupied much of the area that came to be called Russian America.

Relations between promyshlenniki, Russian or Siberia hunters who came to exploit Alaska's fur resources, and the natives were often stormy; although as early as March of 1766, Empress Catherine enjoined her subjects to "be good to their new fellows, the inhabitants of the islands [the Aleutians], refraining from the slightest oppression or deceit."

This injunction, which came at the end of an Imperial Decree addressed to Chicherin, the Governor of Siberia, and dated March 2, 1766, was followed by a series of instructions that were issued throughout Russian administration of Alaska relative to the native populations, their status, duties, and treatment.

The natives' status evolved as Russian America passed through a period of free competition in the fur trade (1743-1798); a period of monopoly by the Russian American Company when its activity in Alaska was overseen by Alexander Baranov, a Siberian merchant (1799-1817); and a period when Russian naval officers served as chief executives of the territory (1818-1867). The Russian American Company's responsibilities for the natives, and the Imperial Government's attitude towards them changed with successive charters for the Company.

The second and third charters, those of 1821 and 1844, declared that all Russians, creoles (part native, part Russian), and dependent tribes (those over whom the Russians were able to assert control), were Russian subjects.

When Russia sold Alaska to the United States, Article 3 of the Treaty of Cession of March 30, 1867 (15 Stat. 542) promised "all the rights, advantages and immunities of citizens of the United States" to those in Alaska, excepting "uncivilized tribes". Thus, those natives who were members of settled tribes and creoles could claim the right of American citizenship.

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This was of limited benefit, for while the Russians, accustomed to mingling with the native tribes of Siberia, had not demonstrated great prejudice against the natives (they had treated them harshly and demanded much, but not primarily on a racial basis); citizens of the United States who came to Alaska brought with them the background of the western frontier.

Prejudices springing from this background were particularly apparent in southeastern Alaska where natives and whites were in closer continued contact than in other parts of the state.

Perhaps as a result of this closer association, although there was certainly prejudice manifested in other areas of Alaska, it was in Juneau in 1912 that twelve southeast Alaska native men and one woman met at the offices of W. G. Beatty, Superintendent of the Bureau of Indian Affairs in Alaska. The meeting initiated the Alaska Native Brotherhood/Sisterhood, an organization whose purpose is expressed in its constitution as "to oppose, discourage, and overcome the narrow injustice of race prejudice, and to aid in the development of the Territory of Alaska, in making it worthy of a place among the States of North America."

Initially the group had local camps in Sitka, Juneau, and Douglas. These were joined by chapters in nearly every village in southeast Alaska.

During its first years, the ANB/S achieved many victories in extension of rights to Alaska's natives that should have been common to all citizens of the United States. This included the right to Workmen's Compensation and the right of native children to attend public school. In 1929, ANB/S initiated the first native claims court suit, seed of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act of 1971 which awarded nearly a billion dollars and 40 million acres of public land to Alaska's natives.

m No. 10-300a  
(10-74)

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The historical importance of the ANB Hall at Sitka, as representative of this organization and its achievements, was recognized with its entry in the National Register of Historic Places on February 23, 1972.