

Agency: Commerce, Community and Economic Development**Grants to Named Recipients (AS 37.05.316)****Grant Recipient: ROSSIA, Inc.****Federal Tax ID: 71-0879791****Project Title:****Project Type: Maintenance and Repairs****ROSSIA, Inc. - Repair and Restoration of Juneau Historic Site****State Funding Requested: \$50,000****House District: Juneau Areawide (3-4)**

One-Time Need

Brief Project Description:

Repair and restoration of historic structure Saint Nicholas church in downtown Juneau. Currently used as a church and a major tourist destination and local landmark.

Funding Plan:

Total Project Cost:	\$372,500
Funding Already Secured:	(\$10,000)
FY2012 State Funding Request:	(\$50,000)
Project Deficit:	\$312,500

Funding Details:

\$10,000 National Parks Save America's Treasures 2012

\$25,000 Rasmuson Foundation 2012

\$5,000 Friends of St. Nicholas Church 2012

Detailed Project Description and Justification:

ROSSIA, Inc. was founded in 2002 by Native corporation leaders, Orthodox clergy, government officials, architects, and historians who recognized the importance of preserving the cultural heritage associated with the Russian Orthodox Church in Alaska. ROSSIA, Inc. collaborates with local communities, encouraging and supporting their efforts to preserve the historic churches and along with it, a prominent part of Alaska's history.

Saint Nicholas Orthodox Church was built in 1893. Architecturally, the building is a beautiful example of the Russian American architecture and the unique octagon plan of St. Nicholas is the last of Alaska's orthodox churches of this shape. It is toured by approximately 6,000 tourists each summer. The church is one of the most visited historic sites in Juneau and has been placed on the National Registry of Historic Places. It is the oldest continually functioning Orthodox Church in Southeast Alaska.

ROSSIA's efforts at St. Nicholas started in 2003 with a condition assessment report. Our initial projects since then have included writing and administering a grant to restore the wood gutters and contracting with professional engineers for future work at the church.

When the church was reroofed in 2007, a worker nearly fell through the narthex (entrance) roof due to excessive rot around the bell tower. An emergency stabilization project removed the tower with a crane and it remains on blocks near the church

today. The St. Nicholas parish and ROSSIA secured the services of a structural engineer to design the repairs so the bell tower can grace the church once again. In addition, the engineer inspected the foundation and discovered it lacks footings and necessary lateral bracing for Alaska's frequent earthquakes.

Capital improvements are outlined in the attached document but are summarized below:

- 1.) Reinstallation of narthex bell tower \$25,000
- 2.) Accessible route design \$ 2,500
- 3.) New concrete foundation \$80,000
- 4.) Site drainage improvements \$15,000
- 5.) New accessible walkway \$10,000
- 6.) Mechanical upgrade \$20,000
- 7.) Fire suppression system \$85,000
- 8.) Exterior painting (chapel) \$15,000

Project Timeline:

2011-2013

Entity Responsible for the Ongoing Operation and Maintenance of this Project:

The Diocese of Alaska

Grant Recipient Contact Information:

Name: Sheri Buretta
Title: Chairman
Address: 19430 Wingham Circle
Eagle River, Alaska 99577
Phone Number: (907)227-0595
Email: sburetta@chugach-ak.com

Has this project been through a public review process at the local level and is it a community priority? Yes No



Russian Orthodox Sacred Sites In Alaska

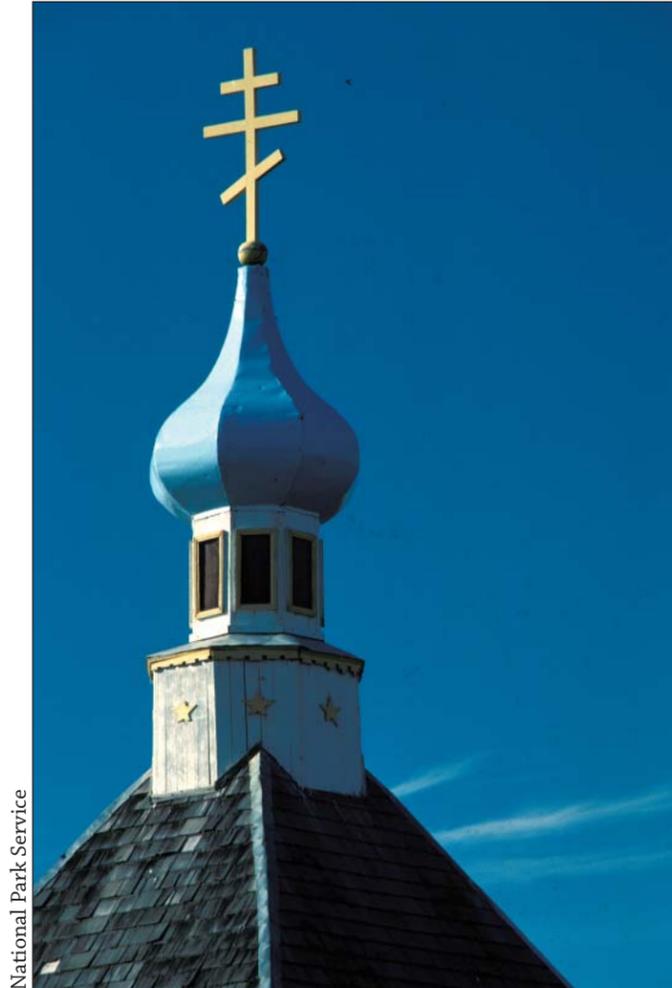
Preserving Alaska's Russian American Heritage

Russian Orthodox Sacred Sites In Alaska

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<http://www.rossialaska.org>

Our Mission

ROSSIA, Inc. is a non-profit organization dedicated
to the preservation of
Alaska's historic Russian Orthodox churches
and the historic articles and furnishings therein.



National Park Service

ABOVE: *Saint Nicholas Chapel dome, Kenai, Alaska, 1985*

Heritage Worth Preserving

Wind, weather, and time are slowly eroding many of Alaska's most distinctive landmarks – Russian Orthodox Churches. These churches, thirty-six throughout Alaska, date from the 19th century and represent another era. Vitus Bering's pioneer voyage in 1741 established Russia's claim to what is now Alaska and by 1760, the first Orthodox house of worship in America was a chapel on Umnak Island in the Aleutians. The Orthodox mission established a formal presence at Kodiak in 1794 with the arrival of North America's first Orthodox Saint, the humble monk Herman. Bishop Innocent (Veniaminov) designed and built the first Russian Orthodox cathedral in North America, St. Michael's in Sitka, between 1844 and 1848.



National Park Service

Our Alaskan communities face the difficult decision of either investing considerable energy and capital into restoring their historic church or building a new house of worship. ROSSIA, Inc. collaborates with local communities, encouraging and supporting their effort to preserve the historic churches and along with it, a prominent part of Alaska's history. Individuals, Native corporations and foundations are being approached for assistance in what promises to be a multi-million dollar campaign.

ABOVE: *Ascension Of Our Lord Chapel, Karluk, Alaska, 1996*

Alaska's Historic Churches

National Historic Landmarks

Chapel of St. Nicholas, Kenai
Holy Ascension Church, Unalaska
Holy Assumption Church, Kenai
St. George the Great Martyr Church, St. George
Saints Peter and Paul Church, St. Paul
St. Peter's Church, Sitka

National Register of Historic Places

Ascension of Our Lord Chapel, Karluk
Elevation of the Holy Cross Church, Naknek
Holy Resurrection Church, Belfkofski
Holy Resurrection Church, Kodiak
Holy Transfiguration of Our Lord Chapel, Ninilchik
Nativity of Holy Theotokos Church, Afognak
Nativity of Our Lord Chapel, Ouzinkie
Old St. Nicholas Church, Eklutna
Presentation of Our Lord Chapel, Nikolai
Protection of the Theotokos Chapel, Akhiok
Russian Orthodox Church Rectory, Kodiak
St. Alexander Nevsky Chapel, Akutan
St. Jacob's Church, Napaskiak
St. John the Baptist Chapel, Naknek
St. John the Baptist Church, Angoon
St. John the Theologian Church, Perryville
St. Michael the Archangel Church, Cordova
St. Nicholas Chapel, Ekuk
St. Nicholas Chapel, Igiugig
St. Nicholas Chapel, Nondalton
St. Nicholas Chapel, Pedro Bay
St. Nicholas Chapel, Sand Point
St. Nicholas Chapel, Seldovia
St. Nicholas Church, Kwethluk
St. Nicholas Church, Nikolski
St. Nicholas Church, Pilot Point
St. Nicholas Russian Orthodox Church, Juneau
St. Sergius of Radonzeh, Chuathbaluk
Saints Constantine and Helen Chapel, Lime Village
Transfiguration of Our Lord Church, Pilot Station

Board Of Directors

Sheri Buretta, Chair

Chairman of the Board, Chugach Alaska Corporation

Dorothy Gray, Treasurer

Assistant Professor of English, Kenai Peninsula College

Carroll Stockard, Secretary

Architect

Clark Fair

Adjunct Professor of Journalism, Kenai Peninsula College

Andrew Guy

President and CEO, Caslista Corporation

Borris Merculief

Chairman, Aleutian Pribilof Islands Association

Father Michael Oleksa

Orthodox Diocese of Alaska

Becky Shaffer

Intern Architect, National Park Service

Skye Sturm

Intern Architect, Design Alaska Inc.



National Park Service

ABOVE: *Holy Assumption Orthodox Church dome, Kenai, Alaska*

Initial Priorities

ROSSIA, Inc. was founded in 2002 by preservation minded Native corporation leaders, Orthodox clergy, government officials, architects, and historians who recognized the importance of preserving the cultural heritage associated with the Russian Orthodox Church in Alaska.

Early in 2003, the ROSSIA, Inc. Board of Directors embraced the magnitude of the work ahead and prioritized their objectives. All of the churches listed as National Historic Landmarks and on the National Register of Historic Places were reviewed to determine where the efficacy of ROSSIA's energies could be realized. The list was winowed down and four projects were established as ROSSIA's first priorities.



Holy Assumption,
Kenai

Saint Nicholas,
Juneau

Saint Sergius,
Chuathabluk

Ascension of Our Lord,
Karluk

ROSSIA's efforts gained considerable momentum in 2008 when the Holy Assumption Orthodox church was awarded a \$125,492 Save America's Treasures grant from the National Park Service to help stabilize the deteriorated log walls. The Holy Assumption project is nearing completion of Phase I. Concurrently, ROSSIA initiated efforts at St. Nicholas Orthodox church in Juneau and successfully restored the wood gutters with a \$4,000 grant from the Alaska Association for Historic Preservation.

“The parish of Kenai Assumption Missionary Church certifies with this document that it received \$400 from the Alaska Ecclesiastical Administration for building a new church in Kenai.”

QUOTE: *Priest A. Yaroshevich, Psalm Singer Alexei Ivanov,
Church Warden Ivan Ivanov, 1893*

Holy Assumption



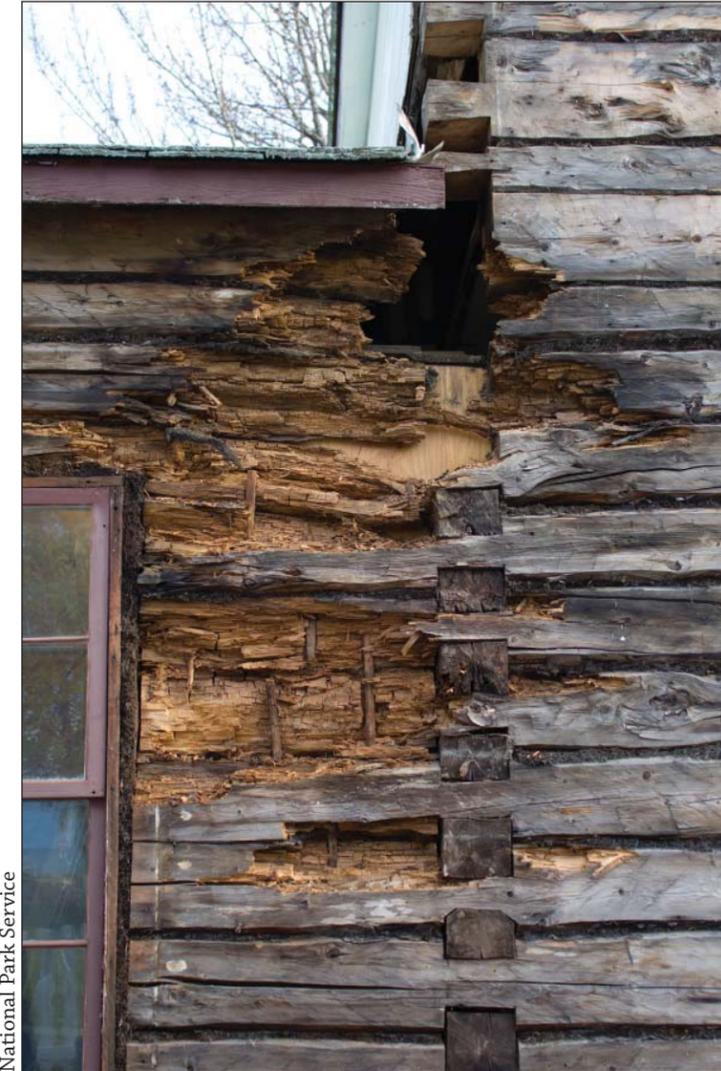
ABOVE: *Holy Assumption Orthodox Church, Kenai, Alaska, 1910*

Alaska's Most Visited Landmark

*T*he Holy Assumption Orthodox Church has been the principal and most enduring representative of Russian culture in southcentral Alaska from 1841 to the present. For the Kenaitze Indians, who are still a significant portion of the population, it was the major institution for the assimilation of western culture when the Russian fur traders first came to the area. In addition to serving as a religious center, the church began the first school on the Kenai Peninsula educating the local Kenaitze children and young adults to read, write, grow vegetables, and learn basic building methods. It served as a judicial center acting as arbiter between the officials of the Russian-American Fur Trading Company and the natives. The church served as a social center, bringing the community together to share ideas and promote the welfare of all. The church also provided the region's first access to public health with the introduction of smallpox vaccine after the first epidemic decimated the local population.

*A*ll three structures which contribute to the National Historic Landmark (NHL) site represent classic Russian-style architecture on the far-western frontier. The church is a fine example of a Russian village church, designed in the classic Pskov, vessel or ship pattern. It is perhaps the most colorful of all Russian Orthodox churches in Alaska with its broad pallet of colors from pure white to blue, green, and gold on the exterior. The chapel is an excellent model of Russian techniques of log construction with its uncovered log walls that illustrate of the precise craftsmanship and engineering of the Russian-trained builders of the Kenai Peninsula. The rectory is typical of the homes of the Russian village gentry and at the time of its construction was clearly a substantial landmark, being the only two-story structure in the community.

FACING: *Holy Assumption Orthodox Church, Kenai, Alaska, 2008*



National Park Service

ABOVE: *Deteriorated Wall Logs, Holy Assumption Orthodox Church, Kenai, Alaska, 2010*

Holy Assumption Strategic Plan

ROSSIA's efforts at Holy Assumption have successfully stabilized the deteriorated log walls, but there's more work to be done. The Holy Assumption Parish, with assistance from ROSSIA, have developed a strategic plan to prioritize the future projects. The projects listed below are intended to restore the church to its historic appearance, allowing for future growth and annual maintenance.



The proposed outbuilding is foremost on the list because it will house several key functions and help preserve the historic integrity of the church. The building is designed to reflect the architectural style of the chapel - similar colors, materials, and massing - allowing it to be a compatible addition on the site. It will include a gift shop, one accessible unisex restroom and the mechanical room which also serves the church.

The outbuilding will provide much needed service space and enable the relocation of the contemporary mechanical and electrical fixtures which detract from the historic appearance of the church. Additional civil and electrical engineering design work is needed before work can begin on this project.

ABOVE: *In-kind log replacements, south elevation, Holy Assumption Orthodox church, 2010*



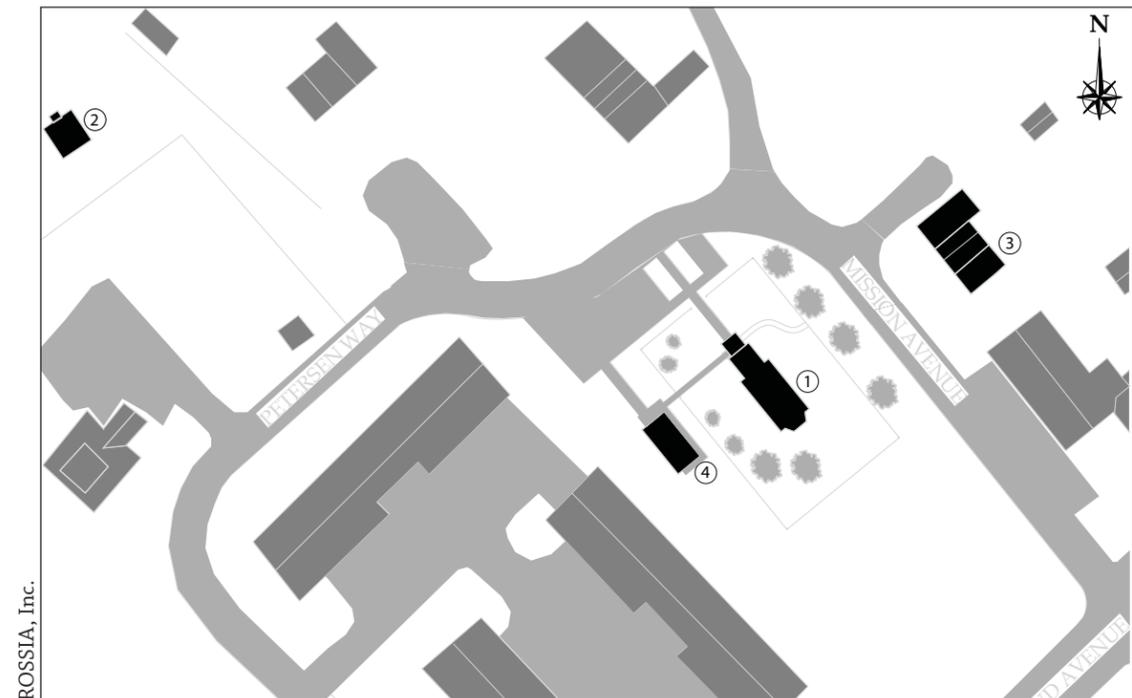
ABOVE: *North elevation illustrating in-kind log replacements, Holy Assumption Orthodox church, Kenai, Alaska, 2010*

Capital Improvements

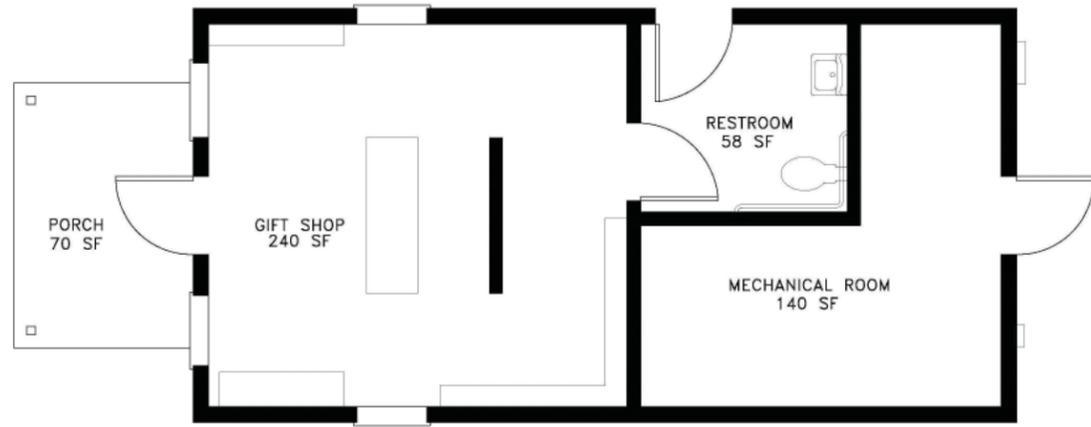
2011	Projects	Estimated Costs
	• Professional Services (Engineering)	\$ 25,000
	• Construction of outbuilding	\$110,000
	• Electrical improvements	\$ 9,000
2012	Projects	Estimated Costs
	• Installation of fire suppression system	\$ 75,000
	• Installation of security alarm system	\$ 15,000
	• Restoration of bell tower windows	\$ 15,000

Cyclic Maintenance

2011	Projects	Estimated Costs
	• Fence repair	\$ 8,000
	• Exterior painting (chapel)	\$ 15,000
	• Condition assessment of log chapel	\$ 5,000
	• Condition assessment of cemetery	\$ 2,500
2012	Projects	Estimated Costs
	• Exterior painting (rectory)	\$ 12,000



ABOVE: Site Plan illustrating proposed location of outbuilding, 2010.



Floor Plan - no scale



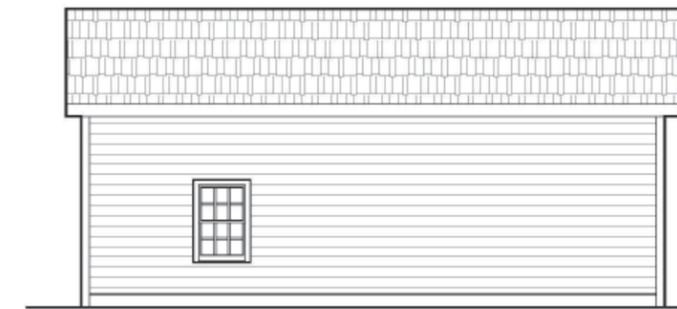
West Elevation



North Elevation



East Elevation



South Elevation

“The robes were decorated with gold and bright carnation cloth of a dazzling brightness, while his miter was studded with brilliants.”

ABOVE: *Proposed plan and elevations of outbuilding, 2010.*

QUOTE: *Alaska Mining Record reporting on Bishop Nicholas’ vestment at the dedication of Saint Nicholas Orthodox church.*

June 28, 1894

Saint Nicholas



ASL-P243-2-030 Alaska State Library Michael Z. Vinokourov Photograph Collection



ABOVE: *Saint Nicholas Orthodox Church, Juneau, Alaska, 1910*

Alaska's Capitol Jewel

Juneau's gold rush in the 1880s initiated efforts by various missionaries to convert the Native peoples to their faith. American missionaries were instructed to suppress the use of native languages and as a result, many Tlingits chose to embrace the Orthodox Church which used Native languages in worship. St. Innocent Veniaminov was the first to translate the Christian Scripture into Tlingit and taught Native Alaskans to read and write in their own language. Juneau Tlingit leaders were eager to develop a parish and in July of 1892, Bishop Nikolai visited Juneau and baptized nearly 700 of 1,500 Natives in the town. By 1893, the community raised enough money to buy two lots in town and construction was started in July of that year. The church was finished in November of 1893 and Bishop Nikolai consecrated the church in June of 1894.



Architecturally, the building is a beautiful example of the Russian American architecture and the unique octagon plan of St. Nicholas is known to be the last of Alaska's Orthodox churches of this shape. The interior space is beautifully adorned with a seven-bay iconostas. In its first decade, St. Nicholas Church was served by Father John Bartnovsky, and Father Alexander Yaroshevich, both Russian clergy who were familiar with the Tlingit language. In 1913, Juneau's most prominent and famous pastor arrived from Kodiak. Father Andrew Kashevaroff, an Aleut-Creole who championed many causes from the protection of Native traditions of the potlatch to protection of eagles put under bounty in 1917, thus earning the title of the "Fighting Priest."

ABOVE: *Narthex Bell Tower, Saint Nicholas Orthodox Church, 2006*
FACING: *Saint Nicholas Orthodox Church, 2008*



National Park Service

ABOVE: *Interior, Saint Nicholas Orthodox Church, Juneau, Alaska, 1910*

Saint Nicholas Strategic Plan

ROSSIA's efforts at Saint Nicholas started in 2003 with a condition assessment report. Initial projects since then have included writing and administering a grant to restore the wood gutters and contracting with a professional engineers for future work at the church.



ASL-P87-1153 Alaska State Library Winter & Pond

When the church was reroofed in 2007, a worker nearly fell through the Narthex roof due to excessive rot around the bell tower. An emergency stabilization project removed the tower with a crane and it remains on blocks near the church today. The Saint Nicholas parish and ROSSIA secured the services of a structural engineer to design the repairs so the bell tower can grace the church once again. In addition, the engineer inspected the foundation and discovered it lacks footings and necessary lateral bracing for Alaska's frequent earthquakes. These two projects are the current priorities, but the parish and ROSSIA are developing a preservation plan for future work on the site, chapel and rectory.

ABOVE: Saint Nicholas Orthodox church gathering, Juneau, Alaska, 1929



PCA-243-2-31 Alaska State Library Michael Z. Vinokourov Collection

ABOVE: Saint Nicholas Orthodox church, rectory and school, Juneau, Alaska, c.1910

Capital Improvements

2011	Projects	Estimated Costs
	• Reinstallation of narthex bell tower	\$ 25,000
	• Site survey and grading plan	\$ 8,000
	• Accessible route design	\$ 2,500
	• New roof on rectory	\$ 35,000

2012	Projects	Estimated Costs
	• New concrete foundation	\$ 80,000
	• Site drainage improvements	\$ 15,000
	• New accessible walkway	\$ 10,000
	• Long term site development plan	\$ 7,000

2013	Projects	Estimated Costs
	• Rectory stabilization	\$ 50,000
	• Mechanical upgrade (chapel & rectory)	\$ 20,000
	• Fire suppression system (chapel & rectory)	\$ 85,000

Cyclic Maintenance

2012	Projects	Estimated Costs
	• Fence Repair	\$ 5,000
	• Exterior painting (chapel)	\$ 15,000

2013	Projects	Estimated Costs
	• Exterior painting (rectory)	\$ 15,000



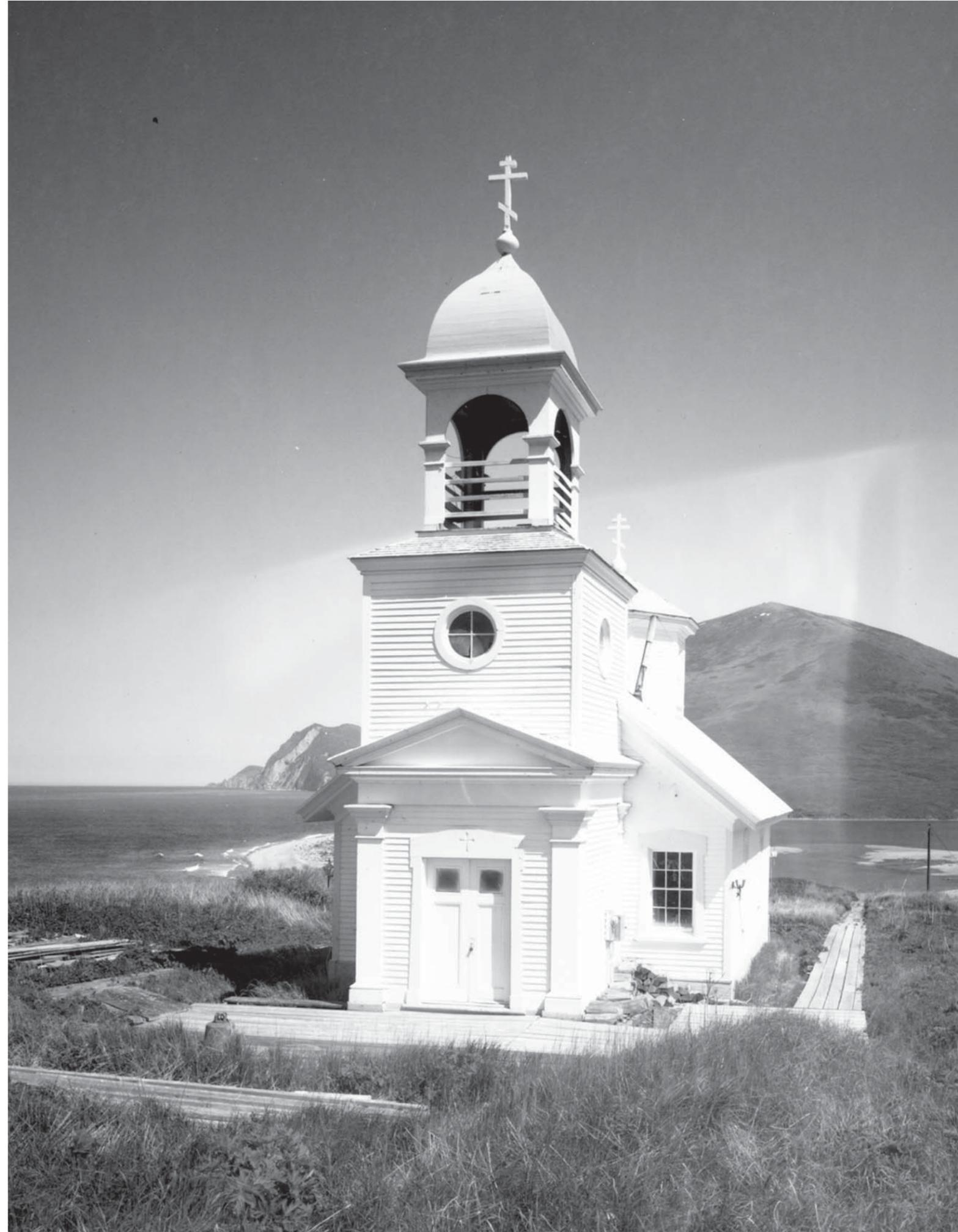
National Park Service

ABOVE: *View of Ascension of Our Lord Chapel, Karluk, Alaska, 1996*

Ascension Of Our Lord



National Park Service



ABOVE: *Interior View, Ascension of Our Lord Chapel, Karluk, Alaska, 1996*

Ascension Of Our Lord Strategic Plan

In 2004, ROSSIA learned that the Ascension Of Our Lord Chapel was closed by the fire marshall due to safety violations. Members of ROSSIA have not visited this church to learn how the organization's efforts may best be utilized. ROSSIA board members remain interested in working with the local parish and conducting a site visit to inspect the church is the first step in preparing a preservation plan.

Initial Assessment

2012 Projects	Estimated Costs
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Site visit with engineering professionals	\$ 18,000
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Condition Assesment Report	\$ 3,000

Anticipated Projects	Estimated Costs
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Structural, electrical designs	\$ 9,000
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Foundation & roof stabilization	\$ 90,000



National Park Service

Saint Sergius Of Radonezh



National Park Service



ABOVE: Northwest view, Saint Sergius of Radonezh, Chuathbaluk, Alaska, 1996

Saint Sergius Of Radonezh Strategic Plan

In 2003, ROSSIA visited Saint Sergius of Radonezh in Chuathbaluk and prepared a condition assessment report with recommendations for treatment. The document provides a plan for a full rehabilitation of the church which is the ultimate goal; however, there are several clear immediate stabilization measures that are required to save the church. First and foremost is the need for a new roof which is currently covered in part by plastic tarps. Equally important is the need for a solid foundation. Alaska's active earthquakes threaten the building and historic icons and both may be lost if no preservation action is taken.

Capital Improvements

2013 Projects	Estimated Costs
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Install new roof	\$ 25,000
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Construct new foundation	\$ 55,000

Anticipated Projects	Estimated Costs
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Structural, electrical designs	\$ 9,000
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Interior and exterior rehabilitation	\$ 250,000



Administrative Strategic Plan

ROSSIA, Inc. has successfully operated as a 501 (c) 3 non-profit organization since 2002 with the generous support of our volunteer Board of Directors and considerable effort of local parish members. The Alaska Region of the National Park Service has also been instrumental in providing technical assistance to direct our preservation efforts. But as ROSSIA's breadth of work expands, our need for administrative assistance and professional design services increases. Our goal of hiring an Executive Director will help the organization sustain the fundraising and marketing activities necessary to continue the preservation projects. ROSSIA also seeks a sustainable budget to cover annual operating expenses.

"The greatest architectural legacy is in the Russian Orthodox churches that continue to be built today."

2011 Goals

Estimated Costs

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|-----------|
| • Hire a part-time Executive Director | \$ 25,000 |
| • Cover annual operating expenses | \$ 10,000 |
| • Update website and graphic designs | \$ 8,000 |



National Park Service

QUOTE: *Author Alison K. Hoagland in her 1993 book "Buildings of Alaska."*

ABOVE: *Saint Sergius of Radonezh parish following service, Chuathbaluk, Alaska, 2003*

Supporting ROSSIA

ROSSIA's efforts to date have been supported by our very generous donors and multiple grants. Our fundraising efforts are on-going as we continue to write grants, work with local governments, historical societies, social groups and inform our individual donors of the successes we've achieved with their support. If you are interested in joining or supporting ROSSIA's continuing effort to preserve Alaska's historic Russian Orthodox churches, please contact us by mail or email.

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Grants & Major Contributors

Save America's Treasures, National Park Service	\$ 125,492
State of Alaska	\$ 76,900
Rasmuson Foundation	\$ 25,000
Alaska Historical Commission	\$ 20,000
National Trust for Historic Preservation	\$ 5,000
Alaska Association for Historic Preservation	\$ 4,000
Holy Assumption Orthodox Parish	\$ 10,500
City of Kenai	\$ 10,000
Kenai Historical Society	\$ 6,000
St. Nicholas Orthodox Parish	\$ 4,500
Chugach Alaska Corporation	\$ 3,000
Soldotna Historical Society	\$ 1,100
Kenai Peninsula Historical Society	\$ 1,000



ROSSIA, Inc.

Photo credits not listed are from the National Park Service
January 2011