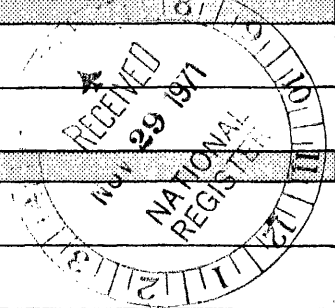


PH0054828

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Alaska	
COUNTY: Third Judicial District	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	MAR 24 1972



1. NAME

COMMON:
Old St. Nicholas Russian Orthodox Church

AND/OR HISTORIC:
Eklutna Chapel

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
Mile 1/2, Eklutna Village Road

CITY OR TOWN:
Eklutna

STATE: Alaska CODE: 02 COUNTY: Third Judicial District CODE:

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Comments _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Russian Greek Catholic Orthodox Church of North America

STREET AND NUMBER:
Diocese of Sitka and Alaska, Box 479

CITY OR TOWN: Sitka STATE: Alaska CODE: 02

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
District Recorder

STREET AND NUMBER:
941 Fourth Avenue

CITY OR TOWN: Anchorage STATE: Alaska CODE: 02

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
None

DATE OF SURVEY: Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE:

STATE: Alaska

COUNTY: Third Judicial District

ENTRY NUMBER: MAR 24 1972

DATE: MAR 24 1972

FOR NPS USE ONLY

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

Senators: Ted Stevens and Mike Gravel
Congressman: Nick Begich

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered		<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site	

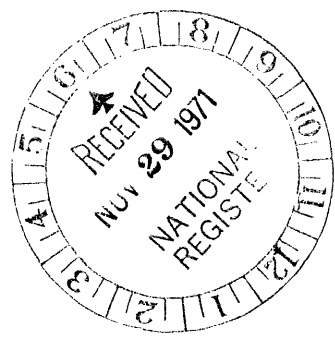
DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Old St. Nicholas Russian Orthodox Church, located in the small Tanaina Indian village of Eklutna, about one mile inland from the east bank of Knik Arm, Cook Inlet, sits amidst second-growth timber on a silted glacial outwash plain.

Hand-hewn spruce logs were used in exterior construction of the eight by five meter church, and on the north and south facades overlapped in the center. Two double sash windows, approximately 130 x 94 centimeters, with twelve 20 x 25 centimeter lights, are on the south facade, facing a newer frame church built in 1962. On the north a smaller window has been blocked. At the west end of the church, looking over a cemetery characterized by typical grave houses, an enclosed porch protects the 110 x 177 centimeter plank door. Above the enclosed porch a Greek cross sits atop a four-legged tower. The east facade is blank. A low-pitched shingle roof, beginning 2.5 meters above ground level, covers the building. In the interior gauze screens the log walls. Flooring is plank puncheon. The interior is unfurnished, except for the ikon-decorated altar at the east end, an oil stove, and a table and an occasional chair.

Legal description: Tract A (1.64 acres) USS 239, District of Alaska

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century | |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|---|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Catherine the Second, Empress of All the Russias, issued a ukase on June 30, 1793, granting merchants Gregori Shelikov and Polevoi Golikov's petition that clergymen be appointed for missionary work in Russian America. By August of 1794 the archimandrite Iossaf had arrived with eighteen priests and lay servitors. Stormy times followed, for the clergy and the promyshlennik squabbled over conflicting priorities, and the natives murdered both.

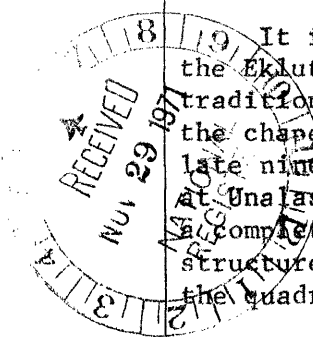
But even though missionaries were occasionally killed by hostile aboriginals, a succession of churches and chapels were built by the Russian Church. The first was built at the Harbor of Paul (Kodiak) in 1795 or 1796; and in 1840 when the diocese of Okhotsk, Kamchatka, and Alaska was established, Russian America had four churches and six chapels. By 1861 the territory boasted seven churches and thirty-five chapels. Even after transfer of Alaska to the United States in 1867, the Russian church continued its activity in the new territory and was, until 1877, the only Christian church represented in Seward's Icebox.

The success of this representation is shown in an 1880 claim that over 10,000 Alaskan natives were converts to the Russian Orthodox faith. Among these converts, the Tanaina Indians of the village of Eklutna must be counted. When they were converted to Christianity is uncertain, but missionaries are known to have been active in the Cook Inlet area as early as the 1790's.

It is certain that Old St. Nicholas is a physical manifestation of the Eklutnas' belief in the tenets of the Russian Orthodox Church. Local tradition sets construction ca 1870; and this may be conservative, since the chapel represents a less formal construction than is evidenced in late nineteenth century buildings such as the Church of the Holy Ascension at Unalaska and the Russian Orthodox Mission church at Kenai. Although a complete study has not yet been made, it appears that these later structures were typically frame and erected on a stylized plan, such as the quadrilateral or vessel.

- continued -

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Alex, Mike, Chief of Eklutna Village, personal communication, 1971
 Bancroft, Hubert Howe, History of Alaska 1730-1885; 1886, reprint ed.,
 Antiquarian Press, Ltd., 1960
 "Russian Administration of Alaska and the Status of the Alaskan Natives",
 81st Congress, 2nd Session, Senate Document No. 152

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	0 ' "	0 ' "		61° 27' 40"	149° 21' 35"	
NE	0 ' "	0 ' "				
SE	0 ' "	0 ' "				
SW	0 ' "	0 ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 1.64

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
William S. Hanable, Historian

ORGANIZATION: Alaska Division of Parks DATE: November 18, 1971

STREET AND NUMBER:
323 East Fourth Avenue

CITY OR TOWN: Anchorage STATE: Alaska CODE: 02

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name Theodore G. Smith
 Theodore G. Smith
 State Liaison Officer
 for Historic Preservation

Date November 18, 1971

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Ernest A. Cannally
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date _____

ATTEST:
William Hanable
 Keeper of The National Register

Date MAR 2 1972

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



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

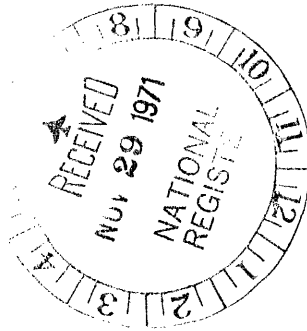
(Continuation Sheet)

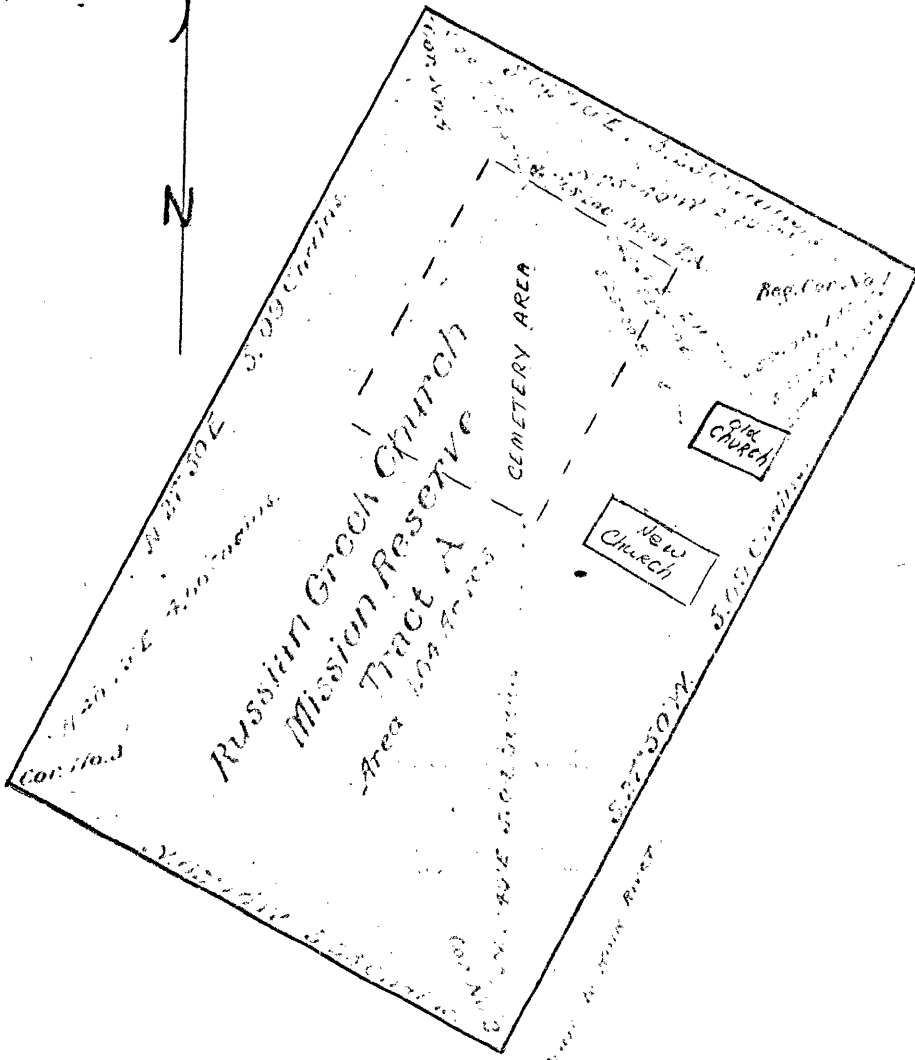
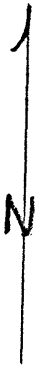
STATE Alaska	
COUNTY Third Judicial Dist.	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
MARK 54 1972	

(Number all entries)

A 1904 U. S. Survey does show Old St. Nicholas, and the vestments and altar ikons now in the chapel are reported to have been brought to Alaska from the Soviet Union sometime in the 1920's.

Used actively until 1962, Old St. Nicholas was in that year supplanted by an adjacent frame church; since then the villagers of Eklutna have preserved the log structure as an historic building. It certainly deserves the recognition and protection of the National Register for its significance in the history of the village, as well as for being a symbol of the Russian church's historical activity in the United States.



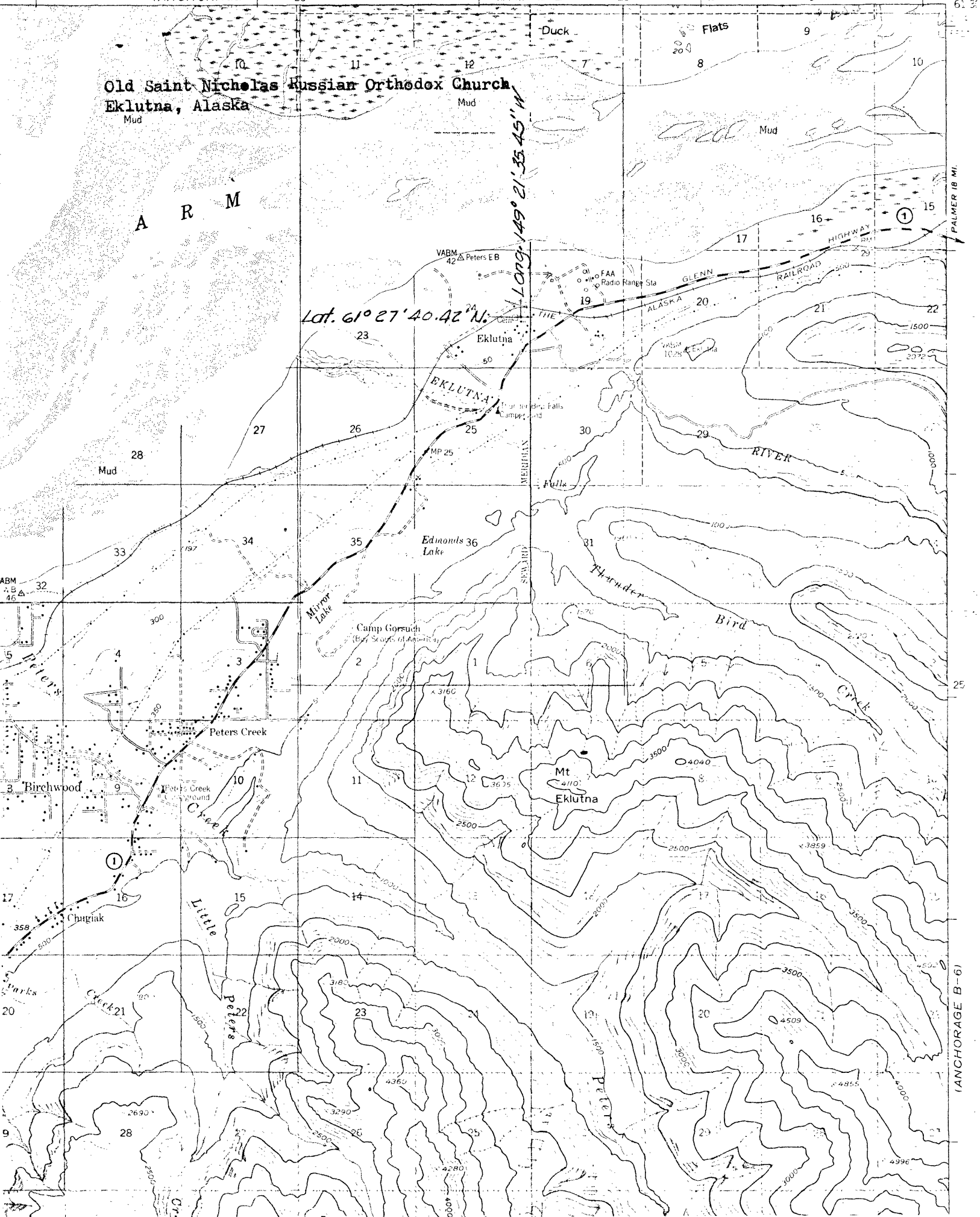


Old Saint Nicholas Russian Orthodox Church
Eklutna, Alaska

A R M

Lat. 61° 27' 40.42" N

Long. 149° 21' 35.45" W



PALMER 18 W

(ANCHORAGE B-6)