

## St. Michael's Cathedral

- The building was completed in 1848 (when Alaska was under the control of the Russian Empire).
    - 20 years before the Alaska Purchase.
    - First Eastern Orthodox Cathedral in the New World.
  - Significant Historical & Cultural value to the State of Alaska.
    - National Historic Landmark since 1962.
      - More prominent than the national Register of Historic Places.
    - Legacy of the Russian influence in the North Pacific.
    - In 1909, a scale-model replica was produced for a Smithsonian exposition.
  - St. Michael's is a major attraction to visitors and tourist groups.
    - The tourism industry offers specialized tours of the Cathedral.
      - Widespread economic benefits to the local community.
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1. This appropriation (\$70k) is non-secular in purpose.
  - It is not intended to facilitate or endorse the teachings of the Orthodox Faith.
  - It is intended to ensure the safety of the cathedral's bell tower (a '*Public Purpose*').
  - It does not give the state authority to exercise oversight or control over the cathedral's activities.
2. Time & weather have taken their toll on this historic building.
3. To lose this landmark to decay would be a significant cultural & historical loss to our state.
4. This funding will support immediate stabilization of the bell tower to maintain the safety of the public and this historic landmark.