

H C R

27

Date of Committee Action: 4-1-07
The RESOURCES Committee considered:

HCR 27

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 27

[RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CHURCHES IN ALASKA]

Relating to the state's Russian Orthodox churches.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- be replaced with _____ the same title
- have attached amendment(s) a new title
- do pass
- do not pass
- no recommendation
- individual recommendations
- additional referral to the _____ Committee

ADOPTS: _____ letter of intent

ATTACHES NEW FISCAL NOTE(s):
(Dept)

APPROVES PREVIOUS:
(Date/Dept)

- fiscal impact _____ fiscal note(s) _____
- zero fiscal note _____ zero fiscal note(s) _____
- zero with analysis _____ zero fn/analysis _____

SIGNING DO PASS:

Cliff Davidson

Sam Brown

George Jett

Bill Hudson

Ben Sharp

Richard J. Jones

SIGNING:
(Check approp. column)

	Do Not Pass	No Rec	Amend

Cliff Davidson

Chairman's Signature

FISCAL NOTE

REQUEST:

Revision Date: 4/4/89 Agency Affected: Office of the Governor
 Title: Relating to the state's Russian Orthodox churches BRU: _____
 Sponsor: Jacko, Hoffman, Foster, Leman, C. Davis ^{Director} Components: _____
 Requestor: House Resources Committee

EXPENDITURES/REVENUES: (Thousands of Dollars)

OPERATING	FY 89	FY 90	FY 91	FY 92	FY 93	FY 94
PERSONAL SERVICES	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
TRAVEL	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
CONTRACTUAL	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
SUPPLIES	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
EQUIPMENT	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
LAND & STRUCTURES	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
GRANTS, CLAIMS	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
MISCELLANEOUS	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
TOTAL OPERATING	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-

CAPITAL	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
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REVENUE	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
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FUNDING: (Thousands of Dollars)

GENERAL FUND	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
FEDERAL FUNDS	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
OTHER	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
TOTAL	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-

POSITIONS:

FULL-TIME	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
PART-TIME	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
TEMPORARY	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-

ANALYSIS : (Attach a separate page if necessary)

Prepared by: House Resources Committee Phone: 465-2487
 Division: Representative Cliff Davidson, Chairman Date: 4/4/89

Approved by Commissioner: _____ Date: _____
 Agency: _____

Distribution (by preparer):
 Legislative Finance
 Legislative Sponsor
 Requestor
 Office of Management and Budget
 Impacted Agency(ies)

A PROPOSAL FOR THE INVENTORY AND DOCUMENTATION
OF
THE CHURCH OF THE HOLY ASCENSION, UNALASKA
AND
HABS PHOTO DOCUMENTATION OF NATIONAL REGISTER CHURCHES

Two Soviet architects will be coming to Alaska in 1989 to assist in the documentztion of the landmark churches at St. Paul and St. George as part of an international cultural exchange. With additional funding we hope to expand the scope of this international effort and broaden the cooperative effort of the Icon Preservation Task Force to include the State of Alaska and the federal government.

The work will be accomplished under the supervision of the Icon Preservation Task Force, working with the Alaska Association for Historic Preservation (a nonprofit 501c(3) corporation). The work undertaken with the State funds will be done in cooperation with the National Park Service and the Alaska Dioceses of the Orthodox Church.

SCOPE OF WORK: 1. Prior to October 1, 1989 a team, consisting of a curator, an architect, an historian, members of the church, and an objects photographer are to visit and complete a computer inventory of The Church of the Holy Ascension at Unalaska. The inventory will document, for scholarly purposes, the contents of the church and will serve as a document which establishes priority in the preservation and restoration of the building and the icons and religious artifacts within. A total appropriation of \$21,450 is sought to cover personnel, travel and supplies.

2. A two year photo documentation project of the 37 Russian Orthodox Churches in Alaska will be undertaken. The professional, large format photographs will be used for scholarly purposes, as a permanent record to be keep in the HABS collection of the Library of Congress and for exhibit in Alaska. Funds are needed to cover contracting expenses with an icon expert, transportation, and per idem for the HABS photographer, IPTF liaison, and for supplies. \$15,762 is needed for the first year which will focus on 19 of the 37 churches.

3. The total funds requested for Phase 1 and 11 are #37,212.

BUDGET PROPOSAL

SCOPE OF WORK - ITEM #1 - INVENTORY AND DOCUMENT ART AND ARCHITECTURE
 CHURCH OF THE HOLY ASCENSION
 UNALASKA, ALASKA

a.	Curator - National Park Service	
	5 days in field.....	*
	5 days processing inventory.....	*
b.	Supervisory Priest (translator of Russian and Old Church Slavonic records)	
	1 ea X \$120 X 8 days.....	960
	Per Diem @ \$80 X 8 days.....	640
c.	IPTF Historian (Coordinate, assist with field inventory and edit report)	
	1 ea X \$120 X 25 days.....	3,000
	Per Diem @ \$80 X 8 days.....	640
d.	Museum Photographer (photograph every accessioned object, approximately 450)	
	1 ea X \$300 X 8 days.....	2,400
	Per Diem @ \$80 X 8 days.....	640
e.	Architect Intern	
	15 days in field	
	45 days preparing HABS drawings.....	8,400
f.	Transportation	
	5 ea @ \$754 (round trip).....	3,770
g.	Supplies	
	film and processing.....	500
	report preparation/printing.....	500

ITEM # 1 - TOTAL COST....\$21,450

(BUDGET continued)

SCOPE OF WORK - ITEM #2 - HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDING SURVEYS ON 19 CHURCHES
THROUGHOUT ALASKA

a.	HABS photographer	
	30 days in field	
	15 days in lab.....	*
	Per Diem 30 days @ \$80.....	\$ 2,400
b.	Icon Expert	
	1 ea X \$200 X 45 days.....	*
	Per Diem 30 days X \$80.....	*
c.	IPTF Liaison	
	30 days in field.....	*
	Per Diem 30 days X \$80.....	2,400
d.	Transportation for 3 as listed above	
	Juneau (Cordova-Tatitlek, Sitka) @ \$366 ea.....	1,098
	Hoonah, Angoon @ \$100 ea.....	300
	Kodiak @ \$254 ea.....	792
	Kodiak-Old Harbor, Akhiok @ \$140 ea.....	420
	Kodiak-Ousinkie, Port Lions @ \$70 ea.....	210
	Kodiak-Karluk @ \$130 ea.....	390
	Kodiak-Spruce Island (boat charter).....	200
	Seldovia @ \$183 ea.....	546
	Unalaska @ \$754 ea.....	2,264
	Pribilofs-St. Paul, St. George @ \$866 ea.....	2,598
	Russian Mission @ \$428 ea.....	1,184
	South Naknek @ \$320 ea.....	960

ITEM #2 -	COST	\$15,762
ITEM #1 -	COST	<u>21,450</u>

TOTAL AMOUNT THIS PROPOSAL	<u>\$37,212**</u>
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*Funded by National Park Service and private donations

**Plus percentage retained by Office of History
and Archeology for grants administration.

REPORT
ON ICON PRESERVATION PROJECT

This report will respond to work elements A,B, and C in the Scope of Services Agreement between the Alaska Association for Historic Preservation and Barbara Sweetland Smith, to conclude May 31, 1988.

A. During three days in February, I met with Father Joseph Kreta and Fr. Paul Mercurief in Kodiak to review information about each of the Orthodox churches in Alaska, with a view to establishing priorities for an inventory and preservation program. We agreed that the churches which are National Register (36) should have first priority. Several other churches were identified in two categories: 1) those which are old, but not on the National Register and might be expected to have old furnishings, and 2) those new churches which have been the repository for furnishing of abandoned churches. A list of the churches, arranged by category, is attached.

MarkAir provided transportation to Kodiak for this consultation, and I housed as a guest of St. Herman's Seminary.

B. There are 48 churches which merit inclusion in the inventory. As will be discussed under Budget, the cost of such a massive project will be upwards of \$500,000. A more modest objective can be achieved with a smaller outlay of funds by concentrating on: 1) the National Historic Landmark churches, 2) those which are en route to Juneau, and 3) those in the Kodiak area. The National Park Service is interested in assisting with the funding for the NHL properties. As these include three remote sites, this would be a major assist to the program, particularly in the travel budget. A list of the churches proposed for the next phase of the project are listed below:

National Historic Landmark Churches, not yet inventoried:

(in order of priority)

Church of the Holy Ascension - Unalaska

St. Paul Church - St. Paul Island (Pribilofs)

St. George Church - St. George Island (Pribilofs)

St Michael Cathedral - Sitka

National Register Churches

Church of St. Nicholas - Juneau

Ascension of Our Lord Chapel - Karluk

Church of St. Nicholas - Seldovia

Elevation of the Cross Church - South Naknek

New Churches with furnishings from old churches

St. Michael Church - Marshall

Nativity of the Theotokos Chapel - Port Lions

This selection of churches provides representative geographic features and styles. It also focuses on several churches which are in the vicinity of other churches.

In view of the cost of travel as a factor in the project budget, it would be well to attempt to cover as many churches as possible during one trip. Two churches, in particular, allow access to several others. They are:

Juneau: En route to Juneau it is possible to visit Cordova, Tatitlek, and Sitka. From Juneau, there is also local feeder service to Hoonah and Angoon.

Kodiak: On Kodiak Island are eight churches among the 48 priority-structures. In addition to the high-priority church at Karluk, there are also churches at Akhiok, Kodiak, Old Harbor, Ouzinkie, Port Lions, and Spruce Island.

The inclusion of the additional 9 churches, which reflect the different categories outlined above, would bring to 19 the churches which could be covered in a first phase. It is also possible that a trip to Marshall on the Yukon River could also include Russian Mission or other churches in the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta.

Among the churches which should have high priority for the inventory, those which could be targeted for a television documentary are:

*Kenai - Church of the Holy Assumption

*St. George - Church of St. George

St. Paul - Church of St. Paul

Unalaska - Church of the Holy Ascension

Sitka - St Michael Cathedral

Juneau - St. Nicholas Church

Karluk - Ascension of Our Lord Chapel

Port Lions - Nativity of the Theotokos Chapel

Seldovia - Church of St. Nicholas

Marshall, Russian Mission, or Kwethluk (depending on travel funds)

Those which are starred already have a good representation in slides and photographs.

The selection for the television documentary is based on accessibility, geographic representation, variety of styles, and both old and new churches (with old furnishings).

2. Development of an inventory format will be discussed under section C.

3. Budget. The cost of an inventory for all 48 churches will be in excess of \$500,000. An inventory of the 20 churches noted above would cost approximately \$259,281 (Average cost = \$13,647 per church). This is detailed in attachment B. It is based on the assumption that four people would conduct the inventory, including an historian (who would work with the liaison priest to identify each item), a museum photographer, an intern architect to prepare drawings for some of the churches, and a conservator who would provide an assessment of condition. This is an ideal team, but might be reduced, leaving the curator to make a preliminary assessment.

4. The inventories will generate several types of data. Among these will be field worksheets, computer disks, photograph negatives, proof sheets and prints, copies of historic photographs and documents, such as earlier inventories, tape recordings, and the final inventory report. A copy of the final report and one set of photograph negatives should be sent to the diocesan archives in Kodiak. A copy of the final inventory and a set of proof sheets of photographs should be sent to the church which was the subject of the inventory. All other documents, including a set of all photographs and the final inventory, should be maintained in the files of the Icon Preservation Task Force in a locked file temporarily housed at Alaska Pacific University. This will be considered a working file until the first phase of the project, described above, is completed. At that time, the file should be deposited in an archives, probably in Anchorage, if that is the office of the Task Force. The Archives of the University of Alaska, Anchorage, is interested in housing the collection.

C. The inventory of the Church of the Holy Assumption has been completed. This church was selected as the Task Force's pilot because of its accessibility to Anchorage, the extensive documentation already completed, and the church's status as a National Historic Landmark. During two three-day sessions, an inventory team surveyed all of the furnishings, photographed them, made a list of all old liturgical books, and translated an 1898 inventory (from Russian). The team members consisted of:

Barbara Sweetland Smith, Project Director
Rev. Paul Mercurief, Diocesan representative
Patrick MacKnight, National Park Service curatorial staff
Barry McWayne, Photography Curator, University of Alaska museum
Jerri Clark, conservator
Rev. Macarius Targonsky, rector of the church

The services of MacKnight and McWayne were covered by their respective public organizations, and Ms. Clark was a volunteer. Services were also donated by:

ERA Aviation
MarkAir
Southcentral Air

These airlines all provided free travel for inventory participants.

The enthusiastic assistance of the rector of the church, Father Macarius Targonsky was an invaluable assist to the inventory team. In addition to his help in identifying items, he also translated onto tape the contents of an historic inventory, which was helped to date a number of the items.

Attachment 3 is a copy of the inventory narrative and the accessions photographs (taken by Mr. MacKnight), as well as proof sheets from the professional photographs taken by Mr. McWayne. There are, in addition, color slides, which have not been included here, but are available for viewing.

The format which has been used for the inventory is one developed by the U.S. National Park Service for curating its properties. With some modifications, we have found this program ideally suited to our needs. Its flexibility is admirable, as the program will allow reporting out on the basis of any one of the fields. A sample of the field worksheet and the data entry forms are enclosed. A copy of an actual page from the field is also enclosed as evidence of the suitability of the format. This computer program operates on IBM-compatible computers. Pat MacKnight will prepare a guide to the program for our use and a translation table, as well as a glossary.

Regarding the inventory, one item of special interest emerged. The 1898 inventory revealed that three icons of similar style were painted by an Alaskan iconographer, one "Petukhov" identified only as a Sitka resident. Reference to the church metrical records (vital statistics) has provided us with a full name and inclusive dates for this iconographer. He is Grigori Grigorievich Petukhov, born in Unalaska in 1827, and died in Sitka in 1853, only thirty years of age. These dates provide evidence that these three icons were doubtless in the original church, built in 1849. These icons are numbered in the inventory.

D. A meeting with Eric Wallace had been delayed by his schedule and a desire to have the full Kenai report, including slides, to show him. This will take place in June.

A statement for services will be forthcoming after that meeting.



United States Department of the Interior
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE



IN REPLY REFER TO:

H34 (ARO-RCR)

ALASKA REGIONAL OFFICE
2526 Gambell Street, Room 107
Anchorage, Alaska 99503-2892

APR - 3 1989

Representative George Jacko, Jr.
Alaska State Legislature
PO Box V
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Dear Representative Jacko:

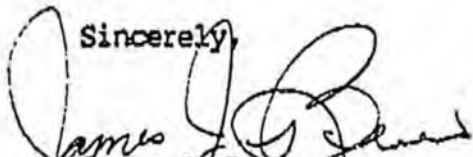
The National Park Service is committed to the preservation and interpretation of Alaska's Russian heritage as a part of its mandate to protect and tell the story of American history.

That commitment was first evidenced in a series of studies in the early 1960s that led to designation of several Russian-era sites such as Kodiak's Erskine House as National Historic Landmarks. The concern was then reflected in grants from the National Preservation Fund that assisted in rehabilitation or reconstruction of some of those properties including St. Nicholas at Juneau, Old St. Nicholas at Eklutna, and St. Michael's Cathedral in Sitka. The most recent evidence of this concern was the October 18, 1988, dedication of the restored Russian Bishop's House in Sitka National Historical Park. The dedication marked completion of a multi-million dollar, multi-year preservation effort by the National Park Service.

Our current efforts to support preservation of Alaska's Russian heritage include a major initiative to document, through measured drawings and photographs, the State's rich architectural legacy of Russian Orthodox Churches. The majority of these churches are listed on the National Register of Historic Places and several have the elevated status of National Historical Landmarks. Scattered throughout the State, often in remote locations and in deteriorating condition, these churches contain an irreplaceable treasure of icons and historic objects unique to the heritage of all Alaskans. These resources are of national, perhaps international, significance and importance.

The National Park Service would like to take this opportunity to offer support for House Concurrent Resolution 27, and for your efforts in support of this resolution. We look forward to working with the Department of Natural Resources, Office of History and Archeology and the Icon Preservation Task Force to further the understanding and preservation of these valued resources. Inventory and documentation will be an important first step in accomplishing this goal.

Sincerely,



James J. Berens
ACTING Regional Director

ICON NEWS

Published by the Icon Preservation Task Force
c/o Alaska Pacific University
Anchorage, AK 99508

Editor: Robert D. Craig
Newsletter #1, January 1988



FROM THE EDITOR

Welcome to the first issue of *Icon News*, a publication of the Icon Preservation Task Force, a group of community members interested in the preservation of Alaska's rich historical legacies - the icons and architecture of the Russian Orthodox Church in Alaska.

Icon News will appear occasionally as needed by the Task Force. Should you wish to remain on our mailing list for a complimentary copy of the newsletters, you must complete the attached form and return to the address above.

This new year brings new hope and an optimistic attitude toward the development of the Icon Preservation Task Force and the accomplishment of our goals of recording and preserving the significant artistic, architectural, and written resources of the Russian heritage in Alaska.

For the past year and a half, we have been working to get organized. Our efforts have been slow at times, but as we have come to realize in the preparation of this newsletter, significant progress has been made!

It has always been the opinion of many of our members that once the goals of our Task Force are made known, the project will begin to sell itself. Our record over the past year and a half seems to validate that opinion.

Many of you have offered assistance in past months. Your cards and letters expressing interest and support are greatly appreciated. As we organize and develop, you will be taken up on those offers.

We hope that you are as excited about this project as we are and hope that we may become friends in the

coming months and years as we proceed with the inventory, documentation, and preservation of some of Alaska's most significant and pristine heritage resources.

The breadth and size of this project will require an extensive amount of labor and expertise, and we hope to continue with you in this challenging and worthwhile project.

We encourage your donations to the cause either financially (tax deductible) or donation of time. Please feel free to write with any suggestions you have to help further our work.

My personal appreciation is extended to Barbara Sweetland Smith and Steven M. Peterson who have spearheaded the work of the task force thus far and who have supplied most of the information for this newsletter.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Alaska's first encounter with the West was Vitus Bering's landfall in 1741 at Kayak Island. He claimed the land for Russia, and for the next 126 years, the Russians introduced education, literacy, administration, religion, architecture, and art into the new world.

This remarkable legacy is today nowhere more visible than in the Orthodox churches that dot the Alaskan hinterland from Sitka to Marshall on the Yukon River and from Juneau to Atka in the Aleutian Islands. Within these churches, remain the treasures brought and sent for by homesick, devout *promyshlenniki* (fur trappers), some given in thanksgiving for having been saved from shipwreck, others in honor of a tsar's birth, still others to adorn new places of worship.

The architecture, sacred utensils and books, and icons of the Orthodox church in Alaska are among the least known or understood of the major cultural resources of the United States. The value of this cultural resource is perhaps best expressed in the report, "The History of the Russian Orthodox Churches in Alaska," prepared by the Legislative Reference Service of the Library of Congress in 1970:

"The history of the Russian Orthodox Church in Alaska constitutes one of the most impressive and rewarding areas of investigation in the whole field of American studies. Unfortunately, no major work has yet been done in the kind of detail needed; however, there exists a great deal of material for future scholarly examination..." (cont page 2)

MEETING

February 15

7:30

APU Campus

Board Room
3rd Floor, University Hall

Everyone invited.

This exceptional material culture is scattered throughout Alaska in more than eighty parish churches and chapels. Thirty-seven of these churches are National Historic Sites, and six are National Historic Landmarks. In only a few cases, however, has the artistic legacy of the Russians been inventoried or documented although nearly every church contains several objects of exceptional antiquity or artistic merit. Some of the objects date from the mid-seventeenth century. The churches themselves are an enduring reflection of Russia's cultural contribution to America. When viewed with the art and artifacts, they are a rich national architectural resource. But a resource at risk!

BISHOP'S LETTER

"I am writing to express my full support for the program of the Icon Preservation Task Force. For many years, our office has been concerned about the fate of historic churches and icons. The resources of our diocese and of the rural parishes do not allow us to undertake the kind of preservation work that is needed to conserve these treasures. We have done what we can as funds permitted, but time and the harshness of the Alaskan climate move faster than we can.

In the last few years, the Orthodox diocese has worked cooperatively with federal, state, university, and local communities to preserve the historic documents of Russia's cultural impact on Alaska, a project which moved forward with a special appropriation from the Alaska Legislature, the Alaska State Library, and the Library of Congress. Now all Americans have available on microfilm the historic records of the Alaska mission. When St. Michael's cathedral burned in 1966, it was a Sitka citizen committee which organized the reconstruction project. Many other concerned Alaskans contributed thousands of dollars and hours of time to that effort, which was rewarded by reconsecration of

Come to our Annual Meeting.

Our annual meeting will be held on Monday, February 15, 7:30 p.m., APU Campus, 3rd floor, University Hall Board Room. An up-dated report will be given, a slide presentation by Barbara Smith, and then a discussion of our plans for the future. An Executive Steering Committee will be formed to broaden our network in the Alaskan community and to develop the scope of the program outlined in this newsletter. Call 561-1266 for directions.

Please come! Get involved in this exciting program to preserve our Russian-Alaska Heritage.

St. Innocent's great cathedral in 1976. Not only was the cathedral rebuilt with citizen guidance, but all of the icons had been rescued and preserved, thanks to the loving care of Sitka's population.

The concept of the current project, including an inventory of the historic treasures and then a phased approach to preservation including workshops in the villages, is very well conceived.

We understand that the intention is to retain all of the icons in the churches where they now reside. If they are removed, it will only be for necessary restoration, and/or brief display in an educational program.

It is my pleasure to be associated with this dedicated group of Alaskans who have taken on such a big task, which we all know will take many years. Please be assured that my blessings are with your efforts.

Gregory, Bishop of Sitka and all Alaska, Orthodox Church in America.

ICON TASK FORCE

The Icon Preservation Task Force is a secular group organized in the spring of 1986 to launch a major effort aimed at preserving and, where ne-

cessary, restoring the remarkable legacy of Russian culture in Alaska—a heritage resource significant to the people of Alaska and to the nation as a whole.

As time passes, these irreplaceable treasures are becoming increasingly vulnerable to deterioration, vandalism, and destruction. The Icon Preservation Task Force has been established to undertake a program to insure the preservation of this resource. The effort to preserve these treasures has proved beyond the resources of any single community or the Orthodox Church in Alaska.

The Task Force, made up of individuals just like you and me, functions under the auspices of the Alaska Association for Historic Preservation, a private statewide nonprofit corporation founded in 1981. With the full support of the Orthodox church officials in Alaska, the Task Force has resolved to undertake a long-range program to insure the preservation of the cultural resource by:

- creating public awareness and educational opportunities for the people of Alaska;
- sponsoring an inventory and documentation program to record the objects and historic structures within Alaska, both to serve as a useful historical and cultural reference;
- in a cooperative effort, assisting the Orthodox Church, the owners of the art objects, in the restoration,

preservation, and maintenance of the art objects, icons, and selected structures.

These goals will take many years to accomplish, but the time to begin is now. If you are interested in becoming active or supportive of our efforts, we welcome your membership and support of the Icon Preservation Task Force. (See membership application on back page.)

PILOT INVENTORY

The Task Force has signed an agreement with the Alaska Association for Historic Preservation (AAHP) to undertake a pilot inventory (February to April) of a single church's icons. The project will also result in a program design, a tentative budget for inventories of targeted churches, an inventory format, and identification of a suitable repository for materials generated by the icon project.

Father Paul Merculief, a well-known church scholar, will meet with Barbara Sweetland Smith of the Task Force and the Very Rev. Joseph Kreta, Chancellor of the Alaska Diocese of the Russian Orthodox Church in America. They will review the photographs taken by Kreta and Merculief on assignment for the state of Alaska between 1973 and 1975 of all the Orthodox sites in the state, an original project designed to produce nominations of Orthodox churches to the National Register of Historic Places. Thirty-seven nominations did result from their efforts.

From this review of churches, it will be possible to identify those sites which merit the attention of the project, for the icons they possess and the historic value of the structure itself.

This initial project cost is \$3,120, which is greatly facilitated by a generous gift of air travel by MarkAir. Other financial support comes from the National Trust for Historic Preservation and the Alaska Association for Historic Preservation.

ORIGINAL MEMBERS OF THE TASK FORCE

The first meeting of the Icon Preservation Task Force a year ago resulted in the following membership roster:

- Joan Antonson and Judy Blitner of the Alaska State Office of History & Archeology,
- Professor Lydia Black (UAF),
- John Blaine (Visual Arts Center, Anchorage),
- Bishop Gregory (Orthodox Church),
- Rev. Joseph P. Kreta (Chancellor of the Diocese of Sitka and Alaska, Kodiak),
- Gary Holthaus (Alaska Humanities Forum),
- Darcy Lockhart (Anchorage),
- Kate Lidfors (National Historic Landmarks Program, National Park Service),
- Janet McCabe (Executive Director, Alaska Association for Historic Preservation),
- Rev. Paul Merculief (Tyonek),
- Steven M. Peterson (Anchorage),
- Barbara Sweetland Smith (Anchorage), and
- Betzi Woodman (Anchorage).

DONATIONS

During 1987, several businesses, organizations, and individuals donated funds to the Icon Preservation project. We gratefully acknowledge the assistance of the following:

- The Alaska Association for Historic Preservation,
- National Trust for Historic Preservation,
- Shell Western,
- Chevron U.S.A.,
- MarkAir,
- Byron Birdsall,
- Frank Norris.

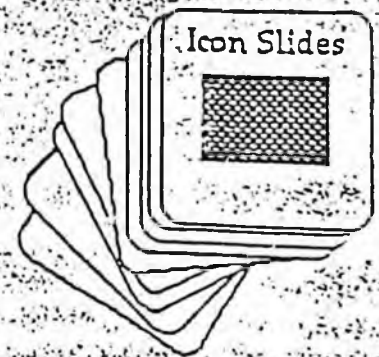
As you well know, donations are vital and provide critical funds, but they also show evidence of community support to the funding agencies to

which we will be appealing. The project is large and will ultimately involve many thousands of dollars. Checks should be made out to the Icon Preservation Task Force and mailed to the address on the front of the newsletter. The Task Force is a project of the Alaska Association for Historic Preservation and as such is a 501 (c)3 organization. Donations are therefore tax deductible.

KAKM PLANS DOCUMENTARY

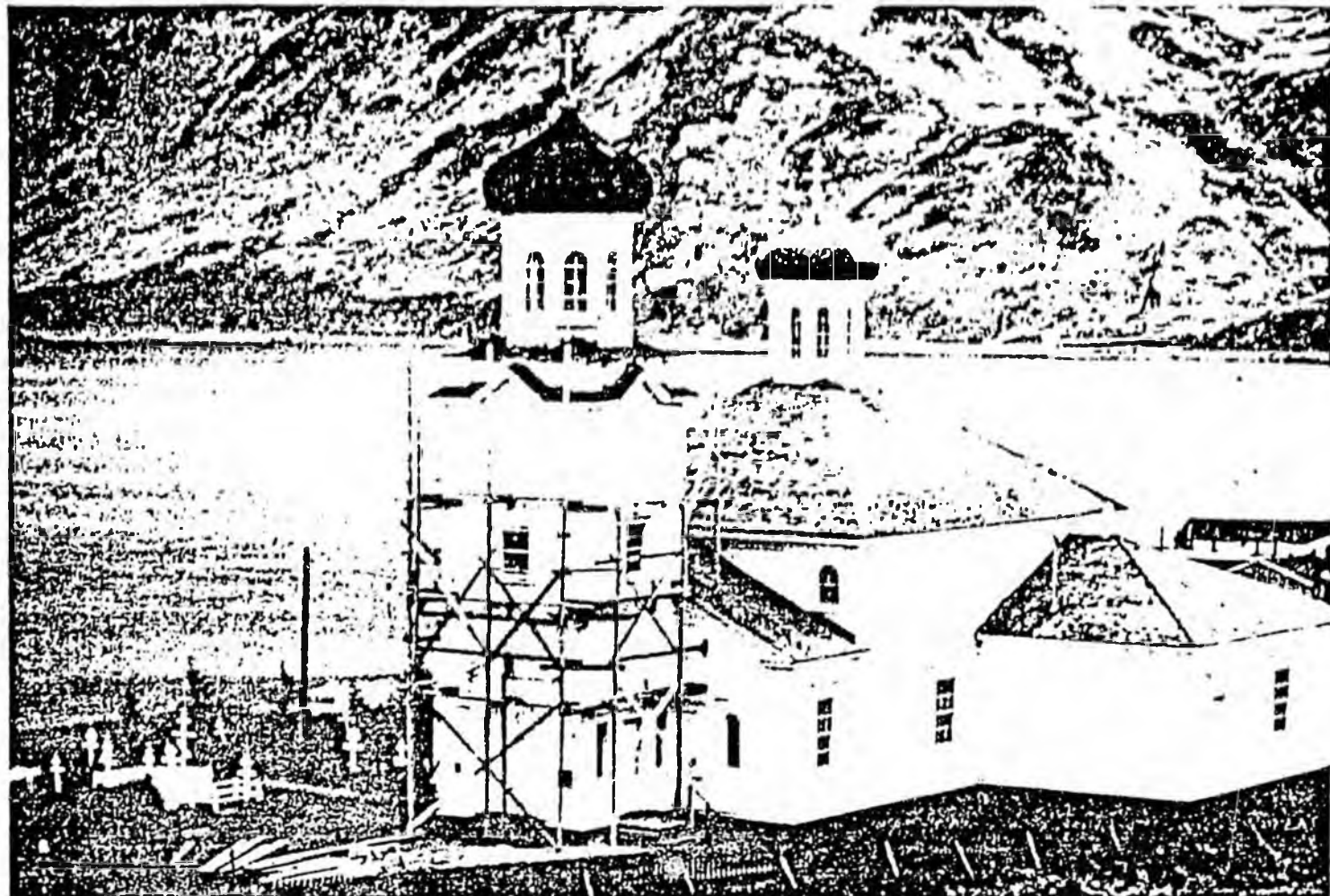
KAKM has expressed an interest in developing a television special focusing on Alaska's religious art and culture of the Orthodox Church. General manager Elmo Sackett writes, "We're very excited about this project particularly because it fits so well to the commitment this station has made for a long time in the world of artists and artwork in our state." The Task Force will work closely with KAKM's artistic director, Eric Wallace, on this project.

SLIDE SHOW AVAILABLE



Barbara Sweetland Smith has compiled a 35 mm slide presentation regarding icon resources in Alaska and the goals of the Task Force. She made a stimulating presentation before the Alaska Association for Historic Preservation (AAHP) at its annual meeting in December. The slide presentation is available for other groups. Contact the Task Force at the address above to schedule a program for your group.

Landmark at Risk



Although maintenance work is done on a continuing basis, severe weathering conditions and structural problems threaten the long-term preservation of this magnificent church. Photo: CCC Architects

Landmark Condition

Although the church building is regularly painted and maintained, the cost of undertaking extensive, essential repairs to the foundation, cupola, and roof have been prohibitive for its parishioners. The property's location on the edge of an inlet means that the weathering process is unceasing. At this point, there is a serious structural problem at the bell tower dome and the central nave dome. Intrinsic to the Orthodox faith and fundamental to their services are the iconostasis, religious artifacts, and art objects within the church. These treasures remain in poor condition: uncatalogued, with little protection, and kept in an uncontrolled environment without curatorial care. Major funding will be required to meet the preservation needs of this significant structure for continued public appreciation.

Recommended Work/Costs

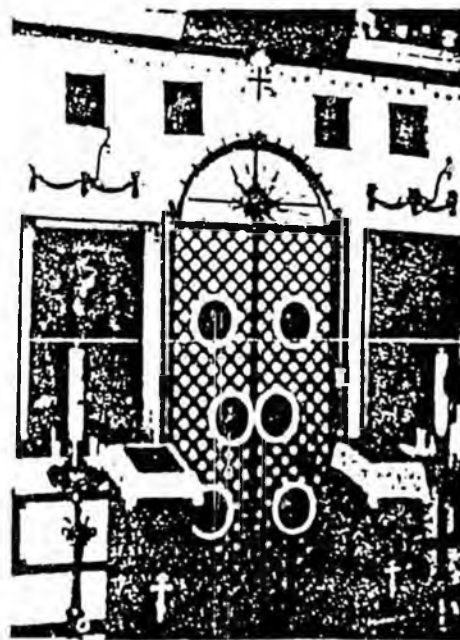
Data has been taken from a National Park Service-funded report, "National Historic Landmark Condition Assessment Report: Holy Ascension Orthodox Church, Unalaska, Alaska" by CCC Architects, Anchorage, Alaska. Work recommended for the church exterior totals almost \$423,000. Of that amount, \$198,000 will be needed to cover the costs of work considered critical to the longevity of the church, including partial replacement of foundation piers, major work on the bell tower, and replacement of deteriorated wood in the onion domes and decking. Another \$130,000 will be needed to correct serious exterior problems, such as providing proper ventilation for the foundation and replacing rotted wood "skirting" at the perim-

eter of the foundation. Finally minor problems, consisting mostly of replacing siding that has deteriorated under multiple layers of paint, then repainting with original colors, could be corrected for about \$95,000.

Total interior work is estimated at \$328,000. Of that amount, an estimated \$273,000 is for work deemed critical, including inventorying, cataloging, and cleaning the church icons based on a conservation plan; and replacing rotted flooring. Other interior work rated serious and minor would cost about \$55,000, and includes repairs to rotted horizontal ceiling members in both the central nave and bell tower due to long-term moisture penetration, and replacement of some floor joists. Finally, door trim and frames need repairing, and the entire interior should be repainted to match the original colors.

Incorporating a fire detection system in the church interior, and upgrading heating and electrical systems, are other needs deemed to be critical both to the longevity of the structure and its contents. Providing a fire protection system with auto dialers to the fire department will cost about \$15,600. Installation of an HVAC system to provide proper temperature and humidity control is estimated at \$108,000. An additional \$6,800 will be required to provide a fuel tank appropriate for the proposed HVAC system. The old electrical system will be inadequate when the climate control system is installed; a new panel box, wiring and service to meet code will be required and this is estimated at about \$22,500. Finally, cleaning and polishing the church chandeliers will cost about \$2,500.

The architects' detailed assessment is available from National Park Service offices (see HOW YOU CAN HELP, over).



The chapel's significant art work is in urgent need of conservation. Photo: CCC Architects

HOLY ASCENSION ORTHODOX CHURCH

Unalaska, Alaska

Its earliest portions dating from 1826, Holy Ascension Orthodox Church is significant as the oldest church in Alaska that features a cruciform plan with three altars. (The three one-story wings and the three-story front tower were added in 1894.) Of particular importance is the interior, with its rich collection of icons—religious objects executed in the Russian Orthodox style that convey the craftsmanship and artistry of the Aleut people.

Although the imposing white wood frame

church almost seems out of place on the shore of a small Aleutian village, its presence is easily explained by historians. After the sale of Alaska to the United States, Unalaska and Sitka became vital economic and religious centers; the church diocese shared administrative responsibilities and each city had its cathedral. This picturesque Church is a visual reminder of the important role of both Russian contact and the Orthodox religion, not only among the Aleuts, but in North America

as well. In 1970, the Secretary of the Interior designated Holy Ascension Orthodox Church a National Historic Landmark for its exceptional value to our Nation's history.

Unfortunately, at this date, the long-term preservation of the Church is being jeopardized because of serious building deterioration. Also at risk is what may represent the largest collection of Russian Orthodox art in Alaska.

LANDMARKS AT RISK HOW YOU CAN HELP

Over 150 deteriorating and endangered National Historic Landmarks across the country need your help now.

You can assist these National Historic Landmarks through donations of money, building materials, or professional services.

The National Historic Landmark Fund, administered by the National Park Foundation in conjunction with the National Park Service, makes possible **TAX DEDUCTIBLE MATERIAL AND CASH DONATIONS** by individuals, organizations, or companies.

Donations may be used to support threatened Landmarks in general or a Landmark of the donor's choice. Donors may select a Landmark to assist based on its associations with specific historic themes, events or individuals; its architectural style; its building type; or its construction material. Landmarks in need of various services or building products which correspond to a donor's business can also be selected.

The National Park Foundation and the National Park Service give priority to those Landmarks in which critical needs have been identified through professional evaluation and planning.

If you want to donate to the National Historic Landmark Fund, or would like additional

information on how you can help Landmarks at Risk, please call or write:

Landmarks at Risk

National Park Service
Preservation Assistance Division
P.O. Box 37127
Washington, DC 20013-7127
(202) 343-9581 or

The National Park Foundation
P.O. Box 57473
Washington, DC 20037
(202) 785-4500

For information on how you may help Holy Ascension Orthodox Church in Unalaska, Alaska, contact the following offices and organizations:

National Park Service

Alaska Regional Office Cultural Resource
Division
2525 Gambell St.
Anchorage, AK 99503
(907) 271-2638

State Historic Preservation Office

Alaska Division of Parks and Outdoor
Recreation
History and Archeology
P.O. Box 7001
Anchorage, AK 99510
(907) 762-4141

Local/State Preservation Groups

Alaska Association for Historic Preservation
524 West Fourth Avenue, Suite 203
Anchorage, AK 99510
(907) 274-2311

Owner Contact

Rev. Ismail Gromoff
P.O. Box 40
Unalaska, AK
(907) 581-1353

BARBARA S. SMITH

Alaska Historical Resources

6781 ROUND TREE DRIVE
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99507-14
(907) 844-0810
376-2410

April 3, 1989

Representative George Jacko, Jr.
House of Representatives
P. O. Box V
Juneau, AK 99811

Dear Representative Jacko:

I am writing to support passage of House Concurrent Resolution No. 27. For several years, I have been involved with a citizen group, the Icon Preservation Task Force, which has begun the daunting task of documenting the cultural heritage of the Russians in Alaska. Students of Russian America are aware that it is the Russian Orthodox churches which reflect most clearly that unique heritage of Alaska, found nowhere else in the United States. The church structures themselves as well as the artistic and cultural legacy within them are superb examples of Russian construction and artistry. The U. S. government has recognized the exceptional value of many of Alaska's Orthodox church structures by naming no less than 36 to the National Register of Historic Places. Unfortunately, there has not been the same attention to the cultural and artistic objects within the churches. The Icon Preservation Task Force came into existence to meet this need. We have begun, entirely through donated funds and services, an inventory of 48 significant collections scattered throughout every region of Alaska. In the Spring of 1988 we conducted a full-scale inventory of the Church of the Holy Assumption in Kenai. This pilot project allowed us to develop a realistic budget for additional such inventories. It is the intent of HCR 24, as I understand it, to apply this information to additional inventories.

To date, the work of the Icon Preservation Task Force has been accomplished through private donations, most in small amounts, and contributed services. It is entirely appropriate for the State of Alaska to join as a partner in this effort at long-term historic documentation and preservation. The state has a concern for the preservation of its cultural heritage, as reflected in the work of the Office of History and Archeology of the State Division of Parks. The state legislature also has provided funds in the past for renovation of historic buildings, some of them churches. I sincerely hope that this commendable concern will continue by adoption of HCR No. 24. The focus of this resolution on the Unalaska church is important, as this church is not only a National Historic Landmark, but has been designated an "endangered structure" by the National Park Service. This building served the function of a cathedral for the Aleutian Islands for many decades and contains a remarkable collection of Russian cultural objects. An inventory of this collection is a necessary first step toward restoration and preservation. The same is true of the other churches slated for documentation by the Icon Preservation Task Force and included in HCR No. 24. An inventory is required before conservation can begin.

I commend you and the other sponsors of HCR No. 27 for your dedication to historic preservation of this unique Alaskan resource. No other state in the United States has such a rich Russian heritage from the 18th and 19th centuries. With the help of the Alaska Legislature we can work together to see that this heritage resource is preserved for future generations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Barbara S. Smith". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

Barbara Sweetland Smith