St. Paul Island Guide to Historical Resources, 1867–1984
Seal Islands National Historic Landmark District, Pribilof Islands, Alaska

Volume 2

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The Pribilof Islands, a five-island archipelago known more descriptively as the Seal Islands, are the historic breeding grounds of the world’s largest population of northern fur seals (*Callorhinus ursinus*). The islands have a complex history beginning in 1786 with their discovery by Russian fur traders and continuing today with an enterprising Unangan (Aleut) community.

During the period 1870–1984, the United States government operated and improved upon a commercial sealing industry that had been initiated during the Russian period (1786–1867). The government’s sealing industry dominated much of the islands’ activities and exerted pressure on traditional Native culture and economics in a somewhat vain attempt to westernize the community. The industry collapsed in the mid 1980’s, soon after the government withdrew from its administration of the two inhabited islands, St. Paul and St. George. While several federal agencies administered the Seal Islands, the U.S. Department of Commerce’s National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) was the last managing agency of St. Paul and St. George islands.

In 1964, the U.S. Department of the Interior’s National Park Service (NPS) recognized St. Paul and St. George islands as a National Historic Landmark. Then, in 1988 the islands became a National Historic Landmark District (NHLD), a subject discussed more fully in an introductory chapter.

Beginning in the 1960’s, the federal government took steps to transfer the Pribilofs to the resident Native Aleuts. By the 1980’s, decisions were made to restore the islands’ environmental integrity which had been compromised by seal-industry practices; restoration ensued before and after land transfers, depending upon individual case circumstances. NOAA’s Pribilof Project Office commenced environmental restoration activities in earnest on the Seal Islands in 1999. Activities included landfill closures, debris removal, several historic building demolitions and renovations, and cleaning petroleum contaminated soil and groundwater at more than 100 sites. NOAA completed restoration under state of Alaska oversight in 2008.

Because areas of St. Paul and St. George islands lie within a NHLD, a Registered National Historic Landmark, NOAA consulted with the federal Advisory Council on Historic Preservation in accord with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended. The Council deferred to the Alaska (State) Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) in the Department of Natural Resources, Office of History and Archaeology. The SHPO determined that: 1) environmental restoration and 2) transfer of public lands and buildings outside the public domain, represented adverse impacts to the Seal Islands NHLD. Accordingly, in September 2006, NOAA entered into a memorandum of agreement (MOA) with the SHPO to mitigate the adverse impacts to the NHLD. In 2010, NOAA completed its obligations stipulated by the MOA. However, in the spirit of Presidential Executive Order 13287, *Preserve America*, and NOAA’s *Preserve America Initiative*, the agency continued compiling and disseminating historical information. The publication of the *Seal Islands National Historic Landmark District, Pribilof Islands, Alaska: Guide to Historical Resources 1867–1984 of St. Paul Island* (book) is one example of NOAA’s continued efforts towards historical preservation of the Seal Islands Historic District.

This book examines the Seal Islands’ history by tracing the historical resources on St. Paul Island, particularly those identified within the NHLD. Historical emphasis is on the time period between the Pribilof Islands accession into the United States (1867) and the end of commercial fur-sealing on the islands (1984). This time period highlights some of the ways Aleuts, Russians, the U.S. government, and U.S. businesses influenced the socio-economic development of the islands. While this book focuses on

St. Paul Island, it includes an overview of historical resources on St. George Island; a similar book spotlighting St. George Island will be completed if time and funding allow.

This book includes some of the materials submitted to and accepted by the SHPO and the NPS, such as the Alaska Historic Resources Survey (AHRS) and Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS) forms, respectively. The AHRS and HABS forms in this book are presented in book format, rather than the original submission format, and have been updated to reflect new information and corrections. NOAA did not submit photographs with the AHRS forms sent to the SHPO, nor the HABS forms sent to NPS; however, photographs complement AHRS and HABS forms here. Photos include those taken during an AHRS site visit in 2007, as well as images taken at earlier times found in various collections. In 2004, NOAA contracted with NPS to produce large format (5 x 7 inches) photographs and measured drawings (House #59, Teacher’s House 103 [aka “Teacher’s House D”], and Government House) of contributing resources and some noncontributing resources, according to HABS standards, such as Webster House, remaining on St. Paul Island. Many of the approximately 120 5 x 7 photographs and four measured drawings, now in the Library of Congress (http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/D?lhl:16:/
\temp/~ammem_nH49;.), are reproduced in this book and accompany the relevant resource. Since 2004, additional images of some of the subjects studied by NPS offered perspectives similar to those in the Library of Congress HABS photograph collection, although on a smaller scale (35 mm, 6 cm x 7 cm, and in digital formats). Some of these are included herein.

In 2010, NOAA submitted updated versions of the NHL nomination form’s Sections 7 and 8 with its submission of HABS forms, as requested by NPS, Anchorage, through the MOA with the SHPO. In this book, these sections have been reorganized and altered to better fit the context of the book under the chapter heading “Historical Review of Construction on the Seal Islands.” This chapter is followed by a narrative review of historical resources on St. Paul Island. The narrative sections align closely to the resources designated by the AHRS and HABS forms. The remainder of the book presents a photo gallery with hundreds of historical photographs of noncontributing resources (principally buildings) including many not represented by AHRS or HABS forms, thus providing a more comprehensive illustration of the island’s historical context. Many photographs were cropped or modified from their original formats for presentation and clarity; some photographs exist only as small electronic images and could not be enlarged to a higher level or improved in quality.

This 11 x 15 book format has been selected to enhance the display of maps, photographs, etc. for better viewing of important details. The photographs, maps, charts, and illustrations included in the book are usually arranged chronologically; oldest to most recent. [The terms “map” and “chart” were applied variously by surveyors and publishers over the years. The authors, in their own narrative, have attempted to restrict the term “chart” to graphic displays of land-sea areas used for navigation that include depth soundings, and latitude and longitude in degrees, minutes, and seconds. The term “map” is similarly depicted but lacks precise navigational attributes.] In cases where multiple images are associated with one contributing or noncontributing resource, the most recent photograph(s) appears first with subsequent photographs presented from the oldest to the most recent. The majority of maps, charts, and figures are unnumbered, except for those in the introductory sections and those in the section describing archaeological sites where an expanded narrative references specific maps and figures. Some photographs have been integrated with individual and relevant AHRS and/or HABS forms. The photos taken by the NPS in 1985 to support its nomination of The Seal Islands NHLD are not readily available and did not accompany file copies of the 1986 nomination when this book was written. NPS staff graciously allowed NOAA to scan negatives to make positives for potential inclusion in this or other publications. Not all of the photos from the NPS 1985 collection are included in the book, as
some are either duplicates, poor quality, or represent unrecognizable structures or features. In 1989, NPS photographer Jet Lowe took and submitted numerous 5 x 7 photographs of St. Paul Island to the Library of Congress and many of these are reproduced herein; these photos are in addition to those taken by Jet Lowe in 2004.

A handful of photographs are undated, but we attempted to establish a date range using the photograph's context (e.g. clothing style, or whether or not a building of a known period is evident on a map or in a photograph of a known date) and place it in with other photographs of a comparable time period. Some sections, such as St. Paul Elementary School, include photographs of previous schoolhouses and the captions refer to these buildings as “former.” However, “former” is not used in captions for the By-Products Plant that was demolished in 1988 because the demolition is discussed elsewhere and only one By-Products Plant existed on the island.

NOAA hopes this book serves not only to document the historical resources on St. Paul Island, but also to provide researchers and scholars with ample information with which to pursue study of the physical and cultural developments that have occurred over time. NOAA also hopes that this work will aid in the preservation of the cultural resources on the islands where currently no formal infrastructure is in place to preserve and protect the majority of the islands' cultural resources.

Special thanks to Tom Simon for his assistance with aerial photographs, Hoby Willis for his review of the introductory material, Gina Rapaport for her assistance in verifying photographic records, Phyllis Swetzof, Aquilina Lestenkof, Jacob Merculief, and the many residents of St. Paul Island for their assistance in verifying historical information. Kristina Package is commended for her persistence in acquiring historical records. Special thanks to Bruce Parham and Diane Kodiak of the National Archives in Anchorage for their assistance in making Pribilof Island records available to the NOAA research team. Janet Clemmens, Steve Peterson, and Mark Schara of the National Park Service provided critical assistance in accessing records leading to the recognition of the Seal Islands as a National Historic Landmark and their assistance in conducting a Historic American Buildings Survey on St. Paul Island. Special thanks to Jo Antonson for her persistent encouragement leading to the completion of this book. Our deepest thanks to Kristina Worthington who exhibited patience, perseverance, and dedication in laying out this book. To all those that have contributed into making this book a success, we offer our most grateful thanks.
The Seal Islands National Historic Landmark District

The Historic Sites Act of 1935, as amended (16 USC sec. 461-467) in 1960, “declared that it is a national policy to preserve for public use historic sites, buildings, and objects of national significance for the inspiration and benefit of the people of the United States.” The Act’s section 2(b) empowered the Secretary of the Interior through the National Park Service (NPS) to “Make a survey of historic and archaeological sites, buildings, and objects for the purpose of determining which possess exceptional value as commemorating or illustrating the history of the United States.” Further, the Act provided “A certificate of registration and a bronze commemorative plaque would be provided to the property owner upon designation of the Landmark.”1 In 1961, the NPS proposed the Fur Seal Islands “for evaluation as possessing exceptional value” and followed it with a National Survey of Historic Sites and Buildings (Figure 1).2

Early in 1962, the NPS proposed the Seal Islands be placed “in the Registry of National Historic Landmarks” (Figure 2). On June 13, 1962, the islands became one of fifteen Alaska sites eligible (emphasis added) for the Registry of National Landmarks.3

In 1966, the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) superseded the Historic Preservation Act of 1935. NHPA Section 461 “declared that it is a national policy to preserve for public use historic sites, buildings, and objects of national significance for the inspiration and benefit of the people of the United States” (36 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] Sec. 65.1 (a)). Designated by the Secretary of the Interior and administered by the National Park Service, National Historic Landmarks (NHL) are “nationally significant properties that illustrate or commemorate the history and prehistory of the United States” (36 CFR Sec. 65.1).4 A National Historic Landmark District (NHLD) is “a geographically definable area, urban or rural, that possesses a significant concentration, linkage or continuity of sites, buildings, structures or objects united by past events or aesthetically by plan or physical development. A district may also comprise individual elements separated geographically but linked by association or history” (36 CFR Sec. 65.3 (e)).5 As provided in the Historic Sites Act of 1935, NHPA Section 65.1 (b)(1) empowered the Secretary of the Interior through the National Park Service “To make a survey of historic and archaeological sites, buildings and objects for the purpose of determining which possess exceptional value as commemorating or illustrating the history of the United States.”

The 1961 National Survey of Historic Sites and Buildings of the Fur Seal Island Rookeries conducted by Charles Snell was revised on July 2, 1965 (Figure 3). On March 1, 1966, Samuel Hutchinson, Regional Director, Pacific Northwest Region, Bureau of Commercial Fisheries, submitted an application to register the Fur Seal Rookeries as a National Historic Landmark (Figures 4a-c); soon afterwards, the Fur Seal Rookeries became a registered NHL (Figures 5a-b). In September of that year, the National Park Service presented a certificate and bronze plaque to the Bureau of Commercial Fisheries representative C. Howard Baltoz, Program Director, Marine Mammal Resources, commemorating the Fur Seal Rookeries of the Pribilof Islands of Alaska as a Registered National Historic Landmark.6 The plaque with the embossed date 1964 was installed on a rock on the plain above Lukanin Rookery, St. Paul Island (Figures 6a-d).7 By the year 2007, the plaque had disappeared from the rock; the National Park Service was unaware of the plaque’s disappearance.8 The U.S. Department of Commerce with the approval of NPS in Anchorage provided a replacement plaque to the City of St. Paul in 2007 (Figure 7). No plaque was ever placed on St. George Island.

Following the withdrawal of federal administration of the Pribilof Islands in 1983 by NOAA’s, National Marine Fisheries Service,9 the NPS determined a need to reassert the Fur Seal Rookeries NHL with a survey comparable to the one in 1961. In 1986, the NHL nomination process began anew. The updated National Register of Historic Places—Nomination Form (nomination) deemed the landmark designation “Fur Seal Rookeries” too narrow to reflect the rich history of the in-fur-sea industry, the

4 Memorandum, Assistant Director, NPS, Jackson E. Price to Commissioner, Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), Apr. 16, 1962, Subject: Proposed Recognition of the Pribilof Islands Fur Seal Rookeries, Alaska, in the Registry of National Historic Landmarks (National Park Service files, 240 W. 5th Ave., Anchorage, AK 99501). The Historic Sites Act of 1935, as amended, makes no mention about a “Registry” or “Register” but the “Sites Eligible for the Registry of National Landmarks”; U.S. Dep. Inter., NPS (Washington, DC. GPO, ca. 1965), states on page 1, “...the National Survey of Historic Sites and Buildings was activated in 1957 as part of the MISSION 66 program of the National Park Service. From this program has grown the Registered National Historic Landmark program...”
5 Edward A. Hummel, NPS, FWS Regional Director, Western Region to Regional Director, FWS, Bureau of Commercial Fisheries (BCF), Subject: Recognition of the Fur Seal Rookeries, Pribilof Islands, Alaska, in the Registry of National Historic Landmarks; and Edward A. Hummel, NPS Regional Director, Western Region, to Superintendent, Sitka and Glacier Bay, Feb. 17, 1964, Subject: National Survey of Historic Sites and Buildings: Sites eligible for Registry of National Historic Landmarks, Fur Seal Rookeries, Pribilof Islands, Alaska (NPS files, 240 W. 5th Ave., Anchorage, AK 99501). The “Seal Islands, National Register of Historic Places Inventory-Nomination Form” presented in Sandra McDermott Faulkner, William S. Hanable and Robert L. S. Spade, Russian American Theme, National Historic Landmarks, U.S. Dep. Inter., NPS, Alaska Region, Anchorage, 1987: 6; Russian American Theme is also available at http://www.nps.gov/history/history/online_books/nhl/russian-america/intro.htm (accessed July 28, 2011). Faulkner et. al., 1987, erroneously states that the Pribilof Islands NHL was “designated” on June 13, 1962. The “Fur Seal Rookeries NHL” was not designated until ca. 1966 when Edward Hummel sent a memo on June 30, 1966 requesting the Superintendent of Mt. Rainer National Park, John A. Rutter present a certificate and plaque designating the Fur Seal Rookeries, Alaska as a Registered National Historic Landmark (see memo at end of this chapter).
10 In researching National Park Service files (240 W. 5th Ave., Anchorage, AK 99501), we did not find any documentation supporting official recognition of the “Fur Seal Rookeries, Pribilof Islands” as a National Historic Landmark in 1964. Several NPS memoranda written in 1964 did express interest in registering the Seal Islands with landmark status. The following statement seems to explain the difficulty experienced in 1964: “Thanks to our personal contacts we have been able to register all but one of the eligible sites in Alaska as National Landmarks this summer. The exception is the Fur Seal Rookeries in the Pribilof Islands. Would you please contact Regional Director, [BCF] Harry Rietse [Rietze], at Juneau and inquire informally what objections, if any, they have to registering this site?” (Charles Snell to Superintendent, Sitka and Glacier Bay, Subject: National Survey of Historic Sites and Buildings: Registration of Fur Seal Rookeries, Pribilof Islands, Alaska, Aug. 19, 1964). Lacking other information, it appears NPS had intentions to register the Fur Seal Rookeries as an NHL in 1964, but the Bureau of Commercial Fisheries failed to accept the nomination until 1966, so regardless of late acceptance, NPS apparently applied the 1964 date on the plaque. We have not seen a copy of the “certificate” accompanying the plaque.
11 Telephone conversation with between John Lindsay and Janet Clemons, NPS Historian, Alaska Support Office, Anchorage, AK, 2008.
12 On Oct. 3, 1970, the Bureau of Commercial Fisheries residing in the U.S. Dep. Inter., FWS, became the National Marine Fisheries Service within the U.S. Dep. Commerce. The administration of the Pribilof Islands continued with NMFS.
seals, and the people. The 1986 NHL nomination proposed: “The Seal Islands (Fur Seal Rookeries NHL), Pribilof Islands” using the following argument.

Seal Islands is the one name that has been consistently used from the days before discovery when tales were told about mythical fog shrouded islands in the Bering Sea, through the American period on both official documents and by such spokesmen as Henry Elliott, to an Academy Award winning Disney film in the 1950s. The present designation of Fur Seal Rookeries is too narrow to reflect the rich history of the industry, the seals, and the people. Seal Islands is the most historically consistent and the name which best reflects the character of the National Historic Landmark.

The proposed title was accepted in 1988, and it was designated a National Historic Landmark District (NHLD). The historic landmark is variously referred to by the NPS as: The Seal Islands (Fur Seal Rookeries NHL), Pribilof Islands; Seal Islands National Historic Landmark District; and Seal Islands Historic District. The nomination expanded the list of landmarks on the islands, to include 106 contributing buildings, two contributing structures, twelve historic sites (rookeries), and nine archaeological sites already listed in the Alaska Heritage Resources Survey (AHRS). The period of significance was 1786–1959, covering a time when there was a “consistent pattern of development, administrations, and concerns in the industry from [Russian] discovery to Alaska statehood.” Over the next two decades, many of the landmarks linked directly to the seal industry had been razed or altered leading some to suggest the Seal Islands NHLD integrity has been significantly degraded and an updated nomination would be appropriate.

In accordance with the terms of the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between NOAA and the Alaska State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), NOAA’s Pribilof Project Office submitted updated AHRS forms, and Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS) forms to the SHPO and NPS, respectively, in 2010. Through the MOA, NPS had requested that NOAA prepare a historical narrative for potential application in an updated nomination of The Seal Islands NHLD comparable to requirements for Sections 7 (“Description”) and 8 (“Significance”) in the National Register of Historical Places Inventory—Nomination Form. In the submission, NOAA recommended extending the period of significance from 1959 to 1984 when commercial fur-sealing operations came to a close.

As of 2011, the Seal Islands National Historic Landmark District includes three non-contiguous units of land, two on St. Paul Island (Map 1) and one on St. George Island (Map 2), designated by the Secretary of the Interior and administered by the National Park Service. The district includes locations of archaeological resources, historic seal rookeries and killing grounds, settlement areas, seal industry related structures on St. Paul and St. George, and a single commercial processing structure on St. George. Many of the buildings nominated in 1986, have been razed or modified by the government and private sector entities; significant modifications to most of the seal industries laborer homes also have negatively affected the NHLD historic integrity. Otter and Walrus islands, while not part of the Seal Islands NHLD, are included at the end of the book because of their historical relevance to this isolated archipelago.


The Seal Islands National Historic Landmark District

Figure 4a. Bureau of Commercial Fisheries acceptance of the Fur Seal Rookeries Pribilof Islands designation as a National Historic Landmark, March 1, 1966. Courtesy National Park Service, Anchorage, Alaska.
Figure 4b. Formal Application for the Fur Seal Rookeries, Registered National Historic Landmark, Certificate and Bronze Marker. Courtesy National Park Service, Anchorage, Alaska.

Figure 4c. Acceptance of the application for the Fur Seal Rookeries as a Registered National Historic Landmark in January 1966 with a dedication ceremony proposed for September 27, 1966, in Seattle. Courtesy National Park Service, Anchorage, Alaska.
Figure 5a. Memorandum: Registered National Historic Landmark Presentation Ceremony for Fur Seal Rookeries, Alaska (page 1 of 2). Courtesy: National Park Service, Anchorage, Alaska.

Figure 5b. Memorandum: Registered National Historic Landmark Presentation Ceremony for Fur Seal Rookeries, Alaska (page 2 of 2). Courtesy National Park Service, Anchorage, Alaska.
Figure 6a. Photograph No. 95-ADMC-2771 (Photographer unknown), 1966; Close-up view of Fur-Seal Rookeries National Historic Landmark monument. Records of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, RG 370; NARA—Pacific Alaska Region (A).

Figure 6b. Photograph No. 95-ADMC-2776 (Photographer unknown), 1966; Fur-Seal Rookeries National Historic Landmark monument. Records of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Record Group (RG) 370; National Archives and Records Administration—Pacific Alaska Region (Anchorage); NARA—Pacific Alaska Region (A).


Figure 6d. Lindsay, John, photographer. 2008. Sometime prior to 2008, the monument plaque was removed and its whereabouts remain unknown to island officials. Photograph. NOAA, NOS, Pribilof Project Office, Seattle.
The plaque reads:

SEAL ISLANDS HISTORIC DISTRICT ON THE ISLANDS OF ST. GEORGE AND ST. PAUL HAS BEEN DESIGNATED A NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK

1964
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
PLAQUE COURTESY OF
U.S. Department of Commerce
National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration (2008)
Historical Review of Construction on the Seal Islands

Broadly speaking, the history of structures and buildings on the Seal Islands, as in much of Alaska, can be viewed through the influences of three cultural groups: Native, Russian, and American. This review addresses the history of construction on the islands during three general periods: The Russian Period, the American Lease Period, and the Federal Period. A chronological summary of notable historical and construction events particular to St. Paul Island are listed in Table 1.

The Russian Period, 1786–1867

More than 12,000 years ago, people from eastern Asia crossed the Bering Sea Land Bridge from Asia to North America to eventually populate the coastal islands of Alaska. More than 9,000 years ago, those people began to occupy what are now known as the Aleutian Islands. As they migrated from the Alaska Peninsula to Attu Island they developed three distinct language groups: an Eastern dialect, prevalent from the Fox Islands eastward (Umnak Island is the most western of this group); a Central dialect, prevalent from Atka in the Andreanof Islands to the Rat Islands; and a Western dialect, prevalent at Attu (Near and Commander islands). The Western dialect became extinct after World War II. Those using the Eastern and Central dialects called themselves Unangan and Unangas, respectively. Russian explorers called them “Americans” and the promyshlenniki (fur hunters) called them “Aleuts.”

Unangan oral history recounts their awareness of the Seal Islands long before Russians located them in 1786. Aleuts did not, however, establish settlements on the Seal Islands.

Prior to European contact, Aleuts constructed semi-subterranean structures best suited to withstand the abrasive wind and climate of the Aleutian Islands. The Aleuts called these dwellings uład; Russians called them barabaras, a term that is still used by archaeologists. Whalebones or driftwood framed the barabaras, which were sunk into the ground three or four feet deep.

Barabaras underwent structural changes after European contact. “The present Aleut dwellings or yurts bear little resemblance to the former ones,” wrote Ivan Veniaminov, who published descriptions of the Aleut culture including their homes in 1840. “Their ancient dwellings [ulyagának] were never

separate as now, for each individual family, but always communal, each housing from 10 to 40 families, who were, for the most part, related.” Before Russian contact, Aleuts dug a deep pit and placed a row of posts spaced evenly along the walls with two rows of posts that were twice as tall as the others, creating an inner rectangle upon which round logs were set. Rafters, formed by other logs set close together, held up skins, or dry grass, and then sod. People sat and slept on fine mats that covered the ground; curtains separated personal spaces. To enter the barabaras, one entered through a hole in the roof and climbed down notched logs to reach the interior. Size and floor plans varied from one island to the next.

When promyshlenniki, the Russian equivalent of Rocky Mountain men, began settling on the Aleutian Islands in the mid-eighteenth century, doors were added, enabling people to enter through the sides of the dwellings, no doubt accommodating Europeans, who likely found it difficult to maneuver up and down ladders in their bulky boots. Stoves, metal chimneys, windows, and plank flooring also came into use during this time.

On the Seal Islands, barabaras began to dot the landscapes soon after discovery by Gavriil Pribylov and then spurred the arrival of promyshlenniki. Russians transported Aleuts from Atka and Unalaska to work the seal harvest during the summer, establishing permanent settlements in the early nineteenth century. The late Russian-American historian Lydia Black wrote, “In 1790...Daniil Ivanovich Shiriiok took fifty men and thirty women from Unalaska to St Paul Island...to strengthen the Aleut contingent from Atka under Popov.” Soon after the Russian-American Company (RAC) took control of the territory in 1799, the company manager, Aleksandr Andreevich Baranov, began relocating Aleuts to improve fur hunting prospects and apparently to establish more permanent settlements. Natural historian Georg Heinrich von Langsdorff wrote about his brief exploration of St. Paul Island during mid July (Gregorian calendar) 1805 while accompanying Russian-Imperial Envoy Nikolai Petrovich Rezanov (Rezanoff). After first landing at Northeast Point, “a little distance from the shore” were found several, unoccupied semi-subterranean homes (barabaras) constructed of sod and “supported by whale bones.” The next day, the landing party made its way to the permanent settlement located “on the southwestern side of the island.” Here they found “fifteen Russians and a few Aleuts” living in well-
Table 1. St. Paul Island, Alaska, Chronology of Historical Events and Construction Activities (not all inclusive), 1787–1984. Note: over the years, many buildings and structures were identified by multiple names and not all names may be recognized in this chronology.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1787</td>
<td>St. Paul Island discovered and settled by Russian explorers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1789</td>
<td>Russian-American Company awarded 20-year charter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1821</td>
<td>Gavanskee (St. Paul Village), likely established earlier: Chapel of St. Peter and St. Paul built of driftwood (razed in 1840); manager's house, warehouse, 13 barabaras, and several other buildings.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1840</td>
<td>Chapel of St. Peter and St. Paul replaced with larger chapel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1867</td>
<td>United States purchases Alaska Territory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1868</td>
<td>Uncontrolled fur-seal hunting by Americans, who erect several structures</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1869</td>
<td>March: U.S. Congress designates Pribilof Islands a Special Reservation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1870</td>
<td>U.S. Department of the Treasury administers the Pribilof Islands</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1872</td>
<td>Government House begun</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1873</td>
<td>Salthouse at Northeast Point completed by ACC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1875</td>
<td>Twelve Aleut Laborers Houses built, with six more in progress</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1876</td>
<td>One-story 10' x 20' wooden houses for Aleut Laborers erected by ACC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1877</td>
<td>ACC Dwelling House [Company House]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1880</td>
<td>Telephone line installed to Northeast Point</td>
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<tr>
<td>1886 cont.</td>
<td>Shop  ACC store house  Store house  Store  ACC village salthouse  Point Warehouse  Cove salthouse  North American Commercial Company awarded 20-year lease</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1890</td>
<td>Schedule of Property received from Alaska Commercial Company included:  One large dwelling house  One store building (retail)  Two village store buildings  One barn and stable  One old warehouse (fish house)  One village salthouse  One cove salthouse  One large new warehouse  One Point warehouse and wharf  One physician home and dispensary  One schoolhouse and furniture (senior schoolhouse belltower razed 1939)  Sixty-three Native Houses  One Northeast Point salthouse  One Northeast Point Webster House  One salthouse at Half-Way Point (Polovina)  One ice house  One chicken house</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1891</td>
<td>Smokehouse for smoking seal meat created from old boat and barabara (razed in 1911)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1894</td>
<td>Water closets [outhouses] built</td>
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<tr>
<td>1895</td>
<td>Coal house</td>
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<tr>
<td>1896</td>
<td>Pharmacy</td>
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<tr>
<td>1897</td>
<td>Library</td>
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<tr>
<td>1899</td>
<td>Government house renovated (razed in 1931 and rebuilt)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1900</td>
<td>Wagon road</td>
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<tr>
<td>1901</td>
<td>Native Library opened [Natives exchanged a coal house for a Native residence for the purpose of creating a Band House &amp; library]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1903</td>
<td>U.S. Dept. of Commerce and Labor, Alaska Fur-Seal Service assumes administration of the Seal Islands from the Dept. of the Treasury</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1905</td>
<td>New Church of the Holy Apostles Saints Peter and Paul designed and construction begins</td>
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<tr>
<td>1906</td>
<td>New church construction completed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year</td>
<td>Events</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| 1907 | • July 31: Native carpenter shop built by Natives from lumber of old church (razed in 1931)  
• Aug. 14: The Church of the Holy Apostles Saints Peter and Paul consecrated by Bishop Innocent (Pustynsky) and old church razed  
• Attic of Native shop used as armory for heavy guns  
• Sept. 4–20: Installation of a telephone line from cove salthouse to Zapadni watchhouse  
• Callidore (outside shed or hall) added to Native shop  
• Four wooden, water casks buried near Native shop for fire protection  
• Small building 7' x 10' x 20' moved to Native shop for use as blacksmith shop |
| 1909 | • Gun house built (also called “Arsenal”)  
• Administration and management of the Seal Islands and seal harvest assumed by U.S. government, Dep. of Commerce & Labor |
| 1910 | • Cold storage cellar 7' x 10' x 20' created under Native shop  
• Signal Station 4' x 5' built on Village Hill  
• Potato house  
• Architectural Review of Construction on the Seal Islands  
• Old Native house moved and connected to shop for stage  
• Baseball diamond laid behind Native shop  
• Wharf at East Landing concreted  
• Bridge begun at Halfway Point (Polovina)  
• U.S. Navy Radio Wireless Station house and two towers built in old sheep corral  
• Beef house  
• Bowling Alley started  
• New laundry and meat house lean-to addition to company house in use  
• Old laundry now cook's store room  
• Reindeer introduced  
• North Pacific Fur-Seal Treaty ratified |
| 1911 | • Flour house  
• Addition to government house  
• Cooper shop  
• Water line  
• Water tanks and tank house on Village Hill (Old Tank House razed 1939)  
• 300' x 500' new sheep corral at Tolstoi  
• Cold Storage barn near Landing  
• Ajax chemical fire engine  
• Native Shop addition 18' long, overall length 58' 22"  
• Rubbish stands with barrels fitted to Native Houses |
| 1912 | • Old Store shingled and used as Warehouse  
• Water system installed  
• Navy Radio Station completed  
• Concrete wharf built at Village Landing  
• Powder House, 20' x 30', near Point Warehouse moved from its base in flood  
• Sod insulation placed around tank house  
• Sod Zapadni watchhouse renovated with shingle roof and wooden sides |
| 1913 | • Hydrant house moved from near senior school to near government house  
• 800' of 2" galvanized iron-pipe laid down the hill to hydrant house  
• Gun house moved and converted to junior school  
• Small salthouse moved 200 yards to stand across street from dispensary for use as hospital |
| 1914 | • Native club (two houses together shown on Hunter map)  
• Chicken house, 9' x 24', added to old barn  
• Rubbish pits 6' x 6' x 6' with boxed tops and hinged lids dug at Native Houses  
• Cove salthouse razed |
| 1915 | • One "knock-down" Aleut laborer house constructed  
• St. Paul Village surveyed  
• Old wooden house 33 razed |
| 1916 | • Three "knock-down" Aleut laborer houses constructed [Cottages A, B, C]  
• Salthouse begun  
• Chicken House behind Government House  
• Government House remodeled  
• By-Products Plant (razed in 1988)  
• Former Cold Storage building used as Machine Shop  
• Former Fish & Wildlife Service Office used as Laboratory  
• Administration and management of the Seal Islands and seal harvest assumed by U.S. government, Dep. of Commerce & Labor  
• April: new floor in Flour House  
• May-June: new arsenal or artillery house constructed north of hospital to store 1-Hotchkiss and appurtenances  
• Electric Light Plant provides electricity to most government buildings and Native homes  
• June: Tramway from Point Warehouse passing coal bunker to radio station with spur to salthouse, old store and magazine. |
| 1917 | • New Salthouse  
• Garage to house tractors  
• One concrete Aleut Laborer House  
• Two frame-houses  
• Catwalks and tripods constructed at rookeries for seal counts and observation  
• Administration and management of the Seal Islands and seal harvest assumed by U.S. government, Dep. of Commerce & Labor  
• Four tractors delivered by Department of War  
• E-Shop [power house] constructed by navy at Radio Station  
• Duplex 106/107 constructed for Naval Radio Station personnel  
• Coal House (later Shingle Shed) constructed at Naval Radio Station  
• Deputy of Commerce & Labor |
| 1918 | • New Salthouse site staked out (June 5) and constructed at Northeast Point  
• Wash and Blubbering House construction begins  
• 50' extension added to the 1920 Salthouse  
• 32' x 100' tank house erected on Village Hill  
• 500' of 4' wooden pipeline laid  
• Temporary wharf installed at East Landing  
• Bowling alley altered for use as a kitchen and mess hall for Unalaska temporary laborers  
• Wooden tracks laid for automobiles and trucks on roadway to Northeast Point  
• House 34 razed (May 25)  
• House 48 converted for use as laboratory  
• Native Club in use by dentist as residence and clinic  
• Powder House for explosives built near East Landing  
• Observation tripod constructed at Reef Rookery  
• Administration and management of the Seal Islands and seal harvest assumed by U.S. government, Dep. of Commerce & Labor  
• New Salthouse  
• Garage to house tractors  
• One concrete Aleut Laborer House  
• Two frame-houses  
• Catwalks and tripods constructed at rookeries for seal counts and observation  
• Administration and management of the Seal Islands and seal harvest assumed by U.S. government, Dep. of Commerce & Labor |
| 1919 | • Second village Salthouse begun; old village Salthouse razed  
• Seal Skin Wash and Blubbering House extensions of 50' completed bringing it to 42' x 120'  
• Work begun to enlarge Company House for use as mess house and living quarters  
• New boatway begun at Warehouse at Village Landing  
• 20 privies built for Native use  
• Office moved from Company House to former Officer's Club and Mess  
• Administration and management of the Seal Islands and seal harvest assumed by U.S. government, Dep. of Commerce & Labor |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
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</table>
| 1923  | - 14' x 42' Pump House built by Wash House  
- Moved Junior School northeast and parallel to Senior School  
- Construction begins on three concrete employee houses (dwellings 1, 2, and 3) [Teacher Houses 101, 102, 103] on former site of Junior School  
- Company House enlarged  
- 3-seat toilet for Fouke employees, 6' x 9', built behind senior school  
- Native Shop made available for moving pictures  
- 1,600' of wooden pipe laid from village to Icehouse Lake  
- Greenhouse |
| 1924  | - Concrete dwellings 2 and 3 completed  
- New 2-story 48' x 100' Point Warehouse erected on same site as former Point Warehouse  
- Began wiring village for electricity (Aug. 4)  
- Construction begins on new Physicians House/Dispensary (28' x 48')  
- Sheep House used as storage for salted meat  
- Fox trapper houses built at Halfway Point [Polovina] and Zapadni  
- 4,427 additional feet of wooden pipe laid from village to Icehouse Lake |
| 1925  | - Concrete dwelling 1 completed (Jan. 21)  
- Twelve concrete Aleut laborer homes begun  
- Began wiring Native houses for electricity (Aug. 10)  
- Laid foundation for livestock Barn  
- Pump House at Icehouse Lake  
- Platform for three 1,000-gallon kerosene tanks built near Store  
- Moved Oil House from between Government Shop & Store to new platform  
- Physician’s house and dispensary constructed |
| 1926  | - Ten of twelve new concrete homes in use  
- Eight additional homes built  
- New building at SW Point for foxing operations  
- New Livestock Barn completed  
- Windmill erected at Icehouse Lake for pumping water  
- Jail  
- Laundry at Company House  
- Frigidaire building behind Company House begun  
- Ships’ chandlery room added to Point Warehouse  
- Removed calidore from north end of Company House |
| 1927  | - Construction begins on fourteen 4-room concrete Aleut Laborer Houses |
| 1928  | - New Jail  
- New Store  
- Two concrete Aleut Houses  
- House numbering system instituted  
- Watch Houses at Zapadni and Halfway Point  
- 21 old, Pre-WW1 wooden houses razed  
- Aleutian Bunkhouse constructed |
| 1929  | - New Bunk House [Aleut Bunkhouse] at Northeast Point  
- Native housing, one 4-room, one 3-room house  
- 26' x 40' Hospital started  
- School construction started  
- Coal House  
- Jail, 14' x 20' concrete foundation and wood frame  
- Small frame building to house electric refrigeration engine and compressor used for employees’ mess  
- Four-room Priest House built by Natives  
- Small building, 8' x 9', for housing the Weather Bureau instruments  
- Electric Power Plant and Cold Storage building 32' x 60' construction started |
| 1930  | - Two 3-room concrete houses for Natives  
- A 43' x 74' extension added to Wash House  
- A 14' extension was added to the Electric Power Plant and Cold Storage building  
- Foundation for a second Wash House laid  
- New Schoolhouse completed  
- New dock, 50' x 140', at East Landing begun  
- 28' x 40' hospital completed |
| 1931  | - Overhead carrying system installed in Wash House  
- Electric Power Plant and Cold Storage building 32’ x 74’ construction completed  
- Pipeline laid from Wash House offshore for salt water  
- New Pump House on shoreline near Old Machine Shop  
- Footings laid for new Wash House  
- New Garage (Equipment or Municipal Garage); razed in 2007  
- Fouke Bunkhouse  
- House 105 constructed by U.S. Navy  
- Plank road -1 2/3 miles long constructed over dunes by Big Lake  
- Paint Shop, razed in 1987  
- Forty-eight small Native meat and storage houses for wood, coal, salt, meat, laundry work, etc., one for each native house  
- Tramway rails do not appear on maps  
- Boatway constructed with rails |
| 1932  | - 36' x 50' extension to Salt House completed  
- 46' x 100' Wash House completed  
- 32' x 54' bunkhouse for sealing assistants completed  
- 33' x 70' Community Hall finished (destroyed by fire in 1946)  
- 34' x 56' Government House completed  
- East Landing dock 50' x 225' completed, boatways alongside begun  
- Windmill erected at Icehouse Lake for pumping water |
| 1933  | - Completed 80' x 100' dock at West Landing  
- Laid foundations for three Native houses |
| 1934  | - Three Native Laborer Houses  
- Extension to Salthouse  
- Platform for gas storage tank  
- Watchhouse at Marunich  
- Coal House enlarged  
- Bunkhouse at Northeast Point rebuilt for white employee  
- Webster House rebuilt on same site  
- Hospital constructed |
| 1935  | - Overhaul of By-products Plant  
- Ice House at Icehouse Lake |
| 1936  | - Saltwater intake system at West Landing for fur seal Wash House |
| 1937  | - Naval Radio Station transferred to Bureau of Fisheries  
- New Machine Shop adjacent to Garage begun (completed 1939) |
<table>
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| 1938 | - Fence at Radio Station replaced  
- Children's playground constructed in front of School  
- Baseball diamond laid out  
- Moved Boat Shop (old School House) to temporary location  
- Sanitary Milk Room built into Barn  
- Hot water line laid from Hospital to Milk Room and Milking Room  
- Cemetery Road improved  
- Greenhouse for Priest House  
- Panel fences built between Company House and Cottage 4, around 3 government cottages, and children's playground to keep the cows out  
- Two Horseshoe courts placed in front of Fouke Bunkhouse |
| 1939 | - Construction begun on four new frame homes  
- Pump House begun for lifting gasoline from sump to hillside storage tanks  
- Three new Aleut Laborer Houses built in 1918 moved forward onto concrete foundations  
- Nine outdoor laundry houses built for Native dwellings |
| 1940 | - New Office under construction on site of Old Office, 24' x 36' with 2 walk-in fireproof vaults  
- Three new Aleut Laborer Houses  
- Construction of outdoor laundry houses for Native dwellings continues  
- Oil storage foundations of concrete, above and between Machine Shop 30,100 gallon tanks |
| 1941 | - New Fisheries Office completed  
- Outdoor laundry houses for Native dwellings continues  
- Concrete oil storage foundations complete  
- Biologists’ Laboratory (Old Office) in use in new site |
| 1942 | - September– 1400 army troops occupy St. Paul Island  
- December fighter plane airstrip completed |
| 1943 | - LORAN Station built at Southwest Point by U.S. Coast Guard and Seabees  
- Radio station installed on top of Village Hill for U.S. Army Air Forces use  
- Radio station on top of Telegraph Hill for U.S. Army Air Forces use  
- Cottage 23 remodeled by the Army Weather Bureau into permanent weather station  
- One frame-house  
- August– army troops depart except a caretaker group of 10 |
| 1944 | - Paint Warehouse begun by the Army, finished by Bureau of Fisheries  
- Three Fox Houses 8' x 10' placed one each at Halfway Point, Zapadni, and NE Point  
- Aleut Laborer House |
| 1945 | - Two-car Garage constructed on Tract A, Block 11, Lot 8, across street from Government House  
- Electric Power Plant and Cold Storage building, construction of 20’ extension began on south end |
| 1946 | - Foundation laid for new Community/Recreation Hall  
- Foundations laid for one home Aleut Laborer and one federal employee house (112)  
- Frame House 50 |
| 1947 | - By-Products Plant extension  
- Electric Power Plant and Cold Storage building 20’ extension completed  
- Installation of 7,000’ of water pipe from Stony Point Lake to Icehouse Lake begun |
| 1948 | - Power lines and sewer mains replaced  
- Additions to dormitories for service personnel and Fouke employees started  
- Company House addition begun  
- Aleut Laborer House 51 |
| 1949 | - Another story added to Fouke Bunkhouse to accommodate 24 male boarders  
- One government employee house (Quarters 12, currently 112)  
- Addition made to schoolhouse |
| 1950 | - Aleut Laborer Houses (52 and 53)  
- One government employee house (Quarters 13, currently 113)  
- Saltwater intake system installed in Seal Plant  
- Work to improve airstrip for commercial service begun  
- Pacific Hut moved from Stony Point Lake into village as Storage Garage for cranes, shovels, and road gear |
| 1951 | - Aleut Laborer Houses, one 4-room and the other 6-room (54 and 55), House 55 razed and new 2-story house built on the lot in 2003  
- Greenhouse for staff employees ( razed in ca. 1967)  
- 12-room addition to Company House  
- Airport completed  
- Recreation/Community Hall open for use  
- Parts room added to Machine Shop |
| 1952 | - Aleut Laborer Houses (56 and 57)  
- Greenhouse by old barn site blows down in winter storm  
- New sewer system in village  
- New water system installation  
- Automotive Equipment Garage (Halibut Plant) 44' x 100' begun  
- Radio Station Duplex (108/109) and Operator's House (105) complete  
- Two structural steel radio towers removed  
- Airfield complete; runway 3,750’ long and 150’ wide  
- High School added a fifth classroom in the attic  
- Replaced diesel oil storage tanks and by-products oil storage tanks  
- Greenhouse near Radio Station Quarters constructed |
| 1953 | - Radio Operator's House (105) moved in line with Radio Station Duplex (106/107)  
- Manager's House (115) alongside Cottage 3  
- Automotive Equipment Garage (Halibut Plant)  
- Installation of new water mains and hydrants in village  
- Butler Building erected east of Aleutian Bunkhouse to house transient Alaskan laborers  
- Rock crushing station installed near West Landing (dismantled in 1969)  
- Paint House moved east of Wash House B, new store and warehouse will occupy site  
- Fox elimination program continued |
- Aleut Laborer Houses (58 and 59)—the last constructed until 1961  
- Street lights installed throughout the Village  
- All residences connected to water and sewer  
- Masonry store/warehouse begun, 218’ x 50’  
- Stony Point Pump House, two, 200,000-gallon concrete water reservoirs under construction  
- Company House addition complete: meat cutting room, chill room, sharp freeze, dry storage  
- Recreation Hall concrete retaining wall and film storage vault begun  
- Six-Car Garage |
| 1955 | - Store and Warehouse completed, includes Laundry, Post Office, Jail, Biologist's Laboratory  
- Two freshwater wells drilled on Telegraph Hill with Pump House  
- Saltwater well drilled at West Landing  
- Modernizing Aleut homes with dormers, porches, bathrooms, rewiring (10 homes still lack bathrooms)  
- Many shed and outhouses razed |
1956
- Third freshwater well completed on Telegraph Hill
- Second 5,000-gallon concrete brining tank constructed
- Modernizing Aleut homes completed: all homes have bathrooms, new kitchen cabinets, washers, refrigerators, gas stoves
- Cottage 4 remodeled to accommodate Doctor's family
- Old Hardware building converted into Carpenter Shop
- Canteen moved from Recreation Hall into the Old Store building
- Butler buildings erected east of Aleutian Bunkhouse as temporary housing
- Water cooler by Power House rebuilt
- Fence installed around Radio Station
- Old Jail razed
- Barn razed
- Cottage 24A razed

1957
- Airstrip extended 1000’ on the south, 300’ on the north, and 200’ on each end widened
- Parking lot at airport enlarged
- Old Hardware Building converted to Carpenter Shop
- Old Carpenter Shop (constructed circa 1880), Jail, Post Office/Lab razed

1958
- Alaska Dormitory construction

1959
- Airport parking apron 100’ x 225’ of 6’ concrete with countersunk eyes for tying planes
- Several enclosed 4’ x 8’ porches added to Aleut Laborer Houses for use as laundry rooms
- New Power House construction started (decommissioned 1998)

1960
- Alaska Dormitory in operation
- New Power House in operation (razed in 2007)
- Reindeer corral moved from LORAN Station area to Lake Hill (Sept. 15)
- House 51 cement poured for basement (Oct. 6)
- U.S. Coast Guard LORAN station construction complete
- Fire station razed

1961
- Five 80,000 gallon petroleum tank farm completed (dismantled in 1988)
- Aleutian Bunkhouse razed 1961

1962
- Observation Hut constructed at Lukanin Rookery
- One antenna tower base at Radio Station removed

1963
- Ellerman Heights (New Village) development planned; overlooking lagoon entrance
- Four ranch-style houses (117–120) in old village

1964
- Five-Car Garage
- Fouke Bunkhouse remodeled as office space
- Four ranch-style houses (122–125) in old village
- Theater Building (razed in 2008)

1965
- Government Service Station for diesel and gasoline
- Water treatment plant

1966
- House foundation laid in Ellerman Heights
- Trial drilling for new well near Kaminista
- Former Plumbing Shop converted into Village Automotive Repair Shop
- “Turkey line” at By-Products plant extended 360’
- By-Products Plant addition
- New Tank Farm of 2 gasoline tanks
- New water and sewer lines
- On Village Hill, third concrete water tank constructed, old wooden water storage tanks razed
- GARCO Warehouse along Salt Lagoon Channel
- Assembly of God Church and Parsonage
- Two ranch-style houses (126–127) in old village
- Coal Storage building and former Power House burned down

1967
- New Post Office constructed on site of Old Power House (Electric Power Plant and Cold Storage)
- Alaska Dormitory extended
- Native Service Station with underground tanks completed
- Strobe lights installed at airfield by Coast Guard

1968
- New sewage treatment system begun, two 16,000-gallon septic tanks
- Four pre-cut houses near the future school site in old village
- Metal Warehouse completed
- Underground cable laid to By-Products Plant
- Last coal burner in a government structure removed from Carpenter Shop, oil furnace installed

1969
- Eight new pre-cut houses on Ellerman Heights
- Stony Lake Pump House razed

1970
- New prefabricated house built on Weather Bureau site

1971
- June 29, City of St. Paul becomes fourth class Alaskan City
- The Aleut Corporation

1972
- City of St. Paul becomes second class Alaskan City
- School construction began

1973
- Recreation Hall remodeled to accommodate City of St. Paul Offices
- Tanadgusix Corporation (TDX)
- St. Paul Elementary and Junior High School completed in September

1974
- Government Staff Quarters
- Combine Shop
- Health Clinic created by connection to Physician Quarters and Hospital

1975
- National Marine Fisheries Service Laboratory
- Receiving Warehouse 40’ x 100’ erected adjacent to West Landing dock
- Annex to Powerhouse 40’ x 60’ steel building to house 3 diesel generators

1977
- NMFS Laboratory and Administration building completed and occupied
- Alaska Dormitory converted to four apartments and 28 single bed rooms
- Cooperative Agreement to Establish the Pribilof Islands Joint Management Board

1978
- Addition to school building: 4 classrooms, storage area and lavatories
- Residence for School District Superintendent

1981
- No new construction

1982
- Cascade Warehouse 80’ x 192’

1983
- No new construction
- Fur Seal Act Amendments of 1983 §1165- transferring formerly withheld federal property to island entities under a Transfer of Property Agreement; Title I §1161 - continuing management of the rookeries to ensure compliance with the Fur Seal Convention.
- Bureau of Commercial Fisheries ceases administration and management of St. Paul Island and the commercial fur-seal industry, excepting management of the fur-seal rookeries.
- TDX assumes responsibility for the commercial fur-seal fishery

1984
- The United States Senate refused to ratify an extension to the 1957 Interim Convention on Conservation of North Pacific Fur Seals in 1984, and commercial fur-sealing came to an end.
constructed baraboras.15 Three or four of the Russians were married to Aleut women. Some of these men had lived on the island for many years, and he quoted one of them saying — "Here we have everything in abundance. We make our clothes from fox and fur seal [sic] pelts. The fur seals which we treat like our herds are a plentiful source of food. We have no lack of all kinds of fruit, particularly berries, and of edible plants. The sea birds and their eggs are our delicacies. Even though the island is devoid of trees, this does not bother us much as you might think. Our earthen huts [baraboras] are quite warm. Some driftwood, several ships of the Russian-American Company wrecked along the coast and oil-filled bones are adequate fuel for heat and for cooking our food."16 Regardless, Rezanov ordered all the residents removed from the islands in 1806 in an attempt to reinvigorate a decimated fur-seal herd. In 1808 people returned to St. George, but they remained absent from St. Paul Island until 181017 when the RAC transferred 200 men, women, and children to the island from the eastern Aleutians.18

Veniaminov wrote that 137 Aleuts, Creoles, and Russians had settled on St. Paul Island in two villages.19 Although the exact time he refers to is uncertain, it may have been 1827 when he made his first visit to the Pribilofs.20

The first and principal village is situated at the southwest end of the island, along the bay; the other at the southeast end. In the principal village, named Gavanskoe [Russian: harbor], which broke up families and severed extended kinship ties.25 Russian administrators did not, however, attempt to eradicate the Aleut language. In fact, an early Russian missionary, Father Ivan Veniaminov, collaborated with Ivan Pan'kov, a toïton (chief) of Tidalga, one of the Fox Islands, to sustain their lan-

The settlement is on the north side of the island. It has been mentioned earlier that it is craggy all around, and because of this little driftwood is cast up, and it is impossible to collect enough to build with. All the huts, both the house of the leader and the barracks for the Russians and the Aleuts, storage warehouses and other shelters are made of planks covered with turf.24

As these various descriptions indicate, Aleuts experienced tremendous social and cultural changes during the Russian period on the Pribilofs and the Aleutian Islands. Contact with promyshlenniki decimated the population through murder and disease. Promyshlenniki also relocated Aleuts from scattered and remote areas to centralized locations and to previously unoccupied islands such as the Pribilofs, which broke up families and severed extended kinship ties.25 Russian administrators did not, however, attempt to eradicate the Aleut language. In fact, an early Russian missionary, Father Ivan Veniaminov, collaborated with Ivan Pan'kov, a toïton (chief) of Tidalga, one of the Fox Islands, to sustain their lan-

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15 Ibid., 5–6. The early historical literature of St. Paul Island presents some consternation as to what early settlements, such as the current village site and the Zapadni site were being referred to by visiting explorers. Langdorff stated “Russian fur hunters... had seen our ship from their settlement on the southwestern tip of the island” (2). An examination of any current topographic map or chart of the island shows the current village of St. Paul on what could be described as the southwestern tip. This interpretation is supported by Langdorff’s statement; “…we went on land and found on the southwestern side of the island a spacious bay...” (5). This description suggests the explorers landed on the southeastern side of the southwestern tip of St. Paul Island, and after crossing over the tip they observed a “bay.” In addition, Langdorff stated the village was “…about a verst from the shore.” A verst is approx. 3,500 feet or 1.07 kilometers. At present time, both the current village and the Zapadni site are considerably closer than a verst from the nearest shore. So, was Langdorff referring to what is now called Zolotyi Bay or to Village Cove, which also could be considered a bay or English Bay? Pendleton, “Changes in Aleut House Construction”, 133, reasons as to why Zapadni is the likely settlement referred to by Langdorff. She states, “There is no evidence of any other settlement on the southwestern side of the island... one can reason that any early historical evidence at the current St. Paul Village would likely have been destroyed or covered over following one hundred years of redevelopment. Veniaminov, Notes on the Islands, 140, wrote there are “…two villages. The first and principal village is situated on the southwest end of the island, along the bay.” Veniaminov’s description of “bay” similarly is open to various interpretations. Veniaminov went on to state “the principal village, named Gavanskoe [Russian: harbor]. Does Veniaminov mean the village is both along a bay and a harbor not in contradiction to Langdorff’s description (cf. Pendleton, “Changes in Aleut House Construction”; 133–34)?

16 Langdorff, Remarks and Observations, vol. 2, 9. In his next paragraph Langdorff stated, “After hearing this, one would assume that those fifteen men... lived in the greatest of harmony and friendship. Alas, we unfortunately saw nothing but discord and enmity among them.”


18 Black, Russians in Alaska, 132.

19 Ibid., 140. People of mixed Aleut and Russian descent were recognized as Creoles by the Russian government. Also it is noteworthy that Veniaminov did not mention a third village (Zapadni) just two years after Khlebnikov’s visit to St. Paul.


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The settlement is on the north side of the island. It has been mentioned earlier that it is craggy all around, and because of this little driftwood is cast up, and it is impossible to collect enough to build with. All the huts, both the house of the leader and the barracks for the Russians and the Aleuts, storage warehouses and other shelters are made of planks covered with turf.24

As these various descriptions indicate, Aleuts experienced tremendous social and cultural changes during the Russian period on the Pribilofs and the Aleutian Islands. Contact with promyshlenniki decimated the population through murder and disease. Promyshlenniki also relocated Aleuts from scattered and remote areas to centralized locations and to previously unoccupied islands such as the Pribilofs, which broke up families and severed extended kinship ties.25 Russian administrators did not, however, attempt to eradicate the Aleut language. In fact, an early Russian missionary, Father Ivan Veniaminov, collaborated with Ivan Pan’kov, a toïton (chief) of Tidalga, one of the Fox Islands, to sustain their lan-
guage by creating a written Aleut language in the 1820’s. This effort facilitated the conversion of the Aleuts to the Russian Orthodox religion.

Architecturally, Russian influence remains most visible in the construction of Russian Orthodox churches that stand at the center of communities throughout Alaska. The first chapel on St. George Island was constructed from driftwood in 1833 and dedicated to the Great Martyr Saint George. St. Paul Island’s first chapel (1821) also was made of driftwood. The Russian Orthodox churches on St. George and St. Paul islands continue to serve the islands’ communities, and the architecture and location of the churches exemplify the central role of the Russian Orthodox religion in the communities.

The American Lease Period, 1870–1910

American architectural influence on the Pribilof Islands manifested itself most dramatically in doing away with the use of barabaras, building above-ground housing, and laying out the houses in a grid pattern. Although it would take a few years for the construction of frame houses to begin, such changes not only altered the landscape, but also further transformed Aleut material culture. Pribilof Aleuts moved above ground and experienced more complete distinctions between different interior spaces and their uses than ever before.

In 1869, approximately two years after the U.S. acquired the Seal Islands, along with the rest of Russian America, Captain Charles Bryant reported what he observed on the Seal Islands:

The late Russian company’s buildings are situated on the peninsula of St. Paul Island, and comprise three dwelling houses, one storehouse for goods, and one large warehouse for salting and storing skins. They are all built of wood, and were much out of repair when the transfer took place. The parties occupying them at the present time have since repaired them at an expense nearly equal to their original cost. Parties doing business on the islands last summer, erected several new buildings on the islands.

The village of the natives, grouped about the company’s buildings, comprises some forty huts on St. Paul, and about half as many on St. George. They are built of turf and thatched with grass. Each house has two or three apartments, in the inner one of which the family, often comprising ten or fifteen persons, live in a space seldom exceeding the dimensions of fifteen feet long by twelve feet wide, and six feet high. Some of the houses are nearly kept, but being built partly under ground, all lack light and ventilation. There being no wood on the islands, seal blubber is used as fuel, the smoke of which is very disagreeable. Considerable lumber has been distributed among the natives during the past summer, but a large additional quantity is needed to enable them to make their houses comfortable.

In August 1870, the year the Alaska Commercial Company (ACC) started its lease of the islands, Pribilof Aleuts continued to live in semi-subterranean “huts or sod-walled and dirt-roofed houses.”

U.S. Treasury Special Agent Charles Bryant observed only the chiefs lived “in wooden houses on their own.” He described the barabaras as containing three compartments: an outer compartment where cooking took place, a middle compartment where one-half of the chamber served as workspace and the other as an outhouse; and an inner living compartment approximately 10’ x 12’. Bryant painted a grim picture of these buildings, explaining that “Here, crowded together, without ventilation” Aleut laborers and their families spent “tedious winters… without means to struggle against privation or comfort,” causing permanent physical damage and shortening their lives. Bryant urged that an application to Congress be made to furnish materials for “small, wooden houses above ground.” He assured the Secretary of the Treasury that enough skilled Aleut carpenters lived on the islands to build frame houses.

In the early 1870’s, the ACC began building aboveground, frame houses. In 1874, the wife of a government agent on St. George Island wrote in a letter home that the company was “putting up good houses” for the Aleuts as fast as possible, “and intend in another year to take down all the turf houses and give them all modern dwellings.” Seventy cottages for Aleut laborers and their families had been completed by 1875 (the ACC took responsibility for funding sixty-four houses). Government Special Agent Charles Bryant enthusiastically recorded that Aleut housing was “built with special reference to the wants of the people, and they are allowed to live in them free of rent. This gives each family a separate residence with ample accommodation, so that where five years since the population were crowded into mud huts, to living without cleanliness or ventilation, there now is a village of 70 houses with well-graded streets, and the advantages derived by the people from their improved condition are already apparent in the better health of the community.”

Henry W. Elliott, a naturalist who clandestinely worked on behalf of the ACC following his termination as assistant Treasury agent, proclaimed that during the ACC’s twenty-year lease of the Seal Islands (1870–1890), the company had transformed the villages of St. Paul and St. George from “place[s] of the squalid, filthy habitations of the immediate past” to “neat, warm, and contented” villages. Elliott’s observations come from his two sojourns to the Pribilof Islands in 1872–73 and 1874. His praise of the ACC and the push to “Americanize” Aleuts continued. By 1874, he boasted that each family “lives in a snug frame dwelling. Every house is lined with tarred paper, painted, furnished with a stove, with outhouses, etc., complete; streets are laid out, and the foundations of these habitations regularly platted thereon.” Both islands had churches and schoolhouses with company-hired teachers to conduct eight months of schooling annually. A skilled physician resided on each island, and Elliott pointed out that the St. Paul pharmacy contained a “complete stock of drugs,” all provided by the ACC, free of charge.

Bryant, “Annual Report for 1875,” 18. Elliott repeated some of his Our Arctic Province, text in U.S. Congress, House, Report of Henry W. Elliott, 423. [Note: this congressional document was published several times; the page numbers cited herein may not correspond with those found in other editions.]

References:

Elliott also reported that there were 63 houses in St. Paul Village “with 20 or 24 such houses to as many families on St. George and 18 other structures.”

The ACC furthered acculturation efforts by forbidding the use of either the Aleut or Russian language. To aid its Americanization efforts, the company commissioned a book to teach the English language to Aleuts on the Pribilof Islands, in particular, and to Alaska Natives who spoke Russian (Figure 8). Crammed with lessons, the primer was intended to encourage Alaska Natives to adopt American values. The primer’s tone is typical of the time period where whites often exhibited insensitivity and condescension toward non-whites. During intermittent periods, the church on the Pribilofs maintained its own school to promote the continued use of both the Aleut and Russian languages.

The landscape of the islands changed from one of barabaras that mainly blended into the coarse tundra grasses, to vistas of aboveground structures. Henry Elliott boasted that in addition to administrative quarters and dwellings erected and “neatly painted” on the islands by the ACC, it had built “large warehouses and salt sheds,” which when observed together, “constitute a picture fully equal to the average presentation of any one of our small eastern towns.” The first Government House on St. Paul Island was built in 1872. It was replaced with a new building in 1932, that is used today as the St. Paul Island Museum and it also houses offices of Tanadgusix Corporation, the island’s Native corporation. On St. George Island, the ACC built its headquarters in 1870, the same year that the Government House was constructed on the island. In 1930, a new Company House on St. George Island replaced the old one, because, as the agent put it, the 1870 Company House “was too old to make repairs worthwhile.”

A second twenty-year lease of the Seal Islands went to the North American Commercial Company (NACC) in 1890. When the ACC handed over a “Schedule of Property” on the Seal Islands, its inventories listed:

**On St. Paul Island:**
- 1 Large Dwelling House
- 8 Mules
- 1 Retail Store Building
- 1 Cow
- 2 Village Store Buildings
- 4 Bidarrahs and boats
- 1 Barn and Stable
- House-hold furniture and office outfit
- 1 Old Warehouse (Fish House)
- 1 Piano
- 1 Village Salt House
- Wagons, carts, tools, sea lion skins, sealing outfits, etc.
- 1 Cove Salt House
- Library
- 1 Large new shop and warehouse
- 12 Rifles, new, 15,000 round ammunition
- 1 Point warehouse and wharf
- 300 Tons salt
- 1 Physician’s Home and Dispensary
- 1 Ice House (new)
- 1 School House and furniture
- 2 Wells and houses built over them
- 63 Native Houses
- 1 Chicken house
- 2 Large cisterns
- 1 Northeast Point salt house
- 1 Lot of coal, 40 tons estimated
- 1 Northeast Point native house
- 1 Telephone line and apparatus, 12 miles of wire
- 1 Salt House at Half Way Point (Polovina)

**On St. George Island:**
- 31 Native Houses
- Wharf and landing improvements
- 1 Dwelling House
- 3 Bidarrahs and boats
- Furniture and house hold effects
- Sealing outfit
- 1 Warehouse and Shop
- Coal Storehouse
- 1 Library
- Tons salt [amount not specified]
- 1 Cow
- Barn
- 11 Jacks
- Carpenter tools
- 1 Bull (work animal)
- Blacksmith tools and shop
- 1 Store Building
- Schoolhouse and furniture
- 1 Warehouse and Shop
- Coal Storehouse
- 1 Large Salt House
- Salt House Zapadni

It appears that little construction took place during the NACC’s lease due to lack of money stemming from a paucity of fur seals to harvest and perhaps, because the company found itself embroiled in controversies with the U.S. government throughout its leasing period. The NACC contended with the
international dispute over pelagic sealing, the decline of the fur-seal population, and charges of corruption on the island. In the early 1920's, G Dallas Hanna, a naturalist, who began his long association with the Pribilof Islands as teacher and caretaker on St. George Island in 1913, recalled that by the time the government took over administration and management of the islands on May 1, 1910, “Almost no improvements had been made” since 1875. When the NACC’s lease ended, the U.S. government acquired the small frame houses where Aleuts resided, including “official dwellings, warehouses, salt houses, boats, general stores, and equipment,” all of which Hanna described as dilapidated.\footnote{Hanna, The Alaska Fur-Sea Islands, 39.}

**The Federal Period, 1910–1983**

Construction projects on the Seal Islands during the federal period were shaped by internal and external forces. The need for housing or other buildings did not always immediately translate into construction booms. Money, manpower, politics, wars, and the availability of materials all played a role in the lifecycle of construction projects. At the time that management of the Seal Islands was transferred from the NACC to the U.S. federal government, the government “inherited 55 Native dwellings” on St. Paul Island and twenty-four houses on St. George Island.\footnote{George Rogers, An Economic Analysis of the Pribilof Islands, 1870–1946. Prepared for Indian Claims Commission Docket Number 352 and Docket Number 369, March 1976: 150.} The number of Native houses was down from a total of ninety-four in 1890, and down from seventy on St. Paul Island in 1875. Buildings associated with the sealing industry and administrative buildings also were transferred. "With regard to the buildings it may be said that, although erected by the former lessee [ACC], they have been kept from deterioration by constant repair..."\footnote{Walter I. Lembköy, "The Fur-Seal Fisheries of Alaska in 1910", in Bur. Fish., Yearly Report, Alaska Fisheries and Fur Industries, 1910.} No immediate building seems to have taken place after the government assumed control over the commercial fur-seal industry’s operations, although available records show that an addition was put on the Government House on St. Paul in 1910.\footnote{Agent’s Log, St. Paul Island, Sept. 16, 1910 (NARA, Pacific Alaska Region, Anchorage, RG 22 Series: Pribilof Island Log Books compiled 1870–1961).}

A 1913 inventory presented to the House Committee on Expenditures in the Department of Commerce described Aleut residences as small wooden one-story frame structures, 20 by 10, on the sills, and no attic, with an outer shed or ‘‘calle dore’’ over the entrance; the entire cost, when first built by the Alaska Commercial Co. in 1876 (and then given by that lessee to the natives), was between $210 and $225 per dwelling.\footnote{Books compiled 1870–1961).} They have been well painted and kept in tolerably good shape year after year by the lessees, up to the close of their [NACC] lease, May 1, 1910, then the Government up to date, as the following inspection will attest:

They all have one living room 10 by 10, and a bed room 8 by 10, with that outside shed or “hall” (“callidore”). There is a little variation only in this place, by the fashion of attaching this callidore to the main building: some bringing it out flush, to the front line of the house, others setting it back; some have widened it more, and so on; the average callidore is 5 by 14 feet. These dwellings are too small for those natives who have several children, since they allow of only one small 8 by 10 bedroom, that compels them to sleep crowded, and often badly crowded, into these small rooms.

Nevertheless, these people when asked by us made no complaint of being insufficiently fed and clothed or warmed by the Government under existing orders and regulations. The annual sum allowed them for food, clothing, and fuel should not be less than $35,000 which is a fair amount for that end. They should not be reduced from that sum, for the annual maintenance of 302 souls up here, in a very simple life, requires it.\footnote{U.S. Congress, House, Hearings before the Committee on Expenditures in the Department of Commerce, House of Representatives: Investigation of the Fur-Sea Industry of Alaska, October 13, 1913, and January 17, 1914, No. 1: 111–12 (Washington, DC: GPO, 1914).}

The same year, a new watchhouse near Zapadni Bay at St. George replaced a leaky sod house, described in the annual fisheries report as “a frame structure banked up to the eaves with sod.” These were no small deficiencies, considering that guards lived in the watchhouse from June until November every year. The report stated that “The lumber for this work was cut to length in the village and hauled on sleds the 5 miles from the village to Zapadni. This was also ‘community work,’ i.e., work without compensation.”\footnote{Barton Warren Evermann, Alaska Fisheries and Fur Industries in 1913, Bur. Fish. Doc. No. 797: 153 (Washington, DC: GPO, 1914).}

The government’s Bureau of Fisheries assumed total responsibility of the Pribilofs in May 1910, however, most construction activities from 1910 to 1917 involved the U.S. Navy Department in conjunction with the building of the radio station. The Navy began erecting buildings for a Naval Radio Station on St. Paul beginning in 1911. The naval radio stations at St. Paul Island and St. George Island comprised parts of a network of wireless stations to connect U.S. commercial interests, and later military interests, to a transoceanic network. A more detailed discussion in the St. Paul Naval Radio Station can be found in the Naval Radio Station Complex section of this book. In 1915, construction activity outside of the Naval Radio Station consisted mainly of resodding homes to “prevent the wind from going through in the winter.”\footnote{Log of St. Paul Island Alaska, Fall and Winter 1915–16: 11 (NARA, Pacific Alaska Region, Anchorage, RG 22, Series: Pribilof Island Logbooks compiled 1870–1961, box 24).} Two years later, new building gained momentum, fostered by a housing shortage on both islands. A 1917 Act of Congress funded this building boom, appropriating $20,000 for new buildings and other improvements on the Pribilof Islands.

The appropriation for improvements allowed the construction of urgently needed buildings, such as houses for laborers, the By-Products Plant, Business Office, old Machine Shop (not the one built in 1939), Salthouse A, and a Chicken House. The By-Products Plant was funded by a special allocation from the National Security and Defense Fund and was meant to improve efficiencies in the fur-seal industry by converting seal carcasses into meal rather than leaving them to decay on the killing fields. R. B. Bentley, a by-products expert, oversaw the initial construction of the building and installation of the machinery, which included a 300-ton hydraulic tankage press, a vacuum fertilizer dryer, grease tanks, digesters, and 4,000-gallon fir [wood] tank among the variety of equipment needed to turn carcasses into meal.\footnote{Ward T. Bower, Alaska Fisheries and Fur Industries in 1918, U.S. Dep. Commer., Bur. Fish., Doc. No. 872: 83 (Washington, DC: GPO, 1919).} G Dallas Hanna declared that the oil from the reduction of carcasses was “superior to any other kind known for certain tanning processes,” and that the animal meal was suitable for poultry food.\footnote{Hanna, The Alaska Fur-Sea Islands, 151.} Several additions enlarged the building during the following decades. This same year [1918], electrical lighting became a reality on St. Paul Island through cooperation with the Naval Radio Station. “The engine and generator were placed on the concrete basement floor of the Government shop and [a] belt was run to the floor above which operated [the] band saw, lathe, and grindstone. Lights were installed in the shop, company house, dispensary, club house and Government house.” The report continued “The engine was equipped to burn kerosene and it was found that the quantity used was less than...
two-thirds that which had formerly been used in the same buildings in kerosene lamps. Owing to the economy thus secured,… plans are being made for the lighting of the villages on both islands."

A 1915 map of St. Paul Village drafted by a Dr. Hunter (Vol. 1, p. 69) depicts the “site of former salthouse” and a new “salt house.” Curiously, a 1919 map (Vol. 1, p. 70) only depicts an “old salt house,” and a 1936 map by the U.S. Navy (Vol. 1, p. 71) shows only a single salt house and no wash houses. Bureau of Fisheries reports note the construction of two salt houses in the village in the early 1920s. Eventually, these two salt houses became known as Salt House A and Salt House B. In 1921, on St. Paul Island, one salt house received a 50’ addition. A sealskin wash and blubbering house was constructed in 1922, and a second wash house was constructed in 1930–31. These two wash houses eventually became known as Wash House A and Wash House B. Aleut laborers also constructed a garage to house “the four tractors on St. Paul” and added a concrete extension to the wharf. On St. George Island, Aleut laborers built a 3½ story general shop and warehouse, measuring 30’ x 60’. Workers also built two small houses, “one for paint and the other for dynamite;” they also nearly completed “a concrete native dwelling,” and began preliminary work on a new dispensary, hospital, and physician’s quarters.” At that time, the wharf on St. George Island was extended and the landing slip enlarged to enable “the discharge of small boats lightering cargo ashore.” Additionally, ventilators and adjusting rods were added to the greenhouse in 1925. A 1931 report states that the greenhouse measured 16’ x 32’–8”, with a concrete foundation.58

A greenhouse is mentioned again in an agent’s annual report of March 31, 1941. This greenhouse, “laid out in even size beds and assigned to each family and the Company House,” operated from April to November, “depending on the weather outside.” Each government agent’s family decided what it wanted to grow and supplied its own seeds, usually “quick growing greens, lettuce, beets, carrots and chard.” When the nights became dangerously cool, scrap wood was used to fuel a fire to keep the vegetables in the greenhouse warm enough. A greenhouse for the priest and his family functioned ca. 1945–52. Another greenhouse for government employees was erected in 1951, adjacent to the Government House for use by its occupants and those in cottages 1, 2, and 3, subsequently referred to as Teacher Houses, 101, 102, and 103. In the spring of 1953, a greenhouse was completed, with the exception of heating pipes, near the radio station quarters and just west of the Six-Car Garage.

From the 1930’s through the 1940’s, the Great Depression and World War II disrupted the lives of people on the Pribilofs. Looking back in 1946, St. Paul’s Assistant General Manager, Clarence L. Olson, commented that “Beginning with 1934, the records reveal a sharp decline in construction and permanent improvements.” He is undoubtedly referring to the effects from the worldwide economic downturn of the 1930’s.

It was evidently intended that the building plan would be resumed when Government returned to a business-like basis. But when no change came about, by 1940 the pinch was beginning to be felt in the lack of proper buildings and equipment. The store and schoolhouse were becoming overcrowded, new houses were needed for employees and natives, water and sewer lines were causing trouble, motive equipment needed replacement, and the carpenter shop, built sometime late in the nineteenth century, was in danger of collapse.59

In 1939, the Bureau of Fisheries Agent and Caretaker J. W. Lipke drafted a “Return of Property” or the inventory of the government’s real property on St. Paul Island (Figures 9a-d). The reasons for this inventory are not known.

During the period 1934–40, construction work focused on road expansion projects. Otherwise, “only minor improvements were undertaken on St. Paul Island,” according to a government report titled Alaska Fishery and Fur-Seal Industries in 1935.60 However in 1941, building activities increased beginning with the construction of four Native houses. These dwellings had “the same floor plan as the older three room cottages, only the roof has been given a steeper pitch, whereby it is possible to put two rooms upstairs and making a compact five room dwelling,” and “Several more native laundries have been erected.” Also, a new bureau office building located on the site of the old office building was nearly completed that year.61 “Sod was put around the dispensary, hospital, and three cottages for white employees [Teacher Houses]. Cement sidewalks were also built around the cottages, and a walk between the dispensary and hospital.” On St. George Island, the new schoolhouse, begun in 1933, was completed, and a watchhouse was built at Staraya Artil.62

World War II prolonged the construction lull on the islands, particularly after the Seal Islands were evacuated in 1942. Just before the evacuation, the government agent’s annual report declared “a crying need for the construction of native cottages” existed on St. Paul Island. Crowded living conditions led to lack of privacy, creating tense circumstances that easily erupted into arguments.63 But, new-
## HISTORICAL REVIEW OF CONSTRUCTION ON THE SEAL ISLANDS

**Figure 9a.** Inventory of the government’s real property on St. Paul Island, Alaska, 1939. Records of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), Record Group (RG) 22, Box 14, Folder 7; National Archives and Records Administration—Pacific Alaska Region (Anchorage). (NARA)—Pacific Alaska Region (A).

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<th>Article</th>
<th>Unit</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Remarks</th>
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<td>Bureau of Fisheries</td>
<td>March 31, 1939</td>
<td>Fixed property</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barn 1926-27</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>By-Products Bldg 1918 with additions 1931-36</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dairy Bldg for Wokers employed 1931</td>
<td>1</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Business Office 1918-19</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Office House 1923-28</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Office West 1923</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Company House added 1922</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Concrete cottage No. 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Concrete cottage No. 3</td>
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<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Office house for feed 1928</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dispersary 1925-26</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Flagstaff at Black bluff, Govt. house and village</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frigidair Bldg 1925-28</td>
<td>1</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frigidair Bldg from 1929</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Garage 1920</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Office House 1923-26</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Government House 1926-32</td>
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<td>Green House 1923</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hospital 1929</td>
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<tr>
<td>Livestock Bldg 1925</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ice House 1923-36</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jail House 1926</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Laundry Bldg 1926</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>1</strong></td>
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**Figure 9b.** Inventory of the government’s real property on St. Paul Island, Alaska, 1939. Records of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, RG 22, Box 14, Folder 7; NARA—Pacific Alaska Region (A).
Figure 9c. Inventory of the government’s real property on St. Paul Island, Alaska, 1939. Records of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, RG 22, Box 14, Folder 7; NARA—Pacific Alaska Region (A).

Figure 9d. Inventory of the government’s real property on St. Paul Island, Alaska, 1939. Records of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, RG 22, Box 14, Folder 7; NARA—Pacific Alaska Region (A).
struction to benefit residents would wait until early 1944, when the Pribilof islanders returned from the evacuation camps at Funter Bay, Admiralty Island, Alaska.

In the meantime, U.S. Army troops took over Aleut residences and other buildings on St. Paul Island and began their own construction projects such as a “Paint Warehouse” in 1943, and an airport runway. In September 1942, a garrison of 1,400 officers and soldiers occupied the “civilian homes previously occupied by fishermen and Bureau of Fisheries personnel.” One-third of the troops stayed in winterized tents adjacent to the airstrip that the army completed in November. Winter weather stymied the construction of another runway and a road system until the end of December 1942. All of the troops except a ten-man “caretaking detachment” left the island at the end of August 1943. Before their departure, demolition charges were placed beneath the runway and in the radio station.

Aleuts returned to their home islands in May 1944, but Agent Clarence L. Olson claimed that since then “it has not been possible to rehabilitate the Government’s property to its former state of five years ago. In fact, only a small proportion of replacement has been made.” Scarcity of materials due to the war was only part of the problem. “Pribilof allotments,” Olson wrote, “have not kept pace with required events.” Although Aleut laborers continually made improvements to their houses, many still lacked base-ments, and a number of residents still did their laundry in the kitchen or on an enclosed porch. The porches, subject to the effects of cold, damp weather, proved unsuitable for drying clothes. Gas ranges and oil heaters, sent to replace coal furnaces in the 1950’s, arrived with every delivery by the ship *Penguin*, and although this increased electrical consumption on the island, the new power house, constructed in 1960, seemed to handle the increase without any trouble.

Until 1960, construction and heavy equipment costs on the Seal Islands were dealt with by requesting a budget increase based on each item. In 1960, such costs were charged against an annual allotment of $176,000. Charles Howard Baltzo, program director for the transition of federal administration to Native rule on the Pribilof Islands (i.e., Program for Administration of the Pribilof Islands Federal Reservation Embracing Management of the Fur Seal Resource and Development of the Resident Aleut Inhabitants), cautioned that “a substantial portion of this special allotment is necessarily spent for routine rehabilitation, heavy equipment replacement, and emergencies thus leaving a limited amount for new construction.”

In 1963, construction of Aleut residences took top priority, following a government-stated goal of completing forty homes over a ten-year period. In part, this was meant to create improved housing for St. Paul islanders; and in part this new housing was meant to accommodate the relocation of St. George islanders to St. Paul Island, although complete relocation did not come to pass. Four new ranch-style dwellings (117–121) were completed in 1963 in the old village.

A draft memorandum from 1964 lays out the consolidation of the two villages. Depending on sufficient funding, “St. George Island is to be phased out as a community and merged with St. Paul Island in the next 5 to 10 years” to decrease the problems associated with supplying the island and “advancing the social position of the Aleut residents through amelioration of their almost total isolation.”

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70 Ibid., 189.
71 Ibid., 190–91.
72 Ibid., 189.
73 Ibid., 190–91.
74 Ibid., 189.
75 Ibid., 189.
76 Ibid., 190.
77 Ibid., 191.
78 Ibid., 189.
79 Ibid., 192.
80 Ibid., 191.
81 Ibid., 192.
82 Ibid., 191.
83 Memorandum to Director, BCF, from Resource Development, Seattle, October 21, 1964: 1 (NOAA, NMML Library, Fur-Seal Archives, Seattle).
families already had been relocated to St. Paul Island, with plans for the “more deteriorated” homes on St. George Island to be demolished “to forestall any possible future tendency to backfill.”

Beginning in 1964, a program began to improve St. Paul Island’s building’s heating systems. A program to replace coal-fired heating systems at St. Paul with modern, oil-fired equipment was initiated. The program was expanded... with the installation of 40 oil-fired, forced-air furnaces and two oil-fired burners. Partial basements were constructed of lightweight masonry block to accommodate furnaces in houses where the room arrangement did not afford space for an adequate heating system. The complete heating system consisting of piping, convectors, radiators, boiler, and controls was replaced in the St. Paul Recreation Hall. Only two coal-fired heating systems remain at St. Paul and a few residents heat water and cook with coal fuel. Our objective is a complete conversion to oil fuel because oil can be delivered to the Pribilofs at a price far less than coal, plus providing greater safety and convenience.

Also in 1964, the Bureau of Commercial Fisheries initiated housing construction on the lower east side of Village Hill, along King Street; eventually a new Lakeside Street fronted the new row of dwellings. Eight basement-type residences [117–120 and 122–125] were constructed at St. Paul in 1963–64 and two nonbasement dwellings [126–127] are being constructed this year [1965]. Each has three bedrooms, oil-fired circulating forced-air heat, modern plumbing, full insulation, and provides 1,200 square feet of living space. Seven of the eleven ranch-style houses [122–128, and 131] constructed during 1963–66 front Lakeside Street. Ranch-style houses 128–131 were purportedly constructed ca. 1968, but the government records are not clear in this regard.

Also in 1965, Houses 40 and 45 underwent renovations in preparation for the St. George families tentatively scheduled to move in May.

As no space was available to build additional single-family homes within the old village housing section of St. Paul, plans for the new Ellerman Heights subdivision overlooking the Salt Lagoon Channel began in 1963. The next step was the “installation of the necessary water and sewer lines.” In 1965, Alaska Governor William A. Egan, appointed a special commission to examine the social and economic conditions on the Pribilofs. The commission found overcrowding on St. Paul was caused “intense dissatisfaction on the part of many people in that village.” Of the seventy dwellings on the island as of June 15, 1965, ten housed two families, and eleven dwellings housed “a family and one or more persons other than husband, wife or children... The situation is far more frustrating than in normal circumstances, because no family is legally able to build its own new house or even to enlarge a house it now occupies.”

To abate the hostility directed toward relocated St. George families, the commission suggested that the Bureau refrain from demolishing any more dwellings on St. George Island until the lack of housing on St. Paul was addressed. The commission also reported that private ownership of homes on the Seal Islands was going to be encouraged and supported through a bill introduced by U.S. Senator, Bob Bartlett (S. 2102 89th Congress, First Session). At the time of the report, Aleut residents paid monthly rents ranging from $30 to $62, depending on the size and the condition of the house.

Development of the Ellerman Heights subdivision began with plans for thirty houses and with recognition of ample room for further expansion. “The first foundation and shell was constructed in the new village addition overlooking the lagoon entrance,” in 1966. The “Annual Report for Sealing Operations for 1968” states “Major construction activities on St. Paul centered on a sewage treatment system [to service the Ellerman Heights development] and erection of four ‘pre-fabricated’ houses,” yet, no houses reached completion.

In 1969, construction began at Ellerman Heights on eight new “pre-cut houses.” These three-bedroom homes had full daylight basements, electricity and water. The new sewage disposal facility was completed just prior to occupancy. By October 1970, nine houses, started in 1969–70, had been erected on Ellerman Heights, although, “Basement garages in the new homes cannot be used until they can be completed with material meeting fire codes.” The 1986 NHL nomination map (Map 4) depicts thirty-one noncontributing residences on Ellerman Heights.

For St. Paul, the construction highlight in 1971 was the start of the new school, which still serves the community. On St. George, six men, employed full-time, took care of general construction and maintenance during the 1971 sealing season. Their main work consisted of converting “a portion of the warehouse near the boat ramp to an electric and plumbing shop.” The gasoline tank farm, started the previous year, was completed, the Zapadni warehouse was refurbished, and the last of the Butler Buildings was rebuilt to provide more storage space.

St. George construction workers focused on housing repairs in 1973, while St. Paul work efforts focused on completing the new school. The 20,000 square-foot school opened for classes in September 1973. Also in 1973, construction began on a new staff quarters building for federal government program management and research staff. In addition to the nine units that had kitchens and baths, the building contained “six-plus single sleeping rooms.”

In 1974, an expanded research program on St. George led to the creation of new catwalks and observation booths at East, Zapadni, and North rookeries. A new facility in the sealskin washhouse was also built, enabling researchers to hold live seals for an extended period of time.

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101 Ibid., 6.
102 Ibid.
In 1978, an addition to the St. Paul school began along with construction of a pre-fabricated house for the superintendent of the Pribilof School District. The school’s addition added four classrooms, a total of 3,620 square feet. On St. George, a gymnasium was added to the school. These construction projects took place under a reimbursable contract with the State of Alaska.\(^\text{105}\)

In 1979, “virtually all the land area on the island, most single family residences and several community buildings were transferred to the Tanadgusix Native Corporation, Aleut residents living in the dwellings, and the City of St. Paul. The federal government retained title to 1,582 acres.”\(^\text{106}\) By 1981, the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) fur-seal program activities were predominant on St. Paul, representing 68% of the economic activity on the island. NMFS became responsible for major improvements and structures related to the utility systems, docks, and airport.\(^\text{107}\)

A similar transfer took place on St. George Island in 1979, where “virtually all of the land area and 39 single family dwellings” were transferred to the “Tanaq Native Corporation and Aleut residents living in the dwellings.”\(^\text{108}\) The government retained possession of the “seal rookeries, airport, dock, utility systems, and major building and improvements in the community associated with the NMFS fur-seal program…” All economic activity flowed from NMFS, except for the Community Store, which was operated by the St. George Tanaq Corporation at this time.\(^\text{109}\)

No construction took place in 1980–81. House repair work was transferred to the Native corporations on both islands in 1980, as mandated in the Memorandum of Understanding between the NMFS and the St. George Tanaq Corporation on St. George, and the Tanadgusix Corporation on St. Paul.\(^\text{110}\) In 1982, NMFS contracted with a foreman from Seattle to oversee and train Aleut workers in the construction of two buildings on the Seal Islands. The equipment storage and cargo-handling building, called the Cascade Building, on St. Paul measured 80’ x 192’. The St. George building, adjacent to the aircraft landing strip, measured 60’ x 60’, with a 55’ x 16’-wide door, large enough for aircraft to enter (except the DC-3), so that the garage, built to store and repair equipment might also be used as an emergency hangar.\(^\text{111}\) The building was razed in 2008.

As directed in Section 205 of the Fur-Seal Act Amendment of 1983, NOAA worked with local entities to draft and approve an agreement known as Transfer of Property on the Pribilof Islands: Descriptions, Terms and Conditions, or the Transfer of Property Agreement (TOPA). The TOPA went into effect February 10, 1984. TOPA signatories included the Aleut Community Council of St. Paul, the Tanadgusix Corporation, the City of Saint Paul, the Aleut community of St. George, the St. George Tanaq Corporation, and the City of Saint George. The agreement described the federal government land conveyances, the recipients, the terms, and the Pribilof lands the government was to retain in accordance with ANCSA Section 3 (e). Each signatory received land under this agreement. In 1984, NOAA transferred St. George Island property previously connected with commercial fur-sealing operations, including the hotel and Aleut laborer cottages, but excluding the sealing plant and rookeries, to the St. George Tanaq Corporation and the City of Saint George. On St. Paul Island, NOAA transferred dwellings occupied by island inhabitants and non-rookery lands, retaining other ANCSA Section 3(e) withdrawal lands pending environmental restoration.

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\(^{107}\) Ibid.

\(^{108}\) Ibid.

\(^{109}\) Ibid., 7.


Anecdotal Photographs

Photograph No. USBF 1.76 (Photographer Hanna, G Dallas), 1914; Men moving a wooden building. This building was probably an old store house that was relocated across the street from the dispensary for use as a hospital. Buildings were frequently disassembled or relocated due to the scarcity of materials on the Pribilof Islands. Records of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, RG 370; NARA—Pacific Alaska Region (A).


Photograph No. USBF 2.47 (Photographer Hanna, G Dallas), 1919; Bridge at Halfway Point (Polovina). The 103-foot long bridge was constructed in 1911 using two stumps of the USRC Perry's masts, part of its deck, and driftwood logs. The 24- and 20-inch bolts used on the bridge were handmade by Native workmen on St. Paul. The Perry ran aground on St. Paul Island on July 27th, 1910. Records of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, RG 370; NARA—Pacific Alaska Region (A).
St. Paul Island Narrative Review of Historical Resources

This section was originally written to support an updated nomination by the National Park Service (NPS) of the Seal Islands to be a new National Historic Landmark District (NHLD). Most of the historical resources appearing in this section are identified on specific Historical Alaska Heritage Resource Survey (AHRS) forms and/or American Buildings Survey (HABS). While no photographs or illustrations accompanied the original submissions to the National Park Service and the Alaska State Historic Preservation Office, photographs and illustration are included in this book with the HABS and AHRS forms. Additionally, the text of this section has been modified from its original submission format for NPS into book form to accommodate new information and insights.

The 1986 National Register of Historic Places Nomination included a map (Map 3) naming significant features associated with St. Paul Island, such as the NHL boundaries, fur-seal rookeries, archaeological sites, and water bodies. Map 3 in this book replicates Map 4 in the 1986 nomination, while Map 4 in this book replicates Map 5 in the 1986 nomination. AHRS historical resources are depicted on Map 5 in this book.

Book Maps 6–10 depict houses and other structures in the St. Paul Village and other areas on St. Paul Island that are contributing and noncontributing resources to the NHLD. Aleut Laborer Houses considered contributing resources are identified by number (e.g., 8, 42, etc.) in the 1986 nomination. Structures, buildings, and several government employee houses considered contributing resources are identified by letter (e.g., E). House numbers applied in the 1986 nomination are consistent with house numbers recognized by the City of St. Paul, Alaska, with a single exception. In the 1986 nomination, houses that front King Street (street names are not identified on Map 4) are identified with sequential numbers north to south of 52–61. However, House no. 52 is recognized by the City of St. Paul as House no. 129, and Houses 60 and 61 are not recognized by the City, but they are recognized as Houses 52 and 53, respectively. Hence, City of St. Paul house numbers continue sequentially 52 through 59 south to north. This anomaly resulted in considerable confusion during historical surveys conducted in 2004 and 2007 as will be discussed later.

Details in the federal records varied over the years, and often the government agents did not provide a house number; a consistent name for a building, or even the building’s location. Building names and numbers sometimes changed over time as well, so we have done our best to piece together the available information to provide an overall illustration of building construction efforts on the islands. Maps 5–10 in this book identify noncontributing resources (except former government employee houses 105, 112, and 113 which are identified by number) and contributing HABS buildings and structures by letter (e.g., E) or letters (e.g., QQ and AAA) consistent with Table 2. The NPS assigned a HABS number (AK-203) to only one group of Aleut Laborer Houses; HABS AK-203 is collectively recognized by NPS as Type III houses. Individual Type III houses are listed in Table 3, along with four other types of houses on St. Paul; Table 3 also lists houses not categorized by any typology. Otherwise, City of St. Paul house numbers are used to identify contributing and noncontributing resources within the HABS system. AHRS numbers (e.g., XPI-160) assigned by the Alaska SHPO (Map 5) do not match City of St. Paul house numbers (e.g., 23).

St. Paul Island's genesis began only 750,000 years ago, making it much younger than the 2.2 million year old St. George Island.1 Its landscape is marked by weathered lava, scoria, and sandy deposits that provide visual reminders of its creation by volcanic activity in the Bering Sea. Cinder cones, one rising to 665 feet, dot the landscape. On this landscape, the 1962 and 1965 National Survey of Historic Sites and Buildings (Survey) emphasized the fur-seal rookeries as the principal historical resource, which led to the naming of the Fur-Seal Rookeries, Pribilof Islands, National Historic Landmark in 1966. The Survey did not specifically recognize any contributing building or structure resources other than the Russian Orthodox Church “built in 1907” and the oldest of the remaining “structures erected between 1786 and 1910.”2 The copies of the Survey that we examined make no mention of any other buildings or structures. Today, the great rookeries of the Seal Islands have a fur-seal population less than half the 1.5 million estimate in 1960.

The 1986 NHL nomination expanded the scope of the National Historic Landmark by recognizing once inhabited sites, as well as buildings and structures, associated with the fur-seal industry. The NHL boundaries on St. Paul encompass about one-fourth of this area and include rookeries, killing grounds, and settlement areas. The 1986 NHL nomination form listed sixty-four buildings and six archeological sites as contributing resources up through the period of significance that ended in 1959. While the form does not list seal rookeries, Section 7 within the nomination does recognize “12 historic sites (rookeries).”3 Catwalks used to observe seals are also mentioned as contributing resources in Section 7 of the 1986 nomination.

The historical St. Paul Village was predominately shaped by the two companies that leased the islands and managed the fur-seal industry from 1870 to 1910 and by U.S. government administrators from 1911 to 1983. The 1986 nomination offered five general categories of contributing resources on St. Paul: the Russian Orthodox Church (in a category of its own), Archeological Resources, Administrative Buildings and Staff Residences, Commercial Center, and Resident Aleut Laborers’ Housing. The last three categories most reflect the American influence. As previously noted, seal rookeries were not among the categories, although they are presumed relevant. In part, because this book is more expansive than the nomination, the reader will observe that it modifies and includes an additional historical category, the “Naval Radio Station Complex” and other miscellaneous buildings and structures.

Since the 1986 nomination, many contributing resources within the Seal Islands Historic District have undergone alterations or destruction as will be demonstrated, in part, here. For example, on St. Paul, since the nomination, only seven of ten contributing buildings listed under the category “Administrative Buildings and Staff Residences” remain, and only three of ten contributing buildings in the category “Commercial Center” remain; all other buildings in these two categories have had their historic integrity compromised by alterations.

St. Paul Village lies on the steep hillsides of Village Hill. Houses fan out in neat lines from the center of the village, which include the Church of the Holy Apostles Saints Peter and Paul (Building A, HABS AK, 1-SAPA, 1-A, XPI-083), and remnants of the old cemetery. Contributing resources to the National Historic Landmark District on Village Hill include the: Recreation Hall (Building L, AK-208; XPI-042);

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Map 3. “St. Paul Island.” This map is Map 4 in Faulkner, 1986, depicting the National Historic Landmark Boundary on St. Paul Island, Alaska; the fur-seal rookeries; and archaeological sites. From Sandra McDermott Faulkner; William S. Hanable and Robert L. S. Spade, Russian America Theme, National Historic Landmarks, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, NPS, Alaska Region, Anchorage, 1987: 35.
Table 2: St. Paul Island NHL Letter Designations with building and/or demolition dates for Maps 4, 6, 7, 8, 9, and 10. (Houses are designated by their community house numbers and are not listed here)

A: (HABS AK, 1-SAPA, 1-A-) Church of the Holy Apostles Saints Peter and Paul (1906)  
B: Priest's House Site (burned down 1999)
C: Teacher's House 103 (1924)  
D: Teacher's House 102 (1924)  
E: Teacher's House 101 (1925)  
F: Government House (1932)  
G: Bureau of Fisheries Office (1941)  
H: Company House/Trident Building (construction date unknown; enlarged 1922)  
I: Laundry Site (1926; demolished 1992)  
J: Physician's House/Dispensary (1925)  
K: Hospital (1934)  
L: Recreation Hall (1948)  
M: Theater Site (ca. 1964; demolished 2008)  
N: Blubbering House Site (1930–31; demolished 1986/87)  
  The Anderson Building now stands on this site (ca. 1985)
O: Kench House Site (demolished 1986/87)  
P: Salt House A/Boxing/Barreling Shed Site (1921–22; demolished 2000)  
Q: Fouke Bunkhouse (1933)  
R: Equipment/Municipal Garage Site (1931; demolished 2007)  
S: Machine Shop (1939)  
T: Small Frame Structure Site (construction date unknown; demolished between 1986–2004)  
U: Paint Shop Site (1931; demolished 1987)  
V: Six-Car Garage (1954)  
W: By-Products Plant Site (1918; demolished 1988)  
X: Garco/NMFS Warehouse (1966)  
Y: Combine Shop (1974)  
Z: Laboratory/Administration Building (1975–77)  
AA: Staff Quarters (1974–75)  
BB: Diesel Tank Farm Site (ca. 1950’s, removed 1988)  
CC: Power Plant Site (1959–60; demolished 2007)  
DD: Power Plant Annex Site (demolished July 2000)  
EE: Receiving Warehouse (1975)  
FF: Gas Station (1967)  
GG: Concrete Foundation/Point Warehouse Site (1924; demolished ca. 1958)  
II: Alaska Dormitory (1960)  
JJ: Cascade Warehouse (1982)  
KK: Navy Shingle Shed (ca. 1919)  
LL: Old Post Office/Duna’s Kitchen Site (1967)  
NN: Community Store/Warehouse/Laboratory (1955)  
OO: Five-Car Garage (1963)  
PP: Navy Tennis Court Site  
QQ: Duplex 106/107 (ca. 1911–1919)  
RR: (HABS AK-220) Naval Radio Station E-Shop/Naval Power Plant/Headstart Building (constructed between 1911–19)  
SS: Duplex 108/109 (1957)  
TT: Assembly of God Parsonage (1966)  
UU: Assembly of God Church (1966)  
VV: Saltwater Well Houses/Saltwater Pump Houses (exact dates unknown)  
WW: Concrete Foundation/Greenhouse Site (1951)  
XX: St. Paul School (1972)  
YY: Fish Plant/Trident Building (post-1986)  
ZZ: ATCO Trailer Camp Site (post-1986; demolished 2008)  
AA: St. Paul Old Village Cemetery Fence (1909)  
BBB: Log House (1996)  
DDD: Two-Car Garage/Government House Garage (1945)  
EEE: Webster House (1935)  
FFF/115: Manager’s House/House 115 (1954)  
GGG: Civic Center (post-1986)  
HHH: Aleut Bunkhouse Site at Northeast Point (1929; demolished ca. 2000)  
III: Ice House at Influence Lake (1935)  
JJJ: Windmill Wells Site
Map 6. Aero-Metric, Inc., photographer. 2006. HABS Designations (Letters) and St. Paul Island House Numbers. Aerial photograph provided courtesy of Aleutian Pribilof Islands Association (APIA) and Alaska Department of Commerce, Commerce and Economic Development. See Table 2 for the list of buildings related to this map. Building footprint: NOAA, NOS, Pribilof Project Office, Geographic Information System Database. 2ft Aerial Photo, designations attributed June 2010.
Government House (Building F, AK-205; XPI-037); Teacher House 101 (Building E, AK-206; XPI-032); Teacher House 102 (Building D, XPI-033); and Teacher House 103 (Building C, AK-207; XPI-036). These buildings lie to the west of the Russian Orthodox Church. Other contributing resources on Village Hill include the Fisheries Office (Building G, XPI-038), Company House (Building H, AK-210; XPI-039), and the Hospital (Building I, XPI-041), which line Tolstoi Boulevard near the bottom of the hill. The noncontributing school (Building XX, XPI-212) and schoolyard are located at the foot of the hill, as is the Community Store (Building NN, XPI-141). Contributing resources on Village Hill listed in the 1986 nomination and since destroyed include the Priest’s House (Building B), Laundry (Building N), and Theater (Building M).

The industrial area or “Commercial Center” lies to the north of the Community Store, and it extends to the shores of Village Cove. Only three of the ten contributing buildings remain in the industrial area. These include the: Fouke Bunkhouse (Building Q, AK-213; XPI-044);5 Machine Shop (Building S, AK-214; XPI-45); and Six Car Garage (Building V, XPI-048). Buildings associated with the fur-seal industry and demolished since the 1986 nomination include: the Blubbering House (Building N);6 Kench House (Building O); Boxing Shed (Building P, XPI-226); Equipment Garage (Building R, XPI-034);7 small frame structure (Building T); the Paint Shop (Building U, XPI-047); and the By-Products Plant (Site W) that was located on a sand flat east of the Salt Lagoon Channel.

The reader will observe that many of the historical resources are honored with alternate names given by successive generations. For example, “Salt House A” became the Barreling Shed and then the Boxing Shed. Kenches coexisted in Salt House A along with barreling and, later, boxing operations. Salt House B became the Kench House, and the “Equipment Garage” became the “Municipal Garage.”

The 1986 nomination identified many noncontributing resources that will not be listed here, but they are included within this book along with other noncontributing resources not recognized in the nomination. Many historical buildings not existing at the time of nomination, but once part of the sealing industry, are portrayed in an attempt to provide greater historical context.

Fur-Seal Rookery Resources

In 1920, the government recognized sixteen rookeries on St. Paul Island, six on St. George Island, and three extinct or “abandoned” rookeries. Two rookeries were on St. Paul, though one at Southwest Point was actually just a haulout, and one on St. George.8 The government also identified rookeries on Otter Island and Sea Lion Rock (Sivutch)9 that were not considered part of the NHLD.

The 1962 and revised 1965 Surveys addressed the seal rookeries themselves with a single statement: “The beaches of St. Paul Island, which contain the great rookeries of the fur seals, are as unaltered and intact as when they were first sighted in 1787.” While that statement was not entirely accurate, given the previous paragraph, no mention was given to the St. George rookeries.

As previously mentioned, the 1986 nomination recognized only 12 rookeries total between St. Paul and St. George islands, and stated “five rookeries and their historic killing grounds” are included in the St. Paul Historic District.10 Subsequently, the nomination recognized nine rookeries on St. Paul Island,11 the nine rookeries are depicted on Map 3, and include: Zapadni, Tolstoi, Lukabin, Kitovi, Reef, Polovina, Polovina Cliff, East and West.

The NMFS National Marine Mammal Laboratory depicted 14 fur-seal rookeries on St. Paul Island (Vostochni, Morjovi, Little Polovina, Polovina Cliffs, Polovina, Lukabi, Kitovi, Reef, Ardiguen, Gorbatch, Tolstoi, Zapadni, Little Zapadni, and Zapadni) and 6 rookeries on St. George Island (Staraya Artl, North, East Reef, East Cliffs, Zapadni, and South) on its website http://www.afsc.noaa.gov/nmml/alaska/nfs/rookeries/sngrookeries.php (accessed November 2, 2011). The discrepancies in the number of rookeries on St. Paul in 1986 and currently appears due to differences in naming conventions applied by either observers or researchers; for example, considering Reef, Ardiguen, and Gorbatch as separate rookeries or as a single “Reef” rookery. The only apparent actual reduction in the number of rookeries on St. Paul since 1920 resulted from the extinction of Lagoon Rookery and Suthetunga Rookery, which in 1920 were much reduced in numbers from earlier times.12 Hanna (2009, p. 102) mentioned that since Russian times a small rookery, Spilka Rookery, at Village Hill, also disappeared.13 In addition, naturalist Henry Wood Elliott commented in 1881 that “Two small rookeries were then on the north shore of St. Paul, near a place called ‘Maronitch.’”14

The nomination acknowledged contributing status to the remaining rookery catwalks used by scientists to take counts of various seal population parameters. The nomination states “The two extant catwalks (of nine originally constructed) are contributing structures, one at Reef Rookery (P95; P96; P97)15 and one at East and West Rookeries.”16

Fur-Seal Rookeries and Catwalks are elaborated upon further using illustrations later in this book.

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5 Faulkner’s “The Seal Islands,” Map 5, identifies the location of “Blubbering House” (combined Wash Houses A and B) as site (N). The footprint on the map is inconsistent with the footprints of Wash Houses A and B in a 1982 aerial photo (October 16, 1982, AeroMap U.S.) and a 1986 “Record Drawings” (U.S. Dep. Health Human Services, Public Health Service, Indian Health Service Project AN-86-340, drawn by Lowdermilk August 30, 1985, drawing recorded March 20, 1989) that overlie the 1982 aerial photograph. The aerial photo and drawing depict the buildings as separate and rectangular. Faulkner’s description of the Blubbering House states: “Frame building with horizontal clapboard siding; a Butler building type of addition runs perpendicular to and away from the blubbering house.” In 1983, Wash Houses A and B (separate buildings) were converted to the Blubbering House (a single building) as described in the 1986 NHL nomination (phone conversation between Phyllis Sweetzol, St. Paul Island City Clerk, and John Lindsay and Karla Slatyer). The Anderson Building, which was not associated with the fur-seal industry, now stands on the footprints of these former buildings, and we understand that at least portions of the Blubbering House remain intact under the shell of the Anderson Building.

6 Faulkner, “The Seal Islands,” 13, mistakenly states that Building R (Equipment Garage) is the Machine Shop, and that Building S (Machine Shop) is the Equipment Garage.

9 Ibid., 7–8.
12 Ibid.
13 The “P” before the number refers to the photograph number accompanying the nomination; again, the copies of the nomination we consulted were not accompanied with photographs.
Archeological Resources

The 1986 nomination provides a somewhat confusing assessment as to the number of archeological sites on St. Paul. “Description” in Nomination Section 7 states “nine archeological sites already listed on the Alaska Heritage Resources Survey (AHRS).” The narrative later identifies only a single archeological site (Staraya Artil) on St. George Island, leaving eight sites on St. Paul Island. However, the narrative describes only six sites: Zapadnie [sic], School Site, Webster Lake, Polovina (Halfway Point), Lukannin Hill, and Vesolia Mista on St. Paul. However, the landmark boundary map accompanying the nomination depicts seven archeological sites (Map 3): Vesolia Mista, Webster Lake, Zapadni, Lukannin Hill, Halfway Point (Polovina), and two unnamed sites on the north shore that are presumably Maroonitch (Marunich) and Lincoln Bight (Tsamsanah). The nomination only recognizes one, Halfway Point, not two sites, at Polovina (i.e., Little Polovina Hill and Polovina Sites) as recorded by the AHRS. Pendleton suspects the Little Polovina Hill site derived from army activity when it occupied the island in 1943. Recent historical study by archeologist Catherine Pendleton (2008) briefly describes eight sites, including Maroonitch and Lincoln Bight. She, as did Veltre and McCarty (1994) before her, suggests that the Webster Lake site is probably the historically referenced “Stoshnoe” or “Novastoshnah” site. Pendleton does not mention the “School Site,” which Faulkner (1986) references as AHRS XPI-006. In 1994, Veltre and McCarty considered eleven archeological sites on St. Paul Island that they found in the AHRS files. The sites are XPI-001, XPI-003, XPI-006, XPI-007, XPI-008, XPI-009, XPI-010, XPI-011, XPI-014, XPI-016, and XPI-017. They noted, but did not map, XPI-002: “Seal Islands Historic District (Pribilof Islands Fur Seal Rookeries).” However, they gave it little consideration as an archeological site. Among the sites considered by Veltre and McCarty, if only briefly, but not considered as archeological sites by Faulkner (1986), were XPI-003 (Saints Peter and Paul Church), XPI-014 (Cone Hill Rock Shelter), and XPI-017 (Little Polovina Hill). In 2007, Charles M. Mobley & Associates prepared AHRS XPI-208 for “a multi-roomed barabara along the road just past the junction of Easter Landing Road and the Polovina Turnpike.” The pit is visible in aerial photographs.

The Church of the Holy Apostles Saints Peter and Paul (Building A; HABS No. HABS AK, 1-SAPA, 1-A- and AK-51; XPI-003)

The Church of the Holy Apostles Saints Peter and Paul sits at the heart of the village, similar to the church on St. George Island and most of the other Russian Orthodox churches throughout Alaska. The Russian Orthodox religion and the church have played a central role in the lives of Aleut residents on St. Paul Island. It seems fitting that the Saints Peter and Paul church, built by Aleut residents in 1905–06, and consecrated in 1907, is the oldest structure on the island. In 1980, the Church of the Holy Apostles Peter and Paul was listed in the National Register of Historic Places; a 1990 HABS, NO. HABS AK, 1-SAPA, 1-A- report is titled “Saints Peter and Paul Orthodox Church” (Vol. 1, p. 219–228).

In 1821, Russian Ignatii Cherkashin and Creole Kassian Shayashnikov built a chapel out of driftwood without any aid from the Russian-American Company. Cherkashin died shortly after the chapel was built, but Shayashnikov served as the chapel’s caretaker for many decades. A priest from Unalaska tended to the parishioners when he visited the island every other year. In 1838, Bishop Innocent (Ivan Veniaminov) described the chapel as “decorated with a very fine iconostas and icons by contribution of the local Aleuts.”

In 1840, a larger chapel replaced the 1821 building. Hugh H. McIntyre, superintendent for the Alaska Commercial Company (ACC) in Alaska, preserved the image of the chapel in a stereograph he took in 1872. McIntyre’s photograph, along with one by French explorer, Alphonse Louis Pinart, are the only two known photographs of the 1840 chapel (Vol. 1, p. 212). By the early 1870s, the second chapel stood in disrepair, and in 1875, a new church took its place. The ACC brought in two carpenters to tear down the old building and start on a new one, which the Aleut community paid for out of their wages. Hammond McIntyre, an architect from Vermont and brother of Hugh McIntyre, who was working on St. Paul Island at the time, designed and oversaw construction of the 1875 church. The new church’s ornamentation—inside as well as outside—was a striking contrast to the former comparatively plain-looking chapels. Although not large, the new building had three cupolas, each set on top of a windowed drum. Hipped roofs topped the sanctuary and nave, and a bell tower with a clock rose from the narthex. The church cost nearly $15,000. The bells, cast in 1875 by William Black & Co. of Boston, cost $2,750, the most expensive items in outfitting the church. Weather delayed consecration of the church until May 1877, when church officials managed to reach the island.

The 1875 church slowly succumbed to the elements and required replacement by the early 1900s. Nathaniel Blaisdell, a San Francisco architect, was chosen to design a new church in 1905. Built slightly to the north of the 1875 church, Barbara Sweetland Smith speculates that the new church’s design included a simplified roof line to prevent the roof from leaking. To achieve this, Blaisdell planned a unique ironwork design to represent the traditional onion-dome cupola. Elements of the 1905–06 church, consecrated 1907, have remained throughout the years, except that a traditional onion dome cupola, designed and constructed by Reverend Maxim Isaak, replaced the ironwork in 2007.

Individual archeological sites are described more fully in Volume 1.
Northeast Point Church (noncontributing resource): Henry Wood Elliott marked a church on a St. Paul Island map of Novastoshnah (Northeast Point) Rookery in 1890 (Vol. 1, p. 127). The church served sealers and hunters who lived at Northeast during the sealing and fox seasons. Traveling the fourteen miles by foot or baidar made church attendance in the village impractical. When this church was constructed and when it went into disrepair is not known. Presumably this church, represented in Elliott’s artwork, was not the same as the 1821 or 1840 chapels.

Northeast Point Chapel (noncontributing resource): Timon Lestenko, a St. Paul Aleut, built the chapel, which some have described as a shrine, in ca. 1994 to commemorate the Russian Orthodox Church that once served the seasonal sealers and hunters in the area of Northeast Point.

Priest’s House (Site B): The Priest’s House burned down in 1999.

Church School (Site 0 [zero])—a noncontributing resource: The church school is located south of the former Priest’s House (Site B). The original Church School was constructed sometime after the purchase of Alaska as a means to retain the religious and language heritage (Aleut and Russian) of the Native inhabitants. The current Church School is located on the site of the original building, which was demolished in the early to mid 1960’s. The current school building was constructed in 1967–68, and it remains in use today more for social functions than as a school (Vol. 1, p. 231).

St. Paul Old Village Cemetery Fence (AAA; XPI-209): The old cemetery located southeast of the church was established before 1876. Aleut residents requested fencing for the old cemetery in 1898. The graves in the old village cemetery were eventually relocated to Cemetery Hill, excepting those of some prominent church officials and their wives, and noteworthy people such as Iliador Merculieff and James Edward Gill (d. 1876). Gill’s sister bequeathed $1,000 for perpetual care of his gravesite (Vol. 1, p. 239). James Gill, who served as the second meteorologist on St. Paul Island, died of exposure while on a trek about the island.

Aleut Laborer Housing (ALH)

Contributing Resources:

In 1913, the Chief of the Bureau of Fisheries, Alaska Fisheries Service, Barton Warren Evermann wrote about the need to improve the size of Native houses on the Pribilofs: “The new buildings should be one and one-half stories, so that the upper floor could be used as bedrooms. The regulation house is one story, 12 feet front by 20 feet deep, divided into two rooms, with a lean-to on one side for a kitchen and an entrance.”

But it was not until 1917 and continuing through the 1920’s that an ambitious program was inaugurated to modernize the old settlement. Small Alaska Commercial Company wood houses were demolished and replaced with modern homes. Agent Ward T. Bower wrote:

Six houses of the ‘knock-down’ type were purchased and sent to the Islands in 1917, four to St. Paul and two to St. George. The plans provided that each house should have a kitchen, living room, bathroom, and three bedrooms, all on one floor. It was provided also that the roof of each should be sufficiently high to permit the construction of two additional rooms on a second floor at small cost, although it was thought that the accommodations on the first floor would be sufficient for any of the large families on the islands. The agent on St. Paul Island, however, made modifications in the plans furnished him with the result that additional material will be required to complete the construction of four houses.

Only one of the four houses was installed in 1917 (Figure 10) with the other three being completed in 1918. The first Native concrete house to be built on St. Paul Island was completed in 1920. Two frame-houses were completed that same year. Ten of twelve concrete dwellings for Aleut laborers begun in 1925 were ready for occupancy by May 1926. The concrete walls were 6”-thick reinforced with steel bars. Nine of these contained four rooms each and three contained five rooms each.

Edward Johnston, the Agent and Caretaker on St. Paul in 1925, requested permission to raze the following older houses (ACC era) to make room for rebuilding the village: 1–7, 10, 11, 19, 34, 35, 37–43, and 45–56, in addition to demolishing other “houses along ‘main street’, between wharf and the office” when they were vacated. Any salvageable lumber from the razed houses, Johnston said, “will be saved and used in the construction of new houses.”

By the time of the annual fur-seal industries report in 1927, fourteen concrete houses were under construction. Two of the houses contained five rooms each and twelve of the houses contained four

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30 NARA RG76, Records of Boundary and Claims Commissions and Arbitrations, Chart 157, Cartographic and Architectural Records Section, Special Media Archives Services Division (NWCS-C), National Archives at College Park, 99775.
31 Phone conversation with Aquilina Lestenko, Aleut Community of St. Paul Cultural Director with John Lindsay August 22, 2011.
33 Phone conversation with Aquilina Lestenko, Aleut Community of St. Paul Cultural Director with John Lindsay August 22, 2011.
rooms each.43 Two more concrete dwellings, one with four rooms and one with three rooms, were built in 1928.44

The Agent's Annual Report for 1929 summarized the history of residence-construction since 1920:
The following concrete native dwellings are now complete and occupied: 1 three-room, 28 four-room, 7 five-room, and 1 six-room house—total 37. All of these buildings have been completed during, or since, 1925, except the six-room house, which was completed in 1920. In addition to the above, there are 3 five-room wood frame dwellings which were completed in 1920 and 1921, and are now occupied.45

In the Agent's Annual Report for March 31, 1930, the agent stated that two three-room concrete dwellings began in 1928 were completed before March 31, 1930: “The construction of these two houses complete the program of house building for the native population for the present. A total of 42 houses have been erected for the use of native families since 1918. 39 of this number are concrete and 3 of frame construction.”46 It would seem a total of forty-three houses rather than “42” were built when taking the 1917 building into account, but perhaps the agent included the 1917 house with the three built in 1918.

During 1933–34, three new frame-houses were added to the village. One house had four rooms; the other two had five rooms each with four rooms on the main floor and one room on the upper floor.47 In autumn 1939, construction began on an additional four frame-houses. Chief of the Division of Alaska Fisheries, Ward T. Bower, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, reported that all the floor plans replicated the three-room houses that had been previously built on the island, “but the pitch of the roof has been raised to permit the addition of two rooms on the second floor.” Bower also reported that three 1918 frame-houses were “moved a short distance to bring them in line with other native dwellings and were placed upon new concrete foundations,” and nine outside laundry houses were built and partial basements constructed beneath several houses “to make the living quarters more habitable.”48 Three of these frame houses were completed in 1940; the fourth was completed and occupied by the time of the Agent's Annual Report, March 31, 1941. The agent stated that these types of houses were very popular.

In 1945, the island’s agent reported “One new native house was begun in the fall [1944], and is ready for finishing work whenever we obtain siding and millwork. It is built on the plan of the last native houses erected here, and consists of 3 rooms downstairs and 2 rooms upstairs. The only change is a full basement added, in order to keep from having to build a separate laundry.”49

A “shortage of dwellings” and “houses with two or more families” created discontent on the island in 1946. The island’s agent reported that “many marriages are being put off or delayed because of no homes for the couples to move into.”50 The frame house begun in 1944 [numbered “50”], was occupied during 1946.51 “It was built mostly of odd lumber salvaged here and there about the Station, but a normal value has been put on it for Inventory purposes.”

Construction of House 51 (no longer extant) began in 1947, on the site of the Old Community Hall, taking advantage of the hall’s basement walls.52 House 51 was completed in spring 1948, after the annual supply vessel arrived with the needed materials.53 Because a vacant lot is extant southerly of House 50, we assume that was the location of House 51 (Tract A, Block 14, Lot 1). House 23 underwent renovation and was occupied by “one of the larger families during the past summer [1947]” which reportedly, “decreases much of the discontent due to the housing shortage. It is hoped that at least two more houses may be started this coming summer [1948] and finished next winter so that this situation will be well under control.”54 Construction of two new cottages built in late fall 1948, located “on a new street... east of 1st Avenue South.”55

Despite the feeling of relief about the housing shortage in 1948, the government agent stated that housing construction needed to be stepped up to accommodate the growing population. “There were only 9 births and 1 death during the past year [1948–49], which was quite a drop on both counts over the previous year, but it is already indicated that these figures will be greater next year [1949–50].... This high census count [335] would really make housing more difficult if it were not for the temporary absence each year of a relatively high number of persons.”56 In 1950, two six-room houses for the Natives were completed and one federal government employee house.57 Two other Native houses were under construction in 1950, and were completed and occupied in 1951.58 In 1952, Aleut laborers completed construction on two Native houses, and the agent scheduled workers to begin construction on two other houses.59 The Manager's Annual Report for 1954 recorded that two new Aleut laborer houses had been constructed during the past year, making “a total of nine new houses completed in the past five years.”60

52 Agent's Annual Report, St. Paul Island, Alaska, for the year ending March 31, 1947: 12 (NARA, Pacific Alaska Region, Anchorage, RG 22, box 1, FWS, Pribilof Islands Program, Annual Reports 1929–1963); House 50 is not included in the HABS record because it has been completely altered over the years and does not fit into any of the designated housing types.
53 Ibid., 23.
55 Ibid.
In subsequent years, Aleu residents built dormers, added basements and additions, and made other improvements, including installing bathrooms. Seton H. Thompson reported that by 1955, “All of the Aleu dwellings are now connected to the water and sewer systems, although there are still 10 residences that have no bathroom facilities.”

The Aleu Laborer Houses on St. Paul extend in orderly rows on the north and south sides of the village. Nearly all of the homes face east northeast, unlike the homes on St. George, which face each other across the street, conveying more of a typical American neighborhood appearance. As building space became limited in the old village and housing demands continued to grow, the government determined to expand the village bounds.

In May 1963, Program Director C. Howard Baltzo submitted his “Program for Administration of the Pribilof Islands Federal Reservation Embracing Management of the Fur Seal Resource and Development of the Resident Aleut Inhabitants”. Under the heading of “Construction”, Baltzo wrote:

“Top priority for construction is vested in Aleu residences at St. Paul for the dual purpose of accommodating the merger of St. George village and of replacing inadequate housing for inhabitants of both islands. Four homes are the maximum that may be constructed each year with locally available labor under prevailing climatic conditions. Privately contracting a 3-bedroom frame residence costs about $45,000 complete, but net[sic] expense can be halved by utilizing local labor, staff supervision, Program equipment, and patience. The goal is to construct 40 homes over a 10-year period, commencing with the four underwritten by Accelerated Public Works in 1963.

The housing plans Baltzo called for began in 1963; planning was led by engineer Roy Ellerman. The intent was to create a housing development east of the St. Paul Village on what became known as Ellerman Heights; a spot located on a hill slope easterly of Cemetery Hill. Members of the Native community moved into the first new homes by 1970.

The 1986 nomination recognized three types of Aleu Laborer Houses as contributing houses on St. Paul Island, “Reflecting the company nature of the community.” Since then, three alternative versions have been proposed by the National Park Service, archeologist and historical architect Charles M. Mobley & Associates, and NOAA in 2004, 2007, and 2010, respectively. The four versions are presented in Table 3. Characterization of extant, yet historical, Aleu Laborer housing on the Seal Islands challenged all the involved entities in large part due to significant alterations made on original designs during and after construction, which will be discussed later.

In 2004, NOAA requested the assistance of the National Park Service with performing a HABS at St. Paul Island. An NPS architectural historian inspected St. Paul’s buildings and commented “that the types identified in the [Faulkner’s] nomination seem to be mixed and omit several houses that should have been included in one of the types.” The NPS HABS team recognized five rather than three typologies recognized by Faulkner in 1986. However, the NPS Type I reflected a 1960’s ranch house style during and after construction, which will be discussed later.

In 2007, NOAA contracted Charles M. Mobley to conduct an Alaska Historical Resources Survey of St. Paul Island, and to complete a HABS of contributing resources not addressed by the NPS in 2004. Mobley relied on McAlester’s A Field Guide to American Houses as the primary source for descriptive material, “...and that alone was responsible for some divergences between my descriptions and Sandra Faulkner’s [1986] original descriptions in the National Register form.” Mobley provided an overview summation to NOAA in 2008.

Some confusion arises from the vocabulary and lack of mutual exclusivity in Faulkner’s [1986] residential building typology, as well as disparities between the listed houses and those hatched as contributing on the St. Paul map [nomination Map 5]. Twenty buildings hatched as contributing on the map are not listed in the nomination form [page 13], and of those twenty hatched buildings one (House 129, or XPI-171) is of unique construction and possibly post-dates the original period of significance.

Mobley recognized five typologies among the houses in the Village of St. Paul. However, one of his types included three houses constructed for government employees and consequently are not included among the Aleu Laborer Houses recognized among the typologies in Table 3.

In 2010, NOAA prepared final HABS and AHRS forms for submission to the SHPO and NPS, using materials submitted by NPS and Charles M. Mobley & Associates, including narrative materials and photographs of the subject buildings. NOAA also consulted other historical resources to augment the submittals. Mobley wrote a brief analysis about his departure from the NPS 2004 approach.

First is construction material—whether concrete or frame—using several primary criteria (it was usually hard to tell from just looking at the outside of the buildings) but rather from the categorizations in NOAA’s data base. Second is whether the house is side-gabled or front-gabled. And third is chimney placement. Some houses definitely had basements but for most I couldn’t tell, so I didn’t always use them to discriminate house types. The result [sic] are five contributing house types mostly like [NPS 2004] except that…Type II and II [sic; should be Type III] are combined because the difference between…one and one half story house and …[a] one story house with attic ... is not obvious, and because I couldn’t consistently duplicate his [NPS] discrimination between peak chimneys and offset from peak chimneys. Lump[ing] … the two house types yields four contributing house types, plus a fifth residential building type consisting of three identical Teacher’s Houses…”

NOAA decided that a combination of appropriate attributes presented by NPS and Charles Mobley & Associates better characterize Aleu Laborers’ Houses. For example, NOAA agrees with Mobley that discrimination between peak chimneys and offset from peak chimneys is difficult in some instances. In addition, the extant condition of Aleu Laborers’ Houses has been in a near constant state of flux, making consistent characterization nearly impossible. The government’s St. Paul Island manager reported in 1960 on the subject of home renovations.

Remodeling of homes as far as practical was continued during the year. Remodeling consisted of digging two basements, building several enclosed porches and renovating the interior of some houses. In a few cases, the porches are 4’ x 8’, making them large enough for a utility room in which laundry may be done, thus removing the washing machine from the kitchen. The majority of houses do not have basements and laundry must be done either in the kitchen or on the enclosed porch. These porches are unheated, however, thus being unsuited to dry clothes.

As pointed out, flaws exist in the 1986 nomination regarding the historical houses, not the least of which is the nomination’s apparent oversight of not assigning typologies to all of the contributing houses depicted on Map 4. Also, one of the most difficult matters to rectify for this book was an apparent misnomer of one row of houses. Map 4 depicts a row of houses fronting King Street (streets are not identified on the map) with numbers increasing north to south from 52 through 61, excluding “57” even though page 13 of the nomination text included “57.” The City of St. Paul verified that the house numbers from north to south on King Street should begin with “129” (not “52”) followed by 59 through


64 Letter report, “Summary of Historic Architecture Inventory of St. George and St. Paul Villages, Seal Islands National Historic Landmark, Pribilof Islands, Alaska, from Charles M. Mobley & Associates to John Lindsay, Sept. 16, 2008, NOAA, Administrative Record, Pribilof Islands Environmental Restoration Project. Mobley inadvertently reversed the House numbers in the row fronting King Street, consequently, in his summation the number “52” was applied rather than “129”, and this error was corrected in the text herein.

65 Ibid.


522  ST. PAUL ISLAND NARRATIVE REVIEW OF HISTORICAL RESOURCES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Typology</th>
<th>Faulkner 1986 Typologies</th>
<th>NPS HABS Team 2004 Typologies</th>
<th>Mobley 2007 Typologies</th>
<th>NOAA 2010 Typologies</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Type I</td>
<td>1920's through 1930's, one or one and one-half story frame with horizontal wood siding,</td>
<td>One story, gable ends, chimney at peak. [Note the NPS 2004 HABS team determined the</td>
<td>One story, side-gabled, frame building with or without shed-roofed entry, with</td>
<td>Ranch style, one story, side-gabled, frame building with or without shed-roofed</td>
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<td></td>
<td>arctic entrance to one side, and side cellar. Faulkner did not define the meaning of (0),</td>
<td>following houses are noncontributing.]</td>
<td>a basement or concrete foundation, and one concrete chimney at peak.</td>
<td>entry, and one concrete chimney offset from peak or without basement.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>although it may signify that an outbuilding is associated with the dwelling.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>HABS 203</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Houses: 3, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 42, 48, 47 (0), 46 1/2, 44 (0).</td>
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<td>City Map No.; AHRS No.</td>
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<td>House 117, XPI-180; House 118, XPI-181; House 119, XPI-182; House 120, XPI-183;</td>
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<td>House 122, XPI-172; House 123, XPI-173; House 124, XPI-174; House 125, XPI-175;</td>
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<td>House 126, XPI-176; House 127, XPI-177; House 128, XPI-186; House 129, XPI-171;</td>
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<td>House 130, XPI-187; House 131, XPI-188</td>
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<tr>
<td>Type II</td>
<td>One and one-half story concrete with arctic entrance and side cellar. Faulkner did not</td>
<td>One story, gable front, shed entrance at front, chimney at peak.</td>
<td>One and one-half story, front-gabled concrete or frame building with shed-roofed</td>
<td>One story, gable front, shed entrance at front, chimney at peak.</td>
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<td>define the meaning of (0), although it may signify that an outbuilding is</td>
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<td>entry, and one concrete chimney offset from peak or without basement.</td>
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<td>associated with the dwelling.</td>
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<td>Houses: 1, 2, 4, 6 (0), 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 41, 40, 39, 38 (0), 37 (0), 49.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Type III</td>
<td>1945–1950's, one or one and one-half story cement with green asphalt siding.</td>
<td>One story with attic, gable front, shed entrance, chimney offset from peak.</td>
<td>Front-gabled concrete or frame building with shed-roofed or gable-roofed entry,</td>
<td>One story with attic, side-gabled concrete building with shed-roofed entry,</td>
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<td>and one concrete ridge-mounted chimney.</td>
<td>basement, and two concrete chimneys at peak.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Houses: 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61.</td>
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<td>HABS No. [not yet assigned]</td>
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<td></td>
<td>(Note the correct numbers applied to these houses by the City of St. Paul as given in</td>
<td></td>
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<td>House 15, XPI-152; House 37, XPI-075; House 38, XPI-076; House 39, XPI-077;</td>
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<td></td>
<td>the order by Faulkner are: 59, 58, 57, 56, 55, 54, 53, 52.)</td>
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<td>House 40, XPI-078</td>
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<tr>
<td>Type IV</td>
<td>1945–1950's, larger one and one half story cement with asphalt siding.</td>
<td>One story with attic, gable side, shed entrance at front, two chimneys at peak.</td>
<td>Side-gabled concrete building with shed-roofed entry, basement, and one concrete</td>
<td>One and one-half story, front-gabled concrete or frame building with shed-roofed</td>
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<td>ridge-mounted chimney.</td>
<td>entry, and one concrete chimney at peak.</td>
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<td>HABS No. [not yet assigned]</td>
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<td></td>
<td>House 28, XPI-053; House 29, XPI-054; House 30, XPI-055; House 31, XPI-056; House</td>
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<tr>
<td>Type V</td>
<td>1945–1950's, one and one-half story cement with horizontal wood siding, arctic</td>
<td>One story with attic, gable side, shed entrance at front, one chimney at peak.</td>
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<td>36, XPI-057; House 37, XPI-058; House 38, XPI-059; House 39, XPI-058; House 40,</td>
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<td>entrance to one side, and side cellar. Faulkner did not define the meaning of (0),</td>
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<td>XPI-078; House 41, XPI-079</td>
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<td>although it may signify that an outbuilding is associated with the dwelling.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Houses: 32, XPI-164; House 33, XPI-165; House 34, XPI-166</td>
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<tr>
<td>Uncategorized</td>
<td>The NPS 2004 HABS team determined that several once contributing house resources no</td>
<td>The NPS 2004 Survey Team did not recognize the following dwellings.</td>
<td>Side-gabled concrete building with shed-roofed entry, basement, and one concrete</td>
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<td>longer qualified because of significant alterations. These houses do not conform to a</td>
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<td>ridge-mounted chimney.</td>
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<td>defined typology.</td>
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52 or the reverse order depicted in the 1986 nomination map. This anomaly was not recognized by either NPS in 2004 or Mobley in 2007. NOAA also decided that a house with "attic" was appropriate unless a window or dormer existed on the half floor which would allow the house description to be a "one and one-half story.

In 2007, Mobley came up with a third characterization “hopefully more explicit...using several primary criteria” (Table 1).

Mobley also noted that the 1986 nomination identified other house types as noncontributing resources, including: five residences, some duplexes associated with the former Naval Radio Station; ten ranch houses with alcove entry; three ranch houses without alcove entry; and six miscellaneous houses. Similar to the findings of the 2004 NPS survey team, some formerly contributing houses underwent radical alterations sufficient to warrant changing their status to noncontributing.

In 2010 NOAA decided that a combination of certain attributes presented by the 2004 NPS survey team and Charles Mobley & Associates would better characterize Aleut Laborers’ Houses. NOAA also grouped houses according to five typologies (Table 3). House descriptions presented in HABS and AHR formats are grouped in this book according to NOAA’s five typologies; within a typology, houses are presented sequentially according to City of St. Paul house numbers.

The 1986 nomination states, “The new subdivision south [east] of the village is outside the boundaries of the Historic District.” However, Map 3 does not clearly demonstrate that the Historic District excludes the Ellerman Heights area.

Wash Houses/Laundry Houses (XPI-178; XPI-179; XPI-184; XPI-192; XPI-210; XPI-211): Plans for small, detached laundry houses had been in the works since at least 1931. In 1939, nine outside laundries were built. In 1940, the government agent on St. Paul explained that “In the past the natives have boiled and washed their clothes in the kitchens of their houses, which therefore always were damp.”

Aleuts built small laundry houses between 1939 and 1942 to provide a place for washing clothing. XPI-178 is associated with House 15 (XPI-152), XPI-179 is associated with House 14 (XPI-074), or 19 (XPI-156), XPI-184 is associated with House 47 (XPI-060), XPI-192 is associated with House 38 (XPI-076), XPI-210 is associated with House 45 (XPI-058), and XPI-211 is associated with House 37 (XPI-075). These six wash houses are the only remaining laundry houses on the island. After 1945, houses were built with basements to avoid the necessity of separate laundry "houses."

Administrative and Staff Buildings

Administrative buildings and former staff quarters border the churchyard and include the Government House, Teacher Houses 101, 102, and 103, House 115/Manager’s House, Fisheries Office, Company House (later known as the King Eider Hotel), Hospital and Physician’s House/Dispensary (clinic), and the Recreation Hall (later City of St. Paul offices). Several Fisheries staff quarters also exist on the sand flats along Bartlett Boulevard, historically on land developed for the Naval Radio Station. The former staff buildings in the radio station complex area include House 105 (radio operator’s House), Duplex 106/107, Duplex 108/109, House 112, and House 113. These buildings are briefly described under subheadings of Contributing Resources, as recorded in the 1986 NHL nomination, and Noncontributing Resources.

Contributing Resources

Company House/King Eider Hotel (Building H; HABS AK-210; XPI-039): The exact date of construction is unknown, although a building identified as the ACC dwelling house of comparable size and in the same approximate location is depicted on the Abial P. Loud map of 1886. Extant records show that additions to the Company House were built in 1922. The Company House is in poor condition and was condemned by the Fire Marshal ca. 2006.

Fisheries Office (Building G; HABS AK-211; XPI-038): Built in 1940–41, this building was constructed on the footprint of the old office. Another “old office,” located southeast of the Fouke Bunkhouse, was in use when this Fisheries Office was built.

Government House (Building F; HABS AK-205; XPI-037): Government House was built in 1931–32. In 1932, the St. Paul government agent wrote, “The old government house was torn down and a new building erected on the same site. The new building is considerably larger than the old one and will provide accommodations for a greater number of people.” One author wrote that the government house served as temporary quarters for the “The superintendent, visiting officials from the Washington office, the chief employees of the Fouke Fur Company, and visiting heads of the same outfit and important visitors...” In 1976, the Tanadgusix Corporation (TDX) completed the conversion of the building to apartments, and reported that all four apartments were occupied.

In 2004, the Government House underwent further restoration to become the home of the St. Paul Island Museum and office space for TDX. At least one other Government House preceded the 1932 building. An earlier Government House, located near the Russian Orthodox Church, was depicted in a sketch by artist Henry Wood Elliott in 1872.

Hospital (Building K; XPI-041): Built 1930 to 1932, the Hospital and Physician’s Quarters/Dispensary (Building J) were joined in 1974. The Hospital and Physician’s Quarters are described in some detail in the book Before the Storm by Fredericka Martin who resided and worked therein with her physician husband Samuel Berenberg in 1941–42. At some future time, Building K became locally known as the Health Clinic or Clinic. The building was vacated in favor of a new health center in 2006.

Recreation Hall/Community Hall (Building L; HABS AK-208; XPI-042): Work on this building started in 1946 and was completed in 1951 (although much of the building was in use by 1950). This Recreation Hall replaced one built in 1932 that burned down in 1946. A retaining wall was added in 1954, along with a new film-storage vault.


74 Permanent Improvements Report for St. Paul Island, Alaska, Covering the Period April 1, 1929 to June 30, 1930; and Permanent Improvements Report for St. Paul Island, Alaska, Covering the Period July 1, 1931 to March 31, 1932 (NARA, Pacific Alaska Region, Anchorage, RG 22 box 33, folder 1, FWS, Pribilof Islands Program, Permanent Improvements).


76 Thompson, Alaska Fishery and Fur-Seal Industries: 1954, 55.
78 Ibid., Oct. 1, 1924.
79 Ibid., Nov. 3, 1924.
83 Ibid.
84 Ibid.
87 Elliot, Report on the Prybilov Group, or Seal Islands of Alaska (Washington, DC: GPO, 1873), unpaginated. [Note that only 75 copies of this report are known to have been printed. Victor R. Scheffer, “They Stopped the Press on His Book,” Pacific Discovery, 30, no. 1 (1977): 27, cited Elliott: “[a] report of mine made upon the Pribylov islands in September, 1873, and …printed by the Treasury Department during my absence in Alaska. Owing to causes of which I have necessarily no personal knowledge, only 75 copies of this report were struck out”]
88 Henry W. Elliott, Our Arctic Province, Alaska and The Seal Islands: 317 (NY: Charles Scribner’s Sons, 1887).
there and are subjected to these conditions. Similar comments were repeated in 1947, the St. Paul plumbing, and sewer systems. He ends his commentary with “Five employees families are quartered to make them livable for employees.” The agent continues with descriptions of the failing heating, menced on June 16, 1911. The station gradually brought many changes to St. Paul Island, such as radio communications with the outside world, electricity, and windmills for water supply. In 1946, the St. Paul government agent wrote, “The radio station group of buildings, built some 25 years ago and transferred from the Navy in 1937, are in such poor condition that no more money should be expended in an attempt to keep employees anywhere near satisfactorily.” Similar comments were repeated in 1947, the St. Paul government agent wrote, “…the old Radio Station buildings now being used for some are so poor that it is impossible to keep employees anywhere near satisfied,” and “Authorization was received in 1946 for the building of another cottage [Quarters 12] for employees, so the foundation for it was put in last fall. It is located just west of the Radio Station area, and will be the first of a row of such cottages extending eastward through the center of this old Navy Radio Station area. The old Radio buildings will all be razed in time.”

Only four buildings and four structures constructed by the navy survived to the present time. These survivors include the Electrical Shop (E-Shop, XPI-020), House 105 (XPI-137), Duplex 106/107 (XPI-139), Shingle Shed (XPI-148), the concrete pad of the tennis court (XPI-150), and three windmill well concrete pads with enclosed pumps, which do not have XPI numbers.

Naval Radio Station E-Shop/Navy Power Plant/Head Start Building (Building RR; HABS AK-220; XPI-020): The concrete Electrical Shop (E-Shop), with an attic, was constructed in 1919 to power the Navy Radio Station. The E-Shop was renovated during the first decade of the second millennium for the Head Start Program for St. Paul Island.

House 105/Staff Quarters 105 (XPI-137): Built in 1931, as the radio operator’s house by the U.S. Navy, the dwelling became part of the Bureau of Fisheries staff quarters when the navy turned over the Naval Radio Station complex and its buildings to the agency in 1937. A 1972 report describes the building as “Q-105,” containing two stories and 1,322 square feet with a basement. A State Trooper occupied the house at this time, but NMFS staff was scheduled to move in July 1, 1972.

Duplex 106/107 (Building QQ; XPI-139): This duplex was constructed prior to 1922 when it was evident on a map of the U.S. Navy Radio Station complex. Building QQ was moved in 1952 to align it with other structures of the former Naval Radio Station complex.

Fouke Bunkhouse (Building Q; HABS AK-213; XPI-044): Built in 1931–35, the Fouke Bunkhouse seasonally served up to thirty-six employees of the Fouke Fur Company, and sometimes Alaska Natives brought into work on the island. In 1948–49, another story was added to the building that included two 2-man rooms. In addition, the existing lounge area was enlarged by tearing down interior walls, and two rooms were converted into the quarters and office for the company superintendent. In 1964, a remodeling effort was initiated to turn the building into office space. This included a new stairway to replace the original one and new partitions. The building went into non-use sometime later. TDX and Trident Seafoods resided the Fouke Bunkhouse ca. 2007.

Machine Shop (Building S; HABS AK-214; XPI-045): Construction of the wood-frame Machine Shop was completed in 1939; a two-floor addition was added in 1951, and a steel framed, sheet metal Connector Building (razed February 2006) linked the Machine Shop to the Equipment Garage (razed

Industrial and Commercial Buildings, and Structures

Most of the sealing-industry buildings recognized by contributing resources to the 1986 NHLD nomination have since been demolished for either safety or redevelopment. The contributing resources still standing as of 2008 are listed within this section. Additionally, noncontributing resources remaining in the former sealing industrial-area are briefly described. Buildings and sites used to support commercial sealing are and are spread along the bottom of Village Hill at the end of Tolstoi Boulevard. On the sand flats between the community and Village Cove are the: Fouke Bunkhouse; Machine Shop; Store with Warehouse, Biology Lab, and Laundry; Five-Car Garage; Six-Car Garage; Naval Electric Shop (E-Shop); Alaska Dormitory; sites of the former Wash Houses A and B (Blubber House); Salt Houses A (Barreling Shed) and B; and Paint Shop. A variety of other noncontributing resources that either formerly supported the sealing industry (e.g., By-Products Plant) or continue to support the seal harvest are also briefly described below.

Contributing Resources


measurements of the building as 73' 2" x 24'.

Six-Car Garage (Building V; HABS AK-219; XPI-048): Built in 1954; a 1985 assessment gave the measurements of the building as 73' 2" x 24'. The garage housed government vehicles and tractors.

Noncontributing Resources

Extant Buildings

Anderson Building (Building N; XPI-214): The Tanadgusix Corporation began construction of the Anderson Building ca. 1984, and leased it to Unipak Corporation to use as a seafood storage facility.

The 1986 Seal Islands NHL nomination included a 1985 photograph of what is currently referred to as the Anderson Building. The 1986 nomination stated "a Butler building type of addition runs perpendicular to and away from the blubbering house [Washhouse A]." The building was leased to other seafood companies in subsequent years including UniSea, Inc. and Trident Seafoods.

Community Store/Warehouse/Laboratory (Building NN; XPI-141): Built 1954 to 1955 by the Swalling Construction Company of Anchorage, Alaska, this building was constructed "to provide warehouse space and to house the store, post-office, laundry, jail, and fur-seal research laboratory." The lab area became the home of the Aleut Community of St. Paul IRA (Tribal Government) during the 1980's and it relocated to a new facility on Ellerman Heights in 2005.

Garco/NMFS Warehouse (Building X): This sheet-metal building was constructed in 1965–66 to store vehicles and supplies used in the government sealing industry. The building was re-skinned in 2009.

Combine Shop (Building Y): This building was constructed in 1974 for use as paint, electrical, and plumbing shops.

Laboratory/Administrative Building (Building Z): Constructed from 1975 to 1977, this single-story frame building used by NMFS is located east of the Salt Lagoon Channel and near the Staff


106 According to Larry Merculieff, CEO of the Tanadgusix Corporation in the early 1980s, no plans for the Anderson Building were under way when he moved from St. Paul Island in 1985 (phone conversation with Karl Sclater, May 20, 2010). A 2004 report states that the Anderson Building was constructed in 1987 by the Tanadgusix Corporation (NOAA, Final Corrective Action Report, Site 25/TPE, Site 9—Five Car Garage and Anderson Building, St. Paul Island, Alaska, October 28, 2004: 1). The building outline on the 1986 NHL nomination map of St. Paul (Map 5) is consistent with the extant Anderson Building. In the 1986 NHL nomination form, the HABS designation "N" referred to the Blubbering House, but it subsequently (date uncertain) and currently refers to the Anderson Building, which is located on the footprint of the former Blubbering House.


113 Agent's Annual Report, St. Paul Island, March 31, 1953: 15.


nation form. A 1968 report states “The community-constructed Post Office was opened for business on February 7.”118 The Old Post Office became a café, known as Duna’s Cafe, operated by the Aleut Community of St. Paul-Tribal Government and Zinadina Melovidiw between 2000 and 2006, after which time it became vacant.

School District Office (Building MM; XPI-142): Built in 1986, the School District Office was judged a noncontributing resource in the 1986 NHL nomination form. It is located on the site of the former Canteen.

Five-Car Garage (Building OO; HABS AK-218; XPI-149): Built in 1964 to provide storage for research vehicles, the Annual Report of Sealing Operations declared the building “much needed” and that it also provided space for a small laboratory and pens to hold animal specimens.119 A 1985 facilities assessment reported that the eastern portion of the garage provided a work area and that vehicles were stored in the rest of the building. The building measured 75’ x 24’ and also had an attached 8’ x 37’ animal pen.120 The garage operated as an automotive repair shop and was called “Mike’s Auto” from ca. 1999 to 2003.121

Assembly of God Parsonage (Building TT; XPI-216): The parsonage was built in 1966. Reverend Alvin Capener and his wife, Lorraine, arrived on St. Paul Island in late 1965 to bring the Assembly of God Church to St. Paul. It was the first (and only) nonOrthodox church on the Pribilof Islands. The couple built the parsonage at that time. The Capeners initially were issued a ten-year land use permit by the Bureau of Commercial Fisheries. After the ten-year period, the Capeners believed that the land would be surveyed and the title would go to them. In late June 1981, TDX challenged the Capeners’ legal right to property ownership on St. Paul Island. Ultimately, a court decision ruled in favor of the assembly of God Church to St. Paul. It was the first (and only) nonOrthodox church on the Pribilof Islands. The Assembly of God Church retained title to the property, and the Capeners remained on the island. Alvin Capener died March 1, 1986, at the age of 71, and was buried in Anchorage. Lillian Lorraine Capener died September 26, 2000, at the age of 79, while still a resident on St. Paul Island.122

Assembly of God Church (Building UU; XPI-215): This church was built in 1966 as a part of the Reverend Alvin Capener’s mission on St. Paul.

Saltwater Wells Houses/Saltwater Pump Houses (Buildings VV; HABS AK-215): Located on Haul Road, north-northwest of the Machine Shop (Building S), these two pump houses appear on a 1969 map, labeled “S.W. Pump Hse 2” and “S.W. Pump Hse 4.”124 Two Saltwater Well Houses pumped saltwater into the Wash House in support of commercial fur-sealing operations. Although not listed as a contributing resource in the 1986 NHL nomination form, the Saltwater Well Houses were photographed by the National Park Service in 2004 and a HABS number was assigned to the buildings.

St. Paul School (Building XX; XPI-212): Built from 1972 to 1973, the 20,000-square-foot building “was completed almost entirely by local Aleut workmen. Only an electrical forearm and the overall project forearm were employed from off the island.”125

Fish Plant/Trident Building (Building YY; XPI-225): Built ca. 1996, the Fish Plant has been operating as a seafood processing plant since 1996. It is referred to as the “Trident Building” because the Trident Seafoods company currently leases the property from the Tanadgusix Corporation.

Log Building (Building BBB; XPI-223): Built ca. 1996, this is a private two-story residence, built by a Vietnam War veteran and his wife, both residents of St. Paul Island.

Frame House (Building CCC; XPI-224): This house is a private single-story residence built in 2000 atop Village Hill.

Civic Center (Building GGG; XPI-213): Built after 1986, the one-story Civic Center was constructed on the footprint of the old school house, which was razed in the early 1970’s after the new (1972) St. Paul School was built.

Elleman Heights Houses (Map 9): Plans for this subdivision began in 1963. Elleman Heights is located northeast of the old village and north of the new cemetery located on the inland slope of Black Bluff. Houses in this area are outside the historic district and are listed as noncontributing resources in the 1986 NHL nomination form. A 1966 government report states, “The first house foundation and shell was constructed in the new village addition overlooking the lagoon entrance.”129 No mention of housing construction was found in either the monthly management reports or the “Annual Report for Sealing Operations” for 1967. In 1969, “Construction and assembly of eight new pre-cut houses was begun and is expected to be completed in the spring of 1970. The homes, with three bedrooms and full daylight basements, are being erected in an area less than ½ mile from the present village site. Water and electricity at the site are now available, but sewage disposal facilities are not expected to be completed until the spring of 1970.”130 By late 1970, nine pre-cut houses were occupied by Native residents.130

Contributing Resources Razed since 1986

Among the ten listed contributing resources in the Administrative Buildings and Staff Residences category that no longer dot the landscape are the Priest’s House, Laundry, and Movie Theater. Only three of the ten buildings listed under the Commercial Center category remain, but in a deteriorated state. The other seven, once contributing resources, located on the sand flats between the community and Village Cove and since demolished include the Blubbering House, Kench House, Boxing Shed, Equipment Garage, Small Frame Structure, and Paint Shop. The site of the former By-Products Plant is located on a sand flat east of the Salt Lagoon Channel. Other historically noteworthy structures not recognized in the 1986 nomination follow descriptions of the aforementioned contributing resources.

Laundry (Site I; XPI-040): This structure was constructed in 1926. Although judged a contributing resource in the 1986 NHL nomination form, the Laundry was demolished before 1999 by the property owner.

Theater (Site M; HABS AK-209; XPI-043): The Theater was constructed ca. 1964. Although listed as a contributing resource in the 1986 NHL nomination form, it was demolished in 2008 by the property owner.

Blubbering (Blubber) House (Site N): Built from 1930 to 1931. Although listed as a contributing resource in the 1986 NHL nomination form, the Blubber House was razed sometime before 1987 to make room for the Anderson Building.

Kench House (Site O): Construction on this building, also known as Salt House A, began in 1921 and concluded in 1924. In 1931, “a concrete foundation for a fifty foot extension to this building was poured and the frame portion of the building will be erected during the coming year...”129 In 1934, the agent wrote “The 50 foot extension to salt house “A” was also completed. It will permit the use of two additional kenches for salting seal skins and also provides a large room for barreling skins...”130

Although listed as a contributing resource in the 1986 NHL nomination form, the Kench House was razed sometime before 1987 to make room for the Anderson Building.

Boxing Shed (Site P; XPI-226): This building was constructed from 1921 to 1922. Although listed as a contributing resource in the 1986 NHL nomination form, the Boxing Shed was demolished in 2001, by the government. At the request of the SHPO, many 35mm and 6cm x 7cm photographs were taken of the graffiti scribed by former workers in the building on interior walls and framing structures from 1929 to the “Last Day” on September 11, 1984.

Equipment Garage (Site R; XPI-034): This building was constructed in 1931. Although listed as a contributing resource in the 1986 NHL nomination form, the Equipment Garage was demolished in 2007 by the government.

Small Frame Structure (Site T; XPI-046): Structure T is a bit enigmatic. The nomination states, “May possibly be one of the houses constructed pre-1918. Abandoned.”131 Map 4 places Structure T very near to the West Dock at Village Cove on St. Paul Island. Some photographs of the West Dock area are presented later in the book, but whether Structure T is one of the small structures at West Dock is uncertain. A 1996 report by Roads Archaeology presents photographs purportedly of “Contributing Structure T”132 However, the structure they depict is relatively distant from West Dock, although its appearance could easily be regarded as a “pre-1918” structure. In this book, the structure described as “Structure T” by Roads Archaeology is recognized as “Saltwater House 2,” which was still standing in 2008. Otherwise, the only small structure still near West Dock is a former concrete fuel Pump House, which the authors do not count as Small Frame Structure (T) because it is situated in front of West Dock and not to the west side of the dock as portrayed in Map 4.

Paint Shop (Site U; XPI-047): This wood frame building was constructed in 1931. Although listed as a contributing resource in the 1986 NHL nomination form, the Paint Shop was demolished in 1987 by the government.

By-Products Plant (Site W): This wood frame building was constructed in 1918.133 The plant went through many alterations and periods of inactivity.

The byproducts plant at St. Paul Island, which had been rebuilt and equipped with modern machinery in 1931, was overhauled and put in operation during the 1935 sealing season for the utilization of fur-seal carcasses. Considerable difficulty was experienced in making the machinery operate after being idle for 4 years.134

In 1977, TDX took control of the plant in an agreement reached with the NMFS. The By-Products Plant was demolished in 1988.

Other Noteworthy Historical Resources Razed since 1986

Diesel Tank Farm (Site BB): Built in 1962135 and removed in 1988, the Diesel Tank Farm, located atop Village Hill, consisted of seven aboveground tanks that stored diesel fuel, including arctic diesel. Diesel fuel was pumped from Village Cove up to the tanks that supplied fuel to various locations through pipelines by gravity feed. The tanks were reconditioned and relocated to a site east of the Salt Lagoon Channel where they supply fuel to the island’s power generation system.136

Gas Station (Building FF): A gas station was noted in the 1986 nomination as a noncontributing resource and depicted on the nomination map without qualification. A gas station to serve the BCF (Bureau of Commercial Fisheries), located immediately north of the Cascade Building (JJ), is identified on a 1960 map. In 1966, “a former plumbing shop was converted into a village automotive repair shop.”137 The repair shop complemented “A service station with underground tanks...operated by the Community...”138 constructed in 1967 and began operations on February 9, 1968. The Native gas station and automotive repair shop was demolished ca. 1990. A January 21, 1969, map of the St. Paul community (by Richard W. Frazier) similarly identifies two gas stations. The location of the Gas Station and Garage (intended for Native use) on the two maps and a 1982 AeroMap U.S. photo is consistent with the depicted structures on the 1986 nomination map, although not specifically identified as a gas station.

Concrete Foundation/Point Warehouse (Site GG): The Point Warehouse was built in 1924, replacing the old Point Warehouse building constructed in 1912.139 The 1924 Point Warehouse measured 48’ x 100’. It was demolished circa 1958.

Concrete Foundation/Greenhouse (Site WW): Built in 1951, the greenhouse was used to supply fresh produce to government employees residing in “cottages 1-2-3 and Government House.” A “second greenhouse located by the radio cottages for their use is under construction and will be ready next season. The old one [built ca. 1941] near the barn was completely demolished last winter in a wind storm.”140 A greenhouse for the priest and family is evident near the Priest’s House in historical photographs from the 1930’s, but when it was built and ultimately demolished is not known. The earliest

135 “Real Property-Pribilof Islands;” prepared by the U.S. Dep. Inter., FWS, Division of Realty, June 30, 1970.
greenhouse on St. Paul Island may have been constructed with dimensions of 16' 9" by 32' 8" in 1923–24, at an undetermined location.\footnote{140}

**ATCO Trailer Camp (Site ZZ; XPI-221):** Built after 1986, the ATCO Trailer Camp was constructed by TDX to house fish-processing employees and breakwater construction workers. The camp was dismantled in 2008.\footnote{141}

**Aulet Bunkhouse at Northeast Point (Site HHH):** Excavation for a new bunkhouse at Northeast Point began in 1928; the building was completed in 1929.\footnote{142} The new bunkhouse replaced an old one built in 1875. The new quarters were described as an “attractive looking building 28 x 56 feet of frame construction and concrete foundation. It has a kitchen, dining room and a large sleeping room containing 30 bunks. The old watchhouse was moved to a new site and will be used for a fox food cook house.”\footnote{143} The bunkhouse provided quarters for Aleut laborers during the sealing season. A 2001 Site Closure Report stated that only the concrete wall foundation remained.\footnote{144} A NOS Coast and Geodetic Survey benchmark was installed in the top of the northeast corner of the foundation in 2000.

**Power Plant (Site CC; XPI-035) and Power Plant Annex (Site DD):** Built 1959–60, the Power Plant operated from 1960 to 1998; it was razed in 2007. The Power Plant Annex located within 30 feet west of the Power Plant was constructed of sheet metal over a concrete pad circa 1980 and razed in 2000.\footnote{145}

**Two-Car Garage/Government House Garage (Building DDD; XPI-191):** Built in 1945 for the government General Manager on the island, the 1945 agent’s annual report declared that “It will be known as the Government House Garage.”\footnote{146} The concrete foundation remains on Block 11, lot 8. The 1986 NHL Nomination Form did not consider this a historical resource.

**Miscellaneous Historical Resources**

The Pribilof Islands archival records offer a very illuminating perspective of life and conditions on the islands. Many of the historical photographs, both landscape and aerial, provide views of buildings and structures that challenge one's ability to identify them even with written records. The following accounts are meant to provide the reader with additional information to better interpret the photographic record and to enhance one’s appreciation of living conditions on historical St. Paul Island. For example, some photographs depict several unidentified structures (and cows) on what is now Ellerman Heights.

**Carpenter Shop:** “With installation of an oil-burning furnace in the Carpenter Shop, the last coal-burner in a government structure on St Paul Island has been removed.”\footnote{147} This Carpenter Shop was located on the flat near the Native Gas Station.

**LORAN Stations:** The U.S. Coast Guard constructed the first Long Range Aid to Navigation (LORAN) station at Southwest Point on St. Paul Island in 1943. Several concrete pads and buried piping remain at the site. Construction of a replacement station began in 1960 near the airport. LORAN technology became obsolete in first decade of 2000, and the St. Paul station was decommissioned in 2010.

**Water Supply System:** Supplying adequate quantities of potable water was quite an undertaking on St. Paul Island. During the early American period, numerous wells were dug in and about the village area, but brine quickly ended their utility. The present [1915] water supply on St. Paul Island is derived chiefly from two small wells, one about three-eighths and the other about five-eighths of a mile from the village near the eastern shore of the salt lagoon. At one of the wells the Navy Department has installed a small gasoline engine and pump, which lifts water to two 20,000 gallon tanks on the hill above the village. These tanks were built two or three years ago. From the tanks water is piped to the village and to the radio station.\footnote{148}

The first mention of windmills on St. Paul was included with Albert Christoffersen’s 68 page report to the Commissioner of Fisheries, H. M. Smith, Washington, D.C. titled “Operation of U.S. Fisheries’ By-Products Plant at St. Paul Island, Alaska during The Summer of 1921,” accompanied by “A Report on the Construction of: Water Works for St. Paul Village.” The report included blueprints of the proposed Water Works plan and a 1920 Village of St. Paul blueprint. He begins his discussion of the water issue with The greatest handicap for sanitary improvements in the village is the lack of sufficient supply of fresh, soft water, but, for the richest corporation the world ever has seen, it should not be such an unsurmountable difficulty to supply a couple of hundred people with this necessity of life. The water is there; anyone who has been on the Island can see that; so all there is necessary is good will and some action and the water can be brought over in the village in one summer.

To pump water with power generated from a steam boiler or gas engine on a place like the Pribilof Island must be considered a very wasteful method, as probably the only thing available on the Islands in an abundance is wind. Regardless of weather or conditions, there is always wind enough for operation of any size of windmill, and why not utilize this power for pumping water when the Lord furnishes it free of charge. To erect two small windmills, one for fresh and one for salt water, will only cost about half of what a gas engine with pump will cost, and after that, they will work night and day with a minimum of attention, free of charge.

When one stops to consider the extended use of windmills for manufacturing purposes in some of the European countries, it seems a wonder that something has not been done on these lines long ago. If the windmill question on the Islands was investigated by competent men not already prejudiced against the case, I would not be surprised in a few years to see an electric power station in operation, large enough to supply the whole village with electric light and power.

Christoffersen resurrects his argument for the use of windmills in his 1922 report. This time he argued that the Navy Department for the prior two summers had tried unsuccessfully to drill artesian wells and recommended that artesian wells not be attempted by the bureau on Lagoon Flats, but to consider extending the water line to Icehouse Lake. He feared the Navy would take charge of the lake soon if the bureau did not.

If the naval radio parties should not succeed in finding fresh water this summer, I should not be surprised to see them take charge of Icehouse Lake. If they should, the Bureau will have to go to Kamanister – twice as far away – or be without water.

To make Icehouse Lake the source of supply, it will require about 6,000 feet of 4 inch wood pipe. Pump and gas engine bought last year are both big enough to pump the water from there. So all that would be needed is the pipe.

Regardless as to whether the water is taken from Icehouse lake or from well dug on the Lagoon Flats, it will always require the greater part of the time and attention of one white man to operate the engine and pump and keep the system in order. Why not then get a windmill to do the pumping? Of one thing, we always have more windmills, one for fresh and one for salt water; will only cost about half of what a gas engine with pump will cost, and after that, they will work night and day with a minimum of attention, free of charge.

To pump water with power generated from a steam boiler or gas engine on a place like the Pribilof Island must be considered a very wasteful method, as probably the only thing available on the Islands in an abundance is wind. Regardless of weather or conditions, there is always wind enough for operation of any size of windmill, and why not utilize this power for pumping water when the Lord furnishes it free of charge. To erect two small windmills, one for fresh and one for salt water, will only cost about half of what a gas engine with pump will cost, and after that, they will work night and day with a minimum of attention, free of charge.

When one stops to consider the extended use of windmills for manufacturing purposes in some of the European countries, it seems a wonder that something has not been done on these lines long ago. If the windmill question on the Islands was investigated by competent men not already prejudiced against the case, I would not be surprised in a few years to see an electric power station in operation, large enough to supply the whole village with electric light and power.

Christoffersen resurrects his argument for the use of windmills in his 1922 report. This time he argued that the Navy Department for the prior two summers had tried unsuccessfully to drill artesian wells and recommended that artesian wells not be attempted by the bureau on Lagoon Flats, but to consider extending the water line to Icehouse Lake. He feared the Navy would take charge of the lake soon if the bureau did not.
pump night and day without having a valuable man marking time and without consumption of gasoline. Some manufacturers even guarantee that their windmills will not need oiling more than once a year and that their pumps are frost-proof. (p.38)

In 1921, well drilling by the Navy and Bureau of Fisheries continued from the previous year at a point between the radio station buildings and the village cove. A depth of 415 feet was reached without finding a supply of water. Soon thereafter, Icehouse Lake provided St. Paul Village with freshwater from the 1920's to the 1950's via windmill and a diesel-powered pump. Bureau of Fisheries Superintendent, Harry J. Christoffers wrote in 1924, "When we have fully ascertained that there will be sufficient water in Icehouse Lake to take care of the purposes of the Bureau we can consider permitting the navy to use some of this water, but they probably would only be permitted to connect a hydrant for drinking purposes only." In 1926, Agent and Caretaker Edward C. Johnston wrote, "Ice House Lake cleaned out around margin. Windmill set up but not yet in working condition. The lake is almost up to normal depth now." However, good water was not easily obtained, as commented on by the agent in 1947 "The condition of the village water supply is just as bad as it has always been. To state the case mildly, it is putrid. The recommendation that a competent Water Supply Engineer, be brought to St. Paul Island, to plan and lay out a new water system is repeated." 151

In 1948, "The installation of the 4-inch pipe line from Stoney [Stony] Point Lake [Pumphouse Lake] was completed.... All that remains...is the setting up of whatever pump is to be used at Stoney Point Lake, and the final connections and installation of the intake section there." Also, "The dredging of Icehouse Lake, the local water supply, has been necessary also for some time, as it fills in and capacity is lost. Lack of equipment has prevented anything being done, however, until this past fall [1948] when trucks and power shovels were available, and a great deal was accomplished. An island in the center of the lake remains to be removed by a drag-line arrangement; but the capacity has now increased to such an extent that there probably will be no need to work for shortage of water unless a particularly dry season should happen along." 152 Besides improvements being made towards the overall supply of potable water, in 1947, "about ten of the natives piped water into their homes from the Water [sic] mains. This is a great improvement in these houses. Incidentally, this work was done at their own expense." 153

Later, wells located east of Telegraph Hill pumped freshwater to the village. The Icehouse Lake Pump House was demolished in the early 1990's. In 2004, residents deposited scrap wood at the site to burn during community recreational events. 154

**Outhouses:** One of the earliest recorded entries about outhouse construction on the Seal Islands occurred in 1892.

Three new privies were erected last fall [1892] for use of the natives. It was the intention to build 6 new ones as an experiment, the material being furnished by the company [NAC] free of cost, but to be constructed by the natives at no expense to the company. The company's agent would only furnish material for 3, as the lumber was scarce. He, however, gave an old privy which stood near the hilliard hall and another which was near the north end of the village on the first street. The new ones were each divided into 4 compartments and one of the old ones divided into 2, which furnish accommodations for 14 families. The old one near the end of the village was moved further up the street near which it stood, so as to be near the inhabited houses. To put it in place will require the removal of considerable earth, which can be done when working on the new road. The privy sinks are each 10 feet deep, and with other dimensions give to each about 80 feet of cubical contents. As yet they have not been used much, which is probably due to the cold weather preventing them from visiting places they were not accustomed to. 155

**Smokehouses:** Several smokehouses adorned St. Paul Island over the years. In an early example, following the shipwreck of the Brig Alexander, St. Paul Native Aggie Kushin purchased the wreck and attempted to cure the shoulders of the seals by a process similar to that by which pork is treated. The company kindly contributed the use of an old, abandoned boat, which was turned upside down and by a little construction converted into a smokehouse. Colonel Murray took hold of the matter vigorously, with the result that all the seal meat not immediately needed for the consumption of the natives was put through the process for smoking. It remains to be seen how readily seal meat will lend itself to this process of curing. The result may be seriously developed in modern times in curing meats it seems as though some method might be utilized or developed whereby whole-some seal meat in ample quantity and in a variety of forms might be provided for winter consumption. 156

In another instance "There was one smokehouse built in 1945 to try out smoked seal meat for fox food. The product went over very well with the foxes, but the storms that fall completely wrecked the building, which was located at Lukanin killing field." 157

**U.S. Army Installations 1942–43:** In 1946, the St. Paul government agent wrote "In 1942 and 43, fox holes and trenches were dug by the Army throughout the village." 158 Pits dug for artillery, storage bunkers originally lined with wood plank floors, and other defense purposes are scattered about the island. Numerous pits are seen inside outside the Lake Hill crater.

### Condition of Resources—Summary

Since the 1986 nomination, contributing resources within the Seal Islands Historic District have undergone significant alteration as will be evident in this book. Even the resolute fur-seal population has dropped by more than 50% since the 1962 survey, although no additional rookeries have yet gone extinct. Because of the various alterations, the National Park Service listed the Seal Islands Historic District as "Threatened" in a statement that followed its 2004 site survey.

Threats include deterioration of structures, lack of maintenance, incompatible modifications to historic seal industry buildings and demolition of several historic structures. On St. Paul, six of the ten contributing commercial buildings have been demolished. Damp and windy climatic conditions combined with years of poor maintenance have caused many historic structures to deteriorate. The application of incompatible and limited life plywood siding to some of the concrete structures exteriors and houses along with new construction continues to threaten the Landmark. Most of the historic buildings will soon be transferred to a private owner. NPS continues to provide some planning, grant review, Section 106 consultation, and interpretation assistance. 159

Resource conditions vary widely in St. Paul's Historic District. The Church of the Holy Apostles Saints Peter and Paul was renovated in 2004 using funds authorized by the Aleutian and Pribilof Islands Restoration Act of 1988. In 2007, a traditional onion dome was placed on the church's bell tower in celebration of the church's 100th anniversary. The Government House was renovated during 2005–06 for use as a museum; the Fouke Bunkhouse was renovated in 2008. The Company House (more recently

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149 Memo to H. H. Hungerford from Harry J. Christoffers, Nov. 21, 1924 (NARA, Pacific Alaska Region, Anchorage RG 22, FWS, Pribilof Islands Program, Box 33, Folder 15).
150 Memo for Mr. Christoffers from Edward C. Johnston, Oct. 21, 1926, 1924 (NARA, Pacific Alaska Region, Anchorage RG 22, FWS, Pribilof Islands Program, Box 33, Folder 15).
156 Ibid., 322.
known as the King Eider Hotel) was condemned and remains vacant, and many other buildings and structures have gone into disrepair. Since the 2004 site survey, two additional contributing resources were demolished, so that only three of the ten sealing industry buildings identified in the 1986 nomination remain. Faulkner stated in the 1986 NHL nomination form that St. Paul lacked any local ordinances or protective management policies to address the historic buildings or the old village sites. This condition remains in effect along with a prevalent apathy towards the Seal Islands historical seal-industry legacy.
Noncontributing Houses
Ellerman Heights

Plans for this development began in 1963 with the intention of building thirty new houses and with room to expand in the future. The area earned its name from the engineer, Roy Ellerman, who drew up the blueprints for this subdivision. Ellerman Heights is located northeast of St. Paul Village, on the inland slope of Cemetery Hill, north of the new cemetery, and overlooks the Salt Lagoon Channel. The foundation and shell for the first house were visible at the end of 1966. By the end of 1968, eight new pre-cut houses with three bedrooms and full daylight basements stood on Ellerman Heights—although electricity, water, and the new sewage disposal facilities were not scheduled for completion until the spring of 1970.

3 The 1971 annual report stated that the completion of the new sewage treatment system was a “priority project.” The priority work included the installation of a blubber-screening machine and installation of the screening machine at the By-Products Plant, installation of a comminutor, and completion of drain fields. Annual Report of Sealing Operations, 1971, Pribilof Islands, Alaska, December 31, 1971: 7.
**LOG HOUSE**

**Alaska Heritage Resources Survey**

AHRS #: XPI-223  
Aliquot: S035S132W  
Lat./Long.: 170° 17.036' W, 57° 07.311' N  
Acreage: <0.5  
Map sheet: St. Paul Island West (1:25,000)

**Site Name(s):** log house  
**Site Description:** XPI-223 is a two-story house of two-sided milled logs, with a ribbed metal roof constructed circa 1996.  
**Significance:** Built as a private residence in the 1990s. This building is a noncontributing building to the Seal Islands National Historic Landmark in the 1986 nomination form.  
**Location:** Far-east end of Pribilof Street, St. Paul Village, St. Paul Island, Pribilof Islands, Alaska.

**Citations:**

Mobley, Charles, photographer.  
Photograph (35mm). NOAA, NOS, Pribilof Project Office, Seattle.

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**FRAME HOUSE**

**Alaska Heritage Resources Survey**

AHRS #: XPI-224  
Aliquot: S035S132W  
Lat./Long.: 170° 17.030' W, 57° 07.303' N  
Acreage: <0.5  
Map sheet: St. Paul Island West (1:25,000)

**Site Name(s):** frame house  
**Site Description:** XPI-224 is a frame house constructed circa 2000.  
**Significance:** This building is a noncontributing building to the Seal Islands National Historic Landmark.  
**Location:** Far-east end of Pribilof Street, St. Paul Village, St. Paul Island, Pribilof Islands, Alaska.

**Citations:**

Winandy, David B., photographer.  
February 11, 2005. Frame House (left) and Log House (right). East and west sides.  
Photograph (digital). NOAA, NOS, Pribilof Project Office, Seattle.


Photographer unknown. 1890’s. Chicken perched on ladder leaning against building. Many families kept chickens in their houses, often in the upper area. In 1895, the government agent ordered the erection of separate chicken houses. Photograph. National Anthropological Archives, Smithsonian, Institution: Lot 54, 54-111.

Blueprint. n.d. House is to scale with penciled note: "3R." NOAA, NMML Library, Seattle: Fur-Seal Archives, no file number.

Photograph No. USBF 2.66 (Photographer G Dallas Hanna), September 1918; Southwest side and southeast front, Cottage “A” under construction in St. Paul Village. Plans for these new houses included a kitchen, living room, bathroom, and three bedrooms on the first floor. Government agents modified the plans to permit addition of extra bedrooms in the upper story. RG 370; NARA—Pacific Alaska Region (A).

Photograph No. 22-MP-3-32 (Photographer unknown), circa 1918–1919; Northwest and southwest sides, Cottage “B.” RG 370; NARA—Pacific Alaska Region (A).

Photograph No. 22-MP-3-37 (Photographer unknown), circa 1918; Southwest side and southeast front, Cottage “A”. RG 370; NARA—Pacific Alaska Region (A).

Photograph No. 22-MP-3-56 (Photographer unknown), circa 1919; Cottage “C” under construction, looking south southeast. RG 370; NARA—Pacific Alaska Region (A).
Photograph No. 22-MP-3-65 (Photographer unknown), circa 1918–1919; Newly built cottages “A” and “B” and the foundation for cottage “C”, looking southeast. Records of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, RG 370; NARA—Pacific Alaska Region (A).

Photograph No. USBF 2.71 (Photographer unknown), 1920; Southeast front, concrete house. Records of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, RG 370; NARA—Pacific Alaska Region (A).

Photograph No. 95-ADMC-2874 (Photographer unknown), n.d.; Behind Native houses, looking east. Records of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, RG 370; NARA—Pacific Alaska Region (A).

Photograph No. USBF 1.58 (Photographer unknown), circa 1915; View from Village Hill showing houses, Point Warehouse, Village Cove, and Salt Lagoon (background). Records of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, RG 370; NARA—Pacific Alaska Region (A).


Photograph No. 22-RB-1949-28 (Photographer unknown), 1949; House with small built-in greenhouse on side in St. Paul Village. Records of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, RG 22; NARA, Special Media Archives Services Division, National Archives at College Park, College Park, MD.

Photograph No. 22-RB-1949-29 (Photographer unknown), 1949; Houses in St. Paul Village. Records of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, RG 22; NARA, Special Media Archives Services Division, National Archives at College Park, College Park, MD.


Photograph No. 95-ADMC-2185 (Photographer unknown), n.d.; Concrete Native home. Records of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, RG 370; NARA—Pacific Alaska Region (A).

Photograph No. 22-RB-1949-29 (Photographer unknown), 1949; Houses in St. Paul Village. Records of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, RG 22; NARA, Special Media Archives Services Division, National Archives at College Park, College Park, MD.
Blueprint, September 1, 1948. "Native Cottage, St. Paul and St. George Islands, Back View." It is unclear if this type of house was actually built. House 56 appears to be a close but not exact replica of these 1948 blueprints. Records of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, RG 22; NARA—Pacific Alaska Region (A).
Log House

CONSTRUCTION DETAILS

PLATE VI
9-1-48

Photograph No. 22-RB-1949-15 (Photographer unknown), 1949; Houses near radio station. Records of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, RG 22; NARA, Special Media Archives Services Division, National Archives at College Park, College Park, MD.


Administrative and Staff Buildings

Photograph No. 22-Loud-02 (Photographer Abial P. Loud), circa 1886; "ACC Dwelling House." RG 56; NARA—Pacific Alaska Region (A).
Company House/King Eider Hotel

Alaska Heritage Resources Survey

AHRS #: XPI-039  Aliquot: S035S132W/25  Acreage: <.25
Lat./Long.: 170° 16' 49.99" W, 57° 07' 16.63" N  Map sheet: St. Paul Island West (1:25,000)

Site Name(s): Company House, Building H, King Eider Hotel

Site Description:
The Company House is a large two-story gabled frame building on a concrete foundation, with a narrower two-story cross-gabled wing centrally attached to the south of the building, making a T shape. The main block’s roof has two shed-roofed dormers on the north side, and one shed-roofed dormer on the south. The main block has two centrally located slope-mounted concrete chimneys: a large one on the south roof near the ridge, and a smaller one on the north roof near the ridge. The wing has one slope-mounted concrete chimney. The wing has a large shed-roofed block attached to its west side. This block has a corrugated metal roof. Both the main block and the wing have attics. A gabled-roof enclosed entry is on attached to the west end of the main block’s north side. The two gable-roofed blocks have wood-shingled roofs. The main block has seventeen windows on the north side; eleven on the south side; and three windows on the east side. The wing’s west wall has five windows; the south wall of the wing has four windows and a door on the first floor.

Significance:
In 1922, work began to enlarge the existing Company House (construction date unknown), although the 1986 National Register nomination form gives the construction date as 1923. It was partly renovated in 1932. An addition was started in the fall of 1950, and first and second subfloors were laid. In 1951, twelve rooms were completed and the bathrooms remodeled. One of the dining halls was enlarged. In 1954, kitchen and cooks quarters were reported finished during the previous spring. The building was used to provide lodging for federal officials and guests overseeing or observing the commercial seal harvest and activities related to the administration of Native affairs up to the end of the period of significance (1984). The Aleut community operated a hotel out of the building until about 2006 (except 1968, when operational responsibilities reverted to the Bureau of Commercial Fisheries for one year). The building was condemned by the Alaska Fire Marshall around 2006. It is a contributing building to the Seal Island National Historic Landmark.

Location:
Tract A, Block 18, Lot 2; on Tolstoi Boulevard between Bartlett Boulevard and Cliffside Street, St. Paul Village, St. Paul Island, Alaska

Citations:

Danger of Destruction:
Present Condition: Condemned by the State Fire Marshal
Ecosystem:
Pertinent Dates: Construction date unknown, enlarged in AD 1922.
Period: Historic
Resource Nature: B
Cultural Affiliation: Aleut, Euro-American
Preservation Status & Date: Contributing building to Seal Islands NHL (1986)
Property Owner: Tanadgusix Corporation
Repository:
Accession #: 
BIA/BLM #: 
Other # (specify):

COMPANY HOUSE/KING EIDER HOTEL
(BUILDING H)
HABS No. AK-210
AHRS No. XI-0-039

Location: On Tolstoi Boulevard between Bartlett Boulevard and Cliffside Street, Village of St. Paul, St. Paul Island, Pribilof Islands, Alaska; Tract A, Block 18, Lot 2

Significance: Construction date unknown. The Company House provided lodging and a mess for employees and guests overseeing or observing the commercial seal harvest activities and managing Aleut affairs on the islands through the end of 1967 when the building was turned into a hotel, called the King Eider Hotel. The Aleut community operated a hotel out of the building until circa 2006 (except 1968, when operational responsibilities reverted to the U.S. Bureau of Commercial Fisheries for one year).

Description: The Company House is a large two-story gabled frame building with a narrower two-story cross-gabled wing centrally attached to the south eave wall, making a T-shape. The smaller wing has a large shed-roofed block attached to its west eave wall, filling in much of the corner between the two wings and butting up against the slope. Both wings have an attic. A concrete foundation supports the building. The main block’s roof has two shed-roofed dormers on the north side, and one shed-roofed dormer on the south. A small enclosed entry with a gabled roof is attached to the main block on the west end of the north eave wall. The roofs of the two gable-roofed blocks are covered with wood shingles, while the shed-roofed block is covered with corrugated metal roofing. The main block has two centrally located slope-mounted concrete chimneys: a large one on the south slope near the ridge, and a smaller one on the north slope near the ridge. The wing has one slope-mounted concrete chimney near the eave where it meets the shed-roofed block; the wing’s ridgeline is lower than that of the main block, but the top of the two blocks’ chimneys are at the same height. The building contained facilities for sleeping, bathing, dining, and socializing. The village corporation (TDX) had been renovating the building, but it has not been used now for years and the roof and foundation are deteriorating. Windows are a combination of older double-hung single-pane wood examples and newer vinyl examples with one large pane above and a smaller awning opener below.

The main block has five windows on the first floor/north eave wall, seven on the second/floor north wall, and four and six on the two dormers/north wall; five windows are on the first floor/east wall, seven on the second floor/east wall, and five on the east gable; two windows are on the first floor/south eave wall, four on the second floor/south eave wall, and five (two sets of double-ganged) on the south dormer; and one window is on the gable end facing west (along with a door and walkway leading directly to ground level). The south wing has five windows on the first floor/west eave wall, one on the first floor/south gable end (along with one door), three on the second floor/east wall, two on the second floor/south wall, and one in the attic gable (south wall).

History: The construction date of the Company House is not known, although a community map by Abial Loud dated 1886 depicts the “ACC Dwelling House” (also visible in an 1886 photograph by A. P. Loud) in the same location as what is now known as the Company House. In 1869, the “ACC Headquarters” is listed on the inventory of property transferred to the North American Commercial Company in 1890. The Agent’s Log shows that a 4'-0" x 12'-0" addition was added to the Company House in 1911 and underwent a remodel during the spring of 1912. The U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Fisheries enlarged the building in 1922–23. The 1986 NHL nomination form gave the Company House construction date as 1923; a U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Fisheries inventory form from 1940 states that the building was erected in 1922. However, the extant records do not reveal the exact date of construction.

In 1919, A. H. Proctor described the Company House in a letter to the Commissioner of Fisheries as “a two-story attic structure, with a hallway running through the center of the building. One entire side is intended for an office, but, as it is the only place in which the male employees can gather, it is largely used as a social hall which practically nullifies its usefulness as an office.” A small library, located across the hallway, led to a dining room. Four small bedrooms were located on the second floor. The building’s attic stored trunks and other items not needed on a daily basis. Proctor complained that the pitch of the roof prevented the attic’s use to accommodate the employees. An addition to the back of the building consisted of one story with an attic and housed the kitchen, mess store-room, and three small bedrooms that quartered the Chinese men employed in the kitchen.

Another enlargement project began in 1922. In a 1923 description of permanent improvements listed the Company House as complete. The main building, 2 ½ stories, measured 44'-0" x 44'-6"; the kitchen, 2 stories, measured 20'-4" x 34'-0". The building contained two dining rooms, four bathrooms, one kitchen, one library, and eighteen bedrooms. During this same period, a greenhouse was constructed to supply the Company House with fresh vegetables. The 1923 inventory form lists its measurements as 16'-9" x 32'-8". Only the concrete foundation was completed by August 16. A room built behind the Company House (and attached by a hallway) in 1926 provided space for a Frigidaire plant. This structure is visible on village plans up to 1946.

The Company House was partly renovated in 1932 with a new foundation, plumbing, and central heating. A two-story addition with twelve new rooms was added during 1949–50; existing bathrooms were remodeled at that time, and one of the dining halls was enlarged. An enlargement in 1954 added a space for “a meat-cutting room, a chill room, a sharp-freezing room, a dry-storage room, and a garbage-disposal.” The lobby was enlarged in 1960 and fire escapes installed in 1963.

The building provided lodging and a mess hall for government employees up to 1967. Afterward, the Aleut Community operated the King Eider Hotel out of the building, with the exception of 1968 when the Bureau of Commercial Fisheries operated the hotel. In the 1970s, TDX operated the hotel. The building was condemned by the Alaska Fire Marshal circa 2006, and since then the former Company House has continued to deteriorate.

Sources:
Abial P. Loud 1886 community map of St. Paul Island. NARA, Pacific Alaska Region, Anchorage, RG 57, Photographs and Charts of Treasury Agent Abial P. Loud, ca. 1885–ca. 1889.
Agent’s Log. Nov. 9-Dec. 27, 1911; April 22, 1912–June 4, 1912; Oct. 4-Nov. 29, 1915; Jan. 25, 1919; Nov. 6, 1920; Sept. 10, 1926; March 15, 1963; March 17, 1964;

Mobley, Charles, photographer. 2007. East side and north front, King Eider Hotel, formerly called the Company House. Photograph (35mm). NOAA, NOS, Pribilof Project Office, Seattle.


Company House, Description of Quarters, First Floor Plan, Second Floor Plan, and Third Floor Plan, St. Paul Island, Pribilof Islands, Alaska, June 5, 1940, Box 14, Folder 7, RG22—NARA—Pacific Alaska Region, Anchorage.

Company House Floor Plans, First floor, second floor, and third floor plans of the Company House (erroneously states that it is the Government House) on St. Paul Island during the remodeling, undated, City of St. Paul St. Paul Island, Alaska.


———. March 31, 1952.

———. March 31, 1953.

———. March 31, 1954.

Faulkner, John A. Lindsay (NOAA), Betty A. Lindsay, Robin Maberry, and Karla Sclater, 2009

Faulkner, John A. Lindsay (NOAA), Betty A. Lindsay, Robin Maberry, and Karla Sclater, 2009

**Field Observation:** Charles M. Mobley, Charles M. Mobley & Associates, 2007

**Pribilof Islands Research:** John A. Lindsay (NOAA), Betty A. Lindsay, Robin Maberry, and Karla Sclater, 2009

**Associated Drawings and Photographs submitted by NPS:**

AK-210-1 Front view, looking southwest

**Additional Drawings and Photographs submitted:**

Company House, Description of Quarters, First Floor Plan, Second Floor Plan, and Third Floor Plan, St. Paul Island, Pribilof Islands, Alaska, June 5, 1940, Box 14, Folder 7, RG22—NARA—Pacific Alaska Region, Anchorage.


Proctor, A. H., St. Paul Island, to the Commissioner of Fisheries, Dec. 15, 1919.


**Field Observation:** Charles M. Mobley, Charles M. Mobley & Associates, 2007

**Pribilof Islands Research:** John A. Lindsay (NOAA), Betty A. Lindsay, Robin Maberry, and Karla Sclater, 2009

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AK-210-1 Front view, looking southwest

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Company House, Description of Quarters, First Floor Plan, Second Floor Plan, and Third Floor Plan, St. Paul Island, Pribilof Islands, Alaska, June 5, 1940, Box 14, Folder 7, RG22—NARA—Pacific Alaska Region, Anchorage.


Proctor, A. H., St. Paul Island, to the Commissioner of Fisheries, Dec. 15, 1919.


Photograph No. USBF 1.57 (Photographer unknown), circa 1915; Company House (center) and doctor’s house (left), looking north. Records of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, RG 370; NARA—Pacific Alaska Region (A).

Gray, Nicolas and William S. Hereford, photographers. 1880’s. St. Paul Village, looking northwest, showing Company House (top), government shop (center), stable (right foreground), and storehouses with barabara or sod storehouse in foreground. Photograph. Alaska State Library: PCA 185, Gray and Hereford Photograph Collection, P185-14.

Photograph No. USBF 1.74 (Photographer unknown), circa 1915; Interior, Company House sitting area. Records of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, RG 370; NARA—Pacific Alaska Region (A).
Photograph No. USBF 1.73 (Photographer G Dallas Hanna), 1914; Interior, Company House bedroom. Records of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, RG 370; NARA—Pacific Alaska Region (A).

Photograph No. 95-ADMC-229 (Photographer unknown), August 2, 1948; West side, Company House. Records of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, RG 370; NARA—Pacific Alaska Region (A).

Mobley, Charles, photographer. 2007. West and south sides, King Eider Hotel, formerly called the Company House. Photograph (35mm). NOAA, NOS, Pribilof Project Office, Seattle.

Plan. n.d. Company House, first floor plan. NOAA, NMML Library, Seattle, WA.
Plan. n.d. Company House, second floor plan. NOAA NMML Library, Seattle, WA.
Plan. n.d. Company House, third floor plan. NOAA, NMML Library, Seattle, WA.

Site Name(s): Fisheries Office, Building G

Site Description: The Fisheries Office is a one-and-a-half story front-gabled frame building with a concrete foundation. The building has a hip-on-gable roof with one concrete chimney. The roof is covered with wood shingles, and the walls are clad with bevel siding. An enclosed entry on the south has a gable roof and a door under the eave facing west; the door on the east side is flush. An outside entrance leads down to a basement. All the windows are boarded. The building is currently unoccupied.

Significance: The Fisheries Office construction began in 1940, and finished in 1941, by the U.S. Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service, although Faulkner gives the date as “the 1930s.” The building was used as office space for federal agents overseeing the commercial seal harvest on St. Paul Island. It was used for federal administrative purposes up to 1983, when the government withdrew from its administration of the island. The building contains two walk-in vaults, one on the first floor and the other in the basement. After the government withdrew, the building was adapted for use as a tavern up to 2003, when it was essentially abandoned. A large number of documents remained in the building’s basement vault until 2007, when the documents were transferred to the National Archives and Records Administration, Pacific Alaska Region, Anchorage. At the time of observation in 2007, it was in poor condition. It is a contributing building to the Seal Island National Historic Landmark.

Location: Tract A, Block 18, Lot 1, at the intersection of Tolstoi Boulevard and Bartlett Boulevard, St. Paul Village, St. Paul Island, Alaska

Citations:
**FISHERIES OFFICE**
*(BUILDING G)*
HABS No. AK-211
AHRS No. XPI-038

**Location:** Tract A, Block 18, Lot 1, at the intersection of Tolstoi Boulevard and Bartlett Boulevard, Village of St. Paul, St. Paul Island, Pribilof Islands, Alaska

**Significance:** Built in 1941–42 to provide office space for federal agents overseeing the commercial seal harvest on St. Paul Island. After the federally-managed fur-seal industry ended in 1983, the Aleut Community of St. Paul Island operated a tavern out of the building until 2003, when the building was vacated. In 2007, numerous documents were found in the basement vault. The documents were transferred to the National Archives and Records Administration, Pacific Alaska Region, Anchorage.

**Description:** The Fisheries Office is a one-story front-gabled frame building with a concrete foundation and an attic. It measured 24'-0" x 36'-0", according to the Agent’s Annual Report for 1941, which also states that the building was not complete as of March 31, 1941. The building has a hip-on-gable roof. One slope-mounted concrete chimney is located on the west roof near the ridge, south of the ridge’s midpoint. The roof is covered with wood shingles, and the walls are clad with bevel siding. An enclosed entry on the south gable wall has a gable roof and a door under the eave facing west; the building’s north gable wall has a flush door. The building contains two walk-in vaults, one on the first floor and the other in the basement. An outside entrance leads down to a basement. All the windows are battened.

**History:** The Fisheries Office construction began in 1940 and finished in 1941, by the U.S. Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service, although 1986 NHL nomination form gives the date as “the 1930s.” The Agent’s Annual Report for 1941 described the building as 24’ x 36’ with a large room running the full length of the building and taking up almost half of the first floor, which contained three desks and a 12’ counter with drawers to hold the storekeepers records. A private office, fireproof vault, and a storeroom took up the other half of the main floor. A stairwell between the vault and storeroom led to the basement. The basement contained a furnace room, coal room, bathroom, a large workroom, and another fireproof vault. The 1941 Annual Agent’s Report declared that “With the two fireproof vaults it should be possible to have all the old government records now put so they cannot be destroyed should there be a fire in any of the buildings in which they are stored.”

**Sources:**

**Field Observation:** Charles M. Mobley, Charles M. Mobley & Associates, 2007

**Pribilof Islands Research:** John A. Lindsay (NOAA) and Betty A. Lindsay, Robin Maberry, Karla Sclater, 2009

**Associated Drawings and Photographs created by the NPS:**
- AK-209-1 Front view, looking northwest
- AK-209-2 West (side) elevation
- AK-209-3 North (rear) elevation

Photograph No. 95-ADMC-434 (Photographer unknown), n.d.; East and north sides, Fisheries Office, with Company House/King Eider Hotel in the background (left). Records of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, RG 370. NARA—Pacific Alaska Region (A).
Fisheries Office


**Government House**

**Alaska Heritage Resources Survey**

AHRS #: XPI-037
Aliquot: S035S132W/25
Lat./Long.: 170° 16' 52.83" W, 57° 07' 16.12" N
Acreage: <.25
Map sheet: St. Paul Island West (1:25,000)

**Site Name(s):** Government House, Building F

**Site Description:** The Government House is a large two-story side-gabled frame building on a concrete foundation measuring 34' x 56' with a hip-on-gable roof with cross gable ends, and a long shed-roofed dormer on each side of the roof. There is one slope-mounted concrete chimney at the west dormer. The eaves have a simple cornice with short returns around the gable ends, and the gables have a small peak truss. There is a one-story wing with a gable roof on the south side. An enclosed entry with a half-hipped roof is on the west side of the building, with a window and door facing west. The main entry on the east side of the building is covered with a simple post door surround and a triangular pediment. There are four windows on the north side, twelve windows on the west side, four on the south side, and nine on the east side. Windows are vinyl frames.

**Significance:** The Government House construction began in 1931, and finished in 1932, by the U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Fisheries. The new building replaced the old government building originally built in 1872. The Government House was used for administrative offices and housing quarters by the U.S. government agencies up to the end of the period of significance (1984). In 1951, a greenhouse (XPI-162) was constructed about 50' south of the Government House to service the Government House, and “cottages 1-2-3,” also called Teacher Houses 101, 102, and 103. In 1954, the front porch was enclosed with glass brick. In 2006, the building was restored by the TDX Corporation through a grant to turn the building into a museum.

**Location:** Tract A, Block 9, Lot 5.
Near intersection of Church Street and Bartlett Boulevard, St. Paul Village, St. Paul Island, Alaska.

**Citations:**

**Danger of Destruction:**
*Present Condition: Good*

**Ecosystem:**

**Pertinent Dates:** Constructed AD 1932

**Period:** Historic

**Resource Nature:** B

**Cultural Affiliation:** Aleut, Euro-American

**Preservation Status & Date:** Contributing building to Seal Islands NHL (1986)

**Property Owner:** Tanadgusix Corporation

**Repository:**

**Accession #:**
Government House

GOVERNMENT HOUSE
(BUILDING F)
HABS No. AK-205
AHRS No. XPI-037

Location: Near intersection of Church Street and Bartlett Boulevard, Village of St. Paul, St. Paul Island, Pribilof Islands, Alaska; Tract A, Block 9, Lot 5

Significance: Constructed in 1931–32, the Government House was used for administrative functions by various government agencies up to the end of the federally managed fur-seal industry on the Pribilof Islands in 1983.

Description: The Government House is a large two-story side-gabled frame building with a 34’ x 56’ concrete foundation. It replaced the old government house that was built in 1872. The building has a hip-on-gable roof with cross gable ends, and a long shed-roofed dormer on each side of the roof. There is one slope-mounted concrete chimney at the west dormer. To the south gable wall is attached a one-story wing with a gable roof. One eave wall has an enclosed entry with half-hipped roof; the opposing wall has an entrance with a simple post door surround and a triangular pediment. The eaves have a simple cornice with short returns around the gable ends, and the gables have a small peak truss. On the north first-floor wall are two picture windows. Windows are all modern vinyl.

History: The old government house, built in 1872, was torn down to make room for the new Government House in 1932. In a 1940 inventory by the U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Fisheries, the house was described in “excellent” condition, with a full cement basement, and a shingled roof. The second floor contained four rooms and two baths. The ground floor consisted of one bedroom, a sun porch, small sitting room, office, and bath. The basement consisted of “one large living room, dining room and kitchen; electric lights; heated by hot water furnace located in basement; compressed gas cook stove; gas refrigerator, 8 cu. ft.; running water furnished through station water system; water for domestic purposes heated by furnace; hardwood floors throughout with linoleum on kitchen floor; all walls are plasterboard; no special air cooling appliances are furnished; condition of furniture good; no garage.” In 1951, a greenhouse (AHRS XPI-162) was constructed about 50’ south of the Government House for use by managers, teachers, and government employees who lived in Teacher Houses 101 (HABS No. AK-206 assigned, XPI-032), 102 (HABS No., not assigned, XPI-033), and 103 (HABS No. AK-207, XPI-036). The floors of the Government House were sanded and refinished in 1952. In 1953, new cupboards and sinks were put in the kitchen, and a new oil furnace was installed. In 1954, the front porch was enclosed in glass brick. After the government withdrew from administration of the Pribilof Islands, the downstairs of the building was used by the Tanadgusix Corporation (St. Paul Island’s Native Corporation) for offices, with the upstairs serving as apartments. In 2006, Tanadgusix Corp renovated the Government House’s interior and exterior to provide office space upstairs and turn the main floor into the St. Paul Island Museum.

Sources:


Government House, Description of Quarters, Ground Floor Plan, and Second Floor Plan, Pribilof Island, Alaska, June 5–9, 1940, Box 14, Folder 7, RG22, NARA—Pacific Alaska Region, Anchorage, 3pp.
———, March 31, 1953.


Pribilof Islands Research: John A. Lindsay (NOAA), Betty A. Lindsay, Robin Maberry, and Karla Sclater, 2009

Associated Drawings and Photographs created by the NPS:
AK-205-1 Front view, looking southwest
AK-205-2 Rear view, looking northeast
AK-205-3 North (side) elevation
Chichester, Harry Dennison, photographer. 1890’s. East front, Treasury Building and agent’s residence, later known as Government House. Photograph. American Museum of Natural History, Special Collections: HDC210, neg. no. 4645.


Photograph No. 22-Loud-12 (Photographer Nicolas Gray), 1886; Captain Abial P. and Mrs. Loud with Dr. Hereford (left) inside Government House. RG 56, NARA—Pacific Alaska Region (A).

Photograph No. 95-ADMC-2236 (Photographer unknown), March 1, 1915; Interior of Government House office, showing rack of bayonets and cat on floor next to wood stove. Records of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, RG 370; NARA—Pacific Alaska Region (A).

Photograph No. USBF 2.44 (Photographer G Dallas Hanna), 1917; South side and east front, Government House in St. Paul Village, Alaska. The three cannons visible in front of the building were brought to the island by the Russian Fur Company and became U.S. property upon the purchase of the Alaska Territory. Records of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, RG 370; NARA—Pacific Alaska Region (A).


Photograph No. USBF 1.88 (Photographer G Dallas Hanna), 1919; Rear, Government House in St. Paul Village, Alaska, looking to north, showing new chicken house and 1918 addition, with salt lagoon in background. Records of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, RG 370; NARA—Pacific Alaska Region (A).


Government House

June 5, 1940

St. Paul Island Station
Prince of Wales Island, Alaska

Description of Quarters

Two story, frame building, with full cement basement; shingle roof; building erected in 1932-33; general condition, excellent; four rooms and two baths second floor; one apartment consisting of one bedroom, sun porch, small sitting room, office and bath, on ground floor; also one large living room, dining room and kitchen; electric lights; heated by hot water furnace located in basement; central heating system; gas refrigerator, 5 cu. ft.; running water furnished through station water system; water for domestic purposes heated by furnace; hardwood floors throughout, with linoleum on kitchen floor; all walls are plasterboard; no special air cooling appliances are furnished; condition of furniture good; no garage.

Other Items (Annual Basis)

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<th>Description</th>
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<th>Cost</th>
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</tr>
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</table>


GOVERNMENT HOUSE

GOVERNMENT HOUSE WAS BUILT IN 1852 AS THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT OFFICE BUILDING FOR SAINT PAUL ISLAND. CONSTRUCTED IN THE FORM OF A LARGE COLONIAL REVIVAL HOUSE, IT WAS BUILT OF WOOD FRAME CONSTRUCTION ON CONCRETE FOUNDATIONS. IN 2004 IT WAS RENOVATED FOR USE AS A COMMUNITY AND VISITORS CENTER FOR SAINT PAUL ISLAND.

THE SAINT PAUL ISLAND DOCUMENTATION PROJECT WAS UNDERTAKEN BY THE HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY/Historic American Engineering Record, Historic American Landscapes Survey (HAER/HAHLS) Division of the National Park Service, NPS, John A. Buryn, Acting Chief. The project was sponsored by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Office of Response and Restoration (ORR), David M. Kennedy, Director. Project planning was coordinated by Paul Dolinsky, Chief, HAER by Steve Peterson, Historical Architect, Alaska Region, NPS, and by John Lindsay, Division Chief, Photolab Project Office, NPS. The field work was undertaken and the measured drawings were produced by Project Supervisor Mark Schara, Harris Architect; by Dana Lockett, Harris Architect, and by Andrea K. Bohl, Harris Architect. The large format photography was undertaken by Harris Photographer Jeff Lowe. Assistance was provided by the City of Saint Paul, by the Aleut Community of Saint Paul Island, and by the Tanaduski Corporation.

GREENHOUSE

Alaska Heritage Resources Survey

AHRS #: XPI-162  Aliquot: S035S132W  
Lat./Long.: 170° 16.876' W, 57° 07.237' N  
Map sheet: St. Paul Island West (1:25,000)  
Acreage: <0.2  

Site Name(s): Concrete Foundation

Site Description: XPI-162 is a concrete foundation near the Russian Orthodox Church. The rectangular footing is about 24' x 30' and protrudes about 24” above ground surface, with a door gap centered on the north side facing the church. The foundation is what’s left of a greenhouse that was completed in 1952 for staff employees.

Significance: The greenhouse provided fresh produce for government employees and space was provided for Aleut residences to grow produce.

Location: In the grass between the Russian Orthodox Church, Government House, and Teacher’s Houses, St. Paul Village, St. Paul Island, Pribilof Islands, Alaska.

Citations:

Danger of Destruction: Present Condition: Poor
Ecosystem: Pertinent Dates: Construction or demolition date of superstructure unknown
Period: Historic
Resource Nature: B
Cultural Affiliation: Aleut, Euro-American
Preservation Status & Date: Property Owner: Tanadgusix Corp.
Repository: Accession #: BIA/BLM #: Other # (specify):
Physician’s House/Dispensary and Hospital

Alaska Heritage Resources Survey

AHRS #: XPI-041
Aliquot: S035S132W/25
Lat./Long.: 170° 16' 48.68" W, 57° 07' 14.99" N
Acreage: <.25
Map sheet: St. Paul Island West (1:25,000)

Site Name(s): Hospital, Buildings J, K

Site Description: The current hospital complex consists of three joined buildings: a 1925 physician’s house/dispensary (Building J), a 1934 hospital (Building K), and a 1974 addition joining the two. Thus the hospital has a three-part plan with a newer two-story central block joining the two older buildings at each gable end. The north wing (physician’s house) is a one-and-a-half-story building with an attic and a basement, built of concrete clad with new fiberboard drop siding. The building’s east side has a shed-roofed dormer. The roof is wood shingle. A slope-mounted concrete chimney near the ridgeline at the far south end of the east roof-half has a ten-foot Metalbestos stack protruding from it.

The south wing (hospital) is a one-and-a-half story frame building with a basement and an attic having a hip-roofed dormer on each eave wall. It is clad in new fiberboard drop siding. The building has a wood shingle roof. A slope-mounted concrete chimney near the ridgeline at the far south end of the east roof-half now has a ten-foot Metalbestos stack protruding from it.

The 1974 addition joining the original contributing buildings is a two story building with fiberboard drop siding and vinyl windows matching the two older buildings. An elevated boardwalk leads from the second story west to the upslope grade.

Significance: The physician’s 28’ x 48’ house and dispensary was built during 1924–25 by the U.S. Department of Commerce Bureau of Fisheries for the doctor’s quarters and to service the entire population of St. Paul: federal officials and guests, teachers and their families, and Aleut families through the period of significance (up to 1984). It included a dispensary, living quarters for the resident physician, and a dental room in the attic. The original hospital wing is 28’ x 40’ and when built, contained an operating room, 2 bedrooms for patients, kitchen, 2 bath rooms and dental operating room and laboratory. There were also 2 bedrooms in the attic. The basement contained the heating plant, darkroom, general laboratory, laundry and a store room.

Sod was placed around the two buildings and a cement sidewalk was laid between the dispensary and hospital in 1935. The two buildings were joined in 1974 with construction of a larger central building, and the composite Hospital continued to serve the village of St. Paul until early 2007 when the new St. Paul Health Center became available. During 2007, a portion of the building was used by the St. Paul Tribal government to sort, examine, catalogue and scan historical government documents that had been stored in the former Bureau of Commercial Fisheries Office basement vault since 1983 when the U.S. government relinquished administrative control of the island. Appropriate documents were subsequently given via a deed of gift to the National Archives and Records Administration, Pacific Alaska Region, Anchorage. The 1925 and 1931 wings are contributing buildings to the Seal Islands National Historic Landmark.

Location: Tract A, Block 18, Lots 4 & 5; on Tolstoi Boulevard between Bartlett Boulevard and Cliffside Street, St. Paul Village, St. Paul Island, Alaska

Citations:

Danger of Destruction:
Present Condition: Good
Ecosystem:
Pertinent Dates: Constructed AD 1925 and AD 1931; noncontributing addition built AD 1974; 2005 exterior renovations
Period: Historic
Resource Nature: B
Cultural Affiliation: Aleut, Euro-American
Preservation Status & Date: Contributing building to Seal Islands NHL (1986)
Property Owner: NOAA
Repository:
Accession #: BIA/BLM #:
Other # (specify):
**Physician’s House/Dispensary & Hospital**

**Buildings J & K**

**Location:** Tract A, Block 18, Lots 4 & 5, corner of Tolstoi Boulevard, Church Street and Cliffside Street, Village of St. Paul, St. Paul Island, Pribilof Islands, Alaska

**Significance:** The physician’s house and dispensary was built during 1924–25 by the U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Fisheries as quarters for a doctor who served the entire population of St. Paul. The dispensary was used to store medical supplies in a secure environment. A separate hospital wing was completed in 1931.

**Description:** The former hospital consisted of three buildings joined over a period of forty-nine years: a 1925 physician’s house and dispensary (Building J), a 1931 hospital (Building K), and a 1974 addition joining the two. Thus the hospital has a three-part plan with a noncontributing two-story central block and two contributing, one-story wings attached to each gable end. The central block and wings have parallel gable roof axes. The north wing (physician’s house) is a one and a half-story building, built of concrete clad with new fiberboard drop siding and vinyl windows matching the two older buildings. An elevated boardwalk leads from the second story west to the upslope grade along Church Street.

**History:** The physician’s 28’ x 48’ house and dispensary was built during 1924–25 by the U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Fisheries as the doctor’s quarters and to service the entire population of St. Paul Island. It included a dispensary, living quarters for the resident physician, and a dental room in the attic.

The original hospital wing is 28’ x 40’ and when built in 1931, contained an operating room, two bedrooms for patients, kitchen, two bathrooms, and a dental operating room and laboratory. Two additional bedrooms were located in the attic. The basement contained the heating plant, darkroom, general laboratory, laundry and a storeroom.

In 1935, sod was placed around the base of physicians quarters/dispensary and the hospital, and a cement sidewalk was laid between the dispensary and hospital in 1935. Cement stairs replaced the wood staircases leading up to the entrances of the hospital and the dispensary in 1958. The two buildings were joined in 1974 by the construction of a larger central building, and the composite Hospital continued to serve the village of St. Paul until early 2007 when a new St. Paul Health Center at the corner of the Polovina Turnpike and Ellerman Heights Road. During 2007, a portion of the former hospital was used by the Tribal Government of St. Paul to sort, examine, catalog, and scan historical federal government documents that had been stored in the former Bureau of Commercial Fisheries Office basement vault. Appropriate documents were subsequently given via a deed of gift to the National Archives and Records Administration, Pacific Alaska Region, Anchorage.

**Sources:**

- Quarter No. 4 [Physician’s House/Dispensary], Description of Quarters, Ground Floor Plan, Second Floor Plan, St. Paul Island, Alaska, June 4–5, 1940, Box 14, Folder 7, RG22—Pacific Alaska Region, Anchorage.
- St. Paul Island Hospital Heating System, Pribilof Islands, No. 6FA St. P-109.0, Dec. 16, 1964, Dept. of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service,

**Field Observation:** Charles M. Mobley, Charles M. Mobley & Associates, 2007

**Pribilof Islands Research:** John A. Lindsay (NOAA), Betty A. Lindsay, Robin Maberry, Karla Sclater, 2009

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Historic American Buildings Survey

PHYSCIAN’S HOUSE/DISPENSARY & HOSPITAL

(BUILDINGS J & K)

HABS No. AK-[not assigned]

AHRS No. XPI-041

**Location:** Tract A, Block 18, Lots 4 & 5, corner of Tolstoi Boulevard, Church Street and Cliffside Street, Village of St. Paul, St. Paul Island, Pribilof Islands, Alaska

**Significance:** The physician’s house and dispensary was built during 1924–25 by the U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Fisheries as quarters for a doctor who served the entire population of St. Paul. The dispensary was used to store medical supplies in a secure environment. A separate hospital wing was completed in 1931.

**Description:** The former hospital consisted of three buildings joined over a period of forty-nine years: a 1925 physician’s house and dispensary (Building J), a 1931 hospital (Building K), and a 1974 addition joining the two. Thus the hospital has a three-part plan with a noncontributing two-story central block and two contributing, one-story wings attached to each gable end. The central block and wings have parallel gable roof axes. The north wing (physician’s house) is a one and a half-story building, built of concrete clad with new fiberboard drop siding and vinyl windows matching the two older buildings. An elevated boardwalk leads from the second story west to the upslope grade along Church Street.

**History:** The physician’s 28’ x 48’ house and dispensary was built during 1924–25 by the U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Fisheries as the doctor’s quarters and to service the entire population of St. Paul Island. It included a dispensary, living quarters for the resident physician, and a dental room in the attic.

The original hospital wing is 28’ x 40’ and when built in 1931, contained an operating room, two bedrooms for patients, kitchen, two bathrooms, and a dental operating room and laboratory. Two additional bedrooms were located in the attic. The basement contained the heating plant, darkroom, general laboratory, laundry and a storeroom.

In 1935, sod was placed around the base of physicians quarters/dispensary and the hospital, and a cement sidewalk was laid between the dispensary and hospital in 1935. Cement stairs replaced the wood staircases leading up to the entrances of the hospital and the dispensary in 1958. The two buildings were joined in 1974 by the construction of a larger central building, and the composite Hospital continued to serve the village of St. Paul until early 2007 when a new St. Paul Health Center at the corner of the Polovina Turnpike and Ellerman Heights Road. During 2007, a portion of the former hospital was used by the Tribal Government of St. Paul to sort, examine, catalog, and scan historical federal government documents that had been stored in the former Bureau of Commercial Fisheries Office basement vault. Appropriate documents were subsequently given via a deed of gift to the National Archives and Records Administration, Pacific Alaska Region, Anchorage.

**Sources:**

- Quarter No. 4 [Physician’s House/Dispensary], Description of Quarters, Ground Floor Plan, Second Floor Plan, St. Paul Island, Alaska, June 4–5, 1940, Box 14, Folder 7, RG22—Pacific Alaska Region, Anchorage.
- St. Paul Island Hospital Heating System, Pribilof Islands, No. 6FA St. P-109.0, Dec. 16, 1964, Dept. of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service,

**Field Observation:** Charles M. Mobley, Charles M. Mobley & Associates, 2007

**Pribilof Islands Research:** John A. Lindsay (NOAA), Betty A. Lindsay, Robin Maberry, Karla Sclater, 2009

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**Photograph:** Charles Mobley, photographer. 2007. North and west sides, Hospital. Photograph (35mm). NOAA, NOS, Pribilof Project Office, Seattle.

Photograph No. 22-MP-3-45 (Photographer unknown), circa 1914–1915; Interior of Dispensary, showing shelves lined with bottles and jars. Records of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, RG 370; NARA—Pacific Alaska Region (A).

Photograph No. 95-ADMC-2243a (Photographer unknown), March 20, 1915; Interior of Dispensary, showing medicinal supplies and eye chart. Records of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, RG 370; NARA—Pacific Alaska Region (A).
Photograph No. 95-ADMC-2242a (Photographer unknown), March 20, 1915; Interior of Dispensary, showing medicine cabinets. Records of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, RG 370; NARA—Pacific Alaska Region (A).

Photograph No. 22-MP-3-36 (Photographer unknown), 1917; East and north sides, Dispensary, showing new wing on north side of building with church in background. Records of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, RG 370; NARA—Pacific Alaska Region (A).

Photographer unknown. n.d. Close-up view of laboratory. Native house 48 was converted for use as a laboratory sometime before 1911. In 1924, it was moved across the street and a physician’s house was erected on the foundation. Source unknown.

Photograph No. 22-RB-1949-37 (Photographer unknown), 1949; East front and north side, Doctor’s residence, with a view of the hospital to the left. Records of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, RG 22; NARA, Special Media Archives Services Division, National Archives at College Park, College Park, MD.
Fortuine, Robert, photographer. April 1974. South and east sides, Hospital, showing 1974 center addition joining it to doctor’s residence. Photograph (35mm). Courtesy Robert Fortuine papers, Archives and Special Collections, Consortium Library, University of Alaska Anchorage. Collection number 7404aP6K07.

Fortuine, Robert, photographer. April 1974. West and south sides, Hospital, showing 1974 center addition joining it to doctors’ residence. Photograph (35mm). Courtesy Robert Fortuine papers, Archives and Special Collections, Consortium Library, University of Alaska Anchorage. Collection number 7404aP6K07.

View southeast of hospital


Manager’s House/House 115

Alaska Heritage Resources Survey

AHRS #: XPI-143
Aliquot: S035S132W/25
Lat./Long.: 170° 16.912’ W, 57° 07.227’ N
Map sheet: St. Paul Island West (1:25,000)
Acreage: <.25

Site Name(s): House 115

Site Description: XPI-143 is a one-story hipped-roof house that was being remodeled in 2007 when it was recorded. The floor plan consists of several staggered room blocks creating a complex footprint and roof plan. The roof is covered in composite asphalt shingles. About half the turquoise-painted wood shingle siding has been removed and Tyvek wind barrier is being installed in preparation for new siding. A brick chimney is located at the center of the roof.

Significance: XPI-143 was built in 1953 by the Dept. of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Commercial Fisheries to house the family of an Aleut worker employed in the commercial seal harvest. It was judged to be a non-contributing building to the Seal Island National Historic Landmark in 1986, when it was 33 years old.

Location: Tract A Block 9 Lot 4; Situated at intersection of Cliffside and Gorbatch Streets, St. Paul village, St. Paul, Pribilof Islands.

Citations:

Danger of Destruction: Present Condition: good
Ecosystem:
Pertinent Dates: constructed AD 1953, remodeled 2007
Period: Historic
Resource Nature: B
Cultural Affiliation: Aleut, EuroAmerican,
Preservation Status & Date: Judged to be a non-contributing building to Seal Islands NHL in 1986.

Property Owner:
Repository:
Accession #: Other # (specify):


HOUSE 115/MANAGER’S HOUSE
(BUILDING FFF)
HABS No. AK-[not yet assigned]
AHRS No. XPI-143

Location: Village of St. Paul, St. Paul Island, Pribilof Islands, Alaska

Significance: The Manager’s House was built in 1953 to house the family of the government manager in charge of commercial sealing-operations. In the early 1970s, the dwelling housed the St. Paul school principal. In 1975, Reverend Michael Lestenkof and his family moved into the house. Although not listed as a contributing resource in the 1986 NHL nomination form, NOAA recommends including House 115 in the Seal Islands NHL because the building remained integral to the sealing industry and the Aleut community up through the end of the commercial fur-seal industry on St. Paul Island in 1984.

Description: House 115/Manager’s House is a one-story hipped-roof house with a basement that was being remodeled in 2007 when it was recorded. The floor plan consists of several staggered room blocks creating a complex footprint and roof plan. The roof is covered in composite asphalt shingles. About half the turquoise-painted wood shingle siding was removed and Tyvek wind barrier installed at the time of inspection in preparation for new siding. A brick chimney is located at the center of the roof.

History: The 1954 Manager’s Annual Report noted that “The new employee house next to quarters three [Cottage C] was finished and occupied last fall.” In the 1970s, the dwelling housed the principal of the St. Paul school—a Principal Morrison lived there circa 1971–72 (the last principal of the old school), and Joe Widman, who took over as principal when the new school opened for the 1973–74 season. Reverend Michael Lestenkof, his wife, Matushka Stefanida Lestenkof, and their children moved into House 115 in 1975. Rev. Michael and Matushka ran the Lestenkof’s Cafe out of the basement from circa 1980 to 1985. After Michael and Matushka Lestenkof moved to Seattle in 1985, their daughter Aquilina Debbie Lestenkof moved into House 115. Aquilina Lestenkof still resides in the family home with her husband.

Sources:
Lestenkof, Aquilina. E-mail correspondence to Karla Sclater, March 18, 2010.
———. March 31, 1954.

Pribilof Islands Research: John A. Lindsay (NOAA), Karla Sclater, 2009
Photograph No. 95-ADMC-2508 (Photographer unknown), September 11, 1953; West front and south side, Manager's House/House 115, under construction. Records of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, RG 370; NARA—Pacific Alaska Region (A).

Photograph No. 95-ADMC-2509 (Photographer unknown), September 11, 1953; South and east sides, Manager’s House/House 115, under construction. Records of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, RG 370; NARA—Pacific Alaska Region (A).

Photograph No. 95-ADMC-3414 (Photographer unknown), 1953; North and west sides, Manager’s House/House 115. Records of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, RG 370; NARA—Pacific Alaska Region (A).

Photograph No. 95-ADMC-1110 (Photographer unknown), July 1, 1963; Manager’s House/House 115, looking east. Records of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, RG 370; NARA—Pacific Alaska Region (A).

National Marine Fisheries Service Buildings

Photograph No. 95-ADMC-1865 (Photographer unknown), n.d.; Interior, Staff Quarters. Records of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, RG 370, NARA—Pacific Alaska Region (A).


Photograph No. 95-ADMC-1101 (Photographer unknown), 1977; Laboratory (left) and Staff Quarters (right), looking south, with St. Paul Village across Village Cove. Records of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, RG 370, NARA—Pacific Alaska Region (A).

Photographer unknown. 1985. Salt Lagoon Channel and Lagoon (left), Staff Quarters (right), and crab pots stored in background, looking north. Photograph. From Faulkner, 1986. Courtesy National Park Service, Anchorage, neg. file 01070011.


St. Paul Elementary and Junior High School Building

Alaska Heritage Resources Survey

AHRS #: XPI-212
Aliquot: S03S132W
Lat./Long.: 170° 16.787' W, 57° 07.350' N
Acreage: <2
Map sheet: St. Paul Island West (1:25,000)

Site Name(s): School

Site Description: XPI-212 is the St. Paul public school, a large building composed of numerous wood frame and gird block and wings housing classrooms, offices, library, and a multipurpose gymnasium. According to photographs, the building was constructed in 1972.

Significance: Built in 1972, this building remains the island’s only public school. This building was judged to be a non-contributing building to the Seal Islands National Historic Landmark in the 1986 nomination form.


Citations:

Danger of Destruction:
Present Condition: Good

Ecosystem:
Pertinent Dates: Construction AD 1972
Period: Historic
Resource Nature: B
Cultural Affiliation: Aleut, Euro-American
Preservation Status & Date: Non-contributing resource in the 1986 NHL nomination
Property Owner: U.S. Department of Commerce
Repository:
Accession #:
BIA/BLM #: Other # (specify):

Note: Construction was started in 1972 and was completed in time for the start of the school year in September 1973.

Photograph No. 22-MP-3-31 (Photographer unknown), n.d.; Former senior schoolhouse and outhouse. Records of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, RG 370; NARA—Pacific Alaska Region (A).

Photograph No. 95-ADMC-1576 (Photographer unknown), n.d.; Former senior schoolhouse, showing desks. Records of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, RG 370; NARA—Pacific Alaska Region (A).

Cyanotype No. 22-Loud-03 (Photographer Abial P. Loud), 1886; Former senior schoolhouse with belltower. RG 36, NARA—Pacific Alaska Region (A).
Photograph No. USBF 1.77 (Photographer unknown), 1914; Former junior schoolhouse during construction. In 1914, the school was built from a converted gun house that was relocated. In 1923, the school building was again relocated and employee housing was erected on the site. Records of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, RG 370; NARA—Pacific Alaska Region (A).

Photograph No. USBF 1.108 (Photographer G Dallas Hanna), September 1914; Former senior schoolhouse prior to removal of bell tower. Records of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, RG 370; NARA—Pacific Alaska Region (A).

Photograph No. USBF 1.105 (Photographer G Dallas Hanna), November 1914; Former junior schoolhouse. Records of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, RG 370; NARA—Pacific Alaska Region (A).

Photograph No. USBF 1.107 (Photographer G Dallas Hanna), November 1914; Interior, junior school, showing "Wooster Industrial Reading Chart" on easel in corner. Records of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, RG 370; NARA—Pacific Alaska Region (A).
St. Paul Elementary and Junior High School Building

Photograph No. USBF 1.110 (Photographer G Dallas Hanna), March 20, 1915; Interior, former senior schoolhouse. Records of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, RG 370; NARA—Pacific Alaska Region (A).

Photograph No. USBF 1.111 (Photographer G Dallas Hanna), March 20, 1915; Former senior schoolhouse after removal of bell tower. Records of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, RG 370; NARA—Pacific Alaska Region (A).

Photograph No. USBF 1.112 (Photographer G Dallas Hanna), March 20, 1915; Interior, former senior schoolhouse. Records of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, RG 370; NARA—Pacific Alaska Region (A).

Photograph No. USBF 1.113 (Photographer G Dallas Hanna), March 8, 1918; Interior, former junior schoolhouse. Records of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, RG 370; NARA—Pacific Alaska Region (A).

Photograph No. 22-RB-1952-32 (Photographer unknown), 1952; Former St. Paul Island school. Records of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, RG 22, NARA, Special Media Archives Services Division, National Archives at College Park, College Park, MD.


Photograph No. 22-RB-1949-14 (Photographer unknown), 1949; School addition under construction, St. Paul Island, Alaska. Records of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, RG 22, NARA, Special Media Archives Services Division, National Archives at College Park, College Park, MD.

Fortuine, Robert, photographer. April 1974. St Paul Village, showing new school in the foreground, the Naval Radio Station, Assembly of God Pastor’s House and Church on the left, and Ellerman Heights and cemetery in background on Black Bluff. Photograph (35mm). Courtesy Robert Fortuine papers, Archives and Special Collections, Consortium Library, University of Alaska Anchorage. Collection number 7404c1663f08.


**Alaska Heritage Resources Survey**

**AHRS #:** XPI-142  
**Aliquot:** S03S132W/25  
**Lat./Long.:** 170° 16.859' W, 57° 07.312' N  
**Acreage:** <.25  
**Map sheet:** St. Paul Island West (1:25,000)  
**Site Name(s):** School District Office  
**Site Description:** XPI-142 is a modern two-story Panabode-type manufactured building of milled 2"x6"s that appears to have been installed on an older foundation (the older building was the former village canteen, and then housed the federally-sponsored store for the Village of St. Paul during the early part of the period of significance, according to a long time resident). The side-gabled building has an enclosed entry centered on the east side, with that entry block continued up to the second story and concluding in a cross-gabled roof. The entry has a door on the first floor facing south, and a large single-pane window on the east wall of the second floor. The south side has a boarded second-story window, two sliding windows on the first floor, and a large low framed shed. The north side has a single door on the first floor and three windows centered on the second floor. The west side has on the first floor one sliding window and two single-pane windows, and on the second floor three single-pane windows. Centered on the second floor of the west side is a door accessed by a landing and an exterior stairs. The roof is of ribbed metal.

**Significance:** XPI-142 is a modern building, built on an earlier foundation of a building that housed the village canteen and federal store. The School District Office is noncontributing the National Historic Landmark.

**Location:** Tract A Block 1 Lot 3, Situated at intersection of Tolstoi Boulevard and Bartlett Boulevard across the street from the village store, St. Paul Village, St. Paul Island, Pribilof Islands.


**Danger of Destruction:** Present Condition:

**Ecosystem:**

**Pertinent Dates:** Constructed post AD 1986

**Resource Nature:** B

**Cultural Affiliation:** Aleut, Euro-American

**Preservation Status & Date:**

**Property Owner:** Alaska Department of Education

**Repository:**

**Accession #:**

**BIA/BLM #:** Other # (specify):

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Watson, Ernest, photographer. 1926. Former store (center) and warehouses, looking north, with Village Cove in background. *Ernest and Helen Watson Collection, no. 2002-158-39, Archives, Alaska and Polar Regions Collections, Rasmuson Library, University of Alaska Fairbanks.* Presumably the School District Office is on the same location as the former store.


**Two-Car Garage**

**Alaska Heritage Resources Survey**

AHRS #: XPI-191  
Aliquot: SO35S132W  
Lat./Long.: 170° 16.876' W, 57° 07.285' N  
Acreage: <.25  
Map sheet: St. Paul Island West (1/25,000)

Site Name(s): two-car garage

Site Description: XPI-191 is a one-story flat-roofed concrete building set into the bank. The roof is even with Eagan Street. Of the two south-facing bays, one has large battens with a pedestrian doorway, and the other has a wood garage door. The south pediment has a simple repetitive geometric design molded into the concrete.

Significance: XPI-191 was built in 1945, across the road from the Government House. The agent’s annual report for 1945 stated that it was for the use of the General Manager and guests. “It will be known as the Government House Garage,” to be used for storing vehicles and for general storage. The two-car garage was judged to be a noncontributing building to the Seal Islands National Historic Landmark in the 1986 nomination form.

Location: Tract A, Block 2, Lot 8; At corner of Church Street and Bartlett Blvd., St. Paul Village, St. Paul Island, Pribilof Islands, Alaska.

Citations:


Danger of Destruction: Poor

Ecosystem:
Pertinent Dates: Construction AD 1945
Period: Historic
Resource Nature: B
Cultural Affiliation: Aleut, Euro-American
Preservation Status & Date: Unevaluated
Property Owner: Private
Repository:
Accession #: BIA/BLM #: Other # (specify):
Various Administrative and Staff Buildings

Photograph No. 22-MP-3-14 (Photographer unknown), circa 1918; Former jail. Records of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, RG 370; NARA—Pacific Alaska Region (A).

Photograph No. 22-MP-3-44 (Photographer unknown), circa 1914–1930; Interior of former building in St. Paul Village. Photograph shows storage of rifles, bayonets, and bandoliers. According to Agent logs, in 1895 Nicoli Krukoff and two assistants built storage for guns in the attic of the Government House. Alternatively, this photo could be the interior of the Gun House erected in 1909 that was used to store Gatling and Hotchkiss guns, shotguns, and rifles. The attic of the Native Shop, erected 1907, was also used to store “heavy” guns until the Gun House was built. All firearms were locked up to prevent accidental discharge from disturbing the seals after they arrived on the rookeries. RG 370; NARA—Pacific Alaska Region (A).
Various Administrative and Staff Buildings

Photograph No. USBF 2.40 (Photographer Richard Culbertson), circa 1921; Former kitchen and mess for transient Unalaska laborers. The mess was created from the old bowling alley built in 1911 from a converted 30’ x 12’ x 8’ boat house with a 40’ x 12’ x 6’ extension. Two Miller Monitor #270 ranges were set up side by side for cooking, a temporary pipeline for saltwater was added, potable water was supplied in barrels. The Unalaska men slept in the Native Shop, which had been fitted with bunks. Records of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, RG 370; NARA—Pacific Alaska Region (A).

Photograph No. USBF 1.80 (Photographer G Dallas Hanna), 1919; Former magazine building in St. Paul Village. Records of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, RG 370; NARA—Pacific Alaska Region (A).
Industrial and Commercial Buildings
Alaska Dormitory

Alaska Heritage Resources Survey

AHRS #: XPI-218
Aliquot: S035S132W
Lat./Long.: 170° 16.812' W, 57° 07.390' N
Acreage: <0.5
Map sheet: St. Paul Island West (1:25,000)
UTM:

Site Name(s): Alaska Dormitory

Site Description: XPI-218 is a building formed by one large one-story building (kitchen and mess hall) that is joined at right angles with a large two-story bunkhouse-type building, to make an L. Both buildings have ribbed metal roofing and T1-11 and plywood siding.

Significance: Plans for the Alaska Dormitory were altered in 1958, before its construction. The dormitory’s first year in operation was 1960. It housed government employees, particularly Eskimo and Aleut workers from Alaska. In 1967, an extension was added to make room for added freezer capacity and rental lockers for employees. The dormitory was remodeled in 1977 to create a combination of apartments with cooking facilities, living rooms, and baths, and twenty-eight single bedrooms. After commercial sealing ended in 1984, the kitchen and mess hall was used as a restaurant to serve tourists. The village corporation, TDX, then had offices in the building. It was also used as recreation center for children on the island, and the offices of BeringSea.com. The building was vacated in 2007 except for the TDX Satellite Communications Office. This building was judged to be a noncontributing building to the Seal Islands National Historic Landmark in the 1986 nomination form. XPI-218 should be considered contributing to the NHL.

Location: Industrial area, St. Paul Village, St. Paul Island, Pribilof Islands, Alaska.

Citations:

Danger of Destruction:
Present Condition: Fair
Ecosystem:
Pertinent Dates: Constructed AD 1958–1960
Period: Historic
Resource Nature: B
Cultural Affiliation: Aleut, Euro-American
Preservation Status & Date:
Property Owner: NOAA
Repository:
Accession #: BIA/BLM #: Other # (specify):
Photograph No. 95-ADMC-584 (Photographer unknown), n.d.; Setting tables in Mess Hall, Alaska Dormitory. In the picture are George Albert Kochutin (left), Terenty Philemonoff Jr. ("Tulipop"), and Steve Hapoff in the background. Records of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, RG 370; NARA—Pacific Alaska Region (A).

Photograph No. 95-ADMC-583 (Photographer unknown), circa 1964–1965; Mess Hall, Alaska Dormitory (also known as A-Dorm), cooking staff. Records of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, RG 370; NARA—Pacific Alaska Region (A).

Photograph No. 95-ADMC-584 (Photographer unknown), n.d.; Setting tables in Mess Hall, Alaska Dormitory. In the picture are George Albert Kochutin (left), Terenty Philemonoff Jr. ("Tulipop"), and Steve Hapoff in the background. Records of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, RG 370; NARA—Pacific Alaska Region (A).

View northeasterly


View northwesterly


The Aleutian Bunkhouse was constructed in 1928,¹ and was in use at least through the 1958 harvest season.² It was functionally replaced by the Alaskan Dormitory and demolished during the period of January through June 1961.³

Photograph No. 22-RB-1949-36 (Photographer unknown), 1949; West and north sides, Aleutian Bunkhouse. Records of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, RG 22; NARA, Special Media Archives Services Division, National Archives at College Park, College Park, MD.

Description of quarters

Two story, frame building, full basement containing furnace room, coal bin, showers, toilets, and store-rooms; paper roof; building erected in 1929; general condition, fair; kitchen, dining room, pantry, hall or reading room, and bed room on ground floor; eight bed rooms (capacity: 8 men each) on second floor; electric lights; coal cook ranges; running water furnished through station water system; fire floors throughout with linoleum on kitchen floor; all walls of board; no special air-cooling appliances are furnished; no garage.

Other items (annual basis) | Furnished by | Cost
--- | --- | ---
Fuel heat: Furnace and coal ranges; use about 48 tons coal per yr. | Gov’t. | $415.68
Electrical: Insignificant | | 
Water: Used for domestic purposes | | $6.00
Miscellaneous Items: Maintenance, including painting and repairs | | $10.00

Photograph No. 95-ADMC-554 (Photographer unknown), circa 1953–61; Aleutian Bunkhouse, large building in foreground in front of physician’s house (right) and hospital (left). Single-story Butler Building (left front of Bunkhouse) constructed in 1953 as overflow housing for off-island Native workers, converted to a plumbing shop circa 1960–66, and demolished or relocated prior to 1972. Records of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, RG 370, NARA—Pacific Alaska Region (A).
Anderson Building

Alaska Heritage Resources Survey

AHRS #: XPI-214
Aliquot: S035S132W
Lat./Long.: 170° 16.787' W, 57° 07.350' N
Acreage: <0.5
Map sheet: St. Paul Island West (1:25,000)

UtM:

Site Name(s): Anderson Building

Site Description: XPI-214 is the Anderson Building, a large industrial fish-processing building with ribbed metal roof and walls located where the Landmark’s Blubbering House, Salt House B, and Wash houses A and B once stood.

Significance: XPI-214 was constructed in part in 1984, on the sites of Wash House A and Wash House B at least two additions to the building were constructed by 1993. The Tanadgusix Corporation (TDX) built the Anderson Building to lease as a storage facility for fish-processing operations. This building was judged to be a noncontributing building to the Seal Islands National Historic Landmark in the 1986 nomination form.

Location: Located between Warehouse Street and Haul Road, St. Paul Village, St. Paul Island, Pribilof Islands, Alaska.

Citations:


Danger of Destruction: Present Condition: Good
Ecosystem:
Pertinent Dates: Constructed AD 1984
Period: Historic
Resource Nature: B
Cultural Affiliation: Aleut, Euro-American
Preservation Status & Date:
Property Owner: NOAA
Repository:
Accession #: 
BIA/BLM #: Other # (specify):

Note: Anderson Building destroyed by fire, Thursday, Feb. 9, 2012.

Mobley, Charles, photographer. 2007. Anderson Building, with Fouke Bunkhouse at far right.
Photograph (35mm). NOAA, NOS, Pribilof Project Office, Seattle.

ATCO Trailer Camp

Alaska Heritage Resources Survey

AHRS #: XPI-221
Aliquot: S035S132W
Lat./Long.: 170° 16.594' W, 57° 07.313' N
Acreage: <0.5
Map sheet: St. Paul Island West (1:25,000)

Site Name(s): ATCO Trailer Camp
Site Description: XPI-221 is a collection of ATCO modular trailers connected into one large camp building.

Significance: The building was purportedly used to house fish processing plant employees and/or breakwater construction workers. It was dismantled in 2008. This building was judged to be a non-contributing building to the Seal Islands National Historic Landmark in the 1986 nomination form.

Location: Sandy Lane, St. Paul Village, St. Paul Island, Pribilof Islands, Alaska.

Citations:

Danger of Destruction:
Present Condition: Razed in 2008
Ecosystem:
Pertinent Dates: Constructed after AD 1986
Period: Historic
Resource Nature: B
Cultural Affiliation: Aleut, Euro-American
Preservation Status & Date: Razed in 2008
Property Owner: Tanadgusix Corp.
Repository:
Accession #: Other # (specify):
Boatyard


The By-Products Plant on St. Paul Island was erected in 19181 to render fur-seal carcasses into seal oil that was used in preparation of skins for the market, as a lubricant, and to make seal meal that was used in animal feed and fertilizer. The creation of the plant helped dispose of the numerous fur-seal carcasses left on the killing fields that posed serious health problems as they decomposed and fouled drinking-water wells. The rotting carcasses also emitted a foul stench, and provided a breeding grounds for obnoxious flies. Each harvest season produced enormous quantities of remains. In 1919, the first year of operation, six men butchered the carcasses on the field and carried the meat to the Plant in wheelbarrows; in 1921, tractors hauled the skinned carcasses from the killing fields and blubber from the sealskin processing buildings to the Plant.2 In 1921, the operator was informed that he should be prepared to deal with 3,200 to 6,600 pounds of blubber daily, in addition to 19,230 seal carcasses produced on St. Paul Island alone.3 The plant operator also experimented with extracting glue from seal flippers and canning seal livers as food for fish fry.4 No markets were found for these products and this line was abandoned.5

As constructed in 1918, the Plant was a 55 by 75 feet, two-story frame construction with a concrete foundation. It housed “one 300-ton hydraulic tankage press; 1 rotary vacuum fertilizer drier; 1 vacuum pump 6 x 8 x 12 feet, with condenser; 2 grease tanks; 2 digesters, maximum capacity 4½ tons each; one 4,000-gallon fir [sic] tank; two 125-barrel closed-top oil tanks; 2 steel tanks, small; one 35-horsepower boiler; one 12-horsepower horizontal steam engine; one 15-horsepower horizontal gas engine; one 6-horsepower horizontal gas engine.”6 The machinery was placed to accommodate two additional digesters in the future. A trial run of the By-Products Plant equipment showed that between 2,200 and 2,500 pounds of pressure was required to remove the oil from fur-seal carcasses, and required forty-five space for empty drums.15

In his 1922 report, engineer-in-charge Albert Christoffersen proposed the construction of a road to facilitate the transportation of raw materials to the plant. Various means were tried—men with wheelbarrows, mule teams, and “auto trucks”—and dismissed as unworkable because no road connected the rookeries and killing fields to the plant. Christoffersen proposed connecting Tolstoi and Zapadni rookeries on one side of the island, and Polovina and Northeast Point rookeries on the other side, with the village by building a tramway.7 Road-building progressed through the 1920’s. A wood-plank road to Northeast Point was laid in 1922.8 In 1925, men from Unalaska were brought in to fill in Halfway Point (Polovina) Creek with sand after the bridge became unsuitable for passage. The Unalaska men used wheelbarrows to transport the necessary fill to the site. Improvements were also made on the road between St. Paul Village and Zapadni Rookery, and the road to Lukanin flats.9 Northeast Point was unreachable from the village (a distance of 12 miles by truck) until 1932.10

In 1930, the By-Products Plant was enlarged with the addition of “six melters, two boilers, and necessary oil presses and other equipment.” Additionally, an electric power line connected the plant to the power house in the village, a telephone line was laid, and an oil house and tanks for storage of seal oil was erected near the plant.11 In 1935, the first year of full operation with the new equipment, the season’s output was “50,000 pounds of ground meal, 100,000 pounds of unground meal and 17,000 gallons of oil.”12

In 1945, the plant underwent another expansion that was completed in 1948. During this time, the plant was extended westward, joining it to the oil tank house and eastward to accommodate a larger storage room. A dock for seal oil drum storage was built in 1947. A second dock for diesel oil drums was added in 1948. The second dock was approximately 30 x 50 feet and four feet high, with a ramp on one side to roll the drums down to a sump. A fill for a road to the dock had to be put along the north side of the Plant. Fill was also put over the swampland to the west of the By-Products Plant, creating storage space for empty drums.13

By the 1960’s, lack of demand made the By-Products Plant moribund. Increases in the cost of operations led the government to shut down the plant in 1961.14 The building remained unoccupied and was finally razed in 1988.15

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2 Ibid., 4.
4 Ibid., 8.
7 Ibid.
9 Christoffersen, [first 19 pages missing] 1922, 49 (NARA, Pacific Alaska Region, Anchorage, 6, RG 22, box 12, Pribilof Islands Program, Administrative Correspondence).
10 Bower, Alaska Fisheries and Fur Industries in 1922, 80.
13 Agent’s Annual Report, St. Paul Island, Year Ending March 31, 1931, unpaginated.
14 Ibid.
15 Agent’s Annual Report, St. Paul Island, Alaska, for the year ending March 31, 1948, 16.
HABS No. [not yet assigned]

Location: Northern edge of Village Cove

Significance: Although listed as a contributing resource in the 1986 NHL nomination form, the By-Products Plant was demolished in 1988.*

Description: Faulkner’s description in 1986: “Large frame structure with horizontal clapboard siding.”

History: Built in 1918 (the 1986 NHL nomination form states 1924), the By-Products Plant was demolished in 1988.** Its original dimensions were 55' x 75' two-story building with a concrete foundation. The plant turned out to be a successful experiment in utilizing and profiting from fur-seal carcasses by rendering them into oil, feed, and fertilizer. The agent’s annual report ending March 31, 1931, states that “a large addition to the old by-products building was erected in 1930, along with connecting the plant to the power house via an electric power cable. The addition had room for six melters, two boilers, oil presses, and other needed equipment. A storage building to house oil storage tanks was also built in 1930. Tanks were scheduled to be installed later in the spring of 1931. By 1932, all the equipment was reported installed. For the 1936 annual report recorded that the plant produced “approximately 50,000 pound of ground meal, 100,000 pounds of unground meal and 17,000 gallons of oil.”

An extension was begun in 1945 and remained incomplete in 1948, although everything had been completed except the extension to the storage room; the builders were waiting for materials to arrive to complete the job. Docks were built in 1947 and 1948 to handle the seal oil drums. The Tanadgusix Corporation (TDX—the village corporation) took over running the By-Products Plant in 1977. By 1986, Faulkner reported that the building was abandoned and needed repairing. It was razed in 1988.

* Date originally listed as 1998 has been corrected to 1988.

** Date originally listed as 1998 has been corrected to 1988.

Sources:


Request for Conditional Closure, Salt Lagoon Diesel Seep, NOAA Sites, 34 and 35/TPA Sites 13a and 13b, St. Paul Island, Alaska.

Pribilof Islands Research: John A. Lindsay (NOAA), Robin Maberry, and Karla Sclater, 2009


Photograph No. 95-ADMC-1476; (Photographer unknown), 1972; Interior, By-Products Plant showing conveyor belt and machinery. Records of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, RG 370; NARA—Pacific Alaska Region (A).
Photograph No. USBF 2.50 (Photographer G Dallas Hanna), September 1918; Construction of By-Products Plant. Records of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, RG 370; NARA—Pacific Alaska Region (A).

Photograph No. 22-MP-3-25 (Photographer unknown), October 1918; Men and boys in truck along west side of By-Products Plant. Records of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, RG 370; NARA—Pacific Alaska Region (A).

Photograph No. 22-MP-3-23 (Photographer unknown), October 1918; Main room, By-Products Plant, showing dryer, oil storage tanks, and workers. Records of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, RG 370; NARA—Pacific Alaska Region (A).

Photograph No. 22-MP-3-15 (Photographer unknown), 1918; Men transporting boiler for By-Products Plant up Salt Lagoon channel. Records of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, RG 370; NARA—Pacific Alaska Region (A).
Photograph No. 22-MP-3-17 (Photographer unknown), 1918; Men sitting on By-Products Plant boiler.
Records of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, RG 370; NARA—Pacific Alaska Region (A).

Photograph No. USBF 1.42 (Photographer G Dallas Hanna), 1919; Boiler providing steam power in By-Products Plant. Records of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, RG 370; NARA—Pacific Alaska Region (A).

Photograph No. USBF 1.43 (Photographer G Dallas Hanna), 1919; Interior, By-Products Plant, showing retorts. Records of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, RG 370; NARA—Pacific Alaska Region (A).

Photograph No. USBF 1.40 (Photographer G Dallas Hanna), 1919; Interior, By-Products Plant, showing rendering tanks. Records of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, RG 370; NARA—Pacific Alaska Region (A).
Photograph No. 22-MP-3-24 (Photographer unknown), October 1918; By-Products Plant, looking north-east, showing location of toilet, boiler room, and main entrance. Records of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, RG 370; NARA—Pacific Alaska Region (A).

Photograph No. 22-MP-3-26 (Photographer unknown), n.d.; Interior, By-Products Plant, showing pump and other machinery. Records of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, RG 370; NARA—Pacific Alaska Region (A).

Photograph No. USBF 1.39 (Photographer G Dallas Hanna), 1919; West and north sides, By-Products Plant. Records of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, RG 370; NARA—Pacific Alaska Region (A).
Photograph No. 22-MP-3-47 (Photographer unknown), circa 1918–1919; Tractor hauling wagons carrying seal skins. Seal carcasses and blubber were hauled by tractor to the By-Products Plant. Records of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, RG 370; NARA—Pacific Alaska Region (A).

Photograph No. USBF 1.44 (Photographer G Dallas Hanna), 1919; Dryer in By-Products Plant. Records of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, RG 370; NARA—Pacific Alaska Region (A).

Photograph No. USBF 1.45 (Photographer G Dallas Hanna), 1919; By-Products Plant wells. Records of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, RG 370; NARA—Pacific Alaska Region (A).

Photograph No. 22-MP-3-47 (Photographer unknown), circa 1918–1919; Tractor hauling wagons carrying seal skins. Seal carcasses and blubber were hauled by tractor to the By-Products Plant. Records of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, RG 370; NARA—Pacific Alaska Region (A).


Plan, June 1920. Albert Christoffersen; Proposed Enlargement, Section C-D, By-Products Plant. (Records of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, RG 370) Records of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, RG 22; NARA—Pacific Alaska Region (A).

Plan, June 1920. Albert Christoffersen; Proposed Enlargement, Oil Department, By-Products Plant. (Records of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, RG 370) Records of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, RG 22; NARA—Pacific Alaska Region (A).


By-Products Plant


Photograph No. 95-ADMC-187 (Photographer unknown), n.d.; Interior, By-Products Plant showing chutes and open hatches in floor. Records of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, RG 370; NARA—Pacific Alaska Region (A).

Photograph No. 95-ADMC-254 (Photographer unknown), August 2, 1948; East and south sides, By-Products Plant. Records of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, RG 370; NARA—Pacific Alaska Region (A).

Cascade Warehouse

Alaska Heritage Resources Survey

AHRS #: XPI-217
Aliquot: S035S132W
Map sheet: St. Paul Island West (1:25,000)
Lat./Long.: 170° 16.862' W, 57° 07.378' N
Acreage: <0.5
UTM:

Site Name(s): Cascade Warehouse

Site Description: XPI-217 is a long two-story building with ribbed-metal roof and cladding. A large overhead garage door and a pedestrian entry are located at each gable end. The west side's grade, formed by Tolstoi Blvd, is at the second story.

Significance: The building was constructed on the site of a coal storage shed and carpentry shop; nearby was a gasoline and diesel fuel station. The coal shed was demolished in the early 1980s and the fuel station was decommissioned in 1997. The Cascade building was erected by the National Marine Fisheries Service in 1982 for equipment storage and cargo handling. The City of St. Paul stored heavy equipment in the building and then leased it to the TDX, the St. Paul Island Corporation. This building was judged to be a noncontributing building to the Seal Islands National Historic Landmark in the 1986 nomination form.

Location: Industrial area, St. Paul Village, St. Paul Island, Pribilof Islands, Alaska.

Citations:

Danger of Destruction:
Present Condition: Fair
Ecosystem: Pertinent Dates: Constructed AD 1982
Period: Historic
Resource Nature: B
Cultural Affiliation: Aleut, Euro-American
Preservation Status & Date: Judged to be a noncontributing building to Seal Islands NHL in 1986
Property Owner: NOAA
Repository:
Accession #: BIA/BLM #: Other # (specify):


Alaska Heritage Resources Survey

AHRS #: XPI-213
Aliquot: S035S132W
Map sheet: St. Paul Island West (1:25,000)
Lat./Long.: 170° 16.936' W, 57° 07.281' N
Acreage: <0.5

Site Name(s): Civic Center

Site Description: XPI-213 is the St. Paul Civic Center, a multipurpose building. It is a one-story building with a shallowly pitched ribbed metal roof, almost no roof overhang, T1-11 siding, and vinyl double-hung windows.

Significance: According to a long time resident, the former school building was razed in the 1970s and the current Civic Center was erected on the spot using EDA grant funds. The building also housed a Montessori school and a Headstart program at one time. This building was judged to be a noncontributing building to the Seal Islands National Historic Landmark in the 1986 nomination form.

Location: At the corner of Bartlett Blvd and Seward Street, St. Paul Village, St. Paul Island, Pribilof Islands, Alaska.

Citations:

Danger of Destruction: Present Condition: Good
Ecosystem: Pertinent Dates: Constructed after AD 1986
Period: Historic
Resource Nature: B
Cultural Affiliation: Aleut, Euro-American
Preservation Status & Date:
Property Owner: Private
Repository:
Accession #:
BIA/BLM #: Other # (specify):
Alaska Heritage Resources Survey

AHRS #: XPI-141
Aliquot: S035S132W/25
Lat./Long.: 170°16.796' W, 57°07.320' N
Acreage: <.25
Map sheet: St. Paul Island West (1:25,000)

Site Name(s): Community Store

Site Description: XPI-141 is a long gabled two-story brick building with no roof overhang, built into a slope. It is 218' x 50'. The roof is of ribbed metal. An external stairway enclosed in T1-11 siding leads to a second-floor entrance with a door facing west and window facing east. Another T1-11 enclosed entry is just below the second-floor entry. It also has a door facing west and a window facing east. The store’s main entrance is on the building’s west side, second floor, on Tolstoi Boulevard. It is a hipped-roof entry with doors on the north and the south and six windows on the west wall. A double-door freight entrance is at the south end of the west wall. Wood shingles cover the upper portion of the south wall. The south wall has six windows. Many windows have been battened with T1-11. The north wall’s first story is largely taken up by six loading doors and a small loading dock with two pedestrian doors. A long, flat concrete awning suspended from steel rods and anchored to the wall, covers the loading dock. Below the concrete awning, the wall is wood-shingled. The north wall has six T1-11 batten windows and one window at the far west end. XPI-141 is almost identical to St. George’s village store/office (XPI-129) built at the same time.

Significance: XPI-141 was built in 1955 as the federally-sponsored store for the St. Paul Village, with room for a store, office space, warehouse space, post office, laundry, jail, and fur-seal research laboratory that supported the commercial function during the period of significance (1984). The building was an integral part of the sealing industry. It was judged to be a noncontributing building to the Seal Island National Historic Landmark in 1986, when it was 31 years old, but it was an integral component of the federal sealing industry on St. Paul Island, and should be considered contributing to the NHL.

Location: Tract A Block 19; Situated at intersection of Tolstoi Boulevard and Bartlett Boulevard, St. Paul Village, St. Paul, Pribilof Islands.

Citations:

Danger of Destruction:
Present Condition: Good, some failing brickwork
Ecosystem:
Pertinent Dates: Constructed AD 1955
Period: Historic
Resource Nature: B
Cultural Affiliation: Aleut, Euro-American
Preservation Status & Date: Judged to be a noncontributing building to Seal Islands NHL in 1986
Property Owner: St. Paul Traditional Council
Repository:
Accession #: 
BIA/BLM #: Other # (specify):

Historic American Buildings Survey

COMMUNITY STORE/WAREHOUSE/LABORATORY (BUILDING NN)
HABS No. AK-212
AHRS No. XPI-141

Location: At intersection of Tolstoi Boulevard and Bartlett Boulevard, Village of St. Paul, St. Paul Island, Pribilof Islands; Tract A, Block 19

Significance: Built in 1955, the building provided space for a store, warehouse, post-office, laundry, jail, and a fur-seal research laboratory through the end of the federally managed fur-seal industry on St. Paul Island in 1983. After 1983, the building provided space for the island’s store, a research laboratory, and warehouse. Although listed as a noncontributing building in the 1986 NHL nomination form, NOAA recommends including the Community Store in the Seal Islands NHL due to its significance to the sealing industry and the Aleut Community up through the end of the commercial fur-seal industry in 1984.

Description: The building is a long, gabled two-story brick building with no roof overhang, built into a slope. It measures 218’ x 50’. The east gable wall has an external stairway, enclosed in T1-11, leading up to an entrance with a west-facing door, centered on the second-floor. Another entrance is centered on the first-floor of the east gable wall, under the second-floor landing, enclosed in T1-11 siding with a door on the west, below the stairs. Both of these small first- and second-floor blocks have an east-facing window. The main entrance is located at the west gable end’s second floor, at the grade of Tolstoi Boulevard. The south end of the west gable wall has a double-door freight entrance, while most of the remainder of the façade has a long hipped-roof entry with doors on the north and south and a bank of six equally spaced windows across the west wall. The upper portions of the first and second floors on the south eave wall are covered in wood shingles with T1-11 battened windows and some smaller windows. The first floor has four windows, and the second floor has six. Six loading doors and a small loading dock with two pedestrian doors are located on the north eave wall. A long, flat concrete awning suspended from steel rods and anchored to the wall protects the loading dock. A band of wood shingles runs below the awning over the brick walls between the doors. On the second floor an identical band of wood shingles runs below the eave, with six windows, some of which are battened with T1-11 siding. The roofing is ribbed metal. The brickwork is badly cracked in the northeast corner of the building. The building is nearly identical to the village store/office built on St. George Island at the same time.

History: The federally-sponsored building was constructed in 1955 by the Swalling Construction Company, Anchorage, Alaska. The building housed the store, warehouse space, post-office, laundry, jail, and fur-seal research laboratory. In 1967, the Aleut Community of St. Paul Island (Tribal Government) assumed operational control of the store.

Sources:

Pribilof Islands Research: John A. Lindsay (NOAA), Betty A. Lindsay, Robin Maberry, Karla Sclater, 2009

Associated Drawings and Photographs created by the NPS:
AK-212-1 Front view, looking northeast
AK-212-2 Rear view, looking northwest

Plan, n.d. Plate 1 (annotated), Plan Profile, St. Paul Community Store/Warehouse/Laboratory. Oversized Documents K-1; Records of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, RG 370; NARA—Pacific Alaska Region (A).
Plan, n.d. Plate 1, Plan Profile, St. Paul Community Store/Warehouse/Laboratory. Oversized Documents K-2; Records of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, RG 370; NARA—Pacific Alaska Region (A).
Abegglen, C. E., photographer. 1956. Biological laboratory in Community Store/Warehouse/Laboratory. Photograph. NOAA, NMML Library, Seattle: Ford Wilke Collection, no file number. [Pribilof Project Office record no. 564.]


Photograph No. 95-ADMC-2090 (Photographer unknown), 1950's; Community Store/Warehouse/Laboratory under construction, looking east. Records of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, RG 370; NARA—Pacific Alaska Region (A).

Photograph No. 95-ADMC-2085 (Photographer unknown), 1950's; Community Store/Warehouse/Laboratory under construction, looking east. Records of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, RG 370; NARA—Pacific Alaska Region (A).
Photograph No. 95-ADMC-2089 (Photographer unknown), 1950's; Community Store/Warehouse/Laboratory under construction, looking west. Records of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, RG 370; NARA—Pacific Alaska Region (A).

Photograph No. 95-ADMC-2035 (Photographer unknown), 1950's; Community Store/Warehouse/Laboratory under construction, looking east. Records of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, RG 370; NARA—Pacific Alaska Region (A).

Photograph No. 95-ADMC-2039 (Photographer unknown), 1950's; Community Store/Warehouse/Laboratory under construction, looking east. Records of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, RG 370; NARA—Pacific Alaska Region (A).

Photograph No. 95-ADMC-2024 (Photographer unknown), 1950's; Community Store/Warehouse/Laboratory under construction, looking east. Records of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, RG 370; NARA—Pacific Alaska Region (A).
Photograph No. 95-ADMC-2088 (Photographer unknown), 1950’s; Community Store/ Warehouse/Laboratory under construction, looking west. Records of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, RG 370; NARA—Pacific Alaska Region (A).

Photograph No. 95-ADMC-2102 (Photographer unknown), 1950’s; Community Store/ Warehouse/Laboratory under construction, looking north. Records of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, RG 370; NARA—Pacific Alaska Region (A).

Photograph No. 95-ADMC-2091 (Photographer unknown), 1950’s; Community Store/ Warehouse/Laboratory under construction, looking north. Records of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, RG 370; NARA—Pacific Alaska Region (A).

Photograph No. 95-ADMC-1993 (Photographer unknown), 1950’s; Men installing trusses, Community Store/Warehouse/Laboratory, looking west. Records of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, RG 370; NARA—Pacific Alaska Region (A).
Photograph No. 95-ADMC-1999 (Photographer unknown), 1950’s; Men installing trusses, Community Store/Warehouse/Laboratory, looking west. Records of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, RG 370; NARA—Pacific Alaska Region (A).

Photograph No. 95-ADMC-2011 (Photographer unknown), 1950’s; Men installing trusses, Community Store/Warehouse/Laboratory. Records of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, RG 370; NARA—Pacific Alaska Region (A).

Photograph No. 95-ADMC-2000 (Photographer unknown), 1950’s; Men installing trusses, Community Store/Warehouse/Laboratory, looking west. Records of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, RG 370; NARA—Pacific Alaska Region (A).

Photograph No. 95-ADMC-2004 (Photographer unknown), 1950’s; Installing roof, Community Store/Warehouse/Laboratory under construction, looking east. Records of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, RG 370; NARA—Pacific Alaska Region (A).
Photograph No. 95-ADMC-2003 (Photographer unknown), 1950's; Installation of roof, Community Store/Warehouse/Laboratory under construction, looking west. Records of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, RG 370; NARA—Pacific Alaska Region (A).

Photograph No. 95-ADMC-2006 (Photographer unknown), 1950's; Installing roof, Community Store/Warehouse/Laboratory under construction, looking west. Records of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, RG 370; NARA—Pacific Alaska Region (A).

Photograph No. 95-ADMC-1998 (Photographer unknown), 1950's; Installing roof, Community Store/Warehouse/Laboratory under construction, looking east northeast. Records of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, RG 370; NARA—Pacific Alaska Region (A).

Photograph No. 95-ADMC-2010 (Photographer unknown), 1950's; Tarring roof, Community Store/Warehouse/Laboratory being tarred, looking east. Records of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, RG 370; NARA—Pacific Alaska Region (A).
Equipment Garage/Municipal Garage Site

Alaska Heritage Resources Survey

AHRS #: XPI-034
Aliquot: S035S132W/25 Tract 46
Lat./Long.: 170°16'53.47" W, 57°07'23.09" N
Acreage: <.25
Map sheet: St. Paul Island West (1:25,000)

Site Name(s): Site of Equipment Garage; Municipal Garage; Building R

Site Description: The now-demolished Equipment Garage was built on this site in 1931 by the Bureau of Fisheries according to contemporaneous records, although recent sources give other dates. In the mid-1980s, it was used for general storage by NOAA. Between 1982 and 1985, a structure known as the Connector Building was built between the nearby Machine Shop and the Equipment Garage connecting them both to make one large three-block building. The Connector Building was demolished in February 2006, leaving a concrete foundation pad. The Equipment Garage stood relatively empty except for a few items stored by NOAA, and then was torn down in 2007. Soil remediation excavations at the north end of the building in 2003 revealed a buried cache of leather shoes, plates, and an octagonal-barreled lever-action rifle. Local residents interpreted the cache as the remains of a chulan—a traditional buried storage cache—and predicted that others would be found when the concrete floor of the building was removed during demolition. Mitigation involved an archaeological monitor onsite during the 2007 floor removal; the remains of three firearms and other intact artifacts and sealed containers were recovered, but the finds were interpreted as evidence of discard behavior rather than abandoned chulans.

The Equipment Garage was a one-story frame industrial building with a concrete floor and footer, timber frame with wood drop siding, and large wood bow-string trusses supporting the arched roof. Pedestrian and equipment entries were on the “gable” ends as opposed to the eave elevations. The building had rolled composite asphalt roofing. Following the building’s removal in 2007, the underlying petroleum contaminated soils were removed and replaced with non-contaminated fill.

Significance: The Equipment Garage was built in 1931 by the U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Fisheries, to house heavy machinery used to maintain roads and buildings in support of the agency’s commercial sealing and the overall federal operation on St. Paul Island. It was used for that purpose through the period of significance (1984). It was known by various other names, such as Municipal Garage, Equipment Shed, E-Shed, and Community Garage. The location of the Equipment/Municipal Garage on the Nomination Form is reversed with the Machine Shop, Building S. This building was listed as a contributing building to the Seal Islands National Historic Landmark in the 1986 nomination form.

Location: Beyond the north end of Tolstoi Boulevard, St. Paul Village, St. Paul Island, Pribilof Islands, Alaska

Citations:

Danger of Destruction: already destroyed
Present Condition: Vacant lot
Ecosystem:
Pertinent Dates: Constructed on site in AD 1931, destroyed 2007
Period: Historic
Resource Nature: Site
Cultural Affiliation: Aleut, Euro-American
Preservation Status & Date: Formerly a contributing building to Seal Islands NHL (1986); now destroyed
Property Owner: NOAA
Repository:
Accession #: Other # (specify):


Photographer unknown. 2005. Former Equipment Garage/Municipal Garage (left) and Machine Shop (right), showing central addition (Connector Building). Photograph (digital). NOAA, NOS, Pribilof Project Office, Seattle.

**Equipment Garage/Halibut Plant**

**Alaska Heritage Resources Survey**

AHRS #: XPI-219  
Aliquot: S035S132W  
Lat./Long.: 170° 16.842' W, 57° 07.408' N  
Acreage: <0.5  
Map sheet: St. Paul Island West (1:25,000)  
UTM:  

**Site Name(s):** Equipment Garage  
**Site Description:** XPI-219 is a gambrel-roofed warehouse with corrugated metal roofing, poured concrete walls, and framed gables clad in wood drop-siding. The concrete is painted light green, the wood gables white, and the roof is rusty. Six window openings run along the east and west sides, but they’re boarded. The south side has a garage door opening but it’s boarded too. On the west side an exterior wood stairwell leads up to a second-floor door cut through the gambrel roof. A shed-roofed and plywood-walled block is attached to the south end of the west side, and the west end of the south side.  
**Significance:** The warehouse was constructed in 1953 to store automotive equipment. It was renovated into a halibut processing plant by the St. Paul Traditional Council, and subsequently for storage of building and miscellaneous materials. This building was judged to be a contributing building to the Seal Islands National Historic Landmark in the 1986 nomination.  
**Location:** Tract 46, Industrial area, St. Paul Village, St. Paul Island, Pribilof Islands, Alaska  
**Citations:**  

**Danger of Destruction:**  
Present Condition: Good  
Ecosystem:  
Pertinent Dates: Constructed AD 1953  
Period: Historic  
Resource Nature: B  
Cultural Affiliation: Aleut, Euro-American  
Preservation Status & Date:  
Property Owner: NOAA  
Repository:  
Accession #:  
BIA/BLM #: Other # (specify):  

**Mobley, Charles, photographer. 2007. East and north sides, Equipment Garage/Halibut Plant. Photograph (35mm). NOAA, NOS, Pribilof Project Office, Seattle.**
**Historic American Buildings Survey**

**HALIBUT PLANT/ EQUIPMENT GARAGE**  
(BUILDING HH)  
HABS No AK-217  
AHRS No. XPI-219

**Location:** Tract 46, St. Paul, St. Paul Island, Alaska

**Significance:** Constructed in 1953, the Equipment Garage was erected to store heavy equipment used in the sealing industry. The Aleut Community of St. Paul (Tribal Government) converted the Equipment Garage into a halibut-processing plant sometime after the administrative departure of the Bureau of Commercial Fisheries. Prior to 1999, the Aleut Community reverted the building to a storage facility. Although not listed as a contributing resource in the 1986 NHL nomination form, the National Parks Service documented the building in 2004; the building was listed as contributing resource by the Alaska Heritage Resources Survey.

**Description:** Built in 1953, AK-217 is a gambrel-roofed warehouse, measuring 44' x 100' with corrugated metal roofing, poured concrete walls, and framed gables clad in wood drop-siding. The concrete is painted light green, the wood gables white, and the roof is rusty. Six boarded window openings run along the east and west sides. The south side has a garage door opening that is also boarded. On the west side an exterior wood stairwell leads up to a second-floor door cut through the gambrel roof. A shed-roofed and plywood-walled block is attached to the south end of the west side, and the west end of the south side.

**History:** This Equipment Garage/Halibut Plant housed heavy equipment including dozers, shovels, cranes, trucks, and other equipment. Following the administrative departure of the federal government in 1983, The Aleut Community of St. Paul converted the structure to a halibut processing plant in an attempt to develop a new source of community income following the cessation of commercial fur-sealing. The processing plant proved uneconomical and the community reverted the building to a storage facility.

**Sources:**
- Manager’s Annual Report, St. Paul Island, Years Ending March 31, 1953. Agent’s and Manager’s Annual Reports, RG 22, NARA—Pacific Alaska Region, Anchorage.

**Field Observation:** Charles M. Mobley, Charles M. Mobley & Associates, 2007

**Pribilof Islands Research:** John A. Lindsay (NOAA), Betty A. Lindsay, Robin Maberry, Karla Sclater, 2009

**Associated Drawings and Photographs created by the NPS:**
- AK-217-1 View looking northeast
- AK-217-2 View looking southwest

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Fish Plant/Trident Building

Alaska Heritage Resources Survey

AHRS #: XPI-225
Aliquot: S035S132W
Lat./Long.: 170° 16.731' W, 57° 07.198' N
Acreage: <0.5
Map sheet: St. Paul Island West (1:25,000)

Site Name(s): fish plant
Site Description: XPI-225 is a large rectangular industrial building with ribbed metal roof, ribbed metal cladding, and few openings

Significance: The warehouse was constructed in the late 1990s and has been operating at least since 1996 as a seafood processing plant. The building straddles NOAA and TDX lands, and has been leased to the Trident Seafoods company by TDX. It represents the transition of the St. Paul economy from reliance on the fur-seal harvest to Bering Sea fisheries. This building was judged to be a noncontributing building to the Seal Islands National Historic Landmark in the 1986 nomination form.

Location: Far end of Haul Road, St. Paul Village, St. Paul Island, Pribilof Islands, Alaska.

Citations:

Danger of Destruction:
Present Condition: Good
Ecosystem: Pertinent Dates: Constructed after AD 1986
Period: Historic
Resource Nature: B
Cultural Affiliation: Aleut, Euro-American
Preservation Status & Date:
Property Owner: NOAA/Tanadgusix Corp, leased to Trident Seafoods
Repository:
Accession #: Other # (specify):

Mobley, Charles, photographer. 2007. South and east sides, Fish Plant/Trident Building. Photograph (35mm).
NOAA, NOS, Pribilof Project Office, Seattle.
**Five-Car Garage**

**Alaska Heritage Resources Survey**

AHRS #: XPI-149  
Aliquot: S035S132W/25  
Lat./Long.: 170° 16.728' W, 57° 07.340' N  
Acreage: <.25  
Map sheet: St. Paul Island West (1:25,000)  

**Site Name(s):** Five-Car Garage

**Site Description:** XPI-149 was built constructed in 1964 by the Fish and Wildlife Service and used to house federal vehicles up to 1983, according to one St. Paul elder. The building is shown on a 1969 map, but does not appear in aerial photographs taken in 1948. It was subsequently used by TDX Corporation as a private garage, and has now fallen into disrepair and disuse. The garage is a long narrow single-story side-gabled wood frame building, approximately 24' x 48' with five garage doors. Exterior walls are wood-shingled, and the roof is covered with asbestos shingles. The east half of the back (north) wall has a plywood-sided addition approximately 8' x 24' long, with a shed roof. Neither the north, east, nor west walls of the building have any windows. The south wall has, in addition to the five garage bays, a pedestrian door and a small window at the east end.

**Significance:** The Five-Car Garage—XPI-149—was used by the Department of the Interior Fish and Wildlife Service, to house research vehicles. The 1964 Annual Report of Sealing Operations stated “The research garage also provides facilities for a small laboratory and pens for holding specimen animals.” The building served this purpose during to the end of government administration in 1983 and is now unused. The Five-Car Garage should be considered a contributing building to the Seal Island National Historic Landmark.

**Location:** On Sandy Lane between Hill Street and the Polovina Turnpike, St. Paul Village, St. Paul Island, Pribilof Islands, Alaska.

**Citations:**


Danger of Destruction:

Present Condition: Poor

Ecosystem:

Pertinent Dates: Constructed before AD 1964

Period: Historic

Resource Nature: B

Cultural Affiliation: Aleut, Euro-American

Preservation Status & Date:

Property Owner: NOAA

Repository

Accession #:

BIA/BLM #: Other # (specify):

Historic American Buildings Survey

FIVE-CAR GARAGE
(BUILDING OO)
HABS No. AK- 218
AHRS No. XPI-149

Location: On Sandy Lane between Hill Street and the Polovina Turnpike, Village of St. Paul, St. Paul Island, Pribilof Islands, Alaska

Significance: The Five-Car Garage, constructed in 1964, was used by the U.S. Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service to house vehicles and to facilitate research on seals. The 1964 Annual Report of Sealing Operations stated “The research garage also provides facilities for a small laboratory and pens for holding specimen animals.” Although not listed as a contributing resource in the 1986 NHL nomination form, NOAA recommends including the Five-Car Garage in the Seal Islands NHL due to its significance to sealing industry and the Aleut Community up through the end of the commercial fur-sealing industry on St. Paul Island in 1984.

Description: The garage is a long narrow single-story side-gabled wood frame building, approximately 24' x 48"- with five garage doors. Exterior walls are wood-shingled, and the roof is covered with asbestos shingles. The east half of the back (north) wall has a plywood-sided addition approximately 8'-0" x 24'-0" long, with a shed roof. There are no windows on the north, east, and west walls of the building. The south wall has, in addition to the five garage bays, a pedestrian door and a small window at the east end.

History: The building was constructed in 1964 and according to a 1986 report was “historically... used for storing vehicles and gear for NMFS biologist.” In 1970, the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) assumed administration for the Pribilof Islands from the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. After 1983, the building was used by the Tanadgusix Corporation (TDX) and the Aleut Community of St. Paul as a private automotive repair garage. By 1986, the building reportedly breached fire codes, “and, according to the village corporation [TDX], may be torn down within the next year.” Nonetheless, the building continued to be used as a automotive repair shop, and for several years, circa 1998 and 2001, it was known as “Mike’s Auto.” In 2008 the building remained in disrepair.

A 1985 appraisal lists the building’s “basic dimensions” as 75' x 24' with an animal pen measuring 8' x 37'. The 1985 report also listed a poured concrete foundation and a wood-framed exterior with sheathing. It had a gable roof covered with asphalt shingles in “fair condition.” The east half of the building was heated by a forced hot-air, oil-heating system; the west half of the building was unheated. The building contained two garage bays, an office area, boiler room, closet, and utility room.

Sources:


Pribilof Islands Research: John A. Lindsay (NOAA), Betty A. Lindsay, Robin Maberry, Karla Sclater, 2009

Associated Drawings and Photographs created by the NPS:
AK-219-1 View looking northeast


Alaska Heritage Resources Survey

Site Name(s): Fouke Bunkhouse, Building Q

Site Description: XPI-044 is a large three-story gabled frame building built into the slope so the west elevation has only two stories and an attic. The roof and walls are clad with ribbed metal, and a concrete chimney is mounted on the ridge near the midpoint. Each side of the building has an entrance; the south side also has a second-floor entrance accessed by a level boardwalk and landing from the upper portion of the slope, and an entrance on the third floor accessed by stairs also located at the same point on the slope. The north side has a metal emergency escape ladder that reaches 3 ½ stories. The plywood shed roof covers the north entry. There are three windows on the north wall; twelve windows on the east wall; five on the south wall; and three on the west wall.

Significance: XPI-044 construction was completed in 1933. The building was used as a “bunk house for blubbers, comprising an assembly room, bedrooms for 36 men, 6 shower baths and toilets, and equipped with a hot-water heating plant for employees of the Fouke Fur Company throughout the subsequent commercial sealing period except for the period 1962–64, when the contract was held by the Supara Company.” The building was used up through the period of significance (1984) and is a contributing building to the National Historic Landmark. In the mid-1980s, the St. Paul ANCSA village corporation, Tanadgusix Corporation, used the building for offices and as overflow quarters when the King Eider Hotel was full. By 1999, the building went unused. In 2007, the village corporation renovated the interior and exterior of the building.

Location: Tract 46; Near intersection of Tolstoi Boulevard and Short Street, St. Paul Village, St. Paul Island, Alaska

Citations:

Danger of Destruction:
Present Condition: Good
Ecosystem:
Pertinent Dates: Constructed AD 1931–33
Period: Historic
Resource Nature: B
Cultural Affiliation: Aleut, Euro-American
Preservation Status & Date: Contributing building to Seal Islands NHL (1986)
Property Owner: NOAA
Repository:
Accession #: Other # (specify):
BIA/BLM #: 58532070178880

FOUKE BUNKHOUSE
(BUILDING Q)
HABS No. AK-213
AHRS No. XPI-044

Location: Near intersection of Tolstoi Boulevard and Short Street, Village of St. Paul, St. Paul Island, Pribilof Islands, Alaska; Tract 46

Significance: Built between 1931 and 1933, the Fouke Bunkhouse housed employees of the Fouke Fur Company throughout the subsequent commercial sealing period except for the period 1962–64, when the contract was held by the Supara Company. It also provided shelter for Native workers brought in from the surrounding area to work in the fur-seal industry. After the end of the federally-administered fur-seal industry in 1983, the Tanadgusix Corporation (TDX) used the building for offices and as overflow quarters when the King Eider was filled to capacity.

Description: The Fouke Bunkhouse is a large three-story gabled frame building built into the slope so the west wall has only two stories. A window in each gable indicates an attic. Each elevation has a door located at ground level, and the south wall has an additional door on the second floor which is accessed by a level boardwalk and landing from the upper portion of the slope into which the building is built. Another door is located on the third floor, accessed by stairs originating from the same point on the slope. The walls and roof are clad with ribbed metal, and a concrete chimney is mounted on the ridge near the midpoint. The north gable wall has a metal ladder affixed to provide emergency escape from the gable window 3 ½ stories above. The north door is protected by a plywood entry that has a shallowly-pitched shed roof. All the windows and doors are battened. The first floor has two windows on the east and two on the south; the second floor has one on the north, four on the east, two on the south, and three on the west; and the third floor has two on the north, six on the east, and one on the south.

History: The Fouke Bunkhouse was completed in 1933 by the U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Fisheries. It served as a “bunk house for blubberers, comprising an assembly room, bedrooms for 36 men, 6 shower baths and toilets, and equipped with a hot-water heating plant for employees of the Fouke Fur Company throughout the subsequent commercial sealing period except for the period 1962–1964, when the contract was held by the Supara Company.” A second story was added during 1948–49, which added twelve two-man rooms. The lounge was enlarged and one of the larger rooms was converted into quarters and office space for the Fouke Company superintendent at the same time. In 1964, in the mid-1980s, the Tanadgusix Corporation used the building for offices and as overflow quarters when the King Eider Hotel was full. By 1999, the building was unused. In 2007, the village corporation renovated the interior and exterior of the building.

Sources:
———. March 31, 1933.
———. March 31, 1934.
———. March 31, 1949.


Pribilof Islands Research: John A. Lindsay (NOAA), Betty A. Lindsay, Robin Maberry, Karla Sclater, 2009

Associated Drawings and Photographs created by the NPS:
AK-213-1 View looking northwest
AK-213-2 View looking southwest
AK-213-3 Interior view of first floor entrance foyer

Mobley, Charles, photographer. 2007. East and north sides, Fouke Bunkhouse. Photograph (35mm). NOAA, NOS.
Fox Houses

Photograph No. 22-MP-3-64 (Photographer unknown), 1930; Oven in kitchen showing trays full of fresh-baked biscuits with barrel full of biscuits at left. This is possibly a “sheet iron” stove built on the island and used for baking fox-food biscuits. One stove was installed in the Watchhouse at Halfway Point in 1921; another was built in 1923. Records of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, RG 370; NARA—Pacific Alaska Region (A).

## Fox Trapping — St. Paul Island, Alaska, Season 1920:
### Season commenced December 13 and ended December 22

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Trapping District</th>
<th>Name of Trapper</th>
<th>No. of Traps used</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Northeast Point</strong></td>
<td>Peter Oustigoff</td>
<td>12</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Peter Tetoff</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>John Sedick</td>
<td>10</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Innokenty Kochutin</td>
<td>6</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Vasilii Stepetin</td>
<td>6</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Neil Oustigoff</td>
<td>9</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>60</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Zapadni</strong></td>
<td>Simeon Nozekoff</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Michael Kozloff</td>
<td>18</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Condrat Krukoff</td>
<td>12</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Constatine Buterin</td>
<td>9</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Uvanally Kozeroff</td>
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<td></td>
<td>John T. Nozekoff</td>
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<td>Peter T. Kochergin</td>
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<td><strong>Tsammana</strong></td>
<td>Michael Kushin</td>
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<td>John Hanson</td>
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<td><strong>Marunich</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Reef Peninsula</strong></td>
<td>Metrofan Krukoff</td>
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<td>Anton Melovidov</td>
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<td>Profiry Pankof</td>
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<td><strong>Fast Landing to Reef</strong></td>
<td>Karp Buterin</td>
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<td>Neon Tetoff</td>
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<td><strong>Telegraph Hill to Kaminista</strong></td>
<td>Vlass Pankof</td>
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<td>Daniel Shabolin</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Zoltoi</strong></td>
<td>George Shaishnikoff</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
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<td>37 Trappers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
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<td>383 Traps</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


Gas Station

Community Garage

Photograph No. USBF 2.46 (Photographer G Dallas Hanna), May 1919; Former Cold Storage Building, erected 1912. This building has been used for multiple purposes. It was converted to a Machine Shop in 1918, to a Boat House by 1940, to a Plumbing Shop by 1959, and to the Community Garage/Village Automotive Repair Shop in 1966. It was demolished between 1986–1993. Records of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, RG 370, NARA—Pacific Alaska Region (A).

Alaska Heritage Resources Survey

AHRS #: XPI-045  Aliquot: S035S132W/25
Lat./Long.: 170° 16' 54.10" W, 57° 07' 24.38" N  Acreage: <.25
Map sheet: St. Paul Island West (1:25,000)  UTM:

Site Name(s): Machine Shop, Building S

Site Description: XPI-045 is a two-story frame building with large bow-string trusses supporting the curved roof. The roof is covered by rolled composite asphalt roofing installed in 2006, and the walls are covered with wood drop siding. A rock ramp on the south wall leads to double swinging garage doors on the second floor. Attached to the north side of the west wall is a concrete-walled room with a dropped shed roof. The primary pedestrian access is through a metal door at the northeast corner of the building’s first floor, where the corner is truncated at a forty-five degree angle, leaving the second-story cantilevered to overhang the entry from above. The north elevation has three equipment doors, two of which are metal overhead examples; the third is boarded.

Between 1982 and 1985, a structure known as the Connector Building was built between the Machine Shop and the nearby Equipment Garage (demolished 2007), connecting them both to make one large three-block building. The Connector Building was demolished in February 2006, leaving a concrete foundation pad.

The structure is misidentified on the map accompanying the 1986 National Register nomination form. Its location is reversed with the Equipment Garage, Building R.

Significance: XPI-045 was constructed during 1938–39 by the U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Fisheries, though an exact date is not given in the 1986 National Register nomination form. The Machine Shop consisted of a machine shop, inventory area and vehicle repair area on the main floor and an office, inventory area and storage facility on the second floor. The building was used in support of the federal fur-sealing industry on St. Paul Island. It had cedar siding, a basement, and an overhead travelling crane. In 1951, a two-floor addition was constructed to serve as a parts room. The building was subsequently used as a ambulance station until circa 2007. It is a contributing building to the Seal Islands National Historic Landmark.

Location: Tract 46; Beyond the north end of Tolstoi Boulevard, St. Paul Village, St. Paul Island, Alaska

Citations:

Danger of Destruction:
Present Condition: Fair
Ecosystem:
Period: Historic
Resource Nature: B
Cultural Affiliation: Aleut, Euro-American
Preservation Status & Date: Contributing building to Seal Islands NHL (1986)
Property Owner: NOAA
Repository:
Accession #: BIA/BLM #: Other # (specify):
Historic American Buildings Survey

MACHINE SHOP
(BUILDING S)
HABS No. AK-214
AHRS No. XPI-045

Location: Tract 46, beyond the north end of Tolstoi Boulevard and the base of Village Hill, Village of St. Paul, St. Paul Island, Pribilof Islands, Alaska

Significance: Completed in 1939, the Machine Shop housed “all machinery and tools required for a first-class repair shop,” and also provided “room for painting, another for overhauling cars, and another for stores.”

Description: The Machine Shop is a two-story frame building with large bow-string trusses supporting the curved roof. The roof is covered by rolled composite asphalt roofing installed in 2006, and the walls are covered with wood drop siding. A rock ramp on the south wall leads to double swinging garage doors on the curved roof. The roof is covered by rolled composite asphalt roofing installed in 2006, and the walls are clad in cedar siding. In 1951, a two-floor addition was constructed to serve as a parts room. Between 1987 and 1993, a structure known as the Connector Building was built between the Machine Shop and the nearby Equipment Garage (demolished 2007), connecting them both to make one large three-block building. The Machine Shop was subsequently used as a privately operated automotive repair shop. In 2001, the three-block building was controlled by NOAA because of environmental hazards, and the automotive repair shop was closed. In circa 2004, an upper garage bay was used by the community as an ambulance station until the new medical facility was completed in 2007. The Connector Building was demolished in February 2006, leaving a concrete foundation pad. NOAA re-roofed the Machine Shop in 2006, and the building remained unoccupied.

Sources:


Pribilof Islands Research: John A. Lindsay (NOAA), Betty A. Lindsay, Robin Maberry, Karla Sclater, 2009

Associated Drawings and Photographs created by NPS:

AK-214-1 Front of equipment garage, looking southeast
AK-214-2 Front of equipment garage, looking southwest
AK-214-3 Front of machine shop, looking northeast
AK-214-4 West (side) elevation of equipment garage
AK-214-5 East (side) elevation of equipment garage
AK-214-6 East (side) elevation of machine shop
AK-214-7 South (front) elevation of machine shop
AK-214-8 Interior view of equipment garage, looking south
AK-214-9 Detail view of roof trusses in equipment garage
AK-214-10 Detail view of truss ends and columns in equipment garage
AK-214-11 Detail view of northeast corner of equipment garage
AK-214-12 Interior view looking north in center room, of original south exterior wall of equipment garage
AK-214-13 Interior view looking south in center room, of original north exterior wall of machine shop
AK-214-14 Interior view of machine shop, showing bridge crane
AK-214-15 Interior view of machine shop, showing line shaft

View northwesterly of southeast elevation


Westerly of north elevation adjoining new addition


Interior view of machine shop


Point Warehouses


Wilke, Ford, photographer. 1946. Aerial view of Village Cove waterfront, showing the Seal Plant buildings (lower left foreground), old Coal House/Hardware (center left), Machine Shop and Equipment Garage (top left), Cold Storage/Old Machine Shop in use as Boat House (center top), Blacksmith Shop (between Boat House and second Point Warehouse), Pump House (behind Blacksmith Shop), second Point Warehouse and wharf, and Old Pump House (center). Photograph. NOAA, NMML Library, Seattle: Ford Wilke Collection, no. 17.

Photograph No. 22-MP-3-52 (Photographer unknown), circa 1920; Point Warehouse (left), By-Products plant and Lagoon Wellhouse (?) in background. This Point Warehouse was demolished in 1924, and was replaced by a second Point Warehouse later that year. Records of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, RG 370. NARA—Pacific Alaska Region (A).
Receiving Warehouse

Alaska Heritage Resources Survey

AHRS #: XPI-220

Aliquot: S03SS132W

Lat./Long.: 170° 16.927' W, 57° 07.445' N

Map sheet: St. Paul Island West (1:25,000)

Acreage: <0.5

UTM:

Site Name(s): Receiving Warehouse

Site Description: XPI-220 is a gable-roofed warehouse with blue corrugated metal roofing and white corrugated metal walls. It serves the west landing dock.

Significance: This building was constructed by NOAA sometime between 1969 and 1982. This building was judged to be a noncontributing building to the Seal Islands National Historic Landmark in the 1986 nomination form.

Location: Industrial area, St. Paul Village, St. Paul Island, Pribilof Islands, Alaska.

Citations:


Danger of Destruction:

Present Condition: Fair

Ecosystem:

Pertinent Dates: Constructed before AD 1986

Period: Historic

Resource Nature: B

Cultural Affiliation: Aleut, Euro-American

Preservation Status & Date:

Property Owner: NOAA

Repository:

Accession #: Other # (specify):


Historic American Buildings Survey

SALTWATER WELL HOUSES/SALTWATER PUMP HOUSES
(BUILDINGS VV)
HABS No. AK-215

Location: Haul Road, Saint Paul Island, Alaska, NNW of the Machine Shop

Significance: Two Saltwater Well Houses pumped saltwater into the Wash House for commercial fur-sealing operations. Although not listed as a contributing resource in the 1986 NHL nomination form the Saltwater Well Houses were photographed by the National Parks Service in 2004 and a HABS number was assigned to the buildings.

Description: No field observations of these structures were recorded. One of the pump houses is made of cedar or redwood; the other pump house is cement.

History: The two Saltwater Pump Houses appear on a 1969 map, labeled “S.W. Pump Hse 2” and “S.W. Pump HSE 4.” A Pump House 3 is shown adjacent to the old Power Plant (demolished in 2007).

Sources:
St. Paul Village [Map], by RWF, Jan. 21, 1969.
Winandy, David B., Engineer, Pribilof Project Office, conversation with Karla Sclater, August 18, 2009.

Pribilof Islands Research: John A. Lindsay (NOAA), Robin Maberry, Karla Sclater, 2009

Associated Drawings and Photographs created by the NPS:
AK-215-1 Front view, looking southwest
AK-215-2 Side view, looking north
**Design of Fine Screens** (3.5 Aluminum plate)

Try \( \frac{3}{4} \)" diam. holes at \( \frac{1}{2} \)" c-c = 24 holes per lin. ft.

\[ \text{Min. area holes desired = } 6 \times \text{pipe \times section area} \]

\[ \text{Number of holes required = } (6 \times 32^2) = 6150 \]

\[ \text{Since } \frac{1}{4}" = \frac{1}{32} \text{ of } 8", \text{ and only 1 pipe is considered} \]

At mean low water (allow 6" width for stiffeners)

\[ \text{No. holes = } 24^2 \times 2.5 \times 5.5 = 7600 \text{ OK} \]

At full intake

\[ \text{No. holes = } 24^2 \times 5.5 \times 5.5 = 17,400 \]

At extreme low water (no stiffener allowance)

\[ \text{No. holes = } 24^2 \times 1.5 \times 6.0 = 5,200 < 6150 \]

---

**Screens**

6'6" x 6'2" = \( \frac{1}{4} \)" BS Aluminum Plate

Weld on stiffeners as shown

Holes \( \frac{3}{4} \)" diam. at \( \frac{1}{2} \)" c-c as shown

Make 4 screens = 76' - 2\( \frac{1}{2} \)" x 1\( \frac{1}{2} \)" angle (6.1) required
Photograph No. 95-ADMC-598 (Photographer unknown), 1955; Saltwater Well. Records of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, RG 370; NARA—Pacific Alaska Region (A).

Photograph No. 95-ADMC-228 (Photographer unknown), 1955; Well drilling rig, auxiliary pump (right), and 4" pipeline discharge to bay (left). Records of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, RG 370; NARA—Pacific Alaska Region (A).


Sealing Plant

Photograph No. 95-ADMC-232 (Photographer unknown), August 6, 1948; View of Sealing Plant buildings, showing barrels of sealskins laid out in yard, looking southeast. From right: Hardware/Coal House, Salthouse A, Salthouse B, Wash House A with Blubber Shop addition, Wash House B. Records of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, RG 370. NARA—Pacific Alaska Region (A).
Sealing Plant Wash House

Photograph No. 95-ADMC-585 (Photographer unknown), 1921; Men hosing sealskins in wash tanks to remove dirt and blood prior to blubbering. Records of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, RG 370; NARA—Pacific Alaska Region (A).
Plan, 1923. Proposed pipe system sealskin washing house. Oversized Documents B-1; Records of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, RG 370; NARA—Pacific Alaska Region (A).
Map, March 12, 1923. Layout of village, showing location of pumping equipment, pipe lines, and operational narrow-gauge rail line. Oversized Documents B-2, Records of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, RG 370, NARA—Pacific Alaska Region (A).


Photograph No. 95-ADMC-3423 (Photographer unknown), n.d.; Men throwing sealskins from truck into window of processing shed.
Records of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, RG 370; NARA—Pacific Alaska Region (A).


Photograph No. 95-ADMC-3423 (Photographer unknown), n.d.; Men throwing sealskins from truck into window of processing shed. Records of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, RG 370; NARA—Pacific Alaska Region (A).

Wash House A/Blubber Shop

Historic American Buildings Survey

WASH HOUSES (BUILDING N)  
(BLUBBERING SHOP)  
HABS No. [not yet assigned]

Location:  Tract 46 at the corner of Hill Street and Warehouse Street, Village of St. Paul, St. Paul Island, Pribilof Islands, Alaska

Significance:  Although listed as a contributing source in the 1986 NHL nomination form, the building was razed circa 1984 to make room for the Anderson Building.

Description:  Faulkner’s description from the 1986 NHL nomination form: “Frame building with horizontal clapboard siding.”

History:  Wash House “A” was erected in 1931 to replace an older 32’ x 70’ wash house that had been completed in 1922. That structure contained washing tanks, blubbering beams, and a wringer for squeezing water out of seal skins. At about the same time, a new method of skinning seals was developed that left the skin intact, but that left a layer of blubber and meat behind to be removed before the skins were salted. By 1930, new wash houses were needed to handle the increasing harvest and processing time. Two 46’ x 100’ wash houses—“A” and “B”—were built in 1931–32 and included an “overhead carrying system to facilitate the handling of skins during blubbering operations. The overhead system [was] also equipped with carriers for blubber removed from the skins.” The Blubbering Shop was an extension of Wash House A, which was also called the Tank House. This extension is clearly labeled on a 1941 map. Wash House B was also locally known as the Brine Shed. By 1932, Wash House “B” contained 12 tanks for soaking skins with the capacity for processing 6,700 skins at one time. The two wash houses were part of a four-building complex called the Sealing Plant. The other two buildings were Salthouses “A” and “B.” Salthouse A included the Boxing Shed (Barreling Shed).

Sources:


Pribilof Islands Research:  John A. Lindsay (NOAA), Betty A. Lindsay, Robin Maberry, and Karla Sclater, 2009


Scheffer, Victor B., photographer. 1946. “Counting skins off the wringer into lots of five to be conveyed to the salt house; action is from right to left,” July 16, 1946. Photograph. NOAA, NMML Library, Seattle: Victor B. Scheffer Collection, Fur-Seal Archives, neg. no. B 64018.


Photograph No. 95-ADMC-191, (Photographer unknown), n.d.; Interior of Wash House A/Blubber Shop showing flensing stations (right). Records of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, RG 370, NARA—Pacific Alaska Region (A).


Photograph No. 95-ADMC-924 (Photographer unknown), 1952; Fouke Fur Company blubbering machine used experimentally for mechanical blubbering. Records of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, RG 370; NARA—Pacific Alaska Region (A).


Photograph No. 95-ADMC-2753 (Photographer unknown), 1920’s; Seal blubbering. Records of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, RG 370; NARA—Pacific Alaska Region (A).


Brine Shed (Shop)/Brine House

Photograph No. 95-ADMC-928 (Photographer unknown), n.d.; 5,000-gallon concrete oval brining tank for curing fur seal skins, constructed on St. Paul Island. Records of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, RG 370; NARA—Pacific Alaska Region (A).

Photograph No. 95-ADMC-895 (Photographer unknown), 1953; Paddles in 5,000-gallon capacity brining tank. Records of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, RG 370; NARA—Pacific Alaska Region (A).

Photograph No. 95-ADMC-927 (Photographer unknown), n.d.; Motor driving brine paddles in 5,000-gallon capacity brining tank. Records of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, RG 370; NARA—Pacific Alaska Region (A).

Photograph No. 95-ADMC-929 (Photographer unknown), n.d.; Men at brining tank holding screen in brine solution. Records of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, RG 370; NARA—Pacific Alaska Region (A).
**Salthouse B/Kench House**

**Historic American Buildings Survey**

**KENCH HOUSE (BUILDING Q)**

**HABS No. [not yet assigned]**

**Location:** The site of the Kench House is located on Short Street

**Significance:** The Kench House held the Borax and salt boxes that preserved sealskins in preparation for shipping them to the Fouke Fur Company in St. Louis, Missouri. Although listed as a contributing resource in the 1986 NHL nomination form, the Kench House was demolished sometime after 1989 to make room for extensions to the Anderson Building.

**Description:** The Kench House was 160' x 32' 10" frame building with horizontal clapboard siding.

**History:** The Kench House was originally called Salthouse B when it was constructed in 1921. Salthouse B was built on the site of the old village Salthouse that was torn down in 1921 and it was constructed from some of the old Salthouse’s material.

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**Sources:**


**Pribilof Islands’ Research:** John A. Lindsay (NOAA), Betty A. Lindsay, Robin Maberry, and Karla Sclater, 2009

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*Photograph No. 95-ADMC-868 (Photographer unknown), 1940's-1950's; Removing sealskins from salt kenches. Records of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, RG 370; NARA—Pacific Alaska Region (A).*

Sealing Plant


Photograph No. 22-MP-3-74 (Photographer unknown), 1919; New Salthouse under construction. In 1910, there were five salthouses on St. Paul Island, one at Northeast Point, one at Rocky Point, one called the Cove Salthouse situated at the northeast end of the Village Cove, a large Village Salthouse, and a small building opposite it that was used for storage of new salt. The small building was moved to serve as a hospital in 1914. The Rocky Point and Cove Salthouses were razed before 1919. Records of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, RG 370; NARA—Pacific Alaska Region (A).
Photograph No. USBF 1.32 (Photographer unknown), n.d.; View from St. Paul Village, showing old Machine Shop (center), old Salthouse (left of Machine Shop), and new Salthouse under construction, with former By-Products Plant in background. Records of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, RG 370; NARA—Pacific Alaska Region (A).

Christoffersen, Albert, photographer. 1921. Barrels containing skins awaiting shipment outside the new (left) and old (right) salthouses, with the Naval Radio Station in the background. Photograph. Courtesy California Academy of Sciences: G Dallas Hanna Collection, Item 38.

Salthouse A/Boxing/Barreling Shed Site

Alaska Heritage Resources Survey

AHRS #: XPI-226  Aliquot: S035S132W
Lat./Long.: 170°16.828' W, 57°07.341' N  Acreage: <0.5
Map sheet: St. Paul Island West (1:25,000)

Site Name(s): site of Boxing Shed, Building P

Site Description: XPI-226 is the site of the former boxing shed, a large rectangular (34'6" x 160'8") timber frame industrial building that was demolished in 2000. NOAA made a videotape of the building and the demolition process, including images of graffiti, and stored portions of the building inside St. Paul Island airport hangars owned by TDX. The original building, called Salt House “A,” was constructed 1921/1922. A 50-foot addition was also begun in 1921 and completed in 1922. Another 50-foot extension was begun during the fall of 1930 specifically for the barreling of seal skins. The agent’s annual report ending March 31, 1931 stated that the “extension is to be used for a seal skin packing or barreling room.” The extension was completed by March 31, 1933.

Significance: The Boxing Shed (aka Barreling Shed) was integral part of the sealing operations on St. Paul Island up through the period of significance (1984). This building was judged to be a contributing building to the Seal Islands National Historic Landmark in the 1986 nomination form but it was razed in 2000.

Location: Far end of Haul Road, St. Paul Village, St. Paul Island, Pribilof Islands, Alaska.

Citations:

Danger of Destruction:
Present Condition: Razed 2000
Ecosystem:
Pertinent Dates: The site was created in the AD 2000/01 with the demolition of the boxing shed, which was built in AD 1921/1922
Period: Historic
Resource Nature: Site
Cultural Affiliation: Aleut, Euro-American
Preservation Status & Date:
Property Owner: NOAA
Repository:
Accession #:  BIA/BLM #:  Other # (specify):

Historic American Buildings Survey

BOXING SHED (BARRELING SHED, BUILDING P)
HABS No. AK- [not yet assigned]
AHRS No. XPI-226

Location: Far end of Haul Road, Village of St. Paul, St. Paul Island, Pribilof Islands, Alaska

Significance: The Boxing Shed was the place where barrels and box crates were made by coopersmiths at the north end of the building. The seal skins were packed in barrels and box crates before they were shipped to the Fouke Fur Company in Saint Louis, Missouri. Although listed as a contributing resource in the 1986 NHL nomination form, the Boxing/Barreling Shed was razed in 2001.

Description: The former boxing shed was 34’6” x 160’8” timber (mostly cedar wood) frame industrial building.

History: The original barreling shed was constructed in 1921/22 as Salthouse “A.” A 50-foot extension was added immediately. In 1933, another 50-foot extension to Salthouse “A” was completed (the concrete foundation for the extension was laid in 1931), which made room for “two additional kenchnes for salting seal skins and also provides a large room for barreling skins and considerable additional storage space over head.” Over the years, many workers wrote their names on the walls and ceiling of the building, etching a historical record of laborers who worked in the barreling shed. The entire building came to be known as the Barreling shed or Boxing Shed. It was demolished in 2001 after it was deemed structurally unsound. NOAA made a videotape of the building and the demolition process, including images of graffiti and a 3D digital reconstruction of the building. Nortech Environmental & Engineering Consultants included several photographs of the building before demolition, during artifact salvaging efforts, and after demolition. The Tanadgusix Corporation retained numerous historical artifacts such as redwood seal skin drying racks.

Sources:

Pribilof Islands Observation: John A. Lindsay (NOAA), Betty A. Lindsay, Robin Maberry, and Karla Selater, 2009

Associated materials furnished by NOAA Pribilof Project Office:

Boxing Shed Artifact Retrieval: 3 pp. recording names written on walls, ceiling, rafters, and beams of the building over the years.


Young, Allison, photographer. 2000. Salthouse A, exterior south end, Fouke Bunkhouse (left) and


Young, Allison, photographer. 2000. Salthouse A, exterior south end, Anderson Building in background.
Photograph (35mm). NOAA, NOS, Pribilof Project Office, Seattle: sheet JL 111379.2, neg. 4111.

Young, Allison, photographer. 2000. Salthouse A, exterior west side. Photograph (35mm). NOAA, NOS, Pribilof
Project Office, Seattle: sheet JL 111379.2, neg. 4108.


Young, Allison, photographer. 2000. Salthouse A, 2nd floor interior, west wall (north to south: left to right). Note rope linked with the building structure was used to pull the building down. Photograph (35mm). NOAA, NOS, Pribilof Project Office, Seattle: sheet JL 111379.4, neg. 4198, NMML; series includes negatives 4191 through 4202, excluding 4195.
Young, Allison, photographer. 2000. Salthouse A, 2nd floor interior, west wall (north to south: left to right). Note rope along ceiling linked with the building structure was used to pull the building down; photographer’s TOTA lamp with stand on floor. Photograph (35mm). NOAA, NOS, Pribilof Project Office, Seattle: sheet JL 111379.4, neg. 4201, NMML; series includes negatives 4191 through 4202, excluding 4195.

Young, Allison, photographer. 2000. Salthouse A, 2nd floor interior, west wall (north to south: left to right). Note rope linked with the building structure was used to pull the building down. Photograph (35mm). NOAA, NOS, Pribilof Project Office, Seattle: sheet JL 111379.4, neg. 4200, NMML; series includes negatives 4191 through 4202, excluding 4195.

Young, Allison, photographer. 2000. Salthouse A, 2nd floor interior, south end of west wall (north to south: left to right). Note rope along ceiling linked with the building structure was used to pull the building down; photographer’s TOTA lamp with stand on floor. Photograph (35mm). NOAA, NOS, Pribilof Project Office, Seattle: sheet JL 111379.4, neg. 4201, NMML; series includes negatives 4191 through 4202, excluding 4195.

Young, Allison, photographer. 2000. Salthouse A, 2nd floor interior, west wall (north to south: left to right). Note rope linked with the building structure was used to pull the building down. Photograph (35mm). NOAA, NOS, Pribilof Project Office, Seattle: sheet JL 111379.4, neg. 4197, NMML; series includes negatives 4191 through 4202, excluding 4195.
Young, Allison, photographer. 2000. Salthouse A, 2nd floor interior, west wall (north to south: left to right). Note rope (far left) linked with the building structure was used to pull the building down. Photograph (35mm). NOAA, NOS, Pribilof Project Office, Seattle: sheet II. 111379.4, neg. 4196, NMML; series includes negatives 4191 through 4202, excluding 4195.

Young, Allison, photographer. 2000. Salthouse A, 2nd floor interior, west wall (north to south: left to right). Note rope linked with the building structure was used to pull the building down. Photograph (35mm). NOAA, NOS, Pribilof Project Office, Seattle: sheet II. 111379.4, neg. 4193, NMML; series includes negatives 4191 through 4202, excluding 4195.


Young, Allison, photographer. 2000. Interior southwest wall, corner posts of kench; foreground two corner kench posts on southeast wall, 1st floor, Salthouse A. Photograph (35mm). NOAA, NOS, Pribilof Project Office, Seattle: sheet JL 111379.1, neg. 4043.


Young, Allison, photographer. 2000. Interior northwest wall, barrel chute in background, windows, wall studs, sheathing, ceiling support structures including posts, load bearing beam, floor joists, and fluorescent lighting fixtures; also light reflector (umbrella) on stand for photography and two men in background making preparations to demolish building 1st floor Salthouse A. Photograph (35mm). NOAA, NOS, Pribilof Project Office, Seattle: sheet JL 111379.1, neg. 4015.
Young, Allison, photographer. 2000. Salthouse A, 2nd floor interior east wall; photographers Craig Bailey, DeAnna Morris, and John Lindsay (left to right). Photograph (35mm). NOAA, NOS, Pribilof Project Office, Seattle: sheet JL 111379.4, neg. 4216.


Young, Allison, photographer. 2000. Salthouse A, 2nd floor interior, west wall (north to south: left to right). Note rope linked with the building structure was used to pull the building down. Photograph (35mm). NOAA, NOS, Pribilof Project Office, Seattle: sheet JL 111379.4, neg. 4199; NMML; series includes negatives 4191 through 4202, excluding 4195.

Young, Allison, photographer. 2000. Salthouse A, 2nd floor interior, east wall; photographers Craig Bailey, DeAnna Morris, and John Lindsay (left to right). Photograph (35mm). NOAA, NOS, Pribilof Project Office, Seattle: sheet JL 111379.4, neg. 4216.


Lindsay, John A., photographer. 2000. Pencil “1943 Salt Miners S. Novak, Brown, Statznagal [?], Rossner, Toberman, Alt...m...ber, Alfred, JR.,” on wall panel below the barrel chute, 1st floor Salthouse A. Photograph (6x7cm). NOAA, NOS, Pribilof Project Office, Seattle: sheet JL 111381.6, neg. 3945.

Lindsay, John A., photographer. 2000. Pencil “Joe Doe, Geo. Kushnin worked here May 16, 1960,” followed by “Best Forman[?] illegible...1922.” Also, barely legible are tallies of sealskin counts on the wall panel below the barrel chute, 1st floor Salthouse A. Photograph (6x7cm). NOAA, NOS, Pribilof Project Office, Seattle: sheet JL 111381.6, neg. 3946.


Young, Allison, photographer. 2000. Salthouse A, interior view, south end, Key-Hole door (boarded up) with overhead crane rail, kenches on left and right forward of the door. Photograph (35mm). NOAA, NOS, Pribilof Project Office, Seattle: sheet JL 110929.3, neg. 4122.


Sealing Plant


Lindsay, John A., photographer. 2000. “1954 I was this year in 1954, John Mark now 28 years old, I work [illegible], work in Salthouse” on wood. Photograph (6x7cm). NOAA, NOS, Pribilof Project Office, Seattle: sheet JL111381.11, neg. 3960.


INTRODUCTION

As a result of the impending cancellation of the Fouke Fur Company contract December 31, 1962, it was deemed advisable that Bureau personnel connected with the Pribilof program expand and become more knowledgeable in the field processing of sealskins as has been carried on by Fouke for the past 40 years. It was not known, at the time of this writing, whether this responsibility will devolve upon the Government or whether this particular facet of processing would be included in the new contract. With these unknowns present, it appeared opportune to assign some staff member to the task of studying, observing and documenting this particular phase of processing, so that in the event the Government did take over, a satisfactory initial product would result. Program personnel who have been stationed on the Pribilofs are familiar, generally, with the demands and procedures involved in field processing but certain gaps and unfamiliarities have existed. It is the intent of this manual to fill those gaps and record the various steps so that anyone entirely unfamiliar with the operation would be knowledgeable as to what is entailed in preparing and preserving a raw sealskin prior to shipment to the finishing plant.

In documenting this, it was decided to treat each step as a separate subject and follow on through, chronologically, from the receipt of the skins until they are prepared for storage. It will be noted that pages containing figures and sketches generally follow the narrative which they are to illustrate.

It was also deemed advisable to include some historical examples, some data on allied and supporting aspects of field processing and a final category of general information which serves somewhat as a catchall for observations not generally included in the narrative. In some instances, it may be found to be repetitious to information already discussed in the text; however, it is felt that some of these points are important enough to be included in general information as a summary.

Prior and leading up to the subject with which we are concerned, is that of the initial taking of the seal. To give the reader a brief and preliminary background on this facet of the operation, the sealing crew which normally consists of 40 to 45 men (St. Paul), leaves the village at 4:00 a.m. each morning. Seals drive easier and suffer fewer casualties during cool early morning hours. Rookeries are driven in rotation; consequently, each rookery area is driven every fifth day. Drives are concentrated on hauling grounds which 2, 3 and 4 year old bachelors frequent. This age group is rounded up and driven to an adjacent killing field. Small pods consisting of 15 to 40 animals are cut out from the main group and clubbed. They are then laid out in rows of ten and the pelts removed by stripping. These are again laid out in rows, counted and loaded aboard trucks for transport to the processing plant. Young bachelors are in excess to the regular breeding herd and are too young and small to maintain harems of their own. Selection is again made while clubbing takes place and only bachelors with unscarred prime pelts are taken. Rejects are allowed to escape and it is this group which serves as breeding stock to propagate the species.
During a normal operating day, the first truck load of skins arrives at the processing plant at about 6:00 a.m. If possible, they are unloaded on the platform at Wash House "A" (See Fig. 2), as this affords a shorter and more direct route to the blubbering shed which is attached to Wash House "A". Four hundred skins are loaded in each truck and are counted as they are thrown off the truck onto the floor platforms. The driver and his helper throw the skins off, chanting out the number in rotation. Twenty is the tally and each twenty skins as they come off are recorded by a Fouke Fur representative and a Government representative. Their final count should agree after the truck is unloaded. In the event they do not agree, they are again counted as they are thrown into the tanks. Windows which can be opened are located opposite each tank and one truck load is usually unloaded at each window. (Note on Fig. 3 the capacity of the tanks on each side of the building.) These tanks are filled with sea water pumped from intakes located at West Landing dock. This water tests approximately 15 to 16% on the salinometer.
After unloading and counting onto the platforms, two men throw these skins through the window into the filled tanks. One man hoses the pelts with a high pressure stream of salt water while they are being tossed into the tank to remove excess blood, dirt and grass. When the tank is filled to capacity, the other tanks are filled in rotation as truck loads of skins arrive.

Normally, after the tanks are filled with skins making up the day's kill, they are transferred to the adjoining tanks filled with clean sea water, being hosed during the time the transfer takes place. A portable board approximately 4 feet wide and 6 feet long with 2 rows of 12-penny nails protruding, is set up between the tanks and the skins are thrown onto the board and hosed over into the clean tank by water pressure. After the 400 skins are transferred from one tank to the other, the first receiving tank is drained and cleaned. Water is then drained down into the second tank containing the skins and the overhead racks which are constructed to hold the skins under water are placed and wedged. The tanks are refilled with seawater; the first tank to receive skins from the adjoining tank, the second containing the skins to allow cooling and settling of the skins prior to blubbing. This process is repeated all along the line; if the day's kill is 1,600 seals, initially 5 tanks are needed to take care of their transfer.

During this phase of the operation, cold sea water is run into the tank almost constantly accepting at those intervals when the tank is being drained. This ensures a relatively low temperature at all times until the pelt has become cool. (The pelts usually contain considerable body heat.)

When the rack containing the skins has been set and the tank filled again, the skins are allowed to set underwater for a minimum of 24 hours. The water is drained down and the tank refilled sometime during the afternoon and again in the early morning following. Thus the skins are rinsed 3 times during this first phase of the processing operation.

Sexes are usually kept separate by placing in separate tanks when feasible. Early in the season, the few females taken are marked with a piece of string tied through a flipper hole. As the season progresses, the number of females increases until by mid-August they sometimes exceed the male take. When this occurs, strings are attached to the males. This is all done on the killing fields and record is kept of the total number of each sex.

1. This initial phase of field processing accomplishes the following:
   2. An accurate count that should agree with killing field count.
   3. Removes body heat and sets pelt for easier blubbing.
   4. Removes excess blood, dirt and grass.
BLUBBERING

The following morning the skins which remained overnight in the receiving tanks are loaded, 35 at the time, aboard carriers suspended from an overhead track and transported to the blubber shop. (See Fig.3.) During the big days, 2 carriers are employed at this task; one man to each carrier. The skins are distributed 4 on a blubbing bench, 1 on the beam, 3 on the racks alongside the beam. These are kept filled at all times, being fed from a table in the center aisle of the blubber shop by 2 men, one working each side. This table takes the excess skins from the wash house.

Blubbers, who actually remove flesh and fat from the skin, vary in number. Normally, this number runs between 20 and 30 and are Fouke Fur Company employees. Each man is assigned a beam and retains this position throughout the season. Since blubbing is a physically demanding and rigorous task, the workdays begins at 9:00 a.m. work ceases at 11:15 a.m. so that the workman can clean up for lunch. A good blubberer can work about 5 hours at top efficiency, and after that time, productivity drops off considerably. The top blubber for Fouke Fur this past season blubbed 98 skins in five hours and 5,027 for the entire season. Twenty-five skins per hour is considered average.

A 43-inch skin weighs approximately 18 to 20 pounds before the blubber is removed and 6 pounds after, so it can be seen that considerable fat and tissue is removed from each pelt. Handling and turning the skins at the rate of 25 to 45 per hour is arduous work.

In removing blubber from the pelt, a tool comparable to a curved draw-knife is used. It is approximately 24 inches long and 1 1/2 inches wide at the blade. The handles, instead of being separate, extend the length of the building just in front of the beams. Two men are employed at this task of keeping the beams clear and selecting blubber for kenching, one on each side of the building. Blubber, with a minimum of raw flesh, is selected and placed in buckets. The excess blubber is removed from around the head and neck. This is done with the blubber knife held at a 45° angle wielded with vigorous up and down movements by the blubberer. A good blubberer uses his back and shoulder more than his arms in this motion, as arm weariness will result in a short time if other muscles are not brought into play. Also, a good blubberer moves and turns the skins to a minimum, thus increasing efficiency and conserving strength.

After the blubber is removed from the head, the skin is turned around so as to "follow the grain," and the blubber and flesh is removed from the rest of the pelt. Various techniques are used. Some blubbers make a swath right down the center of the pelt to the tail and then pull up the sides, and others remove all the blubber as they work toward the tail of the pelt. Care is taken that all blubber is removed from around the flipper holes and the tail. This area is probably the most difficult to get thoroughly clean.

When the pelt has been blubbed, it is laid, fur side down, on a table in back of the blubber to be inspected and tallied to his account.

A team of 2 men (Fouke Fur), one working on each side of the table, pass along from table to table and inspect the skins after they are blubbed. Excess blubber is trimmed off from around the flipper holes, head and tail. The tail and ears are cut off. Areas which are not scraped clean are marked with indelible pencil and the skin is put to one side for the blubberer to re-do. Accepted skins are marked (indelible pencil) with the beam number and recorded on the blubber sheet. (See Fig. 4.) The skins are then stacked on a portable table, counted and the accounts compared with that of the 2-man inspection team. The pelts are placed on the table with fur side down.

When a table contains approximately 200 skins arranged into 2 to 4 piles, they are ready to transport to the Brine House. This is done by wheeling the tables, which are fitted with large fiber casters, directly into the Brine House. Two tables are employed on days of large killings. It is imperative that blubbed skins get into brine in as short a time as possible.

The blubber, after it is removed from the pelt by the blubbers, becomes somewhat of a by-product. Raw blubber is further processed and barreled for eventual rendering and converting to blubber oil. This oil is used in the tanning of male sealskins only and is computed on a basis of 1 gallon of oil for every 24 male skins. A barrel of blubber, weighing approximately 545 pounds, yields 18 gallons of oil. Only blubber from male seals is saved for further processing, as a female blubber is usually impregnated with milk.

Upon removal, it is scraped into a shallow concrete trough which extends the length of the building just in front of the beams. Twenty-five skins per hour is considered average. Twenty-five skins per hour is considered average. When the pelt has been blubbed, it is laid, fur side down, on a table in back of the blubber to be inspected and tallied to his account. A table in back of the blubber is employed on days of large killings. When a table contains approximately 200 skins arranged into 2 to 4 piles, they are ready to transport to the Brine House. This is done by wheeling the tables, which are fitted with large fiber casters, directly into the Brine House. Two tables are employed on days of large killings. It is imperative that blubbed skins get into brine in as short a time as possible.

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### SKETCH SHOWING SAMPLE PAGE OF BLUBBERING SHEET

**Kill #:** N.E. Point 2029 skins July 18, 1962

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<th>Rounds</th>
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<th>Fish</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Skins</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Flags</th>
<th>Years</th>
<th>Every</th>
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<td>20</td>
<td>4</td>
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</table>

**Time:** 3 hrs. 45 min.

**Field damages:** Hit Hit Hit Hit Hit Hit Hit

**Note:** Each inspection team is responsible for 15 beams. Upon completion of each round, the team will return to point of beginning and start again.

Fig. 4

### FLOOR LAYOUT

**SALT HOUSE "B"**

*(Not to scale.)*

34'-0"

**Concrete slab**

- **Salt kench for blubber holds approx. 28'-32' barrels of blubber
- **4" ground salt**

**Fig. 5**

Sealing Plant  751
The first step in the field processing is that of brining. This is the most critical of the entire process, as success in curing is determined at this point. Upon arrival of a table full of skins from the blubber shop, they are run through a wringer which accomplishes the dual purpose of again washing and then removing excess water. The wringer is a large commercial type, power-driven, with jets of water arranged on the feed-in side to spray the pelt as it goes through the rolls. There are two rolls approximately 3 feet long and 5 inches in diameter. The upper roll or pressure roll is constructed of comparatively soft rubber, the lower roll of a hard fiber. The skins are fed in with the fur side up; the jets of water are played on this side. Two men feed the wringer from the intake side and two men remove skins from the discharge side. Skins are fed alternately from one end of the wringer rolls to the other. The two men who remove the discharged skins pile them on a portable table fur side down in piles approximately 50 high. Each table can hold 3 or 4 pails.

The skins are then transferred to the brine tanks. (See Fig. 6 for general layout plan.) On St. Paul the brine tank installation consists of 2 large concrete tanks with a top capacity of 1,500 skins (5,000 gallons of brine) and one small wooden tank with a capacity of 350 skins. The small tank is used as a standby or on days when the kill is small. These tanks are filled with a saturated brine solution testing normally 105% on the salinometer. They are fitted with powered paddles which slowly revolve the skins around the tank in a counter-clockwise direction.

The skins are tossed into the tank one at a time, counted meanwhile and recorded in the Brining Book. They are counted in 25's (See Fig. 7 for sample page out of Brining Book) and the tank filled until the desired number is reached. Kills which total over 1,500 are divided between two tanks. As the skins are being fed into the small tank (fur side up) one man equipped with a pole plunges each skin so that it is totally immersed in the brine. While the tank is being filled, the brine-circulating pumps are kept running to insure proper circulation and constant reading on the salinometer. Fifteen hundred raw skins can lower the salinometer from a reading of 105% to 101%. This reading is checked every 7,000 skins. To hold these changes to a minimum and utilize the brine in proper solution, Fifteen hundred to 2,000 skins brined through requires an addition of approximately 40 sacks of salt in keeping the brine saturated all times. Undissolved salt is kept in the mixing tanks at all times and the brine from the paddle tank approaches a saturated solution, is drained off into the paddle tank. This process is repeated four times until the quantity of brine in the paddle tank approaches 5,000 gallons. It takes approximately 140 to 150 sacks of coarse salt to completely fill the paddle tank 14 inches from the top and to bring the salinometer reading to 105%. Undissolved salt is kept in the mixing tanks at all times and the brine from the paddle tank is circulated through this salt at intervals to keep it from becoming diluted. In the course of everyday brining, considerable water is lost in handling the skins themselves; hence, each batch of skins (1,500) requires an addition of approximately 40 sacks of salt in keeping the brine in proper solution. Fifteen hundred to 2,000 skins brined through the paddle tank sometimes lowers the salinometer as much as 6%. Care must be exercised to keep this brine saturated all times. During the 1962 season, when 60,578 skins were field processed, 1,502 one hundred-pound sacks of coarse salt were used for making brine.

It has been mentioned previously that the brine is changed after every 7,000 skins. To hold these changes to a minimum and utilize brine as long as possible, paddle tanks are cleaned with a paddles scrubber. This removes the coarser particles of blubber and foreign matter, but does not alleviate discoloration and slime in the water. The screening tool consists of a frame screen approximately 2 feet by 1 foot mounted on a wooden frame backing, which is in turn attached to a long pole. Larger particles are picked up as it is passed through the brine and then shook off into a disposal chute. The paddles are run to keep the water in circulation and make brine more accessible.

In making brine, sea water is used in preference to water from the salt water wells. Sea water at St. Paul tests 16%, while the well water tests 8%. Considerably more salt is necessary to bring well water up to saturated solution.

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In making brine, sea water is used in preference to water from the salt water wells. Sea water at St. Paul tests 16%, while the well water tests 8%. Considerably more salt is necessary to bring well water up to saturated solution.
Skins are transported from the brine house to the drying shed in carriers running on an overhead track. Considerable distance is involved in this transfer and can be noted by studying Fig. 2. The overhead track runs on the outside of the buildings therefore, when weather is inclement and rainy, the skins are covered with canvas while in transport to prevent dilution of the impregnated brine. In the drying shed, the skins are unloaded off the carriers on to a canvas tarpaulin spread out on the floor. Six men, usually a portion of the crew from the blubber shop and barreling shed, work at counting and piling these skins. Usually 2 or 3 men pick up the skins from the canvas, straighten them out and pile them, fur side down, on low tables. The piles are approximately 65 skins high. From this pile, skins are counted by 5's and stacked 85 skins high, on a gridwork of 4 X 6 inch timbers spread out on the floor. Piles are arranged side by side and in such a manner that each individual pile of 85 skins is humped up in the middle and the head and tail end sloping off from this point. This procedure is to allow for drainage and to prevent pockets where water can collect. The first skin of the pile is laid with the fur side down; the remaining 84 are laid with the fur side up. Each day's kill is isolated from previous and subsequent kills and tagged (See Fig. 8).

Skins which are rolled or curled are thrown to one side until the rest of the day's output has been piled. These skins are then spread out and piled on the last pile comprising that day's kill. As they are spread out, a thin layer of medium grain salt is spread on the skin side of the pelt to insure curing. On July 19, 1962, a kill at 2,029 skins was being spread out in the drying shed for draining. Out of that 2,029, twelve skins were curled. Skins from females are usually piled on the last pile also.

Each lot of skins remains in the drying shed for a minimum of 5 days before they are barreled to insure proper drainage and additional curing.

As previously mentioned, the crew that performs this task is made up of available personnel from the blubber shop and barreling shed. Since blubbering does not start until 9:00 a.m., men who are employed in the blubber shop are available the first thing in the morning to pile skins. This task is normally finished by the time blubbering starts; however, if this is not the case, two men from the barreling should remain to finish up before they go on to their regularly assigned duties.

Barreling probably constitutes what may be considered the second critical stage in field processing, as it is here where the skins undergo final preservative preparation and are packed for long indefinite storage and shipment. Approximately seven days have now elapsed since the skins were delivered to the receiving platforms. Normally, five men are employed in accomplishing this phase of field processing. One man is utilized in transporting the skins from the drying shed to the barreling shop. At the drying shed he again counts the skins by 5's and places them fur side up, on each end of the overhead carrier. When he has 40 pelts on each end of the carrier, he places the remaining 5, which makes a total of 85 pelts, in the center of the carrier. He then transports them to the barreling shop where they are piled on latticework boards similar to the installation in the drying shed. (See Fig. 9.) As he piles the skins, every 40th skin is turned skin side up and the extra 5, which he makes the 85 over 80, are folded on top of the pile. They remain in semi-storage at this point until such time as the barreling crew can get to them.
In barleying, each pike is regarded as a unit and placed on the folding table fur side down and 40 at a time. Each skin is spread out and covered with powdered borax acid which in turn is spread out evenly all over the pelt with the hands. Following the spreading of the borax, a thin coating of medium salt is applied in the same manner. Care is taken to see that the borax powder and salt is spread around the flipper holes, head and areas where the skin has folded over, particularly around the edges of the pelt. The skin is then folded and rolled. (See Fig. 9.) Upon completion, the rolled skins resemble a cylinder approximately 5 to 6 inches in diameter and 8 to 10 inches long with fur side out. These rolls are stacked in piles along the back end of the folding table.

One man is employed in filling the barrels. A sealskin barrel measures 33 inches high, 21 ¼ inches diameter at the heads and 24 inches in diameter at the bulge. On the back side of the table where the folding takes place, a circular ½ round cutout is provided (See Fig. 10) so that the barrel fits into this cut-out with the top of the barrel just protruding above the table top. A thin layer of medium grain salt is spread out on the bottom of the barrel. The rolled skins are then placed, two at a time, and on end, in the barrel. The sides are filled in and then the center, always working toward the center. The first layer will consist of 16 rolled skins stacked endways. A thin layer of salt is again spread over the top of the first layer, and the second layer begun. This is repeated until the barrel is full. At intervals throughout the process, the man filling the barrel will get into the barrel and stomp on the skins to pack them more firmly.

A sealskin barrel will take 85 skins of 2, 3 and 4 year old bachelors, 65 skins of females. This is due to the fact that young males average a smaller size than the older black and white whiskered females. The following formula is used in filling the barrels. The bulge of the barrel accounts for the difference in the numbers making up the layers.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Layer</th>
<th>Males</th>
<th>Females</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st layer</td>
<td>16 skins</td>
<td>12 skins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd layer</td>
<td>18 skins</td>
<td>14 skins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd layer</td>
<td>20 skins</td>
<td>16 skins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4th layer</td>
<td>17 skins</td>
<td>13 skins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5th layer</td>
<td>14 skins</td>
<td>10 skins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>85 skins</td>
<td>65 skins</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The packer marks the number of skins in each layer on the side of the barrel with a piece of lumber crayon, as he progressively works up to the top of the barrel in the filling process.

After the barrel is filled (85 male or 65 female skins), the barrel is shifted over to the cooperer. A small amount of space should remain above the skins; hence, he fills the space with 4 or 5 scoops of medium grain salt, spreading it out in filling the holes between the skins. He loosens the hoops to a point where he can fit in the barrel head and then twirls the hoops snugly so that the barrel will fit tightly into the barrel number. Stops, resembling short nails with off-center heads, are driven into the barrel against the hoops to prevent them from slipping. The barrel is then rolled over to a platform scale, weighed, and the weight, barrel number and the number of skins stenciled on both ends of the barrel. The stencil ink or paint should be waterproof so as not to fade, and become illegible. (See Fig. 11.) This information is recorded in the Barreling Book, a record which is maintained by the barreling shop to keep track of weight and stencils. (See Fig. 12.) The packed barrel is then rolled out into the overhead storage yard where the other barrels are stored and remain in rows of consecutive numbers until they are shipped by vessel to Seattle and onto the finishing plant.

Normally, males and females are packed in separate barrels. During the season of 1962, 3 different divisions were made, males, black whiskered females (immature females) and white whiskered females (mature females). To keep these divisions in orderly sequence and readily identify them, barrel numbers from the 1,000 were reserved for males, 1,001 through 1,500 for black whiskered females and 1,501 through 2,000 for white whiskered females. At the beginning of sealing, usually around the 2nd of July, very few females are taken, the kills being comprised almost entirely of males. When these daily kills have gone through all the preceding processes and are ready for barreling, situations arise where there is not enough of one category to make up a full barrel. A lot to be barreled may consist of 1,600 males, 42 black whiskered females and 14 white whiskered females. In situations of this kind, the skins are packed in partial barrels and held over until such time as the barrel is filled with the desired number of each category and then coopered, marked and placed out in storage. For example, barrel number 1,005 and barrel number 1,502 containing black and white whiskered females respectively, could conceivably require several days in filling. Conversely, toward the end of sealing season when kills are predominantly females, the same may hold true of males.

Barreling of the blubber which has been cured in kenches, a process which has been described on preceding pages of this report, is usually carried on in Salt House “A” or “B” where the blubber kenches are located. After the blubber has remained in the kenches for a minimum period of 2 weeks, it is barreled in a manner similar to the barreling of sealskins. A thin layer of medium grain salt is spread evenly on the bottom of the barrel. Then a layer of blubber which has been removed from the kenches is spread out evenly on top of the salt. Another thin layer of salt is added and again another layer of blubber. This is repeated until the barrel is filled. Upon filling, salt is spread over the top layer and the barrel head inserted in the same manner as the sealskin barrels, then coopered, weighed, numbered and stenciled and rolled out into the storage area. A full blubber barrel weights approximately the same as a sealskin barrel, running somewhere in the neighborhood of 500 to 550 pounds.

In undergoing the consecutive stages of field processing, skins turn up that, for various reasons, must be culled out and rejected. Some skins may have bites or scrapes which were overlooked at the killing field; others may have cuts or tears as a result of blubbering, etc. During the season of 1962 on St. Paul, 133 skins of which 14 were males and 119 female skins fell in this category.

These skins are usually cured in the normal manner as their discovery might occur anywhere throughout the various steps of processing. At the barreling stage, however, they are segregated and placed in the reject bin. (See Fig. 9.) Normally, at the end of the season, they are placed on the rolling table, examined, counted by representatives of the Government and the Fouke Fur Company. They are then cut up into strips and destroyed.
FLOOR LAYOUT
SALT HOUSE "A"
(Not to scale)

Salt kennels, holds approx. 60 tons of 3/4 ground salt.

Concrete slab

Up to coopering and barrelling shop

Overhead track

1" x 4" lattice work for draining skins

Cut-out for seal skin barrels

Back for folding and rolling skins

Salt storage
Platform scales

Bin for rejected skins

Storage area for barrelled skins

Fig. 9.

SKETCH SHOWING HOW SEALSKINS ARE FOLDED

(1)
Fold line

skin side up

Thin layer of 3/4 ground salt & barley spread on this side

Fold line

(2)
Fold line

(3)
Fold line

(4)
Top view before rolling

For side out

End view after rolling approx. 5" diameter and 8" long. Rolled tightly.

Fig. 10
**SKETCH SHOWING STENCIL MARKINGS ON ENDS OF SEALSkins BARRELS**

1962 U.S. Dept. of the Interior
Fish & Wildlife Service

BBL. No. 9b
Skins 85  lbs. 564
Fouke Fur Co.
St. Louis
Mo.

St. George sealskin barrels are marked with a G within the diamond.

Fig. 11

---

**SKETCH SHOWING SAMPLE PAGE FROM BARRELING BOOK**

7/20/62

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Kill #12</th>
<th>520 Males</th>
<th>Tolstoi Rookery</th>
<th>7/13, 1962</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2 Females (white whiskered)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>522</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Barrel No.</th>
<th>No. of skins</th>
<th>Weight</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>124</td>
<td>70+15</td>
<td>560 lbs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>125</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>560 &quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>126</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>562 &quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>127</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>561 &quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>128</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>560 &quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>129</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>573 &quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>130</td>
<td>80</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>520</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1001        | 1 cow (Black whiskered) |
1501        | 19 + 2 = 21 cows (White whiskered)

Note: 70 skins from preceding kill carried over. 15 skins from kill #12 required to fill barrel. Also barrels 1001 & 1501 carried forward. The 2 white whiskered cows placed in barrel 1501.

Fig. 12
STORAGE

The storage area for sealskin barrels after they have been filled, stenciled and recorded is an old open uncovered area between Salt House "A" and Salt House "B". (See Fig. 2.) They are laid out in rows starting with the first barrel of the season and with numbers running consecutively, until the last barrel is reached. Males, immature females, mature females and blubber are kept separate. During the season of 1962, the following numbers were reserved for these categories:

St. Paul
Barrel #1 through Barrel #1000 - Males
Barrel 1001 through Barrel #1500 - Immature Females
Barrel #1501 through Barrel #2000 - Mature Females
Barrel #1 through Barrel #168 - Blubber

The blubber barrels are distinctly marked blubber.

St. George
Barrel #2001 through Barrel #2500 - Males
Barrel #2501 through Barrel #3000 - Immature Females
Barrel #3001 through Barrel #3500 - Mature Females
Barrel #1 through barrel #55 - Blubber

Since the barrels are exposed to the elements all season, the material used for stenciling should be weatherproof and clearly legible. During the season of 1962, we were compelled to go over stencils, particularly the numbers and weights, with a plastic paint.

Approaching the end of the active season of sealing and when a goodly proportion of the production is barreled and stored in the storage area, selection of barrels for division between Japan and Canada is made. Each year these respective Governments select 3 numbers between 1 and 20. To prevent duplication of numbers it was decided in 1958 that one of the countries would select even numbers and the other odd numbers. It was further agreed that Canada would select odd numbers in even years and even numbers in odd years. In 1962, the numbers selected by the representative governments were as follows:

Japan       Canada
Barrel Number 2   Barrel Number 5
Barrel Number 8   Barrel Number 9
Barrel Number 16  Barrel Number 17

The selections make up the 15% allocated to each government by treaty.

Upon receipt of these selections, usually in early August, each barrel out of 20 is marked in accordance with these selections. They are marked with white paint for Canada, black paint for Japan. At the end of the season some barrels are, necessarily, only partially filled to accommodate this division between governments.

Shipping of the season's production usually occurs in the fall at the end of the active sealing season. In years prior to 1962, the entire pack was transported to Seattle via Naval transport, but since suspension of this service in 1961, the 1962 production was transported in 2 lots, one in August and the balance in November aboard the service vessel FWS Penguin. Her top capacity in sealskin barrels is approximately 500.

Transport to the contractor plant is usually contracted for by the General Services Administration and is accomplished either by rail or truck, whichever bid is the lowest. Attempt is made to expedite these shipments from arrival in Seattle to the finishing plant as much as possible to minimize storage in unrefrigerated warehouses.

Skins which have been cured and barreled in the manner outlined in previous pages of this report should be well preserved and quite safe from deterioration under any but very abnormal conditions such as excessive heat. Average temperatures during July and August when the barrels remain in outside storage on the Islands runs in the 40's and 50's and rarely do we have a day in the 60's. However, when barrels are transported to warmer climates, they should be placed in refrigerated storage when long periods of storage are contemplated. They should be held in temperatures just above freezing (33 to 34 degrees), and at 75% humidity to insure that no bacterial action takes place.

LAYING UP THE PLANT

Upon completion of the active sealing season and the resultant harvest is cured and barreled, consideration must be given to laying up the plant. Winter conditions on the Pribilofs are rigorous with high salt-laden winds and prolonged periods of below freezing weather. Water lines must be drained and equipment and machinery greased or oiled for protection against rust. Through the years, a definite procedure and format has been established and is listed as follows:

1. Grease all the blubbery beams.
2. Drain and clean all receiving tanks.
3. Tie up latticework tank racks. Store loose racks for drying out.
4. Open all valves and drain all water lines.
5. Remove casters from portable tables and grease.
6. Drain, clean and rinse brining tanks and brine mixing tanks.
7. Dismantle all overhead carriers, grease moving parts and store. Switches on the fixed tracks should be wire brushed and greased.
8. Disconnect electric motors and store in electric shop. Motors are as follows:
   (a) 5 - brine tank motors (paddle wheel motors)
   (b) 2 - wringer tank motors
   (c) 3 - circulating pump motors
   (d) 2 - salt water pump house motors
   (e) 1 - salt water well pump motor
(f) 1 - conveyor motor and chain
(g) 1 - electric-operated Budget chain hoist

9. Remove wringer rollers and store.

10. All chains in chain drives to be immersed and stored in drum of diesel oil.

11. Circulating pumps to be disconnected, filled with oil and intake and outlet holes plugged with pipe plugs. Store in Electric Shop.

12. Remove the overhead carrier track between Wash Houses “A” and “B” and between Wash House “A” and Salt House “B”. (See Fig. 2.)

13. Remove all valve stems and seats and grease. This applies to all valves on the brine lines.

14. Dismantle large 8-inch salt water intake hose and store.

15. Remove platform scales in barreling shop, oil and grease and store in carpenter shop.

16. All tools, such as blubber knives, straight knives, etc. should be either greased or blades immersed in oil when practicable.

17. Prior to final water shut off, floors should be swept and washed down.

During this laying up process, tags should be used freely and all components tagged as to their identity, location and function. This greatly expedites reinstallation in the spring.

Preparing the plant for processing in the spring is a direct reversal of the laying up process. This usually begins in mid-May upon arrival of the Chain temporaries who are for the most part, employed in the processing plant during the summer months.

Coopering barrels is another pre-season task which is usually accomplished during the early spring months. Barrels are received knockdown and are assembled by the local native workers. The season's needs are estimated, and enough barrels are coopered and stored to satisfy these needs.

PROCESSING ON ST. GEORGE ISLAND

It will be noted that the bulk of the preceding discussion is applicable to processing as carried on on St. Paul Island. This seeming bias is brought about by the fact that St. Paul accounts for 80% of the amount of annual Pribilof production, while St. George accounts for the remaining 20%. Basically, procedures and controls are the same on St. George as they are on St. Paul. Some minor differences exist in techniques, this being due mainly to differences in the plant layout and the fact that local and Chain native help is used exclusively. For instance, the St. George blubberers which normally number 12 to 15 men are local residents, while on St. Paul, college students numbering from 22 to 30 make up this crew. These students are hired on a temporary basis from the States and transported to St. Paul just prior to sealing season and upon completion of sealing are transported back to their homes.

Manpower needed to carry on field processing exclusive of blubberers numbers 7 men on St. George, including one native foreman and one Fouke Fur representative, while on St. Paul this comparative number is 25 men of which 2 are native foremen and 4 are Fouke Fur representatives. Total manpower utilized in operating the processing plant during the season of 1962 was 22 men for St. George and 48 for St. Paul. On St. George, all the blubberers, with the exception of one man, were also members of the sealing crew. Blubering was done upon return from sealing and was paid for on a piece-work basis by Fouke Fur Company. Thirty cents a skin was the going rate.

The general design and layout of the St. George plant is much better than that of the St. Paul installation. On St. Paul four separate and detached buildings comprise the processing plant, while on St. George, 3 buildings constructed in a U shape and attached serve the same purpose. (See Fig. 2 and Fig. 14.) This latter design tends toward a more progressive and orderly procedure with a maximum use of manpower. Skins need not be transported over long distances on overhead track and exposed to the elements while this takes place. The receiving tanks all are confined to one building, the blubber shop to another and brine tanks, drying racks and barreling shop to the third, all buildings being interconnected. In this connection, it is recommended that a study be inaugurated to redesign the St. Paul plant somewhat along similar lines.

Minor differences exist in equipment. St. George does not have any large concrete paddle tanks, the brining being accomplished in 4 small wooden paddle tanks with capacity for 250 to 300 skins similar to the standby tank on St. Paul. Normally, these tanks are loaded with only 250 pelts, as the tendency for the skins to roll up is greater in the smaller tanks than in the large concrete tanks. It takes 40 sacks of coarse salt to make a saturated solution of brine and 4 sacks a day to keep this solution while it is being operated at a 250 skin capacity in the smaller tanks.

Controls on brine are similar, as are of the controls and procedures on receiving, blubering, brining, drying, barreling and storing. St. George no longer derives its salt water supply from the sea, depending entirely on two recently drilled wells which furnish salt water in ample supply.
Relationship of Skin Curing Plant to other Village Installations.

SKETCH SHOWING RELATIONSHIP OF PLANT BUILDINGS
(Not to scale)

Fig. 13

Fig. 14
FLOOR LAYOUT
TANK HOUSE
(Not to scale)

Unloading dock
300 skins
Approx. 3600 gal. cap.
Salt Kench
35' deep
19'
10'

Skin Tanks
35' deep
30' deep

4' high
12'

46'

Fig. 15

FLOOR LAYOUT
BLUBBER SHOP
(Not to scale)

26'6"

Sorting & counting tables
Blubbering beams
5 per battery
15 total
Blubber Trough
Overhead track
Tank House

Fig. 16
1. Man-power requirements

Man-power required to carry on field processing remains quite stable from year to year. The plants on both Islands being designed as they are, and with the present equipment, require a set number of men to operate whether the season's take is large or small. The only category which can be adjusted to any extent to cope with the vagaries of each season's return is the blubberers, our system of predicting what will be available in any given year is not refined enough to cut or increase one work force in anticipation large or small harvests. During the season of 1962, the work force was predicted on an estimated take of approximately 100,000 skins. Blubberers were imported from states on this premise. The workforce was sub-divided as follows:

St. Paul Island - 48 to 52
1. Blubberers - 23 men (plus 4 locals on days of large kills)
2. Tank house - 10 men
   (a) 3 men - transporting skins on carriers from receiving tanks to blubber shop
   (b) 2 men - hanging skins on blubber racks
   (c) 2 men - pushing and selecting blubber for kenching
   (d) 3 men - throwing and washing skins into receiving tanks
3. Brine tanks - 6 men
   (a) Shift to various jobs; transporting skins, wringing and brining skins, preparing new brine, etc.
4. Barreling - 5 men
   (a) 1 man - transporting skins from drying shed to barreling shed
   (b) 1 man - folding and rolling skins
   (c) 1 man - counting him packing in barrels
   (d) 1 man - coopering sealskin barrels after filling
   (e) 1 man - weighing and marking barrels, counting, etc.
5. Supervisory - 4 men (Fouke Fur Company)
   (a) Inspecting skins after blubbering; general overseeing of plant activities

St. George - 22 men
1. Blubberers - 15 men (Local residents)
2. Tank house
3. Brine Tanks - 6 men - These men were shifted from job to job.
4. Barreling
5. Supervisory - 1 man (Fouke Fur Company)
   (a) Inspecting skins after blubbering, general overseeing of plant activities
2. Brining and kenching

As pointed out in previous pages of this report, coarse salt is used for making brine, medium salt is used for kenching and barreling. In making brine, it is advantageous to use sea water rather than salt well water, as less salt is required to obtain a saturated solution. This, however, cannot be done on St. George, as wells are the only feasible source for salt water requirements. Preparing the brine and the controls used in preparation are comparable in both Islands. However, minor differences exist in procedures involving the curing of skins. Brine is changed at St. George every 7 days rather than every 7,000 skins. Also, skins are revolved in the paddle tanks for approximately 8 hours rather than 5 ½ to 6 hours as they are on St. Paul. This is due to smaller tank capacity and the tendency for skins to roll up more in the smaller tanks.

The salt kenches for salting blubber on both Islands are comparable in size. They hold approximately 60 tons of medium ground salt. This can be used over and over again but it does deteriorate in time by becoming impregnated with blubber oil and solidifying. At the present time, some thought should be given to replacing four kenches of salt which we have on St. Paul.

3. Barreling

Sealskin barrels are distinctively marked to designate which Island they come from. This marking is included in the regular stencil which is used in marking both ends of a sealskin barrel. Approximately in the center of the stencil, just above the barrel number, is a diamond. A letter "P", centered within the diamond designates St. Paul; the letter "G" designates St. George. (See Fig. 11)

4. Equipment

Since the taking and processing of sealskins is a highly specialized business, it follows that some of the tools and equipment used are also specialized. Some equipment is custom-built, such as the wooden paddle tanks, blubbering beams, etc., while some, on the other hand, is adaptation from other industrial uses. The overhead carriers employed for transporting skins are an adaptation of the manure carriers used so extensively on dairy farms. Much of the maintenance and upkeep requirements have been developed by experimentation and trial and error. For instance, it has been found that stainless steel shafting and stainless steel lag screws are needed to withstand the corrosive action of the brine and that stainless steel or brass fittings are the only materials which will retain any degree of permanency. Specialized tools such as tongs, bars, blubber knives, etc. are the results of years of experimentation and are not available on the open market. Replacement of tools and equipment could be a problem, were it not for the fact that each Island keeps records of this material. Catalogs, requisitions, purchase orders and property record data are available. When replacement parts or tools are needed, their sources should be consulted in order to save extensive time and research in procuring them.
Alaska Heritage Resources Survey

AHRS #: XPI-048
Aliquot: S035S132W/25
Lat./Long.: 170° 16’ 40.13” W, 57° 07’ 20.94” N
Acreage: <.25
Map sheet: St. Paul Island West (1:25,000)

Site Name(s): Six-Car Garage, Building V

Site Description: XPI-048 is a long 73’x28’ single-story side-gabled wood frame building with six garage doors on the south side. The western bay is narrower than the other five and has a pedestrian doorway cut into it (now partly battened). The building has wood drop siding on the walls. The roof is covered with corrugated metal roofing, and several areas are missing the roofing so that the roof sheathing and even rafters are exposed. By the mid-1980s, the building was described as abandoned with sand drifts around and inside it. In 2007, sand on the windward side had drifted up to the building’s eaves on the east end.

Significance: According to the 1986 nomination form, the Six-Car Garage was built in the 1930s. However, an aerial photograph taken by Victor B. Scheffer in 1948 did not show the structure. The Six-Car Garage was built in 1954 by the U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Commercial Fisheries to shelter small cars and trucks that serviced the fur-seal industry. The six-car garage eventually fell into disrepair and disuse, and at the time of inspection in 2004 was abandoned. It is a contributing building to the Seal Island National Historic Landmark.

Location: Tract 46; On Sandy Lane between Hill Street and the Polovina Turnpike, St. Paul Village, St. Paul Island, Alaska

Citations:


Danger of Destruction: Present Condition: Poor
Ecosystem:
Pertinent Dates: constructed AD 1954
Period: Historic
Resource Nature: B
Cultural Affiliation: Aleut, Euro-American
Preservation Status & Date: Contributing building to Seal Islands NHL (1986)
Property Owner: NOAA
Repository: Accession #: BIA/BLM #: Other # (specify):
Historic American Buildings Survey

SIX-CAR GARAGE
(BUILDING V)
HABS No. AK-219
AHRS No. XPI-048

Location: Tract 46, on Sandy Lane between Hill Street and the Polovina Turnpike, Village of St. Paul, St. Paul Island, Pribilof Islands, Alaska

Significance: Completed in 1955, the Six-Car Garage was built by the U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Commercial Fisheries to house federally-owned vehicles.

Description: The Six-Car Garage is a long 73'-2" x 24'-0" single-story side-gabled wood frame building with six-garage doors on the south wall. The western bay is narrower than the other five and has a pedestrian doorway cut into it (now partly battened). The west wall has a battened pedestrian door and one battened window. The north wall has no windows. The building has wood drop siding on the walls. The roof is covered with corrugated metal roofing, and several areas lost the roofing so that the roof sheathing and rafters are exposed.

History: The Six-Car Garage was completed in 1955 (the building date in the 1986 NHL nomination form erroneously states the date as the 1930s). The garage housed federally-owned delivery and pick-up trucks.

Eventually the garage fell into disrepair and disuse. A 1986 report states that “In the spring of 1985, the six-space garage was converted into a limited automobile service station by the village corporation. The station does repairs for private automobile owners if the owner orders and provides all necessary parts.” The report also notes that the upkeep of the garage would require “Extensive maintenance” to keep up the facility. “Sand drifts around the building inhibit access. The drifts also contribute to the rotting of the exterior wood siding.” In 2004, sand on the windward side had drifted up to the building’s eaves.

Sources:


Pribilof Islands Research: John A. Lindsay (NOAA), Betty A. Lindsay, Robin Maberry, Karla Sclater, 2009

Associated Drawings and Photographs created by the NPS:
AK-219-1 View looking northeast


Various Industrial and Commercial Buildings

Photograph No. 22-MP-3-54 (Photographer unknown), circa 1917; Former Cold Storage Building (center), Native House no. 1 with elevated roof line (left). Records of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, RG 370; NARA—Pacific Alaska Region (A).

Photograph No. USBF 1.79 (Photographer G Dallas Hanna), 1919; Old Store; note the tram in front of the store and the old salt house in the background (right), St. Paul Village. Records of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, RG 370; NARA—Pacific Alaska Region (A).
Various Industrial and Commercial Buildings

Photograph No. 95-ADMC-228 (Photographer unknown), 1955; Sawmill (left foreground), Pump House (left background), Winch House (center at top of boatways), old Machine Shop (behind Winch House), old Storehouse (behind Machine Shop), Point Warehouse (top), Equipment Garage/Halibut Plant (right) and Equipment Garage/Municipal Garage (right foreground), St. Paul Island, Alaska. The drill rig is drilling a saltwater well. The collection of buildings on the hillside is possibly U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey house and support buildings or Weather Bureau compound. Records of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, RG 370; NARA—Pacific Alaska Region (A).


Photograph No. USBF 2.73 (Photographer unknown), 1920; Garage for tractors. Records of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, RG 370; NARA—Pacific Alaska Region (A).
Map. Aero-Metric, Inc., photographer. 2006. Petroleum Off-Shore Survey (POSS) Camp and other buildings near the Airport, St. Paul Island, Alaska (Aero-Metric, Inc., for NOAA). In the early 1980's, a telecommunications tower was erected by an oil exploration consortium led by Exxon Oil Company to support offshore oil exploration activities. In 1999, the site was selected for a hybrid wind/diesel energy generating system, operated by Tanaq Corporation (TDX). A hotel was begun circa 200. Hanger buildings were used to store parts, to repair automobiles, and to house USCG helicopters during the winter and fishing seasons. Aerial photograph provided courtesy of Aleutian Pribilof Islands Association (APIA) and Alaska Department of Commerce, Commerce and Economic Development.
Alaska Heritage Resources Survey

AHRS #: XPI-222
Aliquot: S035S132W
Lat./Long.: 170° 16.922' W, 57° 07.334' N
Acreage: <0.5
Map sheet: St. Paul Island West (1:25,000)

Site Name(s): shed
Site Description: XPI-222 is a shed about the same size as wash houses located outside some homes, but it’s clad in T1-11 and has modern ribbed metal roofing.
Significance: This building was judged to be a noncontributing building to the Seal Islands National Historic Landmark in the 1986 nomination form.
Location: Down slope from Eagan Street, St. Paul Village, St. Paul Island, Pribilof Islands, Alaska.

Citations:

Danger of Destruction:
Present Condition: Good
Ecosystem:
Pertinent Dates: Unknown construction date
Period: Historic
Resource Nature: B
Cultural Affiliation: Aleut, Euro-American
Preservation Status & Date:
Property Owner:
Repository:
Accession #:
BIA/BLM #: Other # (specify):

Mobley, Charles, photographer. 2007. West and south sides, Shed. Also shown is Aleut Laborer House 6 (right). Photograph (35mm). NOAA, NOS, Pribilof Project Office, Seattle.
**Site Name(s):** Site of Small Frame Structure (T)

**Site Description:** XPI-046 is the site of the Small Frame Structure (T), a contributing building to the NHL that has been demolished. The contemporary cannery building, leased by Trident Seafoods, partly overlaps structure's former location.

**Significance:** XPI-046 is the site of a Small Frame Structure which the NPS 1986 nomination form speculated was built before 1918. No record of this structure has been located. A small frame structure shows up in this location in a 1982 aerial photo, but not in prior aerial photos. By 1995, the fish-processing building was built in this area. It is impossible to say what the building was or when it was constructed; the extant records do not reveal any specifics about this particular building. This structure was considered a contributing building to the Seal Island National Historic Landmark but it was razed at some point after 1986.

**Location:** Tract 46; At the old dock on Village Cove, St. Paul Village, St. Paul Island, Pribilof Islands, Alaska.

**Significant Dates:** Site contained building possibly built before AD 1918, demolished between 1986 and 1998

**Period:** Historic

**Cultural Affiliation:** Aleut, Euro-American

**Preservation Status & Date:** Property Owner: NOAA

**Repository:** Accession #: BIA/BLM #: Other # (specify):

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**Citations:**


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**Danger of Destruction:**

Present Condition: Overlain by cannery building and metal container storage

Ecosystem:

Pertinent Dates: Site contained building possibly built before AD 1918, demolished between 1986 and 1998

Period: Historic

Resource Nature: site

**Cultural Affiliation:** Aleut, Euro-American

**Preservation Status & Date:** Property Owner: NOAA

Repository:

Accession #: BIA/BLM #: Other # (specify):
Various Industrial and Commercial Buildings

Photograph No. 95-ADMC-2407 (Photographer unknown), 1964; Small Frame Structure (T). Faulkner (1986), provided a cryptic description of Structure T—“Small frame structure. (T) May possibly be one of the houses constructed pre-1918. Abandoned.” Faulkner included this building on the NHL map 5 (Map 6 herein) near the west dock on Village Cove. This may be a photo of “Structure T”, Records of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, RG 370; NARA—Pacific Alaska Region (A).

Additional Buildings and Resources

Hill, Evan, photographer. 1943. Gun emplacement dug by U.S. Army, June 20, 1943. Note: These dugouts are not barabaras. Photograph. Alaska State Library, Historical Collections: PCA 343, Evan Hill Photograph Collection, P343.344.
Hill, Evan, photographer. 1943. U.S. Army observation post on Cemetery Hill (Black Bluff), camouflaged with chicken wire and grasses, September 1943. Note: These dugouts are not barabaras. Photograph. Alaska State Library, Historical Collections: PCA 343, Evan Hill Photograph Collection, P343.361.

Hill, Evan, photographer. 1943. U.S. Army observation post on Cemetery Hill (Black Bluff), camouflaged with chicken wire and grasses, September 1943. Note: These dugouts are not barabaras. Photograph. Alaska State Library, Historical Collections: PCA 343, Evan Hill Photograph Collection, P343.346.
**Other Greenhouses**


Records of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, RG 370. NARA—Pacific Alaska Region (A).
Photograph No. 95-ADMC-259 (Photographer unknown), 1950s; One of the new greenhouses for government employees. Photograph. Fredericka Martin Collection, no. 91-223-156, Archives, Alaska and Polar Regions Collections, Rasmuson Library, University of Alaska Fairbanks.


Photograph No. 22-RB-1949-18 (Photographer unknown), 1952; Plants in greenhouse. Records of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, RG 22; NARA, Special Media Archives Services Division, National Archives at College Park, College Park, MD.

Photograph No. 22-RB-1952-33 (Photographer unknown), 1952; Greenhouse used by government agents in St. Paul Village. Records of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, RG 22; NARA, Special Media Archives Services Division, National Archives at College Park, College Park, MD.
Old Post Office/Duna’s Kitchen

Alaska Heritage Resources Survey

AHRS #: XPI-151
Aliquot: S035S132W/25
Lat./Long.: 170° 16.866' W, 57° 07.328' N
Acreage: <.25
Map sheet: St. Paul Island West (1:25,000)

Site Name(s): Old Post Office/Duna’s Kitchen

Site Description: XPI-151 is a single-story frame building clad with wood drop siding and with a shallow-pitched gable roof covered in wood shingles. The main entrance is on the north gable end, where a 4’ metal roof overhang partly protects a wheelchair ramp. Flush against the northwest corner of the north gable wall are three windows. Beneath the three windows and extending across the whole north wall is a rock masonry wainscot. Close under the eaves on the east and west walls are a bank of four windows. The south gable end has an enclosed entry with a gable roof.

Significance: XPI-151 was built in 1967 by the St. Paul Traditional Council for lease to the U.S. Postal Service as the village postal office. It was constructed on the site of a former power plant that was decommissioned in 1960 and destroyed by fire on July 7, 1966. In 1997, the post office was moved to a new location and the building remained unoccupied for four years, until the St. Paul Traditional Council converted the building into a café and delicatessen named Duna’s Kitchen. The café moved to a new location in 2004, leaving the building once again unoccupied at the time of inspection (2004). This structure was not considered a contributing building to the Seal Island National Historic Landmark nomination in 1986.

Location: Tract A, Block 1, Lots 1 & 2, On the north side of Tolstoi Boulevard, St. Paul Village, St. Paul Island, Pribilof Islands, Alaska.

Citations:

Danger of Destruction:
Present Condition: Fair
Ecosystem:
Pertinent Dates: Built AD 1967
Period: Historic
Resource Nature: B
Cultural Affiliation: Aleut, Euro-American
Preservation Status & Date: Not a contributing resource in the original 1986 NHL nomination.
Property Owner: St. Paul Traditional Council
Repository:
Accession #: Other # (specify):
Photograph No. 95-ADMC-1104 (Photographer unknown), February 2, 1968; Interior, Old Post Office/Duna's Kitchen, showing mail box lobby. Records of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, RG 370; NARA—Pacific Alaska Region (A).

Photograph No. 95-ADMC-1103 (Photographer unknown), February 2, 1968; Interior, Old Post Office/Duna's Kitchen, showing workroom area. Records of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, RG 370; NARA—Pacific Alaska Region (A).

Photograph No. 95-ADMC-1092 (Photographer unknown), February 2, 1968; Old Post Office/Duna's Kitchen, showing rear side of service counter. Records of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, RG 370; NARA—Pacific Alaska Region (A).
Memorandum

TO: Program Director, MMRP, Seattle  
FROM: ROF Representative, St. Paul Island  
DATE: February 6, 1968  

SUBJECT: Community Activities

The hi-lite of the past week was the opening of the new St. Paul Post Office. Open house was held Friday evening February 2nd, coffee and cake served. Wednesday, February 7th, will mark the initial day of service for the community owned establishment.

Enclosed are polaroid pictures of the building exterior and interior showing professional appearance and workmanship. These pictures were taken just prior to moving day.

Council President, Tishon Stepetin, is scheduled to depart Feb. 7th to attend a land claim hearing at Anchorage. BIA to bear all transportation expenses.

Harold Thayer

Enclosures


Paint Shop Site

Alaska Heritage Resources Survey

AHRS #: XPI-047
Aliquot: S035S132W/25
Lat./Long.: 170° 16’ 43.45” W, 57° 07’ 20.36” N
Acreage: <.25
Map sheet: St. Paul Island West (1:25,000)

Site Name(s): Paint Shop Site, Building U
Site Description: XPI-047 is the site of a single-story front-gabled frame building with wood drop siding and wood shingles on the roof that has since been demolished. The current Anderson building’s far southeast corner overlaps the west end of the paint shop’s footprint.
Significance: XPI-047 is the site of a paint shop built in 1931 by the Bureau of Fisheries, U.S. Department of Commerce to store paint and to provide space for painting portable property associated with the commercial seal harvest and the broader federal operations on St. Paul Island. The Paint Shop “was moved to a location just East of Washhouse B. preparatory to clearing a site for the proposed store and warehouse” in 1953. Whether this “Paint Shop” is the same as the “Paint Warehouse” which the Army began construction on in 1943 and completed by the Bureau of Fisheries in 1944 is unclear. However, the “Paint Shop” was a contributing building to the Seal Island National Historic Landmark but was razed after the initial phase of the Anderson building was erected in 1985 for use as a seafood storage facility.
Location: Tract 46; At the corner of Hill Street and Warehouse Street, St. Paul Village, St. Paul Island, Pribilof Islands, Alaska

Citations:
Manager’s Annual Report, St. Paul Island, Alaska for the year ending March 31, 1954.

Danger of Destruction: Demolished by 1987
Present Condition: Non-existing
Ecosystem:
Pertinent Dates: building constructed AD 1931, demolished by 1987
Period: Historic
Resource Nature: Site
Cultural Affiliation: Aleut, Euro-American
Preservation Status & Date: Property Owner: NOAA
Repository:
Accession #: BIA/BLM #: Other # (specify):


Photograph No. 95-ADMC-2514 (Photographer unknown), circa 1985; Former Paint Shop (left foreground) and Navy Radio Station. Records of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, RG 370; NARA—Pacific Alaska Region (A).
PAINT SHOP (BUILDING U)
HABS No. [not yet assigned]
AHRS No. XPI-047

Location: Tract 46 At the corner of Hill Street and Warehouse Street, Village of St. Paul, St. Paul Island, Pribilof Islands, Alaska

Significance: Although this building was listed as a contributing resource in the 1986 NHL form, the building was razed to make room for the Anderson Building, built in 1987.

Description: The paint shop was a single-story front-gabled frame building measuring 60' x 28' 4"; with wood drop siding and wood shingles on the roof. The Anderson Building’s far southeast corner overlaps the west end of the paint shop’s footprint.

History: This area is the site of a paint shop built in 1931 by the Bureau of Fisheries, U.S. Department of Commerce, to store paint and to provide space for painting portable property associated with the commercial seal harvest and the broader federal operations on St. Paul Island.

Sources:

Pribilof Islands Research: John A. Lindsay (NOAA), Betty A. Lindsay, Robin Maberry, and Karla Sclater, 2009

Alaska Heritage Resources Survey

AHRS #: XPI-035  Aliquot: S035S132W/25
Lat./Long.: 170°16.958' W, 57°07.428' N  Acreage: <.25
Map sheet: St. Paul Island West (1:25,000)  UTM:

Site Name(s): power plant
Site Description: The power plant was a high-ceiling one-story industrial building built in 1960, with a concrete floor and walls and flat roof. It had a shed-roofed section that ran the length of the north wall, containing office and storage space. There was a large garage door on the east wall. The east wall also had two transom, another window, and one boarded window, and double wood doors. There was a metal door at the far north end of the east wall. One boarded doorway was located on the south wall. A building attached to the south side of the power plant was removed around 2003. A roof extension covered an added room at the west end of the north wall. It was also clad in modern ribbed metal sheeting. There were five windows on the north wall.

Significance: XPI-035 was judged to be a noncontributing building to the Seal Islands National Historic Landmark in the 1986 nomination form. The power plant was decommissioned in 1998; the building was razed in 2007.

Location: Haul Road, at north end of the core of St. Paul Village, near the old dock on Village Cove.

Citations:

Danger of Destruction:
Present Condition: Razed AD 2007
Ecosystem:
Period: Historic
Resource Nature: Site
Cultural Affiliation: Aleut, Euro-American
Preservation Status & Date: noncontributing building to Seal Islands NHL (1986)
Property Owner: NOAA
Repository:
Accession #: Other # (specify):
Historic American Buildings Survey

POWER PLANT
HABS No. AK-216

Location: Haul Road, at north end of the core Village of St. Paul, near the old dock on Village Cove

Significance: Although listed as a noncontributing resource in the 1986 NHL nomination form, the NPS documented the building in 2004 and a HABS number was assigned to it. The Power Plant supplied electricity to the island from 1960 to 1998. The building, however, was razed in 2007.

Description: The power plant was a high-ceilinged, one-story industrial building built in 1960, with a concrete floor and walls and flat roof. It had a shed-roofed section the length of the west wall, containing office and storage space. The south wall was mostly taken up by a large garage door, with two large transom windows and double-swinging wooden doors. The garage door was flanked by two windows, of which one was boarded up. An entrance was located at the far west side of the south entry. The west wall had no windows that could be observed; the west had one battened pedestrian door. The shed-roofed section forming the east wall had its half-gable clad in modern ribbed metal sheeting, and was roofed with the same material. A roof extension covered a room extension on the north end of the east wall, and that extension was clad in modern ribbed metal sheeting. Two windows were located on the east wall.

History: The Power Plant was built in 1960. A building attached to the south side of the Power Plant at some point in time, was removed in 2003. In operation from 1960 until its decommission in 1998, the Power Plant was razed in 2007.

Sources:


Pribilof Islands Research: John A. Lindsay (NOAA), Betty A. Lindsay, Robin Maberry, and Karla Sclater, 2009

Associated Drawings and Photographs created by the NPS:
AK-216-1 Front view, looking south


Photograph No. 95-ADMC-931 (Photographer unknown), n.d.; West and north sides, former Power Plant. Records of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, RG 370; NARA—Pacific Alaska Region (A).


The Northeast Point, or Novostoshnah Rookery, is the largest on St. Paul Island. At times the rookery has been divided into the Morjovi rookery and the Vostoshni rookery. Northeast Point, located at the northeast end of St. Paul Island, lies approximately twelve miles by road, from St. Paul Village. During the Russian administration, a relatively large village was located here. G Dallas Hanna, a naturalist and government agent on the Seal Islands from 1913 to 1920, reported that the remnants of old sod barabaras still remained. As early as 1805, naturalist and physician Georg Heinrich von Langsdorff described a large wooden Russian cross on a hill and noticed “several abandoned earthen huts. Instead of beams they were supported by whale bones. Here and there we found tools, containers, rotten furs, sealskin, logs, etc.” The people Langsdorff met on St. Paul told him that they had lived on St. Paul for about twelve years.

Henry Wood Elliott’s 1872 map (vol. 1, p. 117) of Northeast Point identifies a small building called “Norton’s House,” a salthouse, and Cross Hill, so-called after the Russian cross that stood there. In 1881 (Seal Islands of Alaska, Limestone Press, 1976, p. 57), Elliott identified “Norton’s House” as the Webster House, named after Daniel Webster, an agent for the Alaska Commercial Company (ACC) from 1870 to 1890, and then for the North American Commercial Company (NACC) from 1890 until his death on St. George Island in 1900. *Webster resided at Webster House at Northeast Point during the sealing season. The current building called Webster House was built in 1934.*

By 1890, Elliott identified additional structures at Northeast Point, including a Native house and a “church” (chapel, vol. 1, p. 127). These are confirmed by federal agents’ logbooks. On June 14, 1873, the agent wrote that a salt house was under construction. In May of 1874, the Native house was enlarged to accommodate additional men. On June 6, 1875, a new lodging for Natives was built and the Webster House was repaired. The Agent Log for May 27, 1889, states that the Native house belonged to the ACC. A telephone line connecting Northeast Point to the village was completed on June 15, 1880. Joseph Stanley-Brown’s 1891 map of Northeast Point includes a Native House, Webster House, church, and stable (vol. 1, p. 131).

Northeast Point was also the site of subsistence hunting for sea lions and hair seals, and for fox trapping. Sea Lions were valued for dietary purposes as well as for their intestines from which water-proof garments were made, and for their skins which were used to cover bidarras or baidarkas, traditional Aleut boats renowned for their maneuverability. In an 1881 Elliott drawing of Northeast Point, a sea-lion corral is visible near the old Webster House. Sea Lions were held in the corral and then driven over the point for a period of several days to be slaughtered in an area close to St. Paul Village. This method mitigated transportation challenges. As Elliott put it, “in this way, each seal lion [carries] its own skin and blubber down” to the village. ³

Violent weather could entirely cut off Northeast Point from the rest of the island. In October 1894, when foul weather submerged rookeries and drowned 2,874 fur-seal pups, the federal agent noted that the point was “almost separated from the mainland[,] [T]he only passage being the sand beaches on either side the intervening ground being covered with water and forming a huge lake.”

Hutchinson Hill at Northeast Point rises approximately one hundred feet above the rookery, making the perfect perch for viewing the area. G Dallas Hanna promoted the hill as a viewpoint offering “the most vivid impression of seal life…on the Pribilofs or any place else. …One can sit here on a lava ledge with the field glasses and watch the show in the great amphitheater below him for hours. And it never grows old. Even after I had been there a hundred times, I was always eager to return.” From Hutchinson Hill, Hanna witnessed the drama of the fur-seal breeding season. In his 1917 field records he wrote:

On each flank of this beach, there are hundreds of idle bulls holding tenaciously to their positions and eager to steal a cow whenever a harem master is off guard. Indeed, as I write, an idle bull rushes into a mass of cows on the left, knocking pups every way as he goes. He grabs the cow he desires while the harem master is subduing another and makes away with her as a cat does a kitten. The cow is very nervous when he puts her down in his own harem ground and continues to try to escape as long as I remain on the hill.⁷

Northeast Point and the rookeries there also attracted poachers. In 1920, Hanna noted that a frame watchhouse, built in 1868 to accommodate sealing gangs, was “still used for the same purpose and for the armed guards stationed there.”⁸ There was also “a very old salt house” recently repaired, “And in a conspicuous place may be seen a white house with a red roof and flagpole, the Webster House, built by Daniel Webster, who was a sealing overseer here for a great many years,” and a small church situated between the Webster House and Webster Lake. “All of the buildings,” Hanna added, “are fairly comfortable as a camping-out place.” Armed guards with authority to fire at will were stationed at the point as long as fur seals were on the island. “The ten thousand pounds of sealskins taken from surplus males there each year are worth almost their weight in silver bullion, and the United States cannot afford to leave its storehouses of wealth open to temptation.”⁹

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Photograph of Painting, No. 22-HE-27 (Artist Henry W. Elliott), circa 1872; Sealers carrying and loading skins from salt house to small boat at Northeast Point with Cross Hill in the background and ship at anchor at left. Records of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, RG 22; NARA, Special Media Archives Services Division, National Archives at College Park, College Park, MD.
Northeast Point Historical Resources

Northeast Point Historical Resources

Report on Present Condition of Salthouse at Northeast Point.

March 23, 1917.

For the sake of convenience, the salt house has been divided into three main parts as per sketch submitted herewith, in which they are designated as A, B, and C. A stable annex is shown as D.

The following notes detail the dimensions of the principal materials entering into the construction of the building:

Section A. rafters 2′ x 6″; 3′ x 6″, and 3′ x 10″; 7′ from center to center. Plates 4′ x 6″. Plate to floor 7′. Cable to floor 12′. studs at north and south end formed by the two door posts, 6′ x 6″, at each end. Studs on east side formed by six bench posts, 6′ x 6″. Studs between A and B and C are made of piles about 5″ in diameter. Rafters posts 6′ x 6″.

Section B. rafters 4′ x 6″; 3′ x 6″ from center to center. Plates 4′ x 6″. cross plates 2′ x 10″. Plate to floor 10′. Cable to floor inside, 16′ 3″. Studs 2′ x 6″; 3′ 10″ from center to center. Walls lined about 7′ with 2″ x 3″ tongue and groove. Partition between B and C boarded up about 3′ with 1′ stuff. Rafters posts 4′ x 6″.

Section C. rafters 2′ x 10″; 3′ 10″ from center to center. Plates 4′ x 6″. Upper plate to floor 10′. Lower plate to floor 3′ 5″. Studs 2′ x 6″; 2′ from center to center. Walls lined with 2″ x 10″ planks.

Section D. rafters 3′ x 6″; 3′ from center to center. Plates on lower side only; 4′ x 6″. Rafters to floor, upper side, 3′ x 4″. Plate to floor, lower side, 4′ 10″. Studs on east and west are three to the side; 2′ x 4″. Studs on lower side are the two corner posts and two floor posts, 6′ x 6″.

The building is covered as follows:

Section A. Cable roof.

Section B. Cable roof.

Section C. Shed roof (slope from B to D)

Section D. Shed roof (slope from C to front)
Report on Northeast Point Salthouse. -2-

The structural condition of the building is described as follows:

Section A: Walls are not lined, and, because of the infrequent studdings, and lack of bracing, are far from strong. The floor is covered with a deep deposit of sand and debris, now frozen, which prevented an examination. It is thought to be sound as it stands, but would probably be found unfit for use elsewhere when removed. The roof is weak structurally, and requires immediately new shingles and, probably, new sheathing (rough boards to which shingles are nailed) for the most part. Sand encroaching at the seaward end of the building, is shown in sketches a, y, and s. The socket at y will probably fill up rapidly unless the drifting of the sand can be deflected in some way.

Section B: This is the part at present in use for salting skins. It is divided into five sections as shown, only two of which are now in service. The encroachment of sand is shown in sketches r, a, and t.

Section C: Is used as a salt and handling room in connection with B, with which it may be treated in discussing its present condition.

The floor is covered with sand, salt, and debris, and was not seen. It is probably in sufficient good condition for any purpose to which the place may be put while it stands. The roof of C is partly covered with sand and snow and could not be examined closely, but like that over B, probably requires removal throughout.

The seaward side of B is threatened seriously with sand which has drifted up above the walls in places and onto the roof itself. How long it will stand in its present condition is problematical, but there is danger of its collapsing at any time.

Report on Northeast Point Salthouse. -3-

Section D: This is the stable annex used for stabling mules during operations at Northeast Point. The building itself is in a comparatively good condition, but the stalls and mangers need repairing. The partitions between stalls need new planning. Few mangers are needed, the present ones have been nearly eaten away by the mules and will scarce hold feed.

[Signature]

Nora, Alaska, Fisheries Service.
Northeast Point Historical Resources

WEBSTER HOUSE

WEBSTER HOUSE
(BUILDING EEE)
HABS No. AK-204

Location: Northeast Point Road, Saint Paul Island, Alaska

Significance: The original Webster House, built circa 1870, was initially called “Norton’s House,” according to Henry W. Elliott’s 1873 report. At some point, it sheltered Daniel Webster who worked for various sealing companies until his death in 1900. After his death, the cabin continued to house laborers during the sealing season. The original Webster House was replaced in the mid-1930s and continued to be used as a campsite during the sealing season. Although listed as a noncontributing resource in the 1986 NHL nomination form the house was documented by the National Parks Service (NPS) in 2004 and assigned a HABS number. NOAA recommends the inclusion of the Webster House in the Seal Islands NHL due to its significance to the sealing industry and the Aleut Community through the end of the commercial fur-seal industry on St. Paul Island in 1984.

Description: The current Webster House is a small, one-story wood-frame structure. The building was not surveyed by the NPS or Alaska Heritage Resources Survey.

History: Daniel Webster worked as a sealer for the Hutchinson, Kohl Company (1868), an agent for the Alaska Commercial Company from 1870 to 1890, and the North American Commercial Company from 1890 until his death on St. George Island in 1900. While Webster resided on St. George Island from 1879 until his death, he participated almost without interruption in the seal harvest at Northeast Point. When on St. Paul, Webster lived at the house at Northeast Point. In a deposition for the Fur-Seal Arbitration in 1893, Webster stated that he resided at Northeast Point on St. Paul Island from 1868 to 1878 for most of his tenure on St. Paul Island.

“Temporary repairs” were made to the Webster House in November 1915, along with the repairs made to the “salthouse and the tool shop,” all located at Northeast Point. In 1915, the agent wrote, “All buildings are almost worthless and will need extensive repairs before the commercial sealing again takes place.” A new Webster House was constructed during 1934–35: “A three room structure with a concrete foundation was started and completed at N.E. Point to replace the Old Webster House, which was badly depleted.” According to Gregory Fratis, Sr., the Tanadgusix Corporation (TDX) refurbished the house in the early 1990s, due to “its historical value.”

Sources:


Fratis, Gregory, Sr. Interview with Charles Mobley, June 8, 2006, Charles Mobley Interviews, June 2006.


Pribilof Islands Research: John A. Lindsay (NOAA), Betty A. Lindsay, Robin Maberry, Karla Sclater, 2009

Associated Drawings and Photographs created by the NPS:
AK-204 Location Map (1891)
AK-204 West elevation, south elevation, first floor plan
AK-204-1 View looking east, with foundations of bunkhouse in foreground
AK-204-2 View looking northwest
AK-204-3 South (front) elevation

Photograph No. USBF 1.98 (Photographer G Dallas Hanna), 1914; Former Webster House, Salthouse (far right), and other buildings at Northeast Point, St. Paul Island, Alaska. Building with chimney is probably the bunkhouse, also apparently referred to as the “Native watchhouse.” In a memorandum dated March 23, 1917, four buildings are identified: Webster House, church, native watchhouse, and salthouse. In an interview in 2006, longtime resident Gregory Fratis, Sr., states that a church called St. Nicholas was located at Northeast Point. Records of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, RG 370; NARA—Pacific Alaska Region (A).
Photograph No. 22-MP-3-64 (Photographer unknown), circa 1914–1930; Former Webster House and barn at Northeast Point. Records of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, RG 370, NARA—Pacific Alaska Region (A).

Photograph No. USBF 1.95 (Photographer G Dallas Hanna), 1915; Former Webster House and another building at Northeast Point. Records of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, RG 370, NARA—Pacific Alaska Region (A).


Aleut Bunkhouse at Northeast Point

Photographer unknown. 1985. Looking to northeast, Aleut Bunkhouse (left) and Webster House (right).

Photograph. NOAA, NOS, Pribilof Project Office, Seattle.


Photographer unknown. Circa 2003. Aleut Bunkhouse Site at Northeast Point, showing artifacts, including coffee pot, kettle, and bottle. Photograph. NOAA, NOS, Pribilof Project Office, Seattle.
In 1878, the Alaska Commercial Company was given an exclusive 20-year lease by the United States Government to manage the seal harvest on the Pribilof Islands. The original Webster House was built as a residence for the overseer of the company's operations at the Northeast Point Bookery on Saint Paul Island. The current Webster House, perhaps incorporating fabric from the original building, is a small, one-story, wood-frame structure. It was renovated in the early 1990s for use as a camp house by the Aleut Community of Saint Paul Island.

The Saint Paul Island documentation project was undertaken by the Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS), Historic American Engineering Record (HAER), Division of the National Park Service (NPS), John A. Bruno, Acting Chief. The project was sponsored by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Office of Response and Restoration (ORR), David M. Kennedy, Director. Project planning was coordinated by Paul Dole, Chief, HAER, By Steve Peterson, Historical Architect, Alaska Region, NPS, and by John Lindsay, Division Chief, Pribilof Project Office, ORR. The fieldwork was undertaken and the measured drawings were produced by Project Supervisor Mark Schara, HABS Architect; by Dana Lockett, HAER Architect, and by Andrea K. Right, HABS Architect. The large format photography was undertaken by HAER Photographer Jett Lowe. Assistance was provided by the City of Saint Paul, by the Aleut Community of Saint Paul Island, and by the Tanadous Corporation.
Watchhouses were located at Antone Lake at Zapadni Point, Lukanin, Polovina, Northeast Point, Marunich (Maroonitch), at Tsammana (Lincoln Bight), and Otter Island.

Before leaving the island I gave Mr. Ainsworth full instructions as to his duties during my absence, and especially of the necessity of building the watchhouses [sic, passim] and guarding the rookeries against raids. The lumber for the watchhouses was landed from the Bertha before I sailed, and Mr.[.] Ainsworth has since informed me by letter that the watchhouses were completed and garrisoned by native men.

—Joseph Murray, First Asst. Special Agent, 1892

Watch House at Northeast Point, 1893

Day bright – sun shining and warm. The Government House decorated with American Flags [sic]. The forenoon was passed by the natives smoking cigars furnished by Company and Government agents and in singing songs of their own selection. Their rendition of “America” was far superior to what we often hear on picnic grounds down in the states. While partaking a sumptuous dinner at Co. house the telephone bell rang and following it came the information from the watchmen at N.E. Point. “Schooner in sight!” Soon after dinner, two sail boats could be seen from top of hill at west landing. They were near shore at west point. Some natives fishing about two miles out could both see and hear them shooting from their sail boats. Agent Adams accompanied by four natives went on guard at S.W. Bay Rookery [sic] and west point, and Agent Crowley accompanied by four natives went to N.E. Point to assist the guard there and the schooner was found in sight as reported …until about 11 o’clock P.M. when it disappeared from sight.

Who is having the best time? The men of the revenue cutters down at Unalaska or the seal poachers just out of gunshot reach along the rookeries of St. Paul Island?

—Joseph B. Crowley, Treasury Agent, 1893
Watchhouses


Weather Stations

Photograph No. USBF 1.57 (Photographer unknown), n.d.; Stevenson Screen (lower right), St. Paul Island, Alaska, containing meteorological instruments. In 1911, Native carpenters made a Stevenson Screen out of old window shutters found stored in the attic of the Government House. A weather station on St. Paul has collected data from 1872 to the present. Records of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, RG 370. NARA—Pacific Alaska Region (A).


Map, December 27, 1945. Proposed Weather Bureau Site. The Army operated the weather station on an Army Air Field from November 1, 1943, until December 31, 1946. Oversized Documents L-1; Records of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, RG 370; NARA—Pacific Alaska Region (A).
Smokehouses were once set up to prepare seal carcasses for human consumption and to sustain and capture arctic foxes on St. Paul Island during the winter period when other natural foods became scarce. At one time, arctic fox pelts were a valuable commodity providing a secondary source of income to the island’s Natives.

In 1892, an effort was made to make use of the excess seal carcasses left over from the harvest, especially since other natural foods were scarce during the winters. “The company kindly contributed the use of an old, abandoned boat, which was turned upside down and by little construction converted into a smokehouse. It remains to be seen how readily seal meat will lend itself to this process of curing. The result may be seriously affected by the use of pine wood, the only available fuel.” U.S. Dept. of the Treasury, Seal and Salmon Fisheries and General Resources of Alaska. (Washington, DC: GPO, 1898), vol. 1, plate between pp. 222 and 223.
In 1892, an effort was made to make use of the excess seal carcasses left over from the harvest, especially since other natural foods were scarce during the winters. "The company kindly contributed the use of an old, abandoned boat, which was turned upside down and by little construction converted into a smokehouse. It remains to be seen how readily seal meat will lend itself to this process of curing. The result may be seriously affected by the use of pine wood, the only available fuel." Image taken from: U.S. Dept. of the Treasury, Seal and Salmon Fisheries and General Resources of Alaska (Washington, DC: GPO, 1898), vol. 1, plate between p. 222 and 223.
Naval Radio Station Complex

Photograph No. 22-FW-FWS-1082 (Photographer unknown), circa 1950; Three boys with baseball field and Naval Radio Station and radio tower in background. Records of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, RG 22; NARA, Special Media Archives Services Division, National Archives at College Park, College Park, MD.
Naval Radio Station Complex

Before the installation of Naval Radio Stations at St. Paul and St. George, the Seal Islands relied on Naval, U.S. Revenue Cutters, or other infrequent visiting vessels to deliver news from the outside world. So when the Navy set out to establish a better communication system throughout Alaska in 1911 and 1912, the new communications network proved a boon to U.S. government agents and the Aleuts who inhabited the islands. The installation of a temporary Naval Radio Station on St. Paul Island commenced on June 16, 1911, when the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Steamer Homer landed at 4:00 a.m., loaded with equipment and materials to erect two towers and a “suitable building for the installing of a wireless plant.” Under the direction of Navy Lieutenant E. H. Dodd and an electrical aide to the commandant at Mare Island, George Hanscom, the first tower was “raised to the 75-foot stage” that morning.¹

Evidence of the radio station’s significance is found throughout the agent’s daily log. On June 21, 1911, Agent Walter Lembkey wrote that “The wireless corps on this island succeeded this evening in reaching the BUFFALO with a small set that ordinarily would send only a few miles.” The following night Lembkey reported that “It was decided that the former system of signals with code flags should be used only when communication could not be had with [the] wireless….”² Nine Navy personnel remained behind, including two operators, to finish the station on St. Paul Island.³ Lembkey noted that “the only drawback to the location was the absence of fresh water.” The Navy proposed that with Aleut men furnishing labor, the Navy would furnish the piping and pumping engine to transport water from the well to the radio station and tanks beyond Village Hill where water then could be piped to other places in the village.⁴

Two 20,000-gallon redwood tanks measuring 12’ x 18’ were ferried by the Homer and installed on Village Hill to serve as the village reservoir. One of tanks, however, needed to be used to line a new well, therefore another tank was brought in on a subsequent trip by the Homer. Aleut laborers did all the work except for the pipe fitting. A 45’ x 25’ building standing eight feet high housed the tanks. The side of the building was made of 1’ x 12’ lumber placed diagonally, and later covered with turf. The roof sat at a three-fourths pitch and shingled.⁵ Unfortunately, the 1¼” pipeline proved too small to pump the water, and the over-taxed pump broke after one hour. The annual report could not confirm whether spare parts had arrived before winter set in.⁶

From July 1 to August 1, 1911, Aleut laborers built radio antennae, “hauling gravel for use in constructing concrete anchors for the guys on the two masts, excepting such little interruption as was caused by taking seals, etc.” At first, the gravel was “scratched from between the rocks at East Landing beach, put into sacks and carried on the men’s backs for over 100 yards, to be placed on the wagons and hauled to the proper spots.” Two wood lattice masts 225’ in height and 425’ apart were erected, and supported a 6-wire flat top antenna; and two buildings were constructed: a frame building measuring 24’ x 36’, a combination dwelling and radio-operating facility, and another frame building to house the engine room with space for a tank and a pump house.⁷

A number of temporary Naval Radio Stations were set up in Alaska during the summer of 1911. Kodiak, Dutch Harbor, and St. Paul Island were outfitted with temporary communications systems. The following year, an Alaskan Radio Expedition took place to make the installations permanent, and also to establish a radio station at Unalga Island and an auxiliary station on St. George Island.

On August 3, 1912, the USS Nero arrived at St. George Island to set up the communications station that allowed St. George to communicate with St. Paul Island and any ships in the near vicinity. The Nero anchored off of St. Paul Island on August 7, 1912. An impressive array of equipment was offloaded to make the station permanent: sixteen concrete anchors, weighing nine tons each, moored the two 225-foot lattice masts of the station, and new rigging was set up for each mast. The main aerial, a flat-top 6-wire measuring 400 feet, spread to thirty feet, and four down leads were located at the eastern end. A single-wire aerial installed five feet above the main aerial allowed the station to send and receive messages on shortwave length. The old 60-cycle radio set was replaced with a five kilowatt, 500-cycle, quenched-spark Telefunken radio set. Two H. P. Meitz and Weiss kerosene engines were mounted on a concrete foundation.⁸

After the expedition departed, Aleut labor outfitted the power house and the radio-station dwelling with storm windows, put up shingle siding, and roofed the buildings. The interior of the buildings were finished with plaster board. One small bedroom in the dwelling was transformed into a bathroom. A cesspool and sewer were then put in, and the station with two years’ supplies, was complete.⁹

On August 24, 1912, the St. Paul Naval Radio Station was recommissioned and messages were exchanged with Mare Island, California, 2,187 miles to the south. Communication was also established with Eureka, California, Sitka, and Cordova. After the expedition departed, St. Paul Island and Dutch Harbor—250 miles south of St. Paul—exchanged signals during daylight, using only storage-battery sets with small spark coils. The St. Paul Island Naval Radio Station cost $10,395 to install. Lieutenant Dodd wrote that “the location of the St. Paul station is excellent for radio communication and better results are obtained than any other Pacific station. The absence of any high land, the good ground connections, the sweep over water before any land intervenes, are potent factors in making its work so effective.”¹⁰

The radio stations on both islands continued to prove their value. In 1913, the annual Alaska Fisheries and Fur-Seal Industries reported that the wireless station at St. George had sent more than two hundred official messages between September 11, 1912, and June 30, 1913. “Many of these messages,” the report noted, “were from the Bureau and of the greatest importance. Without the wireless communication it is hard to see how the business of the station could have been conducted.” The only drawback, according to this report, was that the station could communicate only with St. Paul Island.¹¹

In 1915, St. Paul’s station underwent new construction. New buildings and a fence were erected at the complex and many local Aleuts were employed for the construction. Cumulatively, the Aleut work-

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² Ibid., June 21, June 22, 1911.
³ Ibid., July 4, 1911.
⁵ Ibid., 76–7.
⁶ Ibid., 77.
⁷ Ibid., 78.
⁹ Ibid., 292–93.
¹⁰ Ibid., 293.
¹¹ Ibid., 293–94.
ers earned $1,400 in cash. U.S. Bureau of Fisheries’ agents agreed that having radio stations on both islands “render invaluable aid in the way of enabling the bureau to keep in close touch with affairs on the islands during the long winter season when no other means of communication are practicable. The beneficial effect upon the government employees of having some means of communication with the outside world in that season is well worthy of consideration.”

In 1916, Aleut laborers on both islands who worked at the Naval Radio Station earned $0.25 an hour, accumulating a total of $750 for all workers on St. Paul Island. On St. Paul, Aleuts constructed a tramway from East Landing to the radio station and the sealing plant that the Fisheries agent speculated would “be of considerable use in handling seal skins and supplies” once connected by an extension made by the Bureau of Fisheries.

Over the years, repairs and upgrades swapped out equipment and altered buildings at the radio station. The Navy produced at least two maps of the radio station in 1918. William Hayne of the Navy surveyed the site in 1917; his map is shown here. Hayne’s map indicates it was “retraced” in February 1918. [Note: It appears that the Navy’s map makers continued to use Hayne’s base map to account for building and structural changes to the radio station complex, but not those made to the village.] The U.S. Navy Yard, Mare Island, California produced an improved map in February 1918 by A. C. Reynolds. The map’s legend identifies several buildings and structures: two double quarters (duplexes), a dormitory and office, machine shop, concrete power house, operating room, store house, coal shed, and paint house. Up until 1937, the Navy updated the radio station complex site plans several times. The last revision of August 11, 1937, lists revisions dated April 8, 1929, May 10, 1929, June 20, 1930, February 1, 1935, March 16, 1936, and October 22, 1936. Other revisions may have occurred in November 1919 and February 1922. The radio station and its thirty buildings and structures were transferred to the Bureau of Fisheries in 1937, thereby ending the Navy’s interest in further mapping of the facility.

In 1918, the USS *Saturn* arrived on St. Paul Island with supplies and Navy personnel to carry out repairs at the radio station. In 1920, on St. Paul Island, a single house was built at the station, and in 1922, a radio compass house, combination coal/storage/furnace/recreation building, and a building to house supply tanks were erected. The last remaining 1911 wood lattice mast was felled in 1924 and replaced by a 250’ pipe mast.

In 1929, extensive renovations were made to the St. Paul radio station. The power house was renovated inside and out, a new 240’ galvanized steel tower replaced the 250’ steel mast that had fallen in 1926, and a new antenna was installed. A double garage went up to house a tractor and trailer, along with a cold storage plant, and the coal shed was converted into a handball court and recreation hall. The following year, two 300’ wood masts erected in 1919 were replaced with a 240’ galvanized steel tower. A new windmill was also installed, along with four 10,000-gallon steel water tanks, and a new concrete firehouse was constructed to house a centrifugal fire pump.

On August 10, 1937, the St. Paul Radio Naval Station was transferred to the Bureau of Fisheries, and a radio beacon was installed to replace the radio direction-finder (Compass House). The Navy removed all radio equipment except what was necessary to maintain communications with the radio station, Dutch Harbor, and with ships in the vicinity of St. Paul Island. The radio telephone link between St. Paul and St. George remained intact. All of the Navy personnel and their families boarded the U.S. Navy supply vessel *Sirius* on August 12, 1937. The radio station at St. Paul Island continued to transmit daily weather observations to the Weather Bureau with the aid of the meteorological station that the Weather Bureau had set up on St. Paul several years earlier. “Such observations,” a government agent reported, “are of much value in connection the forecast and warning service in Alaska and the United States.” St. Paul’s school teacher, Carl M. Hoverson, took over operating the radio until a radio electrician could be put in charge of the station.

Information about the buildings (House 105, Duplex 106/107, Duplex 108/109, House 112, House 113, E-Shop, and Shingle Shed) and structures (e.g., tennis court) within the former Naval Radio Station complex that are still standing can be found in an AHRS form. Photographs of various complex layouts are included to illustrate changes that have occurred over time. Floor plans and designs of several buildings are included in the book, but other plans and designs, such as the Compass House, can be found in assorted government records.

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14 Ibid., 104.
16 Hanable and Ponko, 147.
17 Ibid., 148.
Map, 1917. William Hayne, surveyor and A. C. Reynolds, draftsman. 1917 map of the U.S. Naval Radio Station and several buildings associated with the village of St. Paul Island. This map has been excerpted from a larger original and its title caption has been repositioned. RG 26, Box 27/4/1, U.S. Coast Guard; NARA—Pacific Alaska Region (A).
Naval Radio Station, General Photos

Photograph No. USBF 1.128 (Photographer unknown), circa 1913; South side, Naval Radio Station. Records of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, RG 370; NARA—Pacific Alaska Region (A).

Photographer unknown. Circa 1913. Naval Radio Station, looking west northwest. The gravel used in the concrete anchors for the masts was scratched from between the rocks at East Landing and carried 100 yards on men’s backs to wagons for transport to the station. Photograph. Pribilof Islands Photographs Collection, no. 1976-0063-00020, Archives, Alaska and Polar Regions Collections, Rasmuson Library, University of Alaska Fairbanks.

Sketch, circa 1912. Proposed 6-man dormitory for St. Paul Island, Alaska, Naval Radio Station. RG 71; NARA, National Archives at College Park, College Park, MD.

Sketch of the front elevation of the proposed 6-man dormitory for St. Paul Island, Alaska, Naval Radio Station.
Photograph No. USBF 1.054 (Photographer unknown), circa 1913; Dormitory (left) and Machine Shop office (right), St. Paul Island. (photograph cropped.)

Records of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, RG 370; NARA—Pacific Alaska Region (A).
Photograph No. USBF 2.54 (Photographer unknown), 1916; Naval Radio Station, looking northeast. From left: two large quarters, and duplex that housed the radio operator and a power house. Fuel storage tanks for generators are located to the right of the duplex. Fox skin drying racks in foreground. 
Records of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, RG 370; NARA—Pacific Alaska Region (A).

Photograph No. USBF 2.69 (Photographer unknown), circa 1920; South end of Village Cove, looking east southeast, showing Naval Radio Station and four radio towers. The old coal shed, erected circa 1895, and coal sacks are visible in the right foreground. 
Records of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, RG 370; NARA—Pacific Alaska Region (A).


Photographer unknown. 1934. Naval Radio Station, looking east, showing buildings, towers, tennis court (at base of foremost tower), and baseball diamond (left). Photograph. Courtesy Christine M. McClain Papers, Archives and Special Collections, Consortium Library, University of Alaska Anchorage. Collection number UAA-hmc-0370-series15a-1-69.

Photographer unknown. 1963–1969. Naval Radio Station after all the buildings were aligned in 1952, showing (from left): the Community Store/Warehouse/Laboratory, the Five-Car Garage and the Six-Car Garage. Photograph. Courtesy Christine M. McClain Papers, Archives and Special Collections, Consortium Library, University of Alaska Anchorage. Collection number UAA-hmc-0370-series15a-6-5.

Photograph No. USBF 2.57 (Photographer unknown), 1920; Former Point Warehouse on Village Cove, looking east northeast, showing tramway to the Naval Radio Station. The tramway appears on maps beginning circa 1912–1915; it is not shown in a 1931 map. The tram rails may have been taken up and re-used in a boatways erected in 1931. Records of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, RG 370, NARA—Pacific Alaska Region (A).
Naval Radio Station, E-Shop

Alaska Heritage Resources Survey


Site Name(s): Naval Radio Station, E-Shop

Site Description: The Naval Radio Station-E-Shop is a one-and-a-half story, front-gabled concrete building constructed to house the electrical power plant for the former Navy Radio Station. It was remodeled in 2006 when the concrete walls were covered with ½" x 10" fiberboard drop siding. The roof was originally covered with corrugated metal and is now covered with modern ribbed metal roofing. The main entrance is on the south side through a centrally placed metal door with a single-paned window. There are no windows on the north side, there are two on the south side, two of the widows on the east have been covered over and the remaining two are identical to those on the south side, and three of the four windows on the west side have been covered over. Each gable end has a small enclosure just below the roof peak.

Significance: The Naval Radio Station E-Shop or Power House was erected in 1917 as part of a complex built by the U.S. Navy to house the power generation system and electrical equipment serving a radio wireless system, tied to similar stations at Kodiak and Dutch Harbor, that linked U.S. military and domestic communications around the world with a radius of 1,500 miles at night and about 800 miles during the day. The Naval Radio Station and all of its buildings were transferred to the Bureau of Fisheries on August 10, 1937. This power plant provided the earliest electric power to the St. Paul Island community. The facility was later converted to house the Head Start program school circa 1999 to 2007. This building was judged to be a noncontributing building to the Seal Island National Historic Landmark in the 1986 nomination form, but its historical significance shows that it should be part of the NHL.

Location: Block 20; On Bartlett Boulevard, St. Paul Village, St. Paul Island, Pribilof Islands, Alaska.

Citations:

Danger of Destruction:
Present Condition: Good
Ecosystem:
Pertinent Dates: Constructed AD 1919
Period: Historic
Resource Nature: B
Cultural Affiliation: Aleut, Euro-American, Navy
Preservation Status & Date:
Property Owner: NOAA
Repository:
Accession #:  
BIA/BLM #: Other # (specify):

The Naval Radio Station Electrical Shop (E-Shop) was built in 1919. It housed the radio station’s power generation system and electrical equipment. The St. Paul radio station was tied to similar stations at Kodiak and Dutch Harbor linking U.S. military and domestic communications around the world with a radius of 1,500 miles at night and about 800 miles during the day. Although not listed as a contributing resource in the 1986 NHL nomination form, the building was documented by the National Parks Service in 2004 and assigned a HABS number. NOAA recommends including the E-Shop in the Seal Islands NHL because the building remained integral to the sealing industry and the Aleut Community up through the end of the commercial fur-seal industry on St. Paul Island in 1984.

Description: The Naval Radio Station-E-Shop is a one-story front-gabled concrete building flanked by later buildings constructed as navy personnel housing. The concrete walls were covered with ½'-0" x 10'-0" fiberboard drop siding during a remodeling effort in 2006. The roof was originally covered with corrugated metal and is now covered with modern ribbed metal roofing. The main entrance is on the south side through a centrally placed metal door with a single-pane window. There are no windows on the north side. There are two windows on the south side. Two of the widows on the east have been covered over leaving two identical to those on the south side. Three of the four windows on the west side have been covered over. Each gable end has a small enclosure just below the roof peak.

History: The Naval Radio Station E-Shop is one of the oldest remaining buildings in the Naval Radio Station Complex. Other remaining buildings once associated with the Navy Radio Station Complex include Duplex 106/107 (AHRS XPI-139) and the Shingle Shed (AHRS XPI-148). This 1917 power house replaced the original power house built in 1911 during the initial expedition to establish a wireless station on St. Paul. In 1912, the U.S. Navy Alaska Radio Station Expedition took place to make the Radio Station on St. Paul more permanent and to erect a small station on St. George for the sole purpose of communicating with St. Paul Island. Information on the Naval Radio Station and the E-Shop is sporadic. Government agents working on the islands in the fur-sealing industry did not always record construction activities at the station.

The work on St. Paul Island in 1912 included swapping out “the old 60-cycle radio set” for a 5kw, 500-cycle, quenched-spark Telefunken radio set. The power house and the station’s residence received storm windows. The interiors were finished, a cesspool dug, and a sewer put in. Supplies to last for two years were left at the station. Roofs and shingles for the power house and residence were scheduled to be added by Aleut workers after the expedition left the island.

After recommissioning the station on August 24, 1912, the first messages were exchanged with Mare Island, a distance of 2,187 miles. Later that night, communication took place with Eureka, California, Sitka, and Cordova. Lieutenant Dodd noted that the “location of the St. Paul station is excellent for radio communication and better results are obtained than at any other Pacific station” due to the relatively flatter surface, and good ground connections that could “sweep over water before any land intervenes.” The U.S. Navy offered to subsidize a water works to pump freshwater to the Village of St. Paul for the first time. The U.S.S. Homer brought two 20,000-gallon redwood tanks that measured 12'-0" x 18'-0" each. Aleut workers and naval personnel ran into many difficulties running the pipeline from the wireless station to the top of Village Hill. The tanks were sunk 5 ½ feet into the ground on top of foundations made of redwood sills and joists. Then a building was erected over the tanks measuring 45' x 25' and 8' high, with a three-fourths pitch roof. The sides of the building consisted of 1' x 12' lumber set diagonally. Turf was added as facing. By 1914, large water tanks were placed on the hill behind the village and a series of pipes and pumps were installed to bring the water to residents. New buildings went up in 1915, along with a fence to enclose the station, but the buildings were not specified in the annual report from the Bureau of Fisheries. Buildings were added in 1915, 1916, 1918, and 1931, although not specified in the annual reports. A 1930 photograph shows a windmill completed that year for the water supply.

The Naval Radio Station and all of its buildings were transferred to the U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Fisheries on August 10, 1937, along with the rest of the 17-acre radio station complex. At the time of transfer, the facility included a radio transmitter, three receivers, two small radio telephones for inter-island communication, and all the buildings. After the navy augmented the radio facilities at Dutch Harbor, the St. Paul Station was no longer needed. The station remained in use nonetheless, providing vital connection between St. George and St. Paul Island, and to the outside world. In 1952, the annual manager’s report stated that “the radio duplex [Duplex 106/107] was moved in line with “quarters 12 and 13 and is being completely remodeled and redecorated.” (Quarters 12 and 13 are currently House 112 and 113, respectively.) A concrete basement for the radio operator’s house (Quarters 5, XPI-105) was also poured in 1952. The new basement lined up with the other buildings. The operator’s house was moved to its new foundation in 1952. Additionally, the Fish and Wildlife Service installed a greenhouse near the radio cottages.

In 1957, the manager’s annual report noted that a lawn, “roughly 800 feet by 20 feet was planted between the walk and the fence in front of all the quarters in the vicinity of the radio station,” improving “the appearance of that area immensely.” The facility was later converted to house the Head Start Program, which operated circa 1999 to 2007.

Sources:


———. March 31, 1953.

———. December 31, 1957.


**Field Observation:** Charles M. Mobley, Charles M. Mobley & Associates, 2007

**Pribilof Islands Research:** John A. Lindsay (NOAA), Betty A. Lindsay, Robin Maberry, Karla Sclater, 2009

**Associated Drawings and Photographs created by the NPS:**

AK-220-1 View looking northeast
Map (Draftsman unknown), circa 1925. "Navy Yard, Puget Sound, Wash, Map of U.S. Naval Radio Station, St. Paul Island Alaska" (cropped to show the Radio Station Complex only). As the Tennis Court is not a numbered structure on this map, it is assumed that the Tennis Court was only proposed at the time of mapping. Records of the Bureau of Docks and Yards, Record Group, RG 71, Series I, Reel 1124; NARA, National Archives at College Park, College Park, MD.
Building Plan, Feb. 02, 1919. "U.S. Naval Radio Station, St. Paul Island Alaska. Power House Extension Plans and Sections." Designed at the U.S. Navy Yard, Mare Island, California. The extension was added onto the south end of the Power Plant; it included an arc room, a spark room, an operating room (office), and restroom. Records of the Bureau of Docks and Yards, RG 71, Series I, Reel 1124; NARA, National Archives at College Park, College Park, MD.
Photograph No. USBF 2.34 (Photographer unknown), 1920; East front and north side, Naval Radio Station Electrical Shop (E-shop), showing fuel storage tanks for supplying the generators. Records of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, RG 370; NARA—Pacific Alaska Region (A).


View southeasterly

View southwesterly

View northeasterly
826 NAVAL RADIO STATION COMPLEX


North and west sides of Duplex 108/109 (left) and Naval Power Plant E-Shop (right). Jet Lowe, photographer.

Alaska Heritage Resources Survey

AHRS #: XPI-137
Aliquot: S035S132W/25
Lat./Long.: 170° 16.645' W, 57° 07.338' N
Acreage: <.25
Map sheet: St. Paul Island West (1:25,000)

Site Name(s): House 105

Site Description: XPI-137 is a side-gabled one-story frame building with an attic. A gable-roofed enclosed entry is centered on the south wall with a door on facing west and one window on the south side. A hipped-roof block runs the length of the west wall. A large one-story shop with a large overhead garage door (facing north) is attached to the northeast corner of the house; a low shed-roofed block sits on the inside corner between the shop and the house. The roof is wood-shingled, except for the hipped-roof block which has asphalt shingles. The walls are clad in blue-painted T1-11. The shop and the low shed block have modern ribbed metal roofing and T1-11 siding. A ridge-mounted concrete chimney is located at the midpoint of the north roof. There is one window on the north wall; two on the west wall; four on the south wall; and two on the east wall.

Significance: XPI-137 was built in 1931 to house the radio operator serving the adjacent U.S. Navy radio station which enabled long-distance communications for both local residents and federal officials. When the Naval Radio Station buildings were transferred to the Bureau of Fisheries in 1937, the building served as housing up through the end of government administration in 1983. This house was not considered a contributing building to the Seal Island National Historic Landmark in the 1986 nomination. XPI-137 should be considered contributing to the NHL.

Location: Tract A, Block 20, Lot 6; Situated several hundred feet inland from Village Cove on Bartlett Boulevard, immediately west of the old Navy radio station, St. Paul Village, St. Paul Island, Pribilof Islands.

Citations:


Danger of Destruction:
Present Condition: Good
Ecosystem:
Pertinent Dates: Constructed AD 1931
Period: Historic
Resource Nature: B
Cultural Affiliation: Aleut, Euro-American, U.S. Navy
Preservation Status & Date: Judged to be a noncontributing building to Seal Islands NHL in 1986
Property Owner: Private
Repository:
Accession #: 
BIA/BLM #: Other # (specify):

Mobley, Charles, photographer. 2007. South front and east side, House 105. Photograph (35mm), NOAA, NOS, Pribilof Project Office, Seattle.
HOUSE 105/QUARTERS 5
HABS No. [not assigned]
AHRS No. XPI-105

Location: Block 20; Bartlett Boulevard, Village of St. Paul, St. Paul Island, Pribilof Islands, Alaska

Significance: House 105, originally known as “Quarters 5,” was built in 1931 to house the navy radio operator. The U.S. Navy Radio Station enabled long-distance communications for both local residents and federal officials. When the naval radio station buildings were transferred to the Bureau of Fisheries in 1937, House 105 served as government employee housing up through the end of government administration in 1983. Although not listed as a contributing resource in the 1986 NHL nomination form, NOAA recommends including House 105 in the Seal Islands NHL because the building remained integral to the sealing industry and the Aleut community up through the end of the commercial fur-seal industry on St. Paul Island in 1984.

Description: House 105 is a side-gabled one-story frame building with an attic. A gable-roofed enclosed entry is centered on the south wall with a door facing west and one window on the south side. A hipped-roof block runs the length of the west wall. A large one-story shop with a large overhead garage door (facing north) is attached to the northeast corner of the house; a low shed-roofed block sits on the inside corner between the shop and the house. The roof is wood-shingled, except for the hipped-roof block which has asphalt shingles. The walls are clad in blue-painted T1-11. The shop and the low shed block have modern ribbed metal roofing and T1-11 siding. A ridge-mounted concrete chimney is located at the midpoint of the north roof. There is one window on the north wall; two on the west wall; four on the south wall; and two on the east wall.

History: Extant agent records do not provide information about the construction of House 105, but a 1978 inventory lists the dwelling as completed in 1931.

Sources:


Pribilof Islands Research: John A. Lindsay (NOAA), Betty A. Lindsay, Robin Maberry, and Karla Sclater, 2009


Naval Radio Antenna Pedestals

Alaska Heritage Resources Survey

AHRS #: XPI-190
Aliquot: S03S132W
Lat./Long.: 170° 16.611' W, 57° 07.272' N
Acreage: >5
Map sheet: St. Paul Island West (1:25,000)

Site Name(s): Navy radio antenna pedestals

Site Description: XPI-190 consists of three or maybe four large crumbling rectangular concrete pedestals in the low wet area south across Polovina Turnpike from the former Navy radio station buildings. The lat/long given is for the westernmost pedestal.

Significance: The concrete pedestals of XPI-190 are the remains of the foundation for a Navy radio antenna. The Naval Radio Station complex was built by the U.S. Navy in 1911 to house the power generation system and electrical equipment serving a radio wireless system, tied to similar stations at Kodiak and Dutch Harbor that linked U.S. military and domestic communications around the world with a radius of 1,500 miles at night and about 800 miles during the day. In 1912, the Alaska Radio Expedition installed 16 nine-ton concrete anchors as foundations for lattice masts. Between 1924 and 1930, all the old masts were replaced with steel towers. In 1962, one of the concrete bases upon which one leg of the antenna tower rested was removed because it created a driving hazard; the road near the tennis court was widened and straightened at that time. The concrete pads are shown near the tennis court on a 1941 map. The Naval Radio Station complex was transferred to the Bureau of Fisheries in 1937. These antenna pedestals were judged to be a noncontributing to the Seal Islands National Historic Landmark in the 1986 nomination form.

Location: South of Polovina Turnpike from the Naval Radio Station, St. Paul Village, St. Paul Island, Pribilof Islands, Alaska.

Citations:

Danger of Destruction:
Present Condition: Poor
Ecosystem:
Pertinent Dates: Construction date unknown
Period: Historic
Resource Nature: Structure
Cultural Affiliation: Aleut, Euro-American, Navy
Preservation Status & Date:
Property Owner: Tanadgusix Corp.
Repository:
Accession #: BIA/BLM #: Other # (specify):

**Historic American Buildings Survey**

**NAVY RADIO ANTENNA PEDESTALS**
HABS No. [not assigned]
AHRS No. XPI-190

**Location:** South of Bartlett Boulevard and west of Polovina Turnpike in the vicinity of the Naval Radio Station Electrical Shop, St. Paul Village, St. Paul Island, Pribilof Islands, Alaska

**Significance:**
The Navy Radio Antenna Pedestals anchored the antennas used in the Naval Radio Station's wireless communications. Although not listed as a contributing resource in the 1986 NHL nomination form, NOAA recommends including the Antenna Pedestals in the Seal Islands NHL because of their significance to the commercial sealing industry and the Aleut Community.

**Description:** The site consists of three or possibly four crumbling rectangle concrete pedestals.

**History:** The Naval Radio Station Complex was built by the U.S. Navy in 1911 to house the power generation system and electrical equipment serving a radio wireless system, tied to similar stations at Kodiak and Dutch Harbor linking U.S. military and domestic communications around the world with a radius of 1,500 miles at night and about 800 miles during the day. In 1912, the Alaska Radio Expedition installed 16 nine-ton concrete anchors as foundations for lattice masts. Between 1924 and 1930, all the old masts were replaced with steel towers. In 1962, one of the concrete bases upon which one leg of the antenna tower rested was removed because it created a driving hazard; the road near the tennis court was widened and straightened at that time. The concrete pads are shown near the tennis court on a 1941 map. The Naval Radio Station Complex was transferred to the Bureau of Fisheries in 1937. The towers were removed circa 1952.

**Sources:**

**Field Observation:** Charles M. Mobley, Charles M. Mobley & Associates, 2008

**Pribilof Islands Research:** John A. Lindsay (NOAA), Betty A. Lindsay, Robin Maberry, and Karla Sclater, 2009
Scheffer, Victor B., photographer. June 1, 1950. According to Victor Scheffer, this is a “World War I Radio Tower being demolished by a Navy dynamiting crew.” Note the By-Products Plant (background left), a windmill to the right of the plant, and a cluster of structures on the hillside. This cluster of structures has been observed in a number of photographs, but their purpose has not been identified. Photograph: NOAA, NMML Library, Seattle: Victor B. Scheffer Collection, Fur Seal Archives, neg. no. 2750.
Document, June 4, 1940. Description for Quarters R1A. Box 14; (Records of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, RG 370) Records of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, RG 22; NARA—Pacific Alaska Region (A). [Based on the construction date, it is assumed that this building is associated with the Naval Radio Station, although the extant record is not explicit about the building’s location. This description is for half of a duplex.]

Plan, June 6, 1940. Floor plan for Quarters R1A. Box 14; (Records of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, RG 370) Records of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, RG 22; NARA—Pacific Alaska Region (A). [Based on the construction date, it is assumed that this building is associated with the Naval Radio Station, although the extant record is not explicit about the building’s location. This description is for half of a duplex.]
**Duplex 106/107**

**Alaska Heritage Resources Survey**

AHRS #: XPI-138  
Aliquot: S035S132W/25  
Lat./Long.: 170°16.674' W, 57°07.333’ N  
Acreage: <.25  
Map sheet: St. Paul Island West (1:25,000)

**Site Name(s):** Duplex 106/107

**Site Description:** XPI-138 is shown on a circa 1925 map of the Naval Radio Station as “Double Quarters”; a table accompanying the map states that the duplex was built in 1919. However, Drinkall, Operational Officer of NMFS, gives the date as 1911. Local elders say XPI-138 was moved slightly and reset on its current concrete foundation; a 1951 blueprint identifies this as Quarters 9/6 and suggests it was to be moved about 30 feet southeast and it was moved accordingly in 1952. The 1 1/2 -story frame building has a steep roof that is extended at each of the four corners to cover small room blocks, forming an “H” footprint. The duplex has wood shingles on the roof and T1-11 siding. The two small blocks facing north each have a door on their north wall, while the two small blocks facing south each have a door on the wall facing towards the building’s midline. The north roof has a cross-gabled dormer containing two small windows. Each of the gables has two windows, and the central extra ½ story on the eave facing south contains two windows. The building’s first-story windows consist of two large sliding windows on the north side; three windows on the west side; two windows on the south side, and three windows on the east side.

**Significance:** XPI-138 housed Navy personnel serving the adjacent U.S. Navy Radio Station Complex (which enabled long-distance communications for both local residents and federal officials) during the NHL period of significance. After the complex was transferred to the Bureau of Fisheries in 1937, the Duplex housed Fisheries employees. It was judged to be a noncontributing building to the Seal Island National Historic Landmark, but its historical significance shows that it should be part of the landmark.

**Location:** Tract A Block 20; Situated several hundred feet inland from Village Cove on Bartlett Boulevard, west of the old Navy radio station, St. Paul Village, St. Paul Island, Alaska.

**Citations:**

**Danger of Destruction:**
- Present Condition: Good
- Ecosystem:
- Pertinent Dates: Constructed AD 1911–1919, transferred to Bureau of Fisheries AD 1937
- Period: Historic

**Resource Nature:** B

**Cultural Affiliation:** Aleut, Euro-American, U.S. Navy

**Preservation Status & Date:** Judged to be a noncontributing building to Seal Islands NHL in 1986

**Property Owner:** Tanadgusix Corp.

**Repository:**

**Accession #:**

**BIA/BLM #:** Other # (specify):

Historic American Buildings Survey

DUPLEX 106/107/QUARTERS 6/9  
(BUILDING QQ)  
HABS No. [not assigned]  
AHRS No. XPI-139

Location: Block 20; Bartlett Boulevard, Village of St. Paul, St. Paul Island, Pribilof Islands, Alaska

Significance: Duplex 106/107, originally known as “Quarters 6 and 9,” was constructed in 1919. It housed U.S. Navy personnel until 1937. Afterward, it housed government employees involved with either the seal harvest or teaching at the Native school. Although not listed as a contributing resource in the 1986 NHL nomination form, NOAA recommends including Duplex 106/107 in the Seal Islands NHL because the building was integral to the sealing industry up through the end of the federally administered commercial fur-seal industry on St. Paul Island in 1983.

Description: The 1 1/2 -story frame building has a steep roof that is extended at each of the four corners to cover small room blocks, forming an “H” footprint. The duplex has wood shingles on the roof and T1-11 siding. The two small blocks facing north each have a door on their north wall, while the two small blocks facing south each have a door on the wall facing towards the building’s midline. The north roof has a cross-gabled dormer containing two small windows. Each of the gables has two windows, and the central extra ½ story on the eave facing south contains two windows. The building’s first-story windows consist of two large sliding windows on the north side; three windows on the west side; two windows on the south side, and three windows on the east side.

History: Built in the early days of the Navy Radio Station on St. Paul, Duplex 106/107 originally provided housing for U.S. Navy personnel stationed at the wireless complex. Based on a list of buildings within the Naval Radio Complex in 1927, the duplex was built either in 1919. The navy stopped operating the radio station in August 1937 at which time the navy transferred the buildings to the U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Fisheries. The duplex became housing for government personnel or contract workers, including teachers, subsequent to the transfer. In 1952, this duplex was moved in line with the E-Shop (HABS AK-220) as depicted in a 1951 map.

Sources:


Pribilof Islands Research: John A. Lindsay (NOAA), Betty A. Lindsay, Robin Maberry, Karla Sclater, 2009
Photograph No. USBF 1.84 (Photographer G Dallas Hanna), 1919; North front and west side, Duplex 106/107, newly built, at Naval Radio Station. Records of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, RG 370; NARA—Pacific Alaska Region (A).


Description of Quarters

One and a half story, frame building, duplex building; no basement; shingle roof; building erected in 1919; general condition, poor; two rooms upstairs; three rooms and bath on ground floor; electric lights; heated by hot water furnace located in separate building, as central heating plant; coal cook range; no refrigerator; running water furnished through station water system; water for domestic purposes heated in range; fir floors throughout, with linoleum in kitchen; all walls are plasterboard; no special air cooling appliances furnished; condition of furniture fair to good; no garage.

Other Items (Annual Basis) Furnished By Cost
Fuel Heat: Coal furnace; share of central plant; uses about 24 tons per year. Gov't $229.40
Coal range; uses about 12 tons per year. $ 112.20

Electrical: None
Water: Used for domestic and garden purposes $ 2.00
Miscellaneous Items: Maintenance, including painting and repairs $ 10.00

Plan, June 10, 1940. Floor plan for Quarters R4A (Duplex 106/107), first floor. Box 14 (Records of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, RG 370) Records of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, RG 22; NARA—Pacific Alaska Region (A). [Based on the construction date, 1919, this floor plan is probably for Duplex 106/107, but the extant record does not reveal this information explicitly.]
Plan, June 11, 1940. Floor plan for Quarters R4A (Duplex 106/107), second floor. Box 14; (Records of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, RG 370) Records of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, RG 22; NARA—Pacific Alaska Region (A). [Based on the construction date, 1919, this floor plan is probably for Duplex 106/107, but the extant record does not reveal this information explicitly.]

Document, June 4, 1940. Description for Quarters R4B (Duplex 106/107). Box 14; (Records of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, RG 370) Records of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, RG 22; NARA—Pacific Alaska Region (A). [Based on the construction date, 1919, this description is probably for Duplex 106/107, but the extant record does not reveal this information explicitly.]
Plan, June 10, 1940. Floor plan for Quarters R4B (Duplex 106/107), first floor. Box 14; (Records of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, RG 370) Records of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, RG 22; NARA—Pacific Alaska Region (A). [Based on the construction date, 1919, this floor plan is probably for Duplex 106/107, but the extant record does not reveal this information explicitly.]

Plan, June 11, 1940. Floor plan for Quarters R4B (Duplex 106/107), second floor. Box 14; (Records of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, RG 370) Records of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, RG 22; NARA—Pacific Alaska Region (A). [Based on the construction date, 1919, this floor plan is probably for Duplex 106/107, but the extant record does not reveal this information explicitly.]
Radio Station Building—Quarters R14

Document, June 4, 1940. Description for Quarters R14. Box 14; (Records of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, RG 370) Records of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, RG 22; NARA—Pacific Alaska Region (A). [Based on the construction date, it is assumed that this building is associated with the Naval Radio Station, although the extant record is not explicit about the building's location.]

Plan, June 6, 1940. Floor plan for Quarters R14. Box 14; (Records of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, RG 370) Records of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, RG 22; NARA—Pacific Alaska Region (A). [Based on the construction date, it is assumed that this building is associated with the Naval Radio Station, although the extant record is not explicit about the building's location.]
Plan, January 9, 1941. Floor plan for Quarters R14. Box 14: (Records of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, RG 370) RG 22: NARA—Pacific Alaska Region (A). [Based on the construction date, it is assumed that this building is associated with the Naval Radio Station, although the extant record is not explicit about the building's location.]
Shingle Shed (formerly coal shed)

Alaska Heritage Resources Survey

AHRS #: XPI-148
Aliquot: S035S132W/25
Lat./Long.: 170° 16.661' W, 57° 07.661' N
Acreage: <.25
Map sheet: St. Paul Island West (1:25,000)

Site Name(s): Shingle Shed/Navy Shed

Site Description: XPI-148 is a single-story gable-roofed shed measuring 12' x 18', framed of full 2" x 6" rough cut, with the same for rafters. Studs are on 24" centers. The interior is paneled with full 1" x 6" boards. The exterior cladding and roofing is old corrugated metal.

Significance: The building was described by two St. Paul elders as being used to store shingles during the federal management period. However, a list of buildings erected by the U.S. Navy mentions a coal shed in 1919, and there are 1919 drawings from the Navy for a coal shed of the same dimensions as the so-called “shingle shed.” A 1919 photograph of the radio station shows this building in the same location. The shed was a single-purpose storage building. It likely served not only the buildings of the Navy radio station, but the village’s residential and commercial buildings as well through the period of significance (1983). Ownership of the Naval Radio Station complex passed from the Navy to the Bureau of Fisheries in 1937. The Shingle Shed was judged to be a noncontributing building to the Seal Islands National Historic Landmark in the 1986 nomination form.

Location: Tract 46; Sandy Lane, just east of Building V, the Six-Car Garage (XPI-048), St. Paul Village, St. Paul Island, Alaska

Citations:
Coal Shed 1919. U.S. Navy Maps_RG71, series 1, microfilm 1124.
The History of Parcel 6f, the ATCO Building, and the Windmill Wells on St. Paul Island, Alaska as it Relates to Soil and Groundwater Cleanup Needs and Responsibilities, Seattle: NOAA Pribilof Project Office, 2005, cover photograph.

Danger of Destruction:
Present Condition: Poor
Ecosystem:
Pertinent Dates: Constructed before AD 1919
Period: Historic
Resource Nature: B
Cultural Affiliation: Aleut, Euro-American
Preservation Status & Date: Not considered in the 1986 N.H.L. nomination, but is contributing under the original criteria and shown on the nomination form map.
Property Owner: NOAA
Repository:
Accession #: Other # (specify):

NAVY SHINGLE SHED
(BUILDING KK)
HABS No. [not assigned]
AHRS No. XPI-148

Location: Tract 46; Sandy Lane, immediately east of Six-Car Garage (Building V), Village of St. Paul, St. Paul Island, Pribilof Islands, Alaska

Significance: The Shingle Shed/Navy Shed, built sometime before 1919, is one of the original buildings erected by the U.S. Navy as part of the Naval Radio Station on St. Paul Island, which began in 1911. Although not listed as a contributing resource in the 1986 NHL nomination form, NOAA recommends including the Shingle Shed in the Seal Islands NHL because the building remained integral to the sealing industry and the Aleut community up through the end of the commercial fur-seal industry on St. Paul Island in 1984.

Description: The Shingle Shed/Navy Shed is a single-story gable-roofed shed measuring 12' x 18', framed of full 2" x 6" rough cut, with the same for rafters. Studs are on 24" centers. The interior is paneled with full 1" x 6" boards. The exterior cladding and roofing is old corrugated metal.

History: The building was described by two St. Paul elders as being used to store shingles during the federal management period. However, a list of buildings erected by the U.S. Navy mentions a coal shed in 1919, and there are 1919 drawings by the Navy for a coal shed of the same dimensions as the so-called “shingle shed.” A 1919 photograph of the radio station shows coal shed in the same location as the shingle shed. The shed was a single-purpose storage building. Ownership of the Naval Radio Station Complex passed from the Navy to the Bureau of Fisheries in 1937. The Shingle Shed likely served not only the Naval Radio Station, but also through the end of the federally-managed fur-seal industry on St. Paul Island, which ended in 1983.

Sources:
Coal Shed, 1919, U.S. Navy Maps, NARA, RG 71, series, 1124.
Plan, 1922. Plans for Compass House, later called Directional Finder. Navy Yard, Puget Sound, WA. Records of the Bureau of Docks and Yards, Record Group (RG) 71, Series I, Reel 1124; NARA, National Archives at College Park, College Park, MD.
Plan, 1919. USN series 1, microfilm 1124; January 1919; for Coal Shed (later referred to as Shingle Shed), Naval Radio Station. RG 71; NARA, National Archives at College Park, College Park, MD.
### Naval Tennis Court

**Alaska Heritage Resources Survey**

AHRS #: XPI-150  
Aliquot: S035S132W/25  
Lat./Long.: 170° 16.657 W, 57° 07.309 N  
Acreage: <.25  
Map sheet: St. Paul Island West (1:25,000)  
UTM:

**Site Name(s):** Navy tennis court

**Site Description:** The Navy tennis court (XPI-150) is a cracked and crumbling concrete pad south across Bartlett Boulevard from the buildings of the Naval Radio Station. The long axis of the court parallels the boulevard. The boulevard’s roadbed is elevated on sand about four feet above the court, and sand dunes have encroached on the court from all three sides. The tennis court appears in a circa 1925 [page 807] photograph by Ernest and Helen Watson (Ernest and Helen Watson photograph collection, University of Alaska, Fairbanks). It also appears on a map of the Naval Radio Station revised in 1938 and is plotted on a 1951 plan of the Naval Radio Station, showing that it once had a fence around it.

**Significance:** XPI-150 was built in circa 1925 to provide a recreation opportunity for military personnel working at the Naval Radio Station, before Bartlett Boulevard was built and separated it from the Navy buildings. The Naval Radio Station and all of its buildings were transferred to the Bureau of Fisheries on August 10, 1937. This structure was judged to be a non-contributing building to the Seal Island National Historic Landmark in the 1986 nomination form.

**Location:** On Bartlett Boulevard across (south) from the Naval Radio Station, St. Paul Village, St. Paul Island, Pribilof Islands, Alaska.

**Citations:**

**Danger of Destruction:**
- Present Condition: Poor; partially overgrown
- Ecosystem:
- Pertinent Dates: Constructed before AD 1936
- Period: Historic
- Resource Nature: Structure
- Cultural Affiliation: Euro-American, Navy
- Preservation Status & Date: Non-contributing resource in the 1986 NHL nomination
- Property Owner: Tanadgusix Corp.
- Repository:
- Accession #: 
- BIA/BLM #: Other # (specify):
NAVY TENNIS COURT

(SITE PP)

HABS No. [not assigned]

AHRS No. XPI-150

Location: On Bartlett Boulevard across (south) from the Naval Radio Station Electrical Shop, St. Paul Village, St. Paul Island, Pribilof Islands, Alaska.

Significance: The Navy Tennis Court was built circa 1925 and provided recreation to Navy personnel stationed at St. Paul Island’s Naval Radio Station. Although not listed as a contributing resource in the 1986 NHL nomination form, NOAA recommends including the Navy Tennis Court in the Seal Islands NHL because the tennis court was integral to the Naval Radio Station.

Description: The Navy Tennis Court (XPI-150) is a cracked and crumbling concrete pad south across Bartlett Boulevard from the buildings of the Naval Radio Station. The long axis of the court parallels the boulevard. The boulevard’s roadbed is elevated on sand about four feet above the court, and sand dunes have encroached on the court from all three sides. The tennis court appears on a map of the Naval Radio Station revised to 1938 and is plotted on a 1951 plan of the Naval Radio Station, showing that it once had a fence around it.

History: Extant government records do not contain any descriptive information about the Navy Tennis Court. However, the Naval Radio Station appears in a circa 1925 map and in a circa 1925 photograph by Ernest and Helen Watson. The tennis court also appears in subsequent maps and photographs. The Naval Radio Station and its 17-acre complex were transferred to the U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Fisheries on August 10, 1937. The Navy Tennis Court continued to be used by government employees stationed at St. Paul subsequent to the transfer. The tennis court was razed in 1967, but the concrete court remains to this day, although it is partially overgrown.

Sources:
St Paul Village, St Paul Island, Alaska [map], by J. R. Stacy, 1941. Oversized Documents folder, RG 22, NARA—Pacific Alaska Region, Anchorage.


Pribilof Islands Research: John A. Lindsay (NOAA), Betty A. Lindsay, Robin Maberry, and Karla Sclater, 2009
Windmill Wells (Site JJJ): The lack of an adequate freshwater supply to the village and to the Naval Radio Station led to drilling of water wells. Two Naval Radio Expeditions to St. Paul in 1921 and 1922 attempted to drill artesian wells, but the drilling failed to locate any freshwater. Albert Christoffersen, the engineer in charge of construction for the U.S. Department of Commerce, believed that drilling was a waste of time.

Upon a small island of such a volcanic origin, I doubt whether an artesian well of sufficient depth could be drilled without hitting a crack in the rocks through which salt water could enter the pipe. Last summer, the plans were to connect our pipe line to such a well, but I would consider it more as a waste of time to wait for water from such a well and would strongly recommend that the Bureau extend the present line to Icehouse Lake.

Christoffersen predicted that if the Navy did not locate freshwater in summer 1922, he would “not be surprised to see them take charge of Icehouse [Lake]. If they should, the Bureau will have to go to Kamanister [Kaminista]—twice as far away or be without water.” Either location, he argued, called for “the greater part of the time and attention of one white man to operate the engine and pump and keep the system in order. Why not then get a windmill to do the pumping?” One thing the Pribilof Islands always had enough of, Christoffersen added, was wind, making windmills the most efficient means of pumping water.

It will pump night and day without having a valuable man marking time and without consumption of gasoline. Some manufacturers even guarantee that their windmills will not need oiling more than once a year and that their pumps are frost-proof.

In 1926, a windmill was erected at Icehouse Lake, “but owing to a shortage of some minor equipment it was not placed into operation.” Work began on the Salt Lagoon flats “Navy wells”—a joint venture between the Navy and the Bureau of Fisheries—at the end of May 1927. Work on the first windmill at the site began in October. The Bureau of Fisheries also helped when a third windmill well was dug on the Salt Lagoon flats, sometime at the end of the 1920’s. In 1932, the agent’s log mentions other windmill wells being drilled at Icehouse Lake and another unspecified location.

In 2001, a NOAA remediation contractor observed a sheen on the surface water at two windmill wells, which went out of service sometime prior to World War II. The third well was not in use and already had been filled with soil. A 2005 investigation reported that the north well was filled with soil and the central and south wells were described as “large vaulted spaces and each is capped with a large concrete box sealed with a plywood top.” A subsequent groundwater investigation by NOAA found no notable petroleum product contamination in the vicinity of the windmill wells.
Naval Windmill Wells

Wilke, Ford. 1946. Two windmills are just visible on the right along the road, with the By-Products Plant in the center and the Salt Lagoon in the background, looking north. Photograph. NOAA, NMML Library, Seattle; Fur-Seal Archives, Ford Wilke Collection, FW 15.


Drawing, circa 1927. Freshwater wells details, Naval Radio Station. Series 1, Reel 1124, RG 71; NARA, National Archives at College Park, College Park, MD.
The first Long Range Aid to Navigation (LORAN) was constructed at Southwest Point by Seabees for the U.S. Coast Guard during the height of World War II. Beginning in 1959, a modern LORAN station was constructed near the St. Paul airport. The new station was fully staffed by Coast Guard personnel in 1960. Following the advancement of digital technology and satellite telemetry, the St. Paul LORAN Station became obsolete within the first decade of the new millennium, and the station became unmanned by 2009. In 2011, the LORAN antenna was felled to the ground, but the quarters were manned by Coast Guard rescue helicopter crews during the winter crab fishery in the Bering Sea.


Photograph No. 95-ADMC-230 (Photographer unknown), August 5, 1948; Former Coast Guard LORAN Station at Southwest Point, showing fuel drums and Quonset huts. Records of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, RG 370, NARA—Pacific Alaska Region (A).
Otter Island lies about six miles south and west of St. Paul Island and received its name from the large number of sea otters that inhabited the kelp beds around the isle. Over-hunting exterminated the sea otters around 1830. Otter Island measures approximately two miles long, lacks any beaches, and has only one place to land. Lava and scoria formed the island; sedimentary rock outcrops extend to approximately two hundred feet at the southwest end.

The Russian-American Company (RAC) set up work camps on Otter Island during its administration of the Seal Islands. When the U.S. took possession of Alaska, it prohibited fur-seal harvesting on the island. Poachers were nevertheless attracted to Otter Island for the fur-seal and hair-seal [harbor seal] rookeries, so armed Aleut laborers kept watch on the island to protect the seals from illicit hunting. The guards lived in barabaras until 1875. In that year, foxes destroyed the barabara used by the guards, so a U.S. Government agent decided to ship lumber over from St. Paul Island to build an above ground watchhouse. The agent reported that by the end of August that the guards had built “a very comfortable little house.” Water and coal were also shipped from St. Paul Island to sustain the watchmen. The watchmen rowed back and forth between St. Paul and Otter Island to replenish their supplies over the summer harvesting months.2

In 1872, Henry W. Elliott commented that Otter Island was easily reached “in almost any weather that is not very stormy,” because it “looms up high above the water.” Men rowing a bidarrah from St. Paul Village could expect to make it to Otter Island in about two hours.3 Elliott continued:

It rises from the ocean, sheer and bold, an unbroken mural precipice extending nearly all around, of sea-front, but dropping on its northern margin, at the water, low, and slightly elevated above the surf-wash, with broken, rocky beach and no sand. The height of the cliffs, at their greatest elevation over the west end, is 300 feet, while the eastern extremity is quite low, and terminated by a queer, funnel-shaped crater-hill, which is as distinctly defined, and as plainly scoured, and devoid of the slightest sign of vegetation within, as though it had burned up and out yesterday. This crater-point on Otter island is the only unique feature of the place, for with the exception of that low north shore, before mentioned, where many thousand of “bachelor seals” haul out during the season every year, there is nothing else worthy of notice concerning it. A bad reef makes out to the westward and northward, which I have indicated from my observations of the rocks awash, looking down upon them from the cliffs. Great numbers of water-fowl roost upon the cliffs, and there are here about as many blue foxes to the acre as the law of life allows. A small, shallow pool of impure water lies close down to the north shore, right under a low hill, upon which the Russians in olden time posted a huge Greek cross, that is still standing; indeed, it was their habit to erect crosses on all the hills in those olden times; one of them is standing at Northeast point [sic], on the large sand-dune wish I have called St. John or Cross hill; and another one, a sound, stalwart stick, yet faces the gale and driving “boorgas” to-day on Boga Slov [“word of God,” in Russian, given to hill at Zapadni] as it has faced them for the last sixty years. Otter island [sic] has, since my return in 1872, had considerable attention in the Treasury Department.

owing to the fact that certain parties contended that it lies without the jurisdiction of the law which covers and protects the seal-life on the Pribylov islands. This survey of mine, however, settles that question: the island is within the pale of the law. It is a rock adjacent to and in the waters of St. Paul, and resorted to only by those seals which are born upon and belong to the breeding-grounds of St. Paul and St. George, and I have never seen at any one time more than three or four thousand “holluschickie” [bachelor fur seals] hauled out here. 4

In 2000, NOAA, a space-imaging vendor, and the United States Geographic Survey (USGS) began collaborating to attain satellite imagery of the Seal Islands. During the spring of 2001, 10’ x 10’ sheets of plastic were placed in strategic locations on Walrus and Otter islands to serve as geo-referencing markers. Finally, in June 2001, satellites were in place over the Seal Islands and the weather cooperated, resulting in satellite imagery of the islands that allowed the creation of GIS and topographic maps. The geo-referencing sheets were removed sometime after this.

4 Ibid., 17.
To visit Walrus island in a boat, pleasantly and successfully, Henry W. Elliott wrote in the 1870’s, “it is best to submit to the advice and direction of the natives.” Walrus Island lies approximately six miles east of Northeast Point, comprised of a ledge of lava, “flat capped,” as Elliott put it, and “lifted just above the wash of angry waves; indeed, in storms of great power, the observer, standing on either Cross or Hutchinson’s hills, with a field-glass, can see the water breaking clear over it.”

No evidence exists suggesting structures were ever built on the tiny isle that had commercial value for the sealing companies or the U.S. government. Walrus Island did provide a valued dietary supplement to Aleuts who collected murre eggs in the summer months. Murres “by the hundred and thousand nest on a flat-topped table rock,” wrote G Dallas Hanna in 1923, and Aleuts gathered eggs in buckets and basket, loading them loose into the bottom of bidarras. “The return home of this boat,” Hanna enthused, “is one of the happiest times of the Aleuts’ lives; eggs are divided among all, and they are needed because it is the only time of the year this article enters into their very much-limited diet.”

Elliott described the tiny land mass as approximately a quarter of a mile in length and one hundred yards wide at its fullest point,

with bold water all around, entirely free from reefs or sunken rocks. As might be expected, there is no fresh water on it. In a fog it makes an ugly neighbor for the sea-captains when they are searching for ST. Paul; they all know it, and they all dread it. It is not resorted to by the fur-seals or by sea-lions in particular; but, singularly enough, it is frequented by several hundred male walrus, to the exclusion of females, every summer. A few sea-lions, but only a very few, however, breed here. On account of the rough weather, fog, etc., this little islet is seldom visited by the natives of St. Paul, and then only in the egging season of late June and early July; then that surf-beaten rock literally swarms with breeding water-fowl.

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2 Ibid., 17.

Call, Samuel J., photographer. 1889. Egg-gathering at Walrus Island, showing group on rocks and in two skiffs. Photograph. Alaska State Library: PCA 181, Samuel J. Call Photograph Collection, P181.11.

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American Museum of Natural History
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Alaska State Library
“A Summer on the Thetis” Photograph Album (PCA 27)
Call Samuel J. Call Photograph Collection (PCA 181)
Evan Hill Photograph Collection (PCA 343)
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National Anthropological Archives
Arctic: Aleut series in Photo Lot 24, Photographs of American Indians and other Subjects, 1840–1966
Joseph Stanley-Brown (JSB) Photo Lot 54, Lantern Slide Collection
Frederick William True Photographs
Photo Lot 37 Scenic Views of North America 1871–1912
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National Archives and Records Administration (NARA), Pacific Alaska Region
Record Group (RG) 56. Series Photographs and Charts of Treasury Agent A. P. Loud, ca. 1885–ca. 1886, formerly listed under Record Group (RG) 22.
Record Group (RG) 22. Series U.S. Bureau of Fisheries (USBF) Photographs
Record Group 370, Records of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (formerly RG (RG) 22, Records of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS); however, NARA photographs within RG 370 currently retain the RG 22 identifier.
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National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) at College Park
Record Group (RG) 22. Series 22-RB, Photographs of the Pribilof Islands, 1947–1956
U.S. Navy Series, Record Group (RG) 71 Records of the Bureau of Yards and Docks
Special Media Archives Services Division
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National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) at College Park
Record Group (RG) 76: Records of Boundary and Claims Commissions and Arbitrations SERIES 157 (entry 182 in finding aid)
Cartographic and Architectural Section
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College Park, Maryland 20740-6001
(301) 837-3200
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