

Church of the Holy Ascension National Historic Landmark Unalaska, Alaska

The Church of the Holy Ascension is located on the Island of Unalaska, approximately halfway along the Aleutian archipelago in the Bering Sea. The site represents Russian missionary activities in the area and is also associated with the career of the first resident Orthodox Bishop of Alaska. The church itself, built in 1894-1896 in the cruciform style, with three altars, is the oldest church of this type in Alaska. Within the nave of the church is an impressive ikonostasis, which is a wall of icons and religious paintings separating the nave from the sanctuary. The church contains a chapel to the north dedicated to St. Innocent of Irkutsk, and one to the south dedicated to St. Sergius. Located to the west is the Bishop's House, which was once part of a larger complex of buildings serving as an orphanage and schoolhouse.