

Alaska State Library
Historical Collections

Guide to Collection

United States. Dept. of the Interior

Alaska Public Works Program, Nome to Ketchikan, 1961

PCA 369

.5 cubic feet
268 photographs

Processed: 1996
By: India Spartz

ACQUISITION: This collection was transferred from the Alaskana book stacks to the photograph collections.

ACCESS: The photos may be viewed. However they may not be photocopied.

COPYRIGHT: Request for permission to publish or reproduce material from the collection should be discussed with the Librarian.

PROCESSING: The notebook (pages created from manila file folders) containing photographs, history and tables, was taken apart but left in original order. Photographs are numbered and labeled.

Historical Note

The Alaska Public Works Program was authorized during the 81st Congress through the Alaska Public Works Act, Public Law 264. The Act authorized the General Services Administration to construct public works in Alaska, at a total cost of \$70 million, then to sell them to the Territory of Alaska or other public bodies in Alaska at a purchase price that would recover approximately 50% of the total estimated cost. The authority, set to expire June 30, 1955, was extended to June 30, 1959. The program expenditure totaled over \$69 million dollars.

The original office was located in Juneau from Nov. 21, 1949 until Dec. 31, 1961. Field offices were established in Fairbanks, Anchorage and Ketchikan.

Approximately 46% of the Public Works expenditures went to schools. Fifty-four projects modernized or created new structures throughout the state except north of the Arctic Circle (under the jurisdiction of BIA). New water supply systems were constructed in almost every incorporated community in Alaska. Street improvements, hospitals and health care centers, municipal buildings (fire, equipment storage, a library, and state office buildings) were also constructed and the University of Alaska was expanded. Small boat harbors were provided at Haines and Skagway.

The collection was made from a notebook created in 1961, providing a photographic documentation of each construction project, organized by community. Also included is a complete history and outline of the project, a table of expenditures by location, a table of expenditures by type of project (schools, streets, etc.), a numerical summary of the projects may be found in the collection that includes facilities by type of project, location, pictorial reviews, each completed project, typical construction, Architectural and Engineering. Locations and subjects are listed on the next page.

Inventory of locations

Anchorage. (Alaska)
Angoon (Alaska)
Anvik (Alaska) -- schools
Bethel (Alaska)
Chignik Lagoon (Alaska) -- schools
Chevak (Alaska)
Chugiak (Alaska) -- schools
College (Alaska)
Cordova (Alaska)
Craig (Alaska)
Dillingham (Alaska)
Fairbanks (Alaska)
Fort Yukon (Alaska) -- schools
Haines (Alaska)
Homer (Alaska)

Hoonah (Alaska)
Hooper Bay (Alaska)
Hydaburg (Alaska)
Juneau (Alaska)
Kake (Alaska)
Ketchikan (Alaska)
Kenai (Alaska)
Klawock (Alaska)
Kodiak (Alaska)
Naknek (Alaska)
Nenana (Alaska) -- schools
Ninilchik (Alaska) -- schools
Nome (Alaska) -- schools
Palmer (Alaska)
Pedro Bay (Alaska) -- schools
Petersburg (Alaska)
Sand Point (Alaska) -- schools
Seldovia (Alaska)
Seward (Alaska)
Skagway (Alaska)
Sitka (Alaska)
Valdez (Alaska)
Wasilla (Alaska) -- schools
Wrangell (Alaska)
Yakutat (Alaska)