



**Sheldon Jackson School National Historic Landmark  
Sitka, Alaska**

The history of Sheldon Jackson School begins with the arrival of Presbyterian missionaries ten years after the 1867 purchase of Alaska from Russia. Reverend Sheldon Jackson was one of the first to recruit fellow missionaries for work in Alaska. Jackson was appointed General Agent of Education for Alaska, following passage of the federal Organic Act of 1884 that provided for civil government and public education. Through education that emphasized English, students were taught to adopt elements of Euro-American culture. Changes in Alaska Native life were also instigated by the removal of native students from their homes to the school, and by the promotion of skills other than those used in traditional Native occupations. The school also played an important although indirect role, through its students, in the development of Alaska Native political organization and the pursuit of legal rights.