In December 2018 the Sitka Fine Arts Camp filled in a concrete bunker, that had been built sometime in the 1950s or early 1960s against the north wall of North Pacific Hall. It was rotting out the wall of the building where it is attached, and there was a large (chimney) hole in the 4” concrete roof, which was a hazard because the height of the roof was attractive to children to play on. Recently it was observed that there were cracks in the concrete roof, meeting in the center, and so the camp took advantage of an equipment operator on campus for an exterior lighting project, to remove it and fill it in. The contractor said that it took just a touch for the roof to collapse; there was very little reinforcing in the structure.

This document has photos and sketches made in November, 2018 by Rebecca Poulson.

North Pacific Hall was originally the Large Girls dormitory, student kitchen and bakery (in an extension in the center of the north wall) and dining room (the entire west end of the building), and staff dining room (in the east end of the building).

This bunker seems to have been added on to the north west corner of the building as a boiler room in the 1950s. It had its own chimney, that extended up through the eaves of North Pacific Hall. Originally, there was a chimney coming from the kitchen wing of the building (in the center of the north wall). The chimney is visible in a photo from around 1960.

There were at least two and probably three or more heating systems in this bunker space in the past. North Pacific Hall originally had its own coal-fired boiler in the basement space under the former kitchen (an extension in the north wall), even though the building has also alwayw been on the same central steam-heating system as the rest of the campus.

This boiler room may have been constructed when the building’s use was changed: the student kitchen and dining hall was moved from this building to the Rasmuson Building, built in 1956 as the new kitchen and dining hall.

Around that same time, the former kitchen of NPH was enlarged on two sides and the interior walls taken out, to make an apartment. This boiler room may have been part of that remodel. The only heating equipment in it when these drawings were made, however, was an expansion tank, manufactured in 1996, presumably to function as part of the central steam heating system, in use until the school closed in 2007.

There was also a buried oil tank, behind the wall on the east of the bunker, that had oil in it, and does not seem to have leaked. (The oil was taken to the harbor disposal tank.) That oil tank must have been for the boiler, that was not there any more, that would have been hooked up to the chimney. The chimney had been taken out before 2004, when the HABS drawings were made.
Field sketches of bunker on north west corner of North Pacific Hall, by Rebecca Poulson, November 28 2018.

Drawing of the bunker from the outside, looking south.
Steps going down into the bunker, on the east side. Inset, detail showing that the wood framing for the door way is the larger dimension wood used before the late 1960s.
Plan view of bunker. Doorway is bottom left (west wall)
Plumbing on the south wall. Electrical wiring is the darker lines.
The expansion tank, from the south. The west end is drawn from a south west perspective, and the east end of the tank is drawn from a south east perspective.

Below, is detail of the writing on the plate on the end of the expansion tank.

Inset: detail of brick chimney in south west corner.
Exterior of the bunker, north west corner of North Pacific Hall. All photos this document by Rebecca Poulson, November 28 2018.
Exterior showing steps. Right, view from inside, looking up the steps toward east.
Below, view from the doorway, looking west. Above, detail of metal cube. Right, details facing west. The chimney is in the southwest corner.
South wall plumbing. The gray vertical pipe is plastic and goes to the sump and pump, in photo below left. It goes out the room through a hole high on the north wall.
More plumbing on the south wall. There are at least two, probably three different systems, all going through an opening into the crawl space beneath North Pacific Hall. All are disconnected.
Views of the ceiling and of the north east corner. Photos top left and center, looking west. Photo top right, looking east. Note cracks converging. Photo bottom left is of concrete wedge-shaped platform in the north west corner.
Views looking east, from against the west wall. Above, old electrical control box, next to chimney. Right, details of chimney, in the south west corner. Center and left, concrete platform and plumbing to the metal cube. The pump attached to the cube is cracked all the way through.
Views from the north west corner, looking towards east and south. Right center, detail of the plate on the tank.
FOUNDATION NOTES

THE PRIMARY STRUCTURE OF NORTH PACIFIC HALL CONSISTS OF CONCRETE STEM WALLS AROUND THE PERIMETER OF THE BUILDING SUPPORTING THE EXTERIOR WOOD FRAME BEARING WALLS. BEARING WALLS RUNNING ALONG THE LENGTH OF THE INTERIOR COORDINATES ARE SUPPORTED BY TWO ROWS OF CONCRETE PIERS FOOTINGS IN THE CRAWL SPACE. SOME SETTLING HAS OCCURRED, BUT THERE ARE NO MAJOR STRUCTURAL ISSUES.

IN THE CENTRAL PORTION OF THE CRAWL SPACE, A SECTION OF A HEAVY TIMBER BEAM HAS BEEN REPLACED WITH A BUILT UP 2"X10" BEAM.

STEAM PIPES FROM THE ORIGINAL HEATING SYSTEM RUN THE ENTIRE LENGTH OF THE CRAWLSPACE THROUGH A SUNKEN UTILDOOR. IN THE ORIGINAL CAMPUS PLAN, STEAM WAS CARRIED FROM BUILDING TO BUILDING VIA THESE UNDERGROUND UTILDOORS.

ROOF FRAMING NOTES