

Located in the beautiful state of Alaska, a little town called Whittier is tucked away in a picturesque area surrounded by mountains and the ocean. Its single-building town, surrounded by Alaska's breathtaking landscape, is a testament to human ingenuity and resilience. Tourism has grown over the last few years to become an alternative source of income, drawing visitors to attractions such as the Anton Anderson Memorial Tunnel, glacier jet ski tours, and scenic boat excursions that offer breathtaking views of marine wildlife and icebergs. Initially, wooden camps housed the soldiers, but as the need for more permanent structures grew with the increasing population, two significant buildings were erected: the once largest building in Alaska, the Buckner Building, and the Begich Towers. Whittier's economy thrives on its port, the town's main source of employment, where cargo ships drop off their containers for rail transportation across Alaska. The town also has a grocery store, a museum, two hotels, and various other job opportunities for all its citizens: police officers, municipal workers, educators at the local school, and marina staff. Shielded by towering mountains and situated by a bay with unfreezing waters, this location offered an ideal strategic position. The construction of the tunnel in the 1940s, intended to provide railway access, marked Whittier's transformation into an essential cargo and passenger port. This tunnel is unique because it is shared by both vehicles and trains, necessitating a precisely managed schedule to accommodate both modes of transportation and both directions of traffic. After the military left in the 1960s, the Buckner Building was abandoned, and the Begich Towers became the main residential and communal space for the town's inhabitants. Nowadays, Whittier's residents just need to hop on the elevator to go grocery shopping, visit the police station, or eat 'out'—though in this case, 'eat in' might be more accurate. The close proximity of homes and businesses fosters a strong bond among the residents.