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## Legendary Sheldon Jackson College Closes its Doors

On June 29<sup>th</sup> the privately owned Sheldon Jackson College announced to faculty, staff, and 100 students that the Historic Presbyterian School would be shutting down for one academic school year. The school opened in 1878 as the first institution for higher learning in the state of Alaska and has a history as long as its operations of financial and accreditation issues. The school has sold several historic properties in an effort to keep its head above water but unfortunately financial mismanagement hasn't allowed for academic success. The Sheldon Jackson Board of Trustees refuses to comment on the situation and school president Dr. David Dobler has given no hint as to the direction the school intends to go to solve their problems. Besides many creditors coming forward and the laying off of over 100 employees in the rural community of Sitka, Alaska, several other issues have arisen.

One issue of concern is the further selling of historic properties. Dr. Dobler stated that he will do everything possible to maintain and protect the buildings and land of this historic campus. Unfortunately, no official comment has been made by the SJ Board regarding these properties. That has the community and local preservation groups concerned.

The closure of Stratton Library on the campus is also a concern as the library holds nearly 50,000 items including many archival items relating to Alaska's history. Ginny Blackson a

former Stratton Librarian called upon concerned members of the community to meet and discuss the possibility of damage to collections from the utilities being shut off. Uncontrolled climate, specifically humidity issues within the library could be very detrimental to treasures such as E.W. Merrill's plate glass negatives and prints. The group agreed to form a committee to be ready to deal with collections at a moments notice should the board decide to sell the property. They also approached the City of Sitka's Assembly and ask the City to allow the heat in the library to be set at a safe level to insure preservation of the collections. Fortunately, despite an over \$400,000 utility debt with the city they agreed to provide heat to the building.

Although on the campus, the Sheldon Jackson Museum is owned and operated by the State of Alaska and these precious collections are not in danger and will continue to be cared for and protected.

The warmhearted community of Sitka has done very well to band together to take over operations of the Day Care and the Hames P.E. Center as well as applying pressure to the Sheldon Jackson Board of Trustees to do all it can to protect its historic properties and collections. For now the Sheldon Jackson's Board meets behind closed doors, which has Sitkans very nervous for the fate of this beautiful historic campus.

## AAHP is launching a new website

AAHP is in the process of launching its new website. Currently under construction, the website will be fully functional by the beginning of 2008. The site will have online membership enrollment and renewal capabilities, access to the current newslet-

ter and Ten Most Endangered Properties list, lists of current events and preservation alerts. Over the next year, more tools and features will be added, including discussion boards, galleries, community specific information pages, and more!! Bookmark our

new site at [www.aahp-online.org](http://www.aahp-online.org) and check it frequently for updates and additions. We will announce its official launch early next year. Have a great holiday season and we look forward to a successful 2008!!

## Featured National Register Listing: Cape Nome Roadhouse

Cape Nome Roadhouse is a great example of an Alaskan Roadhouse. This roadhouse played a role in the Seward Peninsula and Nome Gold Rush, served as a stop on the Fairbanks and Iditarod Trails and witnessed Leonard Seppala's diphtheria serum run. Situated roughly fourteen miles from Nome, this roadhouse was often the first or last stop for people making the journey to or from Nome.

Cape Nome Roadhouse is a variation on the New Eng-

land Saltbox. Traditionally, a salt box has a side gable with the cat slide addition on the rear elevation. However, the Cape Nome Roadhouse has a front gable with the addition on a side elevation. The orientation is towards the water where the trails once passed. Interior partitions were added over time to accommodate more guests. Overall, the buildings has a unique design not readily seen in the Arctic.

Currently, this historic home is threatened by the en-

croaching waters of Norton Sound. Each year the storm water erodes more and more land. During the trail days, the building stood roughly 300 feet from the shore, but now the water is less than fifty feet from the building. The erosion problem started when fill was placed in the water just a mile down the shore from the roadhouse. Temporarily, rip rap was placed on the shoreline in an attempt to prevent the bank from further erosion.



*The Cape Nome Roadhouse in 2007 with its owner, Bonnie Hahn.*

## Community Restoration and Revitalization Act

In February, the House and Senate introduced legislation to improve the Rehabilitation Tax Credit that is available through the Federal government. Currently there are seventy cosponsors signed onto the bill in the House and seven in the Senate.

Some of the key components of the legislation include increasing the credit amount to 40% for projects under one million dollars, reduce the basis reduction, allow condominium developments, improve the twinning of the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit with the Rehabilitation

Tax Credit, and change the qualifying date for the 10% rehabilitation tax credit.

Keep up-to-date with this legislation and let us know if you would like more information about this great incentive program used for historic preservation.

*"In February, the House and Senate introduced legislation to improve the Rehabilitation Tax Credit."*

## Moved Properties: The Bloom House in Fairbanks

In the early morning hours on September 8, a group of people interested in the Bloom House in Fairbanks gathered to watch the relocation of the building. A variety of companies hoisted wires up, lowered others to the ground and turned traffic lights to accommodate the move coordinated by Jeff Bovee. People on the ground reported that no cracking or popping was heard during the move.

The Bloom House is associated with Robert and Jessie Bloom. Jessie Bloom organized the first kindergarten and first Girl Scouts Troop in Fairbanks. Robert was a prominent businessman and served on the University of Alaska Board of Regents.

The next steps include locating a suitable lot for the house, rehabilitating it, assigning an appropriate use and securing the funding for all the work.



*The Bloom House moving down Third Avenue in Fairbanks.*



A Bungalow (Bungaloid) style house located in the Chicken Ridge Historic District of Juneau.

## The Styles of Alaska: Bungalow

The Bungalow style (also known as Bungaloid) is a dressed down version of the Craftsman style. The Craftsman style originated in Southern California and was popularized throughout the United States between 1905 and the early 1920s. Magazines and pattern books took this popular building style to the various corners of the country. High style Bungalows are not common outside California. The style faded in the 1920s and few examples date from the 1930s.

Two Californians in the Pasadena area, Charles Sumner Greene and Henry Mather Greene, created the Bungalow style. According to Virginia and Lee McAlester, the brothers were influenced by their early days studying the "English Arts and Crafts movement, an interest in oriental wooden architecture, and their early training the manual arts." This background provided the palette for the intricate detail work that permeates the Bungalow style.

The more prevalent Bungalow is quite often a single story with decorative elements common in its high style cousin. Pattern books and catalogs made this style the most fashionable small home in the country. Some important character defining features of the style include exposed rafters, knee braces, exposed beams, wide overhangs, transom windows, battered porch columns, and incorporation of natural materials.

## Membership Drive: Recruit Five

The Alaska Association of Historic Preservation is holding a Fall Recruitment Drive called RECRUIT FIVE. The plan is simple, to increase membership, AAHP is tasking each current member to recruit five additional members for the 2008 year membership year.

Increased membership equals increased advocacy power, increased granting ability and increased financial sustainability. With the number of threatened heritage resources in Alaska, it is an important time to mobilize in a bigger way.

Please send in the members that you recruit so we know who is responsible and we can congratulate all the efforts of our members in our winter newsletter. Thank you to all our members for the continued support you provide.

*"Increased membership equals increased advocacy power and increased granting ability."*



Norton tradition artifacts similar to those recovered at the Savonoski Archaeological District

## Archaeology Corner

The Savonoski Archaeological District, located in the Alagnak River drainage in southwestern Alaska, is the latest prehistoric archaeological site to be placed on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). The Savonoski AD is a prehistoric village site containing over forty identified features within a four acre area. Of the recorded features, extensive testing has revealed over thirty semi-subterranean house depressions. Thick cultural deposits within the site stratigraphy indicates nearly continuous occupation for a large majority of the site between 2310 cal B.P. and 1260 cal B.P. These radiocarbon dates, along with recovered artifacts, and spatial patterning suggests that these features are affiliated with the Norton tradition. The Norton period extends from 2,300 to 900 B.P. and is found in sites throughout western Alaska.

At this time, the Savonoski AD is the largest and oldest known site in the Alagnak River drainage. It has been placed on the NRHP due to the potential of the site to provide significant information about early inhabitants of the area and the development of large, settled villages in western Alaska more than 2,000 years ago.

*(The above contains excerpts from the NRHP Registration Form dated March 24, 2006)*

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DEDICATED TO THE PRESERVATION OF ALASKA'S PREHISTORIC AND  
HISTORIC HERITAGE AS MANIFESTED IN ITS BUILDINGS AND SITES



### Roof Renovations at Sitka Pioneer House

After 73 years of occupancy, the historic Sitka Pioneer Home is planning on undergoing a major roof repair project that will purposefully revitalize the facilities unique terracotta tile roof. As a National Historic Landmark building, any new construction is required to meet the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitating historic buildings if the landmark status is to be maintained. The State of Alaska Department of Health and Social Services Southeast Facilities Section has recognized the historic status of this landmark, and has recognized the original tie installation has had terrific longevity. Following a

careful analysis of replacement options this fall, it was decided that maintaining this roof type will afford the best solution meeting both preservation and maintenance needs. The project in design calls for the complete removal of all tile from the roof, anticipating the salvage of as much as 75% of the original roof tiles for re-use. A new waterproof underlayment is to be installed over the original roof decking, and the terracotta tile reinstalled. Ludowici Co., the original manufacturer of the English style interlocking tile, is still in business in the US and will reproduce the profiles necessary to complete the project.