



THE ALASKA ASSOCIATION FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION

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AAHP 2011 Annual Meeting

Saturday, December 3, 2011, 4-6pm

The Oscar Anderson House Museum
(located on M Street in Elderberry Park)

Celebrate the "Alaska Preservationist of the Year" award!

Voice your preservation concerns!

Share your goals for AAHP! and...

Enjoy a tour of the Oscar Anderson House Museum! (with your \$10 donation)

For more information or to RSVP, please call 907-929-9870

or email akpreservation@gmail.com.



Oscar Anderson House Museum (photo: Library of Congress American Memory website)

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About AAHP

The Alaska Association for Historic Preservation (AAHP) was founded in 1982 as a private, nonprofit corporation. AAHP is dedicated to the preservation of Alaska's prehistoric and historic heritage as manifested in its buildings and sites.

AAHP aids in historic preservation projects across Alaska and monitors and supports legislation to promote historic preservation, serving as a liaison between local, statewide, and national historic preservation groups. Additionally, AAHP publishes a quarterly newsletter and holds educational workshops.

Message from the President



Greetings Everyone! Well, winter is here and it is COLD! However, this is a great time of year to focus on the things that matter most to us; family, friends, and preservation! The preservation world is abuzz right now with all

kinds of activities and events. Here in Anchorage, a historic preservation plan is in the works for Anchorage's four original neighborhoods, and preparations for Anchorage's Centennial are underway (see inside newsletter for details). What's happening in your community?

AAHP is also busy planning its Annual Meeting to be held December 3rd at the Oscar Anderson House Museum. I hope that all of our members will come by to introduce themselves and tell us about the unique preservation issues in their community. If you are not able to come to the Annual Meeting but would like to share a story, feel free to email it to akpreservation@gmail.com and we'll share it on your behalf. This is a great opportunity to connect with others in the preservation community and raise awareness for your cause!

As the year comes to a close and we prepare for the New Year, I also hope that you will take a moment to renew your membership and make an additional donation to our 10 Most Endangered grant program. The demand for grant funds is high, and your additional donation helps us continue offering a grant every year! For more information on the 10 Most Grant, please visit our website at www.aahp-online.net.

'Tis the Season! You may also give a gift membership to AAHP! Just let us know the name and address of the recipient and the level of membership

Speaking of COLD, I recommend you visit the National Trust for Historic Preservation's comprehensive guide on weatherization and historic homes at <http://www.preservationnation.org/issues/weatherization/> if you have not done so already. There you will find tips on increasing your home's energy efficiency without sacrificing its character! Happy Holidays everyone!
-Jessica

In the News

Anchorage is almost 100!

The Anchorage centennial planning is underway! And they need your ideas!

Please look at the centennial page on the Cook Inlet Historical Society website:

<http://www.cookinlethistory.org/celebrating-anchorage-centennial.html>

Leading up to and during the centennial, the Anchorage Museum will plan and produce Dena'ina, Captain Cook, and Historic Anchorage exhibits and programs. The Cook Inlet Society, an affiliate and support organization of the Anchorage Museum, will produce a lecture series on the history of Anchorage during 2013-15 to which all citizens and visitors will be invited.

Ideas can be submitted either electronically to the Society via email at CIHS@anchagemuseum.org or by mail to the Cook Inlet Historical Society at the Anchorage Museum, 625 C Street, Anchorage, AK 99501. The submission should be received by January 9, 2012.

AAHP “Most Endangered” Listing Helps Leverage Funding for Saxman Projects

By Jason Custer

The City of Saxman is located in Southeast Alaska, 2.5 road miles south of the City of Ketchikan. The community is perhaps best-known as the home of Totem Row Park – an outdoor park which includes 25 Tlingit totem poles. The park was created through a 1930s Civilian Conservation Corps program, which collected totem poles from abandoned villages throughout southeast Alaska, and hired Alaska Native people to carve duplicates. Saxman is also home to the Chief Kashakes House – the last example of a “balloon frame” clan house still standing in southeast Alaska. The Kashakes House is home to two early 20th century totem poles, and a Russian cannon dating back to the 18th century.

In 2010, the City of Saxman submitted Totem Row Park and the Chief Kashakes House for consideration for inclusion on the Alaska Association for Historic Preservation (AAHP) “Most Endangered Historic Properties” list. The Kashakes House and Cultural Items made #1 on the list, due to the advanced decay of the property, and challenging issues of ownership. Totem Row Park was ranked as the #5 Most Endangered property in the State, due to the difficulty and expense of maintaining wooden totem poles exposed to southeast Alaska’s harsh maritime climate.

The City of Saxman then went on to apply for and receive a \$180,000 Commercial Passenger Vessel (CPV) excise tax grant from the Ketchikan Gateway Borough, and a \$207,725 National Scenic Byways Grant from

the Federal Highway Administration. Together, these funds will address Totem Row Park’s totem pole duplication, maintenance, and capital improvement needs, and will cover the cost of recarving the Three Eagles in a Tree Pole located at the Chief Kashakes House Property. The City of Saxman is contributing staff time, in-kind use of Saxman’s Edwin Dewitt Carving Center, and other funds towards the projects. Carver Donald Varnell will be overseeing the recarving of a total of five historic totem poles, including the Blackfish Pole shown in Totem Row Park’s 2010 “Most Endangered” listing. A new Saxman Heritage Arts class, funded by the National Endowment for the Arts’ “Art Works” program, will provide youth and children with the opportunity to learn basic carving and restoration skills, and assist Varnell in some aspects of the project.



US Senators Lisa Murkowski and Mark Begich travelled to Saxman’s Totem Row Park in August of 2011 to assist community members in raising two new Bear Entrance Poles; duplicates of older poles which reached the end of their lifespan. Saxman looks forwards to raising 5 additional totem poles within the next 2 years.

develop its carving and restoration workforce, and preserve resources that have served as a focal point for the regional visitor industry. We are looking at this project as an integrated effort to address Saxman’s historic preservation, economic development, and workforce development needs. -continued on p. 6

Saxman’s Grant Coordinator, Jason Custer, reflected upon the community’s new-found package of funding: “In addition to restoring and revitalizing Totem Row Park, these projects will help Saxman de-

The Weatherell House

By Fran Seager-Boss

Establishment of Talkeetna as a townsite in 1919 on the Alaska railroad motivated Horace Nagley to move his trading post from Susitna Station upriver to Talkeetna. Tom Weatherell moved from Susitna Station with his friend and employer Horace Nagley. An employee of Nagley's, he assisted in the commercial store for many years by providing goods to numerous placer mines in the Peter's Creek/Dutch Hills region, located some 45 miles west of town. Horace Nagley ran his business in Talkeetna on the Susitna River front before moving it two decades later to the head of Main Street, away from Susitna River flooding. Tom Weatherell was known not only as Nagley's assistant but also as a miner undertaking the back breaking work of mining in addition to assisting miners by grub staking their claims and profiting from his investments.



Upon his retirement sometime in the 1930s, Weatherell, having befriended a miner by the name of Elmer Ronning, built his log home with Elmer's assistance. The house, made with large, three quarter cut logs with peg and dowel construction was situated not too far from his place of employment on the river front. Bearing a hipped roof with small south facing dormer, the house was the perfect size for a bachelor. Facing the road the south east corner had a cut away front door with small porch entrance.

Some time prior to 1939 a gabled frame addition was constructed on the north side. Weatherell had chosen canary yellow for his house. Over the ensuing

years the house had a number of tenants; one of the most memorable being "Missouri", Adolph Taraski, a miner and old timer in Talkeetna. Following his death the house became a stop-over dorm for climbers aspiring to ascend Denali.

The Talkeetna Historic District was nominated to the National Register of Historic Places in 1992 as contributing to the settlement of the area by miners working in the Peter's Creek/Dutch Hills area. Tom Weatherell's house was included in the district as a contributing building. Soon thereafter the Weatherell house went into decline.

The lower timbers had been punished by too many Alaskan winters. For several years and as recently as 2009 the Weatherell/Tarasky house was listed by AAHP as one of Alaska's ten most endangered historic buildings. Abandoned and neglected the building had fallen into great disrepair an obvious eyesore within the historic district (refer to photo).

In 2010 the State Office of History and Archaeology received bricks and mortar funding for historic buildings. Owners of historic buildings were encouraged to submit grant requests. The Rusts, current owners of the Weatherell house, submitted a grant request and received a 50/50 matching grant to upgrade their building. The Mannix brothers of Top Notch Log-builders Inc., who have assisted in upgrading a

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ANB Camp #1 and ANS Camp #4 prepare for Centennial Celebration in Sitka

By Anne Pollnow



ANB Hall, Sitka, AK

The Alaska Native Brotherhood and Sisterhood Camps in Sitka have begun rehabilitating their ninety-eight year old Hall located in the Sitka Indian Village, downtown Sitka. Through a grant from the Alaska Office of History and Archaeology and community contributions for the match, the Alaska Native Brotherhood Camp #1 hired Northwind Architects, LLC out of Juneau to prepare a condition and structural survey on the Hall. Having secured legislative appropriations this last year, the ANB is moving forward with recommended repairs and upgrades. Fresh paint, new windows and doors, and new roof are sure to contribute to the spirit of reflection and renewal at the centennial celebration commemorating one hundred years of the Alaska Native Brotherhood Organization to be held in October of 2012.

The Hall is approximately 40'x60' wood framed construction. It is rectangular in shape, similar to a traditional Tlingit long house, consisting from external appearance to be two stories and an attic. The frame of the building is set on pilings over the Sitka Harbor and is a single auditorium, with narrow side balconies at the second floor level, constitute the main area. A state and dressing room and offices are off the southern end of the main auditorium, while a small storage room, bathrooms, and kitchen are off the other end. Another small meeting room now divided by partitions for offices is above this area. On the northern end, harbor side, is a small furnace room.

There have been no major alterations to the structure that current officers of the local Camps or residents recall, but as a comparison of the 1917, 1938, 1971 and 2010 photographs indicate, some features, such as the entranceway have been modified prior to the 1938. According to an ANB representative, the metal doors are being replaced with those of fiberglass that have the appearance of wood.

Saxman Projects continued from p. 3

Custer also stated: “The AAHP’s Most Endangered Historic Properties List helped bring renewed attention to Saxman’s preservation challenges. In addition to helping funders outside of Saxman understand the importance of investing in our community’s cultural and historic resources, the listings helped generate new dialogue and enthusiasm at the local level.”

Earlier this year, carver Donnie Varnell completed re-carving a Bear Entrance Pole for Totem Row Park. Funds were provided by the Cape Fox Corporation and the City of Saxman. This pole, along with a second re-carved Bear Entrance pole, was raised in a public ceremony in August of 2011. Both of Alaska’s US Senators – Lisa Murkowski and Mark Begich -- attended and spoke at the event, and helped hoist the two Bear Entrance Poles into position.



Weatherell House continued from p. 4



Photograph of Tom Weatherell
Taken from Talkeetna Echoes by Nola H. Campbell

number of historic log buildings in the past, were contracted to work on the Weatherell House.

The rear shed had to be removed to enable the log portion to be raised for

access to foundation work and lower timbers. The exterior door to the shed was badly decayed and not reusable. All five lower level windows were salvaged and the upper level was left intact. Six doors were salvaged with interior and exterior door and window trim.

Although wall boards were discarded due to excessive mold, the battens covering the seams were salvaged as were the chair rail and additional trim. The stair-frame, risers, treads and stringers as well as the upper stair well were retained. Most of the 2”x3” fur strips were left in place that lined the inside of the building upon which wall board had been hung. Much of the kitchen and dining room flooring had to be discarded due to buckling warping and decay however 75% of the bedroom floor was salvaged.

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Weatherell House continued from p. 6

A number of the exterior wall timbers had to be replaced. With craftsmanship equal to the original construction new log tiers had to be hand fashioned with dovetail corners (refer to photo). With a new foundation and new exterior timbers the house now awaits funding for completion of its interior (photo of house on new foundation) and gabled addition.

Photos were provided by Top Notch Logbuilders Inc.

**Advertise in the
AAHP Newsletter**

Business Card	\$35
1/4 Page	\$65
1/2 Page	\$125

Prices are for one issue of the AAHP Newsletter. AAHP has the right to refuse advertisements that they deem inappropriate for this venue.

The Anchorage Preservation Plan

Historic preservation planning for Anchorage's four original neighborhoods (Government Hill, Fairview, South Addition, and Government Hill) has been initiated by the Municipality of Anchorage, in partnership with the Alaska State Historic Preservation Office and the Federal Highway Administration, as a mitigation element of the Knik Arm Crossing Project. . Please visit the project websites (www.anchoragehpp.com or www.anchorageghnp.com), Facebook pages (Anchorage Historic Preservation Plan and Government Hill Neighborhood Plan), or contact the Municipality of Anchorage Community Development Department for more information.

Invite your friends to join!

AAHP MEMBERSHIP 2012

Name _____ Phone _____
 Address _____ e-mail _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Membership term is 12 consecutive months.

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Student \$15 | <input type="checkbox"/> Contributor \$50 | <input type="checkbox"/> Sponsor \$250 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual \$25 | <input type="checkbox"/> Friend \$100 | <input type="checkbox"/> Benefactor \$500 & above |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family \$40 | <input type="checkbox"/> Corporate \$100 | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Non-Profit* \$45 <small>(*includes federal, state, & municipal agencies)</small> | | Membership \$ _____ |

I/we wish to make a tax-deductible gift to the

AAHP Top Ten Most Endangered Historic Properties matching-grant account

(Donations to AAHP are tax deductible, as allowable under IRS regulations.)

Donation \$ _____

Total Enclosed \$ _____

I also wish to participate in AAHP activities in the following areas:

- Fund Raising Membership Education Legislation Public Relations Projects & Issues

Neo-Mansard (1970-1985)

The Neo-Mansard style is also referred to as the Mansard is truly a reinterpretation of the Second Empire style popular during the 1880s. Gas stations used the Neo-Mansard style to soften their previous modernist concrete buildings. McDonald's also popularized the style with the creation of their eat-in restaurants featuring a mansard roof. A variety of building types exhibit the Neo-Mansard style including apartment buildings, single family residences, condominiums, gas stations, restaurants and commercial buildings. Older buildings often modernized by adding mansard roofs to their facades. Now Neo-Mansards are covered with newer façade treatments.



Name That Style

with Doug Gasek



The primary stylistic feature on a Neo-Mansard is obviously a mansard roof. Other features that will likely be encountered include two to three stories tall, dominate garaged, aluminum sliding windows, recessed entries, and parapets used to disguise mechanical equipment. Oftentimes Neo-Mansards are clad in wood, T1-11, stone veneer or brick veneer.

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www.aahp-online.net



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