

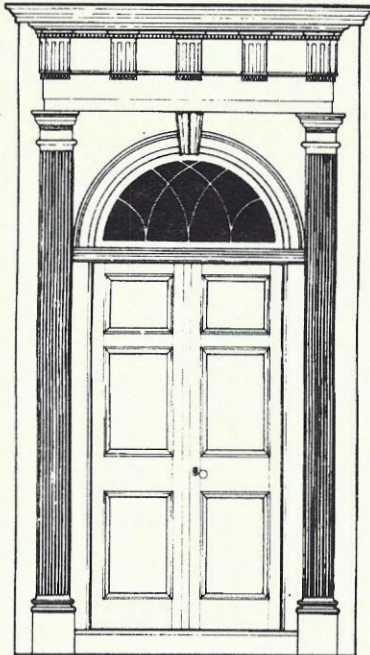
THE ALASKA ASSOCIATION

OLD CITY HALL, 524 WEST FOURTH AVENUE, SUITE 203, ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99501 TELEPHONE (907) 274-2311

MAY 1990

VOL.9, ISSUE 2

KEEPING
AMERICA'S HERITAGE
ALIVE



PRESERVATION WEEK
MAY 13-19, 1990

Preservation Week 1990

Preservation Week, the 18th annual celebration of America's heritage, takes place nationwide on May 13-19.

"By drawing public attention to this nation's remarkable built and natural environment, we are generating interest in historic preservation and demonstrating its importance in everyday life. Preservation Week is not only a symbolic celebration, but a call to action. It is an opportunity for each of us, joining together, to declare our commitment to keeping America's heritage alive."

J. Jackson Walter, President
National Trust for Historic Preservation

"Keeping America's Heritage Alive," the theme for 1990, offers limitless possibilities for celebrating the preservation movement in your local community. Here are what some Alaskan communities are doing:

Anchorage:

Anchorage Historic Properties, Inc. will hold its annual meeting on Monday, May 14. The meeting will begin at 7 p.m. and will be held in the Wilda Marston Theatre of the Loussac Library. After a short business meeting, a panel of old-timers will share their experiences in early Anchorage.

AAHP has put together a photographic exhibit of local historic houses which will be on display at the Loussac Library for two weeks beginning May 19.

Matanuska-Susitna Borough:

An exhibit coordinated by the Borough Cultural Resources Office will be displayed May 15-31 at the Mat-Su Convention and Visitors Bureau Office on the Parks Highway. Many of the borough's museums and historical societies will be represented.

STATEWIDE NEWS

The City of Juneau received a \$4000 grant from the Alaska Division of Tourism to produce the second in a series of booklets entitled Juneau's Historic Neighborhoods. The new booklet featuring the Downtown Historic District will be prepared for printing this summer. The first book in the series was entitled Starr Hill-The Kennedy Street Mine Worker's Houses.

The City and Borough of Juneau finished the Douglas Townsite Historical Building Survey toward the end of 1989 and are now completing a historic structure report on a mine camp in the Last Chance Basin with the help of a grant from the National Park Service.

The Kenai Peninsula Historical Association is holding a meeting Saturday, May 12, at the Pratt Museum in Homer. Janice Schofield and Sue Christenson of the Kachemak Heritage Land Trust will speak on the utilization of a land trust as a means of preserving archaeological and historical sites.

The Seward Sanatorium historical monument was dedicated Saturday, May 5.

After a long wait on wooden skids, the National Register listed Teeland's Country Store will move to its permanent foundation during the week of May 13. An exhibit on Teeland's will be on display in the Chamber of Commerce office located within the Cottonwood Creek Mall in Wasilla.

Ketchikan:

Ketchikan's mayor will officially proclaim "National Historic Preservation Week" in Ketchikan. Historic landmark plaques will be awarded by the Historic Commission to two restored historic properties.

The "Great Historic Ketchikan Paint-Up/Fix Up Campaign" and other preservation activities will be highlighted in an informational booth presentation at Ketchikan's main shopping mall (May 13).

A graphic description of Ketchikan's historic preservation activities—especially this summer's Paint-Up/Fix-Up Campaign—will be on display in the National Bank of Alaska.

Ketchikan's historic resources and preservation activities will be featured on a radio talk show.

Juneau:

Open house activities are being coordinated in Juneau to commemorate Preservation Week. There will be an open house on May 18, 4:30-6:30 in three locations, the House of Wickersham, St. Nicholas Russian Orthodox Church and the Juneau/Douglas City Museum.

Citing that "the greatness of the State of Alaska is based upon knowledge of the people, events, and places that have shaped its identity and upon an appreciation of that heritage," and that "historic preservation gives Alaskans a deeper understanding of their rich and diverse past and promotes community pride," Governor Cowper has proclaimed the week of May 13-19, 1990, as Historic Preservation Week in the State of Alaska.

FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION

Historic Preservation is Alive and Well in Ketchikan

by: Stephen Reeve, AAHP Board Member

For at least 100 years, Ketchikan's downtown has been the hub of economic development for all of southern Southeast Alaska. The central business district and surrounding neighborhoods boast Alaska's largest collection of historic structures. The ancient totems, the modest clapboard houses of the Creek Street Historic District, the handsome early commercial buildings, and the turn-of-the-century homes of prosperous businessmen and fishing boat captains all speak to Ketchikan's rich and diverse history.

Revitalization of this architectural heritage is just beginning to flourish. A joint public-private sector program call "Historic Ketchikan" is spearheading the effort along with the Ketchikan Historic Commission. Lofty goals, hard work and sufficient seed money provided by a supportive mayor and council and a committed local business community are the ingredients for some early successes.

Building a solid foundation for future preservation activities has been a priority. Historical surveys and action plans, a program office and management system, and Certified Local Government status are building blocks that are now largely in place. Underway is the development of a local property tax incentive program that will encourage property owners to rehabilitate their historic buildings and, once accomplished, to maintain them. Under contract with Historic Ketchikan, our League of Women Voters is doing a great job of developing a tax incentive ordinance that we hope will be in place this fall. Historic Ketchikan is also working with neighborhood groups to establish National Register historic districts: one for the Stedman-Thomas Street Area; the other for Creek Street, our only local historic district.

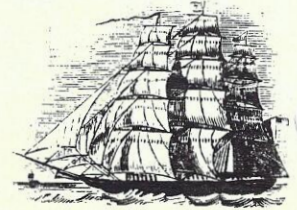
This summer, Historic Ketchikan and the Historic Commission are staging the "Great Historic Ketchikan Paint-Up/Fix-Up Campaign, a high profile project aimed at painting and improving several dozen older properties and increasing community awareness of our historic buildings. Incentives for property owners to participate include building-specific paint color selection and surface preparation advice, deep paint and materials discounts, mayor's commendations, and commitments from historic preservationists to cease cajoling!

Numerous historic residences and commercial buildings in the downtown area are being renovated and more are slated for renovation. Historic Ketchikan staff and volunteer Historic Commission professionals provide technical assistance to help property owners with whatever is needed. This assistance has included facade designs, sign suggestions, National Register form preparation, structural evaluations, paint color selections, income tax credit explanations, traditional material and ornamentation source identification, landscape design, lighting suggestions, development financing advice, and anything else that comes along! Our goal is to get enough key, older properties renovated that there will be no question that if you own an older building, you'll want to make it look great.

Finally, our other big project just starting is a sign program for our historic walking tour. The inspiration for our sign concept is Anchorage's award winning, bright blue, free-standing kiosks that have sprouted along the historic Anchorage walking tour. Historical vignettes of the early explorations in our area, the days of prostitution, the early miners, fishermen and lumberjacks, the pyromaniac that "renewed" parts of our downtown on several occasions, the Indian legends depicted on totem poles, the baseball games on Ketchikan Creek flats, and a host of other subjects will be described in text, photos and sketches on kiosks not too unlike those of Anchorage. Historical research is complete, graphics is underway, and reaching out to the checkbooks of our supporters is soon to start.

In short, we've having a lot of fun down here and we think you'll notice the difference the next time you're in town.

Ketchikan Museum Exhibit Features Coast Guard Bi-Centennial



by: Lorelei M. Mount, Curator of Exhibits

The United States Coast Guard is celebrating its 200th anniversary this year and Ketchikan's Tongass Historical Museum joins the celebration honoring the Coast Guard in Alaska with an exhibit which opens June 1.

"UNITED STATES COAST GUARD: 200 Years of Service" takes visitors along a time line of significant events in the formation and evolution of the Coast Guard from the signing of the Declaration of Independence to the Valdez Oil spill. The time line puts Coast Guard history into perspective. For example: early Coast Guard cutters were running down rum smugglers and slave traders as Beethoven was composing his important symphonies, the maritime law enforcers were fighting notorious pirate Jean Lafitte when Napoleon faced Waterloo, and Coast Guard cutters were the first vessels to sail the Northwest Passage the same year the Space Age began! The Coast Guard Academy opened the year Alexander Bell invented the telephone and about the same time Ketchikan got electricity, a Coast Guardsman was helping Wilbur and Orville with the Wright brother's first flight.

The exhibit emphasizes the Coast Guard in Alaska, when it began as the Revenue Cutter Service and United States Light House Service, and later evolved as the Coast Guard. The exhibit features an 8-foot tall mural of the shipwreck on Sentinel Island and a 4-foot lighted map of Southeast Alaska showing historic lighthouse sites. Also features is Tree Point Lighthouse lens, a large Fresnel type lens developed in France. Many historic maritime photographs in the exhibit are from the Tongass Historical Society collection. The Juneau office of the Coast Guard is providing additional photographs. Other topics in the exhibit include Ketchikan Coast Guard Base and its fleet of buoy tending vessels, Annette Air Station and Southeast Alaska in World War II, and the Coast Guard today.

Museum staff has produced an exciting board game for children and adults that coordinates with the exhibit and a "traveling trunk", filled with children's learning activities, will travel to school and groups for a mini-exhibit experience.

"UNITES STATE COAST GUARD: 200 Years of Service" opens with a reception at 5:30-7:00 p.m., June 1. The exhibit continues through September 9, 1990.

AAHP EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 1990

OFFICERS:

Executive Director:	Donna Lane
Chairperson:	Bill Coghil
Vice Chairperson:	Janet McCabe
Secretary:	Kate Lidfors
Treasurer:	Rolfe Buzzell

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS:

Membership:	Jack Sinclair
Education:	Vacant
Projects & Issues:	Russ Sackett
Legislation:	Mike Jungreis
Fund Raising:	Charles Hawkes
Public Relations:	Lin Garrison

The Alaska Association for Historic Preservation (AAHP) was founded in 1981 as a statewide, non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation of Alaska's architectural, archaeological, historical and cultural resources.

WORLD WAR II PARK FEASIBILITY STUDY

by: Donna Lane

During the past several years the National Park Service has been studying sites important to the WWII Pacific campaign to determine the feasibility of establishing new park areas commemorating the war. Dutch harbor is one site under consideration. A park unit there would interpret WWII in the Aleutians. AAHP recently supported consideration of the Dutch Harbor site by letter and personal visit with Boyd Evison, Regional Director of the National Park Service in Alaska.

The study of WWII Pacific sites was authorized by a 1978 Act of Congress which also established a National Park in Guam. For 5 years planning and research efforts were focused on Guam. Other possible sites were investigated 1984-85.

As a result of these studies eight Alaskan sites, some demilitarized and some still active, were designated National Historic Landmarks between 1985-87. These newly designated sites, Kiska, Attu, Adak, Dutch Harbor and Fort Mears, Fort Glenn, Sitka, Kodiak and Ladd Field brought the total number of Alaska National Historic Landmarks to 32. (Alaska now has 45.)

Research conducted by the Alaska Region of the National Park Service (NPS) determined Dutch Harbor and Fort Mears, on Amaknak Island at Unalaska, to be the best place to interpret WWII in the Aleutians. This recommendation was to be coordinated with ones from other NPS regions and sent to Congress for review and consideration. However, completion of the comprehensive report languished until 1989.

A lone proposal for Manzanar, California, is now complete. The Alaska Region of NPS will be moving ahead in the next several months to finalize the feasibility study of Dutch Harbor and Fort Mears and send it to Washington. This action is receiving positive support local support.

AAHP and the Governor's Historic Sites Advisory Committee both support the concept of a park and interpretive center at Dutch Harbor. Although much of the military installation has been and continues to be lost through demolition, development, deterioration and alteration, a plethora of visible reminders exist to interpret the WWII military presence in Alaska and the affects of the war on the Aleuts and other local residents. Establishment of a National Park at Amaknak Island/Unalaska will be a boom to preservation of state and national historic resources and history.

Friends of Kennicott Races to Save Historic Structures

by: Sally Gibert

Friends of Kennicott is a non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation and restoration of the historic mining town at Kennicott, Alaska, located in the heart of the Wrangell-St. Elias National Park. Since its formation in December, Friends of Kennicott has been seeking funding from the Alaska Legislature and Congress to begin emergency stabilization on several of the larger Kennicott structures, including the 14-story mill. The buildings have been sitting idle and have not been maintained since the world renowned copper mines closed in 1938.

The push to stabilize the buildings came with the realization that the National Park Service's efforts to acquire the National Historic Landmark and surrounding private land were proceeding slowly due to complications regarding the presence of hazardous materials, notably asbestos. It could be 2 or 3 years, possibility longer, before the Park Service could begin to contribute to stabilization efforts.

In the meantime, the buildings continue to deteriorate. Hopefully by the time you read this, the State Legislature will have appropriated \$250,000 for Phase I of the emergency stabilization. A Phase II request of \$200,000 had been submitted to the Alaska Congressional Delegation. Your support of an FY 91 federal appropriation would be valuable.

The Officers of Friend of Kennicott are Rick Kirkwood, President; Sally Jungreis, Treasurer; and Sally Gibert, Secretary. These officers plus board member Chuck Hawley comprise the Executive Committee. If you would like to become involved in this effort or want more information, please call Sally Gibert at 561-6133 (mornings), or at 258-7349 (afternoons and weekends).

MEMBERSHIP

Membership runs from January 1 through December 31. Dues are payable by December 31 of preceeding year.

<input type="checkbox"/> Student	\$ 10.00	<input type="checkbox"/> Friend	\$ 100.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Individual	\$ 15.00	<input type="checkbox"/> Sponsor	\$ 250.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Family	\$ 25.00	<input type="checkbox"/> Donor	\$ 500.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Non-Profit	\$ 25.00	<input type="checkbox"/> Benefactor	\$ 1000.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Contributor	\$ 50.00		

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

\$_____ is enclosed. Also, I would be glad to participate in AAHP activities in the following areas:

- | | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fund Raising | <input type="checkbox"/> Membership | <input type="checkbox"/> Legislation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Public Relations | <input type="checkbox"/> Projects & Issues |

NAME _____ PHONE w. _____ h. _____

ADDRESS _____

Please Return To: The Alaska Association for Historic Preservation
c/o Rolfe Buzzell / 3308 Doris Street
Anchorage, Alaska 99517

Committee Reports

Fund Raising: Members include Charles Hawkes (chair), Lin Garrison and Jill Smythe. Committee goals, objectives and activities have been established and scheduled through December of 1990. Finalizing the case statement will be one of the first activities undertaken.

Public Relations: Members include Lin Garrison (chair), Phyllice Bradner, Greg Curney, Katy Fulton and Cynthia Toohey. The long range goal is to promote AAHP and enhance its image. Short-range objectives are to support other committees as required, act as a liaison to other non-profit preservation organizations, promote AAHP and establish name recognition. Phyllice Bradner has begun work on an AAHP logo.

Membership: Members include Jack Sinclair (chair), Rolfe Buzzell, Bill Coghill, Ron Dalby and Jerry Strang. AAHP's paid membership is now approximately 130, up from a previous high of 80. The committee has cut the mailing list and prepared a letter to be sent to those cut giving them an opportunity to become paying members.

Projects and Issues: Members include Russ Sackett (chair), Emily DeForest, Kate Lidfors, Janet McCabe, Stephen Reeve and Chris Wooley. The committee is establishing criteria for defining what projects and issues are appropriate for AAHP involvement. They will also oversee the Awards Program.

Education: Members include Greg Curney, Mary Ford, Gail Hollinger, Donna Lane and Mona Painter. Due to the recent resignation of Janet Matheson, the position of committee chair is vacant. Donna Lane has been attending planning meetings for the 1990 Combined Annual Meetings of the Alaska Historical Society and Museum Alaska to be held in Anchorage November 28 through December 2. AAHP will host a brunch and hold its annual meeting December 2.

Legislation: Members include Michael Jungreis (chair), Judy Bittner and Janet McCabe. The committee tracks and lobbies for legislation and sets the agenda for new legislation.

Nominating: Members include Janet McCabe (chair) and Bill Coghill. The committee recruits potential directors, orients new directors and is creating an introduction packet for new directors.

JOB ANNOUNCEMENT-AAHP is looking for a part-time administrator to perform general clerical work for 4 hours/week. Compensation is \$100.00 per month salary plus use of the office and equipment. If interested call Donna Lane, 344-5182 eves, or Bill Coghill, 333-4746.

THE ALASKA ASSOCIATION
Old City Hall 524 West 4th Avenue, Suite 203
Anchorage, Alaska 99501
FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION

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