

# THE ALASKA ASSOCIATION FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION

Old City Hall, 524 West Fourth Avenue, Suite 204, Anchorage, Alaska 99501

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## KENNICOTT

by Logan W. Hovis

Kennicott has the unique distinction of being listed both on AAHP's "Ten Most Endangered" list and also on the nationwide "Endangered" list issued by the National Trust for Historic Preservation. A National Historic Landmark, Kennicott is located on private land deep in the Wrangell Mountains, within Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve.

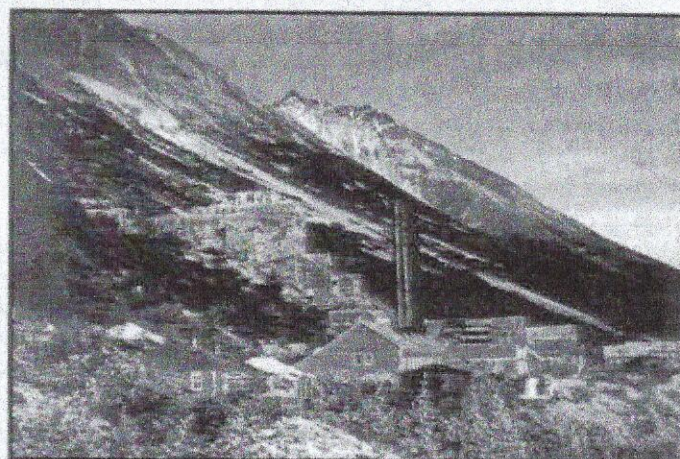
Kennicott was the center of an exceptionally rich copper mining operation. Copper ore produced here was shipped to Cordova via the Copper River and Northwestern Railway, a 196-mile route built solely to serve the mines. Abandoned in 1938, Kennicott remains a monument to the perseverance and ingenuity of prospectors and mine developers who explored and developed this remote area.

Although the first structures were built as early as 1906, the massive industrial buildings of the Kennecott Copper Corporation still dominate the human landscape. The wooden concentrator building rises fourteen stories above the workshops, bunkhouses and cottages of the main camp. In its heyday, the concentrator, power plant and machine shops ran day and night to process the ore and to support the five mines in the mountains above. The bunkhouses were home to workers from around the world.

The railway shops were located three miles south of Kennicott at McCarthy. McCarthy also provided the miners with services and amusements not readily available in the company town of Kennicott. As long as the mines ran, the two communities thrived. In 1938, once the mines closed and the railway stopped running, Kennicott and McCarthy quietly turned into ghost towns.

Preservation of this major historic resource has been a true partnership effort. In 1989, the State Legislature passed a resolution supporting the National Park Service's acquisition and preservation of Kennicott as a visitor attraction within the park. A Park Service report recommended acquisition to Congress but, before this step can take place, federal law requires owner clean-up of hazardous substances, principally asbestos.

To keep the abandoned property from further deterioration during this process, the Friends of Kennicott, Inc. organized for the single purpose of emergency stabilization. The group has been very successful. With its support, a total of \$576,000 has been raised from state and federal sources. Working in cooperation with the State Historic Preservation Office and the National Park Service, Friends will have stabilized most of the major structures by the end of next summer. Owner clean-up should be started, and Kennicott should be well on its way towards preservation as a unit within the national park.



Kennicott

National Park Service

## PRESERVING HISTORY WITH "ICE TEA"

by Janet McCabe

The Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991 (ISTEA), pronounced "ice tea" as an acronym, is a major reorientation in transportation planning and development. The focus of federal and state highway departments has been expanded from basic vehicular movement to a larger goal of creating more liveable communities. This is to be accomplished through a combination of roads, transit and rail, and transportation "enhancements", a category which includes historic preservation.

ISTEA lists ten categories of eligible enhancements, but sets no limit on the amount of funding for any one enhancement category. Thanks to the lobbying efforts of organizations such as the National Trust for Historic Preservation and Preservation Action, historic preservation is well represented on the list of enhancement categories. In fact, six of the following ten ISTEA enhancement categories involve historic preservation:

1. Provision of facilities for pedestrians and bicycles.
2. Acquisition of scenic easements and scenic or historic sites.
3. Scenic or historic highway programs.
4. Landscaping or other scenic beautification.
5. Historic preservation.
6. Rehabilitation and operation of historic transportation buildings, structures or facilities (including historic railroad facilities and canals.)
7. Preservation of abandoned railway corridors (including the conservation and use thereof for pedestrian or bicycle trails.)

8. Control and removal of outdoor advertising.
9. Archaeological planning and research.
10. Mitigation of water pollution due to highway run-off.

Given the size of the overall program, enhancement funding is very significant. Nationwide, \$155 billion will be available for ISTEA projects between October 31, 1991 and September 30, 1997. Of this, \$24 billion is earmarked for the Surface Transportation Program (STP), a category which includes transportation enhancements. A minimum of ten percent of the STP funds must be used for enhancements. Potentially, ISTEA could be the largest nationwide source of funding for preservation ever available.

The Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT/PF) estimates that \$12 million will be available in 1993 for enhancement projects, with at least the same amount available annually through September 1997. To qualify for enhancement funds, a historic preservation project must be related to a transportation route. However, ISTEA's definition of transportation routes is expansive, including state and local roads, as well as federal highways and railroads.

Under ISTEA, proposals to use federal highway funds are initiated at the local community level and then go to the state and federal government levels. This means that groups or individuals wanting funds for an ISTEA enhancement project should contact their local planning department or city council. In the Municipality of Anchorage, ISTEA proposals are prepared by the Anchorage Metropolitan Area Transportation System (AMATS), headed by Bob Kniefel. For proposals outside a borough or city, DOT/PF regional office planners should be contacted.

Because of the significance of ISTEA, the Alaska Environmental Assembly highlighted the subject during its statewide conference on February 20 and 21. Though plans are not yet finalized, AAHP and Anchorage Historic Properties, Inc. hope to hold a special workshop on the use of ISTEA enhancement funds for preservation. More information will be forthcoming.

## UPCOMING ALASKA WORLD WAR II COMMEMORATIONS

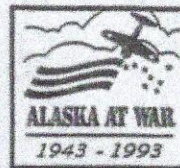
*by Gary Hoff and Georgeie Reynolds*

### 50th Anniversary, Battle of Attu Island, June 15-17, 1993

To commemorate the 50th anniversary of the battle of Attu Island, an air charter trip is being arranged from Anchorage to Adak and Attu from June 15 to June 17.

On June 15, the charter will fly to Adak, where a social is planned that evening. On June 16, the charter will fly to Attu for a commemoration ceremony, and will return to Adak for a banquet in the evening. (If weather does not allow travel to Attu, the ceremonies will be conducted at Adak.) On June 17, the charter will return to Anchorage.

Air fare costs will be between \$650 and \$750, depending on the number who travel. (The aircraft can accommodate 68 persons.) The cost of lodging and the banquet at Adak will be approximately \$50. For further information, contact Gary Hoff or Chief Kevin Baker (USN) at 552-8132 or 552-8133.



World War II Conference,  
November 7-13, 1993

Alaska at War, a non-profit, tax-exempt group of historians, historic preservationists and interested residents, announces a series of events to commemorate the 50th anniversary of World War II in Alaska during the week of November 7-13, 1993. The goal is to heighten awareness of the role World War II played in shaping our history at the local, state and national levels and how it continues to shape the future.

On Sunday, November 7, an afternoon reception at the Anchorage Museum of History and Art will kick off the week. Films introduced by World War II specialists will be shown at the Museum on Monday through Wednesday evenings. On Tuesday evening, the recent documentary on Aleut relocation is featured and a lecture by the film makers is planned.

Thursday, November 11, Veterans' Day, marks the opening of a three-day Alaska at War historical symposium. Colors will be posted Thursday morning and the conference will be addressed by a well-known military historian. Sessions will include the Aleutian Campaign; the Homefront; We Also Served: Women and Minorities in the War Effort; the Lend Lease Program; and the Legacy of World War II. Social events will include a luncheon and evening dessert reception on Thursday, a banquet with special keynote address on Friday evening, and a 40's style dance on Saturday evening. Tours of World War II sites in Anchorage and of two local archives (Museum and National Archives) will also be offered.

Registration materials, available in April, can be obtained by writing to Alaska at War, 1317 West Northern Lights, #522, Anchorage, AK 99503-2306. Tax deductible donations may also be mailed to that address. For further information, please contact Georgeie Reynolds, Chairperson, at 753-2712 or Russ Sackett, Registration Committee Chair at 762-2633.

### AAHP EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 1993

#### Officers

Executive Director:.....Bill Coghill  
 President:.....Frank Norris  
 Vice President.....Jack Sinclair  
 Secretary:.....Jill Smythe  
 Treasurer:.....Gloria Trueblood

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Education:.....Fran Seager-Boss  
 Fund Raising:.....Jack Sinclair  
 Legislation:.....Janer McCabe  
 Membership:.....Bill Coghill  
 Nominating:.....Jack Sinclair  
 Projects & Issues:.....Bonnie Houston  
 Public Relations:.....Nancy Killoran  
 Newsletter:.....Jill Smythe

The Alaska Association for Historic Preservation (AAHP) was founded in 1981 as a private, statewide, non-profit corporation dedicated to the preservation of Alaska's prehistoric and historic resources through education, promotion and advocacy. Preservation of the built environment provides a vital link and visible reminder of the past, emphasizing the continuity and diversity of Alaska.

## PRESERVATION LEADERSHIP TRAINING

by Bill Coghill



Gary, Bill and Western Region Directors Asilomar, January 1993

In January, AAHP Board members Bill Coghill and Gary Gillette (Juneau) attended an intensive eight-day preservation leadership training session sponsored by the National Trust for Historic Preservation and held at Asilomar, California.

Thirty-two preservation-related participants attended, representing private non-profit organizations and public agencies from eleven states. I was impressed by the quality, eagerness and varying backgrounds of the attendees. The training was provided by recognized national experts and was aimed at providing up-to-date, effective information on current preservation practices, issues and action strategies, including participatory involvement. Topics included community leadership, staff and board development, planning assessment, finance management, resources development, creating a public image, economics and politics of preservation, and a hands-on design workshop.

We also completed a "team project"; a case study addressing Carmel-by-the-Sea, which gave us an opportunity to apply lessons learned to real-life local preservation issues. This involved producing a 19-page written report and making a one-hour public presentation to a well attended audience in Carmel.

For someone without formal education in history, architecture or preservation, I felt this course was of "top notch" benefit and I believe it will help in my future work with AAHP. As a follow-up, I am charged with doing a self-assessment of AAHP this year.

### MEMBERSHIP APPEAL

AAHP finished 1992 with just over 200 paid members, a one-third increase over 1991.

As of February 18, 1993, we have 146 members paid up for 1993.

An excellent start.

Please check your mailing label. If it shows other than '93 after your name, you have not yet paid your 1993 dues. Your prompt payment would be appreciated.

Thanks. AAHP relies heavily on dues to carry out its functions.

## MEMBERSHIP

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

Benefits include subscription to the quarterly AAHP newsletter \* workshops & seminars \* annual meeting \* historic preservation advocacy.

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

(federal, state, and municipal agencies included)

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  
Old City Hall, 524 West fourth Ave., Suite 203  
Anchorage, Alaska 99501  
Attention: Treasurer

## AAHP'S ENDANGERED HISTORIC PROPERTIES

By Bonnie S. Houston

Each year, the AAHP publishes a list of ten historic properties in the State which are threatened by neglect and/or development. The goal is to expand public awareness of Alaska's historic properties and to foster a greater understanding of the need to preserve these non-renewable resources.

AAHP's 1992 Endangered Historic Properties list included:

1. Arctic Mission Village Church, Arctic Village
2. Building 29, Sitka
3. Chief Kashakes House, Saxman
4. Eagle Historic District, Eagle
5. Fairbanks Exploration Company Complex, Fairbanks
6. Holy Ascension Orthodox Church, Unalaska
7. Kennicott Mine Complex, Kennicott
8. Lacey Street Theater, Fairbanks
9. Old Main School, Fairbanks
10. St. Joseph's Catholic Church, Nome

This year, in an effort to increase public involvement, AAHP invites all readers to participate in identifying endangered historic properties. To be considered, a property must be at least 50 years old and it must be significant on the local, state, or national level for its architecture or its association with an important person or event. Finally, the property must be in some imminent danger of being altered or destroyed.

To take part in the nomination process, simply fill out the enclosed form and mail it to AAHP.

## AAHP ANNUAL MEETING

AAHP's 1992 annual meeting was held on December 6 at the Fourth Avenue Theatre in Anchorage. The event was highly successful. It included a talk by Robert Gottstein on his recently completed restoration of the Fourth Avenue Theatre; an overview of Anchorage Historic Properties activities by Sarah Brandt-Erichsen; and a presentation by Russ Sackett on AAHP's "Ten Most Endangered Historic Properties" list for 1992. In addition, two videos, "Scenic Byways" and "Historic Eagle District", were shown on the Fourth Avenue Theatre's movie screen.

New Board members elected were Fran Seager-Boss, Nancy Killoran, Clyde Courtnage and Bonnie Houston. They replace Rich Kirkwood, Kathy Marrs, Russ Sackett and Rolfe Buzzell. However, both Russ and Rolfe have agreed to maintain an active role on AAHP committees. Past board member, Donna Lane, was added to the Advisory Board.

The following members make up the 1993 Board: Bill Coghill (Anchorage), Clyde Courtnage (Anchorage), Gary Gillette (Juneau), Bonnie Houston (Anchorage), Nancy Killoran (Anchorage), Janet McCabe (Anchorage), Frank Norris (Anchorage), Fran Seager-Boss (Wasilla), Jack Sinclair (Sterling), Jill Smythe (Anchorage), Karen Stanley (Katchikan), Jerry Strang (Gakona) and Gloria Trueblood (Wasilla).

An election of AAHP officers for 1993 was held immediately after the annual meeting. Frank Norris was elected as President; Jack Sinclair as Vice President; Jill Smythe as Secretary and Gloria Trueblood as Treasurer. Bill Coghill remains as Executive Director.

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