

THE ALASKA ASSOCIATION FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION

Old City Hall, 524 West Fourth Avenue, Suite 203, Anchorage, Alaska 99501

DECEMBER 1994

VOL. 13 ISSUE 4

OBTAINING ISTE A ENHANCEMENT FUNDS

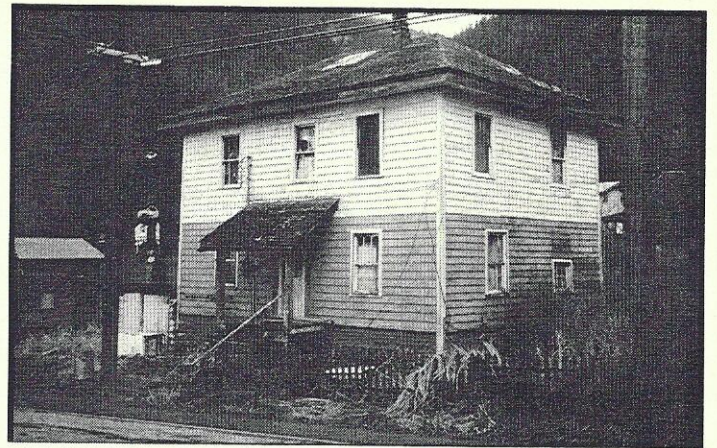
by Janet McCabe

Throughout the nation, the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991 (ISTEA) has funded a number of significant historic preservation projects, ranging from National Historic Landmarks to local preservation. Potentially, there is a wealth of opportunity to use ISTEA enhancement dollars for Alaska preservation projects. The 1991 act requires that each state use at least ten percent of its federal Surface Transportation Program appropriation for "transportation enhancements", a category that includes historic preservation projects. In Alaska, this amounts to about \$10 million a year.

My purpose in this article is to provide information that may help preservationists bridge this gap between potential and reality, and tap into ISTEA enhancement as a source of preservation project funding. The Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT/PF), the State agency that manages ISTEA enhancement projects, has collected a long list of requests for all types of projects, in theory more than the agency would ever be able to fund. However, many of these projects are not sufficiently defined. Furthermore, the record of enhancement spending does not correspond to the demand. According to the Alaska Citizens Transportation Coalition, as of September 1994 Alaska was over a year behind in its required ten percent enhancement spending. Over \$19 million was waiting to be obligated.¹

To qualify for enhancement funding, a property should be on or eligible for the National Register of Historic Places, or meet the DOT/PF guideline which states that cultural properties "in a locally-designated historic area are eligible, if the local designation is based on locally adopted written criteria." Preservation work must be done in compliance with the Secretary of the Interior's guidelines for historic preservation, and must be managed under the direction of appropriate professionals.

"Projects should enhance the transportation system by improving the ability of the public to appreciate the historic significance of the project itself or the area to be served by the project. Activities may include rehabilitation of historic places, activities that encourage or facilitate historic interpretation for the public of sites associated with roads and other transportation facilities, heritage tourism, and that preserve or improve the appearance or quality of a historic property, district, or landscape, and assist in providing research and educational opportunities or related services on individual or related historical



Chief Kashakes House, Saxman-An Endangered structure

resources. This category does not include building replicas of historic structures or buildings."

To be funded, projects must first be included in the Statewide Transportation Improvement Plan (STIP). DOT/PF prepares the STIP from what it refers to as a "Needs List". This list is reviewed and updated each spring by local officials, DOT/PF regional staff and, finally, DOT/PF statewide planning staff. To add projects, preservationists should work to have them included in the Needs List next spring.

ISTEA emphasizes planning that originates in local areas, so it is important to have a local resolution supporting your project. You should also work closely with the DOT/PF regional office planners and the State Office of History and Archeology, and make sure they are fully knowledgeable and supportive of the project.

What really seems to make the difference in whether a project goes to construction after it is on the Needs List is having a concept design or specific plan sufficient to provide a basis for funding arrangements. The concrete plan gives DOT/PF a document on which to obtain Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) approval. Since the FHWA reimburses DOT/PF for enhancement expenditures, that agency's approval is key to project implementation. For certain projects, it may be appropriate to tie the work into a DOT/PF highway construction project in the same area, and have DOT/PF handle the administration as part of the larger construction project.

Maintenance is not an eligible use of ISTEA enhancement funds, and DOT/PF usually requires a signed agreement that another party will maintain the project before it will approve the use of enhancement funds.

¹ Squeaky Wheels, Autumn 1994 - Vol. 1, Issue 2, pg. 1.

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Copies of correspondence to the regions should be sent to:

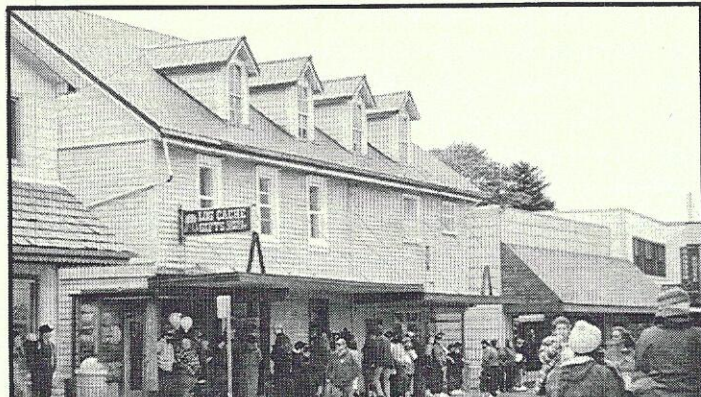
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AAHP PRESERVATION GRANT PROGRAM

The Alaska Association for Historic Preservation is pleased to announce that it has established a matching grant preservation program. This program will provide matching financial assistance for structures identified by AAHP in its annual list of the state's "ten most endangered" properties. (Photographs of some of those structures from the 1994 list are included in this newsletter). Eligible activities include historic building assessments and emergency stabilization projects designed to lead to more permanent preservation solutions.

For 1995, AAHP has set aside \$3,000 to assist one or more of the following structures on AAHP's 1994 "ten most endangered" list:

- Ascension of Our Lord Chapel, Karluk
- Building 29, Sitka
- Chief Kashakes House, Saxman
- Chitina Cash Store, Chitina



Building 26, Sitka, 1994-An Endangered Structure

Photo: Bill Coghill

Creamer's Dairy, Fairbanks

Flat City Historic District

Holy Ascension Orthodox Church, Unalaska

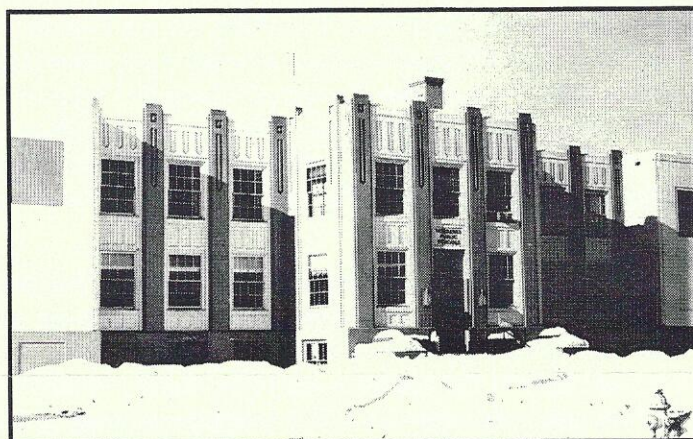
Jesse Lee Home, Seward

Old Main School, Fairbanks

St. Joseph's Catholic Church, Nome

The matching grant program will be formally presented to the public at AAHP's annual meeting on January 8, 1995. Application forms will be mailed to the owners of the above listed properties shortly thereafter. Completed applications should be returned to AAHP by March 31, 1995. Successful grant awards will be announced by AAHP during Preservation Week in May 1995.

AAHP is excited that it will be able to directly assist in the preservation of some of Alaska's most endangered historic structures.



Old Main School, Fairbanks

AAHP EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 1994

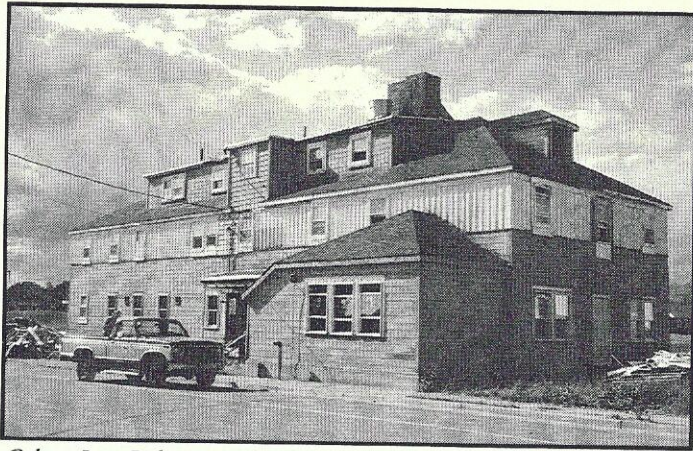
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- Vice President:Jack Sinclair
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- Fund Raising:Jerry Strang
- Legislation:.....Janet McCabe
- Membership:.....Bill Coghill
- Nominating:Jack Sinclair
- Projects & Issues:Bonnie Houston
- Public Relations:Julie Johnson
- 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.



Colony Inn, Palmer - Before Restoration

Photo: Janet Kincaid

The matching grant program will also serve to focus more attention on those structures.

AAHP ANNUAL MEETING

AAHP's 1994 annual meeting will be held on Sunday afternoon, January 8, 1995 at the Colony Inn in Palmer. The program will get underway at 1 pm with a small no-host luncheon, and will extend through 3 pm. All AAHP members and other interested persons are invited.

The program will be in three main parts. First, a representative of the Colony Inn will describe how this abandoned historic building was renovated, restored and returned to productive use as an hotel. The building was originally constructed in 1935 as a dormitory for teachers, nurses, secretaries and other skilled single workers recruited to help development of the fledgling Matanuska Colony. In recent years, the structure was owned by the Salvation Army but, after it was damaged in a fire, it was boarded up and stood as a deteriorating, empty shell.

When present owner, Janet Kincaid, acquired the property and applied for financing through the First National Bank of Anchorage, she asked the Palmer branch manager to "put on his rose colored glasses" to imagine what the building could look like. The accompanying photograph shows the Colony Inn before it was restored. Come and see what it looks like today. Janet says that the Inn has a unique feeling. "Everyone comments how homey and cozy it is."

The second element of the program will feature several former dormitory residents who will speak and share their recollections of life in the dorm in the 1930's: what it was like, the friends they met, and the food and other conditions related to living in the building and working at the new Colony project. This should be a very interesting discussion.

The third element of the program will be a report on the adjacent Matanuska Maid complex led by Fran Seager-Boss, Director of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough's Cultural Resources Division. Specifically, she will review the history of the Mat-Maid complex, current conditions of abandonment and deterioration, its importance as a local landmark, and its possible future in adaptive re-use as a combination museum/gift store/antique shop complex.

A short AAHP Board meeting will be held following the program. One of the main items of business will be the nomination and election of new Board members.

The Colony Inn is located at 325 Elmwood, across the Railroad tracks from Downtown Palmer and between the Palmer Library and the Matanuska-Susitna Borough offices. The telephone number is 745-3330. There are 12 rooms available, all furnished with antiques, at \$75 per room/night. Eleven rooms have a queen sized bed and one has two twin beds. All rooms have showers and all but two have jacuzzis. Be warned -- the entire hotel is NON-SMOKING! Reservations are required, with check-in at the Valley Hotel at 606 S. Alaska, several

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

blocks away in downtown Palmer. The Valley Hotel has the same phone number as the Colony Inn and has 32 rooms at \$50 to \$75/night, plus modern facilities, including a restaurant and lounge.

ALASKA HERITAGE DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE KETCHIKAN, MAY 4-6, 1995

Historic Ketchikan will host the Alaska Heritage Development Conference from May 4 - 6, 1995. The conference will be held in Ketchikan at the Ted Ferry Civic Center. Support is being provided by the National Trust for Historic Preservation, the Alaska Visitors Association, the State Office of History and Archaeology, and the University of Alaska, Southeast Economic Development Center. Support by AAHP will also be provided.

The conference will focus on the economic impact of historic preservation and heritage tourism. It is intended to bring together individuals and organizations to discuss opportunities for economic development and the promotion of Alaska's rich historic resources. It will feature timely, significant issues, with nearly a dozen specifically designed educational tracks covering all areas of heritage development.

Session highlights will include:

- **Economics of Historic Restoration and Heritage Development.** This part of the program will feature downtown historic preservation speakers and break-out sessions on rehabilitation and planning.
- **Economic Development Partnerships.** This section will have break-out sessions on economic development and fund raising.

- **Heritage Tourism.** This section will focus on heritage tourism and include specific case studies and analysis of their achievements.

Historic Ketchikan has invited several prominent persons, including U.S. Senator Ted Stevens, Henry Cisneros (Secretary, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development), Richard Moe (President of the National Trust for Historic Preservation), Claudia Nissley (Director of the Western Office Advisory Council on Historic Preservation), Dr. Richard Steckel (President, AddVenture Network, International Marketing Consultant), Susan Boyle (Boyle Wagoner Architects) and Mike Jackson (Organized Village of Kake) to be keynote speakers.

The conference promises to be an important historic preservation event in 1995. Mark your calendars now and plan to attend.

AAHP MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL NOTICE

It's that time of year again! Time to renew your membership. A membership renewal letter for 1995 was recently mailed to all AAHP members. Prompt payment is appreciated as membership dues are a major source of AAHP funds. In 1994, AAHP membership hit a new record, with over 250 paid members. Thank you very much for your support. Let's try for another record in 1995.

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FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION

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