



THE ALASKA ASSOCIATION FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION

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

MARCH 1995

VOL. 14, ISSUE 1

PALMER MEETING A SUCCESS

On January 9, the AAHP held its annual meeting. The event was held at the Colony Inn in Palmer. More than 50 people attended the event, which one and all judged to be a success.

The meeting began with an excellent hot lunch, served in the Inn's kitchen. The program that followed the lunch began with a history of the building, given by Nancy Ihnat, who has been working as a cook since the facility opened last year. Following her presentation, local resident (and newly-elected AAHP President) Pat Murphy encouraged residents of the former teachers' dormitory to share their experiences about life in the building and the colony during the 1930s and 1940s. Fran Seager-Boss, and her assistant Patty Hanrahan, then gave a slide show outlining the history and importance of the Matanuska Maid dairy complex, located just east of the Colony Inn. Following their talk, various AAHP leaders conducted a brief annual business meeting. Their talks centered on the organization's accomplishments and finances during 1994.



AAHP Board Members (from left) Jack Sinclair, Pat Murphy, Gillian Smythe, Julie Johnson, and Russ Sackett discuss current issues at the annual executive board meeting.

The January gathering was AAHP's first annual meeting held outside of Anchorage. To a large extent, it was successful because of the efforts of AAHP board members Fran Seager-Boss and Pat Murphy, and to the attendance of many members of the Palmer Historical Society. Our thanks are extended to you all.



Palmer resident Fran Seager-Boss speaks about the history of the Matanuska Maid Complex at AAHP's recent annual board meeting held at the Colony Inn.

LAST CALL FOR THE KETCHIKAN PRESERVATION CONFERENCE

Last May, AAHP co-sponsored a well-attended and successful workshop in Anchorage on "Making the Historic Preservation Connection." This year, the main preservation conference will be at Ketchikan's Ted Ferry Civic Center on May 4th through 6th. In our December 1994 newsletter, we covered the focus and highlights of this conference, sponsored by Historic Ketchikan, whose executive director is AAHP board member Karen Stanley.

The conference registration fee is \$195, payable to the Alaska Heritage Development Conference and sent to Historic Ketchikan, P.O. Box 3364, Ketchikan, Alaska, 99901. Their telephone number is (907) 225-5515. All meals, tours and entertainment are included in the registration fee. You are urged to reserve travel and hotel accommodations as soon as possible. Alaska Airlines is giving a 5-10% discount on airfare; to obtain these fares, call 800-445-4435 and give the following group ID number: CMR 1077.

This conference promises to be Alaska's paramount historic preservation event in 1995. Mark your calendars now and plan to attend!

AAHP TEN ENDANGERED PROPERTIES PRESERVATION GRANTS

Our organization has provided for the establishment, operation and administration of the AAHP Endangered Properties Preservation Grants program. This program is intended to provide funding to properties identified by AAHP as the ten most endangered historic properties in the state. These assets are important to Alaska's tourism, economic development and cultural heritage.

The listing of the Ten Endangered Properties by AAHP each May during National Historic Preservation Week is intended to draw public awareness to the plight of our built heritage. This marks our fifth year for this program with twenty different properties being listed during the past four years. Of these twenty properties, eleven have had some positive actions taken for their preservation. Through the establishment of the AAHP Endangered Properties Preservation Grants, we are taking a major step forward in providing assistance to those properties that make our list.

This year the Board of Directors is committing \$3,000 toward this 50-50 matching grant program. To be eligible, the building for which the application is being prepared must be one of the listed ten endangered properties. The grant program is open to property owners, non-profit or profit-making organizations, and individuals whose activities are focused on the preservation, restoration or rehabilitation of the property. Federal, state, and local governments are not eligible for the grant assistance. However, organizations may make application on behalf of properties that may be owned by a government.

Eligible activities for funding include:

* **Preconstruction** - to employ architectural services in the preparation of historic structures reports, building assessments and the development of architectural construction documents.

* **Stabilization** - applying preliminary measures necessary to protect and stabilize a property until such time as a plan is in place and money is available for the preservation, rehabilitation, or restoration of the building.

* **Preservation** - applying measures necessary to sustain the existing form, integrity and materials of a historic property. Work generally focuses upon the ongoing maintenance and repair of historic materials and features than extensive replacement and new construction.

* **Restoration** - accurately depicting the form, features and character of a property as it appeared at a particular period of time by means of the removal of features from other periods in its history; also, reconstruction of missing features from the restoration period.

The guidelines and application form have been mailed to the property owners of the properties identified on the 1994 Ten Endangered Properties list. Completed applications need to be postmarked no later than **March 31, 1995**.

These will be reviewed by a blue ribbon committee. The top applicants will be notified at the end of April, with a formal announcement made during National Historic Preservation Week. Properties that make the 1995 Top Ten Endangered Properties list will be eligible for the next grant cycle in January 1996. AAHP has set up a separate bank account for the grant program. Association members may wish to make contributions identified for use by the grant program. The board members hope that the amount of the grant will increase given sufficient member support.

MEMBERSHIP APPEAL

AAHP finished 1993 with just over 250 paid members, a 15 percent increase over 1992. As of March 6, 1995, we have 177 members paid up this calendar year. This is a good start! But we really need the contributions from those of you that have not yet renewed.

Please check your mailing label. If it does not show "95" after your name, you have not yet paid your 1995 dues. Prompt payment would be appreciated, as AAHP relies primarily on dues to carry out its functions. And we **THANK YOU** for your support.

AAHP MEMBERSHIP!

Membership runs from January 1 thru December 31. Benefits include: * the quarterly AAHP newsletter, * workshops and seminars, * annual meeting, * historic preservation advocacy.

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Student \$10 | <input type="checkbox"/> Contributor . . \$ 50 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual \$15 | <input type="checkbox"/> Friend \$100 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family \$25 | <input type="checkbox"/> Sponsor \$250 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Non-Profit . . . \$25 | <input type="checkbox"/> Benefactor . . \$500 |

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

I would be glad to participate in AAHP activities in the following areas:

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

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP _____

Return to: AAHP, 524 W. 4th Ave. #203, Anchorage, Alaska 99501, attn: Treasurer

REFLECTING ON AAHP's TEN MOST ENDANGERED LIST -- FIVE YEARS LATER

The year 1995 is the fifth year for AAHP's Ten Most Endangered Properties list. The intent of this list, as originally conceived in 1991, was to heighten public awareness and to draw attention to the possible loss of a vital element of our past. As we begin our fifth year identifying endangered properties, we felt it appropriate to review how this program has fared.

During the past four years, 20 properties have been nominated to this list. They include:

- * Anchorage City Hall, Anchorage (1993)
- * Arctic Village Mission Church (1991-1992)
- * Ascension of Our Lord Chapel, Karluk (1993-1994)
- * Building 29, Sitka (1991-1994)
- * Carlson Home and Fishermens Co-op, Dillingham (1993)
- * Chief Kashakes House, Saxman (1992-1994)
- * Chitina Cash Store, Chitina (1994)
- * Creamer's Dairy, Fairbanks (1994)
- * Eagle Historic District, Eagle (1991-1993)
- * F.E. Company Complex, Fairbanks (1991-1992)
- * Flat City Historic District (1994)
- * Fourth Avenue Theater, Anchorage (1991)
- * Holy Ascension Church, Unalaska (1991-1994)
- * Holy Assumption Orthodox Church, Kenai (1991)
- * Jesse Lee Home, Seward (1993-1994)
- * Kennicott Mine Complex, Kennicott (1991-1992)
- * Lacey Street Theater, Fairbanks (1992-1993)
- * Old Main School, Fairbanks (1991-1992, 1994)
- * St. Joseph's Catholic Church, Nome (1991-1994)
- * Sternwheeler Nenana, Fairbanks (1991)

Of these properties, only one has been lost. In 1994, the industrial portion of the F.E. Company was purchased by the Golden Valley Electrical Association, causing most of the complex to be demolished in order to make room for open storage areas. On the other hand, eleven properties have had positive action taken towards their preservation:

* **Chief Kashakes House, Saxman:** Nominated and placed on the National Register of Historic Places and architecturally documented by the Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS).

* **Carlson Home and Fishermen's Co-op, Dillingham:** National Register nominations have been prepared for both buildings under a Certified Local Government (CLG) grant from the Office of History and Archaeology. The Fisherman's Co-op's nomination has been accepted by the Alaska Historic Commission and forwarded to the Keeper of the National Register in Washington, D.C.

* **Creamer's Dairy, Fairbanks:** This year, the property will receive ISTEAM money to cover costs for the development of architectural plans.

* **Eagle Historic District, Eagle:** Through grants from the Soil Conservation Corporation, an erosion control system along the Yukon River bank has been constructed, lessening the threat of having the district destroyed by the river.

* **Fourth Avenue Theater, Anchorage:** The theater has undergone a rehabilitation using the federal tax credit program.



* **Holy Ascension Orthodox Church, Unalaska (above):** In 1994, it received ISTEAM money for the development of restoration construction documents. This year it will receive ISTEAM money for its restoration.

* **Holy Assumption Orthodox Church, Kenai:** Received a new roof the year it was listed.

* **Kennicott Mine Complex, Kennicott:** The major buildings around the mill of the mining complex have undergone emergency stabilization the last three years through federal and state grants totalling more than \$500,000.

* **St. Joseph's Catholic Church, Nome:** Has received a grant from the Economic Development Administration for its relocation and rehabilitation. Work hopefully will occur this construction season.

* **Sternwheeler Nenana, Fairbanks:** Through efforts by the Fairbanks Historic Preservation Foundation, the Sternwheeler Nenana has been restored.

Undoubtedly, some of these actions would have occurred whether the property was listed or not. In a number of cases, however, property owners used the fact that the property was listed on the AAHP Ten Endangered List as a marketing tool to receive grants for their rehabilitation, restoration, or having National Register nominations prepared. Of the remaining eight properties, interest has been expressed by some in their preservation, but no program has been developed to turn this interest into positive action.

It therefore appears that our work has met with some success. But, as always, we need to do more, and we need your help. As noted on the previous page, we hope that you'll let the Projects and Issues chair know about threatened structures in your community, and support those that are in danger.

AAHP's THREATENED PROPERTIES INVENTORY

Each year, AAHP seeks public input to identify historic properties that are threatened by neglect, erosion, abandonment, lack of funds, or other causes. From this list, AAHP selects its Ten Most Endangered Historic Properties, which are announced each May during National Historic Preservation Week. Please take the time to complete the following questionnaire (or a facsimile) concerning threatened properties in your region. Send the completed form by April 1, 1995 to: Projects and Issues, Alaska Association for Historic Preservation, Old City Hall, 524 West Fourth Ave., Suite 203, Anchorage, AK 99501.

Property Name: _____

Property's Address/Location: _____

Is the property listed on the National Register of Historic

Places? Yes No

How is the building threatened? _____

Name/Address of Property Owner: _____

Telephone: day _____ evening _____

Your Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: day _____ evening _____

AAHP BOARD OF DIRECTORS, 1995

Executive Director Bill Coghill
President Pat Murphy
Vice President Jack Sinclair
Secretary Gillian Smythe
Treasurer Steve Peterson
Editor Frank Norris

Other Board Members:

Jerry Strang
Fran Seager-Boss
Bonnie Houston
Russ Sackett
Janet McCabe
Julie Johnson
Karen Stanley

**THE ALASKA ASSOCIATION
FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION
524 West Fourth Avenue, Suite 203
Anchorage, Alaska 99501**

Nonprofit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Anchorage, AK
Permit No. 587