

THE ALASKA ASSOCIATION FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION

645 West Third Avenue, Anchorage, Alaska 99501-2124

SEPTEMBER 1996

VOL. 15, ISSUE 3

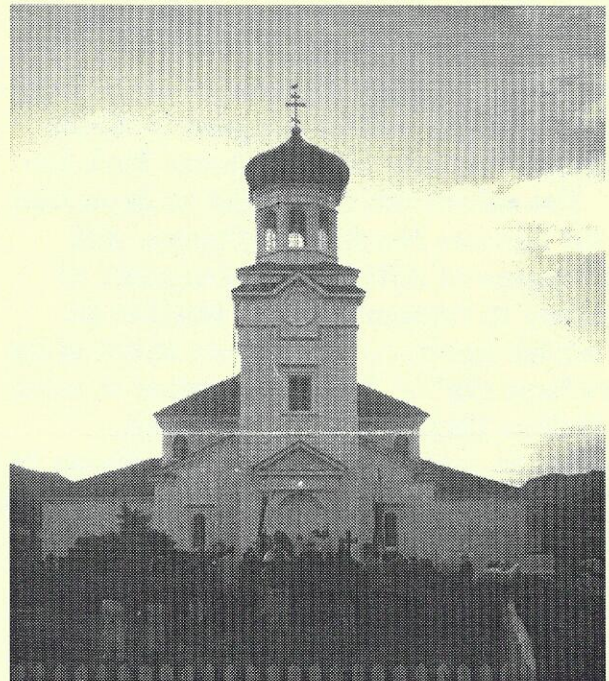
Dedication of the Newly-Preserved Unalaska Church

by Linda Cook, National Park Service

Dawn lingered over the new green cupolas and blazing red roof of Unalaska's Church of the Holy Ascension of Christ as His Beatitude, Metropolitan Theodosius of the Orthodox Church of America, consecrated the rehabilitation and restoration of this 100-year-old landmark cathedral. More than 200 people packed the nave and interior chapels early Sunday morning, September 15, to attend the rare consecration rite performed over the church and its new altar, aptly fashioned from replaced timbers in the 1895 structure. In 1826, Father Ioann Veniaminov had completed the first structure on the site.

The consecration was scheduled in conjunction with the Second Annual Elders Conference, which allowed many Unanagans (Aleuts) from the Pribilof and Aleutian islands to attend the day-long event. A host of speakers, including representatives from DOT&PF, NPS, the Orthodox Church, a Russian delegation, and the community, recounted the challenges of saving the church "just in time." Presents changed hands with each new speaker. The restoration committee had special commemorative coins minted for the event; they resembled some historic Russian coins which had been found at the site during the restoration process.

The cathedral was designated a National Historic Landmark in 1970, and since the late 1980s, efforts to preserve it have absorbed community members and both state and federal agencies. In 1990, the *American Heritage Magazine* included the church in its dubious list of the year's "Wrecker's Dozen." Facing a preservation project that worsened with each Aleutian storm, the Church Restoration Committee



A large crowd gathered at the Holy Ascension Church in Unalaska in the early morning hours of September 15 to participate in the dedication ceremonies.

coordinated with an array of agency personnel to procure major funding through the enhancements clause of ISTEA. The contractors, International Steel Erectors of Anchorage, have received praise and respect throughout the community for their excellent treatment of the building. The next step involves upgrading the church's heating system and the rehabilitation of the nearby Bishop's House. Another immediate need is the conservation of the cathedral's icons; in 1996, the icons were placed on the World Monuments Watch list of the 100 most endangered sites worldwide.

Old City Hall Renovation Completed

by Julie Johnson, AHPI

The Old City Hall project, begun a year ago by Anchorage Historic Properties, Inc. (AHPI), was recently finished. One of the last items to be completed was the replacement of the original exterior clock. The clock was removed last year before renovation began. It was returned to its position in May, but it ran for only a few hours. The clock was installed and then removed several times before it finally returned late this summer. The clock, now in good working order, looks out on the street just as it did 60 years ago.

The building's lobby features an early Anchorage interpretive exhibit designed by Keith Hoofnagle, formerly of the National Park Service. The exhibit was completed on September 20. Art Services North of Anchorage, and Julie Johnson of AHPI, worked together to coordinate its construction and installation. The exhibit features a large photo mural of the town's "tent city" of 1915, and another showing City Hall in 1948. Six wayside exhibits elaborate on topics ranging from the history of early Anchorage businesses to technical aspects of Old City Hall's architectural composition.

Highlights of the exhibit include the brass bell and fire pole which were originally used in the building's fire hall. A small alcove in the lobby is decorated in a less formal style featuring a Mission-style bench and a collage of



Workers recently installed the clock on the roof of Old City Hall in downtown Anchorage.

photographs of early Anchorage families. Two dioramas which decorated the lobby before renovation are returning to the building on new Mission-style tables. Finally, an antique display case replicates an office setting from the 1940s, thanks to artifacts on loan from the Anchorage Museum of History and Art and the Alaska Collection at the Loussac Library.

Update on AAHP's Ten Endangered Properties List

Little progress has occurred in addressing the threats to the ten properties that were identified as AAHP's Ten Most Endangered Properties this past May. The ten properties are: Alaska Nellie's Cabin in Lawing; Erskine House in Kodiak; Order of Redmen Lodge in Eagle; Independence Mine Camp at Hatcher Pass; Masonic Temple in Fairbanks; St. Peter's Episcopal Church in Seward; and Seward Railroad Depot; Sheldon Jackson College in Sitka; Skagway Fire Station; and Victor Holm Cabin, Kasilof.

These buildings, however, are not being ignored. Both the Order of Redmen lodge and

the Erskine House have plans for correcting their threats and are actively seeking funding to perform the work. Two National Trust for Historic Preservation grants were received to perform a building assessment of Allen Auditorium at Sheldon Jackson College, and the National Park Service is preparing Historic American Buildings Survey documentation of the same building. Independence Mine has received \$50,000 in state funds to restore the Old Bunkhouse foundation. AAHP has not received any information on whether the other properties on the list have received any recent attention.

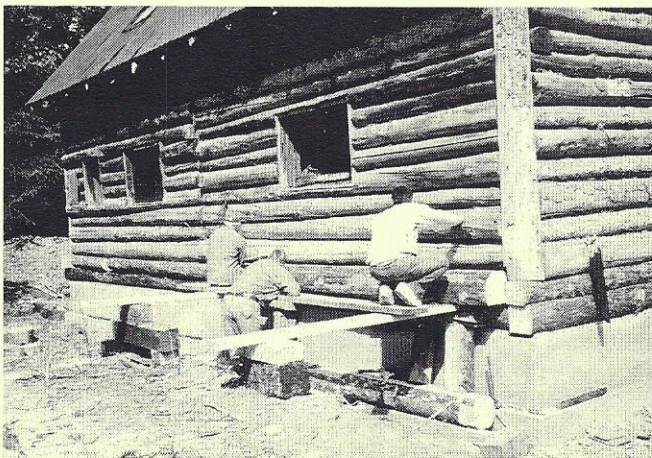
Bruhn-Ray Mine Buildings Moved

by Rosemarie Knecht, HSHS

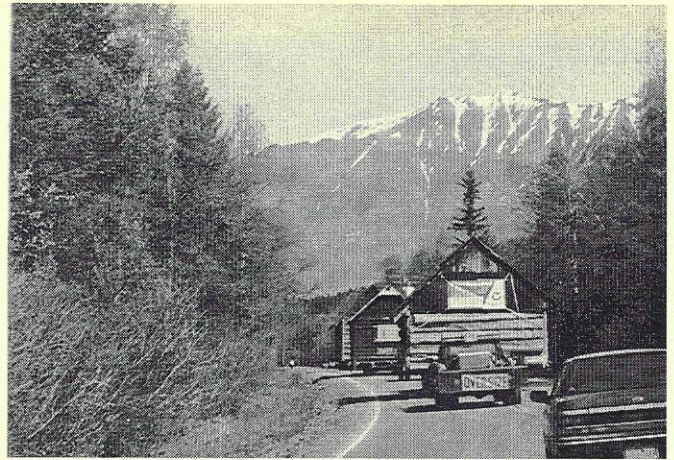
The Hope and Sunrise Historical Society (HSHS) is very pleased to report that the three main buildings of the Ray-Bruhn Mining Camp have been moved to a new site at Hope. The largest building, the bunkhouse, has been firmly positioned on its new foundation. New bottom logs replaced former logs which had deteriorated over the years. Many volunteer hours of hard work and a lot of organizing and cooperating made the move possible.

The actual move, which took place on Wednesday, May 15, was an exhilarating event. Two of the three camp buildings, plus an old ranger station which the U.S. Forest Service agreed to donate to the Society, moved down the Hope Road that day. The move took place with nary a moment to spare; soon afterward, Seward Highway construction crews transformed the Ray-Bruhn camp area into a ramp for the new Canyon Creek bridge.

Many parties pooled their resources to make the move possible. Those directly in charge of moving the buildings were Kiewit Pacific Construction Co. and Bryant Contractors; other key players included the Alaska DOT&PF, HSHS, contractors from Hope, and area volunteers. The Society is also grateful that AAHP had enough confidence in our endeavor to award us the 1996 Endangered Properties Preservation Grant, worth \$4,000, which is being used for a new foundation.



HSHS members Billy Miller, Scott Sherritt, and Harold Cheong-Sang at work positioning new bottom logs on the recently-moved bunkhouse.



On May 15, three cabins were moved down the Hope Highway to the Hope Museum property.

The HSHS knew that tremendous work and expense would occur after the move. It was fortunate to encounter a history- and community-minded sponsor, who offered to foot the bill for hiring a local contractor to take on the complete foundation work for the bunkhouse at its new site. Largely as a result of that generous offer, the concrete foundation was completed by the end of June.

Visitors to the area will now see the buildings behind the Hope Museum. The best compliment on the job--one that has been repeated many times--is that "These cabins look as if they had always been there."

This fall, work concentrates on proper winterization. At the bunkhouse, a new ground floor is under construction. The blacksmith shop cabin still sits on temporary pilings. It will remain there until several floor-level replacement logs have been located and installed; it will then be lowered onto a gravel pad. The 1940s-era ranger station, which was moved from the Johnson Pass trailhead area, is awaiting a proper fastening onto its new foundation; after that is completed, porches which once adorned the cabin will be reattached. A third Bruhn-Ray camp building, the Canyon Creek barn, was moved down to Hope in pieces. Plans call for it to be reconstructed next summer.

The HSHS is seeking assistance from anyone who might be able to help build a mining exhibit in the newly-moved bunkhouse. Its contact number (in Anchorage) is 243-1210.

News from the June 29 AAHP Picnic



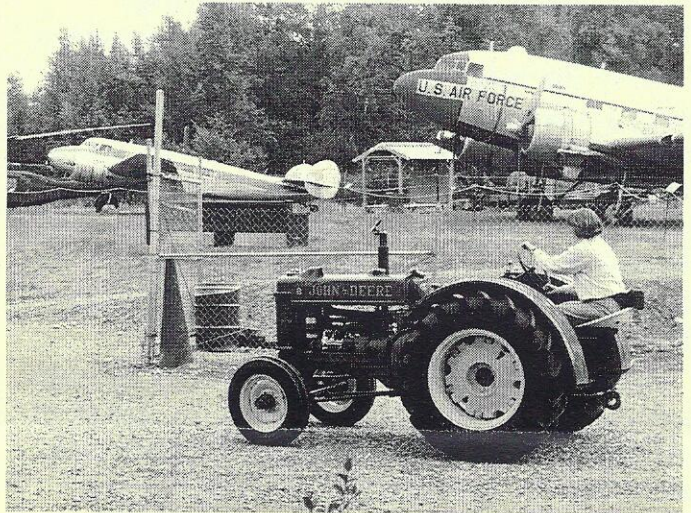
Museum vice-president Patrick Durand (left) and AAHP executive director Bill Coghill pose inside the main museum building.

On June 29, the Association held its annual picnic. This year's picnic, like last year's, was held in the Matanuska-Susitna Borough. The June 29 picnic, however, was held at the Museum of Alaska Transportation and Industry (MATI) in the warm, balmy Susitna Valley, a far cry from the foot-stamping cold which characterized last year's picnic up at Independence Mine State Historical Park.

More than 30 AAHP members turned out for this year's picnic. The day's activities began with a feast of hamburgers, hot dogs, and other

holiday fare served in and around the museum gazebo.

Soon afterward, the group repaired to the entrance of the main museum building. From here, tour guide Pat Durand took one and all on a deluxe tour of the building and grounds. (Thank you, Pat!) Most members followed the tour by ambling over to the railroad tracks on the western side of the grounds, and many climbed aboard the open, foot-tall gondola cars and enjoyed a 15-meandering ride through the surrounding forest.



AAHP board member Julie Johnson cruises around the MATI grounds in a vintage John Deere tractor.

We Want YOU as an AAHP Board Member!

AAHP, as with any organization, is only as strong as the members are willing to make it. One of the best ways that you can have an impact is to become a board member, and this fall, we will need to replace 5 members who are retiring from the board.

We hope you will consider becoming a board member. The position will not take up very much of your time--we meet just 5 or 6 times per year--and you do not need to know anything about the preservation field. There are a lot of interesting ways to get involved.

Interested? If so, drop us a line at our office (see masthead for address). Or contact either Bill Coghill (333-4846) or Gillian Smythe, our nominations committee chair (278-0231).

AAHP BOARD OF DIRECTORS, 1996

Executive Director	Bill Coghill
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Jerry Strang	Russ Sackett
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Terri Carter	Julie Johnson
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Sullivan's Roadhouse Restoration Completed

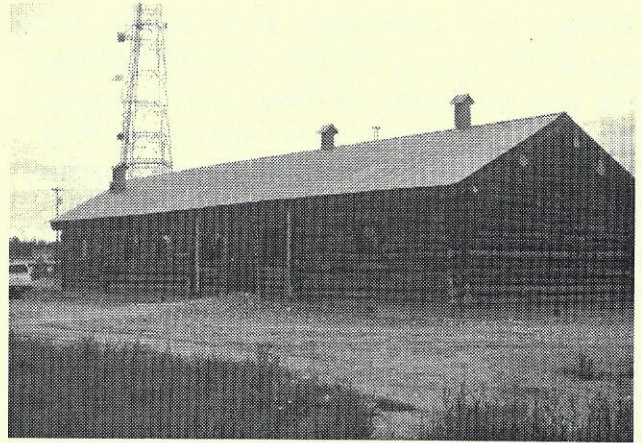
The relocation of Sullivan's Roadhouse to Delta Junction, and its subsequent restoration, was completed in August. The roadhouse was constructed in 1906 on the Delta Cut-off Sled Road (Route No. 5b) to serve winter travelers on the Valdez-Fairbanks Trail. The sled road, which was renamed the Donnelly-Washburn Cut-off (Route No. 4a) in 1911, was a winter trail. It departed the Valdez-Fairbanks Trail at Donnelly Roadhouse on the Delta River, where the river leaves the Alaska Range, and it reconnected with the main trail at the town of Washburn on the Tanana River at its confluence with the Little Delta River. Using the cut-off saved trail users a day's travel.

Sullivan's Roadhouse was constructed by John and Florence Sullivan during the winter of 1905-06 at the mid-point of the cut-off. Prior to their marriage the two had participated in the 1898 Klondike gold rush, then moved on to Nome. They met in Nome and were married in 1901. While in Nome, they mined in the Port Clarence and Gold Run districts. In the winter of 1904, they left Nome to take up mining in Fairbanks.

By 1905 they decided to become proprietors of a roadhouse and by the following year the roadhouse was open. For the next 18 years they ran this and two other roadhouses. Beginning in 1912, John Sullivan received contracts from the Alaska Road Commission (ARC) to build temporary seasonal bridges and to maintain the winter trail. These contracts



This photo, taken in mid-May at the old Sullivan Roadhouse site on Fort Greely, shows workers disassembling the main roadhouse structure.



By early July, when this photo was taken, the logs which comprised the old roadhouse had been flown to Delta Junction, and construction of the reassembled structure was essentially complete.

continued until 1921. The winter of 1922 saw no traffic on the trail and the ARC ceased to fund its maintenance. In 1923, the Sullivans purchased the 18-Mile Roadhouse (a.k.a. Byler's Roadhouse, near Fairbanks) and made it their residence. The Sullivans, husband and wife, died in 1924 and the ARC declared the Donnelly-Washburn Cut-off abandoned in 1925. The roadhouse stood vacant after 1922. Thereafter, it was sporadically used by hunters. During the 1940s the site was incorporated into Fort Greely; since then, the primary visitors have been military personnel.

The roadhouse complex consisted of a stable, blacksmith, root cellar and another outbuilding along with the roadhouse. The main unit was composed of two separate buildings. The front, oriented from east to west, was 20' x 70'. It had four rooms placed end to end: the Sullivans' living quarters, an entry room, the dining room, and the kitchen. Directly behind the entry room, and placed perpendicular to the front building was the travelers' sleeping quarters. Margaret Murie spent a night at the roadhouse in 1914 and provides a description of its interior (and the Sullivans) in her book *Two in the Far North*.

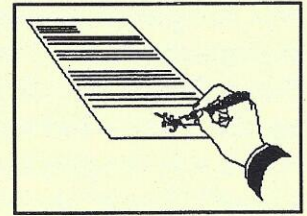
For several decades, the structure lay within Fort Greely's Oklahoma Bombing Range; it was off-limits to the public and lay unmaintained. Then, in 1994, five entities (the Office
(continued on next page)

of History and Archeology, Fort Greely, Army Corps of Engineers, Bureau of Land Management, and the Delta Chamber of Commerce) collaborated and determined that in order to protect the structure, it would be relocated to Delta Junction and placed near the town's visitor information center. It would then be restored and used as a historical museum.

Using Department of Defense Legacy grant funds, the roadhouse was disassembled, moved, and reassembled during the spring of 1996. Restoration was completed in early August, and the dedication ceremony passing its ownership to the Delta Chamber of Commerce took place on August 23.

Homeowner's Tax Credit Bill

The Historic Homeownership Assistance Act of 1995 (H.R. 1662 and S. 1002) was introduced in the House of Representatives by Clay Shaw (R-FL) and co-

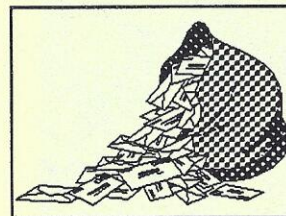


sponsored by Barbara Kennelly (D-CT); in the Senate, it was introduced by John Chafee (R-RI) and co-sponsored by Bob Graham (D-FL). The bill has stalled in the 104th Congress and will probably not come to a vote. Many, however, believe that it can become law in the 105th Congress if a serious effort is launched on its behalf. Here in Alaska, Rep. Don Young has become a co-sponsor, but neither of our senators has yet signed on.

This bill, if passed, would allow single-family and multi-family residences, condominiums, and cooperatives listed on the National Register of Historic Places (or deemed eligible for listing on the Register) to receive a 20% federal income tax credit for rehabilitating or purchasing a qualified rehabilitated historic property. The bill would also allow a developer to rehab a qualifying property and sell it to a homeowner with the credit. The homeowner may apply the credit to tax liability over a number of years.

There are currently no federal programs that provide assistance to owners of residential properties that are listed on, or eligible for listing to, the National Register. The Homeowners' Tax Credit Bill will begin to address this shortcoming. Many of Alaska's historic

properties that are listed on the Register are residential properties and stand to benefit from this bill. AAHP members need to contact our congressional delegation; we should let them know the importance of



this bill and urge them to support it. Be sure to write them a follow-up letter after you receive a response. THANK YOU!

JOIN US AND PRESERVE ALASKA'S HISTORY!

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 |

In addition, I would like to donate \$_____ to our newly-created historic properties grant account (see related story on page 3).

All 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, 645 W. 3rd Ave., Anchorage, Alaska 99501, attn: Treasurer.

Our Committees At Work

by Bill Coghill

Here's a summary of what AAHP's committees are doing this year.

AAHP has six basic goals, and a committee exists to support each of them. The committees are Projects and Issues, Education, Legislation, Public Relations, Fund Raising, and Membership. At the beginning of each year, the Board of Directors reviews each of the six goals and establishes and assigns responsibilities to each committee on how to implement projects that fulfill those goals.

Goal #1, relating to communication, primarily concerns the Public Relations and Membership committees. Julie Johnson heads the Public Relations Committee and informs the public through press releases and other means. Bill Coghill chairs the Membership Committee. So far this year, we have 270 paid members, which is a new record for AAHP.

Goal #2 concerns education. This committee is co-chaired by members Sylvia Elliot and Fran Seager-Boss. A major interest is projects concerning Preservation Week in May. The newsletter, edited by Frank Norris, also plays an educational role.

Goal #3 pertains to legislation. Marie Strobel-Wisdorf and Frank Norris co-chair this committee. Although these members are not lobbyists, they monitor and advocate legislation, primarily at the state level, to promote preservation in Alaska.

Goal #4 is to assist preservation projects. The major committee involved is Projects and Issues, with assistance from Education and Public Relations. A primary thrust in this area is to identify and publicize Alaska's "Ten Most Endangered Historic Properties." Russ Sackett chairs the Projects and Issues Committee.

Goal #5 concerns liaison with local, state, and national historic preservation groups. While most committees have a role here, the principal ones are Education, Projects and Issues, and Membership.

Goal #6 is fund raising. Jerry Strang of Gakona heads this committee, and through an authorized state gaming permit has produced funds to supplement the dues from members.

Last year we also appealed to members to contribute to the grant matching fund for the "Ten Most Endangered" structures. This enabled AAHP to increase the matching fund by \$1,000 this year for a total of \$4,000. The grant money went to the Hope-Sunrise Historical Society for a new foundation for the Bruhn-Ray Mine Bunkhouse. This year we also added a Grants Committee, headed by Pat Murphy and Russ Sackett, to explore possible grants for our Association.

A committee not directly tied to a goal is the Nominating Committee, headed by Vice-President Gillian Smythe. We elect about one-third of our Board each January; as noted in the adjacent article, we invite *YOUR* participation on the Board if you have an interest.

Good News! AAHP Membership Reaches an All-Time High!

Bill Coghill, our membership chair, reports that paid membership is now 270, besting our previous peak by more than 15 members.

PLEASE CHECK YOUR LABEL ON THIS NEWSLETTER. If it shows a "96" after your name, you are paid through 1996. We still have a number of newsletter recipients who are not current members, and we appeal to you to renew. We do not want to eliminate you from our mailing list!

* * * * *

Terri Carter, a board member from Soldotna, has been active in recent years leading efforts to publicize and protect historical structures on the Kenai Peninsula. On June 28, she was a key contributor to an *Anchorage Daily News* article noting endangered cabins in the area. Featured was a century-old cabin at the mouth of the Kasilof River, as well as three trappers' cabins--one built by Harry Johnson, the other two by Andrew Berg--on the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge. The Kasilof cabin is already on the National Register; the others are going through the nomination process.

Three Seward Buildings on the Endangered List

by Eric Fry, *Seward Phoenix Log* (reprinted in *Anchorage Daily News*, June 24, 1996)

Alaska Nellie's cabin at Lawing, St. Peter's Episcopal Church in Seward, and the Seward Railroad Depot have made a preservation group's list of the ten most endangered buildings in Alaska.

The listed properties are eligible for grants from the association's members.

Nellie Neal Lawing was a well-known pioneer who set up construction camps for the Alaska Railroad from 1916 to 1923. She retired to a flag stop at Mile 23 of the railroad and ran a roadhouse. Her cabin suffers from dry rot, the association said.

St. Peter's Church, completed in 1917, recently had a new baseboard hot-water heating system installed, but needs sprinklers. More than \$8,200 has been raised locally to help buy a sprinkler and fire alarms, said the Rev. Ron Hiester. "We're just making plans to get the work done as soon as we can."

"It's a well-designed building and has a lot of integrity of design and materials," said Steve Peterson, a historical architect with the

National Park Service in Anchorage who looked at the church recently.

The railroad depot also dates from 1917. It's one of only three depots that remain on their original site.

Peterson, the city consulting architect, is writing a report about how the city could allow a tenant to use the building without destroying its historic significance.

"It's kind of a touchstone to the community, of where Seward is and why Seward is" he said. "It's in remarkably good condition, largely due to the fact that it's on a concrete foundation, and all the wood members are high and dry."

But the corners facing the bay, with its wind-driven salt spray, are starting to show structural problems, he said.

"The public room appears to have most of the original character to it, and perhaps that's the space you'd treat with the most sensitivity," he said. "If there's one thing you can do to help that building along ... (it is to) keep some heat in it."

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