

THE ALASKA ASSOCIATION FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION

645 West Third Avenue, Anchorage, Alaska 99501-2124

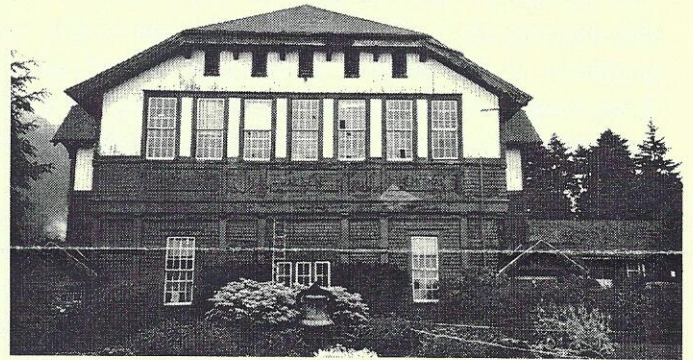
JANUARY 1997

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ANNUAL MEETING TO BE HELD ON FEBRUARY 2

The AAHP will hold its annual meeting at Loussac Library on Sunday, February 2, from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. The meeting will be held in the Community Room on the first floor, adjacent to the Assembly Chambers and the Wilda Marston Theater.

Two well-known preservation leaders, Thad Paulson and Terry Hyer, will be featured speakers. Mr. Paulson, who owns and edits the *Sitka Sentinel*, is an active preservationist who has been instrumental in saving several of Sitka's notable edifices. He was a founding member of the Allen Auditorium Preservation Project, Inc., which has spearheaded the community effort to save the architectural centerpiece of the Sheldon Jackson College campus. In addition, he showed his personal concern for preservation values by saving one of Sheldon Jackson College's cottages from the wrecking ball; he moved the building off-site and is now restoring it. Mr. Paulson will be speaking about the community's effort to save the Allen Auditorium, an effort that is still in its early stages.



Sitka's Allen Auditorium.

Terry Hyer, the other featured speaker, is the owner of E. C. I. Hyer, an architectural consulting firm based in Anchorage. Mr. Hyer has been an Alaskan architect for a number of years; during that period, he has been involved in several significant historical preservation projects. Two recent efforts have included properties that have been on AAHP's Ten Most Endangered Properties list: St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Nome, and the Holy Ascension Orthodox Cathedral in Unalaska. He has also worked on the Loussac-Sogn Building in downtown Anchorage, a World War II-era airplane hangar on Japonski Island (part of the Sitka Naval Operating Base National Historical Landmark), and other historical rehabilitation projects. Mr. Hyer will speak about his efforts to preserve both the St. Joseph's Catholic Church—an effort that is well underway—as well as the almost-completed Unalaska Orthodox Cathedral project.

THE 1997 TEN ENDANGERED LIST

Which Alaska properties should be on AAHP's Ten Endangered Properties list? This is the seventh year in which our organization has sponsored such a list, and perhaps because of the publicity created by the selection process, many of the properties on the list have been rehabilitated or otherwise preserved. This year, as in the past, all AAHP members are being asked to nominate likely properties to this list. Historic buildings, structures, districts, and sites are all eligible, particularly those which have a recognized historic value and are in danger for either physical or political reasons. We have inserted a nomination form in our newsletter. Please take a moment to consider likely properties for the list, fill out the form as well as you can, and mail it to AAHP's office. **THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP!**

THE LATEST ON MEMBERSHIP

A membership renewal letter was mailed to all of you in December, and since then we have had more than 130 responses. THANK YOU! Membership remains our major source of revenue. We encourage all of you who do not have a "97" after your name on the label to either join or renew for 1997.

Of special note is our first Sponsor (\$250 member) for the year, Hooker Jordon. Many thanks go to new or renewing members at the Friend (\$100) level: Bob Atwood, Frank Gruber, Karl Gurcke, Jean Jackson, Thad Paulson, Eva Trautmann, and Kip Stangl. We also wish to recognize our early supporters at the Contributor (\$50) level: Tom Coghill, Bill Coghill, Ethel Clausen, Ed Crittenden, Barbara Crouch, Rogan Faith, Perry Green, Alfred Lomen, William F. Lynn, Matthew Reckard, Bea Shepard, Gillian Smythe, and Jay Snodderly. Membership chair Bill Coghill notes that contributions to the matching grant program (assisting in the rehabilitation of one of our Ten Endangered Properties) total \$417 to date; we eventually hope to include \$1,000 from this source to add to the \$3,000 AAHP expects to put into the grant program this year.

NEW GRANTS PROGRAM INTRODUCED

The National Historical Society, a division of Cowles Enthusiast Media, was formed in 1996 as a membership organization "dedicated to widespread and easy access to nonpartisan history-related information, products, and services." As part of its goal, the NHS recently established a grants program which provides development and implementation funding to support existing nonprofit organizations in "expanding and facilitating interest in the preservation, interpretation, communication and study of American history."

As part of its application guidelines, the NHS provides historic preservation grants "supporting projects or programs that protect, preserve, conserve and/or rehabilitate historically or architecturally significant public properties or objects," and the organization specifically gives a funding priority to "projects that protect, preserve, conserve, and/or rehabilitate historic sites, structures and artifacts, either wholly or in part."

The NHS funds only projects or programs proposed by organizations with a 501(c)(3) exemption. Individuals and for-profit organizations are not eligible for funding. The maximum grant is \$20,000.

The deadline for applying for an NHS grant is April 1, 1997; successful grantees must spend the allotted funds within two years of receiving funds.

In order to get further details and an application form, contact: Grants Administrator, National Historical Society at 741 Miller Drive, S.E., Suite D-2, Leesburg, VA 20175. Further information may be gained by contacting the NHS at (703) 779-8338 (telephone) or (703) 779-8342 (fax).

WELCOME TO OUR NEW BOARD MEMBER

AAHP welcomes onto its board of directors Lynn Dixon, co-owner (with husband Ron) of the Cook Inlet Book Company downtown. Lynn (*right*) has had a longtime interest in history; last year, during National Historic Preservation Week, she featured a preservation display at her book shop. Lynn knows Alaska well; she has lived here since territorial days!



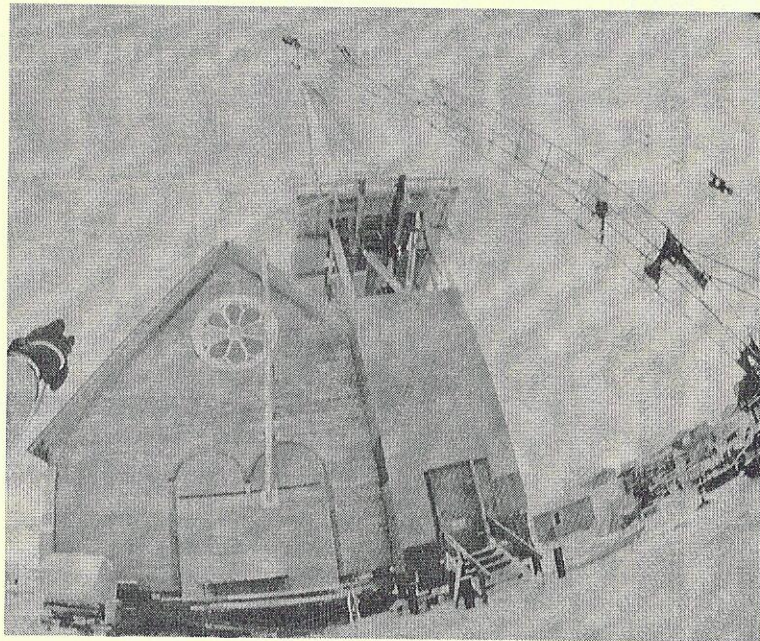
Preserving one of AAHP's Ten Endangered Properties...

Old Nome Church Nearly Restored
(Anchorage Daily News, December 26, 1996)

A three-ton steeple was hoisted back into place atop old St. Joseph's Church while onlookers gathered at sunrise, singing snatches of the "Hallelujah Chorus."

"I'm going to sleep a lot better now that this is done," said Dick Wagner, who oversaw church renovation. Wagner's goal was to have the steeple back in place by Christmas. It went up Sunday, beating the deadline by several days.

The landmark church, known locally as "Old St. Joe's," has been the focus of a \$1.4 million historic renovation. The wooden building went up nearly a century ago, altering Nome's skyline and displaying a brightly lit steeple rising 100 feet above the tundra. Locals say the beacon has helped guide mushers on stormy nights.



The steeple and cross were hoisted into place on December 22.

Project organizers said the renovation should be complete by July, and the church will look almost exactly as it did when it was first built. The new steeple is a duplicate of the original and the church's sagging roof was reinforced. The building had very little rot, officials said.

Much of the construction materials were special-ordered to match specifications that carpenters had used at the turn of the century. For instance, tongue-and-groove flooring proved impossible to locate, and the building's 20-inch stud spacings in the walls required that plywood be cut in non-standard sizes. The project is funded with a federal grant that requires remodeling to match the original construction as much as possible.

"We're going to duplicate it right down to the fraction of an inch if we can," Wagner said. Interior modernizing includes specially fitted thermal windows installed in decorative sashes. Walls will be sealed with moisture barrier to keep out drafts.

The project has been a history lesson of sorts for the roughly four dozen local workers assigned to the job. For instance, special knives were made so the original interior molding could be duplicated. A new round frame for the signature rose-petal window was made with radial cuts around the outside of the frame, to allow the wood to bend into a circle.

"Those cuts are all showing in the original, and they'll be showing in the new one," Wagner said. The church will be painted white with brown trim, to match the original exterior. Inside, goldwork will be restored to the base of the ceiling. Landscaping will complete the block-long project.

"I think the community's going to be proud of this," Wagner said.

AAHP BOARD OF DIRECTORS, 1997

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JOIN US AND PRESERVE ALASKA'S HISTORY!

Membership runs from January 1 through December 31. Benefits include...

- * the quarterly AAHP newsletter
- * workshops and seminars
- * annual meeting
- * historic preservation advocacy

___ Student	\$10	___ Contributor	\$50
___ Individual	\$15	___ Friend	\$100
___ Family.....	\$25	___ Sponsor	\$250
___ Non-Profit.....	\$25	___ Benefactor	\$500

PLEASE NOTE ANY CHANGE TO YOUR MAILING LABEL.

Donations to AAHP are tax deductible as allowed under IRS regulations.

I/we would also like to make a tax deductible gift of \$ _____ to the AAHP Top Ten Most Endangered Buildings preservation matching grant account.

Check enclosed for \$ _____. WE THANK YOU!

Please return to: The Alaska Association for Historic Preservation
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Anchorage, Alaska 99501-2124