

THE ALASKA ASSOCIATION FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION

645 West Third Avenue, Anchorage, Alaska 99501-2124

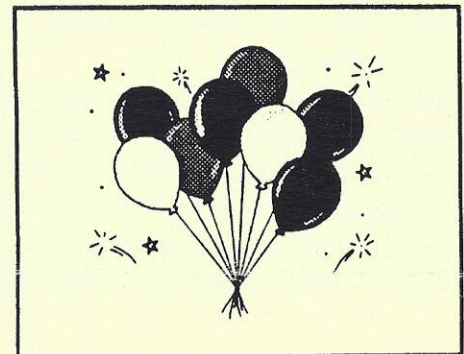
JULY 1998

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Come One, Come All to the Summer Picnic!

AAHP will be holding its annual picnic this year on Sunday, August 9. Cynthia Toohey will host the gathering, which will be held at the Crow Creek Mine. The festivities will begin at 1:00 p.m. and continue until mid-afternoon. The Crow Creek Mine, which was an active, working mine for many years, is now a popular summertime tourist attraction. Members will have the opportunity to take a tour and pan for gold as well.

The mine is located near Girdwood, 35 miles south of Anchorage. To reach the mine, take the Seward Highway to the Girdwood turnoff. (The new stretch of highway that avoids Johnson Hill is now open!) Turn in at the newly-expanded Tesoro/7-11 Station and drive approximately two miles toward Girdwood. But just before the Glacier Creek crossing, you'll see signs for Crow Creek Road (and Crow Creek Mine). Turn left here onto a dirt road and continue for two more miles to the mine.



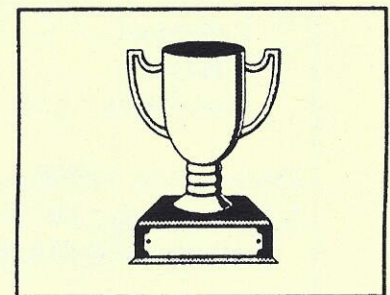
We'll look forward to seeing you!

AAHP Preservation Grant Awards Go to Two Endangered Properties

Last year, two properties nominated to AAHP's Ten Endangered Buildings List were (1) the First Avenue Historic Streetscape in Fairbanks and (2) the Matanuska Colony Cannery, Creamery, and Warehouse in Palmer. By virtue of their selection to the "Ten Endangered" list, these two properties (as well as the other eight on the list) were eligible for preservation grant awards.

To kick National Historic Preservation Week festivities, AAHP board member Casey Buechler gave a lecture on historic preservation at the Anchorage Museum of History and Art. As part of that presentation, he presented the Preservation Grant Awards.

The Tanana-Yukon Historical Society will receive the requested matching funds grant of \$2920 for the production and broadcast of a Public Service Announcement (PSA) focused on drawing public attention and support for the preservation of the First Avenue Historic Streetscape in downtown Fairbanks.



Heritage Properties, a private development company, also submitted a grant application for analysis and photo-documentation of the Matanuska Colony Cannery, Creamery, and Warehouse in Palmer. Although the company did not receive the full grant amount that it requested, the AAHP board decided to award a matching funds grant amount of \$1000.00 towards the photo-documentation of this historic property.

Membership Soars to New Heights!

AAHP's paid membership now stands at 252. Since our last newsletter, we have received additional memberships at the Contributor (\$50) level and additional contributions to AAHP's ten most endangered building preservation fund. Thank you very much!

AAHP is also gratified by the increasing number of non-profit organizations from around the state who have become paying members. Current non-profit members include:

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| Alaska State Archives (Juneau)
Anchorage Historic Properties, Inc.
Carrie McLain Museum (Nome)
Copper Valley Historical Society (Copper Center)
Delta Historical Society (Delta Junction)
Eagle Historical Society
Heritage Library NBA (Anchorage)
Hope & Sunrise Historical Society (Hope)
City of Kenai Planning Department
Kenai Peninsula Historical Assn. (Cooper Landing)
Kodiak Historical Society
Museum of Alaska Transportation & Industry (Wasilla)
Russian Orthodox Church of Sitka & Alaska (Anchorage)
Skagway Historical Museum & Archives;
Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference (Anchorage);
National Park Service (Anchorage);
Chilkat Valley Historical Society (Haines) | Alaska State Library (Juneau)
Anchorage Municipal Libraries
Chugiak-Eagle River Historical Society (Chugiak)
Cordova Historical Society
Downtown Association of Fairbanks, Inc.
Gastineau Channel Historical Society (Juneau)
Homer Society of Natural History, Inc.
City & Borough of Juneau
Kenai Historical Society
Ketchikan Museum
Matanuska-Susitna Borough, Palmer
Palmer Historical Society
City of Skagway
Soldotna Historical Society & Museum;
Tanana Yukon Historical Society (Fairbanks);
City of Wasilla, Page Museum. |
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We sincerely appreciate your support!

JOIN US AND PRESERVE ALASKA'S HISTORY!

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

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

___ Student\$10 ___ Individual\$15 ___ Family\$25 ___ Non-Profit.....\$25	___ Contributor \$50 ___ Friend \$100 ___ Sponsor\$250 ___ Benefactor \$500
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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
 645 West Third Ave.
 Anchorage, Alaska 99501-2124

1998 Endangered Buildings List Announced

On May 12, Casey Buechler unveiled AAHP's 1998 Ten Endangered Buildings list during the same presentation in which the Preservation Grant Awards were announced. The ten chosen properties are as follows:

First Avenue Historic Streetscape, Fairbanks
Matanuska Colony Cannery, Creamery, and Warehouse, Palmer
Saints Sergius and Herman of Valaam Church, Nanwalek (English Bay)
Alaska Nellie's Cabin, Lawing
Independence Mine, Hatcher Pass
Immaculate Conception Church, Fairbanks
McCrary Homestead, Mile 101.5, Old Richardson Highway (near Copper Center)
Holy Transfiguration of Our Lord Chapel, Ninilchik
Ladd Field National Historic Landmark, on Fort Wainwright (near Fairbanks)
Golden Zone Mine, 28 Miles southwest of Cantwell

The first four of these properties were on the 1997 Top Ten Endangered list, and at least one other property was on a previous year's list. Sean Boily, the head of AAHP's Projects and Issues Committee, has compiled a detailed analysis of all ten buildings. The following paragraphs describe two properties that are now on the Top Ten Endangered list for the first time.

* *Immaculate Conception Church, Fairbanks*

Originally constructed in 1906 as a 30 feet by 65 feet single story, unadorned building of rough lumber, the church was moved in 1911 to its present location. At that time, a full basement was constructed. In 1912, a flat roofed, two-story rectory (approximately 30 feet by 70 feet) was added perpendicular to the Church's southern elevation. In 1914, a major construction program added a single-central tower and spire along with a vestibule to the front of the building, separating the entry function from the main chapel. The roof's pitch was changed at this time from 40° to its present 45°. Stained glass windows—some of the finest found in Alaska—were installed in 1926-1928. Today the church appears much as it did after the 1914 building work. The church is the oldest standing in situ in Fairbanks and is associated with early town development. The current Bishop is proposing to demolish this historic structure and replace it with a larger building. The congregation wants to remain in the historic church; the church does, however, need to be insulated and wheelchair-accessible. The building was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1976.

* *McCrary Homestead, Mile 101.5 Old Richardson Highway (near Copper Center)*

The McCrary Homestead has several old structures still standing, the most prominent being the barn which was built in the early 1900s. Other buildings on the property include the first trading post built in Copper Center, a smokehouse, a tool shop, two chicken coops, and a U.S. Marshal's Jail House. All of these structures are on approximately four to six acres of the original homestead, east of the Richardson Trail. John McCrary came to Alaska with the Gold Rush stampeders, and in 1902 he settled in Copper Center. The barn and road house were built between 1910 and 1912 to serve bush pilots (including Mudhole Smith), miners, surveyors, and people for whom John hauled freight. During this period the village of Copper Center was relocated across the river. Heavy snow conditions in 1989 caused the roof of the barn to collapse. Without protection from the weather, the 90-year-old building is rapidly deteriorating. The family has been trying to raise funds to purchase materials to stabilize the barn until it can be fully restored. Personal finances, however, are limited.

"Buildings are a Reminder of the Value of Government in Alaska"

Mike Doogan, *Anchorage Daily News*, June 26, 1998, B-1

Somewhere, Teddy Roosevelt is dancing a jig. At long last, the government got the Guggenheims.

The final knot in this thread of Alaska history was tied last week, with the announcement that the National Park Service has acquired the Kennecott copper mine buildings. The buildings and the story surrounding them are a tangible rebuke to the people wandering around Alaska today saying government is bad and unbridled capitalism is good.

In the latter part of the 19th century, American industrialists tried to control certain industries. They did this through trusts, series of companies with a single board of directors.... The Guggenheim operation was a family-controlled mining trust. The Guggenheims heard a rumor of a big copper deposit in Alaska, had it checked out, and found it was true. They decided to mine the copper, but getting the metal out of the ground was just one part of their plan. They would have to build a railroad to carry the ore, and start a shipping company to carry it.... The name they gave the whole operation, the Alaska Trust, revealed their overall intentions. The Guggenheims meant to corner the market in Alaska....

By the time [the mine] closed in 1938, they produced ore between \$200 and \$300 million. But the Guggenheims got no farther in their plans to control Alaska.... The Progressives passed laws regulating workplaces, business practices, and the use of resources on public lands. The Alaska Trust was contained in its beachhead until the Depression caused a crash in copper prices and the mine closed.

Now that the Park Service owns the mine buildings, it is beginning to develop a plan for preserving them and making them accessible to the public. One part of that will focus on this history. There are lots of colorful characters and amazing engineering feats to tell about. But let's hope the history doesn't skip the story of the Alaska Trust and the Progressives. Alaskans need the reminder. We deal now with oil companies that drill on their own leases, ship oil down their own pipeline, put it on their own ships and take it to their own refineries. What keeps them in line is the same things that restrained the Alaska Trust. Government.

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