

645 West Third Avenue, Anchorage, Alaska 99501-2124

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AAHP PICNIC TO BE HELD IN PALMER ON JULY 25

Come one, come all! to our annual picnic, which will be held in Palmer beginning at noon on Sunday, July 25. The picnic, which will be held **rain or shine**, will include lunch, a tour of the colony buildings, and other festivities. Food and refreshments will be provided. Festivities will continue until 2-3 p.m.

The picnic will be held in the park adjacent to the Colony House. To reach the park where the picnic will be held, people living south of Palmer should drive out the Glenn Highway to the Palmer exit (just north of the Alaska Fair Grounds) and north into downtown Palmer. Two blocks after exiting from the Glenn Highway, cross over the railroad tracks (at East Fireweed Ave.) and continue along the frontage road for a block. Turn right on East Elmwood Avenue and continue for one block. The Colony Inn will be on your left, while the Colony House and the adjacent park will be on your right. NOTE: Those living north of Palmer will drive south along the Parks Highway to its intersection with the Glenn Highway, then drive north into Palmer and follow the above directions.

A good time will be had by all – we hope to see you there!

AAHP AWARDS TWO PRESERVATION GRANTS WORTH ALMOST \$6,000

During Preservation Week in mid-May, AAHP marked the fifth year of its Preservation Grant Awards Program by announcing that two Alaska organizations had garnered grants totaling \$5,960.

Annually in recent years, our organization has provided grants to properties that were among those listed in its Ten Most Endangered Historic Properties Program. AAHP received two applications for the grant and with the generosity of members contributing to the grant fund, both applicants were rewarded with a grant. Recipients of this year's grants are Heritage Properties, Inc. and the Tanana-Yukon Historical Society. Heritage Properties, Inc. of Anchorage received \$3,000 to assist in architecturally documenting the Matanuska Colony Cannery, Creamery, and Warehouse in Palmer. Tanana-Yukon Historical Society, based in Fairbanks, received \$2,960 for the development of an educational video to be used in schools addressing the history and preservation needs of Fairbanks's First Avenue Historic Streetscape.

These are reimbursable 50/50 matching grants. Grant products are to be completed and accepted by AAHP by January 31, 1999. Including this year's grants, AAHP has awarded over \$19,000 to eight properties resulting in over \$52,000 in match.

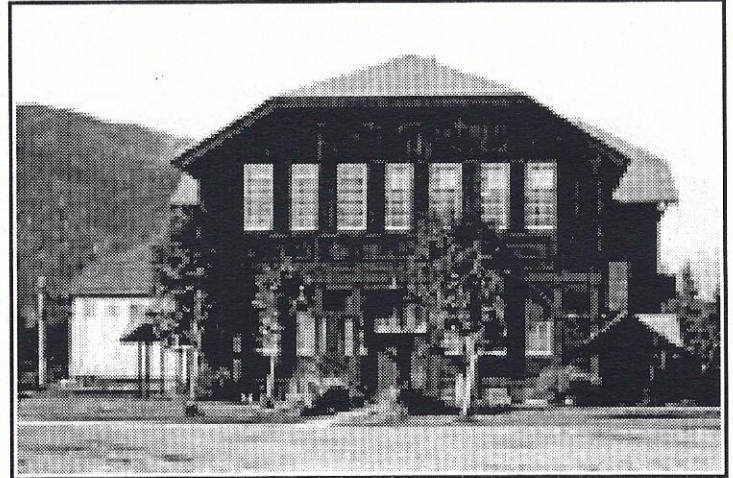
These grants were made possible by YOUR collective generosity. Donations to the program this year alone have totaled \$1,620, which is a \$120 increase over the amount you gave last year. This year marks the largest amount awarded by AAHP, a trend that hopefully will continue with the generosity of members' contributions to the grant fund.

**** HAVE YOU RENEWED YOUR AAHP MEMBERSHIP FOR 1999? ****

SITKA'S ALLEN AUDITORIUM NAMED TO NATIONAL TRUST LIST

On June 14, the National Trust for Historic Preservation released its eleventh annual listing of endangered American properties. Among the properties listed was the Richard H. Allen Auditorium (1910), the keystone of Sitka's Sheldon Jackson College. The NTHP issued the following statement that day:

"All over the nation, landmarks of America's diverse heritage are on the verge of disappearing. From the detention buildings on Angel Island, where thousands of Asian immigrants awaiting entry into the New World carved their hopes and despair into the crumbling walls, to the rolling Amish pastures of Lancaster County that are slowly being paved over by suburban sprawl, historic places all over America are being threatened. Today, in an effort to save these pieces of our history, these two sites and nine other links to America's past are being named to the National Trust for Historic Preservation's 1999 list of America's 11 Most Endangered Places."



The press release accompanying the NTHP's list made this statement about the Allen Auditorium:

"Founded in 1878 as a trade school, Sheldon Jackson College is the oldest educational institution in Alaska and has played a significant role in the social and political history of Southeast Alaska Native communities. The Richard H. Allen Auditorium has been the centerpiece of the college's campus in Sitka since it was constructed in 1910—but now its future as a focus of college and community life is in jeopardy. Years of deferred maintenance began to take their toll in the late 1980s, and by 1994 the auditorium was so badly deteriorated that college authorities closed the building and announced plans to demolish it. Recently the college has had a change of heart and now hopes to renovate the auditorium and devote second-floor space to a new Alaska Native studies center—but lack of funding is a major obstacle. Struggling under a significant debt, the college does not have the funds to undertake the necessary repairs; moreover, a depressed local economy means that the community cannot offer significant financial support. Engineers and architects say that the auditorium has great reuse potential, but that potential won't be realized without an infusion of cash."

One of the remaining "properties" chosen for this year's list is "the corner of Main and Main, nationwide," which dramatizes the vulnerability of America's classic downtown landscapes in the face of central city revitalization efforts. The other seven properties include: 1) the Country Estates of River Road, Louisville, KY; 2) four National Historic Landmark hospitals in New York state; 3) Hulett Ore Unloaders, Cleveland, OH; 4) Pullman Administration Building and Factory Complex, Chicago, IL; Traveler's Rest, Lolo, MT; San Diego Arts and Warehouse District, San Diego, CA; and West Side of Downtown Baltimore, MD. In all, half of the specific sites on this year's NTHP list are located west of the Mississippi River. This geographical balance is a welcome change from previous listings.

AAHP HIGHLIGHTS PRESERVATION WEEK WITH FULL-COLOR POSTER

During National Historic Preservation Week, which was held from May 9 through 15, AAHP unveiled its annual poster, created by Darrell Lewis and distributed throughout the state. The poster was headlined with the slogan "Protecting the Irreplaceable," and it focused on the Seward Railroad Depot, one of AAHP's ten endangered properties. Text related to the depot's history and existing condition are interspersed among historical and contemporary photos; all three photos were taken from the same perspective in order to provide accurate comparisons on how the building has changed over the years. Good job, Darrell!

AAHP SELECTS ITS "TEN MOST ENDANGERED" LIST FOR 1999

One of the highlights of Preservation Week was the unveiling of AAHP's Ten Most Endangered Properties list. The list, which was selected by the Board of Directors from a slate of eighteen, includes five historic properties that had previously appeared on the list and five new properties. The following properties were chosen to the list:

Previously Selected Properties:

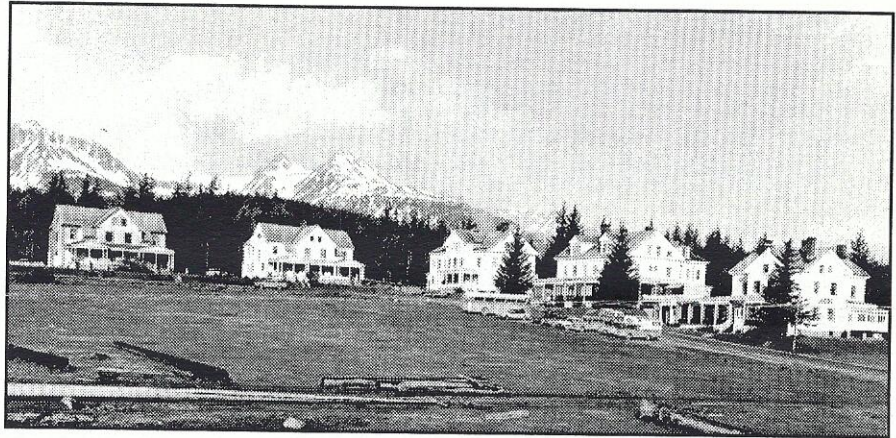
- * Sheldon Jackson College, Sitka
- * First Avenue Historic Streetscape, Fairbanks
- * Independence Mine, Hatcher Pass
- * Holy Transfiguration of Our Lord Chapel, Ninilchik
- * Saints Sergius and Herman of Valaam Church, Nanwalek

First-time selections

- * Fort William H. Seward, Haines
- * St. Peter's House, Sitka
- * The Net Loft, Dillingham
- * Springer/Grover Cabin, Palmer
- * Valley Farmers Cooperative, Palmer

As announced on June 14, a portion of one of our selections—the Allen Auditorium on the Sheldon Jackson College campus—is one of the National Trust's Eleven Endangered Properties for 1999. The following is a brief look at the properties that were chosen for the first time to AAHP's Ten Most Endangered list.

* **Fort William H. Seward**, in Haines, was established in 1898 to secure a military presence on Alaska's gold rush frontier. It was garrisoned from 1902 to 1945. Once known as Chilkoot Barracks, Fort Seward was Alaska's only military installation for almost 20 years. The fort originally included approximately 85 buildings, most of which were constructed between 1904 and 1906. Development pressures in areas surrounding the fort as well as within its boundaries threaten this remarkable structural complex, which was selected a National Historic Landmark in 1978.



* **St. Peter's House**, in Sitka, was designed and constructed by Bishop Peter Trimble Rowe, Alaska's first Episcopal bishop, in 1905. The house is in need of extensive restoration. The owners are attempting to raise public interest in the property as a historically significant landmark.

* **The Net Loft**, in Dillingham, was constructed in 1925. At the time, it was one of the original 37 buildings that made up the Alaska Portland Packers Association's Nushagak River Cannery along the town's waterfront. This historic property is a relic of pioneering days of the Bristol Bay salmon fishery; the building, in fact, still houses ship masts and other equipment from the days of a sail powered fishery. The property is in need of general repairs; its current owners, moreover, have threatened to either dramatically alter the building's appearance or demolish it.

* **The Springer/Grover Cabin**, in Palmer, dates from 1915—twenty years before the Matanuska Valley Project transformed the area. The cabin builder and property owner, German immigrant John Springer, was reputedly one of the earliest settlers in the Palmer area. The surviving homestead cabins are currently owned by Wesley Grover and are some of the best examples of log homestead houses from the pre-Depression era.

* **The Valley Farmer's Cooperative**, Palmer, comprises a series of buildings that were constructed in the mid-1930s. The complex operated, primarily as a dairy, until 1964. Currently the long 1½-story buildings are vacant and are sustaining damage from weather and vandalism (see news articles about this complex in previous issues of this newsletter). Grant moneys are being sought for rehabilitation and adaptive reuse.

ALASKA'S CERTIFIED LOCAL GOVERNMENT PROGRAM; A 12-YEAR-OLD SUCCESS STORY

The Certified Local Government (CLG) program is a nationwide program; it was established in 1966 as part of the National Historic Preservation Act, which is the basis for so many of the protective laws our nation's buildings currently enjoy. The intent of the CLG program is to provide federal dollars to qualifying communities, using the various State Historic Preservation Offices (SHPOs) as a conduit.

The CLG program in Alaska is now more than 12 years old. Almost three-quarters (74.4 percent) of Alaska's population now lives in cities or boroughs that are current CLGs; Alaska's five most populous cities, and four of Alaska's five most populous borough are now included in the CLG program. In order to receive preservation funding under the CLG program, Alaskan cities and boroughs must first be certified by our SHPO. To qualify, local governments must satisfy 7 requirements. They are 1) a preservation ordinance, 2) a process for inventorying historic resources, 3) a preservation commission, 4) opportunities for public participation, 5) a procedure for reviewing nominations to the National Register of Historic Places, 6) a procedure for reviewing local projects for impacts on historic resources; and 7) a local planning process, including a preservation plan.

CLGs receive technical assistance and training; in addition, they're eligible for matching Historic Preservation Fund grants, which may include:

- surveys and inventories of historic buildings
- surveys of prehistoric and historic archaeological resources;
- preparation of National Register of Historic Places nominations
- historic preservation planning grants;
- a number of publicity and education grants (relating to exhibits, brochures, videos, and special events); and
- bricks-and-mortar grants to restore historic buildings or to develop architectural and engineering studies.

Currently, there are 13 Certified Local Governments in Alaska. In order of their certification date, they are:

- | | |
|---|---|
| * North Slope Borough (April 20, 1987) | * Matanuska-Susitna Borough (September 8, 1987) |
| * City and Borough of Juneau (March 7, 1988) | * City of Dillingham (March 30, 1990) |
| * City of Unalaska (January 24, 1991) | * City of Ketchikan (January 31, 1991) |
| * Fairbanks AND North Star Borough (March 17, 1992) | * City of Seward (May 18, 1992) |
| * City and Borough of Sitka (April 14, 1994) | * City of Kenai (February 7, 1995) |
| * Municipality of Anchorage (March 30, 1995) | * City of Cordova (October 19, 1995) |

For further information on the CLG program, contact the Alaska Office of History and Archaeology, 3601 C Street, Suite 1278, Anchorage, AK 99503-5921. Phone: 907-269-8721, e-mail: oha@alaska.net

ALASKA REHABILITATION PROJECTS WIN ARCHITECTURAL AWARDS

Two Alaska properties that were formerly listed on AAHP's Ten Most Endangered Properties List have recently received state and national recognition in the American Institute of Architects' 1999 Alaska Honor and Merit Awards for efforts made in building rehabilitation. The AIA awarded the **St. George Russian Orthodox Church** (on St. George Island) an Honor Award, and **St. Joseph's Church** in Nome (which was the subject of AAHP's Preservation Week poster last year) was awarded a Merit Award. The architect for both projects, ECI Hyer Incorporated, is to be commended for its role in both of these rehabilitation efforts.

The importance of these awards can best be appreciated by stating that the AIA this year awarded only three other honor or merit awards, none of which involved restoration projects. The only other honor award for an Alaskan architectural project was bestowed upon the new Sea Life Center in Seward, while the two other Alaska-based merit awards were given to the new Goldenview Elementary School in Anchorage and the new Salmon Landing Market in Ketchikan.

Hats off to the AIA because of their recognition of high quality historic preservation efforts, and their recognition of the importance of those efforts in relation to new design projects.

STATE OFFICE EMERGES UNSCATHED FROM BUDGET BATTLE

The 1999 legislative session is now over, and the budget for the state's Office of History and Archeology (which funds, and provides technical assistance to, many of the state's preservation programs) is relatively unchanged in comparison to last year's figures.

Initial budget prognoses for the Office were dour to an extreme; in March, the Natural Resources Subcommittee of the House Finance Committee had voted to slash \$100,000 from OHA's General Fund matching monies. This cut, because of the cumulative effect of the Federal matching dollars, would have resulted in the elimination of three professional positions—i.e., half of the State Historic Preservation Program staff. But when the full House Finance Committee met to review the subcommittee's recommendations, they completely restored the earlier cut. Inasmuch as the Senate, throughout the budget process, had made no moves to change OHA's budget from the previous year, the two legislative bodies were in agreement and the final budget, as signed by Governor Knowles, reflected that concurrence.

Many thanks to all of you who, this year and in times past, have contacted your legislators to support OHA funding levels. Will Rogers once quipped that "no man's life, liberty, or property is safe while the legislature is in session," and having an effective state preservation office requires in the face of increasing budget pressures requires a long-term commitment—from all of us—to the legislative process.

BUY THE "SING AMERICA" ALBUM AND HELP SAVE AMERICA'S TREASURES!

As the millenium draws to a close, Alaska preservationists have an opportunity to enjoy some of the best American musical classics—on either CD or cassette—while helping to preserve the nation's premier historical and architectural sites for years to come. Warner Brothers Records has assembled 21 classic and contemporary artists to create *Sing America*, an album celebrating America's past through song and music. All of the artists' royalties and Warner Brothers' profits from this album will be used to endow the Fund to Save America's Treasures, which provides grants to non-profits and local governments to preserve our physical heritage.

Save America's Treasures, a public-private partnership between the White House and the National Trust for Historic Preservation, has been drawing attention to many of the treasures that embody our past but suffer from urgent preservation need. Sites such as Mesa Verde National Park and Chancellorsville Battlefield; buildings such as Frank Lloyd Wright's Taliesin and those at Ellis Island; collections such as the Louis Armstrong Archives, Thomas Edison papers, and the negative and transparencies of Walker Evans' photographs; and historic buildings, sites and collections in communities across America — *all* are at risk of being lost forever. The *Sing America* album offers an easy way for everyone to help. Artists and songs include:

- * Judy Collins, *Amazing Grace*
- * Neil Diamond, *America*
- * Arlo Guthrie, *City of New Orleans*
- * Paul Simon, *Graceland*
- * Ella Fitzgerald and Louis Armstrong, *Summertime*

- * John Denver, *Take Me Home, Country Roads*
- * Bob Dylan, *Blowin' in the Wind*
- * Peter, Paul & Mary, *This Land is Your Land*
- * Leann Rimes, *God Bless America*
- * Stevie Wonder, *Sir Duke* ... and many others

You may order the cassette or CD online at www.singamerica.com, by calling 1-800-774-7007, or at major stores across the country. The cost (via the internet or telephone) is \$11.95 for a cassette or \$17.95 for a CD plus postage and handling.

Celebrate July 4 by enjoying *Sing America* and by knowing you are helping to Save America's Treasures for the future.



THE LATEST MEMBERSHIP NEWS

We at AAHP wish to express our sincere appreciation to the 241 members that have paid their 1999 dues. If have not renewed, please sign up! Just fill out the sign-up form below.

You may be interested in knowing just who constitute AAHP's membership. Of our 241 members, 111 (46%) are individuals, 61 (25%) are families, 38 (16%) are non-profit organizations, and the remainder (31) come from various miscellaneous categories. Geographically, slightly less than half of us (112) hail from Anchorage; 44 come from other places in south central Alaska; 30 reside in the Interior; 33 in Southeast; and five live elsewhere in the forty-ninth state. Of the 17 members who reside out of state, the largest number (6) come from the state of Washington; our most distant members live in Maine and Massachusetts.

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

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

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