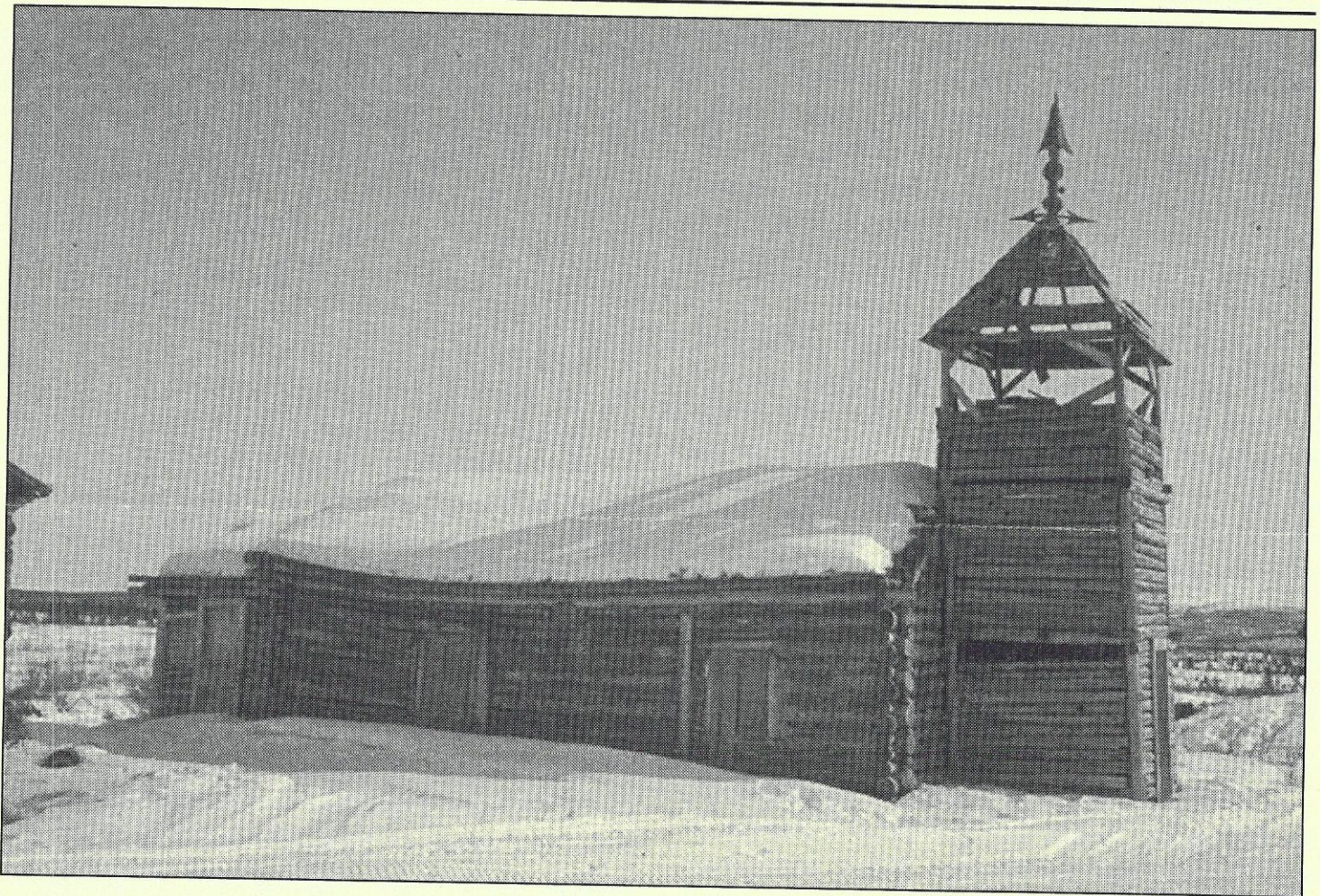


# THE ALASKA ASSOCIATION FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION

200 West 34th Avenue #1184, Anchorage, Alaska 99503

FEBRUARY 2002

VOL. 21, ISSUE 1



## Arctic Village Mission Church

*Russ Sackett*

The mission church in Arctic Village has applied for a National Trust for Historic Preservation's Preservation Services Fund (PSF). The purpose of the grant application is to perform a building assessment of the church in anticipation of its restoration for use as a cultural center/information center.

Most of Arctic Village residents claim kinship with the Neets' aii Gwitch'in, one of nine

Gwitch'in bands of Athabascan Indians who traditionally occupied northeastern Alaska and northwestern Canada. The first permanent buildings in Arctic Village were built in 1909, although Neets' aii Gwitch'in lifestyles remained primarily nomadic for many years. Arctic Village did not function as a year-round settlement until 1959

*Continued on the next page*

when the first permanent school was built there. The Episcopal Church, however, has been an important element in community life since the village's earliest beginnings, due largely to the efforts and teachings of Albert E. Tritt.

Through contact with Episcopal missionaries during visits to Fort Yukon, Albert Tritt began to convert his neighbors in Arctic Village to the Episcopal creed. During the latter part of the first decade of the 1900s, Tritt held services in his own home for his immediate family and friends. By 1916 or 1917, Tritt and his followers were able to construct the major room of the Arctic Village mission church. Over the years, a bell tower was added to the front of the church along with a small addition to the back.

In 1925 Albert Tritt was ordained as a deacon in the Episcopal Church and continued to serve his congregation until his death in the mid-1950s. The church built by Albert Tritt remained as the community's church and social hall until 1960 when a new church was built. The original church has remained vacant since that time.

The Arctic Village mission church was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in April 1977, in part for its association with Albert Tritt. Its listing is also based on its unique log-building architectural style.

Over the years the church has deteriorated to the point where its continued existence is now threatened. In the late 1980s restoration of the building was considered under an economic development program. The restoration never materialized. The Arctic Village Mission Church was listed by AAHP as one of the Ten Endangered Historic Properties in 1991 and 1992. AAHP supports the efforts underway to work towards bringing this building back to life.

*(Parts of this article first appeared in the November 1991 issue of the AAHP newsletter: Vol. 10 Issue 4, page 3: "Arctic Village Mission Church.")*

## Alaska Office of History and Archaeology Offers HPF Development Grants

The Alaska Office of History and Archaeology is soliciting for Historic Preservation Fund predevelopment and development grant applications. The deadline to apply is February 15, 2002.

The intent of the program is to provide assistance to owners of National Register of Historic Places properties to ensure continued use and integrity of the property; stimulate economic development through heritage tourism; and increase public awareness and appreciation of Alaska's heritage. Qualifying properties are Alaska buildings or structures listed individually in the National Register of Historic Places or as contributing to a historic district listed in the Register, or properties determined eligible by the Alaska Historical Commission and the State Historic Preservation Officer.

The grants are reimbursable and matching. Federal funds are not eligible as matching funds. The grants are limited to a minimum of \$5,000 and a maximum of \$50,000 federal share. Individuals, businesses, corporations, nonprofit or for-profit organizations, local governments, and state agencies may apply.

The application form will be available on line at [www.dnr.state.ak.us/parks/grants/index.htm](http://www.dnr.state.ak.us/parks/grants/index.htm) on Friday, January 18, 2002. To request a paper copy of the application form, contact the Office of History and Archaeology at: 550 W. 7th Ave., Suite 1310, Anchorage, AK 99510-3565; e-mail [oha@alaska.net](mailto:oha@alaska.net); telephone 907-269-8721; or fax 907-269-8908.

The Alaska Association for Historic Preservation

2002

# Endangered Historic Properties Nomination

To increase public awareness of endangered historic properties, the Alaska Association for Historic Preservation identifies the state's ten most endangered historic properties during Historic Preservation Week each May. Individuals and historic preservation organizations throughout the state nominate the properties on this list. AAHP requests your assistance in identifying historic properties that are endangered. To nominate a property to the endangered list, please complete the following, and mail by March 31, 2002, to:

The Alaska Association for Historic Preservation  
200 West 34th Street, #1184  
Anchorage, AK 99503

Name of property nominated: \_\_\_\_\_

Location: \_\_\_\_\_

Property owner and address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Name and address of individual preparing this form:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Phone (Day): \_\_\_\_\_ (Evening): \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Property description:

Property history:

Why is property endangered?

Activities underway to save property:

Property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places: \_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ No

Please provide a minimum of one (1) publishable photograph of the building with this nomination. Multiple photos are preferable.

### 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 .....	\$15	___ Corporate .....	\$100
___ Individual .....	\$20	___ Friend .....	\$100
___ Non-Profit .....	\$25	___ Sponsor .....	\$250
___ Family .....	\$30	___ Benefactor .....	\$500
___ Contributor .....	\$50		

Donations to AAHP are tax deductible as allowed under IRS regulations

I/we would also like to make a tax-deductible gift of \$\_\_\_\_\_ to AAHP Top Ten Most Endangered Historic Properties preservation matching grant account.

Check enclosed for \$\_\_\_\_\_. WE THANK YOU

Please return to: The Alaska Association for Historic Preservation,  
200 W. 34th Avenue, #1184  
Anchorage, Alaska 99503

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