



# THE ALASKA ASSOCIATION FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION

Winter 2013

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## SWEDISH CHRISTMAS AT OSCAR ANDERSON HOUSE MUSEUM A SUCCESS

*By Jessica Verges*

AAHP's first hosting of Swedish Christmas at the Oscar Anderson House Museum was a huge success! One-hundred and four visitors joined us to enjoy a special Christmas themed tour of the museum, followed by Swedish refreshments downstairs in the AAHP offices.

Upstairs in the museum, longtime museum caretaker, Mary Flaherty, volunteered her time to meticulously decorate the house in the Swedish tradition, allowing visitors to "step back in time" to Christmas in early Anchorage.



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### About AAHP

The Alaska Association for Historic Preservation (AAHP) was founded in 1982 as a private, nonprofit corporation. AAHP is dedicated to the preservation of Alaska's prehistoric and historic heritage as manifested in its buildings and sites.

AAHP aids in historic preservation projects across Alaska and monitors and supports legislation to promote historic preservation, serving as a liaison between local, statewide, and national historic preservation groups. Additionally, AAHP publishes a quarterly newsletter and holds educational workshops.

## Message from the President



Happy New Year Fellow Preservationists!

Please join us in cheers to AAHP's 2013 corporate year, thirty-one years and going. Going and growing strong as ever!

Welcome, welcome, welcome new Board Members Elizabeth Cook, Janet Matheson, and Gloria Collins, and returning board members Elizabeth Grover (Vice President), Jessica Vergas (Treasurer), Valerie Gomez (Secretary), Bob Mitchell, and

Natalie Thomas! We would like to give thanks to Allegra Hamer who continues as our staff administrator.

In November, AAHP held its annual meeting at which time 2013 board elections were held, and Committees and Program Partners had the opportunity to share their yearly accomplishments. I am happily awestruck at the level of dedication and volunteerism by the members of our Programs and honored to have them under the AAHP umbrella. Please continue reading in this newsletter for more details on these Program successes. And after many hours of contemplation and reverence, our annual strategic planning session came away with some exuberant objectives and goals for the coming year.

We started this year enthusiastically as AAHP solidified its second preservation/conservation easement agreement with the Holy Assumption Orthodox Church in Kenai. AAHP will work with the parish to maintain this excellent example of a Russian log construction Church that has been serving, since 1841, as an Orthodox religious center. Historically, it also served as an educational, public health, administrative, and judicial center. We are pleased to partake in the stewardship of one of Alaska's most prized historic treasures and social centers. Thank you Grant Crosby of the NPS and ROSSIA for facilitating the agreement and Bob Mitchell for keen editing in helping me produce the easement document.

The Oscar Anderson House Museum program also secured its Partnership and Program funding with the Municipality of Anchorage. If you weren't able to stop by the museum in December, we enjoyed lovely Swedish Christmas festivities. Thank you volunteers for transforming the little house museum into a glowing jubilee of

lights.

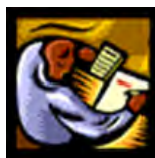
Please note it is that time of year where AAHP begins soliciting nominations for our Ten Most Endangered Historic Properties Grant Program. Nomination forms can be found on our website [www.AAHP-online.net/10-most-endangered.html](http://www.AAHP-online.net/10-most-endangered.html) or notify us and we'll send you one. Deadline for submissions is March 31, 2013. For twenty-two years the Ten Most Program has been supporting preservation projects throughout Alaska. We modestly request you consider a financial contribution to this very effective program.

One final important note, again the Obama Administration and Congress have made huge budgetary cuts to historic preservation funds and programs having a drastic effect on preservation efforts in Alaska. We hope you enjoy this newsletter and reflect on the earnest and steadfast work of AAHP and will support our grassroots, not for profit endeavor to protect and preserve Alaska's historic and prehistoric resources.

And thank you for, again, entrusting me with the Presidency of this accomplished association.

Have a whimsical 2013,

Anne



### HELP WANTED!

AAHP IS SEEKING A QUALIFIED ACCOUNTANT to compile and file our 2012 990 tax form. The filing deadline is May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2013. Please send your resume and a quote (either flat rate or hourly) by email to [akpreservation@gmail.com](mailto:akpreservation@gmail.com) or by mail to PO Box 102205, Anchorage, AK 99510-2205 before March 1, 2013.

If you know of someone who may qualify, please let us know! If they are selected your next one-year membership is on us!

**QUESTIONS?** Just give us a call! 929-9870



## Iditarod Historic Trail Centennial Project Receives Award

By Allegra Hamer



*Recipients of the U.S. Department of Interior 2012 Partners in Conservation Award for the Iditarod National Historic Trail Centennial Project, at a reception in their honor held November 29, 2012.*

The Iditarod National Historic Trail Centennial Partnership led by Iditarod Historic Trail Alliance (IHTA), an AAHP partner, was one of 17 organizations honored with a 2012 Partners in Conservation award by the U.S. Department of the Interior.

Deputy Secretary of the Interior David Hayes presented the award to the Alliance in a ceremony held in Washington, DC on October 18th. The award certificate reads, "In

recognition of outstanding conservation achievements attained through collaboration and partnership with others." Attending the ceremony in Washington was Judy Bittner, President of the IHTA Board of Directors, as well as the other partners from the Bureau of Land Management Anchorage Field Office, Chugach National Forest, and the Alaska Department of Natural Resources Iditarod Easement Project.

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## Historic Preservation Happenings: Municipality of Anchorage

by Elizabeth Grover

The Anchorage Historic Preservation Commission was created by the Municipality of Anchorage in 2007 to encourage and further the interests of historic preservation in the Municipality. The Commission meets at 5:30 PM on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month at Anchorage City Hall (Room 155); meetings are open to the public. The Commission is currently seeking a new commissioner. The Municipality is currently planning for Historic Preservation Month in May. Several events are being planned in coordination with AAHP and Anchorage Woman's Club and will kick-off with the Municipality's Historic Preservation Weekend on May 4-5, 2013. For more information on the Commission and activities, please visit <http://www.muni.org/Departments/OCPD/Planning/Pages/HistoricPreservationCommission.aspx>

The Historic Preservation Plan for Anchorage's Four Original Neighborhoods (HPP) and the Government Hill Neighborhood Plan (GHNP), which has a historic preservation component, were unanimously approved by the Anchorage Assembly on February 12, 2013. The HPP is the first historic preservation plan adopted in Anchorage and will be an important contribution to future historic preservation planning efforts in the Muni. As Government Hill is Anchorage's first neighborhood, it is appropriate that the GHNP is the first neighborhood plan adopted in Anchorage. The HPP is available for download at <http://anchoragehpp.com/> and the GHNP is available for download at <http://www.muni.org/departments/ocpd/planning/pages/default.aspx>. Final printed copies will be available soon and can be viewed at Anchorage public libraries or the Muni. Please contact Kristine Bunnell at (907)343-7993 or [bunnellkr@muni.org](mailto:bunnellkr@muni.org) with any questions.



The Berg-Brown Cabin (430 E. 4<sup>th</sup> Ave.) was listed on AAHP's 2012 10 Most Endangered Properties list (photo courtesy of Elizabeth Grover)

In Summer 2012, the Anchorage Historic Preservation Commission learned that the Berg-Brown Cabin, a historically significant log cabin in Anchorage's downtown, was set to be demolished. This cabin may be the only remaining residence of Anchorage pioneers Jack and Nellie Brown and is representative of the earliest period of Anchorage's history. It was listed on AAHP's 10 Most Endangered Properties for 2012. The Commission and AAHP contacted the owners of the property to request that they consider options other than demolition and continue to collaborate with community partners to provide support for the relocation and stabilization of the cabin. To date, the Commission has identified a contractor to move the building but is still looking for a location to place it.

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The Iditarod National Historic Trail Centennial Partnership has worked since 2008 to implement a public-private commemoration of the trail's centennial, which included establishment of easements on 1,600 miles of the trail, developed six new public safety cabins and stabilized two historic safety cabins, upgraded 275 miles of trail and established a trail-based continuing education program for Alaskan teachers that has reached well over 2,000 students.

The award included 27 individuals who were an integral part of the INHT Centennial Partnership. Since it was not possible for them all to travel to Washington to receive their awards, IHTA held a special reception as part of its Annual Meeting and Partners Workshop held November 29-30, 2012 in Anchorage, where Ted Murphy, BLM Alaska's Associate State Director, presented the individual certificates to honor these partners.



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Decorations included straw ornaments, a Swedish-themed Christmas tree, a beautiful wooden candelabrum, and paper Tomten elves. Mary, along with 5 other volunteers (Carrie Erickson, Julie Garrigues, Karen Bretz, Susan Means, & Valerie Gomez) provided a lovely tour of the museum, with the scent of cinnamon, cloves, and fresh baked St. Lucia bread permeating the air.

Downstairs, visitors enjoyed a hot cup of apple cider and tasty Swedish snacks while sharing their favorite moments of the Oscar Anderson House Tour, as well as their own Christmas memories. Many visitors of Swedish descent shared their family's Christmas traditions. Longtime Anchorage residents also shared memories of Christmas in Anchorage over the years.

Children colored pictures of Tomten, the Christmas elf, and St. Lucia. Everyone enjoyed the delicious home baked cookies, baked by our own volunteer, Carrie Erickson. Also enjoyed were Swedish meatballs with Lingonberry sauce, pickled cabbage, cheeses, stollen, and cucumber salad, provided by Valerie Gomez and Jessica Verges.



A special thank you to our visitors and our wonderful volunteers! Together we raised nearly \$2000 to support the Oscar Anderson House Museum Program! **Tack så mycket!**



## Historic Property Spotlight

We are happy to report that the U.S. Coast Guard Cutter *Storis* has been listed in the National Register of Historic Places!

More information from the *Heritage Newsletter*:

“For more than 50 years, the *Storis* was involved in icebreaking, search and rescue, law enforcement, and medical and disaster relief services in the Gulf of Alaska and Bering Sea. Built in 1942, the *Storis* guarded waters around Greenland and protected convoys against German U-boats during World War II. After its transfer to Juneau in 1948, the ship provided medical and judicial services to western Alaska villages and transported people and supplies for construction of the Distant Early Warning radar stations.



Alaska State Library - Historical Collections

In 1957, the *Storis* and two smaller cutters made a 67-day transit of the Northwest Passage, charting waters and collecting oceanographic information. After, the *Storis* was based at Kodiak for 49 years. The cutter had cameo appearances in the television series *Deadliest Catch* and the film *The Guardian*. Decommissioned in 2007, the *Storis* is in floating storage in California. A non-profit Juneau-based group, *StorisMuseum*, is working to bring the ship back to Alaska for preservation and use as a museum ship and training and education vessel ([www.storismuseum.org](http://www.storismuseum.org)).”

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## LOST!

We are saddened to report that a fire has destroyed the Gastineau Apartments, formerly known as the J&E Building and Hotel Cain, in downtown Juneau. Constructed by E.R. Jaeger and C.E. Erickson for Harry Cain, it was the first concrete hotel in Juneau. The building was a contributing element to the Juneau Downtown Historic District.

In 2012, we also lost the Colony Warehouse and the Copper Center Roadhouse to fire.



Alaska State Library - Historical Collections

## Preservation Notes

Preservation news from around the state. To submit, email us at [akpreservation@gmail.com](mailto:akpreservation@gmail.com)

### Call for Nominations for the 10 Most Endangered Historic Properties for 2013!

The *Ten Most Endangered Grant Program* funds hands-on preservation work on endangered properties and serves as seed money to leverage funding from other sources. The program calls attention to threatened properties that define our great state, the people that live here and the identity that we share. The nominations for this program are submitted by individuals and organizations throughout Alaska.

#### Advertise in the AAHP Newsletter

Business Card	\$35
1/4 Page	\$65
1/2 Page	\$125

Prices are for one issue of the AAHP Newsletter. AAHP has the right to refuse advertisements that they deem inappropriate for this venue.

To nominate a property, download and fill out the form on our website ([www.aahp-online.net](http://www.aahp-online.net)). Nominations are due March 31, 2013. For more information contact us at [akpreservation@gmail.com](mailto:akpreservation@gmail.com).

## AAHP 2013 MEMBERSHIP and/or "TEN MOST" DONATION

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

**Membership term is 12 consecutive months.**

- |  |   |   |
|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Student \$15  | <input type="checkbox"/> Contributor \$50 | <input type="checkbox"/> Sponsor \$250            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual \$25   | <input type="checkbox"/> Friend \$100     | <input type="checkbox"/> Benefactor \$500 & above |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family \$40   | <input type="checkbox"/> Corporate \$100  |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Non-Profit* \$45 (*includes federal, state, & municipal agencies) |   | Membership \$ _____                               |

**I/we wish to make a tax-deductible gift to the  
AAHP Top Ten Most Endangered Historic Properties matching-grant account**

*(Donations to AAHP are tax deductible, as allowable under IRS regulations.)*

Donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Total Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**I also wish to participate in AAHP activities in the following areas:**

- Fund Raising     Membership     Education     Legislation     Public Relations     Projects & Issues

# Trivia Corner

## The Frances House

Listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1985, The Frances House is fixture in the downtown Juneau community. It is significant for its architectural character, its place in the historic development of the mining town, and association with important historic people who built and lived in the structure during the early development of Juneau.

### Trivia Question:

Who built the Frances House? And what was his/her occupation?

(hint: It wasn't someone named Frances)

Check out our Spring 2013 Newsletter for the Answer!

Since losing Doug Gasek, our awesome Executive Director, to a new position in Minnesota, we also lost our staple column "Name That Style." We are testing the waters with a new trivia column. Each newsletter, we'll ask a preservation-related trivia question. The answers will be printed in the subsequent newsletter. Happy Trivia-ing!



## Alaska Association for Historic Preservation

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DEDICATED TO THE PRESERVATION OF ALASKA'S PREHISTORIC AND HISTORIC HERITAGE AS MANIFESTED IN ITS BUILDINGS AND SITES