

2007-2008 UNALASKA HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION ANNUAL REPORT

Current members: Jeff Dickrell (President), Annetouza Sedjo, Benjamin Golodoff, Jamie Robinson. Three seats are currently vacant. Jeff Hawley, as director of the PCR, is the supervising Administrator, he has been very supportive.

The HPC has suffered the loss of longtime President Donna Detweiler who recently moved to Israel.

One of the main functions of the HPC is to review building permits to see if historic structures are being remodeled. We have reviewed approximately 70 permits over the last year. Very few of these affected historic structures. We have been working very closely with the Aleutian Housing Authority while they work on the Svarny house.

The HPC has also helped the National Park Service create and locate a series of interpretive signs explaining the history of WWII sites in town. These signs are in town and are awaiting better weather to be installed. We expect to be present at the installation.

The HPC is very interested in maintaining and having the Henry Swanson House (owned by the city) used. We have been in contact with both the city and various organizations to bring up to code and utilize the space. There are no plans at the present time.

Over the past year, the HPC has actively participated in the debate over the Archaeological dig at the Bridge Site. We are also monitoring the LSA small boat harbor project in regards to impact on historic sites.

The Cemetery Committee, trying to inventory and organize information about the municipal graveyard, has fallen into hibernation due to relocation of several members. Its current information is available if interested parties emerge.

In connection with the Cemetery, years ago some of the grave markers were removed for restoration or replacement. Four markers of Jesse Lee Home orphans were removed and passed to the United Methodist Church Office in Anchorage for permanent storage. The HPC has arranged to have them reconstructed by the high school shop class.

One of the most comprehensive projects the HPC has tackled is an update of the Historic Preservation Plan. This 20 year old document offering guidelines for construction or remodeling of historic buildings or buildings in historic areas. Many people, especially Donna Detweiler and Anntouza Sedjo, have put hours of work into this document. It should be completed by this time next year.

Overall, I feel that the HPC has fulfilled its mission and continues to be an important part of the city government.

Submitted by Jeffrey Dickrell, 21 March 2008