



February 28, 2013

Alaska Office of History and Archaeology
550 W 7th Avenue, Suite 1310
Anchorage AK 99501-3565

Dear Historic Preservation Fund Grant Award Committee,

It has come to our attention that a grant application is being submitted by the City and Borough of Sitka (CBS) for a Historic Preservation Fund award. CBS proposes to complete a survey in Downtown Sitka to support the nomination of an historic district and public education throughout the community. The Alaska Association for Historic Preservation (AAHP), a statewide non-profit organization, is dedicated to the preservation of Alaska's prehistoric and historic resources through education, promotion and advocacy. As such, AAHP wishes to convey its strong support for this funding request from the CBS.

AAHP commends the CBS for endeavoring to establish Sitka's first historic district and their positive regard for their community's heritage resources. This project will not only benefit the residents of Sitka, but the state and the nation as well. Establishing an historic district is an important component to revitalizing downtown Sitka and will support ongoing efforts to market Sitka as a heritage tourism destination.

There are various methods of preserving historic resources, and we are glad to see a historic district under consideration. Our state provides many examples of historic districts that have socially and economically benefited communities. In addition, individual property owners will benefit through the Federal Tax Credit program, a program offering a 20% credit for the rehabilitation of historic structures.

We believe the funding requested by the CBS will be wisely used to develop an historic district and support future preservation-based work. A district will offer cohesion and encourage continued preservation of the listed National Register properties in the area.

AAHP appreciates your attention to this request.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Grover,
Vice President
Alaska Association for Historic Preservation