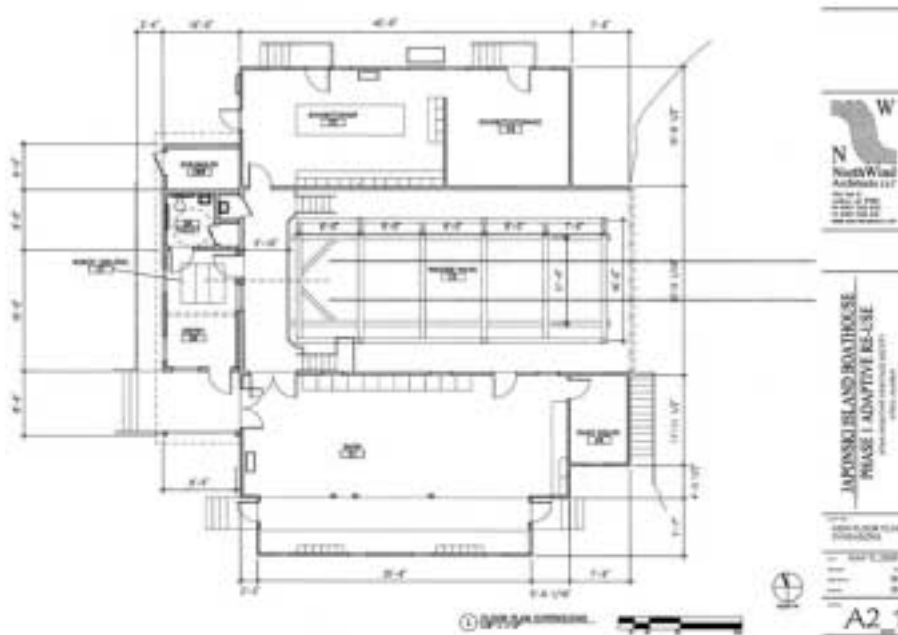


A nonprofit organization devoted to the maritime history of Sitka and Southeastern Alaska

P. O. Box 2153 Sitka, AK 99835

www.sitkamaritime.org

New Japonski Boathouse Design



SMHS has commissioned the architectural firm of Northwind Architects of Juneau for the Japonski Island Boathouse Rehabilitation. The project is funded by a National Scenic Byways grant, with additional funding from a Save America's Treasures grant.

Northwind was chosen competitively through a request for proposals in January. This firm is highly qualified in a variety of Alaska projects, with a special focus on public facilities, energy efficiency and his SMHS has been very pleased with the firm's approach to the project, taking into account the costs of construction as well as future expenses

for maintenance and utilities, while never losing sight of the ultimate goal of preserving an historic building.

This spring, Sean Boily of Northwind and a team of engineers did a thorough structural survey and hazardous materials assessment. Sean then met with the board of the Sitka Maritime Heritage Society to develop a plan that will keep the building's vintage feel while bringing safety, comfort and efficiency up to modern standards. The building is part of a National Historic Landmark, and the design follows Standards for Rehabilitation of Historic Buildings.

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new design con't

The design project by Northwind will result in complete, bid-ready construction documents. The part completed so far, a detailed Schematic Plan, has added substantial amounts of detail to the earlier concept, particularly in structural improvements and mechanical systems.

Important refinements are also included in this plan: the first is to the concept or theme of the rehabilitation. Rather than a visitor center concept, the board wanted the building to feel as if the visitor was stepping back into a shop that had never shut down. While visitors will feel welcome, the guiding idea for the rehabilitation details is "utilitarian." The board got excited about using World War II or 1950s vintage government metal furniture for the office and retail space, for example.

The funding climate has obviously changed over the last year or so, and so another major refinement is to pare the rehabilitation down to the essentials. For this reason the design is slightly scaled back from the earlier Schematic Design, in leaving an outbuilding (for toilets, storage and office space), a kayak and small boat float, and a larger addition for future phases.

The "Phase I" will replace the roofing and add rigid insulation (disguised behind a slightly wider fascia); do needed structural upgrades, which turn out to be relatively minimal; repair or replace doors and windows; add infiltration barrier while replacing or repairing siding; bring utilities to the building and put in electrical system. There .

**YOU CAN HELP US REHABILITATE
THE JAPONSKI BOATHOUSE**

The Boathouse project is funded by a National Scenic Byways grant, with additional funding from a Save America's Treasures grant.

These grants require matching, and so this would be an ideal time to make a donation or renew your membership

For more information, see drawings and the architect's design narrative at the SMHS website www.sitkamaritime.org.

will be a sprinkler system and an ADA compliant toilet

In the short term, heat will be oil-fired heaters, but ultimately the board would like to install a ground-source heat pump, that would take advantage of laying the new marine railway tracks in the tidal zone. Placing the tubing for a ground-source heat pump, which has to be deep underground or in the ocean, is usually the biggest cost in this type of system.

In this project the railway tracks need to be placed in the tidal zone anyway, and the tubing can be placed alongside at the same time. A ground-source heat pump is very cost efficient to run, needing only a small amount of electricity. Only the toilet and sprinkler riser will need heat all the time.

The heart of Phase I and the overall project is the marine ways, with a new cradle and track for hauling boats, and the wood workshop.

Visitors will have t a handicap accessible ramp, and a "catwalk" bridge across the top of the marine ways, so they can view work on boats. The northwest wing, historically used for storage, will be set up with exhibits, retail area, and office.

**The Howard Family
of Boatbuilders Part One
By Rebecca Poulson**

George Howard was a boat builder in Sitka in the 1920s through the 1950s. The Howard family boat shop was a tall, distinctive structure at the north end of Katlian Street that was torn down in 1990. George Howard died of tuberculosis in 1956 at the age of 55, but made an effort to pass on his skills, and his passion for building boats, to his sons. His son, Glenn, still resides in Sitka and recently told about his father, and his boats.

George Howard's father, Glenn's grandfather, George Howard, built boats with Peter Simpson at the Cottages shortly after the turn of the century. Peter Simpson and the first George Howard had both been students at Sheldon Jackson School, a Presbyterian mission school for Native children. They married sisters, Mary and Lottie Sloan. The Cottages was a model settlement for former Sheldon Jackson students on Kelly and Metlakatla Streets, next to the Sitka National Historical Park.

Around 1913, Glenn's grandfather, George Howard, built his own boat shop and home on Katlian Street, where he built boats with his sons David and George. The Sitka newspaper, the *Tribune*, published from 1922-24, carried ads for "George Howard Boatbuilding Plant."

Glenn's grandfather died some time before the larger boat shop was built in 1940.

Glenn Howard was born in 1934, the third of sixteen children.



Howard Family Boathouse

He does not remember his grandfather, but does recall Peter Simpson – his great uncle, who they considered their

grandfather – visiting regularly, talking to his father about boats, and also to the children. Glenn's mother would tell the kids to do what Grandpa

Simpson told them. He would tell them about the Bible, and the importance of manners. George Howard tried to pass on his knowledge of boat building to all his sons, but only George, who passed away earlier this year, Glenn, and Louie, now retired and living in Hawaii, "hung on to it."

Glenn remembers his father being strong, in spite of standing only five foot eight. His father told Glenn he had been the last of the Tlingit boys to be taken to salt water, for traditional training. Part of what Glenn learned from his father, in fishing, hunting and boat work, was toughness – his father told him if he was going to complain like an old woman, he could stay home with them.

Glenn tells how, even as a big young man of 17, he still could not keep up with his father caulking boats (pounding caulking into the boat's seams). He remembers his father "lighting his Camel cigarettes saying, 'hurry up, hurry up, the tide's coming in,' " because Glenn was still three rows behind him.

The Second Part of the Howard story will be published in the next newsletter.

The seiner SJS being built in Peter Simpson's boat shop, 1936-37.



Pictured left to right: Joe Ozawa, John James, David Howard, Peter Sing, Les Yaw, and Peter Simpson.

Photo: Sheldon Jackson College Collection.

09 SMHS Annual Meeting Film of Sheldon Jackson School in the 1930s

The annual meeting of the SMHS in February had the theme of Sitka Boatbuilding. This year, as in the past, we had a panel, this year featuring Nancy Yaw Davis, Fred Hope,

and Roy Bailey, with panel host Eric Jordan telling about their memories of Sheldon Jackson School and boat building in Sitka. The meeting was also an opportunity to show an intriguing film of Sheldon Jackson School from the 1930s through 1940 made by then-superintendent Les Yaw. The film, a window into SJS and Sitka history, was transferred to dvd by Les Yaw's son Charles Yaw and has narration added years later by Les Yaw.

Standout bits are the scenes of teenage boys hard at work with hand tools, giving a grin to the camera; the sawmill put together by SJ staff and students, which would not pass a single OSHA requirement; and appearances by Peter Simpson and Andrew Hope, important Native leaders in the fight for land claims.

UPCOMING SMHS EVENTS Alaska Day

SMHS will once again sell grilled black cod tips and rice lunches on Alaska Day, October 18th, at the Crescent Harbor shelter. Dvds and t-shirts will also be for sale.

SMHS will also make a presentation, date to be announced, as part of the Alaska Day festival, to show the new architectural design and to take comments, as well as a presentation on Sitka's maritime history.

WhaleFest

SMHS will have a booth at WhaleFest at Harrigan Centennial Hall November 6-8, with t-shirts, dvds, a fine art print of a watercolor of the boathouse by Nancy Taylor Stonington, and historical displays. WhaleFest is a great tradition here in Sitka, with educational speakers, special events, and a Maritime Monthly Grind.



Don't miss it!

Charles Yaw has generously allowed reproduction of the 27-minute film on dvd, and it is available at the Sitka Historical Society Museum (which also has Les Yaw's book *60 Years in Sitka*, an ideal complement) or through the Sitka Maritime Heritage Society by calling 747-3448. Copies of the dvd are \$10 unless you are in it. \$1 of each sale goes to a fund for reprinting Les



Nancy Stonington Boathouse-print for sale \$95

Artifact Donations

The SMHS would like to thank Michael Bezezekoff for contributing a matchbook cover, of an attractive dark blue with Naval Air Station Sitka Alaska printed in gold, and a 1946 Canadian nickel. These were found by his son when remodeling a building on the former Naval base.

Emma Kohler donated two framed photos of shore boats, in honor of her late husband Carroll Kohler, who used to run them. Both are of the shore boat Donna, coming in to the float next to the old Sitka Cold Storage. One seems to be a rare view of the shore boat taken from the bridge while it was under construction. The shore boats were the ferries between Japon-ski Island and Sitka, so didn't run once the bridge was completed in 1972.

Pick.Click.Give.

The Sitka Maritime Heritage Society is pleased to be a participant in the 2010 **Pick. Click. Give** program, which allows Alaskans to contribute directly to nonprofits through the Permanent Fund Dividend program. It is fast, easy, and safe. Your donation to the SMHS will be used to create a working maritime heritage center, preserving maritime heritage and perpetuating maritime skills for the next generation. When you sign up on line for your PFD in January, choose "The Gift of Giving," then go to our region, and Sitka Maritime Heritage Society. Don't forget to add your contact information so the SMHS can acknowledge your gift.

Our Board

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- Joe D'Arienzo—vice president
- Linda Blankenship —secretary
- Mike Litman —treasurer
- Matt Hunter
- Jerry Dzugan
- Jan Steinbright
- Mark Gorman

T-SHIRTS, HATS AND TOTE BAGS

The new SMHS T-shirt has a woodcut image by Rebecca Poulson of the shoreboat *Donna* going in to the Japonski Island Boathouse. The shirts are available in a variety of colors, short-sleeve, \$20, long-sleeve, \$25. This same boathouse image is also on Tote Bags, a large, heavy duty natural cotton canvas bag, for \$25. They are easily the size of a grocery bag.

Our hats have the shore boat (ferries between Sitka and Japonski Island) and Arrowhead embroidered on the front. They are pigment-dyed cotton caps and are in blue or red, for \$20, or oilskin caps, in brown or black, for \$25. The shirt from 2006 features a canned salmon label found in the old Pyramid Packing Company cannery, built in 1918 and now home to Fishermen's Quay and Murray Pacific, on Sitka's waterfront.



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