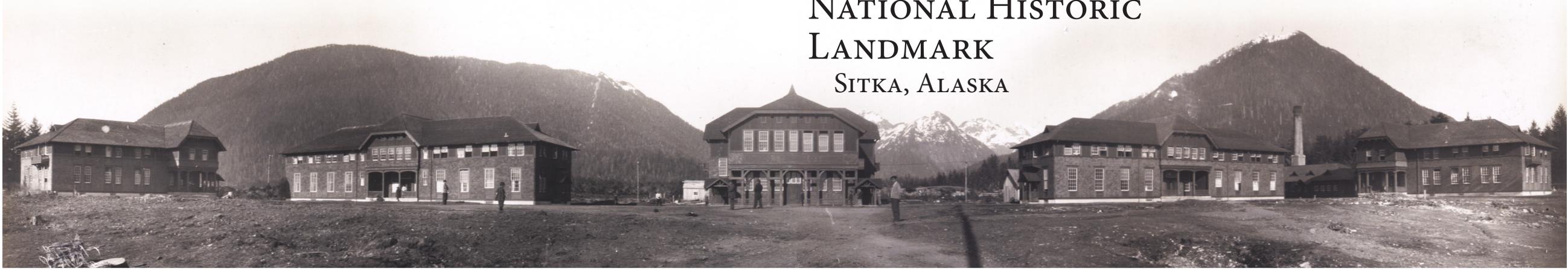


THE SHELDON JACKSON SCHOOL NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK SITKA, ALASKA



Photograph by E. W. Merrill, collection of Rebecca Poulson

Stevenson Hall 1911

Named for donor Caroline Stevenson, the upper floor was the small girls dormitory. Now owned by the Sitka Summer Music Festival.

North Pacific Hall and Storehouse 1911

Named for the North Pacific Board of Missions, this was the big girls dormitory and school dining rooms. The storehouse was for storing food.

Allen Memorial Hall 1911

Named for Richard H. Allen, whose widow raised funds for its construction. The upstairs classrooms across the front of the building are divided by a wall that could be lifted into the attic. The main floor was used as a gymnasium, and for assemblies and plays.

Whitmore Hall 1911

Originally named Home Missions Monthly Hall, for the Presbyterian magazine, later renamed for teacher Gladys Whitmore. This was the big boys dormitory, with administrative offices on the first floor.

Heating Plant (behind) and Fraser Hall 1911

Named for Presbyterian missionary Thomas Fraser by the Woman's Board of Home Missions, this was the small boys dormitory.

PRESBYTERIAN MISSIONARIES founded this school for Native children in 1878, and moved it to this site in 1882.

Dr. Sheldon Jackson, a prominent Presbyterian missionary, was instrumental in founding the school. He was General Agent for Education in Alaska 1885-1907.

Missionaries and students first built a boys residence, followed by a girls residence, hospitals, and various out-buildings and workshops. In 1911 they replaced the primary buildings with the campus we have today.

The school became a boarding high school from 1917 to 1967. Non-Native students were first admitted, and the junior college began, in 1942.

Sheldon Jackson College became an accredited four-year institution in 1966. It became independent of the Presbyterian church in 1972, but maintained a relationship with the church until its closure in 2007.

In 2011 the school's board of trustees transferred most of the core campus to the Alaska Arts Southeast Sitka Fine Arts Camp.

DESIGNED BY THE PRESTIGIOUS NEW YORK CITY FIRM OF LUDLOW AND PEABODY, the current campus quadrangle, the first in Alaska, replaced the original campus in 1911.

The school closed for a year while carpenters, volunteers, staff and students removed the main buildings of the original campus and constructed the new campus.

Distinctive elements include the hipped roofs and jerkinhead gables, shingle siding, the fenestration, recessed porches, deep roof overhangs, and balconies, and applied decoration including ornamental rafter tails, surface trim, and braces.

The architecture includes elements of Craftsman, English Tudor, and rustic Stick styles, all fashionable in the period.

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THE SHELDON JACKSON SCHOOL WAS DESIGNATED A NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK IN 2001. It is nationally significant for its role in the education of Alaska Natives during the first half of the twentieth century, and for its role in the transformation of Native cultures in this period.

Education enabled students to compete in a rapidly changing world, but the focus on assimilation, and the suppression of Native culture, did lasting damage to Native society, language and identity.

The school also played an important although indirect role, through its students, in the development of Native Alaskan political organizations and the pursuit of legal rights for Alaska Natives. Most of the founders of the Alaska Native Brotherhood, an all-Native organization that fought for and gained legal and civil rights for Native people, in 1912, attended this school.

TODAY, MOST OF THIS CAMPUS IS HOME TO THE SITKA FINE ARTS CAMP, a summer art camp for youth. Alaska Arts Southeast is working to fill the campus year-round with culture and education.

This place is meaningful not only for the architecture but for the lives that went on here: generations of students who left home, language, and culture - staff who devoted their lives with a sense of mission. Students laughed and played, and cried themselves to sleep for homesickness. There was sacrifice and loss, conflict and hardship, but also lifelong bonds - many who were part of the school say it was "like family."

The story of the school is difficult, rich, and complicated. Alaska Arts Southeast is working to restore these buildings, and to bring the school's story to the public, in the words of the people who lived it.

For more information on the historic campus, and sources for this brochure, go to

www.fineartscamp.org

CONTRIBUTING BUILDINGS OF THE SHELDON JACKSON SCHOOL NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK



North Cottage circa 1886

This was housing for staff, including Matilda “Tillie” Paul Tamaree, staff member 1888-1906, and her young sons. It was later a Model Cottage, for training in domestic skills. It was moved to its current location from across the street and up the hill in 1995. Now a private residence.



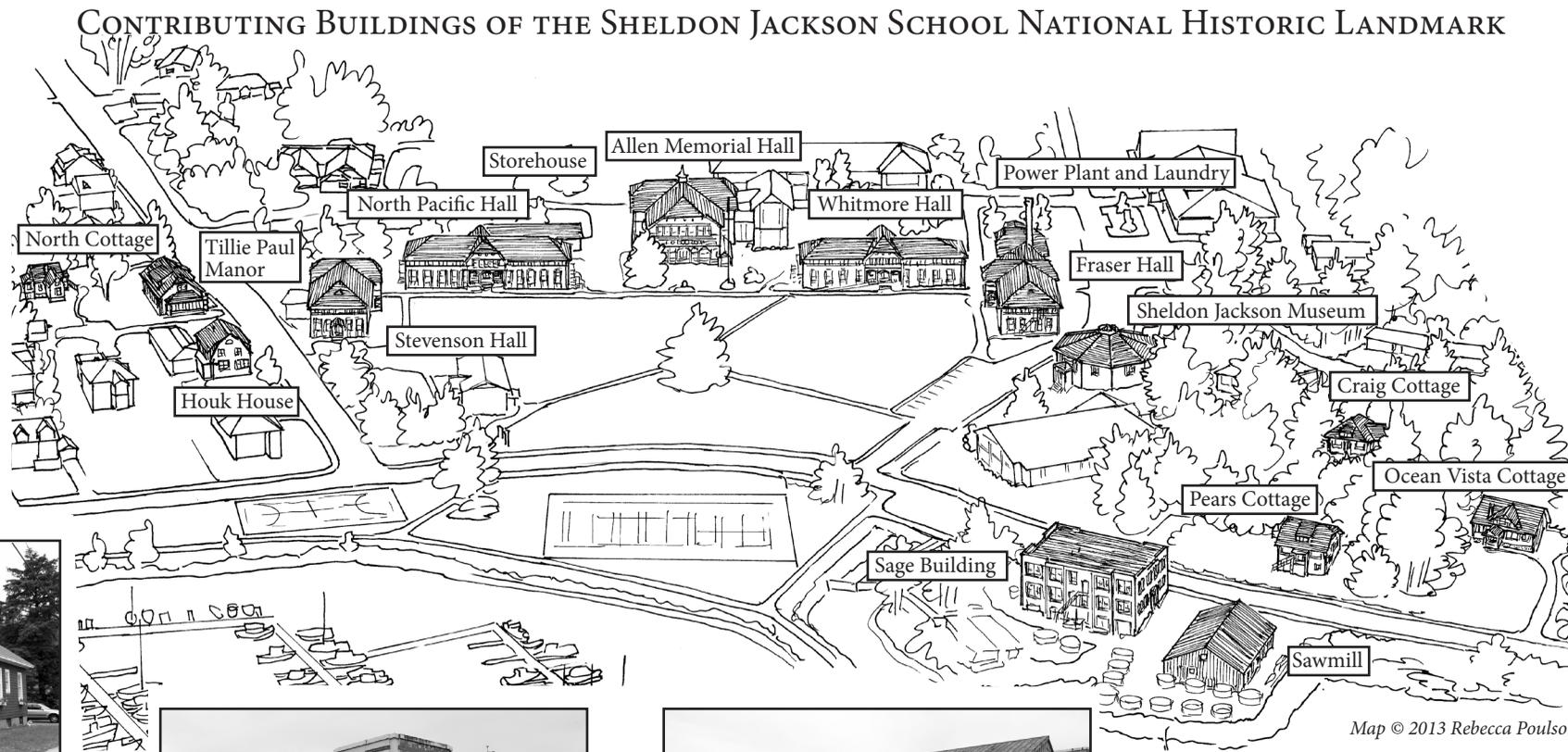
Tillie Paul Manor 1927

Named for Tlingit missionary Matilda “Tillie” Paul Tamaree, this was the school infirmary. From 1949-54, it was also Sitka’s community hospital; 116 babies were born here 1949-51. It was later used for student and staff housing, and is now the Sitka International Hostel.



Houk House 1928

Named for teacher Cora Mae Houk, this Dutch colonial cottage was purpose built for teaching domestic skills to female students. It is now a private residence.



Map © 2013 Rebecca Poulson



Sage Building 1929

This concrete building was designed by school engineer N. Lester Troast. It is named for Russell Sage by his widow, philanthropist Olivia Sage. This was the industrial arts building, with shops for small-boat building, printing, metalworking and carpentry. It also has a hydroelectric plant, used to generate electricity for the entire school. It replaced an earlier industrial arts building that had a large water wheel for power. The Indian River flume now supplies a salmon hatchery, a program begun by the college and continued by the Sitka Sound Science Center, the current owner of the building.

All photographs by James Poulson



Sawmill 1940

This building is on pilings, with fill put in later. It was constructed to be a sawmill after an earlier one on the site burned. The sawmill operated on and off through the 1960s, supplying lumber for homes, school buildings, and boats, including the school’s boat SJS II.



Ada F. Pears Cottage 1926

Named for a prominent member of the Pittsburgh Presbyterian Society, which funded its construction. Built for staff housing, it is now a private residence.



Nancy Craig Cottage 1914

Built for staff housing, this cottage is now part of the Alaska Arts Southeast property.



Power Plant and Laundry Building 1911
Part of the 1911 plan, an innovative steam heating plant for the entire campus. A laundry facility in the foreground section took advantage of the heat. It once had a tower for a school bell.



Sheldon Jackson Museum 1895

This unique, octagonal structure was the first concrete building in Alaska. It was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1972. It was built to house Dr. Jackson’s large collection of Native artifacts, still its purpose today. It is now part of the Alaska State Museums.



Ocean Vista Cottage 1914

This bungalow was the Presbyterian Manse, the home for the minister and his family. It is now a private residence.