

Sitka Indian Village Redevelopment Plan Now Completed

Completion of a redevelopment plan for Sitka Indian Village has been approved by the Sitka Borough Assembly. It

represents two years of work by the Sitka Village Planning Council, and six months of assistance by Naramore, Bain, Brady & Johanson, Seattle architects and planners.

The planning Council's goals were (1) to upgrade substandard housing, sanitation and roads in the village, (2) to preserve and emphasize as tourist attractions the many historic assets, and (3) to retain and enlarge the amount of prime waterfront owned by the village.

Ernie Hillman, who spearheaded the drive for improvement and served as first chairman of the Sitka Village Planning Council, pointed out that "This Tlingit village was here long before the first white men came to Alaska. Originally it covered 110 acres. The town of Sitka grew up around it, and the village was gradually reduced in size to the narrow strip of 12 acres we now have."

The plan was presented to the Borough by Bill Peters, current chairman of the Village Planning Council. It calls for removal of about 40 of the most dilapidated houses, repair of 50 existing dwellings, and construction of 40 new houses, to be built with



SITKA INDIAN VILLAGE consists of 12 acres of prime land with a beautiful view of Sitka channel. A redevelopment plan for the centuries-old village was prepared by the Sitka Village Planning Council with the help of Naramore,

Bain, Brady & Johanson, Seattle architects and planners. It encourages and strengthens the scenic potential, historic assets and thriving maritime industries along the waterfront.

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funds from the Department of Housing & Urban Development.

The Alaska Native Brotherhood Hall would be altered enough so that Tlingit dances and salmon bakes might be held there during the tourist season. Some of the old clan houses would be restored, and if residents desired they could show their homes to tourists and dis-

play or sell crafts and artifacts there.

The villagers hope that money for these projects will come from foundations and government agencies.

Also needed are funds to create two waterfront parks and three small playgrounds, and to purchase some of the waterfront land that originally belonged to the Tlingits but is now owned by white businessmen.

Among those working on the project was Gregory Littlefield, a Tlingit villager who was a planning trainee under the Federal On-The-Job Training Program. He also designed the Sitka Village Planning Council's symbol depicting the Raven and Eagle, names of the two Tlingit tribes.

Robert Corwin, planner with Naramore, Bain, Brady & Johan-

son, brought his family with him for the five months he lived and worked in the village.

Funds for the planning itself were supplied by Sitka Borough, the Alaska Office of Planning & Research, and the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services.



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