



# THE ALASKA ASSOCIATION FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION

Fall 2017

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## Ten Most Endangered Historic Properties for 2017

The Alaska Association for Historic Preservation (AAHP) announced the Ten Most Endangered Historic Properties for 2017 at a reception on August 11, 2017, in Anchorage. Since 1991, AAHP has evaluated nominations submitted by the public to develop the list. Properties on the list are eligible for a small grant from AAHP to support preservation efforts.

This year's list ranges from a lighthouse to archaeological sites, encompassing the entire state. Photos and descriptions of the following ten properties start on Page 4:

- Chase-Chapman Building, Anvik
- Pratt Museum, Homer
- Polaris Building, Fairbanks
- Wireless Transmitter Site, Anchorage
- Coastal Archaeological Sites, Statewide
- Eldred Rock Lighthouse, Lynn Canal
- Meiers Lake Church, Richardson Highway Mile 170
- 4th Avenue Theatre, Anchorage
- 3 German Bachelors Cabin, Talkeetna
- <NN> Cannery, South Naknek



Chase-Chapman Building, Anvik

*Continued on Page 4*

## <NN> Cannery History Project In the News



<NN> Cannery, Naknek

In 2015, a group of people gathered with the intent of preserving the history of the <NN> Cannery in South Naknek. The 127-year old cannery was scheduled for closure by its owner, Trident Seafoods. The project's coordinator, Tundra Vision, has since established partnerships with several organizations, including the National Park Service, AAHP, King Salmon Associates, and the University of Alaska Fairbanks, among many others.

With support from the owner, a multifaceted approach has resulted in the <NN> Cannery History Project, which was recently awarded a \$60,000 National Endowment for the Humanities Grant to collect and preserve oral histories of fishermen, cannery workers, local residents, and Native groups. This data will help in the preparation of a nomination to the National Register of Historic Places. Each partner recognizes that the current aim is to document the industrial landscape and preserve the past in creative and innovative ways, setting a precedent for researchers in the future.

*Continued on Page 6*

### Board of Directors

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### About AAHP

The Alaska Association for Historic Preservation (AAHP) was founded in 1982 as a private, nonprofit corporation. AAHP is dedicated to the preservation of Alaska's prehistoric and historic heritage as manifested in its buildings and sites. AAHP aids in historic preservation projects across Alaska and monitors and supports legislation to promote historic preservation, serving as a liaison between local, statewide, and national historic preservation groups. Additionally, AAHP publishes a quarterly newsletter and holds educational workshops.

## President's Message



AAHP President  
Anne Pollnow

Dear Historic Preservation Supporters,

It has been a busy summer for friends, colleagues, and all of us here at AAHP. In brief, this summer we once again had sold-out Nike Site Summit tours, and we saw a high volume of visitors at the Oscar Anderson House Museum, although the museum tours this year ended early because of a project to reconstruct the sidewalk next to the house museum. Also, we congratulate our very talented Alaskan students who placed in the Alaska state History

Day contest and traveled to Washington, D.C., in June, representing Alaska at the National History Day Contest.

On August 11, AAHP held a reception to announce the 2017 Ten Most Endangered Historic Properties. We thank Mr. Rudolph Chase, his son, and his grandson for attending, representing the Chase-Chapman Building and sharing its history and stories. Read about this building and the other Ten Most Endangered Historic Properties for 2017 in this issue (see Pages 4-5).

Also, please join us for our annual **Eat, Drink, & Preserve Benefit for the Ten Most Endangered Historic Properties Grant Program on Friday, October 6, at Carpenters Hall in Anchorage.** We will dine, listen to live music, and partake in a silent auction with some generously donated items, including historic-hotel stays, fresh Alaskan halibut, and wonderful works of art. The doors will open at 6:00 pm. The funds raised during this event will support the Ten Most Endangered Historic Properties grants to assist with preservation for Alaskan properties. If you are one of the Ten Most Endangered Historic Property applicants, remember to submit your grant application by October 15. We will announce the selected grant recipient(s) at the AAHP Annual Meeting in November.

**AAHP's Annual Meeting will be held on Thursday, November 9, at the Historic Anchorage Hotel.** We will recap this year's activities for the membership and visitors and have Board of Directors elections. We will also announce our annual Historic Preservation Award, for which nominations are due by October 15. And we are very pleased to note that this year's guest speaker will be historian Dr. Katie Ringsmuth, the project director for the history preservation project at Naknek's <NN> Cannery (see the article on Page 1). She will be sharing details of the project and its wonderful multicultural and multifaceted history.

Please visit our website at <http://www.aahp-online.net/> for all downloadable applications and forms, and please follow us on Facebook for current news and events.

Many thanks,

Anne

## Sesquicentennial Update



Throughout 2017, festivities celebrating Alaska's 150th Anniversary of the transfer of Alaska from Russia to the United States have taken place statewide. In 1867, the treaty was signed on March 30, and the formal transfer occurred on October 18 in Sitka, AK.

The celebrations will continue for the next couple of months. For information on these activities across Alaska, please visit <http://alaskahistoricalsociety.org/about-ahs/150treaty/calendar/>.

In Sitka, as the location of the transfer, events are ongoing and will culminate during the week of October 10—18 with the annual Alaska Day Festival. The Festival theme for 2017 is "The Sesquicentennial Treaty of Cession."

Activities include the Alaska Day Ball on October 17, and the Annual Alaska Day Parade & Transfer Ceremony at Castle Hill on October 18. More details may be found at <http://alaskadayfestival.org/>.



## Recruiting for AAHP Board Members

Are you energetic, positive-minded, and enthusiastic about historic preservation in Alaska? If so, consider surrounding yourself with like-minded people at AAHP!

AAHP is currently looking for individuals throughout Alaska to serve on our Board of Directors. Meeting once a month via teleconference, the Board of Directors supports the preservation of Alaska's prehistoric and historic resources through its education, promotion, and advocacy activities.

If you are interested in participating on the Board, please contact AAHP at 907-929-9870 or [akpreservation@gmail.com](mailto:akpreservation@gmail.com).

**Find us on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram!**



## Upgrades to Oscar Anderson House Museum Entrance

In August 2017, with funding from the Anchorage Park Foundation, the Anchorage Parks and Recreation Department began upgrading walkways and constructing "heritage gardens" at the Oscar Anderson House.

These improvements will address two of the priorities identified in the Municipality of Anchorage's 2016 Elderberry Park Master Plan: improving access and the visibility of the historic house.

Upgrades to the walkways will improve the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) access to the House, plus addressing drainage issues that impact its foundation. Raised planter beds, or heritage gardens, will be planted for additional historical context for life in early Anchorage, when home gardening added to the food supply.

Construction will be completed this fall. The heritage gardens will be planted next spring and maintained next summer by volunteer Master Gardeners.

Although this summer's tour season closed a couple of weeks early due to the start of construction in mid-August, the 2017 season was another successful one, with hundreds of people from near and far visiting Anchorage's only House Museum.



*This designer's conception shows the heritage gardens and the new entrance walkway.*



*When viewed looking north on M Street, overgrown non-native trees previously obscured the visibility of the House Museum. Several large trees have been removed as part of this project, resulting in a clear view of the House Museum at the end of the street.*

## FONSS/Nike Site Summit News

### FONSS Hiking Tour a Success!

AAHP is pleased to share that the first ever hiking tour of Nike Site Summit was a success! The tour, which took place on July 8 this summer, started at the parking area of the Arctic Valley Ski Lodge. A total of sixteen participants and five volunteers braved thick fog and drizzle to hike up to both the Lower and Upper sites. Visitors were treated to rare views inside some of the structures and buildings which are not usually available during the traditional bus tours offered each summer.

FONSS Director Greg Durocher and Deputy Director Ivan Hodes led the tour, which not only educated visitors on the history of Nike Site Summit but also entertained with personal stories from when Nike Veteran Durocher was stationed at the site. Visitors also met Tom Namtvedt, who was stationed at the site as a dog handler and gave a tour of the dog kennel. During lunch, Phil Parks, a Nike Veteran who specifically worked with the radar engineering at Site Summit, gave an interesting talk on the missile system that was used at the site during the Cold War.

Despite the soggy weather, visitors and volunteers alike had an enjoyable time, and many agreed that while the fog did obscure the more scenic views that are offered on a clear day, it did lend an element of mystery that was quite fitting. The day marked another milestone for Nike Site Summit activities!



*Lower Site at Nike Site Summit. The Upper Site and Lower Site are separated by 1,000 feet in elevation. Nike Site Summit is located on JBER, in the Chugach Mountains near Arctic Valley.*

**2018 Tours:** FONSS tours are popular and are often fully subscribed quickly. To be added to the notification list for 2018 tour dates for both bus and hiking tours, which are usually announced in March, please send an e-mail to [fonss2007@gmail.com](mailto:fonss2007@gmail.com) and use the subject line: "2018 tour notification list."

## Ten Most Endangered Historic Properties for 2017



### **Chase-Chapman Building, Anvik**

Built in the 1920s by the Episcopal Church and used as a school and orphanage into the 1930s, this National Register of Historic Places-listed building needs stabilization and repairs.



### **Pratt Museum, Homer**

The original museum building was designed by Ed Crittenden for the Alaska Purchase Centennial in 1967. Maintenance has been inadequate and too often postponed due to lack of finances.



### **Polaris Building, Fairbanks**

Built in 1952, this 11-story residential tower was the first high-rise in downtown Fairbanks. It is now threatened with demolition because redevelopment efforts have not proven successful.



### **Wireless Transmitter Site, Anchorage**

Constructed in 1917 by the Alaska Engineering Commission, the current site includes three buildings. It has been found eligible for the National Register of Historic Places for its role in early communication.



### **Coastal Archaeological Sites, Statewide**

Many Alaska coastal sites are being actively destroyed by erosion, a result of sea level rise, storm surges, and increased wave energy due to climate change. Erosion may expose archaeological remains, resulting in damage to the materials as well as increased chances of looting.

## Ten Most Endangered Historic Properties for 2017



### **Eldred Rock Lighthouse, Lynn Canal**

This iconic lighthouse, located about 17 miles south of Haines, is seen by more than a million cruise-ship passengers annually. Built in 1905, it is the oldest lighthouse in Alaska and the only remaining example of the octagonal frame structures from the period.



### **Meiers Lake Church, Richardson Highway Mile 170**

Built by the original property owner, Charles Meier, in 1920, this unique tiny log chapel stands across the highway from a roadhouse established in 1910. A right-of-way expansion of the highway planned by the state of Alaska in this area would directly affect this building.



### **4th Avenue Theatre, Anchorage**

A prominent Deco style landmark located in the heart of downtown, this theatre was completed in 1947. This building is significant for its association with Austin "Cap" Lathrop and as the best example of Art Deco style in Alaska.



### **3 German Bachelors Cabin, Talkeetna**

This log cabin was built in 1936, and is located at one of the most photographed locations in Talkeetna. The cabin is part of the National Register of Historic Places-listed Talkeetna Historic District.



### **<NN> Cannery, South Naknek**

The cannery has operated almost continuously from 1895-2015 and has maintained architectural and cultural integrity. It remains one of the most historically significant remnants of the industry on the West Coast.

<NN> Cannery (continued from Page 1)

The <NN> Cannery this year is on AAHP's list of Ten Most Endangered Historic Properties. With deteriorating buildings, the cannery complex is at risk from fire, vandalism, weather, and vegetation overgrowth. This History Project will preserve the human history in the context of the buildings, activities, environment, and community that promoted Bristol Bay's salmon canning industry.

Project plans include nominating the <NN> Cannery to the National Register of Historic Places; an oral history project designed to share the narratives from the cannery workscape; and an exhibit, "Mug Up," in collaboration with the Alaska State Museum and the local Bristol Bay community so that the stories of cannery people can be better understood and valued by the general public.

In August 2017, AAHP President Anne Pollnow accompanied a group of researchers led by Project Coordinator Dr. Katie Ringsmuth to the <NN> Cannery. The following account of this trip by Dr. Ringsmuth shows not only the research-related activities, but also "the community building" this project is fostering.

**August Update** by Katherine Ringsmuth, PhD

In August, the <NN> Cannery History Project team headed out to South Naknek to conduct archeological and architectural surveys with the National Park Service in order to complete documentation for the National Register. However, just prior to leaving, we were notified that our project had been awarded an NEH Creating Humanities Community Grant, which added a new level of excitement to our activities.



<NN> Cannery

NOTE: The <NN> notation is used in this newsletter for historical accuracy. This cannery was also known as the Diamond NN Cannery, but that name was historically written with the <> to represent the Diamond name.



One of the bunkhouses

A season of vegetation growth clearly hampered the investigations; however, the archeologists persevered, and they were able to complete the task at hand. Project historians collected Alaska Heritage Resource Survey (AHRs) data for each building, which will provide the content for the National Register of Historic Places nomination, and sifted through Alaska Packers Association (APA) records, preparing them for unification with the APA collection at the Alaska State Library and Archives in Juneau.

The recent news about the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) grant also means that our proposal to develop an exhibit called *Mug Up* with the Alaska State Museum can move forward. Our plan is to bring on a Community Curator who can help us identify the objects that best reflect historic work activities that occurred in the cannery's most significant buildings. In addition, including former and current cannery people in our project will help us to fulfill the NEH grant's objective of creating a humanities community around the cannery's rich history.

Thanks to Trident cannery manager Carvel Zimin and his wife, Shirley, we were off to a terrific start. Shirley hosted a *Mug Up* Community Gathering at the South Naknek Library, and even provided fresh pastries and her personal stash of smoked salmon for the event. The evening provided us with the opportunity to share with residents our current activities and project goals, including the NEH grant, what it means to the community, and Trident's role in the project as the private owners.

We also prepared a similar presentation for the Bristol Bay Historical Society Museum, and met with the Borough librarian and superintendent of the Bristol Bay School District Bill Hill to talk about how the <NN> Cannery History Project can help support educational programming.

In many ways this project is setting the groundwork for historic documentation of other privately owned sites throughout the state. The historical community is certainly paying attention. And thanks to everyone who helped, this project is going forward.



Mess Hall



The Beach Locker



Rosi Retort



Cannery Building



Chinese Gravemarker

## Swedish Holiday Tours at Oscar Anderson House Museum in December



Swedish Holiday decorations, including Tomtens and Dala horses, greet visitors at the Oscar Anderson House Museum.

During the first two week-ends in December, the Oscar Anderson House Museum, located at 420 M Street in Anchorage, will be open for tours to celebrate the holiday season.

Tour participants will experience the House Museum decorated in the Swedish Holiday style by longtime museum caretaker, Mary Flaherty, reflecting the Swedish Christmas tradition as Oscar Anderson and his family would have known it in Anchorage a century ago.

The 40-minute tours, led by volunteers, will run continuously from noon – 4 pm each day on December 2-3 and 9-10.

Admission for these events is \$10 for adults and teens, and \$5 for children ages 3-12. AAHP members have free admission. All proceeds from this annual fundraising event will be used for House Museum operations.

You are invited to join AAHP volunteers, members, and board members for this “step back in time.” Events will go on in rain, snow, or sunshine.

### Preservation Notes Preservation News from Around the State

To submit Preservation News items, email us at [akpreservation@gmail.com](mailto:akpreservation@gmail.com)

## St. Michael's Cathedral in Sitka Receives Attention from Local Painting Company

By Anne Pollnow

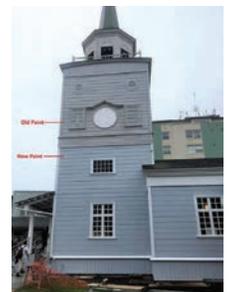


On the job at St. Michael's Cathedral with Pete Hagan in Sitka.

In a fall-like rainstorm, Pete Hagan of KD Painting, LLC, in Sitka and his crew work diligently—and around visitor traffic—to give St. Michael's Cathedral a much needed fresh coat of paint. On and off for 17 years, Hagan has been offering his services at a greatly discounted rate and often free of charge to maintain the iconic landmark Cathedral.

St. Michael's Cathedral was named to AAHP's Ten Most Endangered Historic Properties list in 2016 for “significant site problems” that cause the ground to slope into the building. The structure also has a failing roof, which leaves the building prone to worsening water damage. While Hagan is painting the building, he is assessing and noting rotting and structurally unsound elements.

Before beginning the physical task of painting, Hagan investigated to find a historically accurate color. Hagan notes, “We are using the oldest identifiable layer of paint.” He shares this was at layer nine—as he receives a hug of thanks from a local resident. He further explains the process of painting, which includes sanding the entirely-wooden building, pressure washing, caulking, priming, and finally applying a fresh coat of sky-blue paint.



Old paint is on the top; new paint is on the bottom.

Hagan is working with Ana Ditmar, a retired National Park Service cultural resource specialist. Ditmar is a member of, and an officer on the board of directors for, the parish. Ditmar has expressed appreciation for Hagan's zeal and for being amenable to performing this work although not all the funding has been secured. He realizes the maintenance list is great: It includes fortifying the cupolas, replacing rotted wood, and stabilizing the building. To aid in fundraising, Hagan painted a sign requesting donations. Ditmar said, “It worked! We had a generous donation of \$1,000 just yesterday from a visiting cruise-ship passenger.”



At the work site, Hagan holds a sign appealing for public support.

Hagan remarks on the need to have St. Michael's Cathedral “looking good” for the Sesquicentennial events culminating in Sitka on October 18. These events recognize the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the transfer of Alaska from Russian to American ownership.

As the crew illustrates their dedication to this National Historic Landmark cathedral and vital community resource by working in the pouring rain, they are joined by a watchful eagle trying to dry its feathers as it sits on top of the Russian cross extending from the tallest spire.

Like an ancestor watching the good work, an eagle sits atop the cathedral's cross.



## Announcements

### AAHP Annual Meeting

Please join us for AAHP's 2017 Annual Meeting to be held on Thursday, November 9, 2017, 6:00-9:00 pm at the Historic Anchorage Hotel, 330 E Street, in downtown Anchorage. A recap of the year's activities, election of Board of Directors, announcement of the 2017 Historic Preservation Award winner and of the recipient for the 2017 Ten Most Endangered Historic Properties Grant, and a presentation by Dr. Katie Ringsmuth on the <NN> Cannery History Project will be featured. Refreshments will be available. For more information, please call 907-929-9870.

#### The Historic Anchorage Hotel Venue



*AAHP's 2017 Annual Meeting will be at the Historic Anchorage Hotel, which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.*

## You Are Invited!

**Benefit for the Ten Most Endangered  
Historic Properties  
October 6, 2017  
6:00 pm - 9:00 pm  
Anchorage**

Please join us at our annual benefit for the AAHP Ten Most Endangered Historic Properties Grant Program at

Carpenters Hall

407 Denali Street

(corner of Denali Street and 4th Avenue)

Dinner, adult beverages, live music, silent auction, and great company will make for a memorable evening!

For more information, please call 907-929-9870 or visit <http://www.aaHP-online.net/>

**For reservations, please visit**

[www.planetreg.com/10Most2017](http://www.planetreg.com/10Most2017)

**eat.  
drink.  
preserve.**



Carpenters  
Hall,  
407 Denali St,  
Anchorage

:Tickets



or call  
929-9870

6-9PM  
fri  
OCT  
06



10 Most Endangered Historic Properties

brought to you by the Alaska Association for Historic Preservation and

\*this venue is not ADA accessible. call ahead for special arrangements

## History Day in Alaska

AAHP congratulates the Alaska History Day students who so ably represented Alaska at the National History Day national contest at the University of Maryland in June! Showcasing the 2017 theme of "Taking a Stand in History," students in the Junior and Senior divisions presented their projects in one of the following formats: individual or group presentation of a website, documentary, performance, or tabletop exhibit; or an individual paper.

With the start of the new school year, the History Day Program's theme for 2018 is "Conflict and Compromise in History." AAHP wishes the students well in their endeavors.

## Smile and Community Rewards

You can now help support AAHP programs in historic preservation when you shop! AAHP has joined the "Amazon Smile" and "Fred Meyer Community Rewards" programs. For details on designating purchases to help support AAHP programs, please visit <http://www.aahp-online.net/shopping-rewards.html>.



## AAHP MEMBERSHIP and/or SPECIAL DONATIONS

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

**Membership term is 12 consecutive months.**

- |  |   |   |
|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Student \$15  | <input type="checkbox"/> Contributor \$50 | <input type="checkbox"/> Sponsor \$250            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual \$25   | <input type="checkbox"/> Friend \$100     | <input type="checkbox"/> Benefactor \$500 & above |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family \$40   | <input type="checkbox"/> Corporate \$100  |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Non-Profit* \$45 (*includes federal, state, & municipal agencies) |   | Membership \$ _____                               |

**I/we wish to make a tax-deductible gift to**

- Ten Most Endangered Historic Properties Grant Program** Donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_

For more giving opportunities, please visit the AAHP website at <http://www.aahp-online.net/>

*(Donations to AAHP are tax deductible, as allowable under IRS regulations.)*

**Total Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

**I also wish to participate in AAHP activities in the following areas:**

- Fund Raising     Membership     Education     Legislation     Public Relations     Projects & Issues

**Preservation Notes** Preservation News from Around the State  
To submit Preservation News items, email us at [akpreservation@gmail.com](mailto:akpreservation@gmail.com)

## Calendar of Upcoming Events

### 2017

#### September

27-30 — Museums Alaska/Alaska Historical Society annual meetings and conference  
Anchorage Museum; for more information, please visit <https://www.maahs2017.org/>

#### October

6 — Ten Most Endangered Historic Properties Benefit Dinner and Silent Auction  
Carpenters Hall, 407 Denali St., Anchorage, 6-9 pm;  
For reservations, please phone 907-929-9870 or visit the registration page at  
[www.planetreg.com/10Most2017](http://www.planetreg.com/10Most2017)

15 — Deadline to submit applications for Ten Most Endangered Historic Properties Grant for 2017  
For application details, please contact AAHP at 907-929-9870 or visit  
<http://www.aahp-online.net/10-most-endangered.html>

15 — Deadline to submit nominations for annual Historic Preservation Award  
For nomination details, please visit <http://www.aahp-online.net/newsevents.html>

#### November

9 — AAHP Annual Meeting  
Historic Anchorage Hotel, 330 E Street, Anchorage, 6-9 pm

#### December

2-3 and 9-10 — Swedish Holiday Tours at the Oscar Anderson House Museum  
420 M St., Anchorage, Noon—4:00 pm

## Alaska Association for Historic Preservation

P.O. Box 102205  
Anchorage, AK 99510-2205  
Phone: 907-929-9870  
Email: [akpreservation@gmail.com](mailto:akpreservation@gmail.com)

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DEDICATED TO THE PRESERVATION OF ALASKA'S PREHISTORIC AND  
HISTORIC HERITAGE AS MANIFESTED IN ITS BUILDINGS AND SITES