



THE ALASKA ASSOCIATION FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION

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Inside this issue:

Ten Most Endangered Historic Properties Nominations	1
Historic Treasures Are At Risk	2-3
Oscar Anderson House Tours	3
Legislation Matters	4
2017 OHA Annual Workshop	4
Nike Site Summit News	5
In Memoriam	5
Alaska 's 150th Anniversary	6
Alaska History Day Contest	7
Calendar of Events	8

Ten Most Endangered Historic Properties Nominations Remain Open Until April 30

Do you know of a historic property that is deteriorating? At risk of being demolished? Or otherwise endangered? If so, please let us know! And fill out a nomination form for this year's Ten Most Endangered Historic Properties.

Each year, AAHP unveils a new list that identifies the Ten Most Endangered Historic Properties in Alaska. The properties are nominated to the list by private individuals and organizations throughout the state. AAHP is currently accepting nominations for the 2017 list. **The deadline to nominate a property is April 30.**

Properties on the 2017 list will be eligible to apply to AAHP for a grant through the Ten Most Endangered Historic Properties Grant Program. These are matching grants used for preservation work or to help leverage funding from other organizations. Made possible through generous donations to the grant program from individuals and organizations, grants are awarded later in the year.

For more information or to access the nomination form, please visit the AAHP website at <http://www.aahp-online.net/10-most-endangered.html>.



Dexter Roadhouse, Golovin

Here are a few of the prior nominees to the Ten Most Endangered Historic Properties list.



Pilgrim Hot Springs, North of Nome



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Your support means historic preservation in Alaska matters!



Donations can be made through MyAlaska, the State of Alaska's web service for state transactions.

Donations to Pick.Click.Give. are accepted through August.

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.

Historic Treasures Are At Risk

Your voice is more important than ever!

As we enter into an era of new political leadership from Washington, DC, the fate of government support is unknown for the arts and humanities, including historical resources. Early indications point to diminished support, both financially and philosophically.

This means that your voice and your actions are needed more than ever to save our historic treasures. You can make the difference in saving historical structures and archeological sites so that our children, as well as future generations, will be able to involve themselves in an earlier version of the American experience, embodied in various cultural backgrounds.



3 German Bachelors Cabin, Talkeetna

Once a historic building is gone, it is gone forever. We can build a replica, if we are lucky enough to have good photographs and detailed information. However, replicas most likely use primarily modern materials, which may not convey the same precise human experience as the original.

A wooden handrail in an old building, worn smooth in a way that comes only from decades of people's hands grasping it, can't be completely replicated. While modern manufacturing may produce a handrail that looks the same, it won't have the same "feel" when you touch it. If you've been lucky enough to tour the old ore-processing mill at Kennecott, you know what this is. When it's possible to preserve these unique experiences, why wouldn't we?

Kennecott is a great example of historic preservation at work. The size of the overall project, covering multiple buildings throughout the Kennecott townsite, has required a concerted effort and financing from the federal government as well as private support. The project has been ongoing for more than two decades, and even though it is not yet completed, the highly visible results are already rewarding.

While large projects may catch our attention, smaller projects are also vital in conveying an experience of the past. In the Lower 48, many of the historic covered wooden bridges have deteriorated and collapsed. Others, fortunately, have been preserved, and they cast their own magic as you move through the same shadows that thousands of people moved through during the past century or two.

Alaska presents a vast range of possibilities for historic preservation: larger or smaller properties, various built structures from cabins to boats, cultural heritage locations, archaeological sites, urban or rural settings, iconic military and commercial establishments.

Larger properties include the Kennecott Mill Building, with preservation already in process; Afognak Village, which includes archaeological sites and a cemetery, abandoned since 1964; and Whittier's Buckner Building, in danger of being demolished.



Afognak Village,
Afognak Island



Buckner Building, Whittier

Historic Treasures, *cont'd from Page 2*

Smaller properties include The Holy Ascension Church in Unalaska, currently undergoing preservation activities; the *Chacon*, a 78-foot boat in Chugiak serving as a roadside memorial to its last owner, with his family trying to reverse its decline; and the old Alaska Railroad Montana Station Water Tower at Montana Creek, the last standing railroad water tower of its type used for steam engines, which continues to slowly deteriorate.



Nike Site Summit, being preserved

A military site being successfully preserved, Nike Site Summit near Anchorage offers public access to this embodiment of the Cold War drama. But the fate—whether preservation or demolition—of Anchorage's 4th Avenue Theatre, which at one time surrounded theatre-goers in Art Deco grandeur at a time when such grandness was otherwise unobtainable for many people locally, is still unknown.



4th Avenue Theatre, fate unknown

You can help make the difference in ensuring that these avenues of experience remain viable for the future. Whether you email your legislators, write a letter to the editor of your local newspaper, support educational programs that focus on history, join a historic preservation organization, go on tours of structures that have been preserved, or make a donation to a preservation project—the possibilities for involvement abound.

Let your enterprising efforts, your voice and your actions, be telling!

Oscar Anderson House Museum Tours Start June 1

AAHP is pleased to announce that for 2017, the Oscar Anderson House Museum will be open for summer tours starting June 1st and continuing through the end of August.

The House will be open for tours Tuesday through Sunday from noon to 4 p.m. The tours are approximately 45 minutes long and are available on a walk-in basis every day except Friday. Friday tours are only available by reservation, which must be made at least 24 hours in advance.

To reserve a tour, please call [907-929-9870](tel:907-929-9870) and leave a message or go online to www.ahp-online.net/oahmreservations.htm. Groups of six or more are encouraged to make reservations regardless of the day of the week to ensure availability.

The House will be closed Tuesday, July 4th.

Admission is \$10 for adults and teens, \$5 for children ages 3-12, and \$5 for Alaska residents. There is no charge for children under 3 and for AAHP members.

The Oscar Anderson House Museum is located at 420 M Street in Anchorage. For more information, please visit <http://www.ahp-online.net/oscar-anderson-house-museum.html>.



The Oscar Anderson House Museum

Find us on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram!



Legislation Matters

Historic preservation issues are represented in different ways. From educational activities to identifying and preserving endangered properties, from legislation initiatives to planning events that celebrate historic events, the importance of historic preservation is made visible. Not the least of these is legislation.

On the federal level, current legislation priorities include the following:

- Continuing funding for the Historic Preservation Fund (HPF), which covers a portion of the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) operating and grant funds. Alaska contributes about 45% of the SHPO funding. It is unknown at this time if the new FY18 budget (released March 16, 2017) continues level funding for the HPF. Sen. Murkowski is a strong proponent of the HPF fund.
- A new Historic Tax Credit Improvement Act, introduced in Congress recently (S. 425/HR 1158), which proposes to increase the federal tax credit for certified historic property rehabilitations from 20% to 30% for projects under \$750,000. This is intended as a boost to historic property owners with smaller construction budgets. The progress of the bill is uncertain, due to the new administration's proposal to make tax credit cuts. Right now, the bill is in committee.

The essential role that Alaska's SHPO plays in our state's preservation activities is seen in SHPO's programs:

- The National Register of Historic Places, with approximately 425 sites involving more than 1140 properties in Alaska;
- Federal project review under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, seeing approximately 2,000 projects annually;
- The Certified Local Government (CLG) Program, currently with 13 CLGs—7 cities and 6 boroughs;
- Administering the Federal Reinvestment Tax Incentive Program; and
- Documentation of the state's historic and archaeological sites.

More information about SHPO can be found at <http://dnr.alaska.gov/parks/oha/>.

With critical legislative issues currently under consideration, what the future holds for historic preservation in Alaska remains to be seen.

2017 Office of History and Archaeology Annual Workshop

The 2017 OHA Annual Workshop will be held Tuesday, April 4, 2017. The one-day workshop offers a full slate of topics. As well as updates for several subjects, planned topics include

- Curation;
- Alaska's Statewide Historic Preservation Plan;
- Management Tools;
- Documentation Standards;
- AHRS; and
- Section 106

The workshop will be at the Atwood Building, 550 W. 7th Avenue, Room 104, in Anchorage, from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm. Registration information and the agenda are found at <http://dnr.alaska.gov/parks/oha/trainings>.

Nike Site Summit 2017



The summer tour schedule for Nike Site Summit is being finalized.

Information about the bus tours and reservations for 2017 can be found at <http://www.nikesitesummit.net/nike-site-summit-tours.html>.



FONSS is also offering a guided hiking tour this summer. If you enjoy hiking and would like to see Site Summit on foot instead of by bus, this activity is custom made for you. This tour has a capacity of 20 people and is scheduled for July 8.

For more information, please contact Friends of Nike Site Summit at fons2007@gmail.com.



Planning for volunteer work parties for the summer season is underway.

For details, please email FONSS at fons2007@gmail.com.

In Memorium

It is with sadness that AAHP notes the passing in late 2016 of two FONSS members, John Cloe and Bruce Long.

John Cloe

John Cloe was a member of the FONSS Advisory Board. A military historian and author, his knowledge of WWII in Alaska was unsurpassed, and he is widely recognized for his large body of works on WWII and the Cold War. In addition to his work with the FONSS Board, John was also a member of the Board of Directors of the Alaska Humanities Forum and the Alaska Historical Commission. His passion for our military heritage has immeasurably enriched our state.

Bruce Long

Bruce Long was a FONSS Board member who gave his time tirelessly as a volunteer to help ensure that the Site Summit preservation project was successful. His endeavors with FONSS included active rehabilitation work on the site, giving Site Summit tours, and leading the recent charge to obtain a decommissioned Hercules missile for the site. In 2011, Bruce and his wife, Wanda, were recognized as FONSS Volunteers of the Year. Bruce's commitment to Site Summit was truly an inspiration.

Celebrating Alaska's 150th Anniversary, 1867—2017



In 2017 we mark the 150th anniversary of the Alaska Purchase, when the US bought Alaska from Russia. The treaty was signed on March 30, 1867, in Washington, DC, and the ceremonial transfer followed in Sitka, Alaska, on October 18, 1867. To celebrate this milestone, commemorative events are planned around the state.

Also known as “Seward’s Folly,” the purchase brought to America a range of contributions that was unimagined in 1867. With the approach of the Sesquicentennial, in 2014 the Alaska Legislature passed a resolution that supported the anniversary and recognized Alaska’s importance to the nation, stating in part,

WHEREAS the anniversary provides a platform for a national discussion on Alaska's value to the nation, including the state's strategic importance in the defense of the nation, the importance of the state's resources, the state's importance to national and economic security interests, and the importance of the state's geographic location in the Arctic and strategic location in the North Pacific.

The resolution also notes that activities and events are to commemorate the Alaska Purchase as well as Alaska history since Alaska became part of the US. The full resolution can be read here: <http://dnr.alaska.gov/Assets/uploads/DNRPublic/parks/oha/grant/scr17.pdf>

The resolution tapped the Alaska Historical Society to coordinate events, which are showcased on its webpage titled “150th Anniversary of the Alaska Treaty of Cession” at <http://alaskahistoricalociety.org/about-ahs/150treaty/>.

The Alaska Historical Commission has provided more than \$250,000 in grants for 25 sesquicentennial projects, for research, planning, interpretation, and public education about Alaska at the time of the treaty. Included are exhibit projects, student and public education projects, community heritage and public outreach projects, as well as research and additional public outreach projects. The complete list can be found at <http://dnr.alaska.gov/Assets/uploads/DNRPublic/parks/oha/designations/Jan2017GrantAwards.pdf>.

The Alaska Historical Society and the Alaska Historical Commission have partnered to produce a calendar of events covering the entire year, which is available at <http://alaskahistoricalociety.org/about-ahs/150treaty/calendar/>.

Of the many events planned throughout the state, Sitka is central in the commemorative activities. Sitka was the territory’s capital for a century, first under Russian and later under US rule, and the ceremonial transfer of Alaska to the US occurred in Sitka. Sitka is offering a full slate of events for the sesquicentennial, including concerts, plays, and other performances; panel discussions; art shows; a museum walk; Tlingit Conference; the Alaska Sesquicentennial Commemorative Exhibit; and from April to October, the Sesquicentennial Speakers Series.

To honor US Secretary of State William Seward, who negotiated the purchase of Alaska, a new bronze statue of Mr. Seward being created by two Ketchikan artists will be dedicated in Juneau in July 2017.

Another outstanding event is the traveling exhibition of the painting “Signing of the Alaska Treaty” by Emanuel Leutze (who also painted the iconic “Washington Crossing the Delaware”). It is permanently housed in Auburn, New York, at the Seward House Museum, which was once the home of Mr. Seward and his family. This is the first time the painting has been in Alaska. It was displayed at the Museum of the North at the University of Alaska Fairbanks from February to early March, is next being exhibited at the Alaska Museum in Anchorage, and finally will travel to the Alaska State Museum in Juneau for a stay in September.

Check the calendar, join in the community spirit, and celebrate Alaska’s 150th Anniversary!

Alaska History Day Contest Draws Near

The state contest for Alaska History Day is almost here! This year's contest will be held between March 27 and 31. Excitement abounds as the top finishers in each of the various categories will be eligible to participate in National History Day's national contest at the University of Maryland from June 11 to June 15.

Each year, students in grades 6-12 whose schools participate in the National History Day Program prepare a research project that explores a set theme. This year's theme is "Taking a Stand in History." Students whose projects place well in local contests or whose projects are considered to be high quality by their teachers are eligible to enter the state contest. Alaska's state contest is a virtual contest, with entries submitted electronically.

The research projects can be done by an individual student or by a group of students in one of four categories: exhibit, documentary, performance, or website. A fifth category, a paper, can be done only by an individual. The projects are separated into Junior (grades 6-8) and Senior (grades 9-12) divisions before they are judged. Results of the state contest will be announced on April 7.

While at the national contest in College Park, MD, students can tour our nation's Capitol and meet Alaska's Congressional Delegation. The National History Day program, with more than 500,000 participants annually, is recognized by the federal government and has an impressive record for helping students develop excellent research, organizational, and cognitive skills. In past national contests, Alaska History Day students frequently have received high honors. In 2016, a Senior Division group website entry by two Fairbanks students placed second nationally.

To help our students develop into tomorrow's leaders, Alaska History Day is partnered with the National Park Service, Alaska Region; Alaska Association for Historic Preservation; and the Alaska Humanities Forum.

Good luck, students!

AAHP MEMBERSHIP and/or SPECIAL DONATIONS

Name _____ Phone _____
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 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

- **AAHP** 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

Calendar of Upcoming Events

2017

April

- 4 Office of History and Archaeology Annual Workshop
8 am - 5 pm, Robert B. Atwood Building, Anchorage
Details at <http://dnr.alaska.gov/parks/oha/trainings>
- 6 AAHP Board of Directors Meeting (open to the public)
6:00 pm, AAHP Office, Oscar Anderson House Museum Basement
If you plan to attend, please email AAHP in advance at akpreservation@gmail.com
- 20 Current FONSS Volunteers JBER-Required Range Briefing
Atwood Building. Please email RSVP to fonss2007@gmail.com
- 30 Deadline to Submit Nominations for 2017 Ten Most Endangered Historic Properties List

June

- 1 Oscar Anderson House Museum 2017 Summer Tours Begin
See article on Page 3 for more details.
- 11 - 15 National History Day National Contest at the University of Maryland

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