



# THE ALASKA ASSOCIATION FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION

Summer/Fall 2014

Volume 32, Issue 2

## Inside this issue:

2014 Ten Most Endangered Properties Announced	1
AAHP Annual Meeting	1
Message from the President	2
Swedish Christmas 2014	2
Cold War Conference	3
Nike Site Summit Tours	3
This Summer at the Oscar Anderson House	4
History Day in Alaska—2014 National Contest	4
2014 Ten Most Endangered Properties, cont'd	5-7
Calendar of Events	8

## Alaska's Ten Most Endangered Historic Properties for 2014

The 2014 list of Alaska's Ten-Most Endangered Historic Properties was announced on July 8, 2014, by the Alaska Association for Historic Preservation (AAHP). A reception held at the Oscar Anderson House Museum in Anchorage in conjunction with the announcement included guests from the Talkeetna Historical Society and the Tyonek Tribal Council.

The list, announced each year since 1991, helps heighten public awareness of Alaska's threatened historic properties. Increased support for the conservation of Alaska's endangered historic properties helps preserve these assets, which are important to tourism, economic development, and the cultural heritage of Alaska.

Here are the ten most endangered historic properties for 2014, listed in alphabetical order:

1. Afognak Village, Afognak Island
2. Alaska Railroad Montana Station Water Tower, Montana Creek
3. Albert Kaloa, Jr. Buildings, Anchorage
4. Barracks Building, Fort William H. Seward, Haines
5. 4th Avenue Theatre, Anchorage
6. Kake Cannery National Historic Landmark, Kake
7. McCarthy General Store, McCarthy
8. Red Dragon Reading Room and St. George's Church, Cordova
9. Three German Bachelors Cabin, Talkeetna
10. Wireless Transmitter Site, Anchorage

See Pages 5-7 for photos and details.

## Save the Date—November 8 is the AAHP Annual Meeting

AAHP is holding its Annual Meeting at the Pioneer Schoolhouse in Anchorage on Saturday, November 8, 2014. This year's theme is "Rehabilitation," with a planned panel of experts discussing various aspects of rehabilitation and restoration of historic properties.

At this meeting we will also announce the recipient of the 2014 AAHP Historic Preservation Award. The AAHP Historic Preservation Award has been given every year since 2007 in order to recognize a project, organization, agency, or individual that exemplifies the highest standards among Alaska preservation efforts. Last year's recipients were Darrin and Sheri Hamming for their project "The Adaptive Re-use of the Former Campbell House" in Palmer, Alaska. The rehabilitated 1935 Colony House now serves as a Bed and Breakfast.

Light refreshments will be available, as well as lots of interesting company!

### 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.

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## Message from the President

Hello, Members,



*AAHP President Anne Pollnow*

This past May AAHP selected the 10 Most Endangered Historic Properties in Alaska for 2014. Please review this newsletter for property details. Through this grant program, with your help, we identify threatened and endangered properties and offer assistance in their preservation. Concurrent with professional/technical support, AAHP awards grant funding to serve as seed money to leverage

further backing from other sources for preservation projects.

AAHP very much appreciates your support for the Ten Most Endangered Historic Properties Grant Program and looks forward to sharing rehabilitation, revitalization, and recovery successes as a result.

AAHP was thrilled to support the 2014 Alaska Cold War Conference September 4-6 in Anchorage. This event brought in a very diverse group of speakers, including Sergei Khrushchev, the son of Nikita Khrushchev, well known in the earlier phases of the Cold War.

Finally, a heads up... AAHP's annual meeting will be held November 8<sup>th</sup>. This year's program will discuss the many aspects of rehabilitating and restoring historic properties. More details and guest list to come.

All the best,

Anne

## Celebrate Swedish Holidays at the Oscar Anderson House Museum, December 6-7 and 13-14, 2014

Please join AAHP volunteers, members, and board members for a Swedish-themed holiday the first two weekends of December.

The Oscar Anderson House Museum, located at 420 M Street (in Elderberry Park), will be decorated in the Swedish tradition by longtime museum caretaker Mary Flaherty. Visitors will "step back in time" to Christmas in early Anchorage with special volunteer-led 40-minute holiday tours that run continuously from Noon to 4 PM each day on December 6 & 7, and 13 & 14.

After the tour, visitors are invited to visit the House's lower level and the offices of AAHP to celebrate with family-friendly Swedish-themed seasonal treats and activities.

Admission for these events is \$20 for adults and teens, and \$10 for children 3-12. All proceeds from this fundraising event are used for House Museum operations. Events will go on in rain, snow, or sunshine.



*Traditional Swedish Christmas decorations adorn the fireplace at the Oscar Anderson House Museum in Anchorage.*

## Come Join the Fun! We're Recruiting for AAHP Board Members!!

AAHP is currently recruiting individuals throughout Alaska to serve on our Board of Directors. We are looking for people who are energetic, positive-minded, and enthusiastic about historic preservation throughout the state. Meetings are held via teleconference. The Board of Directors meets once a month and participates in education, promotion, and advocacy activities that support the preservation of Alaska's prehistoric and historic resources. If you are interested in participating on the Board, please contact AAHP at 907-929-9870 or [akpreservation@gmail.com](mailto:akpreservation@gmail.com).

## Nike Site Summit News and Tours 2014

### 2014 Alaska Cold War Conference and National Nike Veterans Reunion



In 2014, seventy-two veterans (and their spouses) who served in Alaska's Nike-Hercules installations during the Cold War came back to Alaska for their reunion, which coincided this year with an Anchorage Centennial celebration event looking back at the Cold War in Alaska. The 2014 Alaska Cold War Conference featured that historic period from 1947 to 1991, an era that was largely responsible for the long-term and permanent growth of Alaska in general, and the city of Anchorage in particular. AAHP partner, Friends of Nike Site Summit (FONSS), co-sponsored the Conference.

The three-day event kicked off with a Keynote Address by Sergei Khrushchev, the son of Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev. Nearly 1,000 people – including 300 college and high school students who know of the Cold War only from history books – heard him speak at UAA's Wendy Williamson Auditorium on "Cold War Warriors: Eisenhower, Kennedy, and Khrushchev."

The next day, another 300 people came to the Hotel Captain Cook to hear several of Alaska's military leaders and Bob Wallace, former head of the CIA's Office of Technical Services, speak about Cold War defenses, military operations then and now, and spy craft. Wallace's presentation was recorded and can be accessed at [Bob Wallace's talk 9-5-14](#)

That afternoon, the public was invited to help honor the veterans who served at Site Point – one of the three Nike-Hercules installations which guarded Anchorage during the height of the Cold War. Like all Nike installations, Site Point was decommissioned in the 1970s; it was repurposed as outdoor sports facilities as part of Kincaid Park: a "Swords into Plowshares" story right here in Anchorage. The veterans' actions during and in the days that followed the 1964 earthquake earned them a meritorious conduct award at the time; this was memorialized in a plaque installed on the outside wall of the Wax Bunker near the Chalet (both these buildings were part of the original Site Point), and interpretive graphics will help tell their story for park visitors in the future.

On Saturday, the veterans and their invited guests attended a private commemorative event hosted by Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson. Nike veterans were presented with a plaque, which was later installed on one of the Site Summit buildings currently being stabilized as part of the work of FONSS. The veterans were also given a special tour of the work done at Nike Site Summit since 2009; many of them shared their own experiences at the installation.



Following the 2014 Nike Veterans Reunion, Nike Site Summit's last Battalion Commander, John Rogers (left), and last Battery Commander, John Minier, lower the flags at Nike Site Summit.



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

### Nike Site Summit Tours for 2014

First offered in 2012, Nike Site Summit public tours in 2014 continued with 4 totally subscribed public tours (200 people) and a special summer tour introducing Site Summit to 50 social studies teachers from the Anchorage School District. Nike Site Summit was one of three Nike-Hercules installations protecting Anchorage during the Cold War. Site Summit was decommissioned in 1979 and is one of only three Nike installations remaining substantially intact in the U.S.

This season, Nike Site Summit veterans and other FONSS volunteers highlighted the stabilization work completed in 2014 on the Missile Maintenance Building and the Launch Control Building; work this summer on these structures was funded mainly by the Rasmuson Foundation, the State of Alaska's Designated Legislative Grant, and the Kumin Foundation. Other buildings featured on the tour include the previously completed Sentry Stations and the Dog Kennels. All of these buildings are being stabilized in preparation for a FONSS-envisioned historic monument to the Cold War.

Tour dates for 2015 will be established in collaboration with Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson and announced in early spring. If you would like to be on the list to be notified when these dates are announced, please e-mail [fonss2007@gmail.com](mailto:fonss2007@gmail.com).

## This Summer at the Oscar Anderson House

Guided tours of the Oscar Anderson House Museum were in full swing all summer, delighting visitors with glimpses of family life in Anchorage from a century ago—including the colorful flowers that enliven the house's summer landscape.

Thanks to a dedicated group of six volunteer garden enthusiasts, the Oscar Anderson House Museum is surrounded by flowers all season. These are not just any flowers, however—they are the varieties that might have grown in the Anderson family's garden back in the 1900s: salvia, begonias, petunias, alyssum, and flowering kale. Perennials like delphinium and ferns also grace the grounds.

The Municipality of Anchorage supplies the annuals to these volunteer gardeners, who pick up the plants at the greenhouse – usually around Memorial Day – then meet as a group to prepare the beds and plant the flowers. After that, the gardeners each commit to 2-3 weeks during the summer to come back and weed, deadhead, and water them – keeping them fresh and beautiful for all our visitors and passers-by all summer long.

Come September, before the first frost, the whole group of gardeners returns to clean out all the flower beds and make sure they are ready for planting again the following spring.

*Flowers brightening the rock wall near the front door*



*Flowers blooming along the walkway at the back yard*



## History Day in Alaska—National Contest 2014

Congratulations to the thirty students from across Alaska who competed for prizes and scholarships at the National History Day contest in June at the University of Maryland in College Park., Maryland. Students presented their projects at the annual competition June 15-19, where nearly 3,000 students gathered for the annual event this year.

Students and teachers alike earned awards. Showcasing this year's theme of "Rights and Responsibilities," Anchorage student Brynn Boeckmann received the Outstanding State Award for the Junior Division for her website on Alice Paul, while Fairbanks student Marlene Bond won the Outstanding State Award for the Senior Division for her documentary on the Role of Women in the Third Reich. Hannah Bouta of Fairbanks was selected to display her exhibit on Slavery in West African Cocoa Plantations in the National Museum of American History. Two Alaska teachers—Debbie LaRue of Chugiak and Heidi Imhof of Fairbanks—each won the Behring Teacher Award for Alaska. Two History Day teachers from each state were selected to receive the teacher award.

While visiting Washington, D.C., Alaska's students met their Congressional Delegation, where they quizzed Senator Murkowski, Senator Begich, and Congressman Young about topics such as energy, air pollution, and education.

Competing in the National Contest was open to the top two finishers in each category of presentation, at both the Junior and Senior levels., from the Alaska State Contest held in March 2014.

For more information about Alaska History Day, please visit the website at <http://www.alaskahistoryday.com/>.

## The Ten Most Endangered Historic Properties of 2014



**Barracks Building, Fort William H. Seward, Haines**

The Barracks Building was built in 1902-1904, and is the largest remaining building from the original fort, acting as an architectural anchor. It is the one of two barracks that housed 400 enlisted men (the other was destroyed by fire). Fort William H. Seward is a National Historic Landmark.



**Red Dragon Reading Room and St. George's Church, Cordova**

The Red Dragon Historic District, listed on the National Register of Historic Places, includes the Red Dragon Reading Room (1908) and St. George's Church (1918). These buildings are significantly interwoven with the history of Cordova since its founding.



**McCarthy General Store, McCarthy**

Built in 1911 and moved to its current location in 1913, this rustic, false-front building is McCarthy's best remaining symbol of the area's mining heritage and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.



**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.

Continued on next page

## The Ten Most Endangered Properties continued



### **Kake Cannery National Historic Landmark, Kake**

One of the 134 salmon canneries built in Southeast Alaska between 1878 and 1949, the Salmon Cannery, begun in 1906 by Kake Trading & Packing Company, was Kake's first industrial development.



### **Albert Kaloa, Jr. Buildings, Anchorage**

These two-story, pre-cast concrete office buildings were constructed in 1966 and 1970. The buildings, constructed by Tyonek Village using money from productive oil leases, were named after Albert Kaloa, the Chief.



### **Alaska Railroad Montana Station Water Tower, Montana Creek**

This structure was the original Alaska Railroad water tower at Montana Station, used to service steam engines. It was moved to its current location in 1957/1958. It is the last standing Alaska Railroad water tower of this type.



### **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.

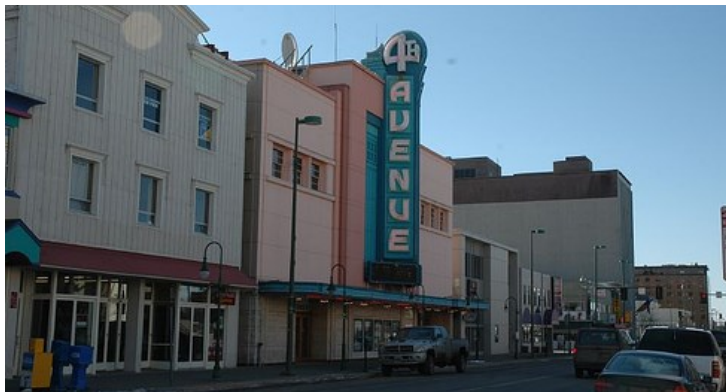
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The Ten Most Endangered Properties *continued*



**Afognak Village, Afognak Island**

Afognak Village is located on the south side of Afognak Island. The village includes buildings and structures from as early as the 19th century, archaeological sites, petroglyphs, and cemeteries. Afognak was inhabited by the Alutiiq people for more than 7,500 years. It was abandoned after the 1964 earthquake and tsunami nearly destroyed the village and contaminated the water supply.



**4th Avenue Theatre, Anchorage**

A prominent Art Deco style landmark located in the heart of downtown, this theater was completed in 1947. It is significant for its association with Alaska broadcast pioneer Austin “Cap” Lathrop and as the best example of Art Deco style in Alaska. The 4th Avenue Theatre has been nominated to the 10-Most Endangered List previously.

**AAHP MEMBERSHIP and/or TEN MOST DONATION**

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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
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<input type="checkbox"/> Family \$40	<input type="checkbox"/> Corporate \$100	
<input type="checkbox"/> Non-Profit* \$45 <i>(*includes federal, state, &amp; municipal agencies)</i>		Membership \$ _____

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

**AAHP Top Ten Most Endangered Historic Properties matching-grant account**

Donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_

*(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, email us at [akpreservation@gmail.com](mailto:akpreservation@gmail.com)

## Calendar of Upcoming Events

### 2014

November

8 — AAHP Annual Meeting, Pioneer Schoolhouse, Anchorage

December

6 - 7 & 13 -14 — Swedish Christmas at the Oscar Anderson House Museum, Anchorage

**November 8**  
**AAHP Annual Meeting**  
**Pioneer Schoolhouse, Anchorage, 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm**

### Alaska Association for Historic Preservation

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