



THE ALASKA ASSOCIATION FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION

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The Alaska Association for Historic Preservation Announces the Ten Most Endangered Historic Properties for 2012

The Alaska Association for Historic Preservation (AAHP) announces the state's **Ten Most Endangered Historic Properties for 2012**. The list is announced each year and is intended to bring public awareness to Alaska's threatened historic properties. Heightened awareness often leads to increased support for the conservation of endangered historic properties, which are assets important to tourism, economic development, and the cultural heritage of Alaska. AAHP has been identifying the Most Endangered Historic Properties since 1991.



Chief Son-i-Hat Whale House (Neyúwens) – Kasaan

The only remaining Haida clan house in Alaska, Chief Son-i-Hat Whale House is in serious danger of being lost through deterioration.



Saxman Schoolhouse – Saxman

Since the time of the Schoolhouse's construction, the property has been subject to severe site drainage issues. Additionally, deterioration and uncertainty regarding future use leave the historic building's future in question.

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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.

Message from the President



Greetings Members!

I hope everyone is having a fun summer. I know Southeast has been getting record rainfalls, so hang in there. This weather can take its toll on our historic treasures which imparts one of the reasons why AAHP finds it necessary to bring attention to threatened historic properties around our State. It is through our 10 Most Endangered Historic Properties Grant Program we identify these properties in need of a little lovin'

and offer assistance in their preservation. Under this program and concurrent with professional/technical support, AAHP awards grant funding to serve as seed money to leverage further backing from other sources for preservation projects. The recipient of this grant award is announced at our annual meeting in the fall.

Included among the structures on this year's list are Coastal Archaeological Sites. All over the world archaeologists are scrambling to deal with the effects of rising sea levels and above average rainfall. Globally, researchers are developing quantifiable methods of discerning the most vulnerable coastal archaeological sites and implementing systematic recovery efforts. Including bays, inlets, and islands, Alaska has more than 45,000 miles of coastline. And from historical data and recent discoveries alike, we know coastlines have been major settling points in human history. Tragically, as we've heard of present-day Alaskan villages having to relocate because of this phenomenon, so, too, are archaeological sites being degraded and lost. These sites are important in that they provide material traces of our history for hundreds, even thousands, of years ago. Through these material finds we can solidify ties to our individual heritage and those of humankind.

AAHP very much appreciates your support for the 10 Most Endangered Historic Properties Grant Program and looks forward to sharing rehabilitation and recovery successes as a result.

Best,

Anne

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Pioneers of Alaska Igloo No. 19 – Cordova

Constructed in 1928 by the Pioneers of Alaska organization to serve as the brotherhood's headquarters and meeting hall, the Pioneer Igloo Building is in need of rehabilitation to stabilize the deteriorating structure.



Ketchikan General Hospital – Ketchikan

The old hospital constructed in 1922 has been sitting vacant for years and is in imminent danger of collapse.

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Tour the Oscar Anderson House Museum in 2012

By Allegra Hamer

The Oscar Anderson House Museum has re-opened for tours this summer under AAHP management. 40-minute guided tours are led by AAHP staff or board volunteers between 11 am and 5 pm (last tour starts at 4:20) on Wednesdays through Sundays until September 2, 2012. Admission is \$10 for adults, \$5 for children 5-12. All proceeds from admissions will be used to help maintain the Oscar Anderson House Museum as an educational and historic treasure.

Oscar Anderson was a Swedish-born businessman living in Seattle with his wife and three young children when he came to Alaska in 1915 seeking business opportunities in the new railroad construction camp at Ship Creek, which would

later become Anchorage. He opened a butcher shop and meat packing business in "Tent City," purchased land for his business and home at the July 10, 1915 auction, and moved his family north by October. Oscar contracted for this house to be constructed on his lot overlooking Cook Inlet and it was ready for occupancy just before Christmas 1915. Oscar contributed to the economy of early Anchorage in several other areas; he was part-owner of the Evans-Jones Coal Company, a partner in Alaska Air Transport, and a member of the board of Anchorage Times newspaper.



Mary Flaherty, who has led tours at Oscar Anderson House Museum for 25 years and was named AAHP's 2011 Preservationist of the Year for this contribution, shows visitors a butcher block that once stood in Oscar's 4th Avenue butcher shop.



Exterior of the Oscar Anderson House Museum

The Anderson house was one of the first privately-built homes in Anchorage. At five rooms and 1 ½ stories on a 20x40 footprint, it was far grander than most other early Anchorage one-room log cabins. It had running water from an underground spring which enabled the Andersons to install indoor plumbing right from the beginning, and was built over a root cellar which helped save the house from much damage during the 1964 earthquake.

Oscar and his wife lived in the house until 1969, when Oscar's health failed and they moved back to Seattle where Oscar died in 1974 at age 91. His widow deeded the house – but not the land – to the city of Anchorage for historical preservation. It was moved 60 feet across M

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Alaskans Take Top Honors at the National History Day Contest!

by Darrell Lewis

Thirty-two students from across Alaska participated in the 2012 National History Day contest at the University of Maryland June 12-14. Students presented their projects at



Alaska's 2012 National History Day Champs at University of Maryland

the annual competition, which had a record turnout with nearly 3,000 students from all 50 States, Washington, D.C., Guam, American Samoa, Puerto Rico, and international schools in China, Indonesia, Singapore, and South Korea. Topics included The Amistad Slave Revolt, Julia Child, The Exxon Valdez Oil Spill, 19th Century Reform of Insane Asylums, Henry Ford, and the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising. Hallie Whitmore, Mia Keyser, and Challis Debenham of Romig Middle School in Anchorage won the Captain Ken Coskey Naval History Award for their Group Documentary titled *The Trials of Truth: The Amistad Revolution*, which recounts the story of the Amistad slave revolt in 1839. The documentary incorporated interviews with UAA History Professor Forest Nabors and University of Alabama Professor and *Mutiny on the Amistad* author Howard Jones. When the three-time National History Day participants were asked how they felt about their accomplishment, Mia said, "Excited, glad all of our work finally paid off;" Hallie said, "I feel like a just made history;" and Challis said, "I am so excited I reached my goal!"

Hanna Hellen, also of Romig Middle School in Anchorage, won the Outstanding State Award for the Junior Division for her Documentary titled *Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act: Revolution in Native Rights*.

Krishna Nautiyal of Barnette Magnet School in Fairbanks won the Salute to Freedom Award for his paper titled *Her Liberty Born in Blood: Haiti's Storm of Revolutionary Turbulence*. And West Valley High School senior, Cory Johnson, also of Fairbanks, won the Outstanding State Award for the Senior Division for his documentary titled *Bill Koch and the Revolution of Skate Skiing*.

The National History Day program is a National Humanities Award winning history education program. Each fall more than two million students across the nation and around the world begin the year-long program, choosing



Captain Ken Coskey Naval History Award Winners Hallie Whitmore, Challis Debenham, and Mia Keyser

their own topics, related to an annual theme, conducting research from original sources and presenting their work by creating a museum-type exhibit, video documentary, original performance, a traditional research paper, or a website. This year's theme is *Revolution, Reaction, and*

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Friends of Nike Site Summit Sets Date for First Public Tour!

By Doris Thomas

Friends of Nike Site Summit will conduct two invitation-only VIP tours on Aug. 18, followed by two public tours on Sept. 8. Tours will be at 9:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. each day. Reservations for the public tours can be made starting in early August via the FONSS web site, www.nikesitesummit.net, or in person at the Alaska Veterans Museum. The cost is \$30, with a \$5 discount for active duty military, veterans, students and seniors.

The Tour Committee has been busy organizing the tours and developing an interpretive plan. Nike Site Summit Historic District covers 244 acres and includes 28 buildings and structures. Conveying the history and significance of this site to visitors in a two-hour tour requires careful planning. Conducting a tour in an active military training area brings some unique challenges. Background checks and unexploded ordnance (UXO) awareness training are requirements for every visitor.

FONSS' Project Committee has been busy planning the summer's work, which will begin the week of July 21st. The winter's heavy snowfall and the need to coordinate with contractors have led to a late start. FONSS volunteers will continue work on the Launch Control and Missile Maintenance Buildings this year at the lower site.

Priorities are door and window repair or replacement, roof repair, and hazardous material abatement.

While FONSS is conducting preservation work on the lower site, Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson (JBER) contractor Advance Blasting Services will be carrying out partial demolition of the Battery Building (also known as the IFC Building) at the upper site. FONSS is working

with the contractor to save items of historical interest and building materials that might be reused at the lower site. The iconic radar "clamshells" and the footprint of the building's foundation will be left intact to help FONSS conduct interpretive tours.

In June, JBER agreed to allow FONSS to stabilize and restore the site's dog kennels. This will be the sixth building that FONSS has been allowed to

preserve under the 2009 agreement. FONSS will clear brush from around the building and do a condition assessment this summer in order to gather information to develop a preservation plan. If time and resources permit, work will begin this summer; however, it is likely that work will begin next summer.

Please follow our progress at our Web site, on Facebook (Friends of Nike Site Summit) or Twitter (@_FONSS).



Site Summit veteran Greg Durocher explains the workings of the missile lifting system at Battery to VIPs and contractors who attended a FONSS tour in June 2011. The missile bunkers and other buildings at the upper and lower portions of Site Summit will be featured in the Aug. 8 VIP tour and the Sept. 8 public tour. (Photo by Doris Thomas)

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Street to its present location in city-owned Elderberry Park. Named to the National Register of Historic Places in 1978, the Oscar Anderson House was restored with assistance from the surviving Anderson family members



The Anderson family moved this 1909 player piano up from Seattle when they came to live in Anchorage in the fall of 1915. Mary Flaherty demonstrates the piano for visitors.

over the next four years, and the House Museum opened in 1982. Since then, it has been open for educational and historical tours for the public and for schoolchildren. After several years with limited hours, this summer's return to an expanded schedule is a welcome addition to the Anchorage historic landscape.

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Reform in History. Students enter their projects in a series of history contests in their local districts and states. The top students in each category are selected to participate in the national contest held each June.

More than 300 historians and other education professionals evaluate the students' work at the national competition. \$250,000 worth of scholarships are awarded at the national awards ceremony to select students, and approximately 100 students will take home cash prizes between \$250 and \$5,000 for superior work in a particular category of judging.

The 2012-13 theme is *Turning Points in History: People, Ideas, Events.* If you would like more information please visit the History Day in Alaska website at www.alaskahistoryday.com.

continued from p. 2 -**Ladd Field – Fort Wainwright**

This National Historic Landmark is significant for its unique role in World War II history. Hangar 2 suffered a fire in 2011 and currently the future of Hangers 2 and 3, which contribute to the NHL, is unknown.

**Colony Project
Warehouse – Palmer**

Built in 1936, the Warehouse was part of the former Mat-Maid Cooperating Association.

The building has sustained great damage from weather and neglect over time and is in jeopardy of removal.



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Berg-Brown Cabin – Anchorage

Reportedly built by Cora Berg in 1916, occupied by Jack and Nellie Brown from 1925-1930 and the

Tuomi family after 1930, this cabin is one of the earliest buildings remaining in Anchorage. The cabin is currently slated for demolition.

Historic Roadhouses – Statewide

Within the past two years we've lost two of our great historic roadhouses. This loss and the heartfelt reaction amongst Alaskans illustrates the significance of these iconic structures.



Coastal Archaeological Sites – Statewide

Many Alaska coastal sites are being actively destroyed by erosion. This erosion is occurring as a result of sea level rise, storm events/surges

and increased wave energy due to climate change. Erosion may result in the exposure of archaeological remains, resulting in deterioration/damage to the materials as well as increased chance of looting.



McCarthy General Store – McCarthy

Constructed in 1911, this two-story false front store is one of only three multi-story buildings

remaining from McCarthy's mining era.



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I/we wish to make a tax-deductible gift to the AAHP Top Ten Most Endangered Historic Properties matching-grant account

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

Donation \$ _____
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I also wish to participate in AAHP activities in the following areas:

- Fund Raising Membership Education Legislation Public Relations Projects & Issues

Mail to: AAHP, PO Box 102205, Anchorage, AK 99510-2205 or online at <http://www.aahp-online.net>.

Modern Ranch (1955-1975)

The Modern Ranch home made its way to Alaska during the late 1950s and early 1960s. The popularity of the house type waned during the 1970s. The Modern Ranch typified suburban development in the western United States during this period. The roots of the style are



grounded in California and embody the ideals of the Prairie style in a vernacular form. The father of the style is Clifford May. He began constructing

these rambling homes in the 1930s, dedicating ample lawn space and creating a horizontal orientation. There are numerous modern ranch subtypes (post and beam, chalet, storybook, western, etc.) that warrant further consideration and creation of their own evaluation considerations.

Name That Style

with Doug Gasek



Important features of a modern ranch can include: one story, low horizontal massing, low pitched roof, overhanging boxed eaves, wide street façade, asphalt shingles, attached garage, and hip, side gable, or gable-on-hip roof. Secondary features include: L-shaped or U-shaped, extended massive roof beams, wide masonry chimney, weeping mortar, large metal frame windows, clerestory, brick and stone veneers, recessed front entrance, picture window with flankers, flower boxes, and eave band windows.



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