

Preservation News From Around The State

PRESERVATION NOTES

A quarterly newsletter brought to you by

The Alaska Association For Historic Preservation, Inc.

A nonprofit with a mission to protect and preserve Alaska's built heritage.

Winter 2020

Vol 38 No 4

2020 Annual Meeting

Event Viewed from Across the Nation

The AAHP board wasn't sure just how the organization was going to host their annual meeting this Fall. After some discussion, the board elected to host the annual meeting via Zoom on Thursday, November 5. That took a bit of advance work to let all of the members know, receive RSVPs to send the program and link, as well as get the Ballots out in time for members to return them. Normally, voting takes place at the annual meeting.

We were pleased that we had over 30 people attending the meeting from all over Alaska, Oregon, California, Arizona, and Florida. The annual meeting was called to order by the president. Reports for 2020 were presented by AAHP partners: IHTA, NN Cannery History Project, FONSS, Independence Mine Photo Documentary Project, and Oscar Anderson House Museum. AAHP Committee reports were presented, recapping the past year's activities. (Reports can be seen elsewhere in this newsletter.)

The election of a new board member and officers was held. The remainder of the evening's program saw awards and grants being presented as well as a special program.

Historic Preservation Awards

The Historic Preservation Award was presented to Iditarod Historic Trail Alliance (IHTA) and the

Fraternal Order of State Troopers. Both organizations have worked diligently to preserve their respective histories of Alaska.

Ten Most Endangered Grants

The U.S. Commissioner's Cabin at McCarthy and the S.S. Nenana at Fairbanks each received a Ten Most Endangered Historic Properties grant in the amount of \$2,500. Both projects are in serious need of assistance to preserve their respective properties.

Historic Properties Status

The recent loss of the Jesse Lee Home for Children was acknowledged. The loss of the historic property after a hard fight to save it was sad news not only around the state but nation-wide. It is a reminder to AAHP how important the work that the organization is.

Two other properties that are of concern is the Ascension of Our Lord Chapel at Karluk and Wolf Creek Boatworks.

The short video produced by Tom Pillifant on the church at Karluk was shown to the guests which depicted the dangerous situation it is currently in at the edge of a cliff being eroded by the Karluk River.

The boatworks may find itself being demolished due to a land swap on Prince of Wales Island that requires

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Annual Meeting.....	1
Oscar Anderson House.....	2
Foundation Donation.....	3
Independence Mine.....	3
From the President.....	4
How to Support AAHP.....	4
10 Most Grant Sponsors.....	5
IHTA News.....	6
Events & Briefs.....	6
Historic Preservation News.....	6
HPA Presented.....	7
Preservation Action Board.....	8
<NN> Naknek Cannery.....	8
NRHP and AHRS Info	9
FONSS Program.....	10
OAHM 2020 Report.	11
2020 Committee Reports... ..	12
Membership Application....	14



Continued on page 5



BOARD & STAFF

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Oscar Anderson House Museum Hours

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Preservation Notes:

Preservation News from Around the State. To submit Preservation News items, email us at

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Oscar Anderson House Museum All Decked out for Christmas!



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The annual **Swedish Christmas Open House** was a bit low key this year due to Covid19 mandates, but it was wonderful to be able to actually hold the annual event. The house was decorated with new decorations purchased this year. We also received a new (to us) Christmas tree through the generous donation by Steve Mehring.

Museum Manager, Rachel Baker, made sure that the house was decked out for Christmas. This year, the dining room table was set with the china and silverware that



Copyright 2020 Frank Flavin Photography

was once used by the Anderson Family. It gave a bit of a feeling that the family would be returning soon for dinner.

Candles graced the tree and throughout the house. They were battery-operated but

lent a feel of the old time Christmas.

This was Rachel's last Christmas with us as she and her husband will be leaving this spring as her husband leaves the military. She will be greatly missed as she brought a strong background in historic home tours and was always willing to go the extra mile.



AAHP Receives Donation from Evalyn O. Flary Foundation

Alaska Association for Historic Preservation received an unexpected donation from the Evalyn O. Flary Foundation of Wenatchee, Washington. A check was received for \$5,000 to be used as the board designates.

We are grateful for the support! The board will decide on how the funds will be designated for future support of one of our programs at the January board meeting.

Independence Mine Photo Documentary Project Report

2020 HIGHLIGHTS

Adam Christiansen, Adventure Photo, contacted AAHP in March 2020 to discuss our partnering with him for the purpose of obtaining grants to fund his photo documentary project of the tunnels at Independence Mine. The AAHP Board of Directors approved an MOU with Mr. Christiansen. An agreement was signed in April between AAHP and Mr. Christiansen.

AAHP generated a proposal that was sent to Usibelli Foundation and the MEA Charitable Foundation. Both proposals were accepted with a combined total of \$9314.52. Due to the limited funds and there not being a requirement for grant reports, AAHP agreed to reduce their standard fee for handling the reports and financial duties.

Adventure Photo Work Summary

Since April 3rd, Adventure Photo in partnership with AAHP was able to secure the necessary grants to organize and execute the photo and video documentation of a unique micro-history in the hills near Hatcher Pass, Alaska.

The generous donations from the Usibelli and MEA Charitable foundations were used in the creation of a miniature documentary film in coordination with Totem Ent., showcasing drawings penned by miners in the tunnels of the Independence Mine.

The film will be finished and ready for distribution in December of this year. Target organizations to license the film to include Alaska Resource Education, the Mat-Su Borough and Anchorage school districts, the University of Alaska System, The Valley Cinema, the Anchorage Museum and other local area museums and visitors' centers.

The aim of the film is to provide a relatable human element to Alaska's students and public about the origins of natural resource and community development in our great state.

An exhibit about the work was hosted in Palmer and Wasilla during September and October.

In This Corner...

It has been a very different year. I am looking forward to 2021. It has to be better! Right?

Our annual meeting went off without a hitch. I was so pleased to see so many people attending via Zoom from across the nation. It was great to be able to share what AAHP has done over the past year as well as what our partners have been doing during 2020. Even though we struggled with mandates of social distancing, we all seemed to roll with the punches and were still able to be successful. We just had to think outside the box! (See AAHP *Committee Reports* pages 12-13)

This past year has shown me that AAHP needs to be out there knocking on doors to find out how we can help with historic preservation. It is important that we not lose any more historic buildings.

Losing the Jesse Lee Home for Children in Seward was heartbreaking. We are in danger of losing the Ascension Church of Our Lord at Karluk due to erosion of the bank overlooking the Karluk River. A small group is working towards raising funds to move the church to a better location. And then, we are still waiting for word on the Wolf Creek Boatworks on Prince of Wales Island.

We need to share the importance of saving history and how adaptive use for historic buildings can give new life to a structure. It may have been a store front at one time but perhaps it could become a restaurant or even an art gallery.

We are pleased that Kyan Reeve of Ketchikan has joined our board and his father, Stephen Reeve, has joined our advisory board. Both have a strong background in historic preservation. Having someone from Southeast Alaska is a plus for us. AAHP is a statewide organization so having all parts of the state represented on our board is important. Interested in joining our board? Please let me know of your interest!

We sincerely want to thank all of you for your continued support of AAHP. While this year has been different, we appreciate that you continue to support our mission. Many of our members also support our programs and partners with donations along with their membership. YOU are our heroes!

We will be celebrating 40 years as an organization and 30 years for our Ten Most Endangered Historic Properties program. Watch for some fun in 2021!

Wishing you a Happy New Year!

Trish

Trish Neal, AAHP President



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Five Ways to Support Alaska Association for Historic Preservation, Inc. and Its Mission & Programs



Here's a quick list of things to do from home to support preservation with AAHP:

• **Become an AAHP Member!** Join today!

<https://tinyurl.com/yd5o7jgc>

• **Learn About** the 2020 Ten Most Endangered Historic Properties in Alaska!

<https://tinyurl.com/yar7ael7>

• **Donate** to our Ten Most Endangered Historic Properties Grant Program

<https://tinyurl.com/y6u8mjfs>

• **Donations support Oscar Anderson House Museum.** There is always maintenance to be done on the house as well as preservation of the collection.

<https://tinyurl.com/y9gch2jl>

• **Alaska Community Foundation:**

Established in 1995, The Alaska Community Foundation (ACF) cultivates, celebrates, and sustains all forms of philanthropy to strengthen Alaska's communities forever. Please contact us on how to contribute to our endowment funds.

• **Advocate for AAHP and Historic Preservation!** Contact your city council, your Assemblies, and your mayor to promote the importance of Historic Preservation in your community.

Don't forget to contact your local Historic Preservation Commissions! Finally, contact your senators & representatives (state and Washington, DC) to remind them of the powerful role preservation must play in this moment.

Continued from page 1

the historic facility to be removed by December 15th. No word as to the status at press time.

Independence Mine

Guests had an opportunity to view the trailer for the forthcoming documentary “A Story Set in Carbide” being produced by AAHP’s program partner, Adam Christiansen. Adam has been working on documenting the carbide graffiti in some of the tunnels in the area of the Independence Mine at Hatcher Pass.

Board Elections

Kyan Reeve, from Ketchikan, was elected to fill the vacancy on the board of directors. Kyan has a strong background in historic preservation. We are pleased that he is joining the board.

A unanimous consent was approved to re-elect the current officers which includes: Trish Neal, President; Frank Flavin, Vice-President; Sam Combs, Treasurer; and Erika Quade, Secretary. Jobe Bernier, Patt Garrett, Dan Golden, Jr., and Janet Matheson continue on the board with Robert Mitchell and Judith Bittner as advisory board members. (Stephen Reeve, of Ketchikan, was appointed to the Advisory Board at the recent December AAHP Board Meeting.)

Special Presentation

The program for the evening was presented by Monty Rogers and Sam Combs: *A look at AAHP’s Conservation Easement Program as it relates to the Historic Holy Assumption of the Virgin Mary Church in Kenai and Wassillie’s Point on the Kvichak River.*

Monty is an archaeologist who AAHP contracts with for monitoring of some of our Easement projects. Sam is an architect historian and AAHP board member who assisted Monty with the Kenai church monitoring.

The presentation provided an overview of the AAHP’s conservation easement program and the organization’s annual monitoring efforts at the Holy Assumption Church in Kenai and Wassillie’s Point on the Kvichak River. Since 2011, AAHP’s conservation easement program has worked with landowners to preserve the heritage of Alaska. Conservation easements are agreements between landowners and the AAHP that prioritize preservation. Two places with conservations easements are the Holy Assumption Church and Wassillie’s Point. The Holy Assumption Church is a



Sam Combs Photo—Kenai



Cultural Alaska Photo—Wassillie Point

National Historic Landmark and one of the most significant Russian Orthodoxy sites in Alaska. This year, the church is going through major renovations and proved to be an opportune time to inspect.

Wassillie’s Point is an ancestral Yup’ik village site on the Kvichak River south of the community of Igiugig. The village site includes the remains of sod houses, a men’s communal house, and potentially burials. Monitoring erosion has become one of the primary focuses of annual visits to the site.

Ten Most Endangered Historic Properties Grant Sponsors

2020 has definitely been a year that we probably would like to be done with! We were unable to hold our annual silent auction this year. The auction has traditionally supported our Ten Most Endangered Historic Properties Grant Program. Our *Fundraising Committee Chairperson, Jobe Bernier*, was successful in obtaining sponsorships this year in place of the auction. We sincerely appreciate the support that we have received from these businesses. Thank you!

PLATINUM SPONSOR



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2021 Ten Most Endangered Historic Properties Deadline is March 31, 2021. Nomination forms will be posted January 30, 2021 on

<https://alaskapreservation.org>

2021 Historic Preservation Month will be celebrated May 2021.

Do you have events that you would like to share? Please send your event information to AKPreservation@gmail.com by March 1, 2020.

Office of History and Archaeology and Alaska Historical Commission News

It is with great sadness that we recognize the recent passing of two former Alaska Historical Commission members, **Beverly Beeton and Terrence Cole**. They generously shared their enthusiasm and knowledge of Alaska history with the Commission and the public. They will be greatly missed.

National Preservation Institute News

As a precautionary measure during COVID-19, NPI has temporarily suspended in-person training. The online training initiative complements their in-person seminar curriculum. NPI offers the option of online customized training with interested organizations. Look for training options at www.npi.org. Modules available or under development include GIS, Historic Wood Windows, Section 106: The Meaning of Effects, Corridor Development, New Sources of Funding, Native America, Streetscapes, Cultural Landscapes, and additional Section 106 modules.

www.vernaculararchitectureforum.org/Ridout-ellowship

Bureau of Indian Affairs Photographs Finding Aid

Search and explore more than 18,000 digitized historical photographs from the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) records with the Bureau of Indian Affairs Photographs Finding Aid.

<https://tinyurl.com/ycdlltx4>

Iditarod Historic Trail Alliance

2020 PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

IHTA was kept busy during 2020 even though issues with Covid19 mandates changed the way some projects were accomplished



partner agencies and organizations. Some projects had to be placed on hold due to not being

able to go to outlying areas or social distancing wasn't possible. There was still plenty to do for the organization as it works on a new curriculum for iTREC, produce a video of Crow Pass segment of the historic Iditarod Trail, develop new interpretive material and map, and work with the federal Bureau of Land Management INHT Administrator other entities in support of the Iditarod Trail as well as the Partnership for the National Trails System.

The organization works with various other organizations or agencies. These entities are represented by individuals who attend the monthly board meetings to report on their respective activities. All agencies and organizations have some involvement with the Iditarod Trail from its history to maintenance to the actual Iditarod Race.

- State DNR
- BLM
- Forest Service
- Fish & Wildlife Service
- Trail Blazers located in Seward and McGrath
- Iditarod Trail Committee

iTREC: Modeled after "A Forest for Every Classroom" along the Appalachian Trail, Iditarod Trail to Every Classroom iTREC is a three-season, multi-disciplinary professional development series for educators aimed at providing the inspiration, knowledge, and skills to transform teaching into effective and exciting place-based service-learning education.

Educators who participate in iTREC will develop their own curriculum that increases student literacy skills and fosters student understanding of and appreciation for the public lands and resources connected by over 2,400 miles of the Iditarod National Historic

Trail. These curricula will integrate hands-on study of the natural and cultural resources of communities from Seward to Nome addressing concepts in ecology, sense of place, recreation, volunteerism, and civics.

IHTA has a website and Facebook page to promote the organization and share information on the organization as well as the historic trail. <https://www.iditarod100.org/>



IHTA is funded through its memberships, donations, grants and some partnership agreements that cover fees and or share financial resources. The board meets the second Tuesday of each month and the Executive Board meets the first Tuesday of the month.

AAHP provides admin support to the organization for which IHTA pays a fee to cover the admin support.

IHTA Elections

The results of the election for board of directors:

- ◆ **Seat I** (Norton Sound Region): Stephanie Masters Johnson (Nome)
- ◆ **Seat J** (At Large member #4): Jonathan Sewall (Seward)
- ◆ **Seat K** (At Large member #5) Kristen Bey (Nome)

Board of Director officers elected to serve in 2021 are:

- ◆ **President** - Judy Bittner, Anchorage
- ◆ **Vice- President**-Jonathan Sewall, Seward
- ◆ **Treasurer**-Leslie Schick, Anchorage
- ◆ **Secretary**-Stephanie Johnson, Nome

From the past...

"Iditarod Pioneer" December 14, 1912

CHRISTMAS TOYS FOR THE CHILDREN

That the children of Iditarod and district will be surfeited with toys this Christmas season is the opinion of those who have examined the sources of supply. Two stores there are in Iditarod that have displays calculated to bring joy to every child's heart, while the mechanical toys have given



TRAIL ■ STORY ■ STEWARDSHIP

such pleasure to grownups that the storekeeper is kept busy all day exhibiting them.

The Northern Commercial Company is making a specialty of toys this year and has a variety of fine dolls and dolls' houses, ABC blocks, zig-zag games, wash tubs and boards, dark lanterns, squeaking dolls, buzzers, air guns, watches and picture books. Then they have a whole menagerie of animals, including teddy bears, rabbits, dogs, etc. A large proportion of the toys have been disposed of and those who want to make gifts to their little friends must make haste.

William Ansley's big store on Richmond street is in holiday attire, and he has a fine display of toys and other holiday goods, Bill's specialty this year is the mechanical toy, and he has a wonderful assortment.

Last year there was scarcely a toy in the camp, but this season the children are being as well served as if they were living in some great metropolis.

Hurst Bros., of the Imperial cigar store, are also making a specialty of Christmas candies in boxes or in bulk. As they are overstocked low prices prevail, and purchasers should look them up.

Mrs. T. L. Thurstan of the Postoffice candy store, will be very busy the next two weeks filling orders for homemade candies. The Post Office candy store has made a great reputation, and you must order early if you do not want to be disappointed.

Time to renew membership

Thanks to the members who have renewed. Every member is an important part of our mission to preserve, protect and promote the Iditarod National Historic Trail.

Renewal forms have been sent to all members. If you have not yet renewed, please do so as soon as possible. If you misplaced your form, check our website for the dues categories and send your dues to IHTA.

AAHP Annual Historic Preservation Award

This year's recipients were the Iditarod Historic Trail Alliance (IHTA) and the Fraternal Order of Alaska State Troopers (FOAST).

IHTA was recognized for its stewardship of the Iditarod Trail. The organization is committed to the history, use, protection, and development of the Iditarod National Historic Trail. IHTA organization was formed in 1999 after the Department of Interior's Iditarod National Historic Trail Advisory Council which sunsetted in 1998. Several of the board members have been involved for over 30 years.

IHTA partners with USFS, BLM, and Alaska Geographic and several other organizations or agencies to produce the iTREC Education Program. The purpose is to teach children about the historic trail along with other aspects of the area through training educators to create their own curricula to take back to the classroom. iTREC started in 2010.



IHTA has a Waymark Sign program started in 2013. The effort included 285 mileage signs, place name signs, and directional arrows.

According to AAHP, this organization, especially its iTREC Education Program, is especially deserving of the Historic Preservation Award for its broad appeal to Alaskans of all ages, and its development of public knowledge of the history of the Iditarod Trail. Information about the organization can be found at <https://www.iditarod100.org>.

The Fraternal Order of Alaska State Troopers was nominated to honor their sustained effort for almost thirty years to establish, maintain, and develop the Alaska Law Enforcement Museum in downtown Anchorage, Alaska. The Fraternal Order of Alaska

The Iditarod Historic Trail Alliance promotes awareness of the Iditarod Trail and its gold rush and Alaska Native Heritage by encouraging education programs and historical research, assisting in the protection, improvement, maintenance and marking of the Trail and developing partnerships that foster stewardship, commitments and support.

While the Iditarod Trail is well known nationally and internationally due to the contemporary sled dog race, many Alaskans and most Americans are unaware of the basic history of the Trail. While parts of the Trail go back thousands of years to trade routes used by Alaska's native people, today's Iditarod Trail began with an Alaska Road Commission scouting expedition in mid-winter 1908. With the strike of gold near Iditarod, the ARC blazed the trail the winter of 1910, giving the Nome gold fields and the Iditarod and Innoko mining districts overland access to the ice free deep water port of Seward.

The Alliance was founded in 1998.

Iditarod Historic
Trail Alliance
PO Box 2323
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www.Iditarod100.org

Newsletters online!

**[Become a Member
or Donate!](#)**

IditarodHTA@gmail.com

The Iditarod Historic Trail Alliance is an equal opportunity program provider and employer.

AAHP President, Trish Neal, is replacing AAHP Board Member, Janet Matheson, on the *Preservation Action* Board of Directors as the Alaska representative. Janet has represented Alaska on the PA board for several years.

Rob Naylor, Associate Director, Preservation Action thanked Janet for her time on the board: "Thanks again Janet for your service on the Board and for nominating an excellent replacement. Very pleased that Alaska will continue to be well represented."

Janet has been involved with AAHP since its inception in 1981. She is an historical architect (AIA, LEED-AP BD&C) and resides in Fairbanks where she has lived since 1968. She is the author of three historical resource books on Interior Alaska, and contributed to three more in Southeast Alaska. She has served two terms as National Trust for Historic Preservation advisor for Alaska, was previously the chair of the AIA Alaska Historic Resources Committee, and recently stepped down as the Preservation Action board member for Alaska.

Trish is a more recent board member of AAHP, having joined about three years ago after relocating back to Alaska in 2016. She has been involved in historic preservation since the 1990s having spearheaded the totem replication and restoration and tribal house restoration project at Wrangell in the early 1990s. She followed that with similar work in Oregon for several years. She was the Director/Curator of the Wrangell Museum for over 11 years. She is an historian and the author of three books related to Wrangell History; one of which relates the history of the women from Minnesota who owned the Wrangell Garnet Ledge. She is the AAHP board liaison for the Oscar Anderson House Museum.

Naknek Cannery History Project

By Katherine Ringsmuth, PhD
NN Cannery History Project

2020 PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS



Naknek Cannery History Project successfully wrapped up the three grants in January and February 2020, that they had received over the

past few years. This has allowed the project to move forward with the next phase of their project.

For the past few months, Katie Ringsmuth, director of the <NN> Cannery History Project, has been working with staff at the Alaska State Museum developing plans for Mug Up: The Language of Work.

Mug Up: The Language of Work is a single-site temporary exhibition involving multiple institutional and community partners, the nation's largest seafood company, top maritime historians, fisheries experts, artists and specialists, and unique cannery artifacts assembled for display. Through the lens of work and community, Mug Up aims to share the stories of Bristol Bay's historic canned salmon industry and its oft-forgotten participants with visitors from around the world.

The Alaska State Museum (ASM) will exhibit Mug Up from February-October 2022 in Juneau. Alaska's scenic capital city has a year-round population of 32,000 and attracts thousands of Alaskans and over one million cruise ship tourists annually. ASM's expert staff will design, fabricate, install and develop public programming for Mug Up, which will showcase cannery artifacts and immersive exhibits that convey authentic, compelling and thoughtful stories of the diverse, skilled, and historically underrepresented workforce.

Framing the Mug Up exhibition is its 'big idea,' that the cannery's 15-minute 'mug ups' brought together diverse cannery workers, who provided essential labor and created

a unique social milieu within the workscape of Alaska's salmon canneries that, collectively, represented the industrial revolution of North. Inspiring our visitor experience is John Steinbeck, who famously wrote in Cannery Row that, the best way to write about canneries is "to open the page and let the stories crawl in by themselves."

Mug Up takes visitors on a building-by-building journey through a salmon cannery, using each space to spotlight the labor and social history behind one of Alaska's most significant industries. Framed by ASM's three temporary galleries and an ancillary theater, the Mug Up exhibition is presented into four sections: Storied Salmon, Working Waterfront, Cannery Community, and Cannery Caretakers.

The first gallery presents Storied Salmon, which offers visitors two separate entry points into the exhibition. Here, visitors encounter five sections that establish a "sense of place" and introduce them to Mug Up, the canned salmon industry and the unprecedented salmon runs on which Alaska's rich cannery history is founded. Rather than chronological, Mug Up's storyline is place based, therefore, visitors start and end the exhibition at the same point. Storied Salmon's proximity to the museum's children's gallery makes it a prime spot for a family-friendly activity: designing a personal salmon can label.

The second gallery presents Working Waterfront, which features eight sections highlighting the specific and highly skilled work tasks involved in canning salmon and the diverse laborers who conducted it. Included in Working Waterfront is a scale model of the NN Cannery, created by Alutiiq artist Andrew Abyo.

The third gallery presents Cannery Community, which features seven sections on the cannery's social experiences that mirrored broader currents of American history.

A fourth space serves as a theater where visitors can view the 30-minute Cannery Caretakers film

(produced by Jensen Hall Creative), the five-minute *The Rock: The Story of an APA Superintendent*, Norm Rockness film (produced by Unangax filmmaker Anna Hoover), and several short digital storytelling videos (produced by Bristol Bay High School students). Overall, *Mug Up* includes 20 different sections and over an hour-and-a-half of professionally produced, original video content.

Visitors soon discover that, rather than machines, the *Mug Up* exhibition is about people, whose stories were sheltered in the shadows of history. Giving a face to the historically underrepresented is the 'Cannery Chorus,' an assembly of cannery figures represented through labels, objects and text, who, like Shakespeare's Chorus in *Henry V*, guide visitors from building to building, introduce them to the diverse crews therein, and explain the undercurrents of the history and work activities.

Complementing the Cannery Chorus is a strategically composed soundscape of seagulls, tides, bears, boats, boardwalk, ravens, radio chatter, wind, whistles, machines, planes, three-wheelers, water hoses, languages, poems, songs, and musings that amplify and heighten the emotion of the visitor experience. This will be ADA compliant. By adding dimension to the exhibition's storytelling ability, the cannery soundscape establishes a sense of place, ensures that cannery voices are heard, and expresses to visitors the cannery workers' lyrical language of work.

<https://nncanneryproject.com>

Continued from page 11

The *Volunteer Policeis & Procedures* was adopted this year. Due to the Covid19 mandates in place here in Anchorage, we could not implement the program even though we had offers of help from the public. We will be ready for the start of the 2021 Summer season.

The Collections Policies & Procedures was also implemented earlier this year. AAHP acquired access to *PastPerfect* which is a collections web-based database program. This allows the entire collection to be entered into a searchable database. We are working on entering the approximately 800 items in the collection into the database. We will be able to add notes and attach photos to each of the items. The cost for annual renewal is about \$600.00 per year.

Continued from page 7

State Troopers (FOAST) is known as the keeper of Alaska's richest treasure of historical items related to law enforcement. They have operated their museum since the early 1990's.



The Alaska Legislature issued a commendation to FOAST in April 1999, for its efforts at preserving historic items, and designated the Trooper Museum as the official state repository of Alaska State Trooper memorabilia. Since then, many more historical items have been received from the surplus of the State of Alaska Department of Public Safety that are now on display at the museum.

In presenting the award, AAHP stated that the development of the Alaska Law Enforcement Museum in downtown Anchorage is an excellent example of historic preservation, establishing a new heritage tourism destination, of interest to Alaskans as well as visitors, and very deserving of the Historic Preservation Award. Information about FOAST can be found at: <https://foast.org>

Do You Know the Difference?



The **National Register of Historic Places** list (not to be confused with the National Trust for Historic Preservation, which is a non-profit organization, not a government entity) is

administered by the National Park Service, in Washington, DC. It includes historic resources (including buildings) that are of national significance. The applications are carefully reviewed for acceptance, and include descriptive & historical information on the resource, with photographs and location information.

Effective 4/10/20: the National Register program will launch **an electronic-only submission process** for the duration of the COVID-19 situation while our staff and the staff of our preservation partners engage in extended telework operations.

<https://tinyurl.com/yxtdj2su>



The **State AHRS (Alaska Historic Resource Survey)** is just that: a collection of surveyed or

reported historic resources, of all kinds, that originally were recorded on cards, with a very short description of the property, its location, and ownership. It is maintained by the State of Alaska Office of History & Archaeology in Anchorage.

The **Alaska Heritage Resources Survey (AHRS)** is a data repository with information on over 45,000 reported cultural resources (archaeological sites, buildings, structures, objects or locations, etc.), from prehistoric to modern, and some paleontological sites within the State of Alaska.

<https://tinyurl.com/>

Your Donations Support AAHP Programs

PAYPAL DONATIONS can be made as a one-time donation or a monthly recurring donation. It's easy to do and you can cancel the recurring donation whenever you wish. You don't need to have a PayPal account to contribute. Donations can be made to support AAHP or one of the established programs listed on our website. The direct link to our donation page is: <http://tinyurl.com/y2cm82bo>

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Friends of Nike Site Summit

Greg Durocher
Director, FONSS

2020 PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS



As with everyone everywhere, FONSS has had to cope with an intensely disrupted year. Despite all bus cancellations, we rolled with the punches and began emphasizing hiking tours. Doris Thomas handles the tours for FONSS.

Our plans to bring a record 500 guests up to Site Summit were derailed when we realized it would be foolhardy to conduct the usual solstice dinner/tour fundraiser, student tours, or bus tours. Instead, FONSS conducted four hiking tours at Site Summit between late June and mid-August. FONSS also did one Cold War History tour in Arctic Valley.

FONSS led a "Cold War Secrets of Kincaid Park" tour on October 17 and has one more scheduled for Nov. 7 at Kincaid Park in Anchorage, once home to the Army Air Defense Command Post and A Battery, 1st Battalion, 43rd Air Defense Artillery. These interpretive tours explaining the role of Nike in Alaska during the Cold War have proven very popular and have helped our bottom line tremendously.

Overall, in the 11 years we've conducted tours, FONSS has hosted 2,447 people at Site Summit. That number does not include the tours for military units.

FONSS work-party attendance was somewhat reduced, but thanks to the coordination efforts of Doug Ruhl and Evan Rowland, a huge amount of electrical, carpentry and landscaping (mainly brushing) was accomplished this year. Especially notable projects were the repair of the 2-story Launch Control Building overhead door (collapsed by wind), and the wiring of our tour-stop missile bunker, assuring lighting at the flip of a switch. Of personal interest, I watched in amazement as Evan wrestled the Brush Hog, mowing brush on an unforgiving landscape while it bucked him mercilessly.

I cannot possibly remember everyone who provided major contributions, but I would be extremely remiss if I didn't mention that Doris Thomas is the glue that holds our group together and puts out fires at every level imaginable. Besides our deep appreciation for what Doug and Evan contribute each year, I need to add Rich Goughnour to the electrical crew, as he picked up and ran with the ball, when circumstances forced Doug to back off somewhat.

Ivan Hodes, our Deputy Director, has been instrumental in organizing the many hikes both at Site Summit, and now Kincaid Park during the colder months. We would be looking at very little income at all, if not for his dedication and energy. Of course, all of the other volunteers are essential and appreciated - especially on the tours that are a no-go if they don't show up! I also thank our board members for coming together monthly over Zoom in these crazy times.

The FONSS board would like to acknowledge the helpful assistance of Trish Neal in getting our ship back on an even keel. Her financial acumen and organizational skills are an asset to both FONSS and AAHP.



This important work is never done, however. To share this history with future generations requires preservation, and preservation requires maintenance. Additionally, FONSS, like other nonprofits, had a tough financial year thanks to the pandemic. Instead of hosting 500 paying visitors as planned, we had to cancel the bus tours, cancel student tours and conduct only a few limited-capacity hiking tours. This meant a significant shortfall in revenue needed to pay for fixed expenses such as liability insurance. It is for this reason we are asking you to

make an end-of-year donation to Friends of Nike Site Summit. For 2021, we are seeking to raise \$5,000, to be split between maintenance costs and administrative costs.

Any gift, of whatever size, will be appreciated and used wisely – so that every generation hereafter will know our history and preserve our past.

Gifts may be made online at www.nikesitesummit.net by choosing “Donate” on the left-hand side. Alternatively, you may write a check made out to “AAHP” with “FONSS” on the memo line; mail it to AAHP, PO Box 102205, Anchorage, AK 99510. Donations to our Endowment Fund are also welcome; instructions on how to donate and an explanation of the fund’s goals are on our Web site under the “FONSS Endowment” tab on the left. Questions about donations or our tax status can be directed to AAHP at (907) 929-9870.

Oscar Anderson House Museum 2020 Report

Rachel Baker, Museum Manager

The Oscar Anderson House, Anchorage’s only house museum, was built in 1915 by Swedish immigrant and downtown businessman Oscar Anderson. It was the first residence completed after the Anchorage townsite lots were established. The house was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1978. After relocation to its present site in 1976 and extensive restoration, it was opened as a museum in 1982. Originally opened to the public by Historic Anchorage, Inc., it is currently operated by the Alaska Association for Historic Preservation through an agreement with the Municipality of Anchorage, owner of the building. AAHP has its offices in the lower level.

Due to the COVID19 pandemic, 2020 museum operations were changed. Summer hours began in June and continued through September. Museum visitation changed from an open house policy to entrance by appointment only. The hours were also changed to Tuesday – Thursday 12:00 – 4:00 pm and Friday and Saturday 9:00 am – 4:00 pm. The museum offered 3 tours a day during the week and 5 tours a day on Friday and Saturday. The time in between each tour

was used to sanitize the appropriate surfaces and clean the museum. A mask policy was also instituted per the local Covid19 mandates.

We acquired a virtual phone number so that calls about visiting the museum could be directed to the Museum Manager. We used the FareHarbor software program for our reservation system to make it easier to track visitor numbers and information and pay in advance for the visits. Both of these new tools made handling reservations much easier.

We had high expectations this year for visitor numbers. Museum attendance was severely stunted due to the mandated quarantine which limited our planned May opening. The total attendance for the 2020 season was 54, compared to over 295 visitors last summer.

AAHP was a successful recipient of the *Municipality of Anchorage Stabilization Grant* of \$10,000. This covered the museum manager’s wages. As it turned out, the funding helped us cover the wages as there was insufficient income to do that this year. AAHP typically subsidizes at least one third of the wages annually. The MOA covers electricity, water, and garbage.

We hosted a very successful Swedish Christmas House late December 2019. There were 117 visitors including adults and children. We were interviewed by two of the local TV stations which gave us a lot of publicity on TV and on our Facebook page. We appreciated the volunteers who helped out both weekends. It helped immensely to have their help and knowledge of the house and local history. Plus, the house was nice and warm with the radiators turned on!

The museum’s roof was assessed this summer to determine if a new roof was needed. At the time of this report, we have not received notice of when the roof will be replaced.

A new security system was installed in early October. The \$2,504 cost was covered with a State Museum Grant-in-Aid of \$2,000 with the balance covered by AAHP. It is a much better system that covers more than break-ins and can be monitored via cell phone or computer.

Pick.Click.Give.



Alaska Association for Historic Preservation accepts donations through the Pick.Click.Give. program.

Here’s the link with instructions on how to add or change your Pick.Click.Give. donations:

<http://tinyurl.com/yxmkdmlf>



Past Excellence in Historic Preservation Award Winners

- 2020: Iditarod Historic Trail Alliance (IHTA) Fraternal Order of Alaska State Troopers
- 2019: Janet Matheson Katie Ringsmuth/<NN> Doris Thomas Lee Poleske Hugh & Iris Darling
- 2018: No award given
- 2017: Bob De Armond Bill De Armond
- 2016: No award given
- 2015: Bob Mitchell
- 2014: Thad Poulson Jim Renkert
- 2013: Sheri and Darrin Hamming
- 2012: No award given
- 2011: Mary Flaherty
- 2010: FONSS Erin and Falene Reeve
- 2009: Don Corwin Steve Peterson
- 2008: No info available
- 2007: Edwin Crittenden, FAIA Katharine Crittenden Sam Combs, AIA Elayne Janiak

Recap of AAHP Activities for 2020

2020 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The year started off without an Administrative Assistant who submitted her resignation the first part of December 2019. While we waited to search for a new Admin, the board approved having the president handle the duties of the position for a few months while we looked for a replacement. Once Covid19 hit, it became obvious that hiring an admin would be placed on hold and the president should continue with the admin duties. Part of that decision was the concern for the financial health of the organization and lack of potential resources for wages which AAHP is responsible for.

The board worked on Financial Policies and Procedures during January and February to cover how the financial duties are to be handled by the organization. It was discovered that other than what was in the bylaws, there was not an actual policy that covered this. By March 2020, the document had been approved and implemented.

Policies and procedures for the Oscar Anderson House Museum were implemented and/or updated.

The budget was approved and implemented late summer. It gave the board a good vision of what it takes to operate the organization.

Meetings of the board have been conducted via Zoom. This has worked well for the organization since there are board members who do not live in Anchorage. Those living in Anchorage have found the virtual meetings to work well, especially after Covid19 created a concern about gathering in close quarters. Travel by board members also allows to still attend meetings by Zoom.

The president has attended training on fundraising, budgeting, and is currently taking a grant writing class at her own expense.

2020 EASEMENT COMMITTEE

Due to Covid19, work on our goals were placed on hold. We did accomplish two monitoring projects.

Monty Rogers and Sam Combs traveled to Kenai to monitor the Holy Assumption of the Virgin Mary Church in Kenai. It is currently undergoing restoration work on the exterior. Monty covered the Easement portion of our five-year program with the church. Sam covered the architecture component of the trip. A combined report was submitted which covered their work.

Monty was able to travel to conduct monitoring of Wassilie's Point on the Kvichak River. He has been monitoring the erosion that is developing. He was able to add more stabilization. More work needs to be done. Due to Covid19 he was not able to spend much time there or meet with residents this trip.

2020 EDUCATION COMMITTEE

All spring seminars and workshops usually sponsored by the Office of History & Archaeology and their annual workshop, where we would assist OHA, were cancelled due to Covid19 mandates.

As of November 2020, there has been no change in restrictions on public gatherings.

2020 FINANCE COMMITTEE HIGHLIGHTS

The board of directors worked on the Financial Policies and Procedures document. It was determined that the organization did not have a current policy that anyone was aware of other than what was in the bylaws. The document was reviewed, revised, and adopted March 2020.

The president worked with AAHP's bookkeeper to separate AAHP and its partners so that they each have their own "company" within QuickBooks. The purpose was to allow more accurate reports for each organization based on their respective income and expenses.

A budget for 2020 was developed and adopted in August. A budget for 2021 will be reviewed during December once actual expenses and income has been reported and compared to the budget adopted in August. A more accurate proposed budget will be adopted in January based on this new information. A five-year budget may be discussed later in 2020 due to several items of business that need to be taken care of the first part of the year that have priority.

A revised MOU with FONSS was implemented for 2020. A flat fee was agreed upon at \$1250 per quarter to cover the work that AAHP does for FONSS.

Naknek Cannery History Project wrapped up three grants December 2019 and early 2020.

2020 FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE

The Covid19 mandates were still in effect as we approached our Annual Meeting. The annual meeting was held via Zoom.

The chairman did reach out and obtained \$1750 in support of the Ten Most Endangered Historic Properties Grant Program. These funds will be designated to go towards next year's auction.

The president set up a birthday fundraiser in May to benefit the Ten Most Endangered Historic Properties Grant Program. \$435 was raised within a few weeks.

AAHP remained in the Pick.Click.Give. program. Increased publicity in the AAHP newsletter and on Facebook saw an increase in donations from supporters' PFDs.

2020 LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

With COVID-19 interruptions, the State Legislature had difficulty approving even level funding for the State Office of History & Archaeology, which allows it to accept federal funding for historic preservation.

The federal House of Representatives passed their FY21 Dept. of Interior appropriations bill which proposed \$136.4 million for the Historic Preservation Fund. The Senate had not yet acted on funding for FY21 Historic Preservation. Amendments to federal historic tax credit

legislation are also under consideration by Congress. AAHP continues to monitor Congress and the Alaska Legislature for action that will assist in protecting historic properties.

2020 NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE

There was only one vacancy on the board this year which was filled by electing Kyan Reeve from Ketchikan. Board members were reelected by unanimous consent.

2020 PARTNERSHIP OUTREACH COMMITTEE

While Covid19 has slowed things down. AAHP was able to work with other organizations this year in the interests of historic preservation.

AAHP worked on building a relationship with the Friends of Jesse Lee Home with the purpose of taking over the restoration of the school. Unfortunately, the City of Seward city council decided that the building needed to be demolished. Our proposal was not considered. The Friends group filed a lawsuit to obtain an injunction to stop the work. The judge required a sizeable fund of almost \$500,000 in order to receive consideration for the injunction. The group was unsuccessful in making that payment. The buildings were demolished in October.

The one outcome of becoming involved with FJLH was that AAHP received a lot of publicity from our work to gather support to save the buildings. Facebook posts, news articles (including AP articles), television interviews and radio interviews helped in getting the word out about the endangered Jesse Lee Home, and putting AAHP in the public eye.

The Ascension of Our Lord Church at Karluk is in danger of being lost due to the erosion of its site on the cliff by the Karluk River. AAHP became involved in helping to move it this past spring, joining a committee of historic preservationists who had the goal of saving the church. AAHP contributed towards flying the potential contractors to Karluk to investigate the location and what could be done. AAHP continues to attend meetings in support of the project. Moving the church will cost about \$450K. ROSSIA has not been able to raise this amount, so the project has been placed on hold until spring. We hope that the funds will be obtained, and the church can be moved to its final location; not a temporary one. The church was designated as AAHP's number one endangered historic property for 2020.

We were contacted this Spring by Sam Romey, owner of Wolf Creek Boatworks, about his facility located at Hollis, Prince of Wales Island. He has been directed by the U.S. Forest Service to move his facility from the location to make way for their land swap of this property and surrounding lands to the Alaska Mental Health Trust. He asked for our assistance in saving his facility that has been there since the early 1930s. AAHP provided written support as well as testimony during a hearing in April, 2020. The final outcome, even with a lot of written support, was that the facility had until December 15, 2020 to be moved, or it would have to be demolished. AAHP has contacted Alaska's Senators and Congressman in hopes that they can help stop this. Mr. Romey has property nearby that he

would be willing to trade for his boatworks. To date, there has not been any action. The boatworks was designated as AAHP's number two endangered historic property for 2020.

AAHP has maintained membership in Alaska Historical Society, Museums Alaska and has participated in meetings of the AIA Historic Resource Committee. We also belong to several other historical society and historic preservation organizations.

The quarterly AAHP Newsletter is sent to members as well as to organizations around the state; including historical societies and museums to share what we are doing. Some of those organizations also share their newsletter with us.

This year, AAHP Museum Manager Rachel Baker has been contacting previous recipients of the Ten Most Endangered Properties List to gather comments on the program and suggestions for improvement (2nd strategic goal of the committee).

2020 PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE

One thing that Covid19 didn't compromise was AAHP's publicity goals. Facebook posts about endangered historic properties, shared posts about historic properties and general information helped keep AAHP in front of the public.

The newsletter outreach has been increased over what it was a year ago. The newsletter is now published on AAHP's website about a month after being sent out to members.

The website was upgraded last winter. More information was added during 2020. The website is promoted on all collateral material produced by the organization.

The Oscar Anderson House Museum's Facebook page is used for further publicity for AAHP.

There are still some changes that need to happen such as answering the phones as "Alaska Preservation." Reciprocal websites have been added but need to be enhanced on the website.

2020 TEN MOST ENDANGERED HISTORIC PROPERTIES COMMITTEE

The 2020 Ten Most Endangered Historic Properties list had to be announced on Facebook instead of an in person reception at the Oscar Anderson House Museum on May 3rd. A PowerPoint was created and recorded on Zoom to appear on Facebook on that date. It was also added to AAHP's website.

This year the committee rated the properties according to most endangered. There were a few that were in serious danger. The criteria for nominating/applying for the annual list will be reviewed during the first part of the year. There may be some things that need to be changed, clarified, and/or added. This is priority as the call for nominations needs to go out in February to allow an earlier deadline.

The same will be done for the grant application. Those on the 2021 list will be notified that they are eligible for the grant program by the end of May with the applications due

Continued on page 14

Continued from page 13

by the end of September.

There are a few properties that could be eligible for the national 11 Most Endangered Historic Properties list. AAHP will make sure that these properties are nominated.

An interview project was started to call former properties that had been listed during the first 10 years of the program, and find out the status of the property.: Did they accomplish their goal? Is the building still standing? Do they still need help? Do they have suggestions for the future and how AAHP might help?

The Oscar Anderson House Museum's manager has been working on the project in between leading tours at the museum. One barrier has been lack of current contact information for the property owners.

There is a need for an endowment fund that can grow and provide funding for more than one property each year as needed.



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@OscarAndersonHouseMuseum



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Join us today! Members receive a one-year subscription to our Preservation Notes newsletter, notices of upcoming events, updates on statewide preservation issues, and discounted admissions to the Oscar Anderson House Museum and workshops throughout the year.

Basic Membership

- Student \$15
- Individual \$25
- Family \$40
- Contributor \$50
- Friend \$100

Advanced Membership

- Corporate \$100
- Non-Profit* \$45 (*includes federal, state, & municipal agencies)
- Sponsor \$250
- Benefactor \$500 & above

Additional Donation to:

- 10 Most Endangered Historic Properties Grant
- Friends of Nike Site Summit
- Naknek Cannery History Project
- Oscar Anderson House Museum

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