

PRESERVATION NOTES



A quarterly newsletter brought to you by
PRESERVATION ALASKA

Summer 2022
Vol 40 No 3

The Fate of the 4th Avenue Theatre

The 4th Avenue Theatre demolition began in August. Letters from the neon sign were removed. Artwork was reported to have been crated up and removed from the theatre. Not much else was saved to our knowledge.



The tragic end of the 75-year-old building (or 81 years old since construction began in 1941) didn't come without a hard fight by the community. The overwhelming public outcry to the mayor, assembly, and the governor's office fell on deaf ears. Even the third letter

comment should have been made at that time. It was too late to stop the demolition.

It is disheartening to find out that the promises of restoring the theatre made repeatedly by Joe and Maria Fang and sons Derrick and Terrance Chang were not going to be carried through.

The other remaining buildings on 4th Avenue are also slated to be demolished. This includes the Reed Building, former First National Bank building, and Cabin Fever Gifts.

The only building not to be demolished is the Polar Gifts building. The owners have refused to sell.

This is a travesty for Anchorage and Alaska that should not have to happen.

Contributed photo. from the Alaska Historical Commission sent to Alaska's Governor Mike Dunleavy didn't help. Nor did a letter to then-Governor Bill Walker.

The theatre's fate was sealed in 2015 when the assembly passed the ordinance AO 2015-49, which included the Northern Lights Hotel and the theatre. A group meeting on a Zoom call with Adam Trombley with the MOA, were told on August 8, that public



CEI Environmental are the contractors demolishing the theatre. Photo as of September 3, 2022. — Chris Blankenship photo.

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April 1—October 8, 2022
Alaska State Museum—Juneau



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Banner by Bill Devine, 1992.

Ten Years of Management by AAHP The Future of the Oscar Anderson House Museum

This 2022 summer season marks ten years of managing the Oscar Anderson House Museum by Alaska Association for Historic Preservation through an agreement with the Municipality of Anchorage, the owner of the property.

This spring the board conducted a cost analysis of operating the facility. To say there was a bit of sticker shock is an understatement. After wages, taxes, insurance, and other related expenses, the average annual expense is running at almost \$14,000.00, with barely \$3,000.00 in museum income from admissions and donations.

The initial decision of the board was to submit our 90-day notice to not renew the annual agreement. We had 90 days to send a notice of non-renewal. The board did not want to renew the agreement out of concern that we could be stuck for another year of management and the expense.

At the same time, the board had begun reviewing the organization's strategic plan. While management of the museum has not been included in the plan, it is recognized as one of our "committees." The question was: what does managing the museum have to do with historic preservation, which is our mission? Thus, a two-month discussion ensued about what is our mission and about the cost of managing the museum. That's \$14K that we could be using for assisting with historic preservation around the state.

Part of the management agreement is that the MOA and AAHP work together on a fundraising event. To be honest, very little has been done as far as an actual fund-raising campaign. That doesn't mean that AAHP hasn't been raising funds. Admittedly, it is a lot of work to host fundraisers when you have limited help. The MOA also have limited time and staff. Last year that clause was withdrawn by the MOA for their part and it is not in the current management agreement.

Ruth Anderson Burgess, Oscar's daughter, donated over \$40,000 several years ago to be set up as an endowment fund to help with future maintenance. Only a percentage of the funds can be used and only for maintenance.

In addition, Donna Burgess, Oscar Anderson's granddaughter, has contributed funds. Others have also donated to the endowment fund in the past. While AAHP monitors the funds, we are not allowed to access the funds. Only the MOA has authorization.

While there have not been fundraisers in some time, that does not mean that AAHP has not been contributing to the management of the museum. All expenses have come from our bank account. The MOA has covered utilities, maintenance/repairs as needed at the house, and grounds maintenance by the Parks and Recreation Department. While fundraising events have not been held over the past several years, each party has contributed in some way to the operational costs.

The major expense has been the wages of the part-time museum staff. That amounts to \$8,000-\$9,000, plus payroll taxes, insurance costs, etc. Volunteers would be great but it's been hard to recruit volunteers committed to being there. The museum has set hours that must be covered. Volunteers would allow us to be open 7 days a week during the summer.

Over the past few years, AAHP has received grant funds to work on projects at the museum. That includes:

Alaska State Museum Grant: New security system (\$2000 grant AAHP match cash \$400) that replaced the aging system in place that was failing. It covers the potential for flooding in the basement, window breakage (break in or extreme freezing weather), and panic alarms for the office and museum staff to use in case of an emergency.

CAP grant (\$7900 which was matched by: **Alaska State Museum** \$2145.46, **AAHP** \$5,614.25 cash/in-kind, and **MOA** \$330.59 in-kind) that provided a 66-page report on the museum's collection and the building. There were recommendations made for the collection and the building by the experts. Some of which has been accomplished with more to be done:

•**Museum Collection** moved from Excel Worksheets to PastPerfect so that it is searchable. Funded by **Museums Alaska Grant** (\$8,870 AAHP match

of \$2,000 cash/in-kind. Cost of PastPerfect software \$656.00 annually covered by the grant during 2021 and now covered by AAHP. The collection has also been assessed for potential repairs. While there were 800 Excel worksheets, it was discovered that there were more than 200 additional items in the museum that were not recorded. They have been added to the database increasing the collection to over 1,100 items.

•**Cleaning up the shrubs, bushes, trees, etc.** next to the building. The overgrowth was trimmed back considerably by the Parks and Rec crew last Summer and Fall 2021 once they understood what was needed. Trees and shrubs growing against the building damage the house. This 2022 Summer season a large tree near the office front door was removed as its base was rotten and in danger of falling against the house. Ongoing landscaping continues by the Parks and Rec crew to maintain the grounds through the MOA.

•**Replace carpeting on stairs:** The carpeting on the stairs has become thread-bare and a danger to visitors. It was recommended to replace it. AAHP contacted four local carpet dealers in town to come look at the carpeting and give a quote for replacing and installation. None of the companies could find a match. AAHP found a close match and ordered the carpeting. We are waiting for an installer to do the actual removal of the old carpeting and installation of the new carpeting.

As you can see, AAHP has generated \$21,915.46 in grant funds over the past few years with a match of cash and in-kind from AAHP in the amount of \$5,524.79.

Our agreement provides that any expense over \$500.00 is covered by the MOA. Anything under that amount is our responsibility. We had some minor plumbing issues this year. A local plumber was gracious to make the repair at no charge.

There are still projects to be accomplished as outlined in our CAP grant report. We will continue to apply for grants as they become available. Some of the projects are:

•A major repair that needs to be done is replacing the shingle **roof**. The MOA plans to replace it with a metal roof because it is less expensive. The board feels that it needs to be replaced with what has been there since the building is on the National Register of Historic Places. We are willing to seek the necessary funds to make sure that the Oscar Anderson House is presented as it was built back in 1915. This is important.

•Pest control has been an ongoing priority for the past three years. We have that under control because we have stayed on task by having this done every year. We received a great report this Spring that there were no insects and no furry critters. We are very diligent about our no food and drink policy at the museum which also helps. We don't leave trash in the building.

•The sump pump in the basement needs to be removed once we are assured that there will not be any further flooding. Meanwhile, our security system monitors for this and will send an alert to our security people.

•Priority projects are: Replacing the window shades as they are aging. Curtains/Draperies need to be assessed and

cleaned or replaced. UV filters for all of the windows to keep the sunlight from fading furnishings due to the light is an expensive project. But it is important.

Our decision: After two months of discussion the board elected to notify the MOA that AAHP would like to renew the management agreement for at least one year. We felt that we owed it to the house and to the Anderson family as well as the community to work on how to make this feasible to cover expenses and still be able to support our mission of historic preservation. We have also had phone conversations and met virtually with Donna Burgess to discuss the situation. She has been very concerned and supportive.

AAHP is working on a more realistic business plan that will cover the major costs of managing the Oscar Anderson House Museum.

In the end the board answered its own question: What does managing the Oscar Anderson House Museum have to do with historic preservation? Answer: It is a unique treasure that belongs to Anchorage and by continuing to being the stewards of the property, we are fulfilling our mission of protecting historic properties. We have a lot of work to do before May 31, 2023.

Some of the things being considered:

- Set up an endowment fund of at least \$10,000 in seed money to be matched by donations. A percentage of the funds would be available to cover the expenses.
- Form a Friends of the Oscar Anderson House Museum to generate a group of volunteers to keep the museum open 7 days a week during the summer and possibly selected hours during the rest of the year. This group would also assist in fundraising.
- Instead of Friends group, add board members to work with the Oscar Anderson House Museum.
- Look at potential merchandise to sell at the museum to raise additional funds. However, there isn't room for a large gift shop.
- Start using paid advertising in print and online to promote the museum. Social media isn't enough. Continue using Visitor Center leads, distribute rack cards printed by the MOA, brochures, website and Facebook.
- Develop events that could be held in Elderberry Park, in the street in front of the house, or small events inside the house.
- The Annual Swedish Christmas Open House has been a popular event for over 30 years. This event could be an annual fundraiser.
- Continue to apply for grants to handle repairs and cover needed projects. As the house ages more repairs and/or restoration will be needed. These large ticket items will require budgeting by the MOA with the assistance of AAHP.
- Partner with organizations or businesses for fundraising events during the year. Potential to share proceeds.
- We have a very long list!

Making sure that the Oscar Anderson House Museum lives another 100 years is our goal whether we continue as the stewards or the MOA looks for someone to replace AAHP as the stewards.

We appreciate the support that we have received from you.

In This Corner...

It has been a pretty stressful few months as we joined many others in a final fight to stop the demolition of the **4th Avenue Theatre**. We join others in mourning the loss of the theatre. No doubt what hurts the most is up until May 2022, Peach Investments kept telling everyone that the theatre would be restored. Most of us believed that they would honor their words.

We learned that we must keep our ears to the ground and our eyes wide open to make sure that something like this doesn't happen again. This can happen anywhere in Alaska; not just in Anchorage. We must be vigilant and we must make our voices heard if this is not to happen again.

Mark Thiessen, AP Reporter, covered the story which went viral across the country in newspapers, TV, and radio. Not the way we wanted to make news. *Preservation Magazine*, published by the National Trust for Historic Preservation, will publish a similar article about the theatre in their October 2022 issue. They have a national and international following.

Documentation of the MOA agreement and more can be found online at: <http://friendsofthe4thavenuetheatre.org>

While we start on sad news, there is a lot of happy news happening around the state by others who take their stewardship of historic properties seriously.

The **Ascension of our Lord Chapel** church at Karluk is still awaiting approval of a land transfer so that it can be moved to its final location. Meanwhile, we have reports that the roof is being replaced and the bell tower is being reinforced. That way the church is protected against the elements. Funding is being sought for the pending move and continued restoration efforts.

The **SS Nenana**, located at Pioneer Park at Fairbanks, is a valuable piece of Alaska history. Funding of restoration has not come to the level of the expense of restoration. But the Friends of the SS Nenana are not giving up. The Northstar Borough continues to be supportive of the restoration. Both groups are searching for funding. A recent article on the history of the vessel can be seen at: <https://tinyurl.com/2ys3hyb6>

The restoration work on the **Eldred Rock Lighthouse** that is located in Lynn Canal, in SE Alaska, continues.

Volunteers have been working to restore the National Historic Site located 17 miles south of Haines and 55 miles north of Juneau. They recently attained a milestone in their work. They have more to accomplish but they are dedicated. You can read a recent news story about their work at: <https://tinyurl.com/48t52769>

The **"Mug Up" Exhibit** at the Alaska State Museum in Juneau ends October 8, 2022. If you are traveling to Juneau be sure to take in the exhibit. A lot of Naknek Cannery History is on display. Closing celebration October 7-8. Help us celebrate the final weekend of the exhibition Mug Up: The Language of Cannery Work, at the Alaska State Museum in Juneau, Alaska. This special event honors the oft-forgotten men and women who plied the waters, preserved Alaska salmon, and provided valuable food to tables around the world. <https://tinyurl.com/44tv2sy8>

Join with **Kodiak History Museum** in supporting the repair of the **Russian American Magazin** building with a donation to the Historic Preservation Project. The generous support from our community makes the preservation of Kodiak's history possible. Their goal is to raise \$10,000 by September 24th.

As we head into Fall, we begin to plan for our annual meeting the first Thursday in November. We are seeking new **board members** to fill three vacancies. If you have an interest in historic preservation or even the Oscar Anderson House Museum, we would love to chat with you about joining our board. Information on joining our board is available online: <https://alaskapreservation.org/>

Nominations for our **15th Annual Historic Preservation Awards** will also be accepted. This is our opportunity to honor those who strive to protect historic properties in Alaska. Who do you think should be honored for their passion for historic preservation? Deadline for nominations for the board and Historic Preservation Awards is October 1, 2022. <https://alaskapreservation.org/>

Trish

Trish Neal, President
Preservation Alaska



Here Are Ways to Support Our 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/vd5ozige>

• **Learn About** the 2022 Eleven Most Endangered Historic Properties in Alaska!

<https://tinyurl.com/bdct5uu7>

• **Donate** to our Ten Most Endangered Historic Properties Grant Program <https://tinyurl.com/y6u8mjfs>

• **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 local leaders and your mayor to promote the importance of Historic Preservation in your community.



Anchorage and Alaska's "Penn Station" Moment

The 4th Avenue Theatre was listed on the National Register for Historic Preservation 40 years ago. While it was designated as a state and national significance, this still does not prevent the owners from demolishing the theatre. A complete history is available [online](#).

Peach Investments is aware of the [resources](#) available to them for [preserving](#) and restoring the theatre. To date, they have chosen not to utilize the sources. No doubt because alterations came with strings attached.

Years ago the bond measure failed. There wasn't much promotion of it and there was not the threat of demolition of the theatre at that time. If the vote were held today, it's possible the outcome would be different. Then, the associated funding package fell apart. There've been offers to raise the funds that Peach ignored. We've been told that there've been offers to purchase the building over the past 13 years which were also ignored.

Peach Investments wasn't willing to negotiate a sale, accept resources, or donations towards restoration. Without government intervention the building was a loss. The theatre, in essence, has been held hostage.

Surprisingly, there is a lot of support for the demolition from the Municipality of Anchorage (MOA) and local organizations that oversee the local downtown economic area. It was surprising considering the 4th Avenue Theatre is a popular attraction — even though it has sat vacant — as it brings locals and visitors to downtown. People love historic buildings and they spend money!

The MOA recently adopted their [plan](#) for the downtown area. The Anchorage Chamber of Commerce committee, RVSA, received their own [plan](#) with recommendations for the downtown area. The [RVSA](#) recommendations

were a perfect fit for saving the theatre. No one wanted to listen. Even the recent visit by consultant [Roger Brooks](#) noticed the theatre and commented on it.

A Historic American Building Survey ([HABS](#)) is being developed through the National Park Service. It will document the building with blue prints and photographs. This will be submitted to the Library of Congress.

We need to work with our local Certified Local Governments ([CLG](#)), and local governments to make it more difficult to simply call in the wrecking ball. Recommendations by the [Alaska Historical Commission](#) should hold weight with the governor when local government fails to step in. The recommendations should not be ignored by the governor.

The 4th Avenue Theatre is Anchorage's and Alaska's "Penn Station" moment and it must not be repeated. That was the catalyst in New York that started the drive for historic preservation. <https://tinyurl.com/>



Ten Most Endangered Historic Properties Grant Program

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2022 EVENTS

September 2022

•**September 17, Oscar Anderson House** closes for the season and **Smithsonian Magazine's Museum Day** at Oscar Anderson House Museum. Free Admission. Check online for your favorite museum! Tickets available: <https://tinyurl.com/5x2wfuu8>

•**September 21-24, Museums Alaska** annual conference, *Transitions: Navigating Change and Moving Forward*. Will be held in Valdez and online. <https://tinyurl.com/35jcjx2u>

•**September 30**—DNR Grant application deadline. See page 8 for details.

October 2022

•**October 1, 2022 Nominations** for AAHP's Historic Preservation Awards are due.

•**October 1, 2022 Nominations** for AAHP Board are due.

•**October 6-8 and 13-15 Alaska Historical Society** annual conference, *Conflicting Visions in Alaska History*. Co-sponsored with Cook Inlet Historical Society. Anchorage online and in person. <https://tinyurl.com/yckhwct4>

•**October 20, 2022** — Katie Ringsmuth, Ph.D., Alaska State Historian, *Creating a "Humanities Community" with the National Register* **To register, contact Katie Ringsmuth at dnr.oha@alaska.gov**

November 2022

•**November 3, 2022 Preservation Alaska's Annual Meeting**. Check back for details. This will be a virtual meeting via Zoom.

December 2022

•**Annual Swedish Christmas Open House** at Oscar Anderson House Museum. First two weekends. Details to come.

*Do you have events to share?
Please send your event information to
AKPreservation@gmail.com
by December 1, 2022.*

Iditarod Historic Trail Alliance

Trail survey

The Seward Iditarod Trail Blazers is doing its annual trail use survey on the first mile of the Iditarod National Historic Trail. The survey will cover the last two weeks in June and the first two in July.

As of July 11, the most people on the Trail in a half-hour, 141, was on July 3 from 3:00 pm to 3:30 pm, 109 walking, 24 biking, 3 on scooters, 3 running. 1 on a skateboard and 1 in a wheelchair. It was a beautiful sunny day.

The fewest on the Trail in a half hour was on July 7 from 3:00 pm to 3:30 pm, 16 walking. It was overcast with light rain.

Alaska Long Trail

Alaska Long Trail had mixed results with Gov. Mike Dunleavy's veto pen. Seven of the 15 projects passed by the Alaska State Legislature survived being cut. All are in the Anchorage area. All the eight projects outside the Anchorage area were vetoed.



The projects that survived the veto pen are: • Anchorage Park Foundation - Alaska Long Trail Anchorage to Mat-Su Reconnaissance Study \$300,000 • Anchorage Park Foundation - Alaska Long Trail Urban Braid -- Anchorage Moose Loop \$800,000 • Anchorage - Glacier Creek Bridge - Replacement for Hand Tram - Alaska Long Trail \$1,200,000 • Arctic to Indian Phase 1 Trail improvements - Alaska Long Trail \$20,000 • Crow Pass - Eagle River - Alaska Long Trail \$1,500,000 • Peters Creek Upper Trail & Bridge - Alaska Long Trail \$30,000 • Turnagain Arm Trail Maintenance and Extension - Alaska Long Trail \$370,000.

Alaska Archives

The National Archives and Records Administration is plugging away on digitizing Alaska's federal records housed in Seattle according to Senator Lisa Murkowski. Although the COVID pandemic slowed the Administration's ability to digitize Alaska's records,

Senator Murkowski says the agency has promised that the records will be fully digitized and posted on a platform that is easily found and searchable.

The Senator also says the National Archives and Records Administration remains dedicated to maintaining a National Archives facility in the Pacific Northwest to house these valuable federal records and preserve public access to them.

From the past...

Iditarod Pioneer July 10, 1915

IDITAROD'S CELEBRATION

Monday, July 5, the day dedicated to the celebration of Independence Day in Iditarod because of the glorious Fourth falling on Sunday, opened with threatening weather in every promise of impending storm. The fact that there was also a celebration at Flat City on that day accounted for the attendance from the creeks being small and the morning hours gave little indication that a celebration was in progress. However, as the day wore on the holiday spirit made its appearance and a program was carried out that was enjoyable in every way and the day closed with a dance that was generally admitted to being more than compensated for prior disappointments.

The trap shooting in the forenoon at the grounds of the Iditarod Gun Club was sparsely attended and the contests were a disappointment from the standpoint of numbers. Other contests were held during the early evening.

At 1:00 o'clock, the hour set for the patriotic exercise in the Arctic Brotherhood Hall, but a small audience gathered to listen to the speakers and Chairman Stanton after consulting with other members of the committee, announced that portion of the day's program would be cancelled, as he thought it would be unjust to Judge Bunnell and Mr. Roth to expect them to make patriotic addresses to such a small audience. The latter gentleman took the apologies of the committee in good part. It is possible that the hour selected for exercises was an inconvenient one for many families, being so near the customary midday mealtime.

Continued on page 7



TRAIL ■ STORY ■ STEWARDSHIP

The sports program was carried out as per the program, and resulted in much merriment, even though the contestants were few and no records were broken.

The 100-yard dash was won by Ernest Beattie, with Ray Henderson second. E. Golden undoubtedly would have won this event but for an unfortunate fall a few feet from the tape.

The ladies' race was won by Mrs. Landerking, with Mrs. Charles Larson second.

The old men's race was won by Bill Leonard with a wonderful burst of speed, beating out Frank Larson, a much younger man, who was supposed to be acting as pacemaker. Tom Willett was second.



The boys' race was won by Raul Taylor with Donald McDonald second and Russell Lynden Graham third.

The nail driving contest for ladies was one of the most interesting events of the series and was participated in by eight ladies. The first prize was won by Mrs. Landerking, with Mrs. Beattie a close second.

The race for little girls was won by Beatrice Atwell, who was given a considerable start over her opponents. Florence McGibney was second and Sigrid McDonald third.

The contests on First Avenue wound up with a mule race, in which there were three contestants. As usual, this event proved to be a mirth provoking one. The riders were Earl Byers, Ray Henderson and Bert Thorson. It took four heats to decide the event, each rider having won one heat when the final was called. In this heat Ray Henderson's mount refused to go under the wire and Byers, by the exercise of great tact and gentle urging succeeded in inducing his racer to finish and win the money. The launch race had three entries.

The course was from the city dock to

the sawmill down the river to the cold storage barge and back to the dock. It was a walk a way for J. H. Rogers and his Jolly Roger, with Paul Keaton second.

The canoe race, participated in by Frank Larson and Ernest Beattie, Gene Norton and Paul La Plant, and Bert Thorson and Al Chaplin, developed a serious aspect when Beattie taking an extra-long sweep with his paddle, dived headlong into the river, upsetting the canoe and dumping Frank Larson also into the river. It was reported that Beattie could not swim, and numerous boats headed for the scene of the accident, but outside of Beattie swallowing more water than he was used to, no effects resulted. The race was won handily by Norton and La Plante.

The water tournament proved to be an amusing feature. Canoes manned by two men were opposed to each other. One occupant of the canoe was armed with a canvas covered broom with which he endeavored to tilt his opponent into the river while his shipmate paddled. After sparring around for several minutes, Byers took a header into the river, and Henderson and Norton were declared the winners.

This ended the day's sports. A swimming contest had been scheduled, but those who tested the temperature of the water in the canoe events discouraged the swimmers by the report. A greased pole climbing contest had also been planned, but this also was abandoned during to lack of entries.

By great good luck, Professor Drapeau received on Saturday last a new supply of films and was able to carry out his portion of the program with an excellent moving picture show. The hall was comfortably filled, and the new pictures gained approval from the adults and screams of laughter from the kiddies.

After the picture show the hall was cleared and dancing commenced around 10:30. The music was furnished by Messers. Hudson and Lowrie and was pronounced most satisfactory by the dancers.

The dance was well attended and lasted until 2 o'clock, when the tired participants left for home. Altogether the Fourth of July celebration in that Iditarod this year was an enjoyable occasion, in spite of its discouraging start.



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 (ARC) 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
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Newsletters online!

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



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of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR MIKE DUNLEAVY

Department of Natural Resources

DIVISION OF PARKS AND OUTDOOR RECREATION
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Historic Preservation Development & Pre-Dev Grant Applications

The Office of History & Archaeology is accepting grant applications for historic preservation development and pre-development projects in Alaska. All projects would need to be completed by December 15, 2023.

The Historic Preservation Fund (HPF) grant program provides up to 50 percent matching assistance for the cost of a development or pre-development project. The maximum federal share for this reimbursable grant program is \$50,000. Development grants are for rehabilitation of Alaska buildings and structures listed in the National Register of Historic Places, individually or as contributing properties to a historic district. Pre-development grants are for Alaska buildings and structures on or eligible for the National Register.

The Office of History & Archaeology anticipates \$200,000 will be available to award to eligible projects. Pre-development requests are limited to \$3,500 minimum and \$15,000 maximum in matching assistance. Development requests have a \$10,000 minimum and \$50,000 maximum in matching assistance.

The application deadline is 4:00 p.m. on Friday, September 30, 2022. The application package with full details is available online at <http://dnr.alaska.gov/parks/oha/index.htm>.

If you have any questions about eligible projects or would like to discuss project ideas, please contact Maria Lewis at maria.lewis@alaska.gov or by telephone at 907-269-8717.



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR MIKE DUNLEAVY

Department of Natural Resources

DIVISION OF PARKS AND OUTDOOR RECREATION
Office of History & Archaeology
550 West 7th Avenue, Suite 1380
Anchorage, Alaska 99501-3561
Main: 907.269.8700

Preserve Alaska Grant Application

Alaska has a rich history preserved in archaeological sites, cemeteries, chapels, redoubts, roadhouses, fish camps, trails, villages, log homes, mining buildings, military bases, theaters, general stores, schools, courthouses, canneries, airstrips, and much more. These cultural and historic properties educate the public, protect the history therein, and are often interpreted as historical or cultural destinations that attract tourists and other visitors to their respective communities.

The Office of History and Archaeology is launching a new reimbursable grant program designed to encourage Alaskan communities to identify, interpret, designate, or rehabilitate special places that 1) convey important aspects of their unique heritage and 2) contribute to local tourism. Preserve Alaska Grants aim to encourage historic preservation at the local level by supporting heritage/cultural tourism programs and other preservation efforts that use historic assets to stimulate economic vitality and community revitalization.

To be considered for funding, all heritage tourism projects must relate to a historic property, such as a building, structure, object, site, or district. Encouraged eligible projects include, but are not limited to, heritage tourism walking tour signage, National Register nominations, and local heritage/cultural tourism preservation plans or surveys. This grant aims to help Alaska communities build the elements of a heritage tourism program and preserve the places that matter to them. Individuals, small businesses, nonprofits, local governments, state agencies, or Tribes are eligible to apply. All projects would need to be completed by December 15, 2023. The state grant program provides 50 percent reimbursement for the cost of the grant projects with documented match expenses or eligible in-kind services. Grants will be accepted in the following categories:

The application deadline is 4:00 p.m. on Friday, September 30, 2022. The application package with full details is available online at <http://dnr.alaska.gov/parks/oha/index.htm>.

If you have any questions about eligible projects or would like to discuss project ideas, please contact Maria Lewis at maria.lewis@alaska.gov or by telephone at 907-269-8717.

Annual Historic Preservation Awards Call for Nominations



Preservation Alaska (dba Alaska Association for Historic Preservation) seeks nominations for its 15th Annual Historic Preservation Award honoring excellence in historic preservation throughout Alaska.

This award honors excellence in historic preservation throughout Alaska by recognizing a project, organization, agency, or individual exemplifying the highest standards in Alaska preservation in different categories: Lifetime Achievement, Adaptive Use, Stabilization, Renovation, and Restoration Projects; and the Stewardship Award (Property Owners, Organizations, Firms and Governmental Agencies, and Individuals).

Two new categories were added last year:

The *Robert Mitchell Historic Architect Award* was created in honor of the late Robert Mitchell who passed away in 2021. Mitchell was a long-time member of Preservation Alaska and involved in various historic preservation projects. He worked as an architect for almost six decades. This award is specific to architects working on historic preservation projects.

Historic Advocacy has been added to the Stewardship Award which recognizes a person who advocated for funding and put the people together for a successful project but does not have historic preservation background.

The honoree(s) will be announced at the organization's annual meeting in November 2022.

Last year's recipients were: **Grant Crosby** — Anchorage/Robert Mitchell Historic Architect Award; **Treadwell Historic Preservation & Restoration Society** — Juneau/Organization/Adaptive Use Historic Preservation Award; **Howard L. Farley, Sr. and Juliana M. Farley** — Nome/Lifetime Achievement Award for Historic Preservation Advocacy; **Trish Neal** — Anchorage/Lifetime Achievement Award in Historic Preservation.

Instructions, eligibility criteria, and the forms to submit a nomination for the 2021 AAHP Historic Preservation Award can be found online at <https://alaskapreservation.org> or contact the organization via email for an electronic copy at AKPreservation@gmail.com. The deadline for all nominations is **October 1, 2022**.



CALL FOR AAHP BOARD OF DIRECTORS NOMINATIONS

Deadline for nominations is October 1, 2022

There are currently three vacancies to be filled.

WHAT IS THE ALASKA ASSOCIATION FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION (AAHP)? AAHP is a private, statewide, 501c3 non-profit corporation dedicated to the preservation of Alaska's prehistoric and historic resources through education, promotion, and advocacy. To achieve this mission of historic preservation in Alaska, AAHP maintains several internal and external committees, programs, and partnerships overseen by a Board of Directors and managed by Corporation staff. AAHP adheres to the principle that preservation of the built environment provides a vital link and visible reminder of the past, emphasizing the continuity and diversity of Alaska.

BOARD OF DIRECTOR PROFILE: Nominees should be at least eighteen years of age, live in Alaska, and have experience in one or more of these areas: Alaska history, Historic preservation, Public education, Media and public relations experience, Financial or organizational management of nonprofit organizations, and Parliamentary procedures/Legal expertise

Members should have an interest, knowledge, or professional qualifications in the areas of historic preservation, historic rehabilitation, archaeology, anthropology, or Alaska history, and the ability to work well in a group. In addition, the AAHP Board looks for members who are willing to commit time and energy to committee work and who exhibit sensitivity in making constructive critical judgments. To help reflect the diversity of the state, the AAHP Board considers geographic representation and cultural background when appointing board members. In addition, the organization seeks balance among the professional groups encompassed by historic preservation, such as practitioners, administrators, and educators.

Members are welcome to nominate themselves to run for any of the positions. Members of the board of directors must be a member in good standing.

Please consult our website <https://alaskapreservation.org> for the board packet. Nomination forms are due by **October 1, 2022**.

Your Donations Support Our 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

By Doris Thomas

Summer 2022 has been a busy one for Friends of Nike Site Summit. Volunteers have staffed eight bus tours, three private Nike veteran tours, and a hiking tour. Overall, more than 300 people got to visit Site Summit this summer. Huge

thanks to our tour volunteers, especially those who volunteered for 9-hour days on the two-tour days and several who showed up for every or nearly-every tour.

Evan Rowland has been instrumental in getting new siding up on the Launch Control Building. It has been pre-primed for easier painting next summer. "Our first on-site workday



The Launch Control Building with two sides finished in new siding. Contributions to FONSS helped fund this approximately \$10,000 project. (Photo by Evan Rowland)

this summer was late June – as always is the case due to a snow-blocked road leading to Site Summit." Rowland said. "July was a tough month to get much done due to the Fourth of July holiday, quite a few of us getting Covid, and the rainy season starting way too early."

"Our two major goals for the year were to add more lights to the launch bunker and put new siding on the Launch control building," Rowland said. Unfortunately, the siding crew needed the new scaffolding FONSS had purchased at exactly the same time as the electrical crew, so the electrical volunteers allowed the siding crew use it first. It looks like the lighting project may be deferred to 2023.

"Our first day of working on the siding was July 23 with the electrical

crew doing the work. The project stalled for a couple weeks while several key volunteers fought off Covid. On Aug. 9, Gordy Heinen, Ken Ayers and Rowland got the new scaffolding erected and got serious about the new siding project. "Gordy and Ken, two old hockey friends, acted like they had been putting up siding together their whole lives,



FONSS volunteers Erik Otness, left, and Joe Fleischer, right, repainted the water tank outside of the Launch Control Building on July 9, 2022. (Photo by Doris Thomas)

Rowland said.

"We worked together three days the first week, and on the following Saturday Dan and Sharon Winter, Joe Davis, Doug Ruhl and Brianna Tittle helped with the siding. The siding installation is complete, but not the painting as of Sept. 1. We have ended up working in the rain every day except one on this project. The siding project



FONSS volunteers Dan Winter, Doug Ruhl, Sharon Winter, Joe Davis and Brianna Tittle braved the rain Aug. 20 to put up siding on the Launch Control Building. (Photo by Evan Rowland)



John McLelland, who served at Site Summit as a missile crewman, 1958-1960, poses with the Site Summit commemorative plaque during a tour with his family on Aug. 3, 2022. The tour also included the family of Nike vet Norman Kalina, who served as a cook at the site, 1962-64. Kit Bernardi, a reporter for 'Veterans Affairs' and two of her family members also accompanied the tour. (Photo by Doris Thomas)

really needed to be done, it looks good and hopefully lasts a long time.”

Extreme weather conditions at the site have resulted in the need for a few good work parties next summer to again paint the kennel and two of the



Clint Knorr, former Army MP dog handler at Site Summit, points out the location of his barracks room 55 years ago during a tour on Aug. 21. (Photo by Doris Thomas)

sentry stations. We have gotten some enthusiastic new volunteers this year to assist with the tours and work projects, said Greg Durocher, FONSS Director.

FONSS has also lost some volunteers due to death, family complications, health issues and volunteer fatigue. “We are extremely grateful for all of the folks who’ve put Site Summit on their list of worthy causes for donating their time, talent and treasure,” he noted.



Nike vet (and FONSS volunteer) Tom Namtvedt strikes a pose with fellow former Army MP dog handler, Clint Knorr, in the remains of the Battery Control Building at Upper Site Summit on Aug. 21. Namtvedt served at both Site Summit and Site Point, while Knorr, visiting from Minnesota, served at about the same time, 1967-68, at Site Summit. (Photo by Doris Thomas)

Follow **Friends of Nike Site Summit** on Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/NikeSiteSummit>

email us at fonss2007@gmail.com

or visit our Web site at www.nikesitesummit.net



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<https://historyhub.history.gov/welcome>

Past Excellence in Historic Preservation Award Winners

- 2021** Grant Crosby
Treadwell Historic Preservation & Restoration Society
Howard & Juliana Farley
Trish Neal
- 2020** Iditarod Historic Trail Alliance (IHTA)
Fraternal Order of Alaska State Troopers
- 2019** Janet Matheson
Katie Ringsmuth/<NN>
Doris Thomas/FONSS
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 & Darrin Hamming
- 2012** No Award Given
- 2011** Mary Flaherty
- 2010** FONSS
Erin & Falene Reeve
- 2009** Don Corwin
Steve Peterson
- 2008** No info available
- 2007** Edwin Crittenden, FAIA
Katharine Crittenden
Sam Combs, AIA
Elayne Janiak



OAHM Grounds Maintained this Summer by Parks and Rec Dept.

This summer Parks and Rec grounds crew removed a tall tree that was rotted out at the base. There was a concern that if it fell, it could hit the roof of Oscar Anderson House Museum or cause other damage. (Top two photos) The bottom left photo shows how the pathway to the office was overgrown from last summer. The top right photo shows the cleared pathway. We are fortunate to have blooming shrubs near the front of the house (bottom right photo). Future plans call for native plants to be installed in the flower beds (middle photo).



AGBANY and The Birth of the Modern Day Historic Preservation Movement

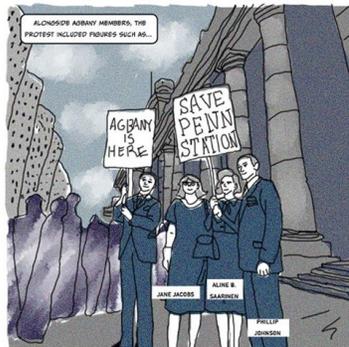
(AGBANY)

Published on May 4, 2021



The demolition of Penn Station is loosely understood as the birth of the modern day preservation movement based in activism. It only seems fit to frame this event by those who led the movement in this catalyst event, AGBANY. The Action Group for Better Architecture

in New York, was an informal activism group formed by around 25 architects and preservation-minded individuals outraged with the proposed demolition of Penn Station. This organization had highly acclaimed voices such as Mies Van Der Rohe, Phillip Johnson and Jane Jacobs on their side. This



graphic novel chronicles these events in a creative medium. This project will be completed in May of 2021 for an American Architecture graduate course at UT Austin.

https://issuu.com/sydneyandrealanders/docs/agbany_final

Visualizing the History of Place Through Comics and Graphic Novels

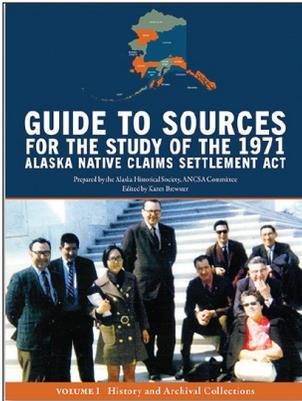
After standing for many years, historic buildings and places collect stories and tales that lay hidden in their walls, ready to be told. For those that do not survive the tests of time, who is there to tell their story, and without a physical structure, how? Often these tales are cinematic, encapsulating every range of emotion, so what better way than a graphic novel to depict their stories than in a visually descriptive medium?



<https://tinyurl.com/2p8fcfcs>



ALASKA HISTORICAL SOCIETY Comprehensive guide to landmark Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act



The first-ever comprehensive guide to historical sources about the landmark Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) has been completed by the Alaska Historical Society (AHS).

The three-volume, nearly 1,200-page Guide to Sources for the Study of the 1971 Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act identifies the vast majority of documents in existence about the historic claims act legislation located in archives, libraries, personal collections and online from Alaska to Washington, D.C. It serves as the premier information gateway for researchers, historians and those interested in the fascinating history of how the largest land claims settlement in U.S. history became law.

The AHS spent more than two years identifying documents about the act and detailing where they are located and how they can be accessed. The project unearthed numerous fascinating “gems” leading to passage of the act, such as:

- A 20-page report about the first statewide meeting of Alaska Native leaders in Anchorage in 1966 that laid the groundwork for establishment of the Alaska Federation of Natives.
- A 1970 speech by President Nixon on Indian policy in which he called for a new approach to the federal treatment of Native Americans, a historic change from termination to self-determination.
- A speech by Dr. Henry Forbes, whose financial backing helped establish the Tundra Times and who worked with Howard Rock, the newspaper’s founder and editor.

“The Alaska Historical Society has produced a valuable resource guide to the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act,” said Tlingit elder and land claims activist Irene Rowan, who also served in Washington, D.C., in the 1970s as special assistant for Alaska programs to the Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs in the U.S. Department of the Interior. “This tool is important to those wishing to learn who was involved—why, how and who benefited. The guide will be useful in so many ways for so many people for many years to come. I commend and thank the AHS for taking on this mammoth and important project.”

“ANCSA was a major turning point in the history of Alaska Natives and their relationships to local, state and federal governments,” said Chuck Smythe, senior ethnologist with the Sealaska Heritage Institute. “This invaluable sourcebook provides a guide to primary and secondary sources for understanding what led to this act and its aftermath, which is still unfolding across the state.”

The guide is a fully searchable and navigable electronic PDF document available online.

Access the complete guide at the Alaska Historical Society’s webpage: www.tinyurl.com/ANCSAGuide

Access the complete guide at Scholarworks, a digital repository for University of Alaska research: www.tinyurl.com/ANCSAGuideUA

Essential funding for the project came from Alaska Native regional corporations including Doyon, Sealaska, Calista, Bering Straits and Koniag, as well as from the Rasmuson Foundation and the Atwood Foundation.

Contact William Schneider, project director, at wschneider@alaska.edu



Anchorage Museum Archives

Images in the collection capture moments of activity in and around the 4th Avenue Theatre, including documentation of the interior art and craftsmanship. Want to see more? You can search for digitized images of the theatre through their Archive Image Search tool on their website:

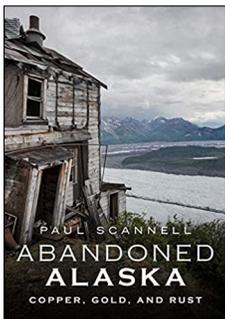
<http://archives.anchoragemuseum.org/>

The 4th Avenue Theatre, circa 1952.

If you have memories or stories about the theatre, they would love to hear them! Image credit: Ward W. Wells Collection, Anchorage Museum, B1983.91.S1305.1

Did you know the Anchorage Museum has an archive of **recorded programs** for you to enjoy? Many of the virtual offerings are available to stream now on Crowdcast. Explore their catalog of virtual programming by visiting crowdcast.io/anchoragemuseum

Abandoned Alaska: Copper, Gold, and Rust (America Through Time)



Paperback – Illustrated, June 29, 2020 by Paul Scannell (Author)

Completed in 1911, the Copper River Northwestern Railway allowed Alaska's mining industry to flourish. Copper and gold prospecting townships and camps spread rapidly in the following thirty years. Far-flung glacier-side bunkhouses and angling stations dotted the wild landscape, with workers coming from all around the world to seek their fortune. The sudden closing of the Kennecott copper mine in 1938 left many of these industrial and residential structures abandoned. Leaving with only what they could carry, the miners left plates on tables and sheets on beds. Preserved by their remoteness and Alaska's harsh freezing temperatures, the sites retain many of these precious artifacts. Most still lie where they were left, almost a century ago.

Podcast: <https://www.wrangells.org/paul-scannell>

Museum of the North Launches Adopt a Mammoth Program

The *Adopt a Mammoth* program is searching for sponsorships of an estimated 1,500 teeth, tusks, and bones in the University of Alaska Museum of the North's collection. A \$350 donation will pay for radiocarbon testing to date the fossil. The goal? Find the "youngest" mammoth. And the lucky sponsor of the "youngest" specimen will receive a special prize.

<https://tinyurl.com/3ymn5hzw>



TICKETS AVAILABLE NOW!

Free admission to participating museums across the country on Saturday, September 17, 2022 for Smithsonian Magazine's [#MuseumDay](#) Made possible by Quaker and Regent Seven Seas Cruises. Admission is for visitor and one guest. See link for details on program.

<https://tinyurl.com/5x2wfuu8>

Smithsonian magazine
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The most comprehensive database of funding sources available for historic preservation and restoration, cultural resource management, and the arts.

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