

PRESERVATION NOTES



A quarterly newsletter brought to you by
PRESERVATION ALASKA

ALASKA ASSOCIATION FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION

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

Winter 2022

Vol 40 No 4

Nike Missile Trainer Donation

Next up for FONSS: a Missile on Display

By Doris Thomas

Ever since our first tour guests peered into an empty bunker and we attempted to describe how the mighty 41-foot long Nike Hercules missiles would have looked, Friends of Nike Site Summit has had a dream to acquire a Nike-Hercules missile for display. After 12 years of our tour guides telling visitors that we hoped to eventually have a missile on-site, that eventuality has become a reality. In September, the Museum of Alaska Transportation and Industry donated the Nike-Hercules trainer missile that had languished in pieces on their property for over 40 years.

"It was a Herculean effort to transport the missile from Wasilla to Site Summit this fall," said Greg Durocher, FONSS director.

"The transition on Sept. 17th involved three donated trucks and a large contingent of volunteers from both MATI and FONSS. Once at Site Summit, we secured it from the elements to await restoration next summer. We owe a world of thanks to Alaska Demolition for donating their



The main missile cannister loaded up and ready to head to Site Summit on Sept. 17, 2022. When this photo was taken, the nose cone section had not yet been added to the rear of the trailer. (Photo by Mark Rice)

big semi and trailer to carry the biggest section; to Cliff Neal for driving that big rig; to Tom Namtvedt and Gordy Heinen for donating their flatbed trucks; and to all the folks at MATI,
Continued on page 10

15th Annual Historic Preservation Awards are Presented

Preservation Alaska announced the awarding of their 15th Annual Historic Preservation Award at their recent



Judith Bittner, was awarded the Lifetime Achievement for Historic Advocacy for her almost 40 years involved in historic preservation. (Contributed photo)

Annual Meeting held virtually on November 3. This is an annual award presented to individuals, agencies, or organizations that are recognized for their work in historic preservation in Alaska.

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See page 12 for Challenge Grant for the Oscar Anderson House Museum.



Celebrating Mushing History in Downtown Anchorage

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Banner by Bill Devine, 1992.

1. Anchorage Mushing District is now incorporated as a 501 c 3 non-profit organization with an 11-member board of directors. Jim Huettl is the president of the board.

2. Mayor Berkowitz issued a proclamation declaring 4th Ave from A to G Streets officially the Anchorage Mushing District.

3. This year in the revisions of the MOA master plan for downtown, it officially notes this area along with parts of 3rd Ave, the Mushing District on their revised maps.

The following items were completed as part of the MOA 2021 "Lighting and Signals upgrades" for 4th Ave from A to E Streets. This work will continue in future phases down to L Street:

Sign toppers were installed on all of the new 4th Ave street signs, stating Mushing District with a dog team on them.

Two parking spaces were eliminated on each side of 4th Ave and the sidewalks expanded to accommodate the future arch across 4th just west of D street. The start/finish line of the sled dog races.

Underground electrical service was installed for the lighting on the future arch.

178 bronze engraved dog paws (5" dia) and husky head silhouettes (7" dia) were installed in the sidewalks in four locations two on each side of 4th Ave, both East and West of D Street.

5. They received a grant from the Atwood Foundation for \$12,000 to start historic research and to construct one of the 15 or more interpretive signs they intend to install in the Mushing District.

6. They received a \$5,000 grant from MOA under the Mayors grant application to continue work on the construction documents for the arch.

7. They have completed 65% design and construction documents for the arch.

8. 230 bronze disks have been cast and engraved. 178 were installed by MOA and they have a building permit to install the rest this spring.

9. Items have been purchased or donated to their Mushing Hall of Fame located temporarily in the Fur Rondy shop on 4th and D Street. Some of



these items are racing dog sleds from George Attila and Doc Lombard, and two original paintings by Jon Van Zyle celebrating the history of sled dog use in Alaska and more.

A half dozen banners have been hung on the street light standards proclaiming this as the Mushing District, more will be hung each year.

A current event they have scheduled is called "Sled Dogs Downtown." This is the third year they have held this event coinciding with Fur Rondy to make people aware of their project and to raise funds. They cut out 16 full-sized plywood silhouettes of running sled dogs, and have well-known Alaskan artists each paint one and then they are displayed downtown in local businesses on Feb. 21st. They then have a scavenger hunt to locate them from February 24-26, 2023, and have an online auction of the dogs concluding on March 12, 2023.

They are in the process of creating a new web site, but in the meantime, people can find more information at AnchorageMushingDistrict.org

2022 Eleven Most Endangered Historic Properties

- 1 4th Avenue Theatre - Anchorage
- 2 Karluk Church - Karluk
- 3 Bishop Rowe Chapel - Arctic Village
- 4 Fort William H. Seward Hospital-Haines
- 5 Pilgrim Hot Springs - Nome
- 6 Hi Yu Stamp Mill - Fairbanks
- 7 Bristol Bay Boats - Naknek
- 8 Talkeetna Schoolhouse - Talkeetna
- 9 Eldred Rock Lighthouse - SE Alaska
- 10 SS Nenana - Fairbanks
- 11 Pioneer Hall - Ketchikan



A Note from Vice President for Government Relations Shaw Sprague

Editors Note: There are a lot of changes happening in Washington, D.C. We need to be aware of what is happening and be more involved in protecting our history and culture. Read on...

I hope you had a wonderful Thanksgiving! I wanted to highlight several changes in Congress after the mid-term elections that will shape our advocacy work over the next two years.

Earlier this month, Americans returned to the polls to vote during the midterm elections. Democrats retained control of the Senate, although their margin of victory remains undetermined until the Georgia run-off race in early December. After a week of vote counting, Republicans clinched control of the House. A handful of races remain too close to call, but the Republican majority will be razor-thin entering the 118th Congress.

This divided Congress brings a wave of leadership changes. Rep. Kevin McCarthy (R-CA) was nominated by Republican colleagues to become Speaker of the House, but given his party's slim margins, it is unclear whether he will have the necessary 218 votes come January 3. If he does win, he will have his hands full with a fractious party where every vote will prove critical. There are several committees in the House that are of particular importance in carrying out historic preservation activities. Key among them is the House Appropriations Committee, which will be chaired by Rep. Kay Granger (R-TX). Rep. David Joyce (R-OH) will head up the Interior Appropriations subcommittee that oversees funding for the National Park Service and the Historic Preservation Fund (HPF).

Jurisdiction over public lands legislation and authorization for the Historic Preservation Fund (HPF) is governed by the House Natural Resources Committee. Rep. Bruce Westerman (R-AR) will chair this committee, with Rep. Russ Fulcher (R-ID) leading the subcommittee on National Parks, Forests, and Public Lands. This committee will play a central role in reauthorizing the HPF before the end of the fiscal year next September. The committee is expected to scrutinize the Biden Administration's energy and natural resource policies. Representative Westerman has already called for a closer look at the recently passed Great American Outdoors Act's funding distribution to deferred maintenance projects across the National Park Service. Chair of the powerful Ways and Means Committee in the 118th Congress, important for its jurisdiction over the Historic Tax Credit, remains a tight three-way contest between Jason Smith (R-MO), Vern Buchanan (R-FL), and Adrian Smith (R-NE).

House Democrats, who will be back in the minority for the first time since 2019 come January, are also undergoing major leadership changes, with Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-



CA), Majority Leader Steny Hoyer (D-MD), and Majority Whip James Clyburn (D-SC), stepping away from their leadership posts. It is anticipated that Reps. Ha-keem Jeffries (D-NY), Kathleen Clark (D-MA), and Peter Aguilar (D-CA) will assume the top three Democrat leadership positions in the House.

Senate leadership will see fewer changes, with Senator Chuck Schumer (D-NY) remaining as the Majority Leader. The powerful position of Senate Appropriations Chair will be vacated by retiring Senator Pat Leahy (D-VT), and Senator Patty Murray (D-WA) is the current frontrunner. If this is the case, the 118th Congress will usher in the first time the "Four Corners" of appropriations, a reference to the Chair and Ranking Members in the House and Senate, will all be women. The National Trust's Government Relations team is working to strengthen relationships with these offices and elevate the policy priorities of the historic preservation field.

While a divided Congress seems ripe for roadblocks and conflict, there will be opportunities for collaboration. Historic preservation benefits from strong bipartisan support, and finding common ground to advance preservation priorities will be the critical ingredient for success over the next two years.



Shaw Sprague
Vice President for Government Relations at the
National Trust for Historic Preservation,
policy@savingplaces.org

In This Corner...

This has been a busy year for us. It has been exciting! It has been stressful at times. It has been a chance to learn new things. Sadly, it has been a year of saying good-bye to good friends and an iconic historic building. Who would have ever believed that the 4th Avenue Theatre would be destroyed, and the historic landscape of downtown Anchorage would be changed forever! We have a lot to do in the coming years to make sure that this does not happen again.

We are presently updating our five-year strategic plan. We are also working towards growing the size of our board to eleven members because we have lots to do, and it will take a larger and active board to accomplish our goals. One goal is to hire an executive director within the next two years.

Historic Preservation Month is celebrated during May. We kick off the month by announcing that year's *Ten Most Endangered Historic Properties* list. This year, we had eleven properties. It was that important to us to include that one extra property this year. We hosted several events during May. SavingPlacesAlaska.com

Preservation isn't just about saving historic places. It's also about fighting for policies and funding that protects historic and cultural resources, promotes economic recovery, creates jobs, and provides essential assistance to businesses and developers who are looking to rehabilitate historic structures.

With the loss of the 4th Avenue Theatre, it is more important than ever to seek changes locally and statewide. This was our "Penn Station" moment in Anchorage and in Alaska. We cannot afford to continue to allow our history and culture to end up as demolition by neglect and have the property owner rewarded for it. (See video: <https://tinyurl.com/mrx79erk>)

Each year we award a \$2,500 matching grant to one property on the current year's Ten Most Endangered Historic Properties list. Donations and sponsorships to this program support the grant program. We appreciate the continued support of this program from these businesses and individuals. See page 5 for 2022 award.

We continue to advocate for legislative priorities via our membership in **Preservation Action**, including increased funding for the Historic Tax Credit. Meeting with our congressional

leaders virtually has been a terrific way to inform Congressman Don Young Senator Dan Sullivan and Senator Lisa Murkowski about the importance of funding historic preservation both nationally and locally, but to also inform them of what is happening here in Alaska and our needs. This year we also met on a museum level with our congressional leaders to talk about the needs of Alaska's museums. Sadly, Congressman Young passed away shortly after the meetings this year.

This coming March 13-16, 2023 I will again be hosting our annual **Historic Preservation Advocacy Day** meeting with our congressional leaders. Virtual meetings allow more people to participate. If you are interested in joining the team, please contact me for more information at AKPreservation@gmail.com.

American Alliance of Museums' Museums Advocacy Day 2023 will be held during February 27-28, 2023. We hope to be participating virtually again this year. A D.C. trip is expensive!

The *Oscar Anderson House* is in need of repairs and maintenance. As Stewards of the house for the past ten years, we have taken on the responsibility to seek grants, appropriations, and donations to make sure that the house is kept in good condition. Top priority is a structural assessment. See page 14 for information about the challenge grant offered to us for the Oscar Anderson House Museum.

Please check out our website and Facebook page. Perhaps you will find a project that you would like to support as a volunteer or as a donor...or even as a board member. Maybe you have a project that you would like to bring to us for assistance.

I hope that you will continue to support us because you know that *Preservation Alaska* is a trustworthy non-profit that has a 41-year track record of historic preservation advocacy. Your support will help us to continue our work to save more history and culture in Alaska. Thank you for your support! Membership application is on page 13 or sign up on our website: <https://tinyurl.com/bdhydcx4>



Trish Neal, President
Preservation Alaska
AKPreservation@gmail.com



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/bdhydcx4>

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

<https://tinyurl.com/bdct5uu7>

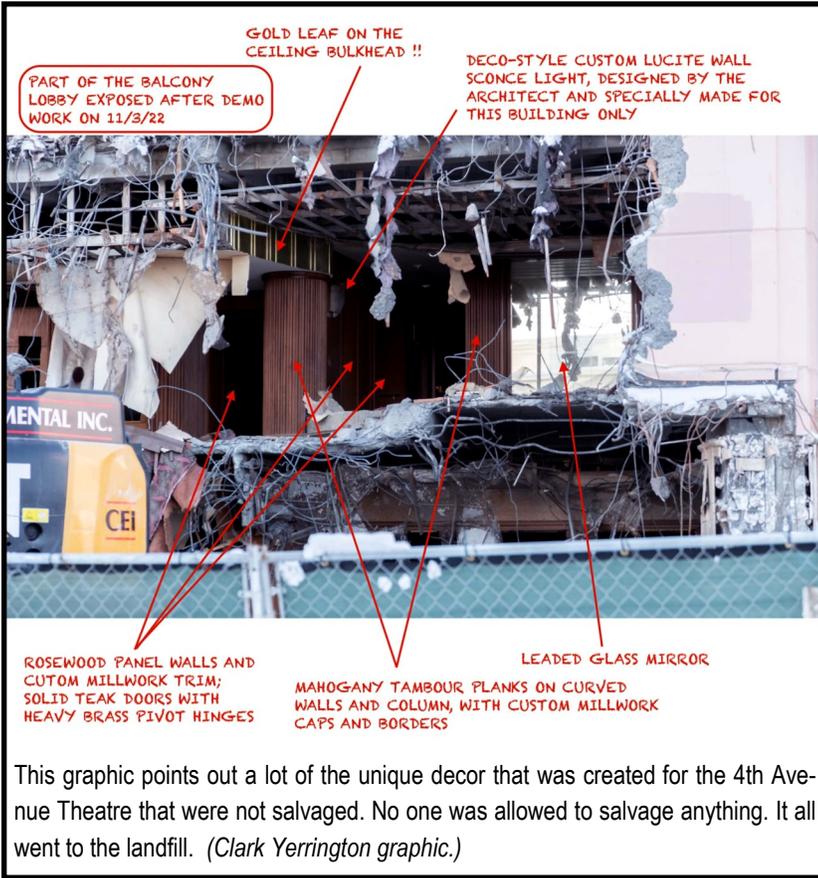
• **Donate** to our Ten Most Endangered Historic Properties Grant Program <https://tinyurl.com/y6u8mjfs>

• **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.





This graphic points out a lot of the unique decor that was created for the 4th Avenue Theatre that were not salvaged. No one was allowed to salvage anything. It all went to the landfill. (Clark Yerrington graphic.)

**Preservation isn't just about saving historic places.
It's also a catalyst for community revitalization.
Preservation is something we can only accomplish together.**

Endangered Historic Properties Grant Awarded

The Bristol Bay Historical Society will use the \$2,500 matching grant to support a property stabilization project that will offset their upcoming 2023 costs for moving and housing their historic wooden boat collection in a temporary indoor warehouse. This project is a significant steppingstone that will protect the collection while they continue work on a site development plan to aid in the construction of a permanent housing facility on their property.

The budget was designed to encompass phase one of a multi-phase project to permanently house the society's boat collection.

A temporary storage location has recently been secured and will aid in stabilizing the collection of fishing vessels.



Ten Most Endangered Historic Properties Grant Program

Celebrating 31 Years of the Ten Most Endangered Historic Properties Grant Program!

Deadline for 2023 sponsorships is December 31, 2022

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS!

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Grant Deadlines

National Park Service news NPS Grant opportunities:

The National Park Service is now accepting applications for the [Save America's Treasures](#) (SAT) grant program. The SAT program provides preservation and conservation assistance to nationally significant historic sites and collections. \$26.5 million will be competitively awarded. A dollar-for-dollar, non-Federal match, is required, this can be either cash or documented in-kind services. SAT is administered by the National Park Service (NPS) in partnership with the [National Endowment for the Arts](#) (NEA), the [National Endowment for the Humanities](#) (NEH), and the [Institute of Museum and Library Services](#) (IMLS). Preservation projects fund physical preservation of historic buildings, sites, structures, and objects. Collection projects include conservation of artifacts, museum collections, documents, sculptures, and works of art.

Applications are due December 20, 2022. To apply for funding for preservation projects go to opportunity number [P22AS00432](#) To apply for funding for collections projects go to opportunity number [P22AS00433](#) For more information about the SAT grant program: <http://go.nps.gov/sat>.

National Endowment for the Humanities news

The NEH Division of Preservation and Access offers grants of up to \$10,000 for preservation assistance for small and mid-sized institutions. The grant provides funding for preservation assessment, planning, supplies, and professional development. Organizations or collections that represent the contributions of underrepresented communities are encouraged. [Learn more.](#)

Deadline to apply for funding: January 12, 2023

*Do you have events to share?
Please send your event information to
AKPreservation@gmail.com
by March 1, 2023.*

Iditarod Historic Trail Alliance



Alliance membership dues for 2023 are due by the end of December. Renewal forms were sent with last month's newsletter. This is also a good time to upgrade your membership level.

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

Iditarod Pioneer November 25, 1911

EARL BYERS MAKES RECORD RIVER RUN

Earl Myers, who left here with 14 passengers for St. Michael on the launch Skwentna October 23, returned to Iditarod Wednesday last. According to the authorities at Russian Mission, his trip was the latest to be successfully completed in the 65 years of the mission's existence.

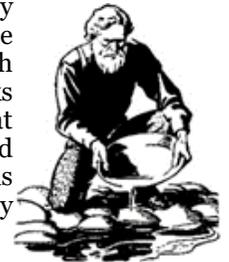


When Myers left Iditarod there were many who doubted his ability to make the journey so late in the year, but Myers himself was confident that the mild weather would hold, and he made the distance in less than five days. So unusual was the season, however, that he was an unable to obtain the services of Indian pilots, and as a consequence was compelled to lay over when darkness came on. In spite of these delays, St. Michael was reached in ample time for the passengers to have caught the Victoria, which did not leave Nome until two days later, October 29. But at Saint Michael another difficulty arose. Like the Indian pilots, the owners of the seagoing launches had mistrusted the weather. All their boats have been drawn up on the beach and there were unwilling to risk the journey across to Nome.

The passengers then got together the sum of \$1500 and offered the same to the Victoria if she would but call at St. Michael on her way out. But the captain would not listen to the proposal, stating that according to the terms of the ship's

insurance policy he had to be out of Bearing Sea by a certain date. Judge Murana was appealed to and also the ship's agents at Seattle without result. After a little delay the Duxbury agreed to call for the passengers, who were then enabled to proceed to Seattle without facing the hardships of the winter trail.

The trip down the Yukon and Innoko rivers was negotiated without mishap, but at Kotlik serious trouble was barely averted. In some unknown manner the gasoline caught fire and part of the vessel was in flames. Myers immediately beached the launch, but it was 15 minutes before the flames could be smothered by blankets. At one time it looked as though the whole works would go up, but that disaster was saved them. The launch was floated, and journey resumed.



No ice was seen except the little in the Iditarod and millions of wild geese were still to be seen at the mouth of the Yukon. The Bearing Sea was as smooth as glass.

The beach at St. Michael is said to resemble the Iditarod River as it was during the early summer, so many of the familiar boats being there. The whole of the Keystone outfit is in winter quarters at St. Michael, and so is the Dan, Swallow, Beaver, Skwentna and others.

Myers is very appreciative regarding the assistance rendered him at St. Michael by the government officials who not only placed the ways at his disposal, but also lent extra help to haul the boat out.

Myers left St. Michael for Iditarod by the winner route November 6. He is confident he could have brought the launch back to Dikeman had he so wished. The Yukon closed at Kaltag November 12.

Alternative Name Sought for Long Trail

Alaska Trails is looking for an alternative name for the Alaska Long Trail. Send suggestions to office@alaska-trails.org.

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Virtual Race Across Alaska

The Race Across Alaska Winter Challenge, a multi-sport challenge, is a great way to get outside while challenging yourself to stay happy and healthy during winter. And you will be helping to help build and maintain some of the best trails in the world. Here is how it works. You can run, walk, fatbike, indoor bike, XC ski, swim, or any activity you like. You can choose from eight different virtual distances “ from 60 miles to 2,000 miles, which is a whopping 22.3 miles per day.

The goal is to log as many miles as you can over the three months of winter to get (virtually) from location A to B. You can also participate as a team (friends, family, school). “ 60 miles = Anchorage to Whittier (0.7 miles/day) “ 125 miles = Anchorage to Sheep Mountain (1.4 miles/day) “ 235 miles = Anchorage to Denali National Park (2.6 miles/day) “ 350 miles = Anchorage to Delta Junction (3.9 miles/day) “ 500 miles = Alaska Long Trail, Seward to Fairbanks (5.6 miles/day) “ 800 miles = Denali Highway Loop (8.9 miles/day) “ 1150 miles = Historic Iditarod Trail (12.8 miles/day) “ 2000 miles = Ketchikan to Deadhorse (22.3 miles/day) You will have the ability to log your miles, track your progress, collect virtual badges and see how you rank compared to others on the leader board daily. You can invite others to this challenge to help you to stay motivated all winter long. Online registration began November 1, and the virtual race starts on Winter Solstice “ December 21. See the website for more details;

www.raawc.com/Race/AK/Anchorage/AlaskaChallenge



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 Trail Alliance
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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.

What to Expect as Congress Returns for the Lamé Duck Session

Following the midterm elections, current members are returning to Washington for the lame duck session of Congress that



will take us through the end of the year. Lawmakers have several priorities on their agenda, including "must pass" bills like the National Defense

Authorization Act (NDAA), and funding the government. The current Continuing Resolution is set to expire on Dec. 16th and Congress will likely start working on a year-end Omnibus spending bill. The House Interior Appropriations bill included \$171 million for the Historic Preservation Fund (HPF), while the Senate bill included \$191 million for the HPF. Preservation Action and other preservation advocates are urging lawmakers to support the Senate number, which would include much needed increases for State and Tribal Historic Preservation Offices and important grant programs. If lawmakers fail to reach an agreement they could pass another CR, maintaining current funding levels into the new year.

Preservation Action also continues to urge support for the Historic Tax Credit Growth and Opportunity Act ([H.R. 2294, S. 2266](#)), which would make several changes to expand and enhance the HTC. The HTC-GO Act has strong bipartisan support and is up to a record 103 cosponsors in the House and 14 in the Senate. We still see opportunity for the bill's provisions to be included as part of a potential tax extender or other year-end package. Urge your [Representative](#) and [Senators](#) to co-sponsor the HTC-GO Act today! [Learn more and take action!](#)

Preservation Action is also tracking permitting reform efforts during the lame duck session. There continues to be growing support to pass permitting reform. Sen. Joe Manchin (D-WV) led a push for permitting reform in September, but ultimately came up short in the face of bipartisan opposition. While the proposal in September did not specifically mention the National Historic Preservation Act or Section 106, it would have placed timelines on environmental reviews and limits on judicial review. If permitting reform

Continued on page 9

Historic Preservation Awards

continued from page 1

Awards were presented to an individual for Lifetime Achievement in Historic Preservation Advocacy, a project team for Adaptive Use of a Building, and Stewardship for ten years restoring a locomotive.

Judith Bittner, was awarded the **Lifetime Achievement for Historic Advocacy** for her almost 40 years involved in historic preservation. She has been the head of the Alaska Office of History & Archaeology and State Historic Preservation Officer since 1983.

Judy was a founder, leader, and promoter of the Iditarod Historic Trail Alliance, a board member and officer of the Cook Inlet Historical Society, the Alaska Association of Historic Preservation, Anchorage Historic Properties, and the Alaska Historic Society.

She has been active with national organizations including the National Council of State Historic Preservation Officers, the National Trust for Historic Preservation, and Preservation Action.

With the goal of protecting historic and archaeological resources, as the SHPO Judy has worked with many federal agency heads and program managers overseeing projects in Alaska.



Judith Bittner, Lifetime Achievement for Historic Preservation. (Contributed photo.)



The award, **Adaptive Use of a Building**, is for the new Anchorage restaurant, **Whisky & Ramen** located at 436 W. 4th Avenue.

The project team included owners **Nicole Cushack**

and **Jon McNeil**; architect **Daniel Clift**, **Determine Design**; and **Roger Rogness** and **Jeremy Ryan**, **DCI Engineers**.

Nicole Cusack and Jon McNeil purchased the building in 2016. The building dates back to the city's early days a century ago. Records indicate it was once the photography studio for famed Alaska



painter Sydney Laurence. First mayor of Anchorage, William Stolz, also had his business located in the building.

The owners brought the concept of an open building to architect, Daniel Clift, of Determine Design. DCI Engineers became a part of the team.

The biggest challenge was removing the ground floor and maintaining the structure of the building. The Municipality of Anchorage wanted certain changes to the building before the project would be approved.

The proposal was to use steel bracing in the dining area to hold up the building. That would take away from seating for the diners so that would not work for the restaurant. DCI Engineers came up with an alternative plan that was cost effective but also didn't change the existing historic structure by installing steel bracing horizontally.

Bricks used for the façade of the front of the building and inside the restaurant came from a fire station in Oregon that was demolished. The bricks were shipped up to Anchorage for use in the building, thus repurposing old brick. The result was a building that better blends in with the rest of the buildings on 4th Avenue by updating the façade of the building. The architect allowed for showing the cement forms used in the construction of the building. The project saved the building by the adaptive use concept rather than demolishing the building and starting new construction. <https://whiskyandramen.com/>

The purpose of **Stewardship award** is to recognize the **557 Restoration Company** for their ten-year milestone of working to restore the 557 Locomotive. The group still has a few years to go before they have completed the restoration. Preservation Alaska wanted to recognize the dedication of the volunteers for their work to restore the locomotive.



The project is dedicated to the restoration of the ex-Alaska Railroad steam locomotive

#557. The project was started in 2012, ten years ago. The project has been funded entirely, to date, with private funds and it is entirely operated with volunteers.

The organization has status reports on the project going back to 2012 when they first started on the project. The locomotive is being restored in Wasilla. Tours are available with advance arrangement. More information about the project is located on their website: <http://557.alaskarails.org/>

What is a Conservation Easement?

Ownership of a piece of property is often described as a “bundle of rights.” These rights include the right to occupy, use, lease, sell, and develop the land.

A conservation easement involves the exchange of one or more of these rights from the property owner (“the grantor”) to someone who does not hold title to the property (“the holder or grantee”).



Typically the rights granted to the holder are the right to restrict certain uses the owner otherwise has the right to exercise. All easement documents are individually crafted by the owner(s) and the Alaska Association for Historic Preservation adhering to the State of Alaska’s *Uniform Conservation Easement Act (AS 34.17)*. An easement is a legally binding covenant that is publicly recorded and runs with the property deed for a specific time or in perpetuity. Each easement is tailored

to the unique situations of each owner and property, and can therefore, vary as to what future uses are restricted.

A conservation easement grants to the holder certain rights regarding the use of the property for specified conservation purposes while the title to the property and all other uses of the property remain with the private property owner.

More information on our Conservation Easement Program is available at:

<https://tinyurl.com/mvrznpud> or contact us at AKPreservation@gmail.com

Preservation Action—Lame Duck Session

Continued from page 7

doesn't move in the lame-duck, it could again be a priority in the new Congress. Preservation Action will continue to monitor these efforts in the weeks and months ahead and urge Congress to avoid changes that undercut critical historic preservation protections.

Preservation Action is the only national non-profit dedicated exclusively to lobbying for the best preservation policies at the federal level. We seek to make historic preservation a national priority by advocating to all branches of government through a

Looking Towards 2023

◆ January 2023

- New board begins working for the future.
- Complete Strategic Plan Review & select committees.

◆ February 2023

- American Alliance of Museums’* Museums Advocacy Day held February 27–28, 2023.

◆ March 2023

- March 13-16 Historic Preservation Advocacy Week with Preservation Action.
- Deadline for Nominations for the 2023 Ten Most Endangered Historic Properties list. March 31, 2023.
- Pick. Click. Give. Deadline for PFD filing. March 31, 2023.

◆ May 2023

- Historic Preservation Month begins with the public announcement of the 2023 Ten Most Endangered Historic Properties List. April 30, 2023.
- Historic Preservation Month activities throughout the month of May.
- Ten Most Endangered Historic Properties Grant available for applications from 2023 list.

◆ August 2023

- Call for nominations for Historic Preservation Award nominees. (Suggestions are welcome throughout the year.)
- Call for Board of Directors nominations (if needed).
- Pick. Click. Give. Deadline to change PFD donation August 31.

◆ October 2023

- Ten Most Endangered Historic Properties grant application closes October 1, 2023.
- Nominations for Historic Preservation Award due October 1, 2023.
- Nominations for Board of Directors closes October 1, 2023.

◆ November 2023

- Annual Meeting November 2, 2023.

◆ December 2023

- Board meeting to review Strategic Plan as stipulated by the bylaws. Newly-elected board members invited.

Preservation Notes Newsletter Published Quarterly

March — June — September — December

Information for newsletter due 1st of the month before publication. AKPreservation@gmail.com

grassroots constituency empowered with information and training.

Links in the article:

<https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/house-bill/2294>
<https://actionnetwork.org/letters/alert-htc-go-act/>
https://actionnetwork.org/letters/htc-go-senate?source=direct_link&
<https://preservationaction.org/htc-go-alert/>

March 13-16 Historic Preservation Advocacy Week at Washington D.C. For more information go to preservationaction.org

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Friends of Nike Site Summit

Continued from page 1

especially Mike Kerr, Dick Sloan and Mike Pollock, who prepped the components and assisted with loading up at the Wasilla museum.”



At the time of the transfer, Dick Sloan, vice president of MATI said, “This transfer of ownership will allow this unique piece of historical equipment to be displayed and used for educational purposes in the appropriate setting at Site Summit.”

This training missile is the same as the ones that were used at Ft Bliss, Texas, to train soldiers going through Advanced Individual Training (AIT) for MOS 16B (Launcher Crewman



The missile booster strapped down on Gordy Heinen's truck ready for the haul to Site Summit. (Photo by Doris Thomas)

Nike Hercules Missile), said Nike veteran Lance Morgan. “Everything on the trainer is the same as the actual missile soldiers would see at their duty assignment. The warhead section has the training safety plug with a red ribbon attached. It also came with an arming plug with a green ribbon, and plugs to indicate surface to air and surface to surface. The booster had an inert igniter installed,” he added.



Tom Namtvedt watches as Mike Pollock loads fin sections onto his trailer for transport to Site Summit. MATI board member Mike Kerr (in orange vest) supervises. (Photo by Doris Thomas)

FONSS hasn't yet been able to look in the largest canister, which should have the rocket motor portion of the missile body. The smallest container has the guidance system (nose) along with the static probe. FONSS employed a forklift borrowed from Joint Base Elmendorf to move the larger containers from the trailers at Site Summit. Most of the



Gordy Heinen checks the contact between the forklift tines and the loading straps before the booster is lifted off his trailer at Site Summit. Lance Morgan, right, supervises. (Photo by Doris Thomas)

pieces are in the bunker except for the largest cannister, which is also the heaviest, and the rocket booster.

“We hope to get started assembling the missile by the end of June 2023,” said Evan Rowland, work party chairman for FONSS. “We will probably



Lance Morgan, Tom Namtvedt and Mark Rice observe as Cliff Neal pilots the forklift carrying the missile booster to the launch apron. The booster section and the main rocket assembly (large cannister at left) were left outside the bunker until reassembly begins in summer 2023. (Photo by Doris Thomas)

need a forklift to get the pieces gathered together, and then may use a chain hoist from the overhead beam trolley to assemble the pieces, some of which may weigh up to 3,000 pounds. Luckily, we have Lance, who use to do this exact same thing at Site Point 52 years ago.



Our first step will be to locate a missile cradle and if that doesn't happen, we will need to build one out of wood or metal. So, we have a lot of work to do and would appreciate any help from current or new volunteers," said Rowland. The missile is currently

Nike veterans Tom Namtvedt and Lance Morgan carry a tailfin to the bunker while volunteer Doug Ruhl uses a forklift to bring in the warhead section cannister. (Photo by Doris Thomas)

Painted Army "OD green," but FONSS plans to paint it white, the color of the missiles that were at Site Summit, Site Point and Site Bay when those three sites protected Anchorage from foreign bomber attacks 1959-1979.



Nike veteran Lance Morgan examines the components of the warhead cannister. The white bags contain desiccants to reduce moisture and seem to have done their job over the last 40+ years. (Photo by Doris Thomas)



This shows what a launch bay full of Nike Hercules missiles would look like. This was taken at Site Point, now home to Kincaid Park, possibly in the bunker now known as the Wax Bunker, where skis are prepped for the day and where FONSS does Cold War interpretive talks for visitors. (Photo by Don Neal)

Power Park museum in Hampton, Virginia (see photo).



This Nike Hercules missile at the Air Power Park in Virginia shows what the missile FONSS recently acquired from the Museum of Alaska Transportation and Industry will look like when reassembled and refurbished. FONSS is interested in also acquiring this missile. (Photo courtesy Air Power Park)



This is the challenge facing our FONSS volunteers this coming summer. Here, NATO troops being trained at Fort Bliss join the missile to its booster cluster. (Photo by Don Neal)



Loading main cannister onto trailer at MATI. (Photo by Doris Thomas)

Past Excellence in Historic Preservation Award Winners

- 2022** Judith Bittner
Whisky & Ramen and
Determine Design
DCI Engineers
557 Locomotive Rest. Co.
- 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/
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

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www.nikesitesummit.net

Challenge Grant for Oscar Anderson House Museum



Donna Burgess and Ernest Burgess, who are the granddaughter and grandson of Oscar Anderson, have offered a challenge grant of \$5,000 to help cover the operations expenses for the Oscar Anderson House Museum. The AAHP board of directors have accepted that challenge.

We appreciate the offer of the challenge grant. During her lifetime, Ruth Anderson Burgess, Oscar's daughter, made significant donations to the physical maintenance of the house and established an endowment to help with upkeep and repairs that is housed with the Alaska Community Foundation. Donna, and her brother Ernest, share their mother's love for this house and are deeply interested that this historic treasure continues to be open to the public as a museum so that current and future generations can get a rare, firsthand glimpse into the life of a pioneering Anchorage family.

The board has been looking at ways to counter that expense since earlier this year so that we can continue to be the Stewards of the house and still be able to focus on our mission of historic preservation. This challenge grant will assist in covering most of the operational expenses.

The challenge grant is meant to help subsidize the annual operating costs while we look for other ways to fund the operations. We have a long list but it will take time to implement them. This challenge grant helps immensely.

We appreciate the offer of the challenge grant. The house means a lot to Donna and her family and they have been concerned that the Oscar Anderson House continues to be an Anchorage treasure. There are a lot of re-

pairs that need to be done at the house. That will be an entirely different project to raise funds for as the Municipality of Anchorage does not have the funding to support the repairs or the replacement of the cedar shingle roof. We are currently putting together a proposal to submit for grants, appropriations and donations.

If you would like to help match this generous offer, please send a check or money order to Alaska Association for Historic Preservation (AAHP), PO Box 102205, Anchorage, AK 99510. Be sure to note in the memo field that it is for the challenge grant.

You can also donate via PayPal at <https://tinyurl.com/cs6985kb> Click on the donate to Oscar Anderson House button. Enter the amount you wish to donate.

All donations will be acknowledged and will be maintained by Alaska Association for Historic Preservation in a separate fund. AAHP is a 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization. Tax ID: 92-0085097. Donations to AAHP and its programs are tax deductible to the extent of the law.

Thank you for your support!



Friends of SS Nenana Need Your Help!

The Steamer Nenana is located in Pioneer Park which opened in 1967 to celebrate the 100th-anniversary of the purchase of Alaska from Russia. The boat was moved in 1987 and set on docking structure, then restored and refurbished. She was reopened in 1992.

The Steamer Nenana was built in 1932 by the Alaska Railroad in Nenana. Went into service in 1933 and ran until 1955. The five-deck, wood-

en-hulled, western Rivers-style steam sternwheel packet was fitted with 24 berths, dining salon, smoking room, observation room, men's and women's toilets. Passenger and officers' rooms were fitted with washbowls and electric lights. The boat was a blending of steam, wood, and paddlewheel technology. The Steamer Nenana was made from clear, vertical grain; kiln-dried fir. With a total weight of 1,128 tons and 237 feet in overall length.

The last structural repair work done on the Steamer Nenana by the borough was done in 2012. Time and weather continued to wear away at the ship. Funds were deferred for the Steamer Nenana to other buildings or projects in Fairbanks by the North Star Borough. If work isn't done soon to stop decay this national treasure will be lost.



Tis the Season! SS Nenana all decked out for Christmas at Alaskaland in Fairbanks. (copyright November 2022 Bruce Irwin Nelles)

The funding for Phase I repairs for the SS Nenana dwindles as the Fairbanks North Star Borough struggles to find a contractor through the bidding environment.

The S.S. Nenana project was re-designed based on the best information the borough had from the Designers and Cost Estimators after the initial invitation to bid failed to be awarded. Regardless of the redesign and changes, the bids still came in higher.

The bidding environment is not ideal for the Fairbanks North Star Borough to repair the S.S. Nenana.

The one constant that continues is the damage happening to the exposed wood on the boat and the wheel.

The Friends of SS Nenana, Inc. are working on their original plan to restore and reopen the boat through their non-profit organization. Unfortunately, they do not see things changing if they continue waiting for the FNSB to repair this National Historic Landmark.

They are continuing to accept donations save the S.S. Nenana. They can be made online through their fiscal sponsor, North Star Community Foundation, or the Friends of SS Nenana. No funds are going to the FNSB.

Donations online to North Star Community Foundation: <https://tinyurl.com/yrfj3a58>

Checks can be mailed to their organization. Be sure to write in the memo field that it is for the SS Nenana:

Friends of SS Nenana
P.O. Box 72876
Fairbanks, AK 99707

Engine 557 Restoration Company Progress Report November 2022

November came in with a minor snowstorm then warmed into the low 30's until the last week hovering about 0° F. The Crew adapted to the time change and continued work on projects large and small.

Engine 557 hosted a 7 man production crew from Channel 5 Viacom Studios UK, here at the Engine House on Friday November 11, 2022 for a little over three hours. They were preparing an Alaska Railroad segment for NICK KNOWLES BIG RAILWAY JOURNEYS. Our crew had a great time with with the director and the group. The following morning, they were on board the AuRoRa passenger train North bound and we exchanged waves as they passed by the 557 Engine House. Not sure when it will air or if it will in the US, but we will keep you posted.

After all the public show and tell, we removed the smoke box front, headlight and markers for open access in the smoke box. Jeff DeBroeck resumed conditioning the front tube sheet to receive tubes and flues.

Gerry Christiansen, retired Alaska Railroad car man is back to volunteering at the engine house. He was preparing hard grease in 3/8" strips for use in the hand manually operated Alemite guns for greasing the rods. We are still in the market for a pneumatic Alemite Grease gun but not having one we purchase one used manual gun and our machinist, Laverne Buller made another for us.

A new pipe order arrived with material to replace more of the superheater elements, sander pipes and many of the water and steam delivery pipes. Abrasion, and scale in the original pipes just made it prudent to replace them with new schedule 80 material.

Continued on page 14

Continued from page 13—Locomotive 557

Axle #4 journal box lubrication lines are routed differently because this location was originally home to the coal fire grates. After conversion to oil, the space was freed up so the line can go direct to the journal check valve. The draft door box has been left out of the fire pan to make it easier for boiler makers to get in and out of the fire box. The wood banding on the axle is there to protect it from possible dings during boiler work.

The Westinghouse cross compound air pump, is receiving new plumbing thanks to Paul Dalleska and the mid-week volunteers like Ron Dudley.

After 79 years some bits and pieces just need to get a new life. The bronze water hose boss from the water side of the injector is firmly bolted to a frame bracket. This one had been bent and had serious cracks that Ron ground out. Mike Bridges then brazed up the cracks and built up the bent mounting ears. He follows that with a little time on the milling machine. Now it just needed a beauty treatment. Finally, Ken Elmore sand blasted and then polished the boss. Just like new.

Terry Douglas took up the challenge of designing and installing heat monitoring thermocouples on all ten journal boxes. The lead time on the wire used was nearly 8 months. The readout in the cab will give full time monitoring.

Valve gear components are coming off the shelf for cleaning and inspection. Ron Dudley did the honors on the combination levers.

Link to the full November update: <https://tinyurl.com/3d3xydn5>



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Palmer Historical Society History News

A NEW NIGHT FOR HISTORY NIGHTS IN 2023! THE THIRD MONDAY OF THE MONTH FOR 2023 HISTORY NIGHTS. Palmer Moose Lodge has taken on a group (that pays) for Wednesdays evenings so we will now meet on the **THIRD MONDAY NIGHT** – September through November & January through May at the same time, 7:00 pm. We are very thankful for the support of the Moose Lodge in allowing us to use their space at no charge!

**Alaska Association for
Historic Preservation
P.O. Box 102205
Anchorage, AK 99510-2205**

Phone: 907-929-9870
Email: AKPreservation@gmail.com
501(c)(3) Tax ID: 92-0085097



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AAHP MEMBERSHIP 2023

MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

- Quarterly newsletter -- your guide to preservation issues & information in Alaska and beyond.
- Complimentary tour of the historic Oscar Anderson House for member and guest.
- Advance invitations and discounted admission to annual events.
- A tax deduction – Alaska Association for Historic Preservation is a 501(c)3 nonprofit.

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP LEVELS

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- Other \$ _____

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- 10 Most Endangered Historic Properties Grant Program.....\$ _____
- Preservation Alaska (Unrestricted – use donation as needed.)\$ _____
- Oscar Anderson House (Unrestricted – use donation as needed.) \$ _____
- Friends of Nike Site Summit\$ _____
- Please send me information about including Preservation Alaska in my Will or making gifts of stock.

PAYMENT INFORMATION

- Enclosed is a check payable to Alaska Association for Historic Preservation. Total: \$ _____
Send check or money order to AAHP, PO Box 102205, Anchorage, AK 99510
- Pay online via PayPal at: <https://AlaskaPreservation.org/membership>

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- Historic Preservation Commission Member Planning/Zoning Board Member Government
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Search GuideStar for the most complete, up-to-date nonprofit data available. <https://www.GuideStar.org>