

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

Spring 2023

Vol 41 No 1

35 Historic Black Churches Receive \$4 Million Investment



**National Trust for
Historic Preservation**
Save the past. Enrich the future.

Since our nation was founded, the Black church has played a prominent role in advancing critical democratic and societal change.

This Action Fund gift—its largest to date—helps ensure that historic Black Churches continue to drive change in our society.

The grantee from Alaska is...
Leake Temple African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church.

For 50 years, Leake Temple AME Zion Church has provided invaluable

The Preserving Black Churches program, a project of the African American Cultural Heritage Action Fund in partnership with Lilly Endowment Inc., has awarded grants to 35 historic Black churches across the country totaling \$4 million of investment.

The Preserving Black Churches program will uplift these often-overlooked places and ensure that the Black churches' legacy of spirituality, history, and social justice endures.

The first round of the **Preserving Black Churches** grant program enables grantees not only to address real and urgent preservation threats such as deferred maintenance and demolition, but also strengthens their ability to steward, interpret, and fund these invaluable places and the people they serve.



Leake Temple African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church in Anchorage, is among the 35 Historic Black Churches which received a grant to fund the work to replace the roof. The church is not on the National Register as yet.

ble resources and support to Anchorage's most diverse in the United States. This grant will fund the church congregation's work to replace the roof of its sanctuary, helping to continue their legacy of religion and community service.

For more information about the Preserving Black Churches Program:

<https://tinyurl.com/ycy92b4a>

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MOST
ENDANGERED

**Call for Nominations to
the 2023 Annual Ten
Most Endangered
Historic Properties list.
Nominations are due
April 10, 2023**



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<https://savingplacesalaska.com/>

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Museum: 907-206-2284
OscarAndersonHouse@gmail.com

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Preservation Notes:

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

AKPreservation@gmail.com

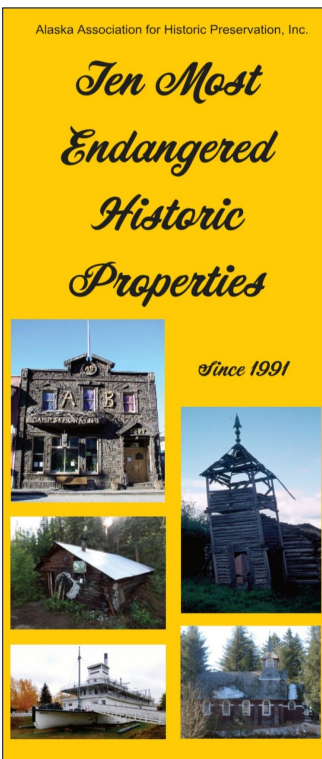
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Banner by Bill Devine, 1992.

Call for 2023 Ten Most Endangered Historic Properties Nominations

Anchorage – Preservation Alaska (Alaska Association for Historic Preservation) announces the call for nominations to its annual Ten Most Endangered Historic Properties list for 2022. The program celebrated 30 years during 2021.



well as totem poles. If the property is endangered and of historic importance, it is eligible to be nominated to the program.

The nominations for this program may be submitted by individuals, agencies, or organizations from throughout Alaska. There is no limit to the number of years that a property may be listed on the annual list. I

f the property has been listed previously and is still considered endangered, Preservation Alaska encourages an updated application with photographs be submitted.

Heightened awareness often leads to increased support for the conservation of endangered historic properties, which are assets important to tourism, economic development, and the cultural heritage of Alaska. Preservation

Alaska has been identifying the Most Endangered Historic Properties since 1991.

The deadline for nominations to Alaska's Ten Most Endangered Historic Properties for 2023 is April 10, 2023. Applications can be downloaded from <https://alaskapreservation.org> or request the form by email at AKPreservation@gmail.com The list is announced each year the first weekend of May as part of Historic Preservation Month but will be announced on Sunday, April 30, 2023.

The Ten Most Endangered Grant Program funds hands-on preservation work on endangered properties and serves as seed money to leverage funding from other sources. Those properties listed on the 2023 list will be eligible to apply for a small grant of \$2,500 to assist with their project. Announcements of the grant winners is done during the organization's annual meeting in November.

These grants are made possible by local sponsorships of the program. The 2023 sponsors are: Nvision Architecture, Kuchar Construction, LLC, HZA Engineering Solutions, Northern Air Cargo, Enterprise Engineering, Inc. BBFM Engineers, Inc., RSA Engineering, Inc., and LCG Lantech, Inc.

To make a tax-deductible donation to this Grant Program or learn more about Preservation Alaska, please contact Trish Neal at 907-929-9870 or AKPreservation@gmail.com or visit our website at <https://alaskapreservation.org> and click on the "Donate" page.

Founded in 1981 as a private, nonprofit corporation, dedicated to the preservation of Alaska's prehistoric and historic heritage as manifested in its built environment.

Preservation Alaska aids in historic preservation projects across Alaska and monitors and supports legislation to promote historic preservation.

Pick.Click.Give.



We wanted to remind you to apply for your **Permanent Fund Dividend** and consider pledging a portion of it to Alaska Association for Historic Preservation (AAHP) through Pick.Click.Give.

Pick.Click.Give. allows Alaskans to donate a portion of their Permanent Fund Dividend to causes they care about statewide.

Go to pfd.alaska.gov to add a pledge today.

Alaskans can choose to Pick.Click.Give. in increments of \$25. All donations are tax deductible and donors will receive tax documentation from the State

once their donations have been processed. Permanent Fund Dividend applications are available from January 1 to March 31, though **Alaskans may choose to add or adjust their pledges online through August 31.**

The program is run by The Alaska Community Foundation in partnership with the Rasmuson Foundation, The Foraker Group, and the State of Alaska Permanent Fund Dividend Division.

We sincerely appreciate the support that we have received over the years. Your donations help support People Saving Places in Alaska.

HOW TO

Protect and Preserve
the Historic Places
That Matter to You

Become a Member of AAHP
Donate to AAHP's Programs
Give the Gift of a Membership

Alaska Association for Historic Preservation, Inc. www.AlaskaPreservation.org

Your Support
of Our
Mission is
Greatly
Appreciated!

In This Corner...

We are pleased to announce that Alaska Association for Historic Preservation has rebranded as **Preservation Alaska**. This was a decision of the board several years ago and part of our 5-year strategic plan that had not yet been implanted until a year ago. It speaks better to what we do.

Many similar organizations across the country have also rebranded themselves over the past few years to better identify what they do. We are in good company.

We are still "Alaska Association for Historic Preservation (AAHP)." We are just rebranding to let people better understand what we do.

For those nonprofits which have been the beneficiaries of **AmazonSmile** donations, that program ended on February 20th. Sad, but true. We have found **goodshop** which looks to be a very good option to replace AmazonSmile. goodshop is connected with over 114,000 nonprofits and schools, which means that you can shop for your cause no matter the scale: whether it be your local animal shelter, or a national cancer research organization. Over the past nine years, they have helped organizations do everything from medical research, to buying books for local libraries, to helping clean up pollution from city rivers. We hope that you will help support us here: <https://tinyurl.com/256mn345>

Have you filed for your Alaska PFD? Deadline is March 31st. We are a recognized nonprofit with the **Pick.Click.Give program**. This program has been a great way for supporters to share their PFD with us as well as other nonprofits. I personally love being able to share the wealth with other nonprofits as well as with our own organization. If you have filed, you can still add to your pledges or increase your pledge as long as you do it by August 31, 2023. Just go to pfd.alaska.gov to add a pledge today.

Congratulations to **Leake Temple African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church** for their award through the Preserving Black Churches program. This is a really big deal for the congregation and for Alaska! The grant award comes at a very good time as the roof has started to leak. There will be future grants through the *Preserving Black Churches* program for other churches in Alaska and elsewhere.

We have sent out the **Call for nominations for the 2023 Ten Most Endangered Historic Properties program**. Nominations are due on April 10, 2023. We encourage everyone to look around their community to see if there are historic properties (no need to be on the National Register) that may be in danger of being lost forever. **Anyone** may nominate an historic property. It can be a building, boat, totem pole, or even an historic site. It doesn't have to be on the National Register but hopefully it would be eligible. We will announce the 2023 list on Sunday, April 30th as our kick off to Historic Preservation month during May.

Historic Preservation Month will be celebrated during May. This year's theme is: People Saving Places. Historic Preservation Month is celebrated across the country. Watch our website late April to see what we have planned.

<https://savingplacesalaska.com/>

What was happening in Alaska 250 years ago? Do you know? Our nation will be celebrating the anniversary of our founding in three years. The **Semiquincentennial celebration** planning begins! While most of the states can talk about the founding of their state, Alaska was in its infancy. Dorene Lorenz was interviewed about the upcoming national celebration. You can listen to her interview with John Quick at Must Read Alaska here:

<https://tinyurl.com/bddkunfp>

I had a chance to **interview with John Quick** about Preservation Alaska and about historic preservation in general. It was a great chance to talk about my favorite topic: history and historic preservation. That interview with Must Read Alaska is at:

<https://tinyurl.com/3hv4kn87>

Finally, **March is Women in History Month!** The National Trust has a website just for that. Check it out and if you know of an Alaskan woman who should be added, please do that!

<https://tinyurl.com/2p829p3a>

Happy Spring — if it every arrives!



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/yhdtjrr6>

- **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.



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

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

Ten Most Endangered Historic Properties Grant Program Sponsors

Celebrating 32 Years of the Ten Most Endangered Historic Properties Grant Program!

Platinum Sponsor



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Anchorage, AK 99501
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Contact@Nvisionarch.com
<https://NvisionArchitecture.com>

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<https://www.bbfm.com>

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(907) 276-0521 info@rsa-ak.com
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250 H Street
Anchorage, Alaska 99501
(907) 243-8985 info@lcgk.com
<https://www.lcgk.com>



March

Preservation Alaska

•March 13-16 Historic Preservation Advocacy Week with Preservation Action.

•Pick. Click. Give. Deadline for PFD filing. March 31, 2023.

• Brown Bag Lunch

Second & Fourth Wednesday.

11:50am to 12:50pm. Sign up to be a speaker by calling the Sheldon Museum at 907-766-2366.

April

• Brown Bag Lunch

Second & Fourth Wednesday.

11:50am to 12:50pm. Sign up to be a speaker by calling the Sheldon Museum at 907-766-2366.

•**Preservation Alaska** Deadline for Nominations for the 2023 Ten Most Endangered Historic Properties list. April 10, 2023.

•**ANNUAL ALASKA TRAILS CONFERENCE** The annual Alaska Trails Conference will be held April 12-14 at the BP Energy Center in Anchorage. This year there will be both in-person and virtual options for attendance. Send your ideas and comments to: office@alaska-trails.org

•**Historic Preservation Month** begins with the public announcement of the **2023 Ten Most Endangered Historic Properties List on Sunday, April 30.**

May

Preservation Alaska

•Historic Preservation Month activities throughout the month of May.

June

•Ten Most Endangered Historic Properties Grant available for applicants from the 2023 list.

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

Iditarod Historic Trail Alliance

NEW NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAIL

The federal government has designated the Chilkoot Trail as a national historic trail. The designation, which was included in the federal omnibus spending bill, was announced January 7 in a press release.

"It's a great honor to be recognized as the Chilkoot National Historic Trail," said Angela Wetz, superintendent of the Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park.

The Chilkoot Trail is the 20th in the nation to get the designation and, at 16 miles, the shortest. The designation could lead to some funding opportunities.

"There is some trail system funding that's out there, not necessarily something we would get right away,"

Wetz said. "But we would be able to compete for those funds in the Park Service."



Right now, the trail is closed due to flood damage from an October storm. Wetz says the designation will not affect the pace of repair.

We are aiming towards an August 1 opening, but we still have a lot of logistical issues with supply chains and everything else to get us there," she said.

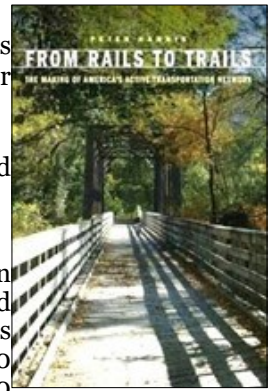
To celebrate the designation, the park intends to hold a ceremony when the trail reopens.

NEW BOOK

Peter Harnik's new book, *From Rails to Trails*, published by University of Nebraska Press, covers the political, cultural, transportation, design, and land-use issues that have shaped the rail-trail movement. Peter Harnik with David Burwell established the Rails-to-Trails Conservancy in 1986. Peter has a wealth of knowledge and experience to share. He tells many stories about the local efforts to build coalitions and obtain funding to

convert abandoned tracks into trails for bicyclists, walkers, equestrians, and more.

At its peak in 1916, the railroad network was about 254,000 miles. In 2020 about 137,000 miles were still in use. The 60,000 miles abandoned before 1970 were absorbed into the landscape and lost forever. Today about 23,000 miles are trails or being converted to trails. Peter states this leaves about 34,000 miles unaccounted for and he encourages the next generation of rail-trail advocates to concentrate on finding these miles and developing them into trails.



FROM THE PAST...

Iditarod Pioneer
February 1, 1913



PARCEL POST NOW IN OPERATION

On the last mail Postmaster Thurston received an intimation from headquarters that the parcel post law was operative in Alaska, but as the special stamps* required for the service have not arrived he wired the department asking what should be done in the matter. Thursday afternoon last a telegram arrived from Washington as follows:

Pending receipt of parcel post stamps use ordinary stamps to Seattle only.

It will thus be seen that while the parcel post law is operative here, it is limited to parcels destined for Seattle until the special stamps arrive, which may be at any time, and residents of Iditarod are entitled to experiment in that direction. The limit set on parcels is 11 pounds, and the goods sent must

Continued on page 7



neither in form nor in kind be such as might injure the carriers or destroy the mail sacks or matter therein.

The lowest rate is 5 cents per 1 pound up to 50 miles, and from that starting point rates are graduated until a charge of 12 cents a pound is reached for distances over 1,800 miles. A partial weighting 11 pounds thus could this be sent from here to New York for \$1.32 unless the circular misinforms us.

Parcels will be delivered at all free delivery offices and to patrons residing on all rail and star routes.

There may be registered and insured up to \$50 and special delivery can be arranged for.



Iditarod Pioneer
March 8, 1913
**MUST USE ONLY
SPECIAL STAMPS**

The special stamps required for the parcel post service are now available and may be had in denominations of from 1 cent to 25 cents. In future all merchandise parcels, however small, must bear these stamps.

It has been the custom to drop small merchandise parcels in the letterbox, but this practice is against the parcel postal regulations. Should packages be dropped in the letterbox contrary to the regulations, and without the address of the sender written in the corner, they will be sent to the dead letter office and not forwarded it to their destination.

* In 1912 an act of Congress established a fourth-class mail rate for small packages. The act also called for new stamps for this rate, 12 large stamps, all with the same color, were issued in

sheets of 45. The stamps were unpopular with postal workers and customers alike. On July 1, 1913, regular stamps took their place. Parcel post stamps became valid for regular postage as well.

These stamps are still popular with stamp collectors but the prices for the stamps are much more than the original value, for example an unused 1 cent parcel post stamp now sells for \$7 and an unused 10 cent one can cost \$99.

ANNUAL ALASKA TRAILS CONFERENCE

The annual Alaska Trails Conference will be held April 12-14 at the BP Energy Center in Anchorage. This year there will be both in-person and virtual options for attendance. Send your ideas and comments to: office@alaska-trails.org

ALASKA TRAILS HIRING FOR SEASONAL TRAIL WORK

Information for all the positions and application instructions at: <https://www.alaskatrails.org/>

THE ANCHORAGE MUSHING DISTRICT

The municipality of Anchorage working with Anchorage Mushing District, Inc. have declared 4th Avenue from A to G Streets officially as the Anchorage Mushing District. The purpose of this district is to celebrate the rich history of dog mushing in the state of Alaska and particularly of dog racing on 4th Avenue in Anchorage.



There will be interpretive signage along the sidewalk on both sides of the street, describing the history of dog mushing in Alaska with emphasis on dog racing on 4th Avenue. Banners will be hung from the light standards picturing famous mushers of the Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race on the north side and on the south side famous Fur Rondy World Champion mushers.

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
PO Box 2323
Seward AK 99664
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.

Engine 557



With contractors coming on board for Tube and Flue work the next two months will be very busy for the volunteers preparing for Hydro tests and installing firebrick. Visitors are of course welcome if you come to the Iditarod Dog Sled Race, The Anchorage Fur Rendezvous or any of the other late winter festivals we enjoy here in Alaska.

It is 6 degrees this afternoon but 557 sets in dry warm comfort at the Engine House in Wasilla.

Here is your direct link to the January 2023 Engine 557 Status Report.

You can find more content at:

<https://tinyurl.com/yxpmhp9a>

Alaska Veterans Museum (AVM)



Sometimes the **Alaska Veterans Museum (AVM)** receives requests from other museums to lend our artifacts - and we never turn down an opportunity to share Alaska's military history and spotlight the stories of their veter-

ans! In April 2022, they were contacted by The Ronald Reagan Presidential Library & Museum to assist with their special exhibit, **[Secrets of WWII](#)**. They sent items from their Alaska Scouts Exhibits and Alaska Territorial Guard exhibits. After a successful run, those artifacts have been returned and are now in place, at the new AVM location. Visitors can hear the stories from their incredible documents. <https://tinyurl.com/2rs3fj9x>

Oscar Anderson House



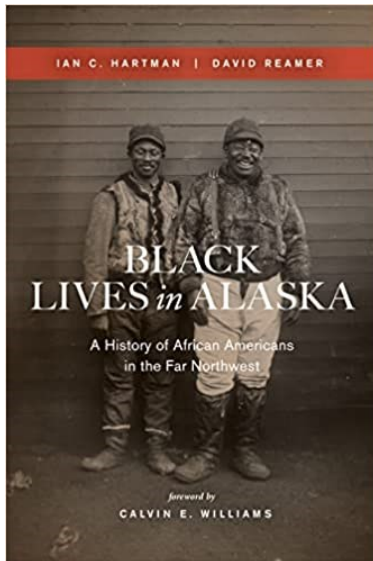
Last summer OAHM was contacted by Patricia Smart, a former librarian, now literary travel blogger. Patricia along with two literary travel partners, visit US literary landmarks and provide free promotion to raise awareness of their offerings through our website and social media. <https://authoradventures.org/> They are sponsored by the John Corcoran Foundation, a literacy non-profit dedicated to increasing reading. Patricia traveled with her husband this summer and made sure to spend some time at the Oscar Anderson House. Here is her video of her afternoon spent at the historic house. <https://youtu.be/2WyOsdclIYs>

Anchorage Mushing District



Anchorage Mushing District members are absolutely thrilled to announce the new Anchorage Mushing District website!

Many thanks to Matt Williams for his amazing website skills. The new website is a work process, so stay tune for announcements, pictures, and whole bunch more. <https://www.anchoragemushingdistrict.org/>



Black Lives in Alaska

A HISTORY OF AFRICAN AMERICANS IN THE FAR NORTHWEST

By [Ian C. Hartman](#) and [David Reamer](#)

The history of Black Alaskans runs deep and spans generations. Decades before statehood and earlier even than the Klondike gold rush of the 1890s, Black men and women participated in

Alaska's politics and culture. They hunted whales, patrolled the seas, built roads, served in the military, and opened businesses, even as they endured racism and fought injustices. Into the twentieth century, Alaska's Black residents were often part of the larger, nationwide freedom struggle. At the same time, Black settlers found themselves in a far different context than elsewhere in the United States, as Alaska's strategic military location, economic reliance on oil, and unique racial landscape influenced how Black Alaskans made a home for themselves in the northwesternmost corner of the country.

Centering the agency and diversity of Black Alaskans, *Black Lives in Alaska* chronicles how Alaska's Black population, though small, has had an outsized impact on the culture and civic life of the region. Alaska's history of race relations and civil rights reminds the reader that the currents of discrimination and its responses—determination, activism, and perseverance—are American stories that might be explored in the unlikelyst of places.

<https://uwapress.uw.edu/>

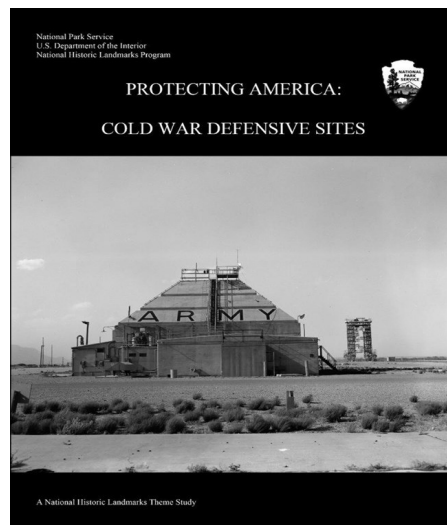
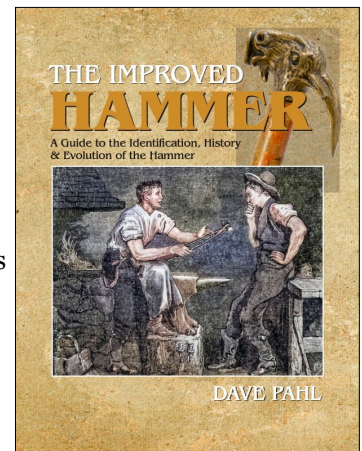
Heritage Newsletter

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A Guide to the Identification, History & Evolution of the Hammer.

This beautiful hardcover has hundreds of photos documenting the changing hammer. Each copy autographed by Haines local & world renowned Hammer Museum founder, Dave Pahl.

<https://www.hainesbookstore.com/>



Protecting America: Cold War Defensive Sites

National Park Service releases a new study evaluating Cold War defensive sites in the United States for potential designation as national landmarks.

Nike Site Summit is included in the list.
<https://tinyurl.com/43y5uwf3>



THE DECORATIVE ARTS TRUST

The Decorative Arts Trust is pleased to provide this calendar of upcoming decorative arts and material culture events. Please contact the institutions listed to confirm event details.

<https://decorativeartstrust.org/eventsinthefield/>

Your Donations Support Our Programs

ZEFFY 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. We have moved to a new platform where donations to us are not charged a fee. Donors are asked to cover that fee but it is not required.

<https://tinyurl.com/yhdjirj6>

goodshop is connected with



over 114,000 non-profits

and schools, which means that you can shop for your cause no matter the scale. Over the past nine years, goodshop has helped organizations do everything from medical research, to buying books for local libraries, to helping clean up pollution from city rivers. Thank you for supporting AAHP.

<https://tinyurl.com/256mn345>

Your shopping at **FRED MEYER** benefits AAHP!



Once you are set up to contribute to AAHP,

the information is connected to your rewards number. If you use InstaCart, be sure to add your rewards card number to your account! Our organization number is **MR726**.

<http://tinyurl.com/mtzjqol>

EMPLOYER GIFT MATCH PROGRAM Does your employer offer a matching gift program to allow you to double your donation to a non-profit? We welcome your support. Please contact us for our tax information!

Friends of Nike Site Summit

Greg Durocher
Director

The Friends of Nike Site Summit are spending winter months planning for the 2023 tour season. Motor coach expenses have risen rastically over the past year. As a result, we are planning to reduce bus tours and

increase hiking tours to Site Summit, along with increasing our tour activity at A-Battery (Kincaid Park).



Our electrical and maintenance

projects are being planned, acknowledging that much attention will be directed towards refurbishing the Nike-Hercules missile that we acquired from the Museum of Transportation and Industry.

There will be a need for metal-working and other specialty skills in order to restore the missile to an original appearance.

Website redesign/upgrade is currently at the forefront in the waning winter months. We hope to include a section on our Nike Veterans within the FONSS organization, with photos and information about their service years.

Looking Back
KTOO—Juneau

40 years after closure, volunteers restore historic Cold War site

It might seem hard to believe: Just a few decades ago, thousands of nuclear warheads were stored at missile batteries close to cities and military installations all around the country. That includes the mountains around Anchorage, where one of the

last such installations closed 40 years ago, in 1979.

For 20 years, the Nike Site Summit installation perched up in the Chugach mountains housed powerful Hercules missiles designed to knock out clusters of hostile long-range bombers that might head toward the U.S. Of 145 such sites built across America, this one is the best preserved — in part because of its relatively isolated location on military land. That is part of the reason a dedicated group in Alaska is trying to restore the facilities, and keep a piece of Cold War history alive.

Read the full article with photos and listen to the interview online at:

<https://tinyurl.com/bdekz4xm>



Kincaid Hiking Tours returning in 2023



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

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Brown Bag Lunches Return!

Ahh. The good 'ole days. The butcher cutting you a nice steak at Food Center, kids riding bicycles in dusty parking lots, telephones connected to the wall with a cord, board games for entertainment, and brown bag lunches at the Haines Sheldon Museum. Why do good things have to change? Well let's bring some good things back!



Brown bag lunches are back at the Sheldon Museum! Every second and fourth Wednesday from 12-1 you are invited to bring your sack lunch to the main exhibit room to hear a guest speaker and learn something interesting! We want to include people who might be leaving work to join us, so our presentations will start at 11:50 am and end at 12:50pm.

Would you like to share a topic with us? Maybe you have a collection of items you would like lunchgoers to check out, or perhaps you have a



slideshow from a trip to show, or a passion you would like to talk about. Sign up to be a speaker by calling the Sheldon Museum at 907-766-2366.

This lunch program is seasonal and will run until the end of April and start back up again in September. We look forward to seeing you there!

A Guide to Researching the History of a House



If you live in a house that's more than a few decades old, you might wonder about its history. What were the circumstances surrounding its construction? Who lived there before you moved in? You might even wonder about the evolution of the home's structure as it has undergone home improvement, or you might have a morbid curiosity about whether or not your home has a sordid past. With the help of online resources and public records, much can be learned about the history of any property. <https://tinyurl.com/uqpn9pc>

Do You Know the Difference?

The **National Register of Historic Places** list (not to be confused with the National Trust for Historic Preservation, which is a non-profit organization, not a government entity) is administered by the National Park Service, in Washington, DC. It includes historic resources (including buildings) that are of national significance. The applications are carefully reviewed for acceptance, and include descriptive & historical information on the resource, with photographs and location information.



The **State AHRs (Alaska Historic Resource Survey)** is just that: a collection of surveyed or reported historic resources, of all kinds, that originally were recorded on cards, with a very short description of the property, its location, and ownership. It is maintained by the State of Alaska Office of History & Archaeology in Anchorage.



chorage.

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

<https://tinyurl.com/ya9omorc>

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

11 Tips to Build Your National Register Knowledge

According to the National Park Service, "the [National Register of Historic Places](#) is the official list of the nation's historic places worthy of preservation." Indeed, when you scroll through the [National Register database online](#), you find thousands of America's historic places. Of course, there are many more places worthy of preserving that help [tell the full American story](#). But the National Register is one official way of recognizing a place's value.

To help you learn more about this resource, we've collected—and answered—11 frequently asked questions about the National Register of Historic Places.

Who is in charge of the National Register?

The [National Park Service](#) (not the National Trust for Historic Preservation!) administers the National Register of Historic Places.

How old is the National Register? The National Register was authorized by the National Historic Preservation Act in 1966, making the Register close to 60 years old.

How many places are listed in the National Register? According to the National Park Service, as of the end of 2020 there are more than 96,000 properties listed, which represents 1.8 million contributing resources such as buildings, structures, and objects.

Note: One of the goals of the National Trust's [Impact Agenda](#) is to develop [modernized, expanded tools](#) for preservation. This effort includes work to expand not only the listings within the National Register to include what the Impact Agenda calls a "[Truer History](#)," but also amending listings to tell the full American story.

What are the benefits to being listed in the National Register of Historic Places? In addition to the honor associated with having your property listed in the National Register, this recognition is generally the first step for receiving preservation funding from state and local governments. Also, owners may be eligible for tax credits that can help offset the costs of rehabilitation—for example, the [federal historic tax credit](#), which has helped restore more than 86,000 structures across the country.

ARE THERE ANY RESTRICTIONS FOR PROPERTY OWNERS OF A NATIONAL REGISTER-LISTED PLACE? Often, people assume that if a property is listed in the National Register it is in some way permanently protected, but that is not necessarily the case. Owners of National Register-



The Orthodox Church of the Holy Ascension is a testament to Alaska's Russian past. It was added to the National Register in 1970. Photo credit: J. Stephen Conn/Flickr/CC BY-NC 2.0

ter-listed properties do not face any restrictions—including from demolition—unless the property is involved in a project receiving federal assistance (funding, for example.)

If you do plan to modify or renovate your National Register-listed historic property, we recommend you check with [your State Historic Preservation Office \(SHPO\)](#) to see if there are any state or local laws you should be aware of.

WILL A PROPERTY BE IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER FOREVER? Not necessarily. If the property is significantly altered in such a way that the original, qualifying historic features are lost, the property may be removed from the Register. For example, properties that have been destroyed by fires or storms have been taken off the list.

HOW OLD DOES A PROPERTY HAVE TO BE IN ORDER TO QUALIFY FOR NATIONAL REGISTER INCLUSION? A property must be at least 50 years old to qualify. There are special guidelines for nominating places that are younger. However, these places must be exceptionally important to be considered.

WHAT TYPES OF PLACES CAN BE NOMINATED TO THE LIST? You can nominate districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects—places that are significant to the community, state, or nation.

WHO CAN NOMINATE A PLACE TO THE NATIONAL REGISTER? [Any individual can nominate a place to the National Register](#), but it is recommended that you [contact your SHPO](#) before submitting the appropriate forms.

Continued on page 13

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 up on a docking structure, and then restored and refurbished. She was reopened in 1992.

The Steamer Nenana was built in 1932 by the Alaska Railroad in Nenana. She went into service in 1933, and ran until 1955. The five-deck, wooden-hulled, western Rivers-style steam sternwheel packet was fitted with 24 berths, a dining salon, a smoking room, an 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.



Sternwheel support. *Design Alaska photo.*
Figure 22. Sternwheel support

The last structural repair work done on the Steamer Nenana by the Fairbanks North Star Borough was done in 2012. Time and weather has continued to attack 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 the decay this national treasure will be lost.

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. In order to trim down the scope of work, 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. The bids still came in higher.

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

What is the nomination process like? Once nomination forms are submitted to the SHPO, they will contact all related parties, including the owner of the property, local governments, and the public for comments. The SHPO and National Register Review Board will review the nomination as well as all accompanying information (which takes a minimum of 90 days).

Then, when both the SHPO and Review Board have recommended the property for listing, the nomination goes on to the National Park Service in Washington, D.C., for final review and listing by [the Keeper of the National Register of Historic Places](#). A decision is made within 45 days of the National Park Service's reception of the nomination.



Bud Kuenzli recently flew his drone around the SS Nenana located at Pioneer Park. Be sure to watch the video: <https://youtu.be/oMQWa8Jv44A>

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.

They continue to accept donations to save the S.S. Nenana.

Donations can be made online through their fiscal sponsor, North Star Community Foundation, or the Friends of SS Nenana. The Friends will manage those donations.

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

Checks can be mailed to the 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



Starboard Side Face Plate *Design Alaska photo.*

WHERE AND HOW CAN THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES DATABASE BE ACCESSED? You can access the National Register database online.

Find more detailed answers, plus additional frequently asked questions, on the [National Register website](#).

An earlier version of this story was published on March 8, 2016. Julia Rocchi is the senior director of digital marketing at the National Trust. By day she wrangles content; by night (and weekends), she shops local, travels to story-rich places, and gawks at buildings. [@rocchijulia](#)

Story online at: <https://tinyurl.com/4xedn9w9>

May is Historic Preservation Month Celebrate with #SavingPlaces

Adak Anchorage Angoon Bethel
Chignik Cordova Eagle
Fairbanks Healy Juneau Ketchikan
Ketchikan McCarthy McGrath
Nenana Nome
Saxman Seward Sitka
Soldotna Sunrise Talkeetna
Valdez Wasilla Wrangell

Preservation Alaska <https://SavingPlacesAlaska.com> AKPreservation@gmail.com

We will be celebrating Historic Preservation Month during May. This is a national celebration.

The Theme this year is: People Saving Places.

Events will be posted late April on our Historic Preservation website:
<https://savingplacesalaska.com>

If you have events that you would like to share with the rest of the state please send them to AKPreservation@gmail.com We will add them to our website and post them to our Facebook pages.

Museums contribute \$50 billion to the US economy each year.

Museums and other nonprofit cultural organizations return more than \$5 in tax revenues for every \$1 they receive in funding from all levels of government.* Full Facts online at:

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PO Box 102205 – Anchorage, Alaska 99510

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- A tax deduction – Alaska Association for Historic Preservation is a 501(c)3 nonprofit.

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- ☐ \$250 Preservation Advocate
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- ☐ Friends of Nike Site Summit\$ _____
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- ☐ Contractor/Consultant ☐ Part of an historic district ☐ Preservation Assoc. Member ☐ Non-profit
- ☐ Historic Preservation Commission Member ☐ Planning/Zoning Board Member ☐ Government
- ☐ I am interested in volunteering to support AAHP's mission of building alliances, education, and advocacy.

Search GuideStar for the most complete, up-to-date nonprofit data available. <https://www.GuideStar.org>