

# 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 2024  
Vol 42 No 4

## Three Historic Properties Recognized by Preservation Alaska For Stewardship

Preservation Alaska recognized the owners of three historic properties for their stewardship during the annual meeting of the organization on November 7.

The purpose of the Historic Preservation Award recognizes significant contributions to the preservation of Alaska's historic resources and to recognize a project, organization, agency, or individual who exemplify the highest standards among Alaska preservation. The awards are open to projects completed within the last 25 years.

government agencies, and for historic advocacy. Nominations are reviewed by the awards committee. Awards are presented at the annual meeting held on the first Thursday of November.

This year's recipients of the Stewardship Award included properties in Unalaska, Anchorage, and Prince of Wales Island. This is the 17<sup>th</sup> year that the awards have been given out.

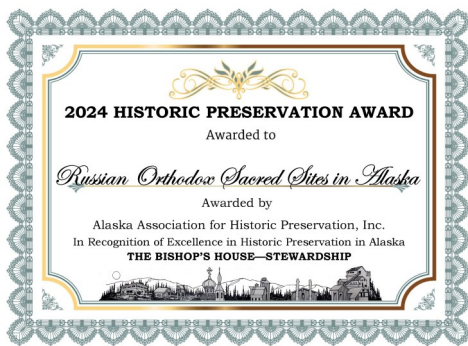


The Bishop's House, Unalaska

**The Bishop's House in Unalaska** has been completely restored. ROSSIA (Russian Orthodox Sacred Sites in Alaska) supervised the project. Located next to the Holy Ascension Cathedral and National Historic Landmark, the Bishop's House displays a unique Victorian structure and trim. Designed by Mooser & Pissis in San Francisco in 1882, at the request of Bishop Nestor, the house was built, then dismantled and shipped piece-by-

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The Stewardship Award recognizes those who have ensured the preservation of historic properties through long-term care and maintenance, stabilization, protection, or continuous family ownership. The award is presented to individuals, organizations, firms or

Regret goes only one way. The preservation of historic buildings is a one-way street. There is no chance to renovate or to save a historic site once it's gone. And we can never be certain what will be valued in the future. This reality brings to light the importance of locating and saving buildings of historic significance—because once a piece of history is destroyed, it is lost forever.

From "Six Practical Reasons to Save Old Buildings" by Julia Rocchi

Continued on page 12



**Awards Continued from page 1**

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**Preservation Notes**

Preservation News from  
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Banner by Bill Devine, 1992.

piece to Unalaska where it was reassembled by the Alaska Commercial Company (ACC) in the exact location it is today.

Sadly, Bishop Nestor never got to stay in the Bishop's House because he fell overboard and died at sea before the house was completed. His body was recovered and is buried in the Holy Ascension cemetery.

His Grace, Bishop ALEXEI was the first bishop to ever stay there on Friday, August 15, 2024, and His Beatitude, Metropolitan Tikhon was the second bishop to stay there on August 16-17, the weekend of the 200th Anniversary celebration of the first Divine

Liturgy served by Fr. John Veniaminoff who was later canonized as St. Innocent, Enlightener of Alaska.



Harpel House II, Anchorage. Northern Lens Photography

**The Harpel House II is located in Anchorage** and designed by architect John Lautner, an apprentice of Frank Lloyd Wright, and a famous architect in his own right with iconic houses commissioned by celebrities and one house featured in the film *Diamonds are Forever*. Wright encouraged his apprentices to develop their own architectural 'styles', and Lautner became associated with the high end 'Googie' style in his own practice.

Along with its sister "Harpel House I" in California (that is already on the National Register of Historic Places), the Harpel House II was commissioned by Bill Harpel who started KHAR radio in Anchorage that still operates today.

The Cuddy family had bought the Harpel House II, and had lived there for two generations, I had visited Harpel House II some years earlier while the Cuddy family still lived there. The current owner is Allyson Galler. Significant restoration work has been done that also *functionally* updated the house while completely respecting the house's original architecture. Room by room all elements updated in a way that either identically matched the original character or they were *researched carefully* through photographs and the original architectural drawings to respect the original architecture from the first decade the house was built to subtly accommodate contemporary functions.



Wolf Creek Boatworks, Prince of Wales Island

**Wolf Creek Boatworks is located on Prince of Wales Island** in SE Alaska. maintenance to keep the boatworks operational. It was designated as the #1 Most Endangered Historic Property for 2024. It was also noted as "endangered" by the Preservation Magazine Summer 2024.

Originally called Twelve Mile Arm Boat Shop, this beautiful landmark started out in 1939 building boats out of local SE Alaska timber. For years, Isreal Stevens built and sold skiffs using the same belt driven tools that still operate inside the boat house today. Originally powered by water from the water flume off of Wolf Creek, it was later powered by a large S. Morgan Smith Francis style water turbine. All of the original equipment is still housed within the building, and while modern aluminum skiffs are now built in the boatworks, the

Continued on page 6

# Preservation Alaska's Historic Preservation Awards



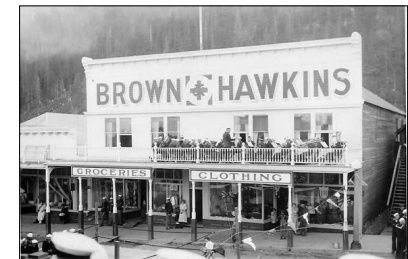
The purpose of the Historic Preservation Award recognizes significant contributions to the preservation of Alaska's historic resources and to recognize a project, organization, agency, or individual who exemplify the highest standards among Alaska preservation. The awards are open to projects completed within the last 25 years. Nominations are reviewed by the Preservation Awards Committee. Awards are presented at the annual meeting held the first Thursday of November.

## Past Excellence in Historic Preservation Award Winners

- 2024** ROSSIA – Stewardship The Bishop's House at Unalaska  
Allyson Galler & Family – Stewardship The Harpel House II at Anchorage  
Sam Romey – Stewardship Wolf Creek Boatworks at Prince of Wales Island
- 2023** Greater Wasilla Chamber of Commerce – Stewardship Wasilla Train Station  
Willow Historic & Wildlife Foundation – Stewardship Community Building
- 2022** Judith Bittner – Lifetime Achievement Historic Preservation  
Whiskey & Ramen, Determine Design, and DCI Engineers – Adaptive Use  
557 Locomotive Restoration Co. – Stewardship 557 Locomotive Restoration
- 2021** Grant Crosby – Robert Mitchell Architect Award  
Treadwell Historic Preservation & Restoration Society – Stewardship Organization  
Howard & Juliana Farley – Lifetime Achievement Advocacy Historic Preservation at Nome  
Trish Neal -- Lifetime Achievement Historic Preservation
- 2020** Iditarod Historic Trail Alliance (IHTA) – Stewardship  
Fraternal Order of Alaska State Troopers – Stewardship
- 2019** Janet Matheson – Lifetime Achievement Historic Preservation  
Katie Ringsmuth and <NN> Cannery History Project  
Doris Thomas -- Lifetime Achievement FONSS Volunteer  
Lee Poleske – Lifetime Achievement IHTA Volunteer and Board Member  
Hugh & Iris Darling -- Stewardship Brown & Hawkins Building  
Mary & Dan Flaherty – Stewardship of the Oscar Anderson House Museum
- 2018** No award given
- 2017** Bob DeArmond – Lifetime Achievement Historic Preservation  
Bill DeArmond – Lifetime Achievement Historic Preservation
- 2016** No award given
- 2015** Robert Mitchell – Lifetime Achievement Historic Preservation
- 2014** Thad Poulson – Lifetime Achievement Historic Preservation  
Jim Renkert -- Stewardship FONSS
- 2013** Darrin & Sheri Hamming -- Adaptive reuse of Campbell House
- 2012** No award given
- 2011** Mary Flaherty – Preservationist of the Year Oscar Anderson House Museum
- 2010** Friends of Nike Site Summit – Stewardship Organization  
Erin & Falene Reeve – Stewardship project
- 2009** Steve Peterson – Lifetime Achievement Historic Preservation  
Don Corwin – Stewardship Baranov Museum
- 2008** De'lena Johnson – Stewardship Restoration of Historic Trading Post at Palmer
- 2007** Edwin and Kit Crittenden – Lifetime Achievement Historic Preservation  
Sam Combs – Project Award Restoration of the Non-Commissioned Officer's Quarters at Fort Egbert in Eagle,  
Elayne Janiak – Stewardship Old Federal Building



2015 – Robert Mitchell



2019 – Hugh & Iris Darling



2022 – Judith Bittner



2014 – Thad Poulson



2019 – Lee Poleske

# In This Corner...

As the end of 2024 nears, it is with a positive note that I look towards 2025. We have lots to do in the coming year!

I decided to run for re-election again to work towards the funding of a part-time executive director to take us to the next level. It is time for us to make this change to continue to grow.

I believe that I have taken the organization as far as I can. I'm ready to turn the reins over to someone who can take the organization to the next level.

We are looking at resources to fund this position as part-time for now, with the thought to grow that position into a full-time, well-paid position.

It may be that we combine the ED position with managing the Oscar Anderson House during the summer months in the beginning. Managing the Oscar Anderson House costs us \$14,000 annually. We would like to use those funds towards an executive director.

We need to have someone who can attend to our business. Someone who can manage our organization in a business-like way.

Our board members are fantastic! They have been very supportive and have a great interest in what we do. Their expertise has greatly aided us in being advocates for historic preservation in Alaska.

While we have lost a few battles, we have more wins than losses. We are 43

years old having been organized in 1981 as an advocacy group for historic preservation.

We are working on a job description for the position. But, a job description is just words on paper. This position is much more than a job description and the right person will know that and want to become part of our organization. We know that person is out there.

Our annual meeting was successful. I think it was the best one we have had yet! We had participation from around the country.

Sam Combs, Matthew Reckard, and myself were re-elected to the board of directors for another three-year term. We are still looking to add to our board because we could do much more than we are able to do with the smaller board.

It is always fun to review nominations for our annual Historic Preservation Award program. This year three property owners were recognized. It is always interesting to learn about some of the unique buildings that we have here in Alaska.

We are very thankful for the Ten Most Endangered Historic Properties grant program. Without their support, we would not be able to fund the grant

Trish Neal, President



## 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>

• **Donate** to our Ten Most Endangered Historic Properties Grant Program <https://tinyurl.com/yhdjrrj6>

### • 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.



## ELDRED ROCK LIGHTHOUSE LYNN CANAL



**\$2,500 matching grant**

Eldred Rock Lighthouse Lantern Room Railing Replacement – Rehabilitation and installation of the damaged and missing Lantern Room Railing, which has been approved by Alaska State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) and the U. S. Coast Guard Civil Engineering Unit (CEU).

<https://www.EldredRockLighthouse.org>



## 2024 Ten Most Endangered Historic Properties

- #1 – Wolf Creek Boatworks, Prince of Wales Island
- #2 – Pilgrim Hot Springs, Nome
- #3 – Ascension Church of Our Lord, Karluk
- #4 – Chitina Emporium Chitina
- #5 – HiYu Stamp Mill, Fairbanks
- #6 – Bishop Rowe Chapel, Arctic Village
- #7 – Bristol Bay Boats - Naknek
- #8 – SS Nenana Sternwheeler Riverboat, Fairbanks
- #9 – Eldred Rock Lighthouse, Lynn Canal
- #10 – Pioneer Hall, Ketchikan
- #11 – Sitka Indian Village, Sitka

**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!*

## Ten Most Endangered Historic Properties 2024 Grant Program Sponsors

*Celebrating 33Years of the Ten Most Endangered Historic Properties Grant Program!*

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# Giving Thanks for Citizen Archivists



If you've been reading our newsletter for a while or follow the National Archives on social media, you might have heard of our largest Citizen Archivist mission — the pension applications of Revolutionary War veterans.

<https://tinyurl.com/3x5x3x9d>

This mission is a special partnership with the National Park Service. We hope that unlocking these pensions will bring first hand accounts of the American Revolution to park visitors.



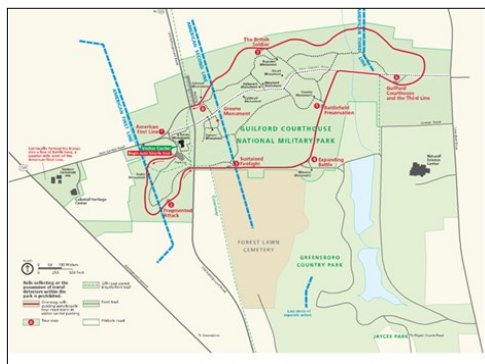
We are grateful for all the work our Citizen Archivists have done in advancing this mission, and wanted to highlight one group of volunteers working together to advance the mission.

The staff at Guilford Courthouse National Military Park have organized a group of volunteers to transcribe pension files from soldiers who participated in the Battle of Guilford Courthouse.

While not a household name like Bunker Hill or Saratoga, the Battle of Guilford Courthouse was the site of an American defeat in 1781. About 2,100 British troops under the command of General Lord Cornwallis defeated about 4,500 Americans led by General Nathaneal Greene. But it was a pyrrhic victory for Cornwallis. One quarter of his troops were killed or wounded, while the Americans retreated intact.

Through targeted recruitment of undergrad and grad students across the nation, the park's Citizen Archivist cohort skews young. They have 6 citizen archivists under the age of 18, 63 citizen archivists aged 19-25,

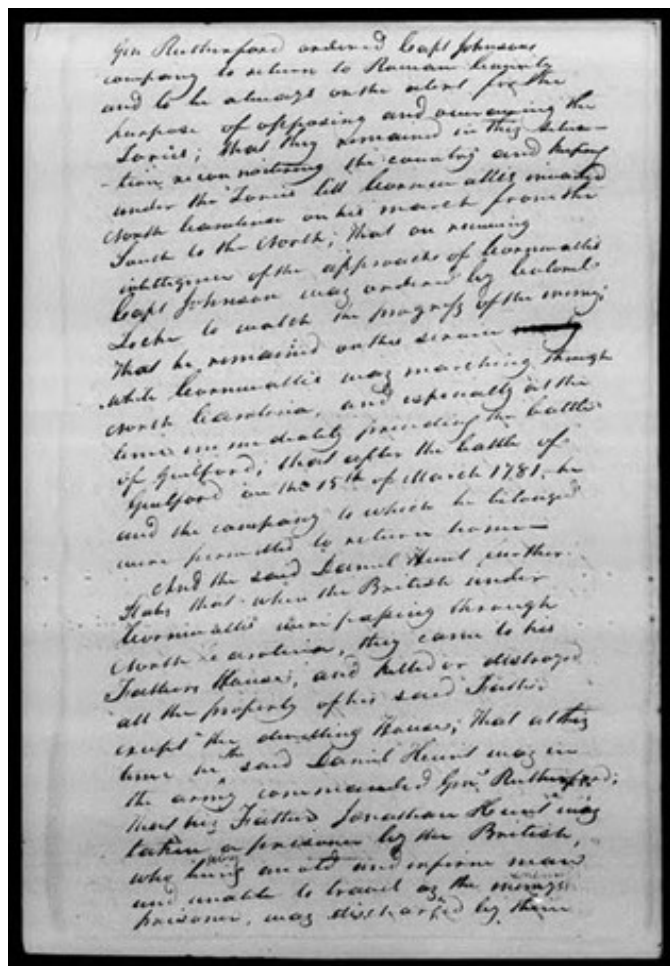
and 28 aged 26-35. They also have a few Citizen Archivists who have identified as members of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR). They all volunteered to transcribe their ancestor's pension.



Guilford Courthouse National Military Park Site Map, Project Years 2004-2012, National Archives Identifier [33754080](https://www.archives.gov/33754080)

The volunteers for Guilford Courthouse shared some of their thoughts about the project with us:

“While transcribing I cannot wait to get to the next page to find out more about them. I feel like I am reading a GREAT book being swept up in their lives and their stories. The pages come ‘Alive’ and I cannot wait to get to the next page and find out the ending.” Christine Ritter (Fairless Hills, PA)



Revolutionary War Pension and Bounty Land War-rant Application File S.7049, Daniel Hunt, N.C. National Archives Identifier [54962685](https://www.archives.gov/54962685)

“The pension applications are written as a first person narrative of famous events. The applicants become real people as I delve into word for word accounts of the battles — their stories. It is awe-inspiring to read about the battles of the revolution from men who were actually there. I imagine the descendants of the veterans learning about and being proud of their ancestors’ service to this country.” Mary Linville (Hartsville, TN)

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Continued from page 6 Archivist

“Soldiers describing having their horses shot out from under them, wives hiding for days in the swamps with their children tucked away in tobacco hogshead while the British ransacked their home — these stories you cannot find in more vivid detail. The bravery of not only the soldiers, but the families they left behind, is remarkable. I am very glad to be able to play a part in making this part of history more accessible to everyone.” Kathleen Quinby (Greensboro, NC)

Thanks to the volunteers at Guilford Courthouse National Military Park we can now read amazing first hand accounts of the battle such as William Harrison, <https://tinyurl.com/5n829tuy> who was wounded in the leg, and James Cotton, <https://tinyurl.com/mw392syh> whose regiment covered the retreat. Volunteers participate from all over the country (and few outside the US). Many are college students interested in American history. They coordinate through virtual meetings and a Facebook group.

If you'd like to be Citizen Archivist and join us in transcribing and tagging records you can find more information here: <https://tinyurl.com/ycxytr7>. And if reading cursive isn't your superpower, don't worry! You can tag <https://tinyurl.com/4vymfsrf>

already transcribed pensions from the American Revolution, or participate in one of our other missions featuring typed records. <https://tinyurl.com/3c2zf2tb>

Questions or comments? Email us at [catalog@nara.gov](mailto:catalog@nara.gov)

**Editor's Note:** There are always projects to help with. I personally have transcribed U.S. Census records to help get them indexed. In my research, I have also notified the archives when I find an error that I know is incorrect and report the error and what the correct information is because of who I am researching. This is why knowing how to read cursive is so important!



National Trust for  
Historic Preservation®

## Fall 2024 Legal Advocacy in Review

By: Jade McClary

Every day, the National Trust for Historic Preservation handles a variety of [preservation law](#) issues through either direct participation or consultation with organizations, individuals, and governmental entities.

In this round up we are proud to report several victories along with new cases from the late summer and early fall of 2024 that would have a national impact on preservation.

### Kentucky Bond Requirement Ruled Unlawful

On August 22, the Kentucky Supreme Court ruled that a new statewide law that imposed burdensome bond requirements for judicial appeals of land use decisions was unconstitutional. [The Bluegrass Trust for Historic Preservation](#), a longstanding partner of the National Trust, challenged the law in a case involving the proposed demolition of a 1958 historic building in Lexington, Kentucky. The National Trust participated in the case by filing an amicus brief in May 2023. Ultimately, although the court allowed the demolition to proceed, it struck down the unlawful bond requirement in a 4-3 decision.

The Bluegrass Trust argued—and the Kentucky Supreme Court agreed—that the bond requirement unreasonably curtails the public's due process rights by creating an excessive barrier to judicial review. The National Trust joined the Kentucky Resources Council in filing the amicus brief to support the Bluegrass Trust, in furtherance of our congressional charter to “facilitate public participation” in historic preservation.

### Minute Man and Neighboring Sites Given a Reprieve from Proposed Expansion of Private Jet Airfield

In response to strong advocacy from the National Trust and many others, the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection ruled on June 21, 2024 that the application to dramatically expand the Hanscom Field Airfield for private jets next to Minute Man National Historical Park (MMNHP) “does not adequately and properly comply with [the Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act]”. As a result, a supplemental environmental impact report will have to be prepared in order for the proposed expansion to be considered further. However, the application has not been withdrawn, and we anticipate the need for further action to oppose any expansion of private jet operations at Hanscom.

The 1775 “shot heard round the world” that began the Revolutionary War took place in what is now MMNHP, and the area includes preserved homes open to the public such as Orchard House, where Louisa May Alcott wrote and set *Little Women*, the Robbins House, commemorating a formerly enslaved Revolutionary War veteran Caesar Robbins, and Henry David Thoreau's Walden Pond and Woods.

Full Report at: <https://tinyurl.com/5abtjja8>



# Iditarod Historic Trail Alliance

The Iditarod Historic Trail Alliance promotes awareness of the Iditarod National Historic 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.



**Time to renew:** Alliance membership dues for 2025 are due by the end of December. Renew on our website – [www.iditarod100.org/support-us.html](http://www.iditarod100.org/support-us.html). This is also a good time to consider upgrading your member level or inviting your friends to join us. Every member is an important partner in our mission to preserve, protect, and promote the Iditarod National Historic Trail.

## Junior Trailblazers at Spencer Glacier

The last week of August 2024, through a grant with the National Park Trust and in partnership with Kenai Mountains-Turnagain Arm National Heritage Area (KMTA), the Alaska Railroad transported 192 students to its Spencer Whistlestop. Over three days, groups of students from schools in Cooper Landing and Seward to Girdwood and Hope flooded the train cars with bubbling enthusiasm to do the short trek to Spencer Glacier. This one-mile mostly flat hike begins along the historic Iditarod Trail. Many of the students had never been to the glacier, despite some living within two hours of its lakeshore.



Rangers from Begich Boggs Visitor Center assisted with the day's events. The students were encouraged to participate using the Junior Trailblazer INHT booklet, an IHTA-supported project. This provided the perfect opportunity for local children to get to know their forest and its phenomenal history while experiencing something quite different than a typical "back to school" week.

Chaperones, KMTA staff, the US Forest Service Ranger, and some additional volunteers, all helped students learn about glacial formation, its effect on landscapes, and how it shaped the transportation that people pursued a little over 100 years ago.

While there are many places to explore along the Iditarod Trail, Spencer Glacier offers some of the most idyllic Alaskan scenery, with an expansive glacial lake full of sculpture-like icebergs and, weather permitting, unmatched views into the Spencer-Blackstone ice complex. Sharing this experience with the bright eyed next generation is truly what building trail systems and partnerships are all about.



*Our thanks to Carolyn Spencer with US Forest Service for the photos and article.*

Will Brennan, Trail Program Manager and Iditarod National Historic Trail Coordinator for the US Forest Service, Chugach National Forest notes: "The Spencer area lies along the AKRR tracks and follows the original INHT route. The Southern Trek parallel route is working to build a recreation trail outside of the dangerous rail tracks."

## IHTA Establishes Fund with Alaska Community Foundation!

The **Iditarod Historic Trail Fund** is up and running at Alaska Community Foundation (ACF). You can donate to this fund at <https://alaskacf.org/funds/> and use the search function to find the fund name.

IHTA recently opened a non-endowed fund with an initial deposit of \$25,000. We hope this fund will grow over time to provide a sustained source of funds to support the work of the Iditarod Historic Trail Alliance. "Non-endowed fund" means all the resources in the fund are available for spending as project needs arise.

Recent completed projects include substantial refurb-





TRAIL ■ STORY ■ STEWARDSHIP

bishing of the Topkok Shelter cabin and partnering with White Mountain Search & Rescue and White Mountain Native Corporation to construct an entirely new shelter cabin in the Topkok hills. Ongoing projects in-

clude creating an Oral History of the designation of the Iditarod as a National Historic Trail with UAF and creating interpretive materials with the help of State Parks Interpretation & Education unit.

ACF is an organization that pools and invests the resources of many (2250 at present count) diverse Alaskan non-profit organizations in order to enhance the investment opportunities for the individual fund organization.



**Lee Poleske**, long time IHTA Board Member, member of the Seward Iditarod Trail Blazers, and Trail historian, passed away on August 12, 2023. Lee was also the long-time editor of *The Tripod*, publication of which was on hiatus after his death. On June 22, 2024, his friends and colleagues honored Lee with a community gathering and the unveiling of his memorial statue along mile zero of the Trail in Seward. Note Lee's ever-present camera around his neck



**BLM Alaska Recreation Summit:** IHTA attended the October 9 Summit in Fairbanks. BLM sought input from agencies and non-profit partners on Alaska-specific recreation challenges and opportunities, with the goal to develop the BLM Alaska Recreation Action Plan, enhancing recreation program capacity, and offering outdoor experiences through partnerships with state and local governments and community organizations.

**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.

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

[IditarodHTA@gmail.com](mailto:IditarodHTA@gmail.com)

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

**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.

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<https://tinyurl.com/yhdjirj6>

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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

## FONSS Nonprofit Status is Official!

By Greg Durocher and Doris Thomas

Friends of Nike Site Summit (FONSS) has completed its first quarter as an independent 501(c)(3) nonprofit. Trish Neal, President of Preservation Alaska, has been instrumental in ensuring a smooth transition, for which we owe many thanks.



Preservation Alaska (Alaska Association for Historic Preservation) served as the nonprofit umbrella for FONSS for over 17 years.



Lance Morgan and Dennis Bannon, who served together at Site Point (now Kincaid Park) in the late 1960s, pose with the trainer missile at Site Summit during the 2024 Alaska Nike Veterans Reunion. Photo by Toni Adams.

The Alaska Nike-Hercules Veterans Reunion in mid-September was a great success. Maybe too much, as many were asking when we again plan to host one! Tours included the Alaska Veterans Museum, Aviation Museum and Site Point (Kincaid Park), and, of course Site Summit.

The highlight for some, though, was that JBER lit the Star on the Mountain on Tuesday, Sept. 17, during the reunion. After dinner that night, everyone carpoled

around the area to try to find a good vantage point. Our final reunion event at the Kincaid Chalet (former missile bunker) was well attended by the vets and local FONSS supporters and volunteers.



Jim Renkert, FONSS vice president, tells veterans at the final reunion potluck dinner about the FONSS endowment. (Doris Thomas photo)

The FONSS board will reconvene in January to begin planning 2025 tours and the work season. So far, this has been a low-snow winter compared to last year, but that can change in a very short time. Optimistically, we'd like to begin touring and working at Site Summit by late June. FONSS is also hoping for at least one ski tour at Kincaid in late winter, plus some hiking tours there in the spring.



Reunion participants escaped from the rain one morning, enjoying an outstanding narrated tour at the Alaska Aviation Museum at Lake Hood (Greg Durocher photo)

FONSS is working with the Anchorage Museum to arrange some tours at both locations as part of a two-year commemoration of the Cold



The cold, rainy weather that persisted for most of the reunion broke for the vets to take a walking tour of Site Point buildings at Kincaid Park on Sept. 19. (Shari Durocher photo)

War and the DEW Line. Stay tuned! We have also been working with Anchorage Parks and Recreation on a new Nike display to be installed in the Kincaid Chalet.



The reunion veterans, who included vets from both the Anchorage- and Fairbanks-area battalions, gathered for a group shot in front of the missile displayed at Site Summit on Sept. 18. Note the space heater that Lance Morgan had the good sense to bring on a truly bone-chilling day. (Doris Thomas photo)

As always, FONSS is looking for Nike vets, their family members and volunteers.

Contact us at [fonss2007@gmail.com](mailto:fonss2007@gmail.com) or visit our Website, [www.nikesitesummit.net](http://www.nikesitesummit.net). You can also find us on Facebook or call us at (907) 717-0117.

To get on the 2025 advance notice tour list, send an email with the subject line "Tour notification" to [fonss2007@gmail.com](mailto:fonss2007@gmail.com)

Follow **FONSS** on Facebook  
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## OFAP Staff Updates

The ACHP's Office of Federal Agency Programs (OFAP) recently welcomed the following new staff members:



- Emma Diehl is a new Program Analyst in OFAP's Federal Permitting, Licensing, and Assistance Section. Emma manages Section 106 case reviews for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers—Regulatory Program, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, and the National Endowment for the Humanities.

- Megan Borthwick has transitioned from Program Analyst/Liaison for the U.S. Forest Service to a new Permitting Analyst position in OFAP's Special Initiatives Section. In this new role, Megan will be primarily working on FAST-41 and other federal permitting program improvements, including development and implementation of program alternatives and guidance.



OFAP staffers (left to right) Emma Diehl, Megan Borthwick, Kasey Miller

- Kasey Miller is the new Program Analyst/Liaison for the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). Kasey manages Section 106 cases for FHWA undertakings in most U.S. states and territories, except for Alaska, Arizona, California, Florida, Nebraska, Ohio, Texas, and Utah (NEPA assignment states). The FHWA NEPA-assignment state cases are managed by Assistant Program Analyst Emily Choi.

Also of note, in November, the ACHP welcomed Ashley Fry as the new director of the Office of Tribal and Indigenous Peoples.

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<https://www.achp.gov>

## Past Excellence in Historic Preservation Award Winners

- 2024** ROSSIA—Bishop's House  
 Allyson Galler & Family —  
 Harpel House II  
 Wolf Creek Boatworks
- 2023** Greater Wasilla Chamber  
 of Commerce  
 Willow Historic & Wildlife  
 Foundation
- 2022** Judith Bittner  
 Whisky & Ramen and  
 Determine Design
- 2021** Grant Crosby  
 Treadwell Historic  
 Preservation &  
 Restoration Society
- 2020** Howard & Juliana Farley  
 Trish Neal  
 Iditarod Historic Trail  
 Alliance (IHTA)  
 Fraternal Order of  
 Alaska State Troopers
- 2019** Janet Matheson  
 Katie Ringsmuth/<NN>  
 Doris Thomas/FONSS  
 Lee Poleske
- 2018** Hugh & Iris Darling
- 2017** No Award Given
- 2016** Bob De Armond  
 Bill De Armond
- 2015** No Award Given
- 2014** Bob Mitchell
- 2013** Thad Poulson  
 Jim Renkert
- 2012** Sheri & Darrin Hamming
- 2011** No Award Given
- 2010** Mary Flaherty  
 FONSS
- 2009** Erin & Falene Reeve  
 Don Corwin  
 Steve Peterson
- 2008** No info available
- 2007** Edwin Crittenden, FAIA  
 Katharine Crittenden  
 Sam Combs, AIA  
 Elayne Janiak

## Beloved Sitka House Listed in National Register of Historic Places

**(Sitka, AK)** – A famous Southeast Alaska property has been nationally recognized for its association with U.S. women’s history. **The Sitka Women’s Club Building** was listed by the Keeper of the National Register of Historic Places in Washington, DC on October 15, 2024.

“The Sitka Women’s Club building is a physical reminder of how women’s rights reached the furthest corners of the United States at the beginning of the 20th century, and helped transform Sitka from a Russian colony into a modern, quintessentially American community,” said **Lieutenant Governor Nancy Dahlstrom**, who serves as chair of the Alaska Historical Commission.



The historic building was constructed in 1895 by Hans Christian Pande, an immigrant from Tønsberg, Vestfold Fylke in Norway, for his daughter Ragnhild who used it initially as a hat shop. The building retains features that illustrate and convey a wood-frame Norwegian vernacular cottage. When the building was constructed, it sat alone prominently on the rocky outcropping directly on the water. Local Sitkans called the house the "Cottage by the Sea." By the turn of the 19th century, the house became the property of William Parker Mills of the W.P. Mills Company (a lumber company that made the Mills family one of the wealthiest in Southeast Alaska) and his wife Florence Edith, one of the founders of Sitka’s Woman’s Club who sat near the top of Sitka’s social hierarchy. Through much of the 20th century, the house

was an epicenter for Sitka’s Progressive Era ideals such as professionalism, social clubs, women’s suffrage, temperance, volunteerism, and the traditional feminism espoused by the town’s pioneering upper-middle-class families.

Embedded in Sitka’s social fabric, the building’s historic use supported women’s clubs that conducted philanthropic and community work. To honor Florence Edith Mills, her children W. P. Mills Jr. and Loretta May Mills sold her former house to the Sitka Woman’s Club for \$1 in 1951. Today, the building serves as the first permanent home for the organization, representing the culmination of earlier efforts and achievements of Sitka women by the mid-20th century.

“Listing the building on the National Register is wonderful news,” said **Anne Pollnow**, who submitted the nomination on behalf of the Sitka Woman’s Club. “The Sitka Woman’s Club thanks the Alaska Historical Commission and State Historic Preservation Office staff for shepherding the nomination through the process.”

The Alaska Historical Commission considered the nomination at its meeting on Nov. 16, 2023, initiating comments from Commission members. The State Historic Preservation Office prepared the nomination package and submitted it to the Keeper on August 30, 2024.

*The Department of Natural Resources' mission is to develop, conserve and maximize the use of Alaska's natural resources consistent with the public interest.*

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*Continued from page 2*

building still serves the same function as it did in 1940.

For almost 30 years the Romey family has worked to restore, preserve and protect the Historic Wolf Creek Boatworks from destruction for the harsh weather and environmental forces that can destroy in short order the foundation and remains of the site. Hundreds of thousands of dollars and hours of manpower have been invested to keep the site as original as possible.

Since 2015 and the uncertainty of the land and no current lease or sale Wolf Creek has ceased commercial operations and has now become a nonprofit museum. The land was transferred to the Alaska Mental Health Trust in 2019 by Congress. Most of the 2544 acres of land is to be logged off. Negotiations are in the works to save the historic property rather than demolishing it.

# Summer 2024 - One For the Record Books!

Buoyed by six grants and four major private contributions, as well as continued transportation support from the Marine Exchange of Alaska, ERLPA was able to have construction crews and overnight volunteer caretaking groups at the lighthouse for a total of SIX FULL WEEKS this summer! Extreme summer weather cancelled or cut short several trips, as is usual in windy Northern Lynn Canal.



Many thanks to all our Board Members, Volunteers, and Contractors that made up the 60 people that helped at Eldred Rock this summer! We intend to send updates on all our projects during the winter months.

## Summary of Major 2024 Projects

Abatement/remediation of South entry vestibule, South gear locker, North workroom, Bathroom, 3 closets, and the West bedroom! Funding assistance provided by grants from the Chilkat Valley Community Foundation (CVCF) and the Alaska Association for Historic Preservation (AAHP).

Repair of Northwest Gutter (ongoing,) is being supported in part by the Maritime Heritage Grant Program administered by the National Park Service, Department of the Interior, through the State of Alaska Office of History and Archeology.

Education Program (ongoing,) includes development and initial implementation of the Volunteer Caretaker Program and Educational Film Production. This new program is being supported in part by the Maritime Heritage Grant Program administered by the National Park Service, Department of the Interior, through the State of Alaska Office of History and Archeology. Funding also provided by grants from the Alaska Community Foundation-Strengthening Organizations, and the Alaska Center for Excellence in Journalism.

Lantern Room Window Replacement! Our crowning achievement of the summer, accomplished the last week of the summer schedule, and funded entirely through private contributions and transportation donations by the Marine Exchange of Alaska.

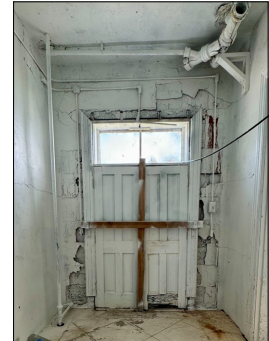
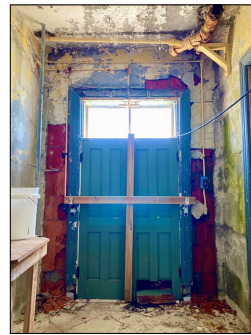
Alongside these major repair and maintenance accomplishments, small projects such as outbuilding painting, gutter drainage, tree removal, carpentry, delivery of an incinerating toilet, and boathouse improvements were achieved. The differences are

amazing!

## **Remediation: Striving for a clean palette**

Remediation of lead and asbestos in the buildings has been our primary focus since on-the-island work began in 2021. With only the kitchen, attic, boiler room, and radio room to go, we are nearly there! Volunteer cleaning and painting helps immensely! Thanks to grant funding from the CVCF, AAHP, as well as volunteer service supported by the AK Maritime Heritage Education Program, we were able to harness contracted and donated labor to a full six week extent!

Remediating 8 interior rooms and finishing with outbuilding painting was a huge feat, with many, many people involved.



Our first priority for summer remediation was the south entry and gear locker. (Above)

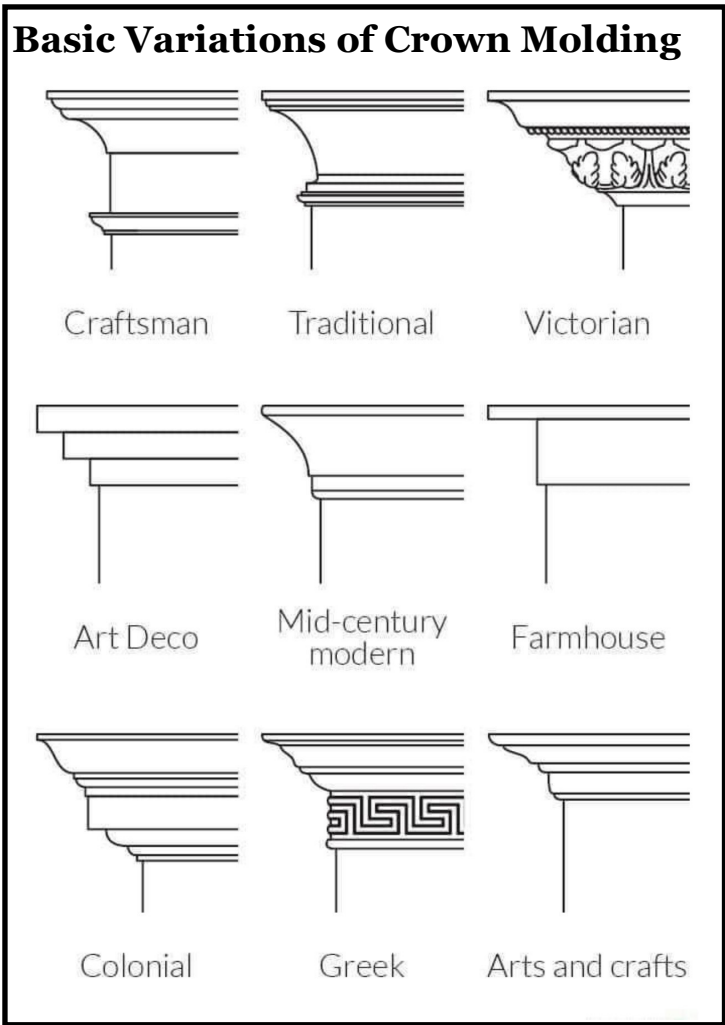
Water damage over the years has caused exterior and interior spalling that needs repair. In addition, asbestos abatement and lead encapsulation occurred in the north workroom (below) with air sampling and a third party inspection. Thanks to Pyramid Abatement and Dahlberg Design from Juneau for donating service towards Eldred Rock!



In addition to 5 bedrooms with cots and closets, the 2nd Floor Keeper Quarters now has an open Bathroom! No plumbing yet, but exciting progress!

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*Thank you for your support of our Mission!*





**ALASKA ASSOCIATION FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION, INC.**

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