

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 2023

Vol 41 No 4

Ten Most Endangered Historic Properties 2023 Grants Awarded



List of historic properties appears on page 5.

The *Ten Most Endangered Grant Program* funds hands-on preservation work on an endangered property that is listed on that year's annual list. The matching grant serves as seed money to leverage funding from other sources. One matching grant is usually awarded each year. This year, thanks to our wonderful sponsors of our grant program, we are able to make two awards this year. The Ten Most Endangered Historic Properties program calls attention to threatened properties that de-

fine our great state, the people that live here, and the heritage we share.

Preservation Alaska is working to develop an endowment fund to be able to award larger grants or more than one grant each year. Private donations for the grant program are always welcome.

This year's recipients are Russian Orthodox Sacred Sites in Alaska, Inc. (ROSSIA) and the Eldred Rock Lighthouse Preservation

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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



Ten Most Endangered grant *Continued from page 1*

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Preservation Notes

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

AKPreservation@gmail.com

Articles are published on topics worthy of public consideration. Unless otherwise stated, the views expressed are those of the authors and should not be attributed to AAHP, its Board of Directors, or its supporters.

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Banner by Bill Devine, 1992.

Association (ERLPA)

Preservation Alaska is pleased to award ROSSIA a matching grant of \$2,175.00

In August 2021, the Holy Ascension of Our Lord Russian Orthodox Church was lifted from its foundation and moved about 80 feet inland away from the eroding cliff to a temporary location. In the fall of 2022, a new roof was installed, and the bell tower reinforced. At that time, the workers noticed that the unique round window on the bell tower was severely damaged by wind and weather. It was removed for fear of being lost forever. This grant will fund Mary Webb, a professional woodworker who specializes in window restoration to repair the window. ROSSIA felt that it was important to restore the window rather than to rebuild it. Ms. Webb will remove the old paint, repair any damaged wood, priming the



wood with linseed oil, repair the broken glass, re-puttying the glass into the opening and apply two coats of linseed oil paint. Once completed, the window will be shipped back to Anchorage and then later to the church located in Karluk.

The total project costs for restoration of the window is: \$4,350.00

Currently, negotiations are underway to purchase land for the new location of the church with the hopes of moving the church to its new location the summer of 2024. Once relocated, more restoration work will be started on the church.

Dorothy Gray, president of ROSSIA accepted the award.

Preservation Alaska is pleased to award Eldred Rock Lighthouse Preservation Association a matching grant of \$2,500

The grant will be used to continue hazardous material remediation to the living and workspaces within the lighthouse.

This summer of 2024 will be the fourth season of this work to stop migration of asbestos and lead paint.

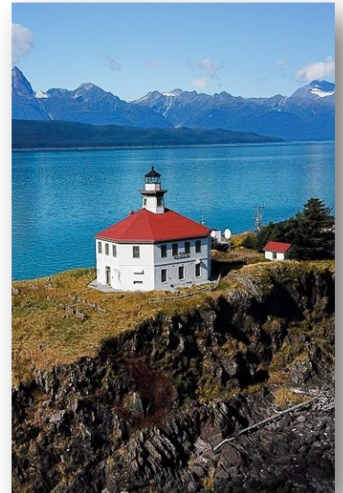
ERLPA will hire a contractor for 12 days, (or a team of two contracted abatement workers for six days), of remediation work to complete continued hazardous material remediation of the first floor of Eldred Rock lighthouse. This project will be focused on completing remediation of the southern interior face of the first floor, specifically the southern entrance vestibule and south gear locker.

The total project costs for this work is: \$23,750

Sue York, representing the association accepted the award.

Ten Most Endangered Historic Properties Grant Program Sponsorships

The matching grants that we award each year are a direct result of the supportive businesses who donate to this important program. Preservation Alaska appreciates their contin-



Continued on page 3

Ten Most Endangered grant
Continued from page 1

ued support.

We list the sponsors in our annual meeting program guide, on our home page, in our quarterly newsletter, and on our Ten Most Endangered Historic Properties grant application. We also announce the sponsors on our Facebook page and in our news release.

Sponsors for 2023 are:

Platinum Sponsor at \$1,000 are:

- Nvision, Anchorage
- Kuchar Construction, LLC, Eagle River

Gold Sponsors at \$500 are:

- HZA Engineering Solutions, Anchorage
- Northern Air Cargo, Anchorage
- Enterprise Engineering, Inc., Anchorage
- BBFM Engineers, Inc. Anchorage
- RSA Engineering, Anchorage
- LCG Lantech, Inc., Anchorage


Heritage Newsletter

Do You Receive the *Heritage* Newsletter? *Heritage* is produced by the Office of History and Archaeology, Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation, Alaska Department of Natural Resources.

Please send your comments, suggestions, and information by e-mail to dnr.oha@alaska.gov, mail 550 West 7th Ave., Suite 1310, Anchorage, AK 99501-3565, or phone 907-269-8700. All issues are posted online at dnr.alaska.gov/parks/oha/ and distributed to subscribers by e-mail.

A paper copy can be sent to individuals and organizations that specifically request it. To be added to the subscription list, please send an email to dnr.oha@alaska.gov with "Heritage, subscribe" in the subject line.

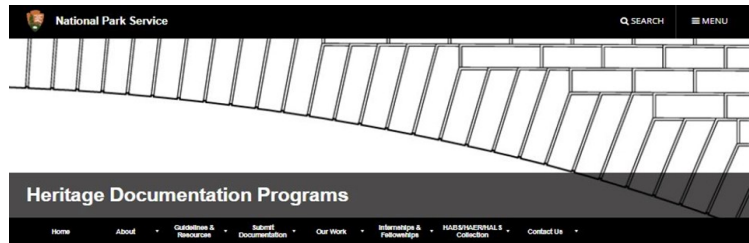
Just in time for the 90th Anniversary of the Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS) we've redesigned our website!

Remember to  update  your bookmarks to our new site at <https://www.nps.gov/subjects/heritagedocumentation>

ABOUT THE NEW WEBSITE

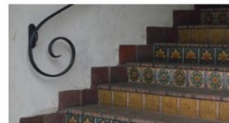
The new website has been reorganized so that you can find information easier. It is also integrated into the National Park Service Content Management System, which means that certain design features, layouts, and structures are uniform throughout the bureau. The new design now responsive so that it works better on various screen sizes like your phone or tablet. While there is still some work to do, the new site contains all the essential information our visitors need to engage with and contribute to HABS/HAER/HALS.

Check-out the new [Heritage Documentation Programs, NPS website](https://www.nps.gov/subjects/heritagedocumentation) at <https://www.nps.gov/subjects/heritagedocumentation> WANT TO SEARCH THE HABS/HAER/HALS COLLECTION? The URL to access the HABS/HAER/HALS Collection - the nation's largest archive of historic architectural, engineering, and cultural landscape documentation in [The Library of Congress](https://www.loc.gov/pictures/collection/hh/) - has NOT changed and remains <https://www.loc.gov/pictures/collection/hh/>



Documenting America's Built Environment

The Heritage Documentation Programs (HDP) consist of the Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS), Historic American Engineering Record (HAER), and Historic American Landscapes Survey (HALS). The programs document historic sites and structures across the United States through the creation of measured drawings, large-format photographs, and historical reports. Documentation is archived in the HABS/HAER/HALS Collection at the Library of Congress and is available to the public without restriction. HDP is part of the National Park Service's Cultural Resources, Partnerships, and Science Directorate.



About
Learn about HDP, HABS, HAER, and HALS



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How to create HABS/HAER/HALS documentation



Submit Documentation
How to submit HABS/HAER/HALS documentation



Our Work
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Enter HDP's documentation contests



Virtual Content
Virtual tours of historic sites across the country



Collection
Explore the HABS/HAER/HALS Collection



Contact
Contact HDP or an NPS regional office

In This Corner...

As we leave 2023, we are grateful for the support that we received over the past twelve months. We are excited to start 2024 on a positive note. This is going to be a very busy year for Preservation Alaska which will culminate in some changes.

As I announced at our annual meeting in November, this will be my last term on the board. Until we amended our bylaws in November, this was going to be my last term anyway. I have also chosen not to return to the board as an advisor. It is time for me to start the next chapter of my life.

As we start 2024, it is a countdown to December 31, 2024 for me with a reluctant heart but it is time for me to turn over the reins of Preservation Alaska. I am hopeful that we will be hiring an executive director to take over the management of the organization by 2025. It is time to take that next step, but it will take the full support of our historic preservation community around the state to see that happen.

I am pleased that we gained a new board member this Fall and re-elected two of our board members. Shannon Crossley is our newest board member. She lives in Douglas. Amber Glen joined our board late last year. She is from Juneau. Amber, and board member Jobe Bernier appeared on the ballot along with Shannon this year. Jobe lives in Anchorage. They were unanimously elected to the board with terms expiring in 2028.

We are still seeking new board members – board members and advisory board members – to fill out the board. We have several projects in mind that we would like to tackle but it takes more than the current board members to get the projects off the ground. Our board is a working board, and they all have their own jobs or business. So, their time focused on our current programs takes up their tie. We need more board members to take on more projects.

We are a state-wide organization. Board members do not need to live in Anchorage. In fact, we would like to see board members representing all parts of Alaska. We meet via Zoom, so there's no travel required to attend our board meetings.

We have a Bookkeeper who maintains our books but we would still like to have someone with a financial background to serve as treasurer. While we have AK Lean Virtual which does our minutes, we would like to have someone serve as secretary that can assist in some admin duties.

Fundraising is going to be a top priority this year if we are to come up with the necessary funding to hire an executive director even if it is only part-time to start. We also need to raise funds for general operations of our organization.

If you care about our state's history, you have the qualifications that we are looking for. A background in nonprofit organizations is helpful.

We have a brief form to complete for those interested in joining our board so that we are able to get to know you. A resume is helpful, too, but not required.

Meanwhile, our programs will continue this year. I will be spending the year creating a manual that outlines what we do, how we do things, deadlines, memberships, who to contact about various duties, etc. My goal is to complete that manual and tie up loose ends by the end of the year. Of course, I will be available for questions! I won't totally walk away.

Thank you for your support of Preservation Alaska. You are greatly appreciated. We look forward to 2024. The countdown to December 31, 2024 begins for me!

Happy New Year!



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/yhdjirj6>

•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.





2023 Ten Most Endangered Historic Properties

1. SS Nenana—Fairbanks
2. Ascension of Our Lord Chapel—Karluk
3. Chitina Emporium—Chitina
4. Eldred Rock Lighthouse—Haines
5. Pilgrim Hot Springs—Nome
6. Pioneer Hall—Ketchikan
7. Fort Wm H. Seward Hospital—Haines
8. Bishop Rowe Chapel—Arctic Village
9. Bristol Bay Boats—Naknek
10. Hi Yu Stamp Mill—Fairbanks

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 Grant Program Sponsors

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

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2023 Historic Preservation Awards Announced

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. This is the 16th year that the awards have been presented.

This year's recipients are:

The Wasilla Train Depot was designed and built in 1917 by the [Alaska Engineering Commission](#), a federal agency charged with building Alaska's railways. The structure is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Wasilla Train Depot is owned by the City of Wasilla



and leased to Greater Wasilla Chamber of Commerce.

The chamber moved into the building as its offices and did restoration work including historically accurate painting, restoration and replacement of decking, window and door repairs, flooring repairs, etc. with other work being done of the 20 years of occupancy by the chamber.

In 2020, the building was lifted from its foundation at 415 E Railroad Ave and transported down the road a bit to its new home at 1155 E Depot Rd. The City of Wasilla and Chamber continue to partner in keeping the building maintained and functioning.

The building was moved in the summer of 2020 and between COVID itself and all the associated restrictions, staffing and supply chain also became an issue in the building move. The building had to be relocated due to the Knik Goosebay Rd realignment

project.

The Depot serves as the offices of the Greater Wasilla Chamber of Commerce, which also operates a Visitor Information Center out of the Depot building, and have for years greeted railroad passengers embarking and disembarking from the Wasilla stop. The train will stop at the Depot again in January 2024. While it may no longer serve as a Depot, it is still a hub of commerce and information and a warm dry place for railroad passengers to wait.

Jessica Culver representing the Greater Wasilla Chamber of Commerce accepted the award. The City of Wasilla shared in the award and received their own glass-framed certificate.



The **Old Willow Community Center** is a historic community building on West Willow Community Center Circle, off mile marker 69.7 of the [Parks Highway](#) in [Willow, Alaska](#). It is a single-story log structure, measuring 60 by 40 feet, built *Awards Announced...continued from page 6* out of local spruce. It is covered by a broad aluminum gabled roof; the gable ends are finished in wooden shingles.

Continued on page 7

The interior consists of a single large chamber.

The building was constructed in 1961 as part of a community drive for a meeting space that was more spacious than the local railroad station. In 1992, it was moved a short way south of its original location, where the new community center and library now stand. The building continues to be used for community events.



The building is owned by the Mat-Su Borough. The borough covered the necessary repairs for the building. The restoration of the building was a multi-year process and involved many elected officials, borough staff, contracts, and WACO representatives.

The Willow Area Community Organization has a management agreement for the use of the building. The old log building was the original Willow Community Building, built in 1961. It has been managed by the Willow Historic and Wildlife Foundation since 2004 and gained National Register of Historic Places status in 2017.

The purpose of the project was to transition a recently renovated large, sterile room into a space with a warm, historic atmosphere, divided into ten theme booths displaying different aspects of local history. The work was begun in 2022 and finished November 1, 2023.

Beetle-killed trees from nearby were cut into log lengths and peeled to provide inexpensive, attrac-



tive and sturdy upright supports for booth dividers. Jim Huston, their Chief Engineer, laborer, and clean-up crew designed screw-jacks that are mounted on top of the posts and pushed to the ceiling directly under a ceiling rafter. To reduce negative disturbance to floors, walls and ceilings few screws and no nails were needed.

A number of furnishings were repurposed in the creation of the museum which is now open to the public.

Jim Huston attended via Zoom and accepted the award. The Mat-Su Borough and the Willow Area Community Organization shared in the award and were presented with their own glass-framed certificate.



Preservation Tips and Tools Stories

So you want to help an old or historic place in your community ... terrific! Preservation Tips & Tools offers a one-stop shop for people who love places but aren't sure how to save them. Browse the articles below to find valuable resources, materials, and people who are available to help.

<https://tinyurl.com/a7d5ezn8>

Alaska Native Heritage Center Receives Award

The Alaska Native Heritage Center received the Museum Institutional Excellence award.



The Association of Tribal Archives, Libraries, and

Museums (ATALM) today announced the recipients of the 2023 Guardians of Culture and Lifeways Awards. Awardees will be honored during the International Conference of Indigenous Archives, Libraries, and Museums on October 25, 2023, at the Omni Oklahoma City Hotel in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

Image credit:

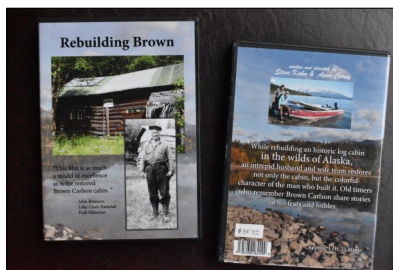
[experienceology](https://www.experienceology.com)

September 13, 2023. *Red Lake Nation News*

Rebuilding Brown is a documentary film with parallel storylines. While reconstructing Brown's historic log cabin in the wilds of Alaska, an intrepid husband-and-wife team unveils the colorful character of the man who built it.

<http://tinyurl.com/5n6aw4x6>

The DVDs of the documentary film, **Rebuilding Brown**, are now available. They can be purchased at Old Inlet Books in Homer or directly.



Iditarod Historic Trail Alliance

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.

Time to Renew



Alliance membership dues for 2024 are due by the end of December. This is a good time to upgrade your membership level and to recruit

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

Membership and donation forms online at:

<http://tinyurl.com/487dz5x8>

New Executive Director

Courtney Lyons-Garcia began her role as Executive Director for the Partnership for the National Trail System in September of 2023. She is a nonprofit professional with more than twenty-five years of experience in public lands. Prior to joining PNTS, she served as the Executive Director of Big Bend Conservancy, the nonprofit fundraising partner of Big Bend National Park and the Rio Grande Wild & Scenic River, in the Development Department at National Parks Conservation Association, and most recently as the Executive Director of Public Lands Foundation, a partner of the Bureau of Land Management in the responsible use of America's public lands. Throughout her career, Lyons-Garcia has worked extensively on issues related to public land stewardship, trail development, coalition building, federal

partnership, advocacy, fundraising and communications. She works to build and protect trails in her own community through the Great Springs Project and Comal Trails Alliance.

Land Manager Forum

Alaska Trails will be holding its annual Land Manager Forum on Tuesday, November 15. The Forum brings land managers, trails groups, trail builders and trail enthusiasts together to highlight the many successes they have had and share what has worked and what has not. You can view the 2022 presentations at: <https://www.alaska-trails.org/land-manager-forum>. The Forum will be held at BP Energy Center in Anchorage. More details including agenda, speakers and more will be forthcoming. If you have any questions or ideas for the forum, send an email to Steve Cleary: steve.cleary@alaska-trails.org

The Gold Sheet

To demonstrate the value of volunteer hours and private contributions to the 11 National Scenic Trails and the 19 National Historic Trails, the Partnership for The National Trails System compiles an annual report called the Gold Sheet, which summarizes the private dollars donated and hours of volunteer time contributed to build, interpret, and sustain the nation's 30 scenic and historic trails.



Using the yearly national rate for volunteer time calculated by the independent sector, the Gold Sheet transfers volunteer hours into monetary value. Combined, the value of volunteer work and private donation demonstrate the total private contributions to the National Trails System. In 2022 money raised by the National Trails System's 30

Continued on page 9

trails was: in private contributions \$22,256,718 and the monetary value of volunteer hours was \$21,474,988.

The totals raised since 1995 are: in private donations \$282,310,800 and in volunteer hours \$474,912,393.

From the Past
The Seward Gateway, 26
January 1907

GOOD Trail To Interior
Alfred Lowell Returns from
Tyonek With Mail in Quick
Time

Alfred Lowell returned from Tyonek Wednesday afternoon with mail from that place, Susitna station and Knik. He made the round trip in twenty-three days and reports a good trail nearly all the way coming back. Going in he had to break the trail a good deal of the way. Beyond Knik the snow increased in depth and four feet lay on the ground at Susitna station. From the station to Tyonek everything was frozen solid in all the streams and swamps which make that region impassable except in the dead of winter.



Lowell started from Seward The morning of January 1; arrived at Knik the 9th, at Tyonek the 13th. He started back on the 14th and with an open trail made a fast mush. He reached Knik in two days – nearly 100 miles – left there on the 17th and reached camp 49 the evening of the 24th.

Two more trips will be made with the Tyonek mail, one each in February and March.

From the Past
Daily Sitka Sentinel, 21
January 1981

Alaskans Named To Iditarod
Trail Panel

ANCHORAGE (AP) – Twenty Alaskans have been named as

advisors to the U.S. Department of Interior to help develop a management plan for the Iditarod Trail between Seward and Nome.

Chairman of the Iditarod National Historic Trail Advisory Council will be Joe Redington, sr., found of the annual sled dog race which follows the trail and takes its name.

Other members are:
Ken Chase, Anvik; Leroy Davie, Willow; Andy Edge, Nome; Jack Garrison, Big Lake; Shirley Heatwole, Anchorage; Wilda Hudson, Anchorage; Edgar Kalland, Kaltag; Fritz Livesay, Anchorage; Michale Meehan, Seward; Roderic Perry, Chugiak; Clyde Peter, Galena; Rosemary Phillips, Nome; Daniel Seavy, Seward; Mary Shields, Fairbanks and Raymond Collins, McGrath.

Representing the government on the council will be Floy Sharrock, Clay Beal, William Coghill and Chip Dennerlein, all of Anchorage.

The Iditarod Trail consists of a 2,000-mile network of trails used by gold seekers traveling between Seward and Nome in 1909.

In 1968, Congress authorized the Interior Department to review Alaska's gold strike trails for possible inclusion in the national trail system.

Council members will serve two years but may be reappointed.

The Bureau of Land Management says approximately 64 percent of the land along the trail is owned by the state, 20 percent by the federal government and the rest by native corporations.



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.

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/yhdjrrj6>



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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.

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<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

2023 Report on FONSS

Greg Durocher, Director

Friends of Nike Site Summit was not immune from inflation, breakdowns, and weather in 2023. Bus rental prices increased substantially over the previous year, and tour fares had to be adjusted accordingly. The summer tour season, scheduled to begin June 17



with a hiking tour at Site Summit, was delayed due to snow covering the road and some of the doorways. On our last bus tour date,

Aug. 13, one of the morning buses suffered a breakdown right below the Arctic Valley staging area. We were able to draw up a Plan B on the fly, and shuttle the affected passengers in private vehicles for that tour. Extremely high winds and torrential rain caused cancellation of the last Site Summit hiking tour.



Thanks to Evan Rowland and Ron Haney, the Launch Control Building is sporting a uniform color for the first time in a couple years. This building is our first stop on all the tours. (Evan Rowland photo)

Fortunately, we were again able to provide hiking tours at Site Point (Kincaid Park), which helped generate much needed low-overhead income. Despite the challenges, we hosted about 130 visitors at Kincaid Park and 175 at Site Summit this year and came out “in the

black.” We also hosted a Nike veteran on a private tour and gave tours to two Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson military groups. FONSS also paved the way for increased student tours at Kincaid by hosting tours for 5th graders and local social studies teachers. We look forward to working with the Anchorage School District on this endeavor in 2024.

Our Nike-Hercules trainer missile is now assembled and in place in the launch bunker at Site Summit. The gasps and rapidly-pulled-out phones as our tour guests entered the bunker, made the lengthy acquisition effort worthwhile. Restoration of the missile to its Cold War



Dutch and Lillian Wright, visiting from Florida, pose in the launch bunker with FONSS's new pride and joy, the missile trainer acquired from the Museum of Alaska Transportation and Industry. Dutch served at Site Summit in the late 1960s as an IFC platoon leader. (Doris Thomas photo)

appearance is in the plans for 2024. We owe a huge amount of gratitude to Evan Rowland and his crew for the missile assembly, and to JBER for all their support in this effort.

On a related note, Evan has earned our Volunteer of the Year award. In addition to missile assembly, he also coordinated efforts to finish the siding project on the Launch Control Building - a huge task - along with various other projects. Without his efforts, we'd be years behind!

FONSS will be hosting a Nike veteran reunion in Anchorage in mid-September 2024. This will be similar to the one we hosted in 2009 that focused on camaraderie for the veterans rather than public presentations and VIP speakers such as at the 2014 Cold War Conference and Reunion.

FONSS will be transitioning to its own 501(c)(3) organization status by summer 2025 or earlier. Preservation Alaska has requested that FONSS obtain their nonprofit status to assume management of their organization and financials.



Former missile crewman Lance Morgan tells visitors on Aug. 13 about the features of the Nike missile trainer. (Greg Durocher photo)

New FONSS Phone Number

In other news, FONSS has acquired its own phone number: 907-717-0117. This is primarily a message phone, so callers must leave a message. We don't answer calls from unknown out-of-state numbers.

A Reunion

FONSS and the group Alaska Nike Vets will be hosting a reunion in mid-September 2024 for Nike veterans who served in Alaska. This will be the third reunion FONSS has hosted and will be a bit lower-key than the first two in 2009 and 2014. No big banquets or VIP speakers! We'll post details in later editions of this newsletter.

Follow **FONSS** on Facebook
<https://tinyurl.com/48pj97vf>

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.



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

- 2023** Greater Wasilla Chamber of Commerce
Willow Historic & Wildlife Foundation
- 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

Preservation Alaska Annual Report

Executive Report:

2023 has been busy for us as we tackle our strategic plan, brainstorm developing an endowment to fund hiring of an executive director and continue to advocate for historic preservation around the state as well as nationally.

The board recognized that if the bylaws were not changed to allow more than two terms in office, we would lose four board members in 2024. We would lose very valuable people with a great deal of expertise. While we felt we were correcting a problem, we actually created a bigger problem. We agreed on a work around on the issue so that we would not lose a valuable brain trust in one fell swoop. The membership approved the change. We welcomed two new board members this year. Meanwhile, we continue recruiting new board members.

Trish Neal's term ends at the end of 2024. She has decided not to run for re-election nor will she return to the board as an advisor. That has started discussion on what's next for the organization. We have been discussing the need for an executive director for some time. We need to come up with the funding to do that or recruit a new board member interested in taking on the position of president who has the time and desire to devote to the organization in that capacity.

We have a lot to work on in the next year to prepare for my departure. Meanwhile, Trish will be putting together a manual to make sure that the board knows what needs to be done, where important information is kept, reminders, etc. that will be accessible to all board members. That way the board will be able to refer to one central document when questions arise and it can be updated as needed. It will assist the new executive director in their position.

Finance and Fundraising

We have watched our endowment accounts with ACF go up and down this past year. Just as we see the fund coming back up, it drops the next quarter. It is concerning to see this happening but not a lot that we can do about it.

The Oscar Anderson House Museum was closed this season for repairs and restoration work so that saved us \$14K by not having to hire staff. Managing the house is the greatest expense that we have. We have discussed whether to continue managing the house because of the high cost of managing the facilities.

Raising funds to hire an executive director is top priority for us this next year.

With Facebook ending their partnership with NextDoor, we have moved over to Zeffy for membership and donations. Facebook will be using PayPal for donations on their platform. That means we will lose money. With NextDoor, we received the full donation. Zeffy is free to us, the donor has the option to pay the fee or not, but we still receive the full amount.

We take advantage of the Pick.Click.Give. program. This has been a great program for Alaskans to share the wealth so to speak by donating a portion of their PFDs with nonprofits around the state.

Easement Report:

We continue monitoring our easements. We have been contacted about adding a property to our easement program but nothing definite.

Education

We use our newsletter, Facebook page, and website to share information. Sponsoring in person or virtual workshops is on our list of things to do but we need more board members or volunteers to help with this.

Partnerships

We have worked with the **Friends of SS Nenana** this past year to save the boat by writing letters to the FNSB as well as connecting them to Preservation Magazine which generated a notation in the Summer issue of the endangered status of the SS Nenana.

We continue working with **Friends of Nike Site Summit (FONSS)** as their nonprofit umbrella. The board voted to ask FONSS to obtain their own nonprofit status within the next two years. The board felt it was time for the group to manage their own organization and financials. It has been a good long-term relationship, and we will continue to support FONSS.

We have been attending the **IHTA** meetings and helping with admin duties and their newsletter. Preservation Alaska is compensated for the admin duties. This has been a great longstanding relationship with the group.



Continued on page 13

We began working with the **Greater Friendship Baptist Church** this summer to assist with needed restoration and repairs to the building. We were not able to pull things together by deadline to apply for a grant. There is lots that needs to be done to be shovel ready. We are waiting for a bid from a local contractor to give us an idea of what needs to be done and what it will cost.

We also started working with two individuals to serve as their nonprofit partner to apply for the new **Maritime grants** available through SHPO. They were completely ready to apply this year but will work on the project for the next cycle.

Public Relations

Most of our PR is done through our Facebook page and our newsletter. When there are important events, we send out notices by email or USPS. Facebook seems to be our best friend when it comes to engaging with the public.



Membership

Membership has remained about the same. We send the newsletter out to almost 300 emails. We also promote memberships on our Facebook page.

Legislative

We follow legislative bills that pertain to historic preservation. We belong to Preservation Action which monitors bills in Congress that impact historic preservation. The Historic Tax Credit has been top priority as well as increasing the Historic Preservation Fund so that there is more funding available. It is important to make sure that our SHPO offices are funded.

Ten Most Endangered Historic Properties

We announced the 2023 Ten Most Endangered Historic Properties list in May during Historic Preservation Month. The SS Nenana was designated as the



#1 endangered property this year due to the concern that we might lose the boat if repairs and restoration were not done. Funding is a critical need.

We submitted the SS Nenana and the Pilgrim Hot Springs to the national 11 Most Endangered Historic Properties. Being on the list would give national exposure to those properties. Unfortunately, we were

not successful with the nominations this year.

Oscar Anderson House Museum

The board elected to have the house closed this summer due to the need for repairs and restoration. Mold was found in the upstairs which is a health concern. We requested an agreement to be signed between our organization and the Municipality of Anchorage (MOA) so that we could take on fundraising to get the work completed. That has been stalled due to the MOA deciding to replace the roof with a metal roof which we opposed because it is not historic to the house. The MOA hired a contractor to paint the house, which we were not consulted about to make sure that the appropriate paint was used.



When a property is on the National Register repairs and restoration work must comply with the Secretary of Interiors Standards for Rehabilitation. Noncompliance leaves the historic property open to being removed from the National Register. The house is also the only historic property in Alaska that has the designation as a "Distinctive Destination." This designation could also be lost. While we have conveyed our concerns

about this, there has not been any response from the MOA.



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

We are listed as:
Alaska Association for Historic Preservation.



<https://www.pickclickgive.org>

Talkeetna Historical Society's new manager is excited for the non-profit's future

Earlier this summer, the Talkeetna Historical Society Museum got a new manager. For **Autumn Merritt**, running the Talkeetna Historical Society's museum is the culmination of an earlier career goal that she thought she had left behind when moving to Talkeetna.



"I went to school in the hopes of working in a museum. It's what I wanted to do. Directly after I graduated, I came here for the summer, and I never left. I pretty much figured that I would not end up doing what I had gone to school for. My grandfather

is over the moon about it. So, when this came available, I definitely hemmed and hawed about it. I had a good job before, and I enjoyed it, but I'm so excited to be here."

Phillip Manning, September 6, 2023. *KTNA.org*.

Wilks to take over as Sheldon Museum director

After three years of operating without a director, the Sheldon Museum has finally filled the position. **Brandon Wilks**, who has degrees in English and history and worked as an education coordinator at the [Haines Borough Library](#), will begin onboarding as the new director on Sept. 5.



Helen Alten was the most recent director of the museum, and had served in her position from 2014 to 2020, when the borough drastically cut funds to the museum as a response to a 50% reduction in sales tax revenue during the pandemic.

In 2021, the museum experienced institutional changes as its staff transitioned from being borough employees to being managed by the museum board of directors. Funding for the museum also shifted to include assembly appropriations.

Nakeshia Diop, August 31, 2023. *Chilkat Valley News*.

HistoricFunding.com
Historic Preservation | Cultural Resources | The Arts

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

Grants - Loans - Tax Incentives
Rebates - CLG Funds - Easements
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Funding Categories Include:
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Preservation Alaska

Alaska Association for
Historic Preservation

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501(c)(3) Tax ID: 92-0085097



@AlaskaHistoricPreservation

@OscarAndersonHouseMuseum



<https://candid.org>

Thank you for your support of our Mission!





ALASKA ASSOCIATION FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION, INC.

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AAHP MEMBERSHIP 2024

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

Individual/Household Member

Business/Non-Profit/Government Member

- \$15 Student
- \$25 Individual
- \$45 Household
- \$50 Preservation Friend
- \$100 Preservation Contributor
- \$250 Preservation Advocate
- Other \$ _____

- \$45 (non-profits & government agencies)
- \$100 Preservation Contributor
- \$250 Preservation Advocate
- \$500 Preservation Patron
- \$1000 Preservation Circle
- Other \$ _____

MEMBER INFORMATION

Contact Name: _____

Company/Organization (if applicable): _____

Mailing Address: _____

Email Address: _____

Phone: _____

Your email address will ensure that you receive timely communications from us.

OTHER GIVING

In addition to my membership, I am enclosing a gift to help support:

- 10 Most Endangered Historic Properties Grant Program.....\$ _____
- Preservation Alaska (Unrestricted – use donation as needed.)\$ _____
- Historic Preservation Fund (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 at: <https://tinyurl.com/mr36ef2>

All donations to AAHP are tax deductible as allowable by law. 501(c)(3) Tax ID: 92-0085097

Tell us More! I am a(n):

- Historic homeowner Historic building owner Historic Society member Architect/Engineer
- 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>