

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 2025

Vol 43 No 1

Call for 2025 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 celebrates 34 years during 2025.

The program calls attention to threatened properties that define our great state, the people that live here and the identity that we share.

Nominations may call attention to buildings, sites, ships, boats, cemeteries, as 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. If the property has been

listed previously and is still considered endangered, Preservation Alaska encourages an updated application with photographs be submitted.

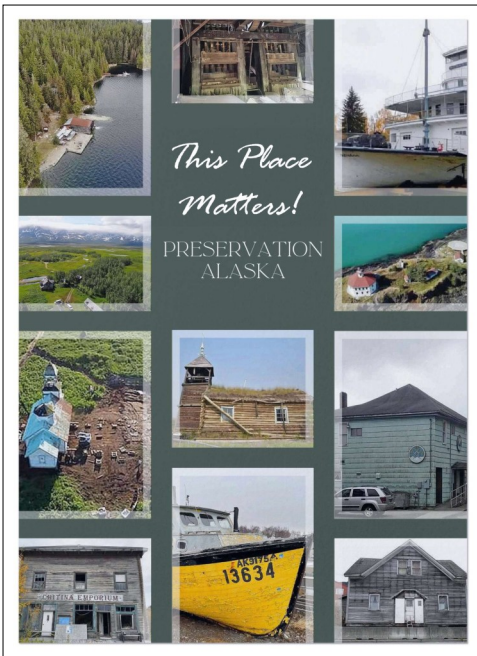
Heightened awareness often leads to increased support for the conservation of endangered historic properties, which are assets important to tourism, economic development, and the cultural heritage of Alaska. Preservation Alaska has been identifying the Most Endangered Historic Properties since 1991.

The deadline for nominations to

Alaska's Ten Most Endangered Historic Properties for 2025 is April 20, 2025. 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

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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

Continued on page 3



Famous Historic Homes in Each State

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Oscar Anderson House Closed for 2023

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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.



Written by
Stephanie Minasian-Koncewicz

Throughout the nation, historic homes are timeless snapshots of the past. Visitors far and wide can typically participate in historic home tours of these distinctive

Anchorage. The historic house belonged to Oscar Anderson. It is owned by the Municipality of Anchorage and managed by Preservation Alaska.

The photograph selected was photographed by the late Frank Flavin who photographed the exterior and interior of the home for Preservation Alaska.

<https://tinyurl.com/h7tk785e>



Copyright 2019 Frank Flavin

structures, which are often of historic and local significance to the surrounding communities.

We've compiled a list of famous historic homes in each state, complete with photos. The following landmark homes illustrate the craftsmanship and heritage that inspire contemporary architects and strengthen our connection to the past.

Many of these historic properties are the [oldest homes in America](#) that still stand today. Great care and dedication from community members keep their structures—and the memories within—alive.

Alaska is represented by the Oscar Anderson House located in

**Your Support of
Our
Mission is
Greatly
Appreciated!**

Eldred Rock Lighthouse Lantern Room Window Replacement

The crown jewel of our 2024 Capital projects, the lantern room windows are finally crystal clear, providing 360 degree views of Eldred Rock Island and Lynn Canal.



The Lantern Room Window Replacement contract, performed by Coffor Construction of Ann Arbor, MI, was completed in late July, 2024 to the relief and delight of our entire board. This project was the culmination of four summers of remediating the lantern room (and stairwells leading to it) of lead paint and rust.

In 2023, lampist Chad Kaiser of New Dungeness

Continued from page 1 Call for Nominations

first weekend of May as part of Historic Preservation Month but will be announced on Thursday, May 1, 2025.

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 2025 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.

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.

<https://alaskapreservation.org>

Lighthouse in Sequim, WA flew north to consult on this intricate project that would require careful attention and machining. Based on Chad's insightful recommendations, ERLPA recruited Coffor Construction and began the arduous process of fund-raising, logistics planning, and specialty ordering to be prepared for a week-long job at the Rock.

This project was completely funded by private donations! ERLPA thanks Brian and Allie Peterman for their generous donation as well as Haines resident Marlys Minor who made a contribution in 2022 in memory of her late husband Ron Minor. Likewise, ERLPA Secretary Michael Marks contributed funding for the considerable out-of-town transportation costs to bring in these specialists.

All in all, the window replacement was a reward for years of labor by volunteers and lead remediation contractors and brings Eldred Rock even closer to the planned public opening in 2026. In addition to financial contributions, the Marine Exchange of Alaska (MXAK) donated fuel and boat drivers to run their landing craft CLEAT with workers and supplies from Haines and Juneau to Eldred Rock.

We thank all the volunteers and MXAK for the many hours they contributed to support this project. From July 20-26, the lighthouse enjoyed the attention of Coffor Construction and three Volunteer Keepers that ran the kitchen for this crew, as well as ERLPA Director Dan Humphrey who provided assistance by building a safety railing



Coffor Construction (left to right with Michael Dudek, Corey Cousino, and Jonathan Coffor,) and Chad Kaiser complete the window installation right before a huge summer storm arrived on July 26, 2024. They will return in 2025 to finish the entire light tower project from vent ball down to the roof of the light-

In This Corner...

Over the past few weeks I have fielded phone calls, emails, and have been working with property owners who have historic properties that are in dire straits. It is disheartening to hear the stories about the property and the desperation to save the property before it is lost forever.

I have finally concluded that we are dealing with a “cancer” that is killing our historic properties. It doesn’t matter if it is a building, boat, train, etc. It can be expensive to maintain historic properties. The longer that you delay maintenance, the worse it becomes until you have a serious situation where the property is in danger of being condemned and then demolished.

That doesn’t mean that an historic property can’t be saved from an untimely death! It just takes money.

Most grants require that you be a government agency or a 501 (c) 3 nonprofit to apply. That makes it hard for the private owner to find funding to save their property unless they can partner with a nonprofit. And now, even Federal grants are iffy!

Preservation Alaska sponsors the annual *10 Most Endangered Historic Properties* program. This past year it listed eleven properties. In a state this large, ten or eleven endangered properties is barely a drop in the bucket.

I personally work with a group in another state where the downtown Historic Commercial District is made up of 12 buildings of which 10 are constructed of brick. Most were built in the late 1800s and early 1900s. Deferred maintenance is at the point where the community must work together to help save those buildings or they may come crumbling down. They are now working with a local consultant to develop a capital campaign to fund future restoration. There are other historic buildings in the community that are in similar situations.

Preservation Alaska has worked with private owners or groups that are not a nonprofit through an agreement to act

as the nonprofit umbrella for them. We submit the grants on their behalf, we monitor the project, do the reports, pay the bills, etc. for 10 percent of the grant amount. Our problem is that we don’t have the manpower to manage more than one or possibly two projects at the same time. If they are not in Anchorage, we may not have board members nearby that can assist. We also do not want to be committed to a long-term project that runs longer than two years or maybe three years at the most.

Even with grants, the owner must come up with matching funds in most cases. That could be other grants, donations, loans, or even in-kind services or materials. That is the other factor in historic preservation.

Some grants require that the project be monitored for 15 years or longer. Mainly, they want to make sure that the historic property doesn’t fall into disrepair again. That takes an annual maintenance plan and the funds to be in a designated account for future maintenance. There is another agreement that is required before the funds can be released.

Preservation Alaska does offer that service, but we require an annual fee to be paid so that the property can be inspected every 5 years or whatever the inspection period is. The funds are deposited in the endowment account.

Property owners should be looking for an Historic Architect to survey the structure and provide an analysis of the property and recommendations for restoration. That way you have a document to support your request for funding. I have already seen one grantor requiring that study so it will no doubt be asked by more and more grantors. It makes sense to have this.

What is needed is funding through the Alaska State Legislature that would help fund historic preservation. It will take all of us to push that through.



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.





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
2025 Grant Program Sponsors**

Celebrating 34 Years of the Ten Most Endangered Historic Properties Grant Program!

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Iditarod Historic Trail Alliance

Iditarod Historic Trail Alliance Annual Meeting

IHTA's annual business meeting was held on December 10, 2024 via Zoom. Members learned about the Alliance and its partners' activities and accomplishments during 2024; members also elected the Board of Directors Class of 2026 - Patrick O'Leary, Allegra Hamer, and Mark Nordman. A few highlights:

Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is the federal Trail Administrator for the entire Iditarod National Historic Trail. BLM oversees events on the Trail such as the Iditarod Sled Dog Race and specifically



BLM maintains the Foothill Safety Cabin

maintains the trail and safety cabins for the 200 miles of the Trail north of the Alaska Range on BLM land. Over the next few years, BLM will work

on revision of the Comprehensive Management Plan for the INHT; the original was done in 1986. BLM is charged with implementation of that Plan. IHTA takes this opportunity to thank Kevin Keeler, Trail Administrator, for his years of support and trail expertise – Kevin retired from service 12/31/24.

The Alaska State Office of History and Archaeology (OHA) Resource Survey Unit assessed 54 buildings in the town of Flat. The structures, last surveyed in 1993 by Rolfe Buzzell of OHA; the 2024 survey goal was to assess current conditions and determine those threatened structures which might be saved.



Building in the Red Light District of Flat. Photo on the left is from 1993; the one on the right is from 2024



Current plat of town of Flat, one of the townsites founded during Iditarod Gold Rush 1908-12

Chugach National Forest (CNF) manages the Southern Trek, a portion of the INHT approximately 120 miles from Seward to Girdwood which is largely accessible for recreational uses year round. In 2024, Federally-funded trail work was primarily in the Victor Creek/Kenai Lake area and Turnagain Pass.



In 2024, CNF staff created a public-facing storymap. It provides information about the Southern Trek and its current projects, while demonstrating the larger and historical nature of the INHT. It serves as a digital guide book/trail guide for recreational use on this popular part of the Trail. Find the storymap at <https://arcg.is/1vXeeLo>



TRAIL ■ STORY ■ STEWARDSHIP

100th Anniversary of Serum Run (Nome Nugget November 27, 2024) - January 2025 marks one hundred years since sled dogs took over headlines nationwide as mushers rushed diphtheria serum from Nenana to Nome, racing the clock to save a community from tragedy. To celebrate, Nome will highlight the



dogs, the mushers, and the story for the 100th anniversary festivities from January 25 to February 2, 2025. The Nome Kennel Club spearheaded

the effort and brought together community representatives to forge a plan to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Great Race of Mercy, as the Serum Run came to be known.



From the past – Air mail delivery to Alaska became a reality in 1924 when noted aviator Ben Eielson demonstrated it could be done. He flew the mail 350 miles from

Fairbanks to McGrath in only 9 hours, cutting mail delivery time to Nome by perhaps 16 days. Despite

that air travel in Alaska existed, there were weather, personnel, and other obstacles which made flying the serum from Fairbanks to Nome in January 1925 not feasible.

TAKE THE SEWARD ROUTE!

TRAIL TRAVEL SOON BEGINS

Mushers from all the interior parts of Alaska should remember that the Seward Route to and from the outside is the shortest and the best. The trail between Seward and Iditarod was repaired and made perfect this year.

FISHER HOUSE

RUBY

When traveling through Ruby stop at the

Fisher House Restaurant

Chas. Fisher & Family

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.



Up in Alaska, Uncle Sam is blazing another new trail. But instead of dogs, he's using flying machines. The mailman is abandoning his mushing trips, for the going's faster and safer by plane. Here is the first picture of the completion of the first air mail flight. Pilot Eielson made it from Fairbanks to McGrath, a distance of 350 miles. Besides his plane stands a dog trail ready to carry on where he's left off.

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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Friends of Nike Site Summit

Low snow means early tours for FONSS

By Doris Thomas

What a difference a year makes! At this time in 2024, FONSS was just beginning to plan for becoming its own 501(c)(3) and Anchorage was awash in near-record-setting snow.

Now, FONSS is going into Spring 2025 as a non-profit separate from AAHP and, due to the lack of snow this year,

eagerly anticipating starting the tour season early.

Upcoming FONSS events include:

April 5: Friends of Nike Site Summit board members Mark Rice and Lance Morgan will be the featured presenters at the spring meeting of the Chugiak-Eagle River Historical Society. The meeting, held from 3 to 5 p.m. at the Eagle River Elks Club, 17111 N. Eagle River Loop Rd., is free and open to the public. Join us to learn about the history of Nike in Alaska and what FONSS is doing to preserve Cold War history.

Also that day, several members are planning to attend the Cold War in Alaska Symposium at the Anchorage Museum, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. It is presented in conjunction with the museum's exhibition "Cold War to the Cosmos: Early Distant Warning Systems and the Arctic." Visit the museum's Web site for details and how to register.

April 19: FONSS will again be at the 2nd Annual Spring into Summer Fair, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at

Chugiak High School, an expo designed to highlight and showcase the local community with a special focus on the summer season. It is sponsored by the Chugiak-Eagle River Chamber of Commerce.

May 3: FONSS will have a table at the annual Retiree Open House on JBER at the Warrior Event Center from 11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. This is a great opportunity to share our story with fellow veterans and interest them in taking a tour or volunteering.

Mar 12: In preparation for four short Thursday evening tours this summer at Kincaid Park, being held in cooperation with the Anchorage Museum, museum staff will tour Kincaid with our tour guides. Watch for updates from FONSS and the museum about those four tours. FONSS also plans to set dates soon for several longer (three-hour) tours this spring. Those will be on weekends.

May 21: FONSS is continually seeking volunteers to work on site, lead tours or otherwise support us. Current and potential volunteers are invited to join us for our annual open house and mandatory training session, tentatively set for 6 p.m. at REI, 1200 W. Northern Lights Blvd. Please verify the location by going to our Website, www.nikesitesummit.net, or calling us at 907-717-0117 to confirm the location before trying to attend!

May 29: FONSS will host two Nike veterans and their families at Site Summit for a "bucket list" return visit to their old stomping grounds. Please note that private tours such as these are reserved for Nike vets and military units only.

Weather permitting, FONSS will have hosted a JBER unit for a tour earlier that month as well.

June 19: Put a “save the date” on your calendar for the return of the famous FONSS “Solstice Dinner and Tour.” Planning is just beginning to have a catered dinner, silent auction and Site Summit tour that evening. Watch for announcements on our Facebook page, local media and on the Website.

More than 140 people have inquired about summer tours, so we anticipate filling up all the tours shortly after the dates are announced in April. If you are not yet on our “advance notification” list, send an email to fonss2007@gmail.com with the subject line “Tour Notification.” Once FONSS announces the tours, those interested should make reservations quickly on our website.

FONSS has had a flurry of tour inquiries this month after KSKA Radio

(FM 91.1) aired an hour-long feature about Site Summit tours put together by Paul Twardock, host of their show “Outdoor Explorer.” Twardock had toured with us last fall and collected tour narratives from Greg Durocher and Jim Renkert. The show can be found online at <https://alaskapublic.org/programs/outdoor-explorer/>.

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

Contact us at fonss2007@gmail.com or visit our Website, 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

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



Alaska Veterans Museum

The Alaska Veterans Museum will celebrate its 14th Anniversary with a reception from 12:00 to 4:00p.m. April 26, 2024 in the Atrium of the Museum. The Museum will be free for all visitors.



Please Note!!

**We are listed in Pick.Click.Give
as**

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**not Alaska Association
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Thank you for your support of our Mission!





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AAHP MEMBERSHIP 2025

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

- \$15 Student
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- \$50 Preservation Friend
- \$100 Preservation Contributor
- \$250 Preservation Advocate
- Other \$ _____

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- \$1000 Preservation Circle
- Other \$ _____

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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.) \$ _____
- Please send me information about including Preservation Alaska in my Estate Planning or making gifts of stock.

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

Tell us More About You!

- 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>