

PRESERVATION NOTES



Historic Preservation News From Around Alaska
A quarterly newsletter brought to you by **PRESERVATION ALASKA**

Preservation Alaska Announces Winners of 18th Annual Historic Preservation Award

Preservation Alaska (dba Alaska Association for Historic Preservation) announced the winners of the 18th Annual Historic Preservation Award honoring excellence in historic preservation throughout Alaska. The honorees were announced at the organization's annual meeting held on November 6, 2025.

This award honors excellence in historic preservation throughout Alaska by recognizing a project, organization, agency, or individual exemplifying the highest standards in Alaska preservation in different categories: Lifetime Achievement, Adaptive Use, Stabilization, Renovation, and Restoration Projects; and the Stewardship Award (Property Owners, Organizations, Firms and Governmental Agencies, and Individuals).

Founded in 1981 as a private, non-profit corporation, Preservation Alaska is dedicated to the preservation of Alaska's prehistoric and historic cultural resources. Preservation Alaska aids in historic preservation projects across Alaska, and monitors and supports legislation (local, state, and federal) to promote historic preservation, serving as a liaison between local, statewide, and national historic preservation groups. Additionally, the organization publishes a quarterly newsletter and holds educational workshops.

This year's Historic Preservation Award went to an architect, three individuals with the Municipality of Anchorage, and an employee of the MOA.

The **Robert Mitchell Historic Preservation Architect Award** is in memory of Robert Mitchell, long-time board member of Preservation Alaska and for his work as an historic preservation architect. Bob joined the AAHP Board in 2005 and helped to found *Friends of Nike Site Summit* in 2007. He played a major role in both organizations.



This year's award was presented to Anchorage architect **Samuel Combs**, Combs & Combs, for his expertise in historic architecture and the many historic preservation projects around Alaska and beyond that he has been involved with. One key project was his work involved with the restoration of the Oscar Anderson House which the organization manages for the Municipality of Anchorage

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. This award includes organi-

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Summer
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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

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Oscar Anderson House Closed for 2025

Museum: 907-206-2284
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Preservation Notes

Preservation News from
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email us at

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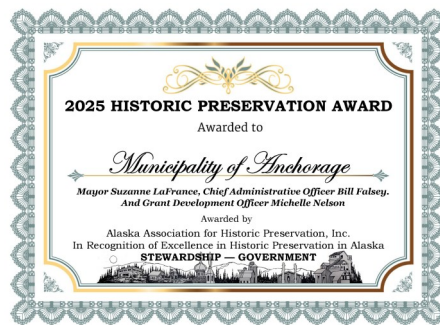
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Banner by Bill Devine, 1992.

zations involved in furthering historic preservation in Alaska and individuals who have made a significant contribution to historic preservation in Alaska in the last 25 years.

The **Stewardship-Government Agencies Award** was given to **Mayor Suzanne LaFrance**, Chief Administrative Officer **Bill Falsey** and Grant Development Officer **Michelle Nelson** for the creation of the Office of Grant Development and successfully receiving the Paul Bruhn Grant in the amount of \$500,000. Bill Falsey and Michelle Nelson were in attendance to accept the MOA's award.



Creating the Office of Grant Development and giving it the means to see historic preservation is meaningful. Acquiring this grant was made possible by both Mayor LaFrance and Chief Administrative Officer Bill Falsey who helped pioneered the Office of Grant Development. The Paul Bruhn (rural) Grant is especially hard to acquire, and Anchorage has never achieved it before since much of our population is a city. Grant Development Officer Michelle Nelson realized that Anchorage does have eligible rural communities within the Municipality which made it eligible, and Michelle's excellent work made this possible. This grant is a highly competitive grant and requires a lot of documentation.

The **Stewardship-Individual Award** was presented to **Travis O'Rourke** who works for the Municipality of Anchorage with the maintenance department.

O'Rourke was instrumental in changing the proposed metal roof to replace the cedar shingles of the Oscar Anderson House, managed by Preservation Alaska. O'Rourke was present to receive his award.



After discussion with Preservation Alaska's president, Trish Neal, and with Vice-President, Sam Combs, O'Rourke was instrumental in changing the roof replacement to the historic cedar shingles. This had been an issue for Preservation Alaska for some time with little interest by the MOA's Planning Department.

Had the change order not been done, the house stood to lose its National Register for Historic Places status as well as its National Trust for Historic Preservation's *Distinctive Destination*. The Oscar Anderson House is the only historic property in Alaska with this designation. O'Rourke became an advocate on behalf of the house and was able to obtain approval to replace the roof with cedar shingles. The exterior of the house was also repainted, and the black mold in an upstairs closed was abated during the same project.



Historic Eldred Rock Lighthouse Opens to the Public

On this day June 1, 2026, the Eldred Rock Lighthouse Preservation Association celebrates not only the 120th Anniversary of Alaska's oldest lighthouse, but the culmination of 6 years of hard volunteer and contract labor at a remote island work site. With sincere gratitude from our enthusiastic board of directors to ALL that donated or answered the call to service

and save this beloved place!

To those who said yes I'll help...we say thank you. The light shines forward.

Great Grandchildren of the original Eldred Rock Lighthouse Head Keeper, Nils Adamson, received the chance of a lifetime; to stand where their ancestor served on the 120th Anniversary of the lighthouse.

<https://www.eldredrocklighthouse.org>

The Eldred Rock Lighthouse Association received the Ten Most Endangered Historic Property matching grant in the amount of \$2,500. This is awarded to one endangered historic property on the current year's list to assist in restoration efforts. Sue York, Executive Director was present to accept the grant award on behalf of her organization. York was also the guest speaker at the annual meeting, presenting the history of the lighthouse and the work that has been accomplished over the years to restore the facility.



RESTORE, PRESERVE, SHARE

Although we will begin to share the lighthouse, work continues...there are many parts of the light station yet to be repaired and restored. Please help by joining or volunteering; we are truly a community organization!



In This Corner...



As I write this issue, I realize it will be the last newsletter I edit for Preservation Alaska. At the end of July, I will be stepping off the board after serving since August 2019. While seven years may not seem like a particularly long tenure, I feel I have accomplished what I set out to do and that it is time to make room for new leadership and fresh ideas.

If there is one thing I hope I leave behind, it is a stronger and more organized organization. Organization has always been my greatest strength, and I believe Preservation Alaska is better positioned today than when I became president.

When I assumed the presidency in 2019, Preservation Alaska maintained cooperative agreements with the Friends of Nike Site Summit (FONSS) and the Iditarod Historic Trail Alliance (IHTA), serving as the umbrella organization for both groups. These long-standing partnerships benefited everyone involved.

Our role was primarily administrative, providing support that ranged from attending meetings and recording minutes to managing banking and paying bills. In 2024, the board determined that FONSS was ready to become an independent nonprofit organization. With the successful completion of that process, we concluded a Memorandum of Understanding that had been in place since 2007—a remarkable 17-year partnership.

Similarly, IHTA had gradually assumed more of its own administrative responsibilities over the years. Preservation Alaska was compensated for the services we provided, and that work accounted for a significant portion of our administrative assistant's wages. With the hiring of IHTA's new executive director in March 2025, our Memorandum of Understanding came to a natural conclusion.

It has been an honor to provide guidance

and support to both organizations, and it is equally rewarding to see them thrive independently. Their growth has allowed Preservation Alaska to focus even more fully on its own mission of protecting and preserving Alaska's historic places.

Although the board has not yet selected its next president, I leave knowing that the organization is in capable hands. We have assembled a dedicated and talented board that is committed to moving Preservation Alaska forward. At the same time, we continue to recruit additional board members who can help expand our capacity for grant writing, fundraising, and preservation projects across the state.

This year we also celebrate the 35th anniversary of our Ten Most Endangered Historic Properties Program. One of its greatest success stories is the Eldred Rock Lighthouse Preservation Association. Through years of dedication and support—including assistance from our matching grant program and generous professional partners—the lighthouse has progressed from an endangered resource to a destination open to the public as it celebrates its 120th anniversary. While restoration work continues, it is no longer considered endangered and is looking toward a bright future.

Our annual \$2,500 matching grant may seem modest, but it often serves as an important catalyst. It helps leverage additional funding, demonstrates statewide support, and gives local preservation groups the encouragement they need to move their projects forward.

Although I am stepping away from the board, I am certainly not leaving the preservation community. I hope to publish a couple more books, continue advocating for historic preservation, and devote renewed attention to the business

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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/bdhydc4>

• **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.

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!



2026 Ten Most Endangered Historic Properties



We want to congratulate the Eldred Rock Lighthouse Preservation Association on their successfully opening to the public on the 120th Anniversary of the light-

house. Their success means that they are no longer endangered and no longer on our Ten Most Endangered Historic Properties. While, they do have more work to be done, they have accomplished a great deal in six year.

Preservation Alaska is proud to have been a small part in the project through our Ten Most Endangered Historic Properties Grant Program.

We have depended on donations from professionals to fund this program. Without the generosity of business owners around the state, Preservation Alaska would not have been able to assist projects such as Eldred Rock Lighthouse, the Ascension Church of Our Lord, Bristol Bay Boats, Friends of the SS Nenana, and the U.S. Commissioner's Cabin among others. There have been several successful projects while there are many that have remained on the endangered list for a number of years.

While we list only ten (and sometimes eleven) there are many more historic buildings around the state that are endangered. The program intends to bring to the attention of the general public the need to support historic preservation around the state.

Preservation Alaska simply does not have the funds to assist every project. We have been able to award one and sometimes two grants each year through the generosity of our donors. While a \$2,500 matching grant may not seem like much, it grows as it is matched to other funding sources. It also shows that Preservation Alaska is supportive of the project.

We are looking toward the general public for donations to continue this program. No amount is too small. Everyone is listed as a supporter of our program in our newsletter as well as announced at our annual meeting in November. We appreciate the support.

Donations can be made online at no cost to the donor. <https://alaskapreservation.com> Checks may be mailed to: Preservation Alaska, PO Box 102205, Anchorage, AK 99510 501(c)(3) Tax ID: 92-0085097

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I placed on the back burner in 2019.

Serving Preservation Alaska has been both an honor and a privilege. I am grateful to the board members, volunteers, partners, donors, and members who have shared this journey. Together, we have preserved more than buildings—we have preserved the stories, places, and heritage that connect us all.

Thank you for allowing me to be part of that work.

Trish Neal

Trish Neal, President



2026

TEN MOST ENDANGERED HISTORIC PROPERTIES

- 1 Tolovana Roadhouse
Tolovana
- 2 Wolf Creek Boatworks
Prince of Wales Island
- 3 St. George the Victorious Church
St. George Island
- 4 Ascension Church of Our Lord
Karluk
- 5 SS Nenana Sternwheeler
Riverboat Restoration
Fairbanks
- 6 Pioneer Hall
Ketchikan
- 7 Bristol Bay Boats
Naknek
- 8 Sitka Village
Sitka
- 9 Pilgrim Hot Springs
Nome
- 10 Bishop Rowe Chapel
Arctic Village

PRESERVING ALASKA'S HERITAGE FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS

Your Donations Support Our Programs

ZEFFY DONATIONS can be made as a one-time donation or a monthly recurring donation.



It's easy to do and you can cancel the recurring donation whenever you wish.

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

<https://tinyurl.com/yhdjirj6>

goodshop is connected with over 114,000 non-profits and schools,



which means that you

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

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

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



Once you are set up to contribute to AAHP, the

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

<http://tinyurl.com/mtzjqol>

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

Friends of Nike Site Summit

Friends of Nike Site Summit Continues Tours, Enhancing Preservation

FONSS participated in an open house May 28 marking the launch of public input gathering for the Kincaid Park Master Plan revision. FONSS vice president Jim Renkert



is acting as our official representative on the planning committee, which is working with landscape architectural firm Hudde AK and the

Municipality of Anchorage. FONSS' mission on the committee is to ensure preservation and enhancement of Cold War history at the park, which has a military history going back 111 years. Comments are due by June 11; more information is at the municipality website [Parks and Recreation Kincaid Park Master Plan](https://www.municipalityofanchorage.org/Parks-and-Recreation/Kincaid-Park-Master-Plan).



FONSS volunteer Sierra Young talks to a visitor to our table at the Kincaid Master Plan open house on May 28. (Doris Thomas photo)

Reservations opened for hiking and bus tours in mid-April and all the hiking tours and many of the bus tours were quickly fully subscribed. More than 200 people have already registered. Openings remain on both Aug. 23 bus tours. The reservation link is on the FONSS website, www.nikesitesummit.net.

A ski tour at Kincaid Park, formerly Battery A, 1st Bn., 43rd Air Defense Artillery, on March 28 marked the launch of FONSS's 2026 tour season. A school tour there on May 4 for 39 kids, parents and teachers from Academy Charter School, plus two hiking tours of Kincaid followed, so that by June, nearly 100 people had heard our Cold War history narrative. Our tour volunteers deserve a huge thank you for braving the breezes and potential animal encounters at Kincaid. The May 31 tour had 20 visitors and not one, but three, Nike vets – Tom Namtvedt, Lance Morgan and Phil Parks – sharing their experiences when they served in Alaska.



Board member Ivan Hodes tells guests at the May 31 Kincaid Park tour about the disaster that was averted when soldiers spent three days cleaning up the nuclear missiles that fell from their cradles during the 1964 earthquake. (Doris Thomas photo)

Our other public outreach for the spring included a table at the annual Retiree Open House on Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson on May 2. It's always great to connect with veterans and their families, who like many other Anchorage residents, often don't know about the missile sites that once defended Anchorage from Soviet bombers.

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HELP US PROTECT ALASKA'S HISTORIC PLACES

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!



Each year, we award a
\$2,500 MATCHING GRANT
to one of our Ten Most Endangered
Historic Properties.

This year, we may not be able to.

Your donation to the Ten Most Endangered
Historic Properties Program helps ensure that
Alaska's irreplaceable heritage endures for
future generations.

PLEASE DONATE TODAY!



Every gift makes a difference.
*Together, we can save
Alaska's historic places.*



DONATE ONLINE:
tinyurl.com/27sfp4bv

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In anticipation of the work party and tour season, FONSS held its annual open house and range safety training on May 13 at the Mountain View Library Community Room. Seventeen volunteers checked off their annual training requirement and several new volunteers stepped up to help with tours and site work.

To volunteer or get more information about FONSS, contact us via the website listed above, at fonss2007@gmail.com or (907) 717-0117 (must leave a message).



Skiers on the March 28 ski tour pass the water tank that was part of the launch control building complex. Repairs to the damaged tank are on FONSS's wish list for the Kincaid Master Plan.

Find us on Facebook. <https://www.facebook.com/NikeSiteSummit>

Past Excellence in Historic Preservation Award Winners

- 2025 Sam Combs
Municipality of Anchorage
Travis O'Rourke
- 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
- 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
Hugh & Iris Darling
- 2018 No Award Given
- 2017 Bob De Armond
- 2016 Bill De Armond
- 2015 No Award Given
- 2014 Bob Mitchell
- 2013 Thad Poulson
Jim Renkert
- Sheri & Darrin Hamming
- 2012 No Award Given
- 2011 Mary Flaherty
- 2010 FONSS
Erin & Falene Reeve
- 2009 Don Corwin
Steve Peterson
- No info available
- 2008 Edwin Crittenden, FAIA
- 2007 Katharine Crittenden
Sam Combs, AIA
Elayne Janiak

The Pros and Cons of Preserving Our Past: Historic Preservation Explained

Jul 28, 2025

By: Old Home Rescue
Oklahoma City, OK

- Pros of historic restoration include an improved sense of community and a better local economy.
- Cons of historic preservation include possible renovation restrictions and upfront costs.

Do you know of a historic building that could use some preservation? A lot of historic buildings have used some sort of restoration or preservation to keep them looking beautiful. Preservation connects people to their shared history and is able to enhance a community's sense of identity. Historic buildings also tend to have a level of craftsmanship that simply isn't seen in modern architecture. With that being said, sometimes the level of durability isn't quite what we would want today for a building to last several hundred years. This is where historic preservation comes into play.

What's Historic Preservation?

Historic preservation, to put it simply, is the practice of protecting and maintaining buildings or objects of historical, cultural, or architectural significance to ensure their longevity and integrity for future generations.. Often included in the historic preservation process is the reuse of the original materials and design from the initial build of the original architecture. There are several different things that historic preservation includes, but some of the more common things would include restoring windows & doors to their original condition or rehabbing exterior bricks and wood.

Pros of Historic Preservation

There are many important pros of historic preservation to go over. Most notably, historic preservation is able to maintain and preserve the original architecture and unique look of the building. By preserving historic buildings, we see communities thrive and tourists flock to these areas, which in turn, helps the local economy. Below we will dig into some more pros of historic preservation.

Maintain Distinctive Property Character and Proof of Past

One of the most important pros of historic preservation is the proof of the past. By preserving the original architecture it will help to maintain the distinct look of historical structure. This is an amazing pro of historic preservation because it can help safeguard your communities identity by keeping visual

evidence of the past. The historic buildings are something that offers a tangible link to the past that can give us stories of that time.

Local Residents and Community Relationships

Another pro of historic preservation is the benefits to the local residents and the community. By investing in your community with the preservation of historic buildings, you will see many benefits through strengthened communities and neighborhood engagement. This pro of historic preservation helps to maintain communities by tying historical buildings to local heritage. This fosters a connection, both physical and emotional, across generations.

Available Tax Breaks

A great pro of historic preservation is the available tax breaks. For a lot of towns & cities, the local government may offer federal or state tax incentives when you plan to restore a historic building. Grants and tax programs can offset the higher prices that preserving may have upfront. Depending on the city you are located in, these governments may provide additional tax abatements or credits for historic building maintenance.

Increased Tourism

Increased tourism is another great pro of historic preservation. Preserving buildings will attract tourists to the area, especially in designated historical districts. This is a pro of historic preservation because increased tourism will help to boost the local economy. This is due to tourism spending through various avenues. Cities with stronger preservation efforts from historic preservation will often be known for their historic appeal.

A Starting Structure Point

A key advantage of historic building preservation is the ability to use the starting structure as a foundation for authentic restoration. This ensures that the building's historical and architectural integrity remains intact. The starting structure, encompassing the existing materials, design, and character of the building, provides a tangible blueprint that guides preservationists in recreating or maintaining its original appearance.

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ance and craftsmanship. This fidelity to the original structure preserves the unique story and cultural significance of the building while fostering a deep connection to the heritage of the community. By working from the starting structure, preservation efforts can avoid generic modernization and instead, celebrate the distinct aesthetic and historical value that makes the building a cherished landmark. This en-

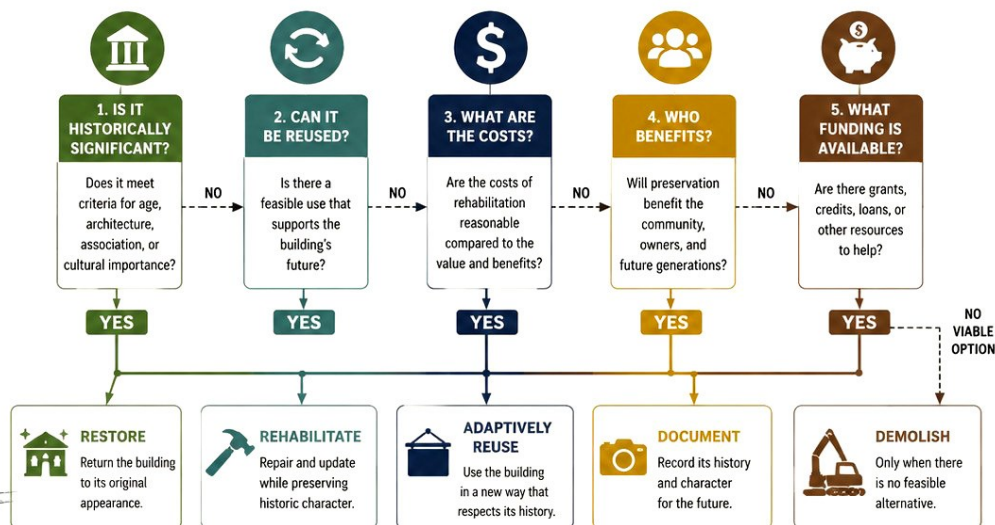
ble tax credits will also help.

Possible Historic Property Renovation Restrictions

One of the main cons of historic preservation is the fact that there may be restrictions when it comes to demolition or renovation. Properties that are listed on a historic registry can face some limits on alterations. Approvals from preservation boards or city councils may

SHOULD THIS HISTORIC BUILDING BE PRESERVED?

A GUIDE TO MAKING THOUGHTFUL, BALANCED DECISIONS



Every building and community is different. Consider all factors, engage the community, and choose the path that best preserves our heritage for future generations.

WHAT PRESERVATION CAN ACCOMPLISH

Preserving our historic places strengthens communities and keeps Oregon's story alive.



Many historic buildings face years of neglect and deterioration.



Restoration protects history and creates lasting value for today and tomorrow.

Historic preservation is not about freezing communities in time. It is about managing change while retaining the places that tell our shared story. (Graphic generated by ChatGpt)

hances both community pride and educational opportunities for future generations.

Cons of Historic Preservation

The cons of historic preservation are very limited. One of the main cons pertains to construction restrictions. When you preserve historic buildings, you will face upfront price tags but in the long run, these costs will be worth it. Availa-

be required. This is a con of historic preservation because you may have to encounter a few extra bureaucratic steps on your preservation journey.

Potentially Higher Insurance Costs

Another con of historic preservation is the po-

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Oscar Anderson House Basement Flooded

I've edited the article for clarity, grammar, flow, and consistency while preserving the original content and tone.

Oscar Anderson House Basement Flooding Update



Snow and ice melting flowed down the walkway into the basement front door.

The basement of the Oscar Anderson House flooded in early April, causing significant water damage to the basement as well as to boxes and other items that had been stored on the floor.

Although a sump pump is located in the back room, which is used as a conference room, the water entered through the front door. As a result, the water sensor

located in the conference room did not alert security until after the basement had already flooded. By that time, water covered the basement floor from the front entrance to the back room.

The Municipality of Anchorage (MOA) Maintenance Department was contacted that evening, but the message was not received until the following morning. Maintenance staff responded immediately, assessed the damage, and began removing the water. They then set up fans and heaters to dry out the basement.

It was determined that the sump pump had failed, allowing the basement to flood. A new sump pump was installed, and a backup pump is now being kept on-site in case a similar incident occurs in the future. Unfortunately, this is not the first time the basement has flooded.

Guardian Security had been scheduled to install



Fans were set up throughout the basement to dry out the basement. They ran for over a week.

smoke detectors in the house and basement, along with a heat sensor in the furnace room. However, that work has been delayed until the mold discovered as a result of the flooding has been remediated and repairs to the damaged walls have been completed. It was also decided to install an additional water sensor near the front door to provide earlier notification should flooding occur again.



One electrical outlet had to be replaced after it became wet, and sections of sheet-rock will need to be replaced due to water damage.

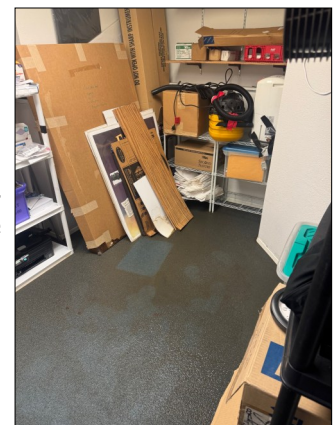
Once the mold remediation and repairs are complete, the new sensors will be installed. The Oscar Anderson House Endowment Fund will cover the additional security system

costs, which exceed \$1,200.

Testing confirmed the presence of mold in the basement. The mold will need to be removed before wall repairs can begin. It has not yet been determined whether the carpeting throughout the basement will need to be replaced. The carpet was replaced following the previous flooding incident.

Given the flooding and the repairs that must be completed, it is unlikely that the house will be open to the public this summer. Hiring a museum guide requires advertising the position, reviewing applications, conducting interviews, and providing training. In addition, the museum guide must have access to the basement, which is currently unavailable.

Preservation Alaska has been discussing the long-term management of the house with the MOA Real Estate Department for some time. The nonprofit organization is unable to cover the more than \$14,000 required annually to hire a museum guide and pay related operating expenses. The MOA has indicated that it currently does not have the resources to assist with



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these costs.

The organization hopes to negotiate a long-term lease that includes financial assistance from the MOA for several years. Such assistance

would allow Preservation Alaska time to develop a business plan capable of generating sufficient revenue to support operations. At present, admission fees do not cover the costs of managing the house.

A volunteer museum guide program was attempted, but the organization was unable to recruit enough volunteers to sustain operations.



The organization is also discussing the possibility of hiring an executive director who would oversee the museum as part of their responsibilities.

While the recent flooding and resulting repairs present significant challenges, Preservation Alaska remains committed to protecting and sharing the history of the Oscar Anderson House, one of Anchorage's most treasured historic landmarks. The organization is grateful for the continued support of its members, donors, volunteers, and community partners whose contributions make this work possible. As Preservation Alaska explores sustainable solutions for the future, including new opportunities to strengthen operations and expand community engagement, it remains optimistic that the house will continue to serve as a place where residents and visitors can connect with Anchorage's rich heritage for generations to come.

<https://alaskapreservation.com>

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tentially higher insurance costs. Insuring older buildings may cost a bit more because of the specialized materials and/or the increased risk of working on a historic building. These historic buildings are truly irreplaceable. This has become a con of historic preservation because of the possible risks with the potential lack of modern safety features. Restoration materials can also increase the cost of preservation, which adds to the overall cost.

Potential For Complicated Repairs

The last con of historic preservation is the potential for complicated repairs. Arguably the biggest con of historic preservation is the fact that some older buildings may have outdated electrical, plumbing, or insulation systems. Windows and doors may not meet modern efficiency standards, making it even harder. This will increase the difficulty level of the restoration and can even increase the costs.

Is Historic Preservation Worth It?

If it were up to us, we would say historic restoration is definitely worth it! Some of the best pros of historic restoration is that it enhances property value, greatly supports the local economy, and is able to keep cultural identity alive. Historic preservation can get expensive, but with available tax credits, it is possible to lower the starting prices. Historic building preservation is a labor of love and the results are definitely worth it.

<https://tinyurl.com/3dt94y48>



Alaska

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>

Ketchikan Museum News



Summer Saturdays at the Museum!

Family-friendly crafts, activities, and connection for all ages!

1-3:00 PM every Saturday

Join us every Saturday this summer at Tongass Historical Museum for free hands-on activities inspired by creativity, history, culture, and our beautiful environment. Projects and themes will change from week to week, with fun, family-friendly activities designed for everyone. Drop in, explore, create, and enjoy a relaxed afternoon at the Museum.

May 23: Bear Headband & Mitts Craft

May 30: Paper Bag Basket Weaving

June 6: Bear Masks on National Black Bear Day

June 13: Bird Feeders

June 20: Sun Catchers

June 27: Felt Fish

July 4: Coloring Sheets & Salmon Paper Craft (self-directed)

July 11: Collage Animals

July 18: Wood/Bark Jewelry

July 25: Accordion Bears

August 1: Blueberry Crafts ((self-directed)

August 8: Forest Floor Mobile

August 15: Articulating Fish

August 22: Weaving Boards

August 29: Pressed Plants

September 5: Leaf Mobile

September 12: Paper Beavers

September 19: Fish Pirate Hats on Talk Like a Pirate Day

September 26: Paper Jelly Fish & Crabs

Hours

April 27 - September 26, 2026:

Open Daily

8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

October - April:

Open Tuesday - Saturday

1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Visit Us

Tongass Historical Museum

629 Dock St.

Ketchikan, Alaska 99901

(907) 225-5600

Totem Heritage Center

601 Deermount St.

Ketchikan, Alaska 99901

(907) 225-5900



Congratulations to State Historian Katie Ringsmuth with the DNR Office of History and Archaeology! She received a prestigious award from the Fairbanks tourism industry for her work on the National Register of Historic Places and leading the [America250Alaska](#) Week of Dreams. The [Explore Fairbanks Alaska](#) Raven Award recognizes the individual, event, business or organization whose work or assistance has promoted a special or unique local, statewide, national or international interest and awareness among prospective visitors each year. John Lohrke, general manager for the [Alaska Goldpanners](#) and a key partner for the Week of Dreams, presented Katie with the award at an event Celebrating 49 Years in the 49th State.

<https://america250.alaska.gov/Alaska State Parks>

Historic Ketchikan Acquires Yates Memorial Hospital, Preserving Iconic Community Landmark



KETCHIKAN, ALASKA — [January 28, 2026] — Historic Ketchikan, Inc. (HKI), a nonprofit organization focused on economic de-

velopment through historic preservation and heritage tourism, has officially purchased the Yates Memorial Hospital building, one of the most endangered and significant historic properties in Ketchikan.

Originally built in 1905 as an Episcopal Mission clergy house and converted to a hospital in 1909, the Yates served as the only medical facility between Juneau and Seattle during Ketchikan's "boom" years when it was Alaska's largest city. The building played a vital role in the region's history, especially through the efforts of women who provided essential medical care under challenging conditions.

After closing in 1925, the building saw varied use, from housing the *Alaska Sportsman* magazine to serving as the Chamber of Commerce, but also faced long periods



of vacancy and threats of demolition. In 2020, it was listed on the National Trust for Historic Preservation's *11 Most Endangered Historic Places in America*, underscoring both its historic significance and its endangered status.

"We are thrilled to purchase the Yates and to begin in earnest our long-planned restoration," said Terry Wanzer, President of Historic Ketchikan. "It is a major milestone in our efforts to move our work forward. It is so important for our economy to protect our historic buildings in the Downtown and throughout Ketchikan. And this building, in particular, is a very special part of our history."

Historic Ketchikan began stabilizing the structure after occupying it in 2013, addressing water intrusion and deterioration. A professionally prepared Historic Building Assessment guides the restoration strategy, focusing on preserving its architectural features from the 1905–1925 period of significance.

Early stabilization and planning work to date was made possible in part through a grant from the Johanna Favrot Fund for Historic Preservation.

"Our vision is that revenues from a restored Yates will financially support historic preservation and heritage tourism activities far into the future," said Stephen Reeve, Executive Director of Historic Ketchikan. "It will bring money into the community, create jobs and tax revenues and, most importantly, help our town protect, maintain and present our heritage to our citizens and our visitors. It is our hope that we can successfully tell the story of the amazing women that kept our town alive and well during our early years of fishing, mining and construction".



Owning the property allows Historic Ketchikan to anchor its programs, implement restoration plans, and demonstrate the necessity of preservation in the heart of Ketchikan's Downtown Historic District. Future uses may include heritage tourism, retail, arts, and culture,

As Ketchikan, the Alaska community with the most historic properties, continues to embrace its layered past, projects like the Yates Memorial Hospital ensure that the city's stories are not just remembered, but given life once again.

The first year of restoration work is estimated at \$150,000. HKI is seeking funding through grants, donations, and community partnerships to support this multi-year project.

To learn more or support the Yates Memorial Hospital project, download the historic building assessment:

<https://tinyurl.com/YatesHistoricKetchikanInc>



★ WE NEED VOLUNTEERS! ★

Help strengthen our organization — your time makes a difference.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES



Board Members and Advisors

Provide leadership and help guide organization initiatives.



Oscar Anderson House Volunteers

Assist with welcoming visitors and event coordination.



Annual Preservation Alaska Meeting

Help plan the annual meeting and honoring Historians and Preservationists.



Grant Writer and Fundraiser

Help secure funding and resources to support projects and events.

GET INVOLVED

Whether you can volunteer once or take on a larger role, we'd love to have you join us.



AKPreservation@gmail.com



907-929-9870



Together, we can make it happen!



ALASKA ASSOCIATION FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION, INC.

PO Box 102205 – Anchorage, Alaska 99510

Office: 907-929-9870 www.AlaskaPreservation.org AKPreservation@gmail.com

AAHP MEMBERSHIP 2026

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

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

Business/Non-Profit/Government Member

- ☐ \$45 (non-profits & government agencies)
- ☐ \$100 Preservation Contributor
- ☐ \$250 Preservation Advocate
- ☐ \$500 Preservation Patron
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Contact Name: _____

Company/Organization (if applicable): _____

Mailing Address: _____

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

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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.

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://alaskapreservation.org/>

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

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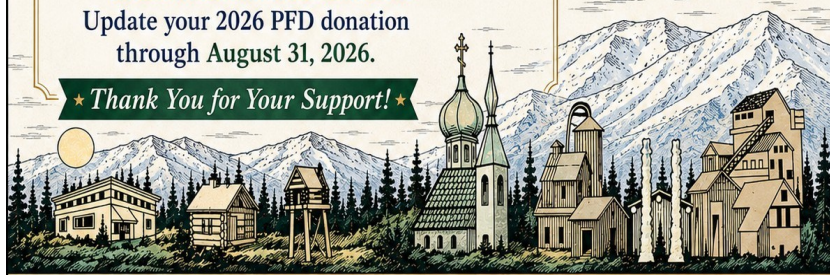
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Email: AKPreservation@gmail.com
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