



THE ALASKA ASSOCIATION FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION

Fall 2018

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AAHP Annual Meeting and Silent Auction To Benefit Ten Most Endangered Properties

Please join us for AAHP's 2018 Annual Meeting to be held on Thursday, Nov. 8, 2018, 6:00-8:00 pm at the Historic Anchorage Hotel, 330 E Street, in downtown Anchorage.

A recap of the year's activities, election of Board of Directors, announcement of the 2018 Historic Preservation Award winner, and the recipient for the 2018 Ten Most Endangered Historic Properties Grant will be featured. In addition, this year we will have a Silent Auction to benefit the Ten Most Endangered Properties Grant program. Some exciting offerings include: Guided hunting/fishing trips, photo session, Alaska Railroad tickets, and many other wonderful items. Refreshments will be available. For more information, please call (907)929-9870.

The Historic Anchorage Hotel Venue



AAHP's 2018 Annual Meeting will be at the Historic Anchorage Hotel, which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.



OAHM Awarded \$13,671 Grant from SHPO

The Oscar Anderson House Museum is in need of a study to identify current renovation and maintenance needs, so we proposed to the State Historic Preservation Office that a historic resources report be commissioned, which will describe appropriate

repairs and maintenance procedures for a building of its historic age, condition, use and climatic exposure. Inappropriate repairs or landscaping will only increase the deterioration of this valuable historic property and decrease its importance as an early Anchorage historical resource.

This project will identify stabilization (preservation) issues & treatments, for future design & construction work. It has been 36 years since its last major renovation, and its exterior needs major repairs to extend the building's lifespan. Appropriate materials & methods can be recorded to help guide future maintenance work on the building. We anticipate the Facility Condition Survey (Consultant Assessment of Conditions) will be started in late 2018 or early 2019, with preparation of the Historic Structures Report to be completed in Spring 2019.

Sam Combs AIA, of Combs & Combs, is the historical architect and qualified professional, who will provide professional services required for the Historical Structures Report. Mr. Combs performed the initial restoration design on the Oscar Anderson House, and is uniquely qualified to continue preservation studies on this valuable community historical resource.

By Anne Pollnow & Janet Matheson

President's Message



AAHP President
Anne Pollnow

Dear Historic Preservationists

AAHP is proud to announce our annual meeting, event details within this newsletter, where we will be awarding our Ten Most Endangered Historic Properties program grant. This program and grant is a select list of historic treasures whose welfare is of concern and in need of immediate attention. With your financial support for our Ten Most grant program, we identify threatened and endangered properties and offer assistance in their preservation. Concurrent with professional and technical support, AAHP awards this funding to serve as seed money to leverage further backing from other sources for preservation projects.

AAHP very much appreciates your support and looks forward to sharing rehabilitation, revitalization, and recovery successes as a result. Please enjoy! Happy Alaska Day, October 18th!!!

Have a wonderful autumn,

Anne

Oscar Anderson House Museum Guide

GENERAL JOB DESCRIPTION

This individual reports to the Administrator and provides guided tours of the Oscar Anderson House Museum to the general public during the summer operations season and holiday special event. Position will also include marketing of house museum tours and volunteer guides.

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- Greet public on a walk-in basis, provide guided tours, and manage volunteer docents
- Collect admission payments and maintain daily financial and attendance records
- Schedule and manage volunteers working at OAHM
- Market tours and work with Friends of OAHM in fundraising
- Monitor condition of and maintain artifacts in the House Museum historic collection
- Light cleaning duties for the interior of the house and its artifacts
- Other duties as assigned

REQUIRED QUALIFICATIONS

- Demonstrated written and oral communication skills
- Demonstrated ability to work independently and as a team
- Available to work weekday and weekend daytime shifts
- Experience with social media for marketing purposes and engaging the public

PREFERRED QUALIFICATIONS

- Experience as a museum docent or tour guide
- Experience working for a non-profit organization
- Education in Alaska history or Public Education

To apply, please send a cover letter and resume to akpreservation@gmail.com



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Recruiting for AAHP Board Members Call for Nominations

It's time to elect the 2018-2019 Executive Committee of the Alaska Association for Historic Preservation (AAHP), and we call for nominations to the following positions:

- President
- Vice President
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- At-Large Seats (5) — Nominated by nominating committee at the next AAHP Annual Meeting to be held Thursday, November 8, 2018

Are you energetic, positive-minded, and enthusiastic about historic preservation in Alaska? If so, consider surrounding yourself with like-minded people at AAHP!

AAHP is currently looking for individuals throughout Alaska to serve on our Board of Directors. Meeting once a month via teleconference, the Board of Directors supports the preservation of Alaska's prehistoric and historic resources through its education, promotion, and advocacy activities.

Nominees must be current paid members of AAHP and members are welcome to nominate themselves to run for positions. Please consult our website www.aahp-online.net for a Board position application and include a short statement about the nominee (<150 words) and their interest in the position by **Nov. 3, 2018**. Elections will be held and positions announced on or before Dec. 31, 2018, for an effective date of Jan. 1, 2019.

If you are interested in participating on the Board, please submit Board position application (link on www.aahp-online.net), along with a short statement, via email or mail to: AAHP, P.O. Box 102205, Anchorage, Alaska 99510-2205 or akpreservation@gmail.com. For more information please call (907)929-9870.

Swedish Holiday Tours December 8 & 9, 2018

Please join AAHP in celebrating the "Swedish Holiday" by showing your support and attending a special holiday-themed tour of the Oscar Anderson House Museum. Tours of the Oscar Anderson House Museum will be available during the second weekend in December, on December 8th and 9th. These 40-minute "Swedish Holiday" tours, led by volunteer guides, will run continuously from noon to 4 pm.

Tour participants will experience the House Museum decked out for the holidays in the traditional Swedish style of a century ago, reflecting the Swedish Christmas tradition as Oscar Anderson and his family would have known it in Anchorage a century ago. Swedish-themed seasonal treats will also be available.

The Oscar Anderson House is located at 420 M Street (in Elderberry Park), Anchorage. Admission is \$10 for adults and teens, \$5 for children ages 3-12, free for children under 3 and AAHP members. All proceeds from this annual fundraising event will be used for House Museum operations. You are invited to join AAHP volunteers, members, and board members for this "step back in time." Events will go on in rain, snow, or sunshine. For more information, please call 907-929-9870.



Swedish Holiday decorations, including Tomtens and Dala horses, greet visitors at the Oscar Anderson House Museum.

SS Nenana

The sternwheeler Nenana was commissioned by the Alaska Railroad for service on the Yukon and Tanana Rivers and designed by William C. Nickum, a Seattle, WA Marine Architect. The parts were made in Seattle, WA by a shipbuilding company and brought to Nenana, where it was assembled. Built in 1932 and launched in 1933, the Nenana opened much of the territory of Interior Alaska long before roads could be built. The Nenana also carried military cargoes during World War II including lend-lease aircraft on the way to Russia.

The Nenana could carry up to 50 passengers with 24 staterooms. At 237 ft. long, 42 ft. wide and 22,000 sq. feet of deck space, with a draw of just six inches, she is the second largest wooden vessel in the world today. This 500-ton ship traveled the Yukon and Tanana Rivers carrying passengers and freight to villages. When fully loaded, she carried a crew of 32, plus 35 passengers and 300 tons of freight. She could push as many as six barges loaded with merchandise. She ran the Tanana and Yukon Rivers from 1933 to 1954, from May through September. In the early fall or poor weather when it was dark, a huge searchlight mounted on the steamship made forward progress possible. Her primary run was between Nenana and Marshall—about 858 miles.

The Sternwheeler Nenana originally burned wood—roughly a cord of wood an hour—there was storage for 230 cords of wood. In 1948, she switched over to burning oil. The boat's engines had the most advanced design of the time: twin, tandem 330-horsepower horizontal condensing engines. The engine could recycle approximately 85% of its steam into water, and the design allowed the boat to operate very quietly.

In 1957, the Greater Fairbanks Opportunities, Inc. bought the SS Nenana for \$40,000. They moved her to Fairbanks and docked her on the Chena river.

For three years the Nenana was used as a restaurant and boatel until 1960. In 1965 a temporary channel was dug between the river and the Centennial Park, bringing in the SS Nenana. In 1978, grant money was secured to help restore the boat. She was moved over to her current location; repairs started in 1986 thru 1992 at the cost of \$1.8 million. Unfortunately, those repairs were not maintained, and this beautiful sternwheeler has been allowed to deteriorate slowly. Paint is peeling off all over the boat; there are leaks and repair is needed inside also.

In April 2018 Borough Mayor Karl Kassel stated at an Assembly meeting that the SS Nenana had been closed to the public and scheduled for destruction! Years of deferred maintenance has taken its toll on this once beautiful ship of the Yukon.

The SS Nenana Sternwheeler is the last wooden sternwheeler of its size. Her history must be saved for future generations. These sternwheelers were the workhorses that built Alaska and towns in America. They brought miners to the cold North to find their riches in gold, and brought supplies to villages. This history must not be forgotten and lost!



Property of Puget Sound Maritime Historical Society

FONSS Site Improvements and Tours March On

This summer saw vast improvements in the lighting at the Integrated Fire Control Building (IFC). The electricity was hooked back up in 2017, which meant FONSS could begin installing new wiring, plus reinstalling the historical light fixtures. This also meant the noisy generator, which powered the lights during work parties and tours, could be retired. The difference in lighting, which encompasses all seven rooms, is literally the difference between day and night. Thank you, electrical team! “This herculean effort involved removing asbestos-threaded wire and threading new line through the original conduits and outlets. Thanks to this dedicated crew, visitors now have much greater visibility, and greater safety,” said Greg Durocher, FONSS Director.

Led by Doug Ruhl, the volunteers put in about 320 hours this summer. The most hours were logged by Kathryn Ruhl, Richard Grouhounour and Sam and Natalie Lee. Greg Durocher, Ivan Hodes, Tom Namtvedt, Mark Rice and Ron Haney also pitched in for 2018 and Stan Long was a major contributor in 2017. The next electrical project will be re-running the electricity to one of the launch bunkers. FONSS ran an underground power line to the building in 2017, but had to remove it to accommodate an environmental cleanup near the launch pad this summer. As with the IFC, new conduit, wiring and fixture replacement will be in order.

Other activities to enhance the “Site Summit Experience” included moving two missile cradles, that had been sinking into the tundra for the past 40 years, into the Launch Control Building. The waterlogged wood made for a surprising weight-increase, said Durocher. Not everything we wanted to do got done this summer, particularly necessary painting and hazmat removal. There was not enough sunshine and never enough volunteers. To catch up with painting and other needed work, FONSS will reduce the number of tours in 2019 so volunteers will be freed up to paint, remove brush and help with the electrical project.

This summer’s tours got off to a great start with the annual “Solstice” dinner at Arctic Valley Lodge on June 20. Guest speaker Dr. Rachel Mason of the National Park Service spoke at the event. The dinner and silent auction raised nearly \$4,000, with nearly 50 guests taking the post-dinner tour. The hiking tour on July 21st, our second, had 18 participants and much better weather than the fog-drenched hiking tour of 2017. A well-received change to the hiking tour plan this year, saved time and effort, by FONSS providing transportation for the hikers from Lower Site Summit to the upper site. After a hearty lunch, the hikers descended in groups back to the Arctic Valley Lodge parking area.

Nearly 200 visitors participated in the four Aug. 5th and Aug. 18th three-hour tours. These tours included students from the South High School Air Force Jr. ROTC and senior citizens from OLE’ (Opportunities for Lifelong Education). Said one OLE’ visitor in a written critique, “For 52 years I have been wondering what’s up on top of the Arctic Valley Summit. My curiosity was finally satisfied. I am so impressed by the work of the volunteers, the Friends of Nike Site Summit.”

FONSS wrapped up the tour season with tours Sept. 20th and 21st for 6th graders from Mt. Spurr and Orion Elementary schools on JBER and teens from McKinley Heights High. One of the tours was augmented by a Site Summit vet who was visiting Anchorage and a news crew from KTVA (11). The student tours were made possible in large part thanks to a donation from American Legion Post 1, Anchorage. Visitors have been intrigued by all the new interpretive signs installed at the IFC and Launch Control buildings. Those were developed by Ivan Hodes, FONSS Deputy Director, using a grant from the Atwood Foundation. We are grateful to the foundation and invite AAHP members to join us on a tour next summer to see all the improvements.

By Doris Thomas



Photo by Doris Thomas

Greg Durocher, FONSS Director, regales students from Orion Elementary School with tales of his time manning this sentry station in the early 1970's. The students were amazed that the photo inside the sentry station is of Durocher as a young soldier. "Really, it's me," Durocher kept assuring them. In the foreground (with backpacks) are Ted Jolley, right, a Site Summit vet, and his wife, Carolyn. The Jolley's just happened to be in town at the right time to be included in the tour.

Nominations for 2018 AAHP Historic Preservation Award

Do you know of someone who has been or is active in Alaska historic preservation? Are you aware of an organization or agency that works tirelessly on a given project? If you know of an energetic, positive-minded, and enthusiastic supporter of historic preservation, Alaska Association for Historic Preservation is requesting nominations for the 2018 AAHP Historic Preservation Award.

This award honors excellence in historic preservation throughout Alaska by recognizing a project, organization, agency, or individual exemplifying the highest standards in Alaska preservation. The honoree(s) will be announced at the AAHP Annual Meeting on November 8, 2018.

Please help AAHP in honoring and recognizing a deserving project, organization, agency or individual in Alaska with the 2018 Alaska Association for Historic Preservation Award. For more information please call (907)929-9870.

Friends of Nike Site Summit

Are you interested in volunteering for the Friends of Nike Site Summit?

Next summer they have many fun activities planned for site restoration.

Contact them at fonss2007@gmail.com or visit their web page at nikesitesummit.net/volunteer-page.html

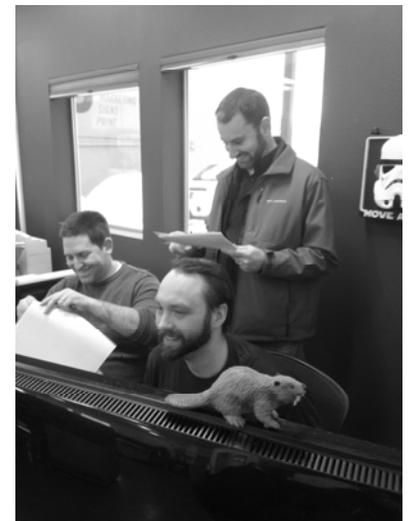


Wishing You A

Joyful Holiday Season and A Wonderful New Year!

The Board of Directors and Staff

FONSS Board Members Ivan Hodes and Mark Rice work with Graphic Designer Rob Licsenberger.



AAHP Staff Changes

AAHP would like to welcome new staff Member Kathi Adkins.

Ten Most Endangered Historic Properties — 2018

Jesse Lee Home, Seward

Founded in 1923, this property was home for displaced children throughout Alaska, including many affected by tuberculosis. When opened, Reverend Dunlap proclaimed that all would be treated equality at the facility, regardless of race, a first for the nation. In 1927, a 13-year-old resident, Benny Benson, designed the Alaska state flag. His design won unanimously from 142 entries, and is considered to be a turning point in Alaska Native rights. Additionally, the home contains the last remaining ward of the Seward Sanitarium. The doctor at the sanitarium was recognized internationally as a leader in health care research and management. His help to develop a cure for tuberculosis were recognized by an award of the Lorraine Cross.



Bristol Bay Wooden Fishing Boats, Naknek, King Salmon, & Egegik

The collection at the Bristol Bay Museum ranges from from two 1930's sailboat, 1940's "conversions" (first sailboats with engines), first conversions with stand up cabin, the first conversions with the closed in cabin, on up to the last of the 1972 American

Commercial, and a large collection of Bryants. Funds are needed to house these boats from the harsh and destructive elements of Bristol Bay.

SS Nenana Sternwheeler Riverboat, Fairbanks

Built in 1932 in service to the Alaska Railroad, the boat was in operation until 1954. She once burned a cord of wood an hour, with storage space for 230 cords of wood. The boat rests in Pioneer Park in a state of massive wood decay. Please see story on page 3.



Honeymoon Cabin, Chicken

Built in 1929 by early Chicken settler, Ingbert Johansen. A sod roof was replaced with a wood, then sheet metal in 1972, at the time it received its nick-name of the honeymoon cabin. It is endanger of demolition due to development.



Three German Bachelors' Cabin, Talkeetna

This log cabin was built in 1936, and is located at one of the most photographed locations in Talkeetna. The cabin is part of the National Register of Historic Places-listed Talkeetna Historic District.



Ten Most Endangered Historic Properties — 2018 Continued



4th Avenue Theatre, Anchorage

A prominent Deco style landmark located in the heart of downtown, this theater was completed in 1947. It is significant for its association with Austin “Cap” Lathrop and as the best example of Art Deco style in Alaska.

Red John’s Cabin

This spruce log cabin was built in the 1930s by Red John Cuculich, an early developer of placer mines near Clear Creek. It contributes to the Talkeetna Historic District. It currently suffers from rotted logs, leaky roof, and uneven foundation due to settling.



Polaris Building, Fairbanks

Built in 1952, this 11-story concrete residential tower was the second high rise in downtown Fairbanks. It is now threatened with demolition because redevelopment efforts have not proven successful.

Saint Michael’s Cathedral, Sitka

The Cathedral sits on an octagonal island of land in the middle of Sitka’s main Lincoln Street, while pedestrian and vehicular traffic is forced to go around it. The structure is one of the most frequently photographed in Alaska and preserves the historic heritage of Russian America.



Coastal Archaeological Sites, Statewide

Many Alaska coastal sites are being actively destroyed by erosion, a result of sea level rise, storm surges, and increased wave energy due to climate change. Erosion may expose archaeological remains, resulting in damage to the materials as well as increased chances of looting.



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You can now help support AAHP programs in historic preservation when you shop! AAHP has joined the “Amazon Smile” and “Fred Meyer Community Rewards” programs. For details on designating purchases to help support AAHP programs, please visit <http://www.aahp-online.net/shopping-rewards.html>.



AAHP MEMBERSHIP and/or SPECIAL DONATIONS

Name _____

Phone _____ e-mail _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Membership term is 12 consecutive months.

- Student \$15
- Individual \$25
- Family \$40
- Non-Profit* \$ _____ \$45 (*includes federal, state, & municipal agencies)
- Contributor \$50
- Friend \$100
- Corporate \$100
- Sponsor \$250
- Benefactor \$500

I/we wish to make a tax-deductible gift to

- **AAHP** Donation
\$ _____
- For more giving opportunities, please visit the AAHP website at <http://www.aahp-online.net/>

(Donations to AAHP are tax deductible, as allowable under IRS regulations.)

Total Enclosed \$ _____

I also wish to participate in AAHP activities in the following areas:

- Fund Raising
- Membership
- Education
- Legislation
- Public Relations
- Projects & Issues

Preservation Notes Preservation News from Around the State
To submit Preservation News items, email us at akpreservation@gmail.com

Calendar of Upcoming Events 2018/2019

November

- 4 — Deadline to submit nominations for annual Historic Preservation Award, check the AAHP web site at www.aahp-online.net, or call 907-929-9870 for more information.
- 8 — AAHP Annual Meeting 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at Historic Anchorage Hotel, 6-8 pm.
- 28 & 29 — Iditarod Historic Trail Alliance Workshop and Annual Meeting, contact Judith Bittner for more information at Iditarodhta@gmail.com.

December

- 8 & 9 — Swedish Holiday Tours at the Oscar Anderson House Museum, 420 M St., Anchorage, Noon-4 pm.

January 2019

- 15 — Opening of nominations for 2019 Ten Most Endangered Historic Properties list. Check the AAHP website at www.aahp-online.net, or call 907-929-9870 for more information.

March 2019

- 31 — Nomination Deadline for 2019 Ten Most Endangered Historic Properties list.

Alaska Association for Historic Preservation

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DEDICATED TO THE PRESERVATION OF ALASKA'S PREHISTORIC AND HISTORIC HERITAGE AS MANIFESTED IN ITS BUILDINGS AND SITES