



# THE ALASKA ASSOCIATION FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION

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## Two Grants Awarded for Ten Most Endangered Historic Properties for 2017

The Alaska Association for Historic Preservation (AAHP) has awarded two grants for 2017's Ten Most Endangered Historic Properties. Meiers Lake Church and the <NN> Cannery will each receive a \$2,500 grant to assist with preservation-related activities.



*Meiers Lake Church, Mile 170 Richardson Highway*

**Meiers Lake Church**, at Mile 170 of the Richardson Highway, was built by Charles Meier in 1920. This unique tiny log chapel stands across the highway from a roadhouse established in 1910. In 2019, the state Department of Transportation (DOT) will be expanding the highway, including increasing an easement right-of-way, that could result in removal of the building if no action is taken to save it.

To protect and relocate the existing building, a foundation is needed and rotting logs need to be replaced to stabilize it. The building will then be moved to the west side of the highway near the lodge, where it will be in a secure area not subject to future DOT right-of-way issues. The \$2,500 Ten Most Endangered Historic Properties Grant represents 10 percent of the total estimated project cost of \$25,000.



*<NN> Cannery, South Naknek*

The **<NN> Cannery** in Naknek, Alaska, owned by Trident Seafoods, operated almost continuously from 1895-2015. The <NN> Cannery History Project is a collaboration between AAHP, Tundra Vision, the Alaska State Museum (ASM), and Trident Seafoods focusing on collecting, sharing, and preserving the stories of the cannery people.

The multifaceted project has two goals to meet by 2020. One is to list the <NN> cannery complex as a Historic Maritime District in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). The second is to develop a travelling exhibition with the Alaska State Museum, called "Mug Up." Funding was recently granted by the National Endowment of the Humanities for the second goal, allowing plans for the traveling exhibition to move forward. For meeting the first goal, AAHP's \$2,500 Ten Most Endangered Historic Properties grant will be used to help fund the research for preparing and nominating the <NN> Cannery as a Historic Maritime District to the NRHP.

The awards were announced at the AAHP Annual Meeting that was held November 9, 2017, in Anchorage.

## About AAHP

The Alaska Association for Historic Preservation (AAHP) was founded in 1982 as a private, nonprofit corporation. AAHP is dedicated to the preservation of Alaska's prehistoric and historic heritage as manifested in its buildings and sites. AAHP aids in historic preservation projects across Alaska and monitors and supports legislation to promote historic preservation, serving as a liaison between local, statewide, and national historic preservation groups. Additionally, AAHP publishes a quarterly newsletter and holds educational workshops.

## AAHP Welcomes New Board Members

Three new members were elected to the AAHP Board of Directors at the recent AAHP Annual Meeting. Their terms begin January 1, 2018. We introduce to you Frank Flavin, Trish Neal, and Victoria Petersen.

**Frank Flavin** of Anchorage is a well-known innovative and business-oriented photographer with global experience. His extensive work, which serves commercial, advertising, and editorial clientele, ranges from Los Angeles to New York, Nome to New Zealand, Provideniya to Puerto Vallarta. During the first five years of the Iditarod Sled Dog Race, Frank served as the official Iditarod photographer.

**Trish Neal** has been involved with historic preservation for many years. While living in Wrangell, she served as the director / curator of the Wrangell Museum, and she has continued to support and grow the museum at a distance.

**Victoria Petersen** is a third-generation Alaskan, passionate about her family's history and Alaska itself. In addition to her newspaper experience as a student at the University of Alaska Anchorage, she has developed *The Spenardian*, which is a web-based, hyperlocal news source for the Spenard neighborhood. Her family has lived in Spenard since the 1940s, and she has taken it upon herself to write about the news, culture, and—of course—history of this unique area of Anchorage.

## Recruiting for AAHP Board Members

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.

If you are interested in participating on the Board, please contact AAHP at 907-929-9870 or [akpreservation@gmail.com](mailto:akpreservation@gmail.com).

## AAHP Staff Changes

AAHP's long-time administrator, Allegra Hamer, is retiring at the end of 2017.

The Board of Directors of AAHP would like to express our deepest thanks and gratitude for her years of service to us. Allegra has been our rock, dedicating herself to AAHP programming beyond expectations. She has helped AAHP grow exponentially in the last few years by keeping us working Board members on track and all our affairs in order.

She will be dearly missed as a sharp contributor to AAHP's endeavors and a positive force whose energy seemed to be boundless.

Thank you so much, Allegra! We wish you much joy in your retirement. And congratulations on being named Museums Alaska 2017 Volunteer of the Year! (See Page 6.)

*NOTE: As of press time, AAHP was in the final stages of hiring a new administrator to succeed Allegra.*



*Wishing You A*

*Joyful Holiday Season and A Wonderful New Year!*

*The Board of Directors and Staff*

*of the Alaska Association for Historic Preservation*

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## Ten Most Endangered Historic Properties Annual Benefit Is a Success!

AAHP held its third annual Ten Most Endangered Historic Properties fundraiser event on October 6<sup>th</sup> at the Carpenters Hall in downtown Anchorage. Under the able leadership of AAHP Board member Jobe Bernier, this was once again a successful event, raising over \$8,000 for AAHP's Ten Most Endangered Historic Properties program. This has allowed AAHP to award two grants this year for the Ten Most Endangered Historic Properties. (See related story on page 1.)

The event featured live music performed by a trio led by Joe Craig. A wonderful dinner was served by Peters Creek Inn & Catering. The silent auction included items donated by many local businesses as well as AAHP Board members. For a fun change of pace, guests participated in a "Ten Most Word Find" puzzle challenge to win prizes. And we had door prizes, as well.



Live music featured the mellow sounds of the trio led by Joe Craig, left.



Mingling, solving puzzles, and music combined for a fun evening.

AAHP recognizes the vital contributions of the event sponsors, whose commitment did so much to make the event both fun and rewarding. The two lead sponsors were nVision Architecture and ECI Architecture, with generous sponsorships also from Chugach Alaska Corporation, Coffman Engineers, , DCI Engineers, HZA Engineering LLC, Kuchar Construction, and RSA Engineering.

AAHP would like to thank our sponsors, donors, and all of our guests who made this year's event such a great success!

## Friends of Nike Site Summit Thanks its 2017 Volunteers of the Year

On November 8, 2017, the FONSS board celebrated at 49<sup>th</sup> State Brewing in Anchorage, thanking all the volunteers who have worked on Nike Site Summit restoration or assisted in the seasonal public tours. Two volunteers were named 2017 Volunteers of Year: Doug Ruhl and Stan Long.

Doug's and Stan's work this year has literally enlightened the Site Summit endeavors. The interior of the Integrated Fire Control Building at Upper Site Summit has long been a highlight of the tour, but was lit only by power supplied by a noisy and cranky generator. Too many times, visitors in the middle of their tour needed to use the light app on their smartphones to make their way out when the generator stopped working. No more. Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson provided the electrical connection at Upper Site Summit, and Doug and Stan worked tirelessly on many weekends during this summer to provide the lighting inside. For information on how you can volunteer with FONSS, please contact [fonss2007@gmail.com](mailto:fonss2007@gmail.com).

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FONSS Director and Nike Veteran, Greg Durocher, presents the 2017 FONSS Volunteer of the Year award to Doug Ruhl (left). Doug shared the honor this year with Stan Long, who was unable to attend the celebration.

Thank you to Doug and Stan –  
and to all the dedicated  
FONSS volunteers!



Volunteers were greeted with a Thank You cake for a job well done!

## AAHP's 2017 Annual Meeting

The 2017 annual member's meeting of the Alaska Association for Historic Preservation was held the evening of November 9<sup>th</sup> at the Historic Anchorage Hotel in downtown Anchorage.

During the business meeting, highlights of the 2017 activities of AAHP's committees and programs were provided, the elections for Board of Directors officers and members were held, and announcements were made for the 2017 Ten Most Endangered Historic Properties grant recipients and the winners of the 2017 Historic Preservation Award. The business portion of the meeting was followed up with excellent food from Wild Fork Catering and a presentation on the <NN> Cannery History Project by Dr. Katie Ringsmuth.

Highlights of AAHP's 2017 activities included the Fall Fundraiser for AAHP's Ten Most Endangered Historic Properties grant program, which raised over \$8,000 this year. Allegra Hamer, AAHP's administrator, provided reports for the 2017 Administrator Report, the Oscar Anderson House Museum, the Iditarod Historic Trail Alliance, and Revitalize Sitka. Gloria Collins summarized the Alaska History Day program and informed the membership that this program is being transferred from AAHP to the Alaska Humanities Forum. Ivan Hodes, Deputy Director of Friends of Nike Site Summit, gave a summary of the 2017 Site Summit tours and plans for continued preservation projects at the site; his well-prepared presentation included many impressive before-and-after photographs of restoration work already accomplished on buildings at Site Summit.

Following the program reports, the elections for Board of Directors members and officers were held. AAHP welcomes the three new Board members elected: Frank Flavin, Trish Neal, and Victoria Petersen. Board Officers Anne Pollnow (President) and Robert Mitchell (Treasurer) were both re-elected as well. The retirement at the end of this year of our Administrator, Allegra Hamer, was also announced.

AAHP was pleased to announce two winners for the 2017 Historic Preservation Award. Honoring lifetime achievement, the awards were given posthumously to Bob DeArmond and Bill DeArmond, a father and son pair. Over the years, both contributed significantly to the researching, recording, and sharing of Alaska's history through various forms of media communications. (See related story on Page 5.)

This year, AAHP awarded two grants for the Ten Most Endangered Historic Properties. The \$2,500 grant to Meiers Lake Church on the Richardson Highway will help with efforts to save the structure, which is endangered by highway expansion plans. The \$2,500 grant for the <NN> Cannery will help fund the cannery's nomination as a Historic Maritime District to the National Register of Historic Places. (See Page 1 for related story.)

This year's special program was a lively and engaging presentation by Dr. Katie Ringsmuth on the <NN> Cannery. The cannery has operated almost continuously from 1895-2015, producing more canned salmon than any other cannery in the state, and has maintained architectural and cultural integrity. It remains one of the most historically significant remnants of the industry on the West Coast of Alaska.



*At the 2017 AAHP Annual Meeting, held at the Historic Anchorage Hotel, Dr. Katie Ringsmuth gives a presentation on the <NN> Cannery History Project.*

Dr. Ringsmuth described what it was like growing up in the community and working at the cannery. She also gave an overview of the project plans for various preservation efforts for the site. These include plans for nominating the <NN> Cannery to the National Register of Historic Places; an oral history project designed to share the narratives from the cannery workscape; and a traveling exhibit known as "Mug Up," which is a nod to sharing communication through the symbol of the "coffee break."

## Historic Preservation Award Honors Bob and Bill DeArmond

This year's Historic Preservation Award was given to two individuals, Robert Neil "Bob" DeArmond and his son, William Davidson "Bill" DeArmond, in recognition for their lifetime achievements relating to historic preservation. The awards were announced at the AAHP Annual Meeting on November 9<sup>th</sup>.

Bob and Bill both worked in Alaska media – Bob as a newspaper man and Bill with radio and magazine experience – where they contributed a lifetime of stories on Alaska's history.



Bob DeArmond  
1911-2010

Bob's work reflecting Alaska history are housed in the collections of the Alaska State Library in Juneau. His many works include historical information on Alaskan aviation; many statehood-related writings and records; and marine information, such as stories on Alaskan fishing vessels and steamers, and dates of shipwrecks. Also housed there is his manuscript detailing his sea voyage in a dory from Sitka to Tacoma, Washington.

Bill's contributions to Alaska history include several years hosting at KCAW, Raven Radio, in Sitka; his work as editor-in-chief at *Alaska Southeaster* magazine; and his opus on the Russian Bishop house, which he created while serving as a National Park Ranger. When he worked with the Sitka Historic Preservation Commission, he wrote the historic context for the Sitka Preservation Plan and devised the Sitka Street Naming Policy. These remain today as important resources for this southeast town.



Bill DeArmond, 1938-2017,  
with AAHP President Anne  
Pollnow in 2015

Alaska is richer because of the passion for Alaska of these men, their desire to communicate, and the legacy they leave for future generations.



AAHP extends a big "Thank You" to retiring Board members Jobe Bernier, Gloria Collins, Rob Meinhardt, Kelly Owens, Mikhail Siskoff, Paul Wackrow, and Casey Woster.

Your years of service and your efforts on behalf of AAHP are much appreciated. We thank you for your continued member support of AAHP.

## Swedish Holiday Tours December 2-3 and 9-10, 2017

Tours of the Oscar Anderson House Museum will be available during the first two weekends in December, on the 2nd and 3rd, and 9th and 10th. These 40-minute "Swedish Holiday" tours, led by volunteer guides, will run from noon to 4 pm.

The House Museum will be decked out for the holidays in the traditional Swedish style of a century ago, which reflects the Oscar Anderson family's traditions. Swedish-themed seasonal treats will also be available.

The Oscar Anderson House is located at 420 M Street (in Eldeberry Park), Anchorage. Admission is \$10 for adults and teens, \$5 for children ages 3-12, and free for children under 3. For more information, please call 907-929-9870.



A wreath greets visitors during the holiday season at the Oscar Anderson House Museum.

## 2017 Museums Alaska/Alaska Historical Society Joint Conference

This year's Museums Alaska/Alaska Historical Society joint conference was held September 27-30, 2017, at the Anchorage Museum. Attendees could choose among several tracks related to the two organizations' conference themes. The Alaska Historical Society's theme focused on the Alaska Purchase, while the Museums Alaska theme centered on social discourse.

### ALASKA HISTORICAL SOCIETY: *Exploring the Legacy of the Alaska Purchase*



150 years ago, when William H. Seward and Edward de Stoeckl signed the treaty that ceded North American Russian possessions to the United States, it marked the beginning of Alaska's evolution from a military district, to a territory, and finally to the forty-ninth state of the United States. The Alaska Historical Society presentations reflected on how the moment of cession charted a new destiny for Alaska, especially from the perspective of indigenous people.

### MUSEUMS ALASKA: *Social Discourse: Responding to Our Communities*



How can museums become safe spaces for expression and social discourse, and still remain inclusive and relevant today? Museums Alaska presentations explored the important role of museums as educators, mediators, and—given the current political and economic landscape—agitators to encourage important conversations in changing communities through museum programming, exhibits, and outreach.

### AWARDS

The joint conference awards banquet was held September 29<sup>th</sup> at the Alaska Native Heritage Center. As it does each year, the Alaska Historical Society recognized, through its awards program, ten individuals, historical societies, and public institutions for outstanding research, writing, and promotion of Alaska history. Museums Alaska presented its annual awards for Excellence in the Museum Field, the Volunteer of the Year, and the President's Award in Honor of Lifetime Achievement. AAHP's Administrator, Allegra Hamer, was honored as the Museums Alaska 2017 Volunteer of the Year.



*Allegra Hamer, the Museums Alaska 2017 Volunteer of the Year*

## 2017 AIA Conference

The Alaska American Institute of Architects (AIA) Alaska Chapter conference was held on Saturday, Oct. 14, 2017, at Land's End in Homer. The conference highlighted historic preservation through the presentation "Preserving Alaska: South Naknek Cannery, Historic Fairbanks, & High Definition Laser Scanning." Organized by Historic Resources chair Grant Crosby of the National Park Service, it consisted of three speakers covering three different topics.

Katie Ringsmuth, Ph.D., of Tundra Vision, presented "Preserving Alaska: South Naknek Cannery" (additional information on this project can be found on pages 1 and 4 in this newsletter.) Rob Meinhardt and Amy Ramirez, from True North Sustainable Development Solutions, gave a presentation on the Fairbanks historic structures survey they did for the Phase I Update of the Fairbanks North Star Borough Historic Preservation Plan. John Wachtel of the National Park Service gave a presentation on "High-Definition Laser Scanning," a valuable tool for documentation.

## Your Support Matters!

Pick. Click. Give.

2018 is right around the corner—and Permanent Fund Dividend application time will be opening soon. You can show your support of historic preservation activities by donating to AAHP using Pick.Click.Give. on your application!



### Smile and Community Rewards

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 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Membership term is 12 consecutive months.

- |  |   |   |
|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Student \$15  | <input type="checkbox"/> Contributor \$50 | <input type="checkbox"/> Sponsor \$250            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual \$25   | <input type="checkbox"/> Friend \$100     | <input type="checkbox"/> Benefactor \$500 & above |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family \$40   | <input type="checkbox"/> Corporate \$100  |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Non-Profit* \$45 (*includes federal, state, & municipal agencies) |   | Membership \$ _____                               |

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](mailto:akpreservation@gmail.com)



## Calendar of Upcoming Events



### 2017

#### December

2-3 and 9-10 — Swedish Holiday Tours at the Oscar Anderson House Museum  
420 M St., Anchorage, Noon—4:00 pm

### 2018

#### January

15 — Opening of nominations for 2018 Ten Most Endangered Historic Properties list  
Check the AAHP website at [www.aahp-online.net](http://www.aahp-online.net), or call 907-929-9870

#### March

31 — Nominations Deadline for 2018 Ten Most Endangered Historic Properties list



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