



THE ALASKA ASSOCIATION FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION

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Nominations for Alaska's Ten Most Endangered Historic Properties for 2015 Are Now Open

Nominations for the Alaska Association for Historic Preservation's 2015 Ten Most Endangered Historic Properties in Alaska are now being solicited. The nominations for this program are submitted by individuals and organizations throughout Alaska. The deadline for nominations to this year's list is **March 31, 2015**.

AAHP has been identifying the state's most endangered historic properties annually since 1991. The list is announced each May, in conjunction with National Historic Preservation Week. The program is intended to bring public awareness to Alaska's threatened historic properties. 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.

More details and a nomination form can be found at <http://aahp-online.net/10-most-endangered.html>.

AAHP Annual Meeting Highlights

The 2014 annual members' meeting of the Alaska Association for Historic Preservation was held on November 8 at the Pioneer Schoolhouse in Anchorage.

During the business meeting portion, AAHP Board Members Anne Pollnow, Gloria Collins, Bob Mitchell, and Janet Matheson, and AAHP Administrator Allegra Hamer presented highlights of AAHP's 2014 programs and committees. Mike Cox, newly elected Director of the Friends of Nike Site Summit, talked about the successful year of restoration, Cold War Conference, and public tours. Elections were held for board positions for which the term had expired.

Following the business meeting, slide-show presentations about restoration issues with historic windows in Fairbanks and at Nike Site Summit were provided by Janet Matheson and Bob Mitchell, who were also joined by AAHP Member Rob Meinhardt (of True North Sustainable Development Solutions, LLC) and members of his staff.

Also, AAHP awarded its 2014 Historic Preservation Awards. Jim Renkert, the former Director of Friends of Nike Site Summit, received the Individual Stewardship Award for his leadership of that AAHP partner program. Thad Poulson received the Lifetime Achievement Award for his decades of work preserving many historic structures in Sitka (see related story on page 3 and additional photos on page 7).

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.

Message from the President

Warm Holiday Greetings, AAHP Members!



AAHP President
Anne Pollnow

A very Happy New Year to you all! We hope your resolutions are working themselves into fruition and you might consider including a donation in support of the good work AAHP will do in 2015.

In addition to celebrating AAHP's corporate achievements of 2014, at our annual meeting in November board members Janet Matheson and Bob Mitchell led a very informative discussion on historic rehabilitation. The program also featured guests Rob Meinhardt of True North Sustainable Development Solutions and visiting South Carolina Archaeologist and Preservationist, P.T.

Ashlock, and also included input from Thad Poulson and audience members. Thank you for contributing, folks! AAHP also presented 2014 Historic Preservation awards to former FONSS Director Mr. Jim Renkert and to Mr. Thad Poulson of Sitka. Enjoy reading about their tremendous efforts in the pages to follow.

Thank you again this year to Steve Sego and Coreen Haydock of Waterman Mitigation Partners for helping AAHP acquire our third preservation easement. We are honored to hold the Nevada Creek/Alaska Treasure Mine Historic District easement and vow to continue the earnest conservation practices of this Gold Rush era mine that previous owners Ralph and Julia Kibby of Juneau initiated so many years ago. Through their appreciation for Alaska's history and forethought to conserve, future generations have the opportunity to gain insight into the early economic development of Alaska.

We would also like to introduce you to and welcome our new board members Jobe Bernier and Casey Woster! Both Jobe and Casey offer social media and website design expertise with a harmonious compassion for historic preservation. If you would like to be a part of this positive and continually growing movement, we have one open board seat. Please contact us for information on becoming an AAHP board member.

Please note it is that time of year where AAHP begins soliciting nominations for our Ten Most Endangered Historic Properties Grant Program. Nomination forms can be found on our website www.AAHP-online.net/10-most-endangered.html or notify us and we'll send you one. Deadline for submissions is March 31, 2015. For twenty-four years the Ten Most Program has been supporting preservation projects throughout Alaska. We modestly request you consider a financial contribution to this very effective program.

We very much look forward to continuing the good stewardship of Alaska's cultural riches in 2015 and thank you in advance for your support.

All the best,

Anne & the AAHP Board

Welcome to our New Members!

AAHP is delighted to introduce three new members, two serving on the AAHP Board of Directors and one serving as the FONSS liaison to the AAHP Board.

Jobe Bernier was elected to the AAHP Board of Directors on November 8, 2014. An architect, Jobe practices in Anchorage as part of the Nvision Architecture team. Jobe grew up in Chugiak as a fourth generation Alaskan (and is the father of two fifth generation Alaskans), and studied architecture at Montana State University. With experience working on an array of historic buildings, he enthusiastically supports the preservation of cultural resources throughout Alaska.

Casey Woster was appointed on December 4, 2014, to the AAHP Board of Directors. A lifelong Alaskan from Fairbanks, Casey has an avid interest in Alaskan history. After falling in love with architectural history while studying at Montana State University, she completed two years of graduate study in Cornell University's Historic Preservation Planning program, where she blended courses in architectural preservation and archaeology. Now back in Alaska, she works as an architectural historian (and on occasion as an archaeology field technician) for True North Sustainable Development Solutions. Casey spends summers (and occasionally winters) exploring Alaska and reading all she can on Alaska history, especially pertaining to roads, roadhouses, and old mining operations.

Mike Cox was elected as the Director of Friends of Nike Site Summit (FONSS) on October 1, 2014. The Director of FONSS serves as the FONSS program liaison to the AAHP Board. Mike steps in for Jim Renkert, who was the FONSS Director for more than six years and leaves some huge boots to fill. Though he is relatively new to Alaska, Mike is more than up to the challenge. He retired from the State of Michigan three and half years ago. Since that time he has been a FONSS volunteer, working on the stabilization of the buildings as well as providing interpretive commentary for the public tours of Site Summit. In addition, Mike serves on the board of the Alaska Literacy Program, and he is a Certified Interpretive Guide with the National Association for Interpretation.

Come Join the Fun! We're Recruiting for AAHP Board Members!!

AAHP is currently recruiting individuals throughout Alaska to serve on our Board of Directors. We are looking for people who are energetic, positive-minded, and enthusiastic about historic preservation throughout the state. Meetings are held via teleconference. The Board of Directors meets once a month and participates in education, promotion, and advocacy activities that support the preservation of Alaska's prehistoric and historic resources. If you are interested in participating on the Board, please contact AAHP at 907-929-9870 or akpreservation@gmail.com.

2014 Historic Preservation Award Winners

Please join us in congratulating James (Jim) Renkert and James Thaddeus (Thad) Poulson, who are the 2014 winners of the AAHP Historic Preservation Award (HPA). This year, AAHP presented awards in two categories — Individual Stewardship, and Lifetime Achievement — during the AAHP annual members' meeting on November 8, 2014, in Anchorage.

Jim Renkert was honored for excellence in historic preservation in Alaska by an individual. The award recognized his extraordinary leadership and dedication to the Friends of Nike Site Summit restoration of the Cold War Nike Hercules missile site since 2008.

Thad Poulson was distinguished for his lifetime achievement in historic preservation in Alaska. For more than 30 years, he has tirelessly promoted the value of historic architecture in Sitka. This was achieved through the purchase, rehabilitation, restoration, and reuse of several historic buildings which stand today as important reminders of Sitka's past.

The AAHP Historic Preservation Award has been made annually since 2007 to recognize a project, an organization, an agency, or an individual who exemplifies the highest standards among Alaska preservation efforts.



Jim Renkert, Director of the Friends of Nike Site Summit from 2008 until this year, with his Historic Preservation Award for Individual Stewardship. Under Jim's leadership, much of the restoration of Nike Site Summit has been accomplished, and public tours are enjoying high popularity.



Thad Poulson receives his Historic Preservation Award for Lifetime Achievement from AAHP President Anne Pollnow. Thad has been the driving force behind the rehabilitation of many historic buildings in Sitka over the past thirty years.

Swedish Christmas 2014 at the Oscar Anderson House

During the first two weekends in December, Swedish Christmas at the Oscar Anderson House Museum in Anchorage was alive and well, and open for public tours.

Under the able direction of several volunteer tour guides, visitors enjoyed learning about the history of early Anchorage, as well as many Swedish holiday customs and traditions. For Swedish Christmas, the house was decorated for a 1915 early Anchorage Christmas, including Swedish decorations honoring the Anderson family's heritage.

After the tours, visitors were invited to the AAHP offices downstairs to celebrate with Swedish Christmas-themed refreshments and activities suitable for both adults and children.

AAHP thanks the wonderful volunteer tour guides who make these tours possible. The House Museum regularly provides public tours during the summer and during the first two weekends in December. Summer tours for 2015 will open to the public on May 26, 2015, and will be available Tuesdays through Sundays (except holidays) through September 4.



The living room fireplace at the Oscar Anderson House is decked out with candles and other Christmas adornments, in the style of the Anderson's Swedish heritage.



The Oscar Anderson House Museum greets Christmas visitors with a covering of winter snow.



The dining room at the Oscar Anderson House shows traditional Swedish-style Christmas trimmings, including a table centerpiece and various hanging decorations.

Kincaid Park History: Nike Site Point



Visitors to Anchorage’s Kincaid Park have often commented on the gray cement “box” building seen from the road on the way to the Chalet building, often wondering what it is and what it was built for. Participants of this year’s Cold War Conference in Anchorage during September have the answer: It is the “Wax Bunker,” part of a Nike-Hercules missile site that was active in the mid-1900s. Before it was a park, this area was the home of one of the three Nike-Hercules missile installations that guarded Anchorage during the height of the Cold War, and it was known as Nike Site Point.

During the Cold War Conference, one of the events commemorated the actions of Nike soldiers stationed at Nike Site Point, Battery A, fifty years ago. When the Great Alaska Earthquake of 1964 occurred, the Nike soldiers stabilized the damaged missiles at Site Point and prevented another disaster. Their actions during and following the 1964 earthquake earned them a meritorious conduct award at the time.

To memorialize the heroic actions of the Nike soldiers, a bronze plaque was installed on the outside wall of the Wax Bunker, formerly a Launch Building for Site Point. For park visitors, interpretive panels were also created that help tell the story of the soldiers’ selfless service and of the later transformation of a military installation into a world class municipal park. Like all Nike installations, Site Point was decommissioned in the 1970s. It was repurposed as outdoor sports facilities as part of today’s Kincaid Park, which is dedicated to outdoor activities of all kinds.

Speakers at the commemorative event in September included Nina Kempel (Alaska Humanities Forum President), Col. John Rogers (USA Retired and Last Battalion Commander), and John Rodda (Anchorage Parks and Recreation Director).

SHAKE, RATTLE, & ROLL

The story of the massive Great Alaska Earthquake is well told, but did you know that soldiers stationed here at Site Point prevented another disaster from adding to the shock of the quake?

SHAKING GROUND
On March 27, 1964, a 9.2 earthquake shook Southcentral Alaska for more than four minutes, triggering landslides and tsunamis, toppling buildings, destroying roads, and resulting in 139 deaths in the Pacific Northwest. Anchorage residents, reeling from the shock, were unaware of the volatile situation the quake posed at Site Point.

ROLLING WITH THE PUNCHES
Soldiers at Site Point spent three intense, non-stop days stabilizing the situation. They proceeded as if the launch area were on “hot stones.” They could smell rocket propellant and had to use space-proof flashlights—the slightest spark would detonate all the missiles. For the selfless action of these soldiers, the Army awarded Battery A the Meritorious Unit Commendation.

FONSS

Swords Into Plowshares

Swords into plowshares, war into peace, a Nike missile site into a park—Kincaid Park embodies this transformation.

SITE POINT
Site Point and Kincaid Park are two names for the same place, but they represent purposes as different as swords and plowshares. Like a sword for a sword, Site Point housed missiles ready to defend the country between 1950 and 1970 during the Cold War. Site Point, also known as Battery A, was one of eight Nike Hercules sites in Alaska. It had four launch buildings and two battery control rooms operated by two separate units.

KINCAID PARK
Site Point deactivated in 1979 and the military soon transferred the land to the Municipality of Anchorage that turned it into Kincaid Park. Launch bunkers, previously used for missile storage, were converted into the “Wax Bunker” and the Outdoor Center. The missiles were quickly replaced with axes, axes, axes, and soccer balls. Today, the park hosts international cross-country skiing races, Special Olympics, the Ice Brawl, and many other annual events.

This sculpture titled, Let Us Beat Swords into Plowshares by Evgeny Vuchetich is in the United Nations Art Collection in New York.

The phrase “Swords into Plowshares” describes the conversion of tools of war into tools of peace.

FONSS

The interpretive panels that have been installed for park visitors tell two stories. “Shake, Rattle, and Roll” highlights the selfless actions of Nike soldiers during and after the Great Alaska Earthquake of 1964. “Swords into Plowshares” focuses on the transformation of a military site into a municipal park.



2014 10-Most



New Bishop Installed in Sitka



2014 Historic Preservation Award Winners



2014 10-Most



2014 10-Most

As we greet the new year, we look back at activities from 2014 and we look forward to 2015 with anticipation, ready to carry on the work of preserving Alaska's history.



2014 10-Most



And most especially, we wish you a happy and prosperous year to come!

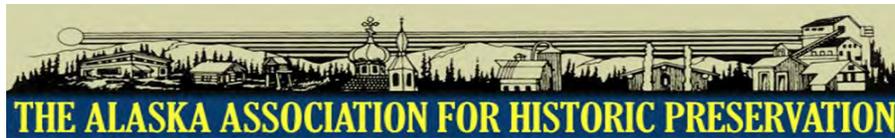


HAPPY NEW YEAR

From



Oscar Anderson House, Summer



Oscar Anderson House, Winter



2014 10-Most

A successful conference



2014 10-Most



A Quick Look at the AAHP Annual Meeting, November 8, 2014



Participants at the 2014 AAHP Annual Meeting engage in discussion. The meeting, which was well attended, included the annual business meeting, presentations on window restoration issues, and conferring the 2014 Historic Preservation Awards.



AAHP's Bob Mitchell (standing) during his presentation on window restoration at the Nike Site Summit buildings.

AAHP MEMBERSHIP and/or TEN MOST DONATION

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 <i>(*includes federal, state, & municipal agencies)</i> | | Membership \$ _____ |

**I/we wish to make a tax-deductible gift to the
 AAHP Top Ten Most Endangered Historic Properties matching-grant account**

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

Donation \$ _____

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

2015

March

31 — Nominations due for 2015 Ten-Most Endangered Historic Properties

May

26 — Start of summer tours for the public at Oscar Anderson House Museum, Anchorage

September

4 — Last day of summer tours for the public at Oscar Anderson House Museum, Anchorage

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