



# THE ALASKA ASSOCIATION FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION

Winter 2015

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## Community Support Helps Preservation Efforts

Thanks to notable community support, several recent activities focusing on historic preservation efforts have been given a boost. The Alaska Association for Historic Preservation (AAHP) received generous donations from businesses and individuals for its annual fundraising dinner and silent auction, which resulted in AAHP being able to award two separate grants for threatened properties on its 10 Most Endangered Historic Properties list. Those two properties, in turn, have also received separate support from their communities in the form of matching grants and, for one of them, a private donation. (See stories on Page 4.)

Community support for historic preservation can come in many forms. The more well-known type of support is through various donations, such as money, goods and services, items for silent auctions, and venue space for preservation-related events. But community support can also be found through our willingness to advance the significance of historic preservation by educating our young people about history as they prepare to become tomorrow's leaders. This includes educational programs in our schools, such as AAHP partners History Day in Alaska and iTREC! (Iditarod Trail in Every Classroom).

Community support is a vital element in historic preservation, and AAHP thanks all who have, directly or indirectly, helped further this worthwhile activity.

## "Eat.Drink.Preserve." Fundraiser A Success for Alaska's 2015 Ten Most Endangered Historic Properties

On September 26, AAHP held its annual benefit, "Eat.Drink.Preserve." at the historic Pioneer School House in Anchorage. This fundraising dinner and silent auction support Alaska's "10 Most Endangered Historic Properties" program, which focuses on preserving historic cultural resources across the state of Alaska, including historic buildings and prehistoric archaeological sites. Each year our benefit raises funds for grants to be awarded to applicants from among that year's "10 Most" nominees. These funds are distributed as seed money grants and preservation activity grants.

This year's sold-out "Eat.Drink.Preserve." event received tremendous community and business support. U.S. Senator Lisa Murkowski delivered some pre-recorded introductory remarks. Major donors included Bering Straits Native Corporation, Nvision Architecture, and La Bodega-Beer-Spirits-Wine. Numerous



One of two properties to benefit from a "10 Most" grant made possible by "Eat.Drink.Preserve." funds.

businesses and individuals statewide were generous with donated items for the silent auction. Sal's New York Grill and Catering provided incredible food, with great praise from those attending. Live music, at the talented hands of vibraphonist John Damberg of the non-profit Alaska Jazz Workshop, enhanced the evening's spirited ambiance. While the event was entertaining and enjoyable, it also raised more than \$4,000 for AAHP's "10 Most" program promoting increased awareness for endangered historic sites across Alaska.

(Continued on Page 5)

## 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.

## President's Message

*Happy holiday season, members!*



I hope you're all settling into winter very well.

We closed out fall with our annual meeting, where we welcomed two new board members, Rob Meinhardt and Paul Wackrow. We are elated to have these very sharp preservation-minded individuals join our full board, and, with them in 2016, we are all looking forward to building on our accomplishments of 2015.

Our annual meeting featured Historic Architect Grant Crosby of the National Park Service Alaska Regional Office and of the organization Russian Orthodox Sacred Sites in Alaska (ROSSIA). Mr. Crosby presented a captivating pictorial synopsis of ROSSIA's successes in the rehabilitation and restoration of Orthodox Churches in Alaska, and the many still yet to be preserved. AAHP is honored to have worked with ROSSIA, providing seed grants through our 10 Most Endangered Historic Properties program.

During this holiday season, please consider the good work of our organization. Donating to AAHP helps us in the preservation of Alaska's treasures, a social and economic gift of now and for generations to come.

Thank you for your continued support.

All the best in 2016,

Anne

### Celebrate Swedish Holidays at the Oscar Anderson House Museum December 5-6 and 12-13, 2015



*Place:* OSCAR ANDERSON HOUSE MUSEUM

420 M STREET

ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

*Dates:* December 5 and 6

December 12 and 13

*Time:* Noon to 4 pm

***Please join us for a Swedish-themed holiday during the first two weekends of December!***

On December 5-6 and 12-13, the Oscar Anderson House Museum, located at 420 M Street (in Elderberry Park), will offer holiday tours from noon to 4 pm each day. These 40-minute tours are guided by volunteers generously donating their time during this season of celebration. Special treats will be provided to all visitors.

Admission for these events is \$10 for adults and teens, and \$5 for children ages 3-12. All proceeds from this fund-raising event will be used for House Museum operations. Events will go on in rain, snow, or sunshine.

For more information, please check the AAHP website at <http://www.aahp-online.net/>. See you there!

**Find us on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram!**



## AAHP Annual Meeting, November 2, 2015

The 2015 annual members' meeting of the Alaska Association for Historic Preservation was held on November 2 at the Pioneer School House in Anchorage, featuring the business meeting, awards, and a presentation.

The business meeting focused on accomplishments of AAHP's programs and committees, including the "Eat.Drink.Preserve" fundraiser in September for the 10 Most Endangered Historic Properties program, which raised enough funds to offer two grants in 2015. For the Friends of Nike Site Summit (FONSS), current director Greg Durocher and founding director Jim Renkert discussed the successful preservation efforts made by that group for 2015. For History Day in Alaska, Jennifer Pederson Weinberger, the Cultural Resources Manager of the National Park Service Alaska Regional Office, spoke about current activities as well as Alaska's excellent showing—including a national winner in the Junior Division—at the National History Day national contest in Maryland last summer. Judy Bittner of the Iditarod Historic Trail Alliance (IHTA) spoke of the successful partnership of IHTA with AAHP.

Elections of board members and officers followed. Janet Matheson was re-elected to the Board, and two new members were elected: Rob Meinhardt of Far North Sustainable Development Solutions in Anchorage, and Paul Wackrow, who comes to Anchorage from the Providence Preservation Society in Providence, Rhode Island. Board members are elected for three-year terms. Board officers are elected annually, and all current board officers were granted new terms for 2016: Anne Pollnow, President; Elizabeth Grover, Vice President; Gloria Collins, Secretary; and Bob Mitchell, Treasurer.

Announcements of the Historic Preservation Award and two grants for AAHP's "10 Most Endangered Historic Properties" followed. Bob Mitchell of the AAHP Board received the Historic Preservation Award for Lifetime Achievement, in honor of his astounding service to the field over the years. Grants were awarded for Talkeetna's Ole Dahl Cabin #1 and the Fort William H. Seward Barracks building in Haines. (See stories and photos on page 4).

Following the business meeting, Grant Crosby, Senior Historical Architect at the National Park Service Alaska Regional Office, gave a wonderful presentation on the Russian Orthodox Sacred Sites in Alaska (ROSSIA) organization, a non-profit committed to preserving Russian Orthodox churches and iconography in Alaska. This focused on the Holy Assumption Orthodox Church in Kenai, St. Nicholas Russian Orthodox Church in Juneau, Ascension of Our Lord Chapel in Karluk, and Holy Ascension Cathedral in Unalaska. Rounding out the presentation, Grant described preservation work at the National Park Service relating to the Kennecott Mine in McCarthy and the US Customs House in Eagle.



*Participants at the AAHP 2015 Annual Business Meeting*

## Bob Mitchell Receives Historic Preservation Award



*Bob Mitchell receives the Historic Preservation Award for 2015 from AAHP President Anne Pollnow.*

At the AAHP Annual Meeting on November 2, the 2015 Historic Preservation Award honoring Lifetime Achievement was presented to Robert "Bob" Mitchell, one of AAHP's board members and a true advocate for Historic Preservation. Given annually since 2007, the AAHP Historic Preservation Award recognizes a project, organization, agency, or individual exemplifying the highest standards among Alaska preservation efforts.

With two university degrees, in 1961 Bob opened an architectural practice in Montana. In 1975, he became a Design Manager for the Alaska Department of Public Works, then transferred to the Alaska State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO). After that, Bob spent ten years working for the North Dakota SHPO. Since returning to Alaska, he has remained active in historic preservation. He joined the AAHP Board in 2005 and helped to found Friends of Nike Site Summit in 2007. Playing a major role in both organizations, Bob is always hands on with the restoration work at Nike Site Summit, and his knowledge, expertise, and enthusiasm make him an invaluable AAHP board member. With his career spanning almost six decades, we salute his personal commitment to and achievements in historic preservation.

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## Two Grants for 2015 Ten Most Endangered Historic Properties Grant Program

This year the Alaska Association for Historic Preservation is pleased to announce that we have given out two preservation grants, for the Ole Dahl Cabin #1 and the Fort William H. Seward Barracks building, thanks to the generosity of many individual donors. To be eligible, the property must have been nominated as one of Alaska's "10 Most Endangered Historic Properties" from either the current year or the previous year if no grant was awarded that year.

### Ole Dahl Cabin #1



Ole Dahl Cabin #1, Talkeetna

A \$2,500 grant was awarded to the Talkeetna Historical Society for the Ole Dahl Cabin #1 in Talkeetna, built in 1916. This cabin is the first of two buildings built by Norwegian immigrant Ole Dahl, and one of two original buildings still standing in Talkeetna. It was moved across the street from its original location in the 1970s. While the trapper cabin has had few repairs since its construction, it is in need of a real foundation to stabilize lower log deterioration. New log chinking is also needed. This conspicuous cabin is visited by approximately 180,000 people each tourist season and is an icon of Talkeetna's roots and upcoming centennial anniversary next year in 2016. Matching grants were generously provided by the Talkeetna Historical Society and a private donor. The cabin was nominated in 2015.

### Fort William H. Seward Barracks Building

A \$2,500 grant was awarded to the Port Chilkoot Company for the Fort William H. Seward Barracks building (also known as the Chilkoot Barracks) in Haines. The grant will assist with roof flashings at eaves and the elimination of four invasive trees that have contributed to building deterioration. The barracks was part of a military facility whose construction was authorized by executive order from President William McKinley in 1898. The founding purpose of the fort in Haines was for "preserving law and order among gold seekers." Construction occurred between 1902 and 1904. The Port Chilkoot Company, which manages the barracks building, also provided a matching grant. The Barracks building was nominated to the 10 Most Endangered Historic Properties list in 2014.



The Fort William H. Seward Barracks Building

## NFPA Free Fire Prevention Resources

"What would you like to have left after the fire?" Fire protection engineers often ask this when consulting with the owners of historic buildings. The question is asked half in jest, of course, but the reality is that fire destroys absolutely, particularly historic buildings constructed of combustible materials such as wood. Your historic building may survive a fire event if the fire department is able to respond quickly, but consider the smoke damage or the thorough soaking from hundreds, if not thousands, of gallons of water dispensed by the fire department?

The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), a global non-profit organization, was founded in 1896 to eliminate death, injury, property, and economic loss due to fire, electrical, and related hazards. The NFPA family of more than 300 consensus codes and standards addresses numerous specialties, but did you know the NFPA has codes for cultural resource properties and historic buildings and they're available to review online at no charge? NFPA 909, *Code for the Protection of Cultural Resource Properties – Museums, Libraries, and Places of Worship*, and NFPA 914, *Code for Fire Protection of Historic Structures*, recognize the irreplaceable value and historic integrity of the cultural resources around the world. Also, NFPA 909 and NFPA 914 include "housekeeping" recommendations and easy-to-use checklists to "pick the low hanging fruit" that help owners reduce risks and respond to emergencies. For a free review of NFPA 909 and NFPA 914, check the NFPA website at [www.nfpa.org/909](http://www.nfpa.org/909) and [www.nfpa.org/914](http://www.nfpa.org/914).

Interested in learning more? Please contact National Park Service Historical Architect Grant Crosby at 907-644-3463 or by email at [grant\\_crosby@nps.gov](mailto:grant_crosby@nps.gov). Grant, who serves on the technical committee for the NFPA 909 and NFPA 914 codes, is able to initiate planning efforts for your historic building.



The Motherlode Lodge in Hatcher Pass before fire consumed it in April 2015.

## *Then and Now*

### *Black Rapids Roadhouse*

Black Rapids Roadhouse, located at Mile 227 on the Richardson Highway, is a beautiful example of roadhouse development and architecture. This roadhouse was first opened in 1902 by Peter Feindler, and served as a welcome rest stop for travelers on the Valdez-Fairbanks Trail. It was named for the section of the Delta River the roadhouse overlooks, a notoriously violent stretch of rapids.

The roadhouse eventually came to act as a community center for prospectors throughout Isabel Pass, and by the 1910s, it also served as a base for big-game hunting. The roadhouse also served as an important stop for freighters. At Rapids, stage drivers would switch horse teams and sleds to better navigate the narrow and often treacherous trail through to Paxson's Roadhouse at the other end of the pass.

By the 1930s, the roadhouse could boast a decently sized aircraft runway, affording hunters and sportsmen an additional method of travel into the mountains. The roadhouse operated continuously until 1993, serving travelers, sportsmen, and hunters frequenting the Richardson Highway from Valdez to Fairbanks and the beautiful mountains that the roadhouse inhabited.

Today, the original roadhouse has been stabilized by the present owners, who have engaged in ongoing preservation and restoration projects for the historic building. The different phases of expansion, modernization, and additions can be easily read in the carefully managed historic roadhouse, which is planned to eventually house a summer museum, gift shop, and art gallery open to the public.

A new, modern lodge at Black Rapids has been constructed a short distance up the hill, and it provides many of the same amenities and necessities that the old roadhouse provided. This includes operating as a lodge, offering hiking and skiing excursions, and hosting weekend activities and holiday parties for area residents. The location also serves a special historic function – that of operations base for road crews working in the pass during the summer months, just as Alaska Road Commission crews did more than 100 years ago.



University of Alaska Anchorage. Archives & Manuscripts Dept.

*THEN: Black Rapids Roadhouse, circa 1915*



*NOW: Historic Black Rapids Roadhouse is undergoing restoration. The new modern Black Rapids Lodge is on the hill behind the historic roadhouse.*

### **“Eat.Drink.Preserve.” Fundraiser** *(continued from Page 1)*

In addition to the support of the community, we also appreciated the significance of celebrating our preservation benefit at the historic Pioneer Schoolhouse. Built in 1915, it is marking its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year, and this reflects the greater context of Anchorage celebrating its centennial. We are thankful to the Anchorage Woman's Club, which is Anchorage's oldest non-profit organization and is instrumental in the existence of the building, for allowing us to “Eat.Drink.Preserve.” in 2015.

The event was not only successful, but also hugely fun, and we look forward to hosting it next year!

## FONSS Success with Nike Site Summit

The Friends of Nike Site Summit (FONSS) has officially met its programmatic agreements to save several buildings at the former Nike Missile Site at Arctic Valley near Anchorage. The successful completion of these agreements for “Delayed Demolition” of the buildings has been acknowledged by Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson (JBER), who represents the US Army. This Nike Site, constructed during the Cold War, was decommissioned in 1976. The abandoned buildings had been in danger of being torn down by the Army, until the organized effort by FONSS and others to preserve the site.

To complete the programmatic agreements, stabilization was completed in 2015 on the last of six buildings, the Launch Control Building. The agreement signed in 2009 involved FONSS, the US Army, the National Park Service, and State of Alaska, and restoration began in 2010. Since then, extensive volunteer work has helped bring about the success of this effort. Structures saved include three sentry buildings, the Missile Maintenance Building, and dog kennels. For the Launch Control Building, completing the agreed-upon tasks was very complex due to the extensive work needed to stabilize the structure, including contracted HAZMAT work. Volunteers have provided thousands of dollars’ worth of work, making it possible for the work on this building to be completed.



Volunteers have played an invaluable role over the years, donating countless hours to clean-up and restoration work as well as conducting public tours of Site Summit during the summer since 2012. In 2015, 350 people total participated in the seven tours offered. The popularity of these tours is seen in how fast some of the tours have filled up after registration became available—some have sold out within 48 hours. Another season of tours is planned for summer 2016.

Also in 2016, more preservation projects are planned, but they will not be governed by the types of deadlines of the initial projects just completed, according to Greg Durocher, the new Director of FONSS and a Nike Site veteran. Durocher attributes the successful start-up and leadership of FONSS over the years to Founding Director Jim Renkert, who retired recently. Funding for the preservation projects was primarily through grants and donations.

For more information about Nike Site Summit, please visit the website at <http://www.nikesitesummit.net/>

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## Alaska Historic Preservation Conference Summary

The Alaska Historic Preservation Conference was held October 22-25, 2015, in Anchorage. Donovan Rypkema, well-known in the preservation field for his expertise in the economics of historic preservation, was the featured speaker. He delivered the keynote address on October 20 as well as participating in educational sessions. For more than 30 years, he has been sought by public agencies and non-profit organizations especially for the topics of historic structure reuse and the revitalization of commercial districts, both downtown and neighborhood.

The State of Alaska Office of History and Archaeology (OHA) hosted the conference in partnership with AAHP.



**Together, we can make a positive difference for future generations through historic preservation.**

As we enter into the New Year,  
 please remember the Alaska Association for Historic Preservation  
 when you have the opportunity to  
 "Pick.Click.Give."

### 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 Top Ten Most Endangered Historic Properties (grant account)**
- **Oscar Anderson House Museum (museum operations support)**

Donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_

*(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

#### 2015

December

5-6 and 12-13 — Swedish Holiday, Oscar Anderson House Museum, Anchorage

#### 2016

January

15 — Nominations Open for 10 Most Endangered Historic Properties for 2016

(Applications available starting January 15 on AAHP website at <http://www.aahp-online.net/>)



*Wishing you a happy Holiday Season and  
A prosperous New Year!*

*The Board, Staff, and Volunteers of the  
Alaska Association for Historic Preservation*

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We're on the web  
[www.aahp-online.net](http://www.aahp-online.net)



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