

## ***HERITAGE***

Monthly news update from the Office of History and Archaeology

State of Alaska, Department of Natural Resources

August 2025

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## Office of History and Archaeology News

**Staff Updates:** The State of Alaska currently has a hiring freeze in place and as of August 4, OHA has five vacancies. Until hiring waivers are approved and positions are backfilled, Nick Schmuck will serve as Acting State Archaeologist and Sarah Meitl will serve as Acting Chief. Effective June 30, 2025, Governor Dunleavy appointed DNR Commissioner John Boyle to serve as Alaska's Interim SHPO following Judy Bittner's well-earned retirement after over forty years of state service.

**Contact Information:** OHA encourages sending inquiries and requests to the email addresses listed below.

To send by email:

Section 106: [oha.revcomp@alaska.gov](mailto:oha.revcomp@alaska.gov)

State Permits: [oha.permits@alaska.gov](mailto:oha.permits@alaska.gov)

AHRS: [oha.ibs@alaska.gov](mailto:oha.ibs@alaska.gov)

Grants: [ohagrants@alaska.gov](mailto:ohagrants@alaska.gov)

Surveys and Research: [adam.brinkman@alaska.gov](mailto:adam.brinkman@alaska.gov)

General Inquiries: [dnr.oha@alaska.gov](mailto:dnr.oha@alaska.gov)

To send by USPS or other courier:

Alaska State Historic Preservation Office  
c/o Office of History and Archaeology  
550 W 7<sup>th</sup> Ave, Suite 1310  
Anchorage, AK 99501

**Nominations from Alaska:** Three of the Nation's most recent listings are from Alaska. On June 3, 2025, the Keeper listed the **Wolf Creek Boatworks Historic District** located on Prince of Wales Island in Southeast Alaska, and then on June 16, 2025, listed **Growden Memorial Ballpark** in the Fairbanks North Star Borough in the National Register of historic Places. On July 14, 2025, the Keeper listed **Pike's Landing** in the Fairbanks North Star Borough in the National Register of Historic Places. For details about the newly listed properties, contact State Historian Katie Ringsmuth at [katie.ringsmuth@alaska.gov](mailto:katie.ringsmuth@alaska.gov).

**National Register Listing:** Wolf Creek Boatworks Historic District, Hollis, Tongass National Forest area, listed 6/3/2025. (Reference Number SG100011911).

**National Register Listing:** Growden Memorial Ballpark, 207 Wilbur Street, Fairbanks, listed 6/16/2025. (Reference Number SG100011920).

**National Register Listing:** Pike's Landing, Fairbanks North Star Borough, listed 7/14/2025. (Reference Number RS100011912).

**America250 Program Update:** The America250-Alaska planning team has accomplished the following tasks to encourage broad, statewide participation:

- Launched Website: <https://america250.alaska.gov/>, from which all Alaskans can submit organization activities to the [online calendar](#);
- Spotlight state and national activities via Facebook: [America250Alaska](#); Instagram: [alaskaamerica250](#); and YouTube: (coming soon);
- Set up Email: [america250@alaska.gov](mailto:america250@alaska.gov)

*Media coverage to date*

- ESPN SportsCenter: [50 States in 50 Days: Alaska's midnight baseball](#)
- ESPN: [SportsCenter's 50 States, 50 Days Alaska trip completes Scott's personal bucket list](#)
- New York Times: [Fairbanks, Alaska's midnight game](#)
- Fairbanks Daily News-Miner: [America250Alaska to highlight state's storied baseball legacy](#)
- Alaska's News Source: [Updates from the Midnight Sun Baseball Game 2025](#)
- Alaska's News Source: [Growden Memorial Park registered as national historic site](#)
- Alaska's News Source: [ABL Fourth of July double-header combines with history of baseball exhibit](#)

- Alaska's News Source: [America250-Alaska debuts Alaskan baseball history exhibit at ABL Fourth of July double-header](#)
- Your Alaska Link: [Growden Memorial Ballpark in Fairbanks earns national historic designation](#)
- Your Alaska Link: [Anchorage exhibit explores baseball history in Alaska's far north region | Things To Do | youralaskalink.com](#)
- KVAK Radio: [America250-Alaska Launches Plan for Week of Dreams in 2026](#)
- Must Read Alaska: [America steps into its 250th year as a nation](#)
- Goldpanners Radio: [Interview with Alaska State Historian Katie Ringsmuth](#) (starts @ 121:15)
- Coverage expected in Anchorage Daily News after interview with sports editor Chris Bieri on July 11

**America250 Traveling Exhibit:** The Alaska Office of History and Archaeology has created a traveling exhibit, *Alaska's Fields of Dreams: America's Pastime in the 49<sup>th</sup> State*, for the America250 Alaska project. The exhibit consists of nine free-standing, 80" x 33.5" banners. The banners tell the history of Alaska Baseball, from the Indigenous version of the game to the Alaska Baseball League. Reserving the exhibit is free, except for shipping. To learn more, contact OHA's exhibit coordinator, Rachel Carraway, at [rachel.carraway@alaska.gov](mailto:rachel.carraway@alaska.gov).

The America250-Alaska coalition is growing. If you have questions, would like to learn more, or are interested in getting involved, please contact Katie Ringsmuth at [katie.ringsmuth@alaska.gov](mailto:katie.ringsmuth@alaska.gov).

## **Federal Legislation**

On 07/14/25, the U.S. House released its FY26 House Interior Appropriations Bill, and the appropriations subcommittee held their markup on 07/15/25. The bill was favorably reported by a vote of 8-5 along party lines and moved to the full committee. The House bill proposes an overall HPF funding level of **\$168.9 million**, situating it level to FY25. It also includes a 1-year reauthorization of the Historic Preservation Fund (HPF) – through Sept. 30, 2026, as well as \$30 million for the Semisequincentennial Commission to commemorate the 250<sup>th</sup>.

On 07/24/25, the Senate held their appropriations full committee mark up of their proposed bill, which passed the committee with a vote of 26-2. The Senate proposes an overall HPF funding level of **\$168.246 million**, \$654,000 below FY25.

#### PROPOSED FY26 Appropriations from House and Senate Bills:

(numbers via NCSHPO, 07/25/25)

<b>FY26 HPF</b>	<b>House</b>	<b>Senate</b>
SHPO	\$62.15 million	\$62.15 million
SAT	\$25.5 million	\$25.2 million
THPO	\$23 million	\$23.75 million
AA Civil Rights	\$24 million	\$24 million
Paul Bruhn	\$10 million	\$0
HBCU	\$11 million	\$11 million
250 <sup>th</sup>	\$7 million	\$0
Equal Rights	\$5 million	\$5 million
URC	\$1.25 million	\$1.25 million
CDS	\$0	\$15.59 million

#### **Advisory Council on Historic Preservation**

The ACHP has been directed to reduce staff and office space. Layoff notices to ACHP staff went out this month (July), which will ultimately reduce their staff from 39 to 16. This reduction in staffing is anticipated to align with the currently proposed budget of \$5.7 million, down from \$9.5 million. The agency is also reducing their current office space by 40%, which will be completed by mid-September.

#### **eLearning**

ACHP announces that three of their eLearning courses are now back online! These include “What is Section 106?”; “What Now? Protecting Historic Properties During Disaster Response”; and “Section 304 and Confidentiality”. Visit the eLearning course webpage ([e-Learning Courses | Advisory Council on Historic Preservation](#)) to check out these updated courses.

### **In-Person Alaska Training:**

**October 8** - ACHP Section 106 Essentials Training, in-person, Atwood Conference Center, 550 W 7<sup>th</sup> Ave, Suite 1940, Anchorage, Alaska.

[https://www.achp.gov/sites/default/files/2024-12/InfoSheet-AnchorageEssentials-8Oct2025\\_0.pdf](https://www.achp.gov/sites/default/files/2024-12/InfoSheet-AnchorageEssentials-8Oct2025_0.pdf)

**October 9** - ACHP Section 106 Agreements Seminar, in-person, Atwood Conference Center, Anchorage, Alaska

[https://www.achp.gov/sites/default/files/2024-12/InfoSheet-AnchorageAgreements-9Oct2025\\_0.pdf](https://www.achp.gov/sites/default/files/2024-12/InfoSheet-AnchorageAgreements-9Oct2025_0.pdf)

### **Public project alerts**

Section 106 large project consultation in progress:

- Graphite One Mine near Nome, USACE
- Safer Seward Highway, MP 98.5-118, DOT&PF
- Seward to Glenn Connection PEL, DOT&PF
- Chilkoot National Historic Trail Comprehensive Trail Plan, NPS
- Iditarod National Historic Trail Comprehensive Trail Plan Revision, BLM
- Cook Inlet LNG, FERC
- Johnson Tract Easements Cultural Resources Management Plan, NPS

Review and compliance agreement development for large projects in progress:

- West Susitna Access Road, DOT&PF

- Programmatic Agreement
- USFS Heritage Program
  - Programmatic Agreement Amendment
- USFS Sustainable Cabins
  - Programmatic Agreement
- NPS Kennecott Maintenance and Operations
  - Programmatic Agreement Amendment
- NPS Dyea and the Chilkoot Trail
  - Programmatic Agreement

For information on how to participate in the process, or on how to review and comment on the above projects, contact Sarah Meitl, [sarah.meitl@alaska.gov](mailto:sarah.meitl@alaska.gov).

### **Heritage subscription information**

*Heritage* is produced by the Office of History and Archaeology, Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation, Alaska Department of Natural Resources. Please send your comments, suggestions, and information by e-mail to [dnr.oha@alaska.gov](mailto:dnr.oha@alaska.gov), mail to 550 West 7<sup>th</sup> Ave., Suite 1310, Anchorage, Alaska 99501-3565, or telephone 907.269.8700.

All issues are posted to our web site at [dnr.alaska.gov/parks/oha/](http://dnr.alaska.gov/parks/oha/) and distributed to subscribers by e-mail. A paper copy can be sent to individuals and organizations that specifically request it.

To be added to the subscription list, please send an e-mail to [dnr.oha@alaska.gov](mailto:dnr.oha@alaska.gov) with “Heritage, subscribe” in the subject line.

If you do not wish to continue to subscribe to *Heritage*, please send an e-mail to [dnr.oha@alaska.gov](mailto:dnr.oha@alaska.gov) with “Heritage, unsubscribe” in the subject line.

Much like the OHA office, the Heritage Newsletter is entering a stage of transition. We are working on updating our mailing list and delivery system. We will have more information on the future of the newsletter and its delivery soon.

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## **Preservation calendar**

### **2025**

**August 18-21** – COGNA (Council on Geographic Names Authorities) annual conference. Golden, Colorado. To register, click [HERE](#)

**September 8-12** – NATHPO 25th annual conference. Hosted by [Reno-Sparks Indian Colony](#). [Registration is now open for NATHPO's 25th Annual Conference, happening September 8-12, 2025, at the Grand Sierra Resort and Casino in Reno, NV!](#) Visit NATHPO's website [HERE](#) to get details.

**September 10-13** – AASLH annual conference, theme *The American Experiment*, Cincinnati, OH.

**September 16-18** – National Trust for Historic Preservation - 2025 PastForward Conference, Milwaukee, WI. Registration is open now. For more information go to: [PastForward National Preservation Conference](#)

**September 24-27** – Alaska Historical Society annual conference, theme “Vital Lifelines in Alaska History”, Fairbanks, Alaska. For more information go to the AHS website [www.alaskahistoricalsociety.org](http://www.alaskahistoricalsociety.org)

**October 8** – ACHP Section 106 Essentials Training, in-person, Atwood Conference Center, 550 W 7th Ave, Suite 1940, Anchorage, Alaska. [https://www.achp.gov/sites/default/files/2024-12/InfoSheet-AnchorageEssentials-8Oct2025\\_0.pdf](https://www.achp.gov/sites/default/files/2024-12/InfoSheet-AnchorageEssentials-8Oct2025_0.pdf)

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**October 28-29** – NPI training “NAGPRA and ARPA: Application Requirements”, Anchorage, AK. Offered in conjunction with “NEPA Compliance and Cultural Resources). For information go to [npi.org](http://npi.org).

**October 30-31** – NPI training. “NEPA Compliance and Cultural Resources”, Anchorage, AK. Offered in conjunction with “NAGPRA and ARPA”. For information go to [npi.org](http://npi.org).

**2026**

**2027**

**March 3- 7** – Sharing Our Knowledge conference, Ketchikan. For more information and volunteer opportunities, contact Joaqlin Estus at [jmestus50@gmail.com](mailto:jmestus50@gmail.com)