

HERITAGE

Monthly news update from the Office of History and Archaeology

State of Alaska, Department of Natural Resources

March-April 2025

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Office of History and Archaeology news

The Alaska Historical Commission met April 3. The Commission recommended funding for seven Certified Local Government grants from Anchorage, Mat-Su Borough, Seward, Sitka and Ketchikan. The grant recommendations have been submitted to the SHPO for consideration. Final grant award decisions will be made and applicants will be notified in early May.

In April, Governor Dunleavy appointed Joan Skilbred, Fairbanks, Alaska, to the Alaska Historical Commission. Congratulations Joan!

The Office of History and Archaeology (OHA) Survey Unit is recruiting for a permanent **Archaeologist 1/2** position. The survey unit conducts cultural resource surveys for state and federal project sponsors across all of Alaska. This unit conducts cultural resource surveys for both state and federal project sponsors across Alaska—ranging from remote backcountry expeditions in the rugged interior to accessible front-country investigations in State Park units. This Anchorage-based position includes seasonal field travel.

The posting is live from April 8 through April 22, 2025 (5:00 pm).

Apply here:

<https://www.governmentjobs.com/careers/alaska/jobs/newprint/4900495>

The Office of History and Archaeology is also recruiting for a permanent **Historian 1** position. The position will work with the historic preservation and public education programs in the Office of History and Archaeology/ State Historic Preservation Office. The posting is live from April 16 through May 7, 2025 (5:00 pm). [Job Bulletin](#)

Federal Legislation

Enacted Historic Preservation Fund budget, FFY25

FY 2024	FY2025	FY 2026	FY2026			
		Passed	Passed	House	Senate	Admin
State Historic Preservation		\$ 62.15	\$62.15			
Tribal Historic Preservation		23.0	23.0			
Underrepresented communities		1.25	1.25	Not	Yet	Proposed
Civil Rights African-American		24.0	24.0			
History of Equal rights		5.0	5.0			
Historic Black colleges		11.0	11.0			
Save America’s Treasures		25.5	25.5			
Paul Bruhn Historic Revitalization		10.0	10.0			
Semiquincentennial Sites		7.0	7.0			
Tribal Heritage Grants (new category)	0.0	0.0				
Congressionally Designated	19.766	0.0				
TOTALS		\$ 188,666	\$168,900			

* Figures are in millions.

Tax Credit Legislation Introduced

Bipartisan tax credit legislation was recently introduced in the Senate and House. The Revitalizing Downtowns and Main Streets Act ([H.R. 2410](#)), introduced by **Rep. Mike Carey** (R-OH) and **Rep. Jimmy Gomez** (D-CA), would create a new 20% tax incentive, modeled after the Historic Tax Credit (HTC), to convert older commercial properties and office space into affordable housing.

A new version of the **Historic Tax Credit Growth and Opportunity Act (HTC-GO)** was recently introduced by Sen. Cassidy (R-LA)/Sen. Warner (D-VA) in the Senate ([S. 1459](#)). New provisions include returning to a one-year delivery of the HTC, as well as a boost from 20% to 30% in credit and the ability to transfer credits for smaller and rural projects. Now that Congress has passed a budget resolution, the House Ways and Means Committee could pass a tax bill out of committee by early May.

Department of Interior

The Department of Interior, which includes the National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management and other agencies, is currently working on a massive reorganization. The reorganization is expected to consolidate a range of operations at Interior and across agencies including communications, financial management, contracting, human resources, grants, civil rights, and IT functions. More details about the reorganization plans are expected in the next couple of weeks.

National Park Service

Training

The National Park Service is hosting a training webinar on building codes and historic buildings for property owners, architects, developers, consultants, local landmark commissions, and the general public on May 2 and May 21 at 2 pm ET.

The training will focus on [Preservation Brief 51: Building Codes for Historic and Existing Buildings: Planning and Maximizing their Application](#), issued in June 2024, and will, among other things, highlight alternative compliance methods available under model building codes for historic and existing buildings that can provide more flexible and less costly alternatives to meet state and local code requirements.

Preservation Brief 51 discusses how to meet the goals of building codes while preserving or minimizing alterations to the character-defining features, spaces, materials, and finishes of historic buildings. It also provides guidance for selecting the optimal code compliance method and suggests best practices for achieving code-compliant solutions that also allow for the preservation of a building's historic character.

Marilyn E. Kaplan, Architect, FAPT, author of the Brief, and Technical Preservation Services staff will present the webinar.

The NPS is offering the same webinar on two different dates for increased attendance opportunity. Registration is free and open to the public – please select one of the dates and use the registration links below. The webinar will be recorded and made available online in the future.

Register for the May 2, 2025, webinar:

https://doitalent.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN_wSyhM7ptSH-l88wVXavpIQ

Register for the May 21, 2025, webinar:

https://doitalent.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN_G1ulmevbT2O6VVwtez_MAg

The **recorded training webinar** on the use of substitute materials on historic buildings exteriors is now available on demand on the TPS website. Presented by Technical Preservation Services staff in 2024, the webinar on the use of substitute materials, discusses **[Preservation Brief 16: The Use of Substitute Materials on Historic Building Exteriors](#)** and [other revised information](#) on the application and interpretation of [the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation](#), including considerations for the appropriate use of substitute materials and case-study examples.

The Preservation Brief, published in October 2023, provides a framework for evaluating when a different material than the historic one may be appropriately used to replace a deteriorated or missing historic feature, consistent with the Standards, as well as technical preservation information about materials commonly considered for use as a substitute material in the context of a historic rehabilitation project.

The information on the use of substitute materials was updated to be more consistent with other NPS guidance and information and to ensure that it continues to reflect current and best practices. The revised information takes into account such factors as availability, performance, location/visibility, code requirements, cost, and resilience of the proposed new and historic materials or features. The information continues to recognize that flexibility may be needed when it comes to new and replacement materials as part of a historic rehabilitation project.

The webinar is available on the [TPS website \(see On Demand Training\)](#).

Advisory Council on Historic Preservation

On January 20, 2025, President Donald Trump issued an Executive Order Declaring a National Energy Emergency in regard to the availability of domestic energy resources and production. In accordance with Section 2(a) of the Executive Order, the ACHP has identified existing emergency provisions in the Section 106 regulations that federal agencies may follow for any proposed undertaking that falls within the scope of the Executive Order. Please visit the ACHP's dedicated webpage regarding the Executive Order and the Section 106 emergency provisions. Frequently Asked Questions found there will be updated regularly.

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 to check out these updated courses. Additional courses will be made available in the coming weeks.

In person Alaska training:

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

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

National Trust for Historic Preservation

The National Trust recently awarded \$179,250 in grant funding to 27 organizations nationwide, including one in Alaska. Ketchikan Pioneer Way Association, Ketchikan, Alaska, received \$5,000 for “Pioneer Alley Design Development”.

Grant application deadlines

- April 25: [Diversity in Preservation Scholarship Program for PastForward 2025](#)
- May 1: [Hart Family Fund for Small Towns](#)
- June 2: [National Trust Preservation Funds](#)
- June 2: [Henry A. Jordan, M.D., Preservation Excellence Fund](#)
- June 2: [Bartus Trew Providence Preservation Fund](#)

National Association of Tribal Historic Preservation Officers

[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 and claim your spot at NATHPO's 25th Annual Conference. There is also a block of rooms at the Grand Sierra Resort and Casino for \$138 per night, a link to which you can access from the Registration Page. **Due to limited availability, this year's conference registrations will be capped at 250. Secure your 25th Conference Registrations and lodging today!**

Interested in presenting? NATHPO invites you to share your knowledge and experiences in Tribal historic and cultural preservation by presenting to our annual conference. As always, sessions and presentations on all relevant topics are welcome. This year's theme is “Upholding Tribal Sovereignty: Protecting Native Places in a Shifting Landscape.” We encourage you to think about how your proposed topic is related to the conference theme. You can find more details about submitting a presentation proposal [on our website](#) and in the attached form. Proposals are due no later than June 6, 2025.

Public project alerts

Section 106 large project consultation in progress:

-
- Graphite One Mine near Nome
- Safer Seward Highway, MP 98.5-118
- 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

Review and compliance agreement development for large projects in progress:

- West Susitna Access Road, DOT&PF
 - Programmatic Agreement
- Harbor Mountain, USFS
 - Memorandum of Agreement
- USFS Heritage Program
 - Amendment 4, Region 10 Programmatic Agreement
- Alaska Highway WWII Bridges, DOT&PF
 - Programmatic Agreement
- 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.

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, mail to 550 West 7th 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/ and distributed to subscribers by e-mail. A paper copy can be sent to individuals and organizations that specifically request it.

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Preservation calendar

2025

May 14-17 – The Vernacular Architecture Forum. Annual Meeting, Wilmington, Delaware. From New Castle to Sussex: Big Stories from a Small State <https://www.vafweb.org/conference>

May 1 – 31 – Historic Preservation Month, sponsored by National Trust for Historic Preservation. Theme: Harnessing the Power of Place. For information, digital marketing kit and free GIF stickers go to <https://savingplaces.org/stories/preservation-month-2025>

September 8-12 – NATHPO 25th annual conference. Hosted by [Reno-Sparks Indian Colony](#) Details will be in future NATHPO newsletters.

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

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

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

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

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

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