



CBJ HISTORIC RESOURCES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

ANNUAL REPORT

2023

PREPARED BY THE CITY & BOROUGH OF JUNEAU HISTORIC RESOURCES ADVISORY COMMITTEE



City and Borough of Juneau, Alaska Historic Resources Advisory Committee

Subject: Historic Resources Advisory Committee – 2023 Annual Report

Honorable Mayor Weldon and Assembly Members,

Historic preservation is an important element of a community's character, identity, and viability. Juneau, for many years, has been a leader in historic preservation efforts throughout Alaska. As the State Capital, it is appropriate for Juneau to be a model for the rest of the state for responsible preservation of its historic and cultural resources.

The summer season of 2023 saw Juneau's cruise ship arrivals exceed pre-pandemic levels with nearly 1.7 million cruise ship passengers arriving in the port. Many of these passengers spend time walking through Juneau's Downtown Historic District and adjacent neighborhoods, often frequenting local shops, restaurants, and attractions.

Members of Historic Resources Advisory Committee are a diverse group of citizen volunteers appointed by the Assembly who recognize the value of historic preservation for the community. The committee takes its advisory role seriously in reviewing historic preservation activities and issues. Members work to support historic preservation to the best of their ability and in the best interests of the community.

The Historic Resources Advisory Committee is pleased to present its Annual Report for 2023.

Respectively,

Juneau Historic Resources Advisory Committee

INTRODUCTION

The history of a community contributes to its personality. Preserving the historic and cultural resources of a place retains a community's unique character. Historic preservation provides a link to the roots of the community and its people by preserving and protecting buildings, structures, objects, landscapes, or other artifacts of historical significance. Historic preservation provides a direct connection to a community's past communicates the past to future generations.

Historic preservation provides economic development opportunities by promoting heritage tourism; creating jobs through rehabilitation and adaptive reuse of historic buildings; and enhancing neighborhood character thereby maintaining property values.

Preservation helps promote sustainability through adaptive reuse of existing buildings therefore reducing consumption of resources and materials; creating less waste for our landfills; and consuming less energy than demolishing and rebuilding new buildings. Carl Elefante, Architect, sums up this philosophy: "The greenest building is the one that's already built."

Overall, historic preservation adds to the quality of life making for a more livable community.

HISTORIC RESOURCES ADVISORY COMMITTEE (HRAC)

HRAC is an Assembly appointed citizen committee established in the Land Use Ordinance (Title 49.10.410) and entrusted with the following duties:

- Reviewing and making recommendations about local projects that might affect properties identified in the local Historic Preservation Plan.
- Reviewing and developing nominations to the National Register of Historic Places for properties within CBJ.
- Cooperating and consulting with the Assembly, the Historic District Commission, the Community Development Department, and the State Historic Commission on matters concerning historical districts and historic, prehistoric, and archaeological preservation in the City and Borough.
- Reviewing and making recommendations about the collections, exhibitions, education programs, long-range plans, and other pertinent activities of the Juneau-Douglas City Museum.
- Performing other actions which are necessary and proper to carry out the above duties.

In 2023, HRAC was comprised of the following members along with their area of interest or expertise as sought by the Assembly:

- Chair: Zane Jones – Architect
- Vice Chair: Shannon Crossley – Architectural Historian
- Recorder: Shauna McMahon – Owner of Historic Property (term ended June 30, 2023)
- Recorder: Eric Moots – General Public (term began July 10, 2023)
- Member: Don Harris – Owner of Historic Property and Familiar with the Operations and Issues of the Juneau-Douglas City Museum
- Member: Gary Gillette – Historical Architect
- Member: Sarah Hieb – General Public (term ended June 30, 2023)
- Member: Olivia Lihou – Educator (term ended June 30, 2023)
- Member: Dorene Lorenz – General Public
- Member: Chuck Smythe - Knowledgeable of Customs and Language of the Tlingit and Haida people

CBJ Community Development Department (CDD) provides liaison staff to HRAC. In 2023 there were some changes to staffing at CDD resulting in the following staff members who attended the meetings at various times of the year: Beth McKibben, Planner; Scott Ciambor, Planning Manager; and Forrest Courtney, Planner.

Beth Weigel, Director and Cory Woodall, Curator, provides liaison staff on behalf of the Juneau-Douglas City Museum (JDCM).

HRAC is scheduled to meet on the first Wednesday of every month except July. In 2023 some meetings were unable to be held due to lack of quorum resulting from personal schedule conflicts and two vacant member seats for the last half of the year. One meeting was cancelled and another rescheduled to make up for meetings with lack of quorum. HRAC member attendance record is attached at the end of the report at Appendix A. Meeting agendas and minutes are attached at the end of this report at Appendix B.

JUNEAU'S HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLANS

The City and Borough of Juneau has two areawide plans that support preservation of the community's historic resources:

- Chapter 16 of the Comprehensive Plan adopted in 2013 has the following policies regarding historic preservation:
 - Policy 16.1. To identify, preserve and protect Juneau's diverse historic and cultural resources, and to promote historic preservation and accurately represent Juneau's unique heritage through publications, outreach, and heritage tourism.
 - Policy 16.2. To identify historic resources within the CBJ and to take appropriate measures to document and preserve these resources.
 - Policy 16.3. To increase public awareness of the value and importance of Juneau's archaeological and historic resources, and to educate, encourage, and assist the public in preserving heritage and recognizing the value of historic preservation.
 - Policy 16.4. To preserve and protect the unique culture of Juneau's native peoples, including buildings, sites, artifacts, totems, traditions, lifestyles, languages, and histories.
 - Policy 16.5. To promote responsible heritage tourism that accurately represents Juneau's unique history, while protecting the resources from overuse or harm.
- The City and Borough of Juneau's Historic and Cultural Preservation Plan was adopted in 2020 to further the policies of the Comprehensive Plan regarding historic preservation.
- The *Draft* Blueprint Downtown Plan, currently under public review, recognizes the value of historic preservation, stating:

“Juneau's unique history and heritage is an asset worthy of investment. These assets attract tourists, shoppers, businesses, and residents. Over the years, many historic buildings have been lost, making those that remain even more important if downtown is to keep a link to its past. Designated historic landmarks and the centrally located Downtown Historic District are invaluable cultural resources that can contribute substantially to downtown's economic vitality and identity.”

LOCAL PRESERVATION ORDINANCES

CBJ's Land Use Code provides direction for historic preservation activities as follows:

- Title 49.10.410 - Establishes the Historic Resources Advisory Committee
- Title 49.75.220 - Authorizes the Planning Commission to enact historic district design review standards.
- Chapter 04 CBJAC 080.080 - Sets forth the Downtown Historic District Design Standards.
- No new preservation ordinances were adopted in 2023.

THE STATE OF JUNEAU'S HISTORIC RESOURCES

Juneau possesses a wealth of historic resources. It is in the best interest of the community to identify and preserve these artifacts, structures, and sites, which contribute to the historic and cultural diversity of the community. Current documentation lists over 500 buildings that were built before or during the first quarter of the 20th century. Significant numbers of additional sites, structures, and landscapes, await documentation. These resources are part of the community's heritage, and their identification and preservation are paramount in maintaining the community's sense of place in the 21st century.

- In 2023 the historic Elks Hall at 109 N. Franklin Street was demolished by its private owner. The building was built in 1908. In 1913 the first Legislature of the Territory of Alaska met in the building. The first bill passed was to give women the right to vote.
- In 2022 CBJ obtained historic Telephone Hill from the state legislature. The site contains several historic residential properties. As part of the land exchange the CBJ agreed to perform an analysis of the historic properties prior to completing plans for use of the site. As the city does not have a specific analysis process, the federal Section 106 process was identified as the model for CBJ's effort. The city contracted with consultants to perform the work to analyze the historic properties. The consultant began work in mid-2022. As of the end of 2023 no materials regarding the historic property analysis had been received by HRAC for review and comment.
- Beginning in January 2023 and throughout the year HRAC heard much public testimony regarding the state of planning and historic property analysis of the Telephone Hill site. Those testifying at the meetings were in favor of preserving the historic buildings and landscape of Telephone Hill.
- The issue of on-going deterioration of historic cemeteries in Douglas was discussed by HRAC in 2023. For many years various groups have proposed that the city obtain ownership and maintain the cemeteries as is done at Evergreen Cemetery in Juneau. HRAC recommended a letter be sent to the Assembly in support of resolving ownership issues and providing maintenance for the historic Douglas cemeteries.

SURVEY AND INVENTORY ACTIVITIES

In 2023 the CBJ Community Development Department, with consultant NorthWind Architects, completed Phase 2 of the update to the 1988 Juneau Townsite Historic Survey and Inventory. The project involved researching the history of buildings 50 years or older and documenting the

exterior architecture with descriptive narratives and photographs. With Phase 2 complete, a third phase was anticipated to nominate the Juneau Townsite to the National Register of Historic Places.

PRESERVATION PROJECT REVIEWS

Downtown Historic District Project Reviews:

- 259 S. Franklin Street. The building was constructed in the 1990s and is not a contributing property to the National Register Historic District. The proposed activity was to revise the entry way, update horizontal siding, replace windows, and make changes to the canopy. The project was reviewed and found compatible with the design guidelines for new construction of a non-contributing building.

Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act Reviews:

- There were no Section 106 project reviews brought to HRAC in 2023.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

At the conclusion of the Juneau Townsite Survey and Inventory it was intended to apply for a Certified Local Government (CLG) matching grant to nominate the Juneau Townsite to the National Register of Historic Places. However, CDD Staff informed HRAC it would not be able to provide grant application or administration or other participation for the nomination process. Typically, CDD Staff time is used as part of CBJ's match for such grants.

HRAC did not propose nor review any new nominations to the National Register of Historic Places in 2023.

EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

The Juneau-Douglas City Museum (JDCM) received a "Telling the Full History" Grant from the National Trust for Historic Preservation (National Trust) that was planned to relate the story of the burning of Aanáx Yaa Andagan Yé (Douglas Indian Village) in the 1960s. JDCM was unable to complete the project thus the grant was adjusted to include alternate work. With National Trust approval the funding was used to support the following projects:

- "For Our Children: Chilkat Weaving in the Lineage of Clarissa Rizal and Jennie Thlunaut" exhibition at JDCM.
- The "Mga Kuwento: Filipinos in Juneau" exhibition at JDCM and podcast.
- Interpretive signage for the "First Halibut Hook" kootéeyaa (totem pole) that stands in front of JDCM (formerly known as the "Four Story Totem Pole"). Dr. Emily Moore presented information at a program hosted by JDCM at Sealaska Heritage Institute's Clan House on new information regarding the carved totem by John Wallace. Her research revealed Wallace's interpretation as recorded by researcher Viola Garfield in her 1984 notes "Totem Pole Restoration Project." For the past 60 years the interpretation of the "Four Story Totem Pole" provided by Keithan was four Haida stories, however, Garfield's notes listed the figures on the pole and revealed the story was inspired by a Lingít ixt' (shaman) named Sa'wan who created and developed the Lingít style halibut hook. JDCM worked with Wallace's grandson, Lee Wallace, to rename the kootéeyaa "Sa'wan and the First Halibut Hook" which is reflected in the new interpretive signage. The kootéeyaa was carved as a

CCC project around 1940 in Hydaburg by Wallace and was later brought to Juneau in 1963 and mounted at 6th and Seward and then remounted in its present location in front of JDCM in 1993.

- Another kootéeyaa in the museum's care and collection receiving new interpretative signage includes the Wooshkeetaan kootéeyaa carved by Nathan Jackson and now located in the State Office Building.
- The third pole to receive new interpretive signage is the Harnessing the Atom kootéeyaa carved by Amos Wallace and located on the Calhoun Street side of JDCM.

JDCM also provided information to the City Manager that indicated the ballfields at Savikko Park in Douglas were once named for Lingít ballplayer Jimmy Manning.

JDCM requested that Parks and Recreation remove limbs hanging over the 5-Stamp Mill in Douglas at the start of the Treadwell Trail. This work was completed. At the request of the Treadwell Society, JDCM is also seeking to undertake other preservation measures for the Treadwell 5-Stamp Mill.

In 2023, the Juneau Douglas City Museum offered historical presentations, walking tours, lectures, and exhibits as contained in the following table.

Program Type	Total # Of Programs	Total # of Attendees	NOTES
Education Tours	20	453	UAS & JSD students Homeschool Discovery preschool Pioneer Home residents Statewide teacher groups Statewide high school students Tlingit Haida language immersion Travel Juneau staff & Volunteers
Events & Workshops	16	2159	First Friday Artist Workshops Travel Fair
Walking Tours	251	1834	Alaska Capitol Building Tours (197) Historic Downtown Juneau Tours (40) Treadwell Tours (2) True Crime Tours (3) Evergreen Cemetery Tour (3) Geology Tour (4) Capitol Tour for New Legislators (2)
Other Programs	6	390	Walter Soboleff Day Elizabeth Peratrovich Day & Scavenger Hunt Poetry Reading Group Solo Artist Talks Month of Play
TOTALS	293	4836	

APPENDIX A

HRAC Meeting Attendance Record

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APPENDIX B

HRAC Meeting Agendas and Minutes

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JUNEAU HISTORIC RESOURCES ADVISORY COMMITTEE - ATTENDANCE RECORD

January 2023 - December 2023

Name	Member Type	January	February	March	April	May	June		August	September	October	November	December	Total Possible Meetings *	Total Meetings Attended *	Notes
Zane Jones	Chair	X	?	X	?	?	CXL		?		X	X	X	6	5	
Shannon Crossley	Vice Chair	X	?	X	?	?	CXL		?	X		X	X	6	5	
Shauna McMahon	Recorder	X	?	X	?	?	CXL		NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	2	2	Term Ended 6/30/23
Eric Moots	Recorder	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	CXL		?		X	X		4	2	Term Began 7/10/23
Sarah Hieb	Member	X	?		?	?	CXL		NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	2	1	Term Ended 6/30/23
Don Harris	Member	X	?	X	?	?	CXL		?	X	X	X	X	6	6	
Gary Gillette	Member	X	?	X	?	?	CXL		?	X		X	X	6	5	
Olivia Lihou	Member		?		?	?	CXL		NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	2	0	Term Ended 6/30/23
Dorene Lorenz	Member		?		?	?	CXL		?	X	X	X	X	6	4	
Chuck Smythe	Member		?	X	?	?	CXL		?	X	X	X	X	6	5	
Vacant	Member		?		?	?	CXL		?							Term Filled in 2024
Vacant	Member		?		?	?	CXL		?							Term Filled in 2024

X = Present at Meeting

CXL = Meeting Cancelled

NA = Not a Member

? = No Meeting Minutes

* - Meetings with Minutes