

# THE ALASKA ASSOCIATION FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION

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**Alaska Association for  
Historic Preservation**

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## 2008 Most Endangered Properties



**Weatherell-Taraski-Rust  
House, Talkeetna**



**Jesse Lee Home  
Seward**



**Nike Summit Site  
Eagle River**



**4th Avenue Theatre  
Anchorage**



**State Capitol Building and  
Masonic Temple, Juneau**



**Sheldon Jackson College  
Sitka**



**Kake Cannery National  
Historic Landmark, Kake**



**Clover Pass School  
Ketchikan**



**Cape Saint Elias Lighthouse,  
Kayak Island**



**Flat City Historic District,  
Flat**



**Government Hill,  
Anchorage**



**Bureau of Indian Affairs  
School, Unalakleet**

During our annual meeting in November, the Alaska Association for Historic Preservation (AAHP) released the state's Most Endangered Historic Properties for 2008. The list is announced each

year and 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;

assets important to tourism, economic development, and the cultural heritage of Alaska. This year marks the twentieth announcement of AAHP's Most Endangered Historic Properties.



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## Historic Roads

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We know that roads in Alaska are few and far in between. We also know that roads provide a unique experience to the driver depending on their setting and location. Many roads throughout the State are utilitarian and should be upgraded to meet the functional needs of people traveling in our State. However, there are others that should be assessed and preserved to enhance the driving experience.

Roads may be important to us for a variety of reasons. Some may be rural or agricultural in nature like Trunk Road in the Matanuska Susitna Borough or iconic like 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue in Anchorage. Still others may possess historic significance like the Pile Bay Road that helped connect Cook Inlet to Bristol Bay or scenic such as the Seward Highway along Turnagain Arm. No matter how their importance is derived, preservationist should consider and advocate for long term preservation of historic corridors or sensitive design of road improvements. Preservationists acknowledge the need for development while maintaining the qualities of life that are important to preserve those characteristics that make Alaska great.

As we start this New Year, we want to hear from you about important roads or

connections in your part of Alaska. Please do not limit the properties to roads. Let us know if there are important waterways, boardwalks, or snow machine routes in your community that people consider historic or culturally important.

## Distinctly Alaskan

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### *Wasilla Railroad Depot*

The Depot at Wasilla is one of eight originally constructed along the Alaska Railroad and is in pristine condition. Built in 1917, this one story hipped roof building has a horizontal emphasis along the railroad tracks. Although aesthetically pleasing, the functionality of the building is evident. One end of the depot houses the waiting room and the other side is storage space for freight. The area furthest from the track provided space for the agent. A projecting bay on the railroad side is the stationmaster's office. The banded windows, series of windows, and large overhanging eaves all help emphasize the horizontal orientation of the depot. To depot is located just off the Parks Highway in Wasilla.

## Celebrating 50 Years of Statehood

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Communities all over Alaska have celebrated, and continue to celebrate, our fiftieth anniversary of statehood. Everything from fireworks, plays, articles, discussions, music and even comedy is used to express Alaskans' reflections on statehood. We would love to hear your stories! Please send us pictures, essays, poems, music recordings, or any other medium you or your community used to celebrate or reflect on Alaska's fifty years of statehood (we are sorry, we cannot accept fireworks via U.S. mail at this time!). We will select the most original entries to publish in our next newsletter (or, if a video/audio file, we will post it on our website). We look forward to your submissions! Have fun with this!

## Celebrating Alaskans: Judge James Wickersham

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James Wickersham (born August 24, 1857) was appointed District Judge by U.S. President William McKinley to the Third Judicial District in 1900. He served until 1908. He was then elected as Alaska's delegate to Congress. He served until 1917 and was re-elected in 1930. During his service in Congress, he helped pass the Organic Act of 1912, which gave Alaska territorial status, and, in 1916, he helped pass the first Alaska Statehood Bill.

Here is a poem by James Wickersham, taken from his novel, *Old Yukon, Tales- Trails-Trials*, written in 1938.

### *TO THE PIONEERS OF THE YUKON!*

Who first explored the Kwikpak wide,  
Who floated down wild Pelly's tide,  
Who built fur-posts for Indian trade,  
And brought the Book to the Yukon glade;

Who blazed the trail o'er Dyea divide,  
Who built their boats on Lindeman's side,  
Who worked the Stewart's bars awhile,  
And found the paystreak on the Forty Mile;

Who mined at Circle, and Klondike creeks,  
Who camped at Nome, 'neath Anvil's peaks,  
Who founded Fairbanks, opened its mines,  
And prospected where the Iditarod twines;

Who built its towns, its roads and trails,  
Who planned its railroads, and laid the rails,  
Who guide in council, in creating homes,  
And in laying a State's foundation stones.

-J.W.

## Let Us Hear From You!

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We would love to receive submissions from members for our newsletter. Please send us articles, along with a short biography about yourself and your phone number. We will contact you prior to publishing your article. Thank you in advance for your submissions!