

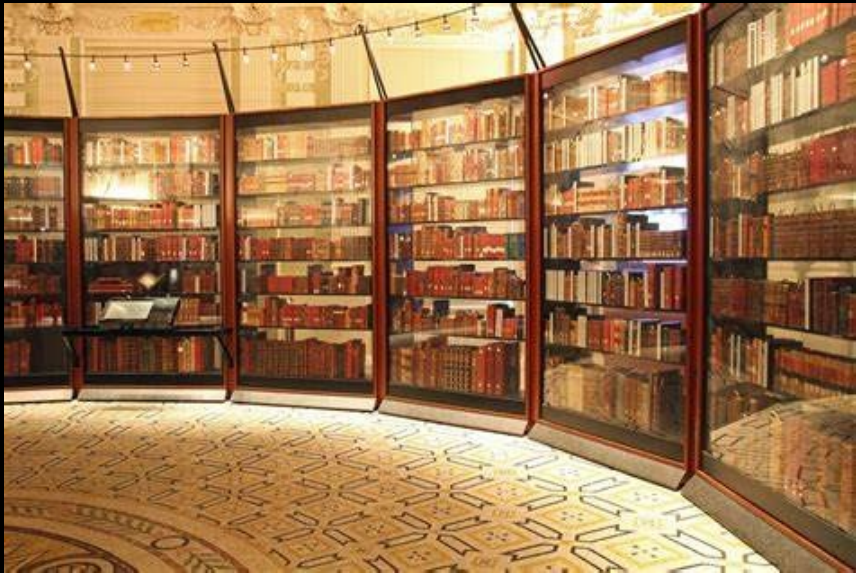
Envisioning the National Register as a Tool for Economic Development and Heritage Tourism



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Office of History and Archaeology
Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation
Department of Natural Resources





The National Register CAN:



Exponentially increase our ability to preserve the places that matter to your community

Excellent source for historic content, allowing for authentic interpretation of the built environment over time

Gateway to public education and economic development

Create a new market for historic preservation services.

The Economics of Historic Preservation

A Community Leader's Guide

By Donovan D. Rypkema



“The economic benefits of historic preservation are enormous. The knowledge of the economic benefits of historic preservation is minuscule.”

*--Donovan D. Rypkema, Economist
The Economics of Historic Preservation:
A Community Leader's Guide*

Heritage/Cultural Tourism





Heritage Tourism

Heritage Tourism is simply travel directed toward experiencing the heritage of a city, region, state, or country. Heritage tourism enables tourists to learn about and be surrounded by local customs, traditions, history, and culture.





"Listen up: You already have a theme park! It's called your streetscape, your lands, your cultures, and no other community possesses those same gifts."

*--Dan Shilling,
Civic Tourism:
The Poetry and Politics of Place*





Benefits of Listing a property in the National Register of Historic Places

- Certified Local Government Grants

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- Certified Local Government Grants
- Historic Preservation Grants
- Maritime Heritage Grants (education & preservation)

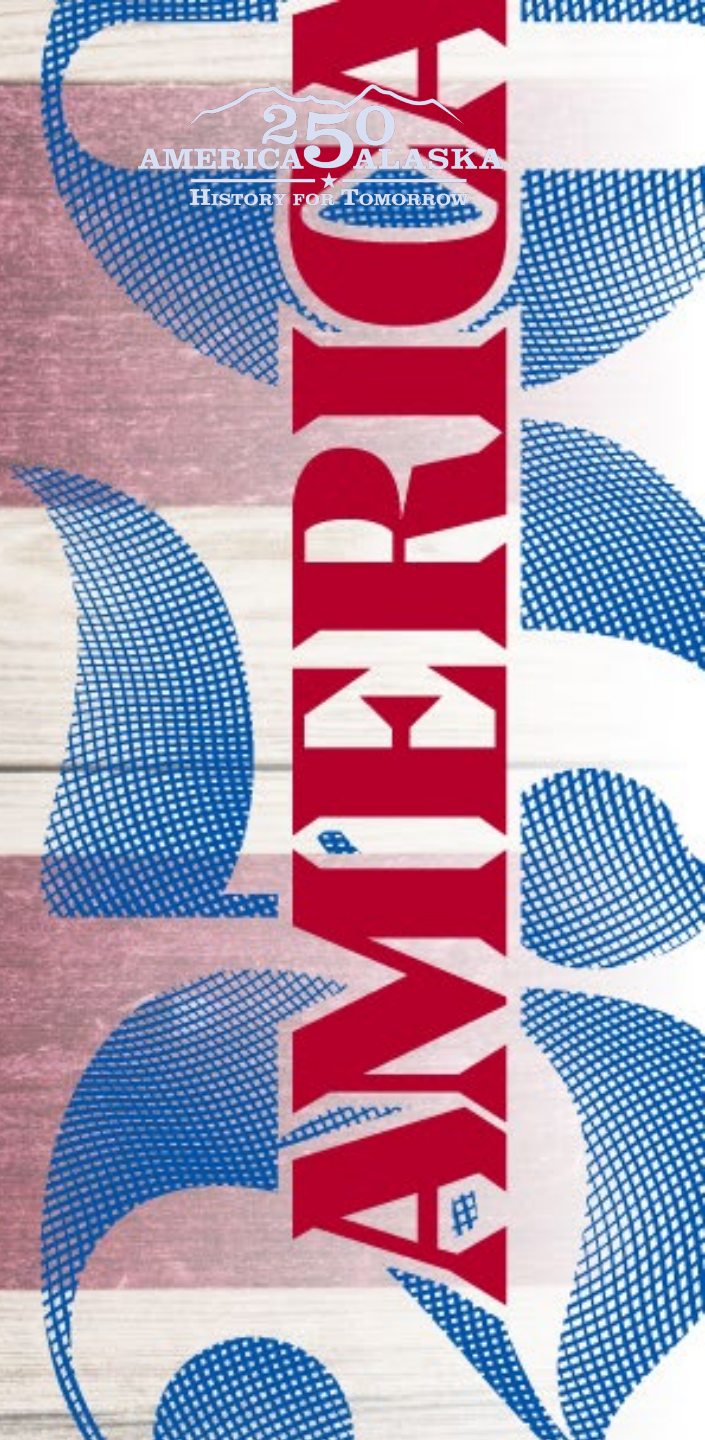


Benefits of Listing a property in the National Register of Historic Places

- Certified Local Government Grants
- Historic Preservation Grants
- Maritime Heritage Grants (education & preservation)
- Tax Credits



250
AMERICA ALASKA
HISTORY FOR TOMORROW





WEEK OF DREAMS



A proposal to celebrate

America's Pastime in the Far North on July 4, 2026

MLB CLINICS—LEGACY SOFTBALL GAMES—STORIED BALLPARKS—ALASKA BASEBALL LEAGUE
 MILITARY BASE VISITS—ALASKA NATIVE HERITAGE—GOLF TOURNAMENT—DENALI PARK
 RIVERBOAT—HOT SPRINGS—TRAIN RIDE—ICE MUSEUM—SALMON BAKE

DAY 1 SAT JUN 27 ANCHORAGE	<p>MORNING: MLB Play Ball Youth Clinic, with participants from urban neighborhoods in Anchorage to rural villages and tribes across Alaska.</p> <p>AFTERNOON: MLB Legacy Softball Game, Mulcahy Stadium, with Opening Ceremonies, food, and celebration.</p> <p>EVENING: Alaska Baseball League Game—Glacier Pilots vs Bucs</p>
DAY 2 SUN JUN 28 ANCHORAGE	<p>MORNING: Visit Elmendorf - Fort Richardson (JBER) military base, established in 1940 as part of the national defense effort during WWII.</p> <p>AFTERNOON: Meet with the men and women serving the country, tour Air Force fleet of jets, made for arctic aviation.</p> <p>EVENING: On own / TBD</p>
DAY 3 MON JUN 29 ANCHORAGE	<p>MORNING: On own / TBD</p> <p>AFTERNOON: Meet with <u>Knock Em Down and Skin Em Club</u>, established in 1868 on the Pribilof Islands for a friendly game at Bartlett High School. Join with resident in learning how to play "Native Baseball"</p> <p>EVENING: Transfer to the <u>Alaska Native Heritage Center</u> to tour exhibits and have dinner. Alaska Native Dancers and Native Games demonstrations.</p>
DAY 4 TUE JUN 30 ANCHORAGE	<p>ALL DAY Play in the America250Alaska Golf Tournament at the beautiful <u>Moose Run Golf Course</u>, America's northernmost 36-hole facility, followed by a banquet. Proceeds will support sports field and facility improvements for Alaska's youth.</p>



WEEK OF DREAMS

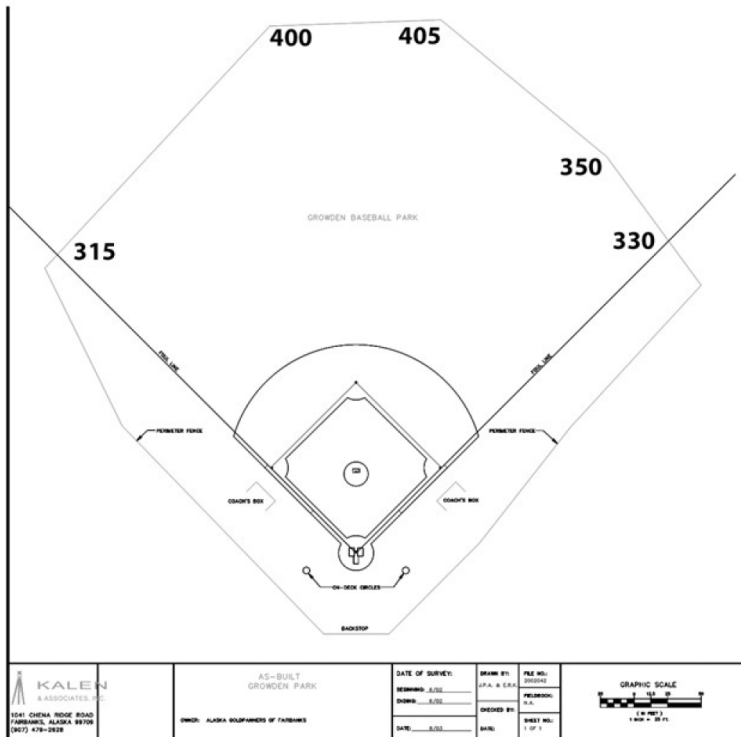


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DAY 5 WED JULY 1 TRANSIT	<p>MORNING / AFTERNOON: Depart from Anchorage to Denali via Alaska Railroad, tour through the scenic Alaska Range.</p> <p>EVENING: Overnight Denali National Park & Preserve, dine at one of the many hotel restaurants with unmatched views of the crown jewel of Alaska's national parks.</p>
DAY 6 THUR JULY 2 FAIRBANKS	<p>MORNING: Depart from Denali to Fairbanks via motorcoach. Upon arrival in Fairbanks, check in at host hotel <u>Pike's Waterfront Lodge</u></p> <p>AFTERNOON: Float back to the days of the Gold Rush aboard the <u>Riverboat Discovery</u> sightseeing tour</p> <p>EVENING: Dinner and reception at Pike's Waterfront Lodge</p>
DAY 7 FRI JULY 3 FAIRBANKS	<p>MORNING: MLB Play Ball Youth Clinic, participants involve athletes from across Alaska, including rural villages and tribes.</p> <p>AFTERNOON/ EVENING: Trip to Chena Hot Springs Resort to tour the Ice Museum and soak in the hot springs, followed by dinner at the resort, then return to hotel</p>
DAY 8 SAT JULY 4 FAIRBANKS	<p>MORNING: Breakfast at Hotel</p> <p>AFTERNOON: LB Legacy Softball Game, Historic Growden Memorial Ballpark, with Opening Ceremonies and celebration.</p> <p>EVENING: Dinner at the nearby Salmon Bake at Pioneer Park before the Alaska Goldpanners Fourth of July game.</p>





Inning 4: SAWBONES vs JAWBONES

“One day, the doctors, whose team was called the ‘Sawbones,’ played the lawyers, who gloried in the name of the ‘Jawbones,’ and in whose team Judge Gunston was a promising member. Next day the dry goods men played the grocers, and so on, until the whole community became inflicted and enjoyed a rattling good time.”

Nome Daily Nugget, May 15, 1908

Americanizing Alaska

The extraction of Alaska’s natural resources by outside corporate interests infused the northern landscape with baseball. Copper miners played baseball from Copper Center to Chitina. Salmon canneries with racially diverse employees utilized baseball to address conflicts and foster camaraderie among their crews.

During the Gold Rush era, Nome miners scraped away the soggy vegetation from the surface of the undulating tundra, placed hundreds of burlap bags atop the permafrost, and then piled dirt on top of the bags to create a playable ball field that overlooked Dry Creek. Historian Terrence Cole described the Nome field as “one of the most unique parks in the world.”



Ketchikan, July 4, 1900. In southeast Alaska, baseball’s themes of rebirth and renewal were underscored not just seasonally but twice a day, as Ketchikan teams competed on a diamond built on the tide flats where Ketchikan Creek flows into the Tongass Narrows. *Anchorage Museum?????*

Community spirit spread as rivalries formed across the Territory. “We are all enthusiastic American Citizens...” wrote Valdez prospector Joe Bourke in 1898. “...At least we all pretend as such.” Juneau, Douglas, Ketchikan, Sitka, Skagway, Cordova, Seward, Nome, and Fairbanks supported baseball teams by the turn of the 20th century. Entire towns turned out for the games, particularly the 4th of July tournament, which was the centerpiece of the national celebration for nearly every Alaskan community.

Baseball accompanied settlers who came to Anchorage to work on the railroad between 1915 and 1920. In turn, baseball helped transform the isolated tent city into an integrated American town. The teams—fielded by the railroad, churches, fraternal clubs, and local businesses—reflected the vanguards of early Anchorage.

Baseball even fueled Alaska’s reform movement of the early 20th century, serving as a voice of resistance to the traditional “Blue Laws,” which banned non-churchgoing activities on Sundays. While Alaskan newspapers asserted that baseball “helped strengthen individuals physically and morally,” the social rule was eventually lifted, persuaded by the argument that only Sunday afforded teams time to travel to rival towns. “Play ball,” wrote the editor in Nome, “but don’t forget the church service.”

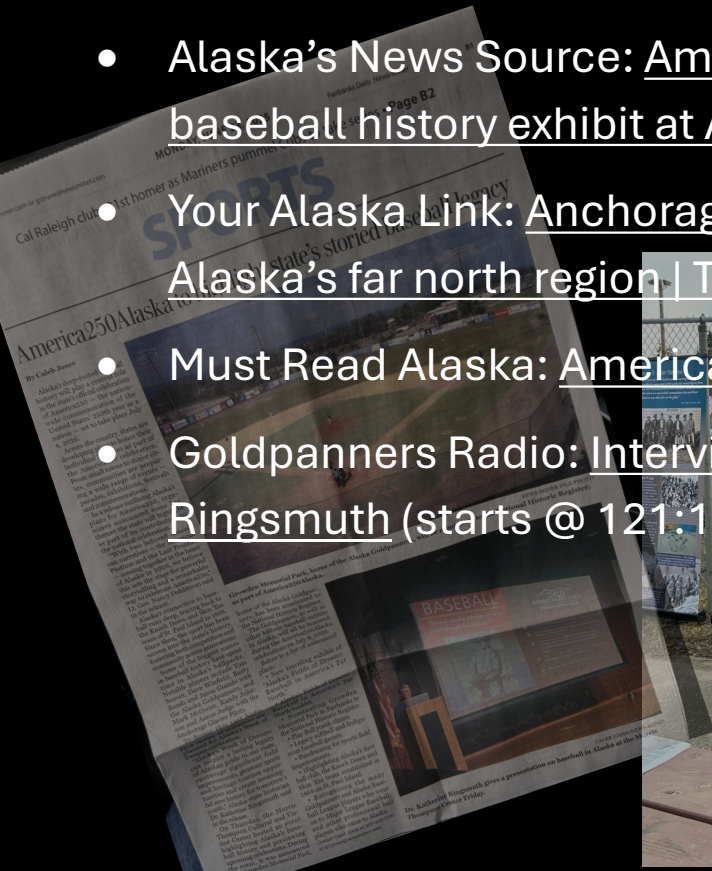


Anchorage and Seward players and fans after a tournament, August 1915. In 1915, Seward businessman H. V. Hoben offered to sponsor a three-game tournament between his Seward team and Anchorage’s local nine, resulting in a city rivalry characterized by respect and goodwill. *Anchorage Museum*



“Tom Haines ducks a fast bean ball.” Anchorage Athletic Park, c.1920. Baseball accompanied settlers who came to Anchorage to work on the railroad between 1915 and 1920. The baseball teams—fielded by the railroad, churches, fraternal clubs, and local businesses—reflected the vanguards of early Anchorage. *Alaska State Library*

- **ESPN SportsCenter:** 50 States in 50 Days: Alaska's midnight baseball
- **New York Times:** Fairbanks, Alaska's midnight game
- Fairbanks Daily News-Miner: America250Alaska to highlight state's storied baseball legacy
- Alaska's News Source: America250-Alaska debuts Alaskan baseball history exhibit at ABL Fourth of July double-header
- Your Alaska Link: Anchorage exhibit explores baseball history in Alaska's far north region | Things To Do | youralaskalink.com
- Must Read Alaska: America steps into its 250th year as a nation
- Goldpanners Radio: Interview with Alaska State Historian Katie Ringsmuth (starts @ 121:15)



Celebrating America250 on Alaska Day October 18, 2026



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AMERICA ALASKA
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HISTORY FOR TOMORROW



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