

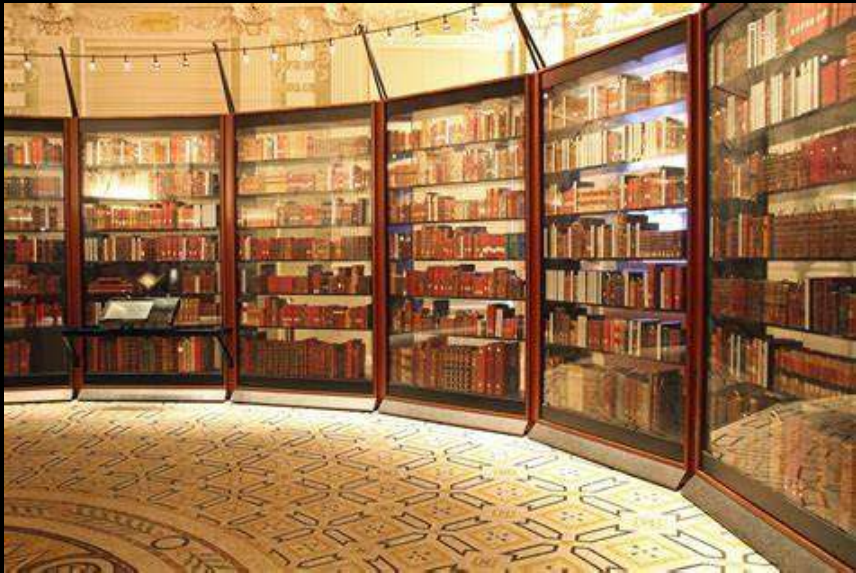
# Envisioning the National Register as a Tool for Economic Development and Heritage Tourism



**Katherine Ringsmuth, PhD**  
State Historian and Deputy SHPO

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

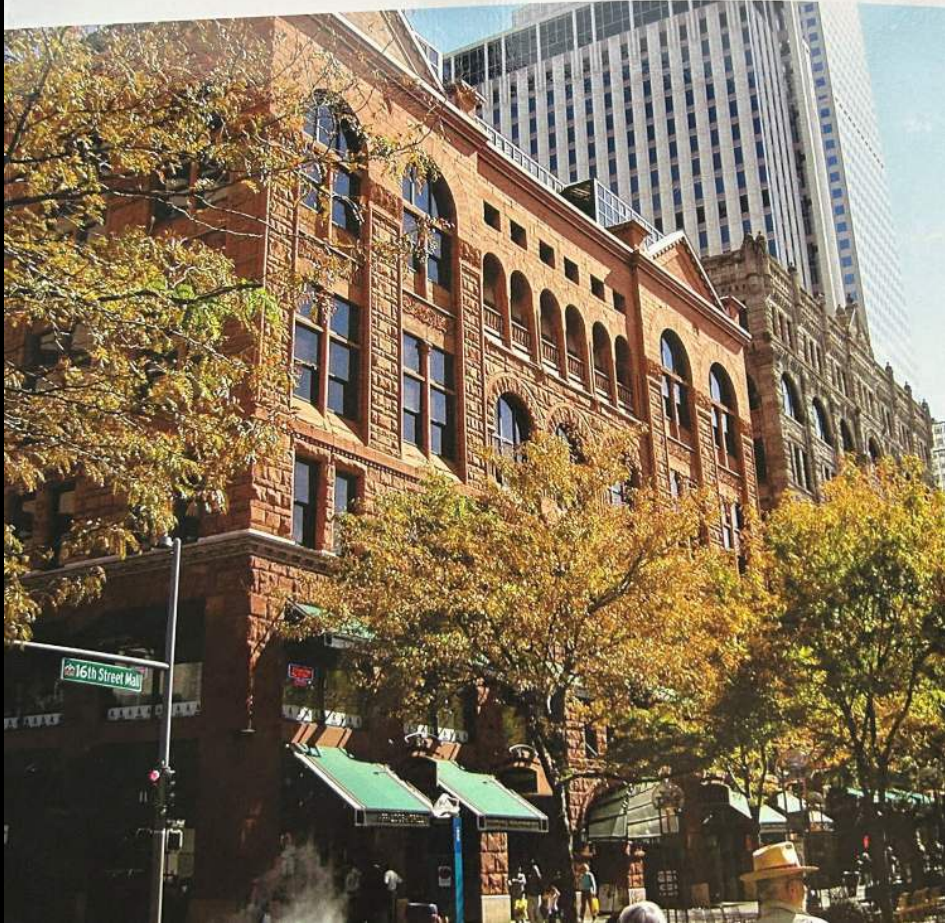
Gateway to public education and economic development

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

A photograph of a historic interior. In the foreground, there is a long, dark-stained wooden counter with a panelled front. Behind the counter, a wall is painted a vibrant blue and is covered with built-in shelves. The shelves are filled with various objects, including bottles, bowls, a clock, a small wooden ladder, and a first aid kit with a red cross. A window is visible in the center of the blue wall. The ceiling is also blue and has two light bulbs. The overall scene suggests a well-preserved historical site.

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

- Certified Local Government Grants
- Historic Preservation Grants

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- Historic Preservation Grants
- Maritime Heritage Grants (education & preservation)



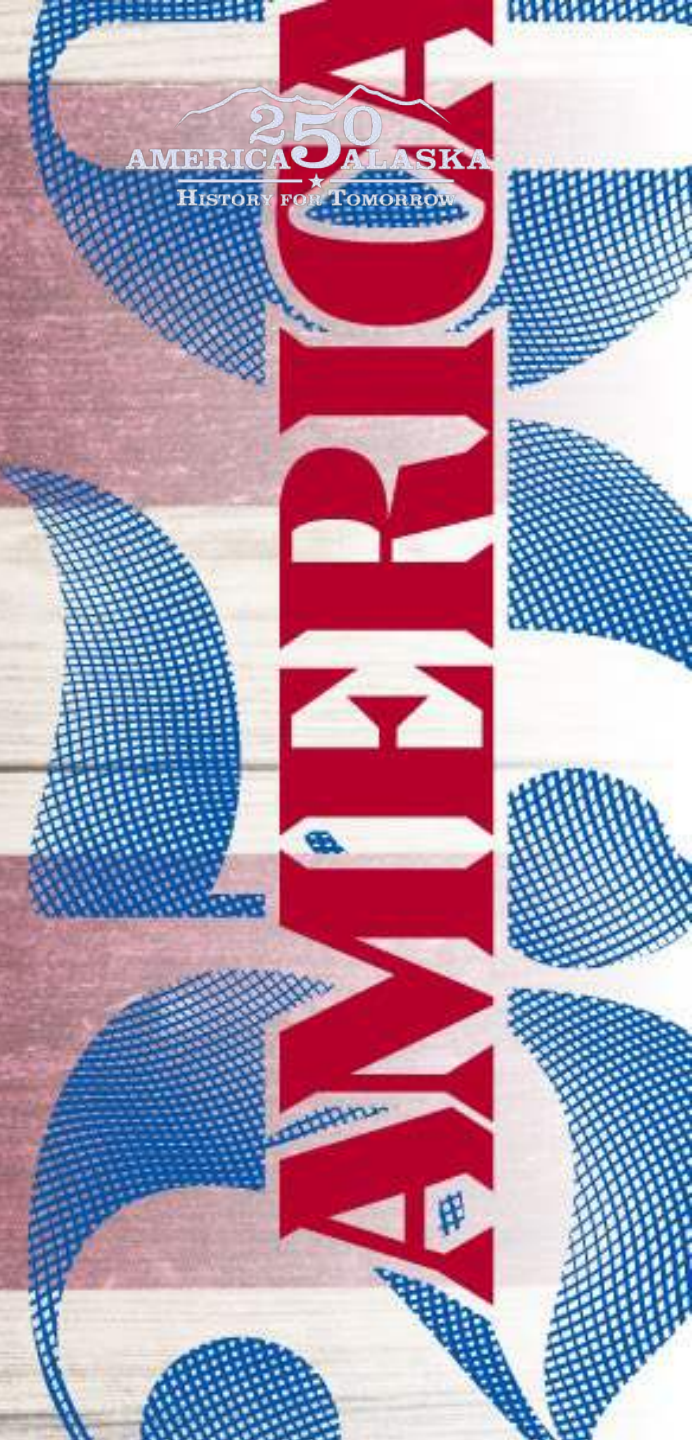


# Benefits of Listing a property in the National Register of Historic Places

- 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><b>MORNING:</b> MLB Play Ball Youth Clinic, with participants from urban neighborhoods in Anchorage to rural villages and tribes across Alaska.</p> <p><b>AFTERNOON:</b> MLB Legacy Softball Game, Mulcahy Stadium, with Opening Ceremonies, food, and celebration.</p> <p><b>EVENING:</b> Alaska Baseball League Game—Glacier Pilots vs Bucs</p>
DAY 2 SUN JUN 28 ANCHORAGE	<p><b>MORNING:</b> Visit Elmendorf - Fort Richardson (JBER) military base, established in 1940 as part of the national defense effort during WWII.</p> <p><b>AFTERNOON:</b> Meet with the men and women serving the country, tour Air Force fleet of jets, made for arctic aviation.</p> <p><b>EVENING:</b> On own / TBD</p>
DAY 3 MON JUN 29 ANCHORAGE	<p><b>MORNING:</b> On own / TBD</p> <p><b>AFTERNOON:</b> 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><b>EVENING:</b> 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><b>ALL DAY</b> 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

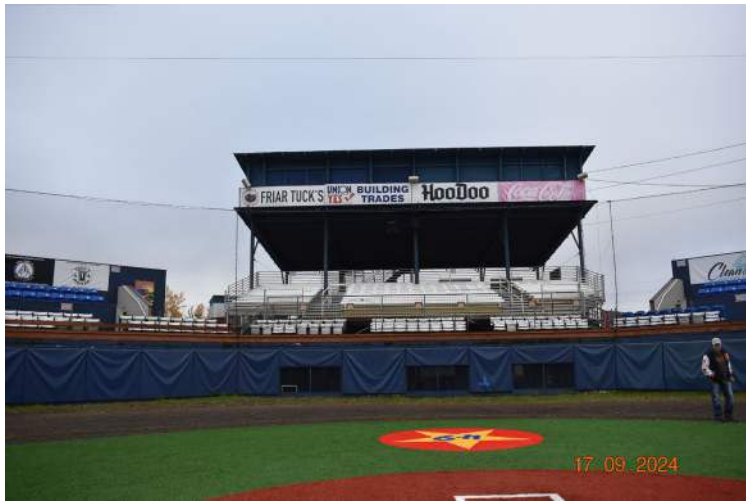
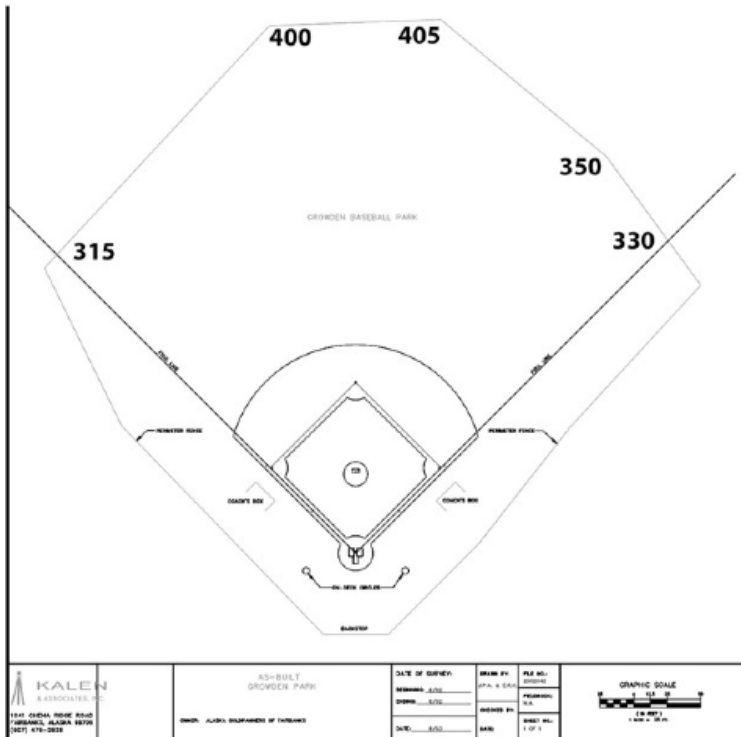


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 RIVERBOAT—HOT SPRINGS—TRAIN RIDE—ICE MUSEUM—SALMON BAKE

DAY 5 WED JULY 1 TRANSIT	<p><b>MORNING / AFTERNOON:</b> Depart from Anchorage to Denali via Alaska Railroad, tour through the scenic Alaska Range.</p> <p><b>EVENING:</b> Overnight Denali National Park &amp; 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><b>MORNING:</b> Depart from Denali to Fairbanks via motorcoach. Upon arrival in Fairbanks, check in at host hotel <u>Pike's Waterfront Lodge</u></p> <p><b>AFTERNOON:</b> Float back to the days of the Gold Rush aboard the <u>Riverboat Discovery</u> sightseeing tour</p> <p><b>EVENING:</b> Dinner and reception at Pike's Waterfront Lodge</p>
DAY 7 FRI JULY 3 FAIRBANKS	<p><b>MORNING:</b> MLB Play Ball Youth Clinic, participants involve athletes from across Alaska, including rural villages and tribes.</p> <p><b>AFTERNOON/ EVENING:</b> 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><b>MORNING:</b> Breakfast at Hotel</p> <p><b>AFTERNOON:</b> LB Legacy Softball Game, Historic Growden Memorial Ballpark, with Opening Ceremonies and celebration.</p> <p><b>EVENING:</b> Dinner at the nearby Salmon Bake at Pioneer Park before the Alaska Goldpanners Fourth of July game.</p>





# BASEBALL

"Baseball served as a beacon, revealing a path through the wilderness."



## Inning 1: America's Pastime in Alaska

**I**nning 1: America's Pastime in Alaska. The story of baseball in Alaska begins with the arrival of the first American miners in the late 19th century. As they sought fortune in the wild, they brought with them the game of baseball, which quickly became a popular pastime in the mining camps. The game provided a sense of community and a way to pass the long, dark winter nights.



## Inning 2: Alaska Native Baseball

Inning 2: Alaska Native Baseball. The story of Alaska Native baseball begins with the arrival of the first American miners in the late 19th century. As they sought fortune in the wild, they brought with them the game of baseball, which quickly became a popular pastime in the mining camps. The game provided a sense of community and a way to pass the long, dark winter nights.



**A**laska Native baseball has a rich history that dates back to the early 20th century. The game was introduced to the region by American miners and quickly became a popular pastime among the local population. The game provided a sense of community and a way to pass the long, dark winter nights.



## Inning 3: Polar Pastime

Inning 3: Polar Pastime. The story of polar pastime begins with the arrival of the first American miners in the late 19th century. As they sought fortune in the wild, they brought with them the game of baseball, which quickly became a popular pastime in the mining camps. The game provided a sense of community and a way to pass the long, dark winter nights.



**P**olar pastime is a unique blend of traditional and modern sports. It combines the physical challenges of winter sports with the strategic elements of baseball. The game provides a sense of community and a way to pass the long, dark winter nights.



## Inning 4: Sawbones vs Jawbones

Inning 4: Sawbones vs Jawbones. The story of sawbones vs jawbones begins with the arrival of the first American miners in the late 19th century. As they sought fortune in the wild, they brought with them the game of baseball, which quickly became a popular pastime in the mining camps. The game provided a sense of community and a way to pass the long, dark winter nights.



**S**awbones vs jawbones is a classic tale of two rival teams. The sawbones team, known for their physical prowess, often faced the jawbones team, who were known for their strategic play. The game provided a sense of community and a way to pass the long, dark winter nights.



## Inning 5: Diamonds in the Rough

Inning 5: Diamonds in the Rough. The story of diamonds in the rough begins with the arrival of the first American miners in the late 19th century. As they sought fortune in the wild, they brought with them the game of baseball, which quickly became a popular pastime in the mining camps. The game provided a sense of community and a way to pass the long, dark winter nights.



**D**iamonds in the rough is a story of discovery and perseverance. It tells of the many miners who searched for diamonds in the rugged terrain of Alaska. The game provided a sense of community and a way to pass the long, dark winter nights.



## Inning 6: From Ball Fields to Battle Fields

Inning 6: From Ball Fields to Battle Fields. The story of from ball fields to battle fields begins with the arrival of the first American miners in the late 19th century. As they sought fortune in the wild, they brought with them the game of baseball, which quickly became a popular pastime in the mining camps. The game provided a sense of community and a way to pass the long, dark winter nights.



**F**rom ball fields to battle fields is a story of the transition from leisure to war. It tells of the many soldiers who played baseball during their downtime in the trenches. The game provided a sense of community and a way to pass the long, dark winter nights.



## Inning 7: Welcome, Seitch!

Inning 7: Welcome, Seitch! The story of welcome, Seitch! begins with the arrival of the first American miners in the late 19th century. As they sought fortune in the wild, they brought with them the game of baseball, which quickly became a popular pastime in the mining camps. The game provided a sense of community and a way to pass the long, dark winter nights.



**W**elcome, Seitch! is a story of a man who brought a new perspective to the game of baseball. It tells of the many challenges he faced as he sought to establish a team in a remote location. The game provided a sense of community and a way to pass the long, dark winter nights.



## Inning 8: Under the Midnight Sun

Inning 8: Under the Midnight Sun. The story of under the midnight sun begins with the arrival of the first American miners in the late 19th century. As they sought fortune in the wild, they brought with them the game of baseball, which quickly became a popular pastime in the mining camps. The game provided a sense of community and a way to pass the long, dark winter nights.



**U**nder the midnight sun is a story of the unique challenges of playing baseball in Alaska. It tells of the many players who braved the long, dark winter nights to enjoy the game. The game provided a sense of community and a way to pass the long, dark winter nights.



## Inning 9: A League of Our Own

Inning 9: A League of Our Own. The story of a league of our own begins with the arrival of the first American miners in the late 19th century. As they sought fortune in the wild, they brought with them the game of baseball, which quickly became a popular pastime in the mining camps. The game provided a sense of community and a way to pass the long, dark winter nights.



**A** league of our own is a story of the challenges of establishing a women's baseball league in Alaska. It tells of the many players who fought for recognition and equality. The game provided a sense of community and a way to pass the long, dark winter nights.



## 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 inflected 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 Chitna. 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."



*Thwaites 5040. Ball Game, Ketchikan Ala. July 4, '19.*

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, Stedka, 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."



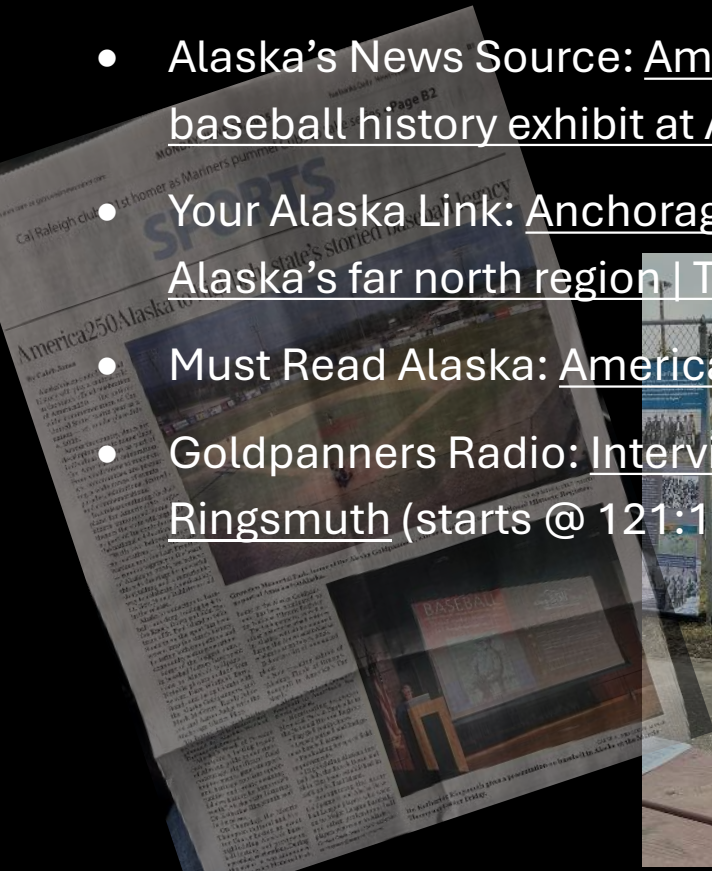
Anchorage and Seward players and fans after a tournament, August 1915. In 1915, Seward businessman H. V. Hoben offered to sponsor a three-game tournament between his Seward team and Anchorage's local nine, resulting in a city rivalry characterized by respect and goodwill. *Anchorage Museum*



"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



The logo features a blue mountain range silhouette at the top. Below it, the number '250' is prominently displayed in a large, blue, serif font. The word 'AMERICA' is to the left of the '250', and 'ALASKA' is to the right, both in a smaller, blue, serif font. A small blue star is positioned below the '250'. Underneath the star, the words 'HISTORY FOR TOMORROW' are written in a blue, serif font, separated by a thin blue horizontal line.

**250**  
**AMERICA ALASKA**  
★  
**HISTORY FOR TOMORROW**



## Want to learn more?

Visit [america250.alaska.gov](http://america250.alaska.gov)

Or

Contact me at:

**Katherine Ringsmuth, PhD**  
**Office of History & Archaeology**  
**National Register Program**  
**907.269-8714**  
**[katie.ringsmuth@alaska.gov](mailto:katie.ringsmuth@alaska.gov)**