

**HISTORIC PRESERVATION FUND  
Final Grant Report – HPF 16011  
September 30, 2017**

**Project Name:** Red Dragon Historic District Signage & Website Additions

**Summary**

The primary objectives for this project are complete, namely compilation and installation of an interpretive sign regarding this historic district, and the purchase of two bronze plaques recognizing the two buildings in the district. A few additions were made to the website, although not as extensively as originally planned. These installations will be highlighted in a newspaper article after the bronze plaques are mounted on the buildings (expected to be complete by the end of the year). Two public events will also be scheduled early in 2018 to call attention to the project.

**Scope of work**

- Research done from books, church and museum files to compile material to include on interpretive signs. While original plans had been to create two signs, both time and expense factors made it best to develop only one sign.
- 30" x 24" fiberglass interpretive sign compiled and sent to Pannier Graphics (Gibsonia, PA) for fabrication
- Two 8" x 12" oval-shaped Bronze plaques compiled and sent to Impact Signs (LaGrange, IL) for fabrication
- Installation of the fiberglass sign is complete.
- The two bronze plaques were received from Impact Signs in September, and are to be mounted and attached to St. George's Church and the Red Dragon Reading Room by the end of 2017.

**Details on how, when and by whom work was accomplished**

The research and compilation of the interpretive sign was primarily done by Project Leader Nancy Bird. She relied on several members of St. George's Episcopal Church and the Cordova Historic Preservation Commission for review and editing of the draft sign. This work was done from May-July 2017.

The interpretive sign was sent in late June in draft form to two companies for price quotations. It was ordered from Pannier Graphics in early August with delivery to Cordova promised by mid-September 2017.

The two bronze plaques were designed in May and sent to Impact Signs in late June for production. The two plaques were received in Cordova in early September 2017.

**How were the *Secretary of Interior's Standards* applied?**

The membership of St. George's Episcopal Church is proud of the history and activities that have taken place in the two buildings comprising the Red Dragon Historic District (the Red Dragon itself and St. George's Church). We embarked on this as a long-term (perhaps, 5 years) project to both preserve and rehabilitate these two buildings. Our primary goals initially were to replace the roofs of both buildings. Additional goals are to improve the energy efficiency and maintenance so that the buildings are kept in

better condition on a regular basis. We also want to share the long history contained within the walls of these buildings while continuing to use the buildings for a wide variety of community activities.

Our work has relied heavily on the recommendations received from National Park Service historic architects and the structural engineer. The NPS architects are very familiar with the Secretary's *Standards* and have repeatedly reminded us of their importance. The Red Dragon's exterior today is very similar to what it looked like in 1908 when it was built. The interior has been altered in significant ways though it still retains some features reminiscent of its original architecture.

This project focused on sharing the historical significance of these two buildings.

### **Photographs documenting the work**

Please see attached photographs.

### **Contact Information**

Nancy Bird, Project Manager  
P.O. Box 1185, Cordova, AK 99574  
Email: [nbird5800@gmail.com](mailto:nbird5800@gmail.com)  
Cell phone: (907) 429-5800  
OR  
%St. George's Episcopal Church  
P.O. Box 849, Cordova, AK 99574

## 2017 Project—HPF 16011

### Sharing the Past: Red Dragon Historic District Signage



Photos of St. George's Episcopal Church in Cordova, Alaska with the newly installed interpretive sign.





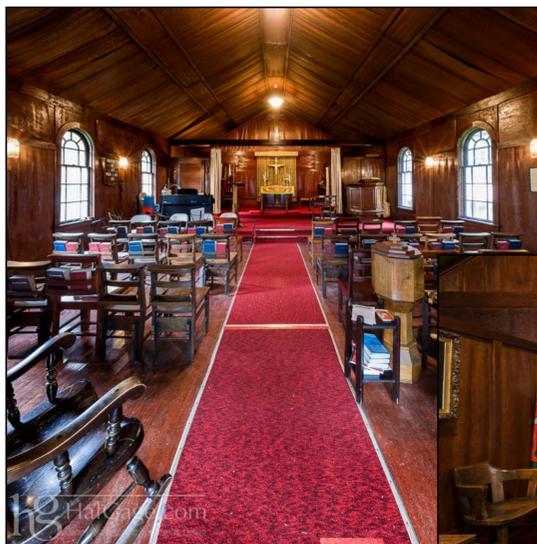
Two bronze plaques recognize each buildings' listing on the National Register of Historic Places. The photos show where each of these plaques will be mounted; their installation is planned by the end of 2017.



# RED DRAGON HISTORIC DISTRICT

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES LISTING 1982

St. George's Church was consecrated on Easter Sunday in April 1919. Rev. Eustace P. Ziegler, probably better known today as a renowned Alaska artist, designed the church edifice and supervised its construction. "Zieg," as he was called, lived in Cordova most of the years 1909-1924 and was very well liked for his humor, affection and generosity. He used his artistic ability for church publications as well as to enhance his small salary. Eventually, the Alaska Steamship Co. enticed Ziegler to move to Seattle and work as a full-time artist. He returned to Alaska most summers, however, to continue gathering the subject matter he loved most, of beautiful scenery and people at work in Alaska.



These views show the interior of the church in 2014. The plywood walls and many of the furnishings are original.



Eustace Ziegler, the artist, poses with a portrait he drew of an Alaskan. Photo courtesy Cordova Historical Society.



Ladies Day at the new Red Dragon in 1908! A Ladies Auxiliary was established soon after and remained very active and supportive of the many activities that took place in the warm and comfortable community center.



The Red Dragon Reading Room or "Club House" as it was more commonly known, was the second building constructed in Cordova's new townsite. The year was 1908 and the Copper River & Northwestern Railway's construction was well underway.

Cordova was a boom town built on a copper rush instead of gold. The copper mines were 196 miles northeast at Kennecott. The Episcopalians decided a clubhouse open day and night, seven days each week, might be more useful for those early days than a church building. "... Several considerations entered into the choice of the name," wrote Rev. E.P. Newton. "We wished to get far away from the church idea, the faintest suggestion that preaching and praying religion might be served up daily by stealth on the unwilling, (the religion of human sympathy and helpfulness is there all the time without any advertising of itself). The future church will be St. George's, and the dragon is a proper concomitant..."

Today the Red Dragon is Cordova's oldest building. It still serves Cordova as a community hall for a wide variety of activities (music lessons, church meetings, temporary lodging, Scout meetings and celebrations of all kinds).

Katherine Wilson wrote in 1924 about this building: "... There are ghosts in the shadowy corners of the Red Dragon... Friendly all, these ghosts, for none ever came into the warmth and light of the Dragon but he was seeking company and cheer... The day is past when the Red Dragon, as a frontier mission of the Episcopal Church, served as the amusement rendezvous for as rough and lawless a band as ever filled a beer mug with twenty-dollar pieces for a sky-pilot... the thing they were all seeking then through book and pencil and key, through billiard games and fistic bout, is that which is here today... Sincerity, beauty and truth — out of the turbulence of the old times the spirit of these persists."



For the first decade, on Sundays, an altar was lowered from its storage in the rafters and the room was transformed for Sunday services. During the rest of the week, the building was open to one and all, with a donation jar that also served anyone needing a short-term loan. There were card parties, boxing contests, musical and theater performances.

Many others have served at St. George's. In the 1920's, Rev. Kent took his Sunday School class outdoors "teaching them the patience and artistry of God through simple geology; the beauty of the earth through simple botany; the wonder of God's mind through simple entomology."

In 1961, the Rev. Glen Wilcox and his family came to Cordova. An excellent photographer, he was a founding member of the Cordova Historical Society and Museum. The Rev. Diane Tickell, one of the first ordained women in the Episcopal Church, arrived as priest-in-charge in 1979. She revived the tradition of opening the church and the Red Dragon in the summer as a reading and gathering place for those fishing and working in the canneries.

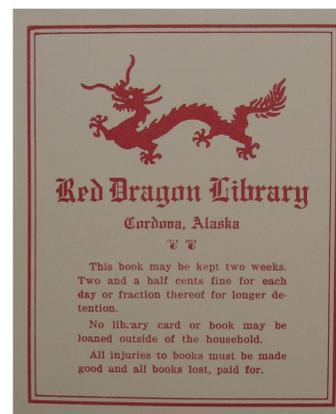
The Rev. Belle Mickelson is our current Rector. Belle teaches music and also travels to Alaskan villages teaching guitar and fiddle with a program called Dancing with the Spirit [www.dancingwiththespirit.org](http://www.dancingwiththespirit.org)

**Maintaining foundations and roofs of these buildings** is a major challenge for the relatively small congregation of St. George's. In 2013, we began raising funds to improve both of these historic buildings, starting with a new foundation and roof for the Red Dragon. Efforts now focus on St. George's Church.

Thanks to a combination of federal, state and private grants—as well as enormous community and congregation support, **more than \$175,000 was raised** by 2016.

**MUCH MORE IS NEEDED to complete the work on the church!**

Learn more at [www.reddragoncordova.org](http://www.reddragoncordova.org) and please consider a **DONATION**. Thank you!



In 1925, the Red Dragon became Cordova's official public library. Open two afternoons each week, the average attendance was 20 at "the dullest time of the year." Sometime after the railroad's 1938 closure and World War II, the library moved to the Windsor Hotel on Second Street.



A cheerful fire and a steaming tea kettle welcomed weary railroad workers on cold winter days. Unfortunately, it sustained major damage from a roof fire that occurred during a confirmation class in the late 1950's and was not replaced.

## Summary of Documentation for Claimed Eligible Project Costs

Office of History & Archaeology (OHA)  
Historic Preservation Fund

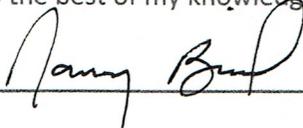
Project name: *Sharing the Past: Red Dragon Historic District  
Signage and website additions*

Billing # 3 - Final-rev. Period Covered: July - Sept 2017

Grant #: HPF 16011

Invoice Date	Reference # or Check #	Supplier's Name (if donation, indicate type and include relevant form)	Amount
various		Volunteer Timesheet Total	\$531.80
7/25/2017	credit card	<b>Impact Signs</b> - 2 Bronze plaques, 8" x 12" - downpayment &	\$250.00
8/10/2017	credit card	balance due after receipt of proof	\$906.00
		<i>Detail: Plaques each \$435 + Freight \$250</i>	
8/4/2017	credit card	<b>Pannier Corporation</b>	\$664.50
9/6/2017	credit card	1 30"w x 24"h digital fiberglass embedded panel, interp. Sign and 1 Aluminum Low Profile Tradit. "T" Exhibit Base for 30"w x 24"h Panel	\$664.50
		<i>Detail: Sign \$352 + Exhibit Base \$532 + Freight \$445</i>	
9/29/2017	check #2652	<b>Eagle Contracting Corp.,</b> Cordova	\$385.00
		<i>Installation of the interpretive sign</i>	
		Total Direct Costs This Billing Period	\$3,401.80
		X 10% State Administrative Surcharge	\$340.18
		Total Costs This Billing Period	<b>\$3,741.98</b>
		X 60% = Federal Share	\$2,245.19
		Less Administrative Surcharge	\$340.18
		Equals Sponsor Reimbursement	<b>\$1,905.01</b>

I certify to the best of my knowledge that these claims are true and correct.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature 

Nancy Bird, Project Manager  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Print or Type Name and Title

10-31-17  
Date

## Value of Donated Labor: Timesheet

Office of History & Archaeology (OHA)

Project name: **Sharing the Past: Red Dragon Historic District**

Grant #: HPF 16011

**Signage and website additions**

Name(s) of Person(s) Donating Time: Nancy Bird, Barclay Kopchak, Belle Mickelson, Seawan Gehlbach & Cathy Sherman, Jim Casement, Sylvia Lange, Tom McGann, Brooke Johnson, Heather Hall & John Wachtel

Type of Work Performed: Research, reading old files and books, preparing signs

Hourly rate based on: \$26.59

Any person donating time to a project will be paid as a general laborer unless he or she is professionally skilled in the work he or she is performing on the project. When this is the case, a grantee may claim the wage rate that individual is normally paid for performing this service, OR the rate that the city or borough in the immediate area pays its employees for performing similar duties.

DATE	NAME	TIME WORKED		TOTAL HOURS WORKED	HOURLY RATE	VALUE DONATED (hours X rate)
		Start	End			
7/10/2017	N.Bird	1:30 PM	3:00 PM	1.5	26.59	39.89
7/11/2017	N.Bird	10:30 AM	11:00 AM	0.5	26.59	13.30
7/14/2017	N.Bird	11:00 AM	12:30 PM	1.5	26.59	39.89
7/17/2017	N.Bird	2:30 PM	4:00 PM	1.5	26.59	39.89
7/24/2017	N.Bird	1:00 PM	1:30 PM	0.5	26.59	13.30
8/2/2017	N.Bird	9:30 AM	10:30 AM	1	26.59	26.59
8/9/2017	N.Bird	9:30 AM	10:00 AM	0.5	26.59	13.30
8/10/2017	N.Bird	1:30 PM	2:00 PM	0.5	26.59	13.30
8/15/2017	N.Bird	9:00 AM	11:30 AM	2.5	26.59	66.48
8/30/2017	N.Bird	1:00 PM	5:00 PM	4	26.59	106.36
9/11/2017	N.Bird	4:00 PM	5:00 PM	1	26.59	26.59
7/14/2017	C. Sherman	1:30 PM	2:00 PM	0.5	26.59	13.30
7/14/2017	J. Casement	1:30 PM	2:00 PM	0.5	26.59	13.30
7/14/2017	S. Lange	1:30 PM	2:00 PM	0.5	26.59	13.30
7/14/2017	T. McGann	1:30 PM	2:00 PM	0.5	26.59	13.30
7/14/2017	B. Johnson	1:30 PM	2:00 PM	0.5	26.59	13.30
7/14/2017	J. Wachtel	1:30 PM	2:00 PM	0.5	26.59	13.30
7/16/2017	B. Kopchak	11:30 AM	12:00 PM	0.5	26.59	13.30
7/16/2017	S. Gehlbach	11:30 AM	12:00 PM	0.5	26.59	13.30
7/16/2017	B. Mickelson	11:30 AM	12:00 PM	0.5	26.59	13.30
7/14/2017	H. Hall	1:30 PM	2:00 PM	0.5	26.59	13.30
<b>TOTAL DONATION</b>				<b>20</b>		<b>531.80</b>

*Nancy a Bird*  
Signature of Person Donating Time

10-31-17  
Date

*not available due to travel - verification*  
Supervisor Verifying Accuracy

*will be sent after rpt deadline*  
Date

*Cathy R Sherman*  
Print or Type Name and Title

Keep a copy for audit & send a copy with billing

