



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR MICHAEL J. DUNLEAVY

Department of Natural Resources

ALASKA HISTORICAL COMMISSION

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Lt. Gov. Kevin Meyer, Chair Raymond Bonnell, Member
Jonathon Ross, Member Wayne Jensen, Member
Judith Bittner, Member Rebecca Poulson, Member
Givey Kochanowski, Member Mark Rollins, Member
Vacant

July 12, 2022

The Honorable Michael J. Dunleavy
Office of the Governor
P.O. Box 110001
Juneau, AK 99811-0001

Re: 4th Avenue Theatre, Alaska Historical Commission recommendation

Governor Dunleavy:

This letter is to inform you of the Alaska Historical Commission recommendations to the Governor from its June 7, 2022 meeting under the authority AS 41.35.030 "Designation of monuments and historic sites." The Alaska Historical Commission recommends that the governor declare the 4th Avenue Theatre in Anchorage a state historic site by public order and seek written consent from the owner of the property for this designation.

The Alaska Historical Commission made the following findings:

The 4th Avenue Theatre:

- (1) is of great and unique importance to the historic and cultural heritage of Alaska and should be protected and preserved for future generations;
- (2) is a key part of the historic section of downtown Anchorage;
- (3) is eminently qualified and should be officially declared to be an Alaska State Monument and Historic Site; (4) is in imminent danger of having its historic character and value seriously impaired or destroyed; and
- (5) is important and appropriate for state ownership if state ownership is the only means of ensuring that the building is officially declared an Alaska State Monument or Historic Site to be protected and preserved for future generations (AS 41.35.060).

The Alaska Historical Commission urges you and the Alaska Department of Natural Resources to take all action necessary and authorized by the Alaska Constitution and Alaska Historic Preservation Act to ensure that the historic character and value of the 4th Avenue Theatre is protected and preserved for future generations.

The authority for designation comes from the Alaska Historic Preservation Act, AS 41.35.030, which states:

Upon the recommendation of the commission, the governor may declare by public order any particular historic, prehistoric, or archeological structure, deposit, site, or other object of scientific or historic interest that is situated on land owned or controlled by the state to be a state monument or historic site, and the governor may designate as a part of the monument or site as much land as is considered necessary for the proper access, care, and management of the object or site to be protected. When an object or site is situated on land held in private ownership, it may be declared a state monument or historic site in the same manner, with the written consent of the owner.

The Alaska Historic Preservation Act also provides the Department of Natural Resources the authority to receive appropriations for the administration and financial support of monuments and historic sites, AS 41.35.040, and the power to acquire historic, prehistoric, or archaeological properties, AS 41.35.060.

On behalf of the Alaska Historical Commission, I thank you for your consideration. Please contact me for more information at 907-269-8715 or judy.bittner@alaska.gov.

Sincerely,



Judith E. Bittner
State Historic Preservation Officer

Enclosures: AHC meeting minutes June 7, 2022

cc: Lieutenant Governor Kevin Meyer, Chair, Alaska Historical Commission, Lt.Governor@alaska.gov