



AMACHE ALLIANCE NEWSLETTER



Spring 2024



CONGRATULATIONS!

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The Amache Alliance mission is to:

1. Preserve and interpret Amache National Historic Site;
2. Educate all Americans about the forced evacuation and internment of Japanese Americans by preserving Amache's historic structures, artifacts, and stories;
3. Collaborate with other organizations to stress the relevance of Japanese American confinement in preserving the civil rights of all Americans today.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

BY MITCH HOMMA

I know we just published a newsletter in December 2023, so how much new information can there be? Well, because this is an amazing group of volunteers working for the preservation of Amache and supporting John Hopper and the Amache Preservation Society, there are plenty of new updates!

The year started off with some uncertainty since the government was still operating on a Continuing Resolution (CR) Budget Bill under which no new programs could be started. The Amache Alliance, Nikkeijin Kai of Colorado, and the National Park Service held a Pilgrimage planning meeting anyways, discussing options for a ribbon cutting ceremony, just in case.

On the afternoon of February 14, 2024, Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland graciously called me. After accidentally hanging up on her, she let me know she just signed off on Amache officially becoming the 429th unit of the National Park Service. Wow. That evening I reflected on how this latest NPS status campaign started for me. On Dec 26, 2019, John Tonai, Stephanie Stone, and I met Tracy Coppola from the National Parks Conservation Association (NPCA) at the Japanese American National Museum (JANM). On the steps of JANM, Tracy brought up the idea of trying to see if we could get Amache to qualify as a NPS site. The Alliance, NPCA, and others worked with the NPS Special Resource Study team, organized public meetings, and assisted wherever needed on the congressional legislation. The Amache National Historic Site Act passed in the House with a 416-2 vote (July 2021) and was unanimously approved in the Senate (Feb 2022). What a huge sense of accomplishment.



Mitch Homma behind Amache's National Historic Landmark monument at Amache.

On February 15, Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland announced the formal establishment of the Amache National Historic Site in Colorado, following the Town of Granada's donation of the land needed to establish the nation's newest national park. A day later, the final version of the Amache NHS Foundation Document was publicly released. This foundation document guides future planning and management of Amache National Historic Site.

The Amache Alliance gives special thanks to the Congressional representative teams, National Parks Conservation Association, National Park Foundation, Town of Granada, Amache Preservation Society, University of Denver Amache Research Project, Nikkeijin-Kai, and many others for their support and contributions to the preservation of Amache. Thank you to all who continue to support the Amache Alliance mission.

AMACHE NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

AMACHE OFFICIALLY BECOMES A PART OF THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Secretary of the Interior, Deb Haaland, formally established Amache National Historic Site on February 15, 2024. Thanks to the Town of Granada's donation of the land on which Amache is located, the nation's newest national park is now in Granada, Colorado. Amache's establishment came just days before the Day of Remembrance, the anniversary of the signing of Executive Order 9066 (which allowed for the incarceration of Japanese Americans during World War II), commemorated each year on February 19.

President Biden signed the Amache National Historic Site Act in March 2022, designating the Amache site as part of the National Park System. That designation, which was the first in the National Park System during the Biden-Harris administration, and this formal establishment will permanently protect the site for future generations and will help tell the history of Japanese American incarceration during World War II.

Amache's historic building foundations and road alignments are largely intact, preserved through the years by Amache survivors and their

descendants, the Town of Granada, the Amache Preservation Society, and other individuals, institutions and organizations. Currently, the site consists of a historic cemetery, a monument, concrete building foundations, a road network, and several reconstructed and restored structures from the World War II era including a barrack, recreation hall, guard tower and water tank. Amache was listed in the National Register of Historic Places on May 18, 1994, and designated a National Historic Landmark on February 10, 2006.

The National Park Service extends its appreciation to the National Park Foundation, Town of Granada, Amache Alliance, Amache Preservation Society, Nikkiejin-Kai, National Parks Conservation Association, and many others for their contributions. The National Park Service will continue to work with the Amache Alliance and other groups to preserve Amache and expand scholarship and public awareness of its history. Both APS and the DU Amache Research Project will continue their current efforts and projects.



(From left to right): Senator Michael Bennett, Mitch Homma, Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland, Derek Okubo, Stacey Okubo-Davis, and Representative Joe Neguse visiting the Amache site, February 2022.



IN THE FIELD

Field school students and instructors excavate a garden feature during the 2022 field season.

AMACHE FIELD SCHOOL & OPEN HOUSE 2024

The Amache Archaeology Project is preparing for its 8th field season at the site and museum, from June 17 – July 13, 2024. This summer we will be researching three barracks blocks: 6F, 7F, and 8E. If you, your family, or someone you know lived in one of these blocks please reach out! We are always looking for photographs, memories, or any information that can help us tell the story of these blocks and their residents.

Our Community Open house, which will be held July 4-5, is a great way to learn about our research and connect with other Amacheans. A link to reserve your spot will be available in the spring at Amache.org. We are currently accepting applications for our Descendant Internship Program which funds a high school student to attend the field school for all 4 weeks. Adult volunteers are also welcome! Individuals interested in working for a week in the museum, helping with archaeological work, or acting as community interpreters play an important role in the project. If you are interested in learning more about any of these opportunities, or have information about Blocks 6F, 7F, or 8E please contact us at duamache@gmail.com.

CALL FOR VOLUNTEER RESEARCHERS!

CONTRIBUTE TO THE AMACHE RECREATION HALL EXHIBIT!

The Amache recreation hall is getting interior exhibits! We need your help conducting research for the content and graphics of the exhibit displays! Volunteer community researchers will be given specific topics to research as well as a list of resources for finding information. You will be provided with support from the project director and regular check-ins with the project team. This is an opportunity to collaborate with other community members and be a direct contributor to the permanent interpretation at Amache!

To get involved contact Dana at shew@sonoma.edu



The exterior of the refurbished 11F recreation hall, 2022.

NATIONAL PARK FOUNDATION AMACHE MAINTENANCE GRANT



The National Park Foundation is making a grant of \$87,000 to the Amache National Historic Site in support of the "Improving Road Access to Amache National Historic Site" project. The Amache Alliance, in collaboration with the Amache NHS, will fund the removal of a non-historic water tank in Block 11K.

The second part of the project will grade and repair the roads that were damaged from last year's heavy rains. Key roads were damaged and created potential hazards for vehicles. The work will allow for continued access and safety of travel for visitors to explore the

site and is specifically necessary for the site's opening ribbon ceremony and Annual Pilgrimage event for mid-May 2024.

Funds not used for the water tank or road work project can be used by the Amache Alliance and NPS Amache team for other road or infrastructure-related investments.

This project was made possible in part by a grant from the National Park Foundation.



Road damage from last year's heavy rains.

COLORADO STATE OUTDOOR EQUITY GRANT

The Amache Alliance, Sand Creek Massacre Foundation, and National Parks Conservation Association received funding from the Colorado Outdoor Equity Grant Program! The grant will support activities engaging youth at both the newly designated Amache National Historic Site in Granada and Sand Creek Massacre National Historic Site in Eads, Colorado.

The program empowers youth to participate in site-based community events while building a coalition of stewards for two of Colorado's Historic Sites. The



voices of the youth are essential for site conservation and future interpretation.

The program is seeking participation from Youth Ambassadors (age 14-25) and Community Educators. We are also looking for two ambassadors and two educators from the Amache descendant community, AND one ambassador each from Kiowa County and Granada who are not (necessarily) descendants.

If you are interested in participating contact Annie at annie.danis@gmail.com for more details.



AMACHE PILGRIMAGE 2024

The Amache Pilgrimage is held each year on the Saturday before Memorial Day Weekend. It is a day to remember those of Japanese descent who spent more than three years detained on the plains of southern Colorado during World War II.

This year the core pilgrimage will be on May 18th but the weekend kicks off at 3pm Friday, May 17 with the Amache National Historic Site ribbon cutting ceremony.

Other Friday events include tours of the Amache site with sneak peeks of the DU Amache Archaeology Project field school preparations and an evening social program that will include updates about the Amache Field Research Project, reflections on early preservation efforts, a look at the future of Amache as a part of the National Park Service, music, cake, celebration, and a time to connect!

On Saturday the main pilgrimage events will take place including the memorial ceremony at the

Amache Cemetery, a potluck at Granada High School, site tours, and a visit to the Amache Museum.

On Sunday morning the pilgrimage continues at the Sand Creek Massacre National Historic Site. The site preserves lands where the massacre took place and its historic cultural landscape. The Northern and Southern Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes consider these lands sacred. Amache Ochinee Prowers, member of the Southern Cheyenne tribe, is whom the Granada Relocation Center was named after. Amache's father was a Cheyenne peace chief who was killed during the Sand Creek massacre on November 29, 1864.

For more details about the weekend's programs and activities, and to register, visit:

<https://amache.org/pilgrimage/>

We hope to see you in Granada!



Saturday potluck lunch and program at the Granada High School hosted by the Amache Preservation Society and Nikkeijin Kai of Colorado, 2023. This year is sure to be another great community event.

AMACHE NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE FOUNDATION DOCUMENT

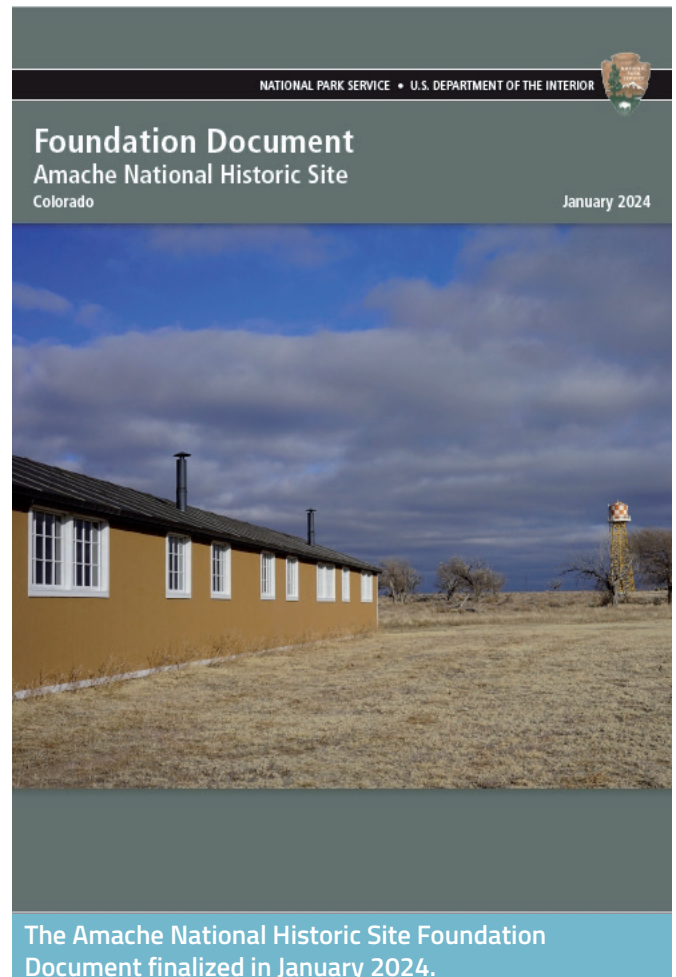
Even though the Amache National Historic Site was just formally established on February 15, 2024, many projects had already started since the President signed the bill in March 2023. A day after the Amache NHS activation was announced, the National Park Service shared that the final version of the Amache NHS Foundation document was complete. Usually, the Foundation document isn't started before the site is established.

The NPS wants to thank each of you for your time, expertise, and contributions to the Foundation Document's planning process. They are grateful for all of the help and hope the document will serve the new park well.

Every unit of the national park system has a foundational document to provide basic guidance for planning and management decisions. The Amache National Historic Site Foundation Document was finalized in January 2024.

The core components of a foundation document include a brief description of the park as well as the park's purpose, significance, fundamental resources and values, and interpretive themes. The foundation document also includes special mandates and administrative commitments, an assessment of planning and data needs that identifies planning issues, planning products to be developed, and the associated studies and data required for park planning. Along with the core components, the assessment provides a focus for park planning activities and establishes a baseline from which planning documents are developed.

A primary benefit of developing a foundation document is the opportunity to integrate and coordinate all kinds and levels of planning from a single, shared understanding of what is most important about the park. The process of developing a foundation document begins with gathering and integrating information about the park. Next, this

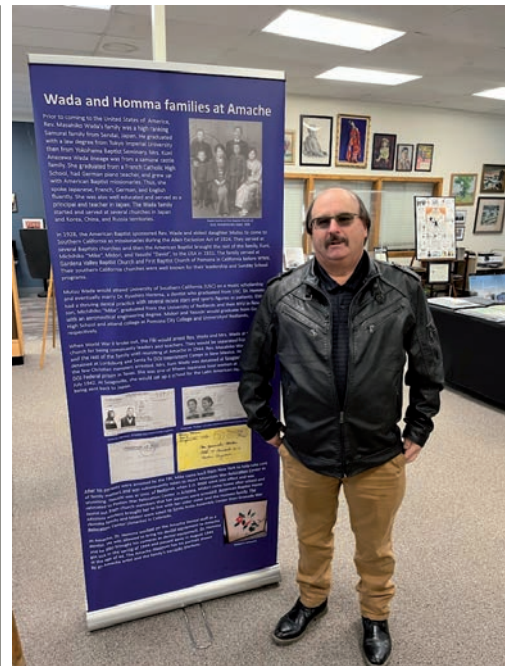


information is refined and focused to determine what the most important attributes of the park are. The process of preparing a foundation document aids park managers, staff, and the public in identifying and clearly stating in one document the essential information that is necessary for park management to consider when determining future planning efforts, outlining key planning issues, and protecting resources and values that are integral to park purpose and identity.

Access a copy of the Foundation Document at: <https://parkplanning.nps.gov/projectHome.cfm?projectId=114923>



An overview of the current Amache Museum.



John Hopper poses by a new interpretive panel at the Amache Museum.

AMACHE MUSEUM FUNDRAISING

The Amache Museum in Granada, Colorado houses and displays artifacts donated by survivors, family members, allies, and camp administration staff. The museum is run by Granada High School teacher John Hopper and the Amache Preservation Society (APS) students. APS has cared for the site for the past 30 years and is a key reason that Amache is now a part of the National Park System.

The museum and artifacts remain with John Hopper and his students as they are key parts of learning curriculum. Support from the University of Denver Amache Research Project and other preservation groups teach the students museum curation skills for the donated artifacts.

To provide a better educational experience for the many teachers and students that visit, APS would like to update and modernize the Amache Museum displays. John Hopper would like to upgrade to new modern display cases/stands to display more of the amazing Amache artifacts. Even though visitors are extremely impressed with the Amache Museum, John Hopper, always the educator, would like to add more engaging interactive displays to leave even more of an impression on its visitors. These new displays would also help the APS students learn new technology based skills.

The current display cases are from the 1950s, 1960s, and a few from the early 2000s, donated

by the Rotary Club. In the near term, John would like to replace his old heavy tables with new white folding tables that are easier to move around. Next, the display cases and bookcases can be upgraded, followed by the development of interactive displays.

Recent Museum updates:

- Added new stands on the counters and tables and that has helped to display more artifacts.
- Purchased a new stove for the museum kitchen, which is also used by the NPS staff. The NPS will have two additional staff members supporting Amache, using space in the museum as an office.
- Purchased an additional 16 nice fabric padded blue folding chairs. The museum now has 36 chairs for students and visitors. The museum has a total of 90 chairs to support events.
- Developed new collapsible travel displays highlighting some of the Amache families that support student presentations and educating visitors.

Please support the Amache Preservation Society and their mission to further educate about our Amache experience. Contact the Amache Alliance at AmacheAlliance@gmail.com for additional information.

AMACHE RESEARCH PROJECT EXHIBIT AT CHICO STATE!

Connecting the Pieces: Dialogues on the Amache Archaeology Collection, an exhibition highlighting community voices and archaeology, has traveled from Denver, Colorado to Chico, California. The exhibit will be at the Valene L. Smith Museum of Anthropology on the Chico State campus from February 24th, 2024 until March 24th, 2025.

Connecting the Pieces was created at the University of Denver as part of Dr. Bonnie Clark's American Material Culture course in the Spring of 2015 and 2018. The exhibit engages University of Denver students, scholars, and community members in dialogue with each other, and a selection of objects recovered during archaeological work at Amache. A total of 10 artifacts and accompanying exhibit panels are blended with a presentation of Amache home movies. Supplemental text explores the impact of incarceration on communities in the Sacramento Valley and helps tie communities near Chico State to Amache.

Along with the exhibit, we are hosting a special Amache Digitization Day on Saturday, April 20th at the Valene L. Smith Museum of Anthropology.

Do you have Amache related items? Photos, diaries, sketches, handmade jewelry, yearbooks, items created by the silk screen shop, furniture or other crafts and paper items? Bring them to the Amache Digitization Day at Chico State where they will be digitally preserved so they can be shared for generations to come.

Where: Valene L Smith Museum of Anthropology at Chico State

When: April 20th from 11:00am-3:00pm

Contact: akamp-whittaker@csuchico for more information



The Valene L. Smith Museum of Anthropology is free and open to the public Tues-Sat, 11-3pm. Visit our webpage for more information- <https://www.csuchico.edu/anthmuseum/>



AMACHE NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE UPDATES

The National Park Service is already making improvements at the Amache site. In addition to the maintenance and interpretive projects mentioned earlier in this newsletter, projects to enhance the visitor experience are also in the works.

A new, official National Park Service sign now marks the entrance of Amache National Historic Site! By the time of the Amache Pilgrimage, there will also be signs at road intersections and barracks blocks, helping visitors more easily navigate the site.

The roads are also being worked on. A local contractor, Carrigan Excavating, will fix the original WWII roads damaged by recent rainstorms. Family members of Carrigan Excavating were also former Amache Preservation Society students.

The NPS has also hired new staff at Amache. Chris Mathers was hired as Amache's Site Manager after the 2023 pilgrimage and now we are excited to welcome Julianna Ellis as the new Interpretive Ranger and John Kepford as Maintenance Worker.



THE NEW ENTRANCE SIGN AT THE AMACHE NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE INSTALLED BY NPS STAFF (L-R): JULIANNA ELLIS, CHRIS MATHER, AND JOHN KEPFORD, MARCH 2024.

AMACHE ALLIANCE

CHARITY DONATION OPTIONS



The Amache Alliance relies on the support of donors to advance our mission to provide support and projects, including interpretive and preservation projects. Join us in preserving our history, so that we can share its lessons in the future.

Visit the Amache Alliance web page at <https://www.amachealliance.org/donate> to donate online or checks can be mailed to 1502 Avenida La Posta, Encinitas, CA 92024.

CONTRIBUTE TO PRESERVING AMACHE

Consider supporting the Amache Alliance through planned gift giving from a wide range of asset types such as IRA gifts, Qualified Charitable Distributions, Required Minimum Distributions, stocks and non-traditional assets. Contact your financial planning professional advisor for various gift-giving vehicles.

Amache Alliance has a nonprofit corporate financial account with Fidelity Investments and supported by advisors from The Burns-Blackburn Group, Financial Planning Specialists. Your donation will help sustain our mission to preserve the Amache site and its history for generations to come.

DONOR-ADVISED FUNDS: SIMPLIFY CHARITABLE GIVING

Donor-Advised Funds (DAFs) are the fastest-growing giving method and a tax-efficient way to manage your charitable donations. They allow donors to make a contribution and receive an immediate tax deduction. The Donate Page DAF Direct Widget makes it easy to give through a Fidelity Charitable, Schwab Charitable or BNY Mellon Charitable account. After selecting the

institution that manages your donor-advised fund, simply enter the dollar amount you want to donate to NPCA and click “next.” You will then be directed to an external website to complete your gift. If you don’t already have a DAF, contact your financial advisor to learn how to set up a donor-advised fund.

GIVE WHILE YOU SHOP!

Select national retailers will donate a portion of a purchase to the nonprofit organization of your choice, including iGive.com. Please consider directing your donations to the Amache Alliance.

If more information is desired on charitable giving options, feel free to contact us at AmacheAlliance@gmail.com or Mitch at mhomma@gmail.com



<https://www.igive.com/>



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VOLUNTEER STAFF:

EDITOR: MITCH HOMMA

DESIGN/LAYOUT: MITCH HOMMA, DANA OGO SHEW

DISTRIBUTION: KIRSTEN LEONG

CONTRIBUTORS:

CONTENT: MITCH HOMMA, APRIL KAMP-WHITTAKER, CHRIS MATHERS, JOHN HOPPER, ANNIE DANIS

PHOTOS: TOM PARKER, AMACHE PRESERVATION SOCIETY, MITCH HOMMA, ARLENE MAKITA-ACUNA, GREG KITAJIMA, CHRIS MATHER, JULIANNA ELLIS, AND STEPHANIE STONE

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STAY IN TOUCH

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ALL THINGS AMACHE

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Cover photo:

The new National Park Service Amache National Historic Site sign now greets visitors at the site's entrance.
Photo: Julianna Ellis.