A Grand Tower

Studio on the Edge

South Rim’s Historic District

Born to Work at Grand Canyon
FROM THE CEO

Grand Canyon Association’s 83-year history is inextricably linked to the remarkable historic buildings in Grand Canyon Village. Kolb Studio, El Tovar Hotel and Lookout Studio are but a few of the iconic structures that delight visitors; house critical functions of GCA, the National Park Service and concessioners; and showcase the remnants of the pioneer era to visitors from around the world.

GCA is an active champion in preserving a number of these structures, from providing critical funding for restoration to sharing their significance with countless visitors.

Kolb Studio, built by photographers and adventurers Emery and Ellsworth Kolb in 1904 on the very edge of the South Rim, is a classic example of a structure that is integral to the story of Grand Canyon National Park. One of five buildings in the park with National Historic Landmark status, Kolb Studio grew to the building you see today as the Kolb brothers’ business and families expanded. When Emery Kolb passed away in 1976, the National Park Service assumed control of the building. It had been shuttered for 15 years when Grand Canyon Natural History Association (now GCA) offered to restore the structure, bringing it to its current use as a sales outlet and exhibit hall. Many of the most recent repairs and ongoing upkeep have been funded by you, our loyal members (read more on p. 8).

Another example of GCA’s commitment to the preservation of historic buildings is the association’s administrative headquarters. Like many others in the park, the 1931 vintage building has had a number of incarnations. The most interesting was that of the park hospital, the birthplace of former Grand Canyon superintendent Rob Arnberger (read more on p. 14).

These examples highlight the collaborative relationship and rich history shared by GCA and the National Park Service at Grand Canyon and why it is so important to continue helping to preserve the priceless national treasures that foster a sense of pride in every American.
YOUR Impact at Grand Canyon

Thanks to you, GCA and Grand Canyon National Park are…

Preserving the night sky

When that last bit of sunlight slips beyond the canyon’s walls, nature reveals another wonder at Grand Canyon: the night sky. With light pollution widespread in most urban areas, our national parks are one of the few places where many people are still able to see the stars and planets in all their glory. However, even at Grand Canyon, dark skies are dimming, but thanks to you the park is one step closer to protecting the night sky.

With your support, the Grand Canyon Association initiated the Protecting the Dark Sky Project. Soon, Grand Canyon will become an official Dark Sky Park, inspiring the more than four million people who visit each year to learn the importance of preserving the night sky in their communities.

What’s ahead?
Like the creation of the Grand Canyon, obtaining this official status requires a lot of effort and time. We still have more work to do:

- Complete the lighting inventory
- Finalize the park’s official lighting guidelines
- Plan and implement a pilot project to retrofit lights
- Establish sky quality monitoring throughout the park

Next time you visit the park, look up! The amazing night sky will only become clearer over Grand Canyon, thanks to you.

Look for updates on this project in future issues of Canyon Views, our e-newsletter and on Facebook.

In 2012, your contributions of $114,000 made it possible for park staff, with help from GCA volunteers, to:

- Inventory 4,200 lights within the park boundaries
- Draft new dark sky–compliant lighting guidelines
- Establish an inventory protocol for the National Park Service
Throughout the early part of the 20th century, Mary Colter, famed southwestern architect, left her thumbprint at Grand Canyon by contributing to the design of several iconic buildings, including Hopi House (1905), Hermits Rest (1914), Lookout Studio (1914), Phantom Ranch (1922), Bright Angel Lodge (1935) and the Watchtower at Desert View (1932).

The Watchtower at Desert View is not a copy, but what Mary Colter called a “re-creation” of an Indian watchtower. At 70 feet, it is taller than any known Native American tower and has a much greater diameter, being 30 feet at the base. The ground floor of the Watchtower is a large, round observation room with a spectacular view of the canyon. The room was modeled after a Native American kiva, with some additions for the comfort of the visitor, such as large viewing windows and a fireplace. Colter also added some unusual furniture made from tree trunks and burls. Indian kivas are used for men’s religious and social activities and are entered by ladder through an opening in the roof that also serves as a smoke hole for the fireplace. The Watchtower kiva has such a ladder to show how one traditionally entered a kiva, although it lacks the roof hole. The ladder reaches the log ceiling, of which Colter was most proud; she had salvaged the logs from the old Grand View Hotel, the first hotel built at Grand Canyon.
From the kiva one could ascend stairs to the first floor of the tower, the Hopi Room. Legend has it that the Hopi came into the world through the Grand Canyon. They emerged through the Sipapu, a small opening somewhere in the deepest depth of the canyon, and the Hopi believe that their spirits will pass back through this opening after their deaths. Because of the close association of the Hopi with Grand Canyon, Colter wanted to feature their art and culture in the Watchtower. She had designs for the room in mind, but wanted a Hopi artist to do the artwork.

A young Hopi named Fred Kabotie was a guide and musician at Grand Canyon; he was also a fine artist, and Colter hired him to paint murals on the walls of the Hopi Room. The Hopi Room took its theme from the traditional Hopi Snake Dance, a rain dance held in August. Kabotie also created a traditional sand painting on the floor of the room. He held colored sand between his thumb and two fingers and with infinite patience dribbled it into place. The workmanship was so fine that most people refused to believe that the picture was not painted with a brush. Unlike traditional sand paintings used in ceremonies, this one was not brushed away upon completion. It was there under glass for people to see.

To the west of the Watchtower, Colter constructed a “ruin.” She wanted people to see the condition in which most prehistoric towers were to be found, not upright like the Watchtower, but in rubble. The ruin simulated the sort of remains from which archaeologists work to piece together knowledge about past civilizations. Colter wrote about the builders of those ancient towers. “The primitive architect never intentionally copied anything but made every building suit its own conditions and each one differed from every other according to the character of the site, the materials that could be procured and the purpose for which the building was intended.” Certainly Colter’s own building
practices were in agreement with these. She would have added one more precept—that the building embody the history and culture of the place as well.

The Watchtower Today
On January 1, 2015, the Watchtower was purchased from the concessionaire managing it and designated a National Park Service building.

NPS plans to return the Watchtower to its intended purpose, as a tribute to the Native American tribes who have cultural ties to Grand Canyon. The park is moving forward with plans to restore the tower to reflect Mary Colter’s original vision for the building.

Visitors first enter through the large, open Kiva Room. Until recently, this room was filled to capacity with a large gift shop. The gift shop has since been removed from the rotunda and reduced to a much smaller footprint. The new Grand Canyon Association Park Store fits into the original space Colter envisioned for a gift shop: a corner off to the side of the rotunda. All the proceeds support the park.

Originally the Watchtower was designed as a space where visitors could see Native American craft demonstrations by weavers and basket makers. The park will bring Native American artists back into the space to share tribal traditions, dances, songs, skills, art and oral histories with the public (see calendar above). The park is also considering turning the old Desert View visitor center into a Native American cultural center. The transformation of the Watchtower back to its original intent is already proving to be a dramatic experience for visitors and park staff.

In addition to the cultural demonstrations planned for the tower, the park is working with tribes and art experts to restore the Kabotie murals, which have been damaged by water. The first phase of the project is being funded through a grant from American Express obtained by Grand Canyon Association. This grant will help with the evaluation, documentation and testing process that is a critical component of all historic preservation projects. The park intends to preserve the murals while remaining true to Colter’s design. Over the next year, a specialist will analyze and restore the murals with the help of students participating in an intern-training program.
The amazing historic structures and trails at Grand Canyon National Park are a powerful reminder of the rich pioneer history that took place here. You can learn more about this fascinating era and the colorful characters who shaped Grand Canyon history by taking one of our Meet the Canyon Family Hiking Adventures.

- **On the South Rim**, this class is offered year-round for families and groups. You’ll spend the better part of an expert-led day in the Historic District, visiting such world-famous structures as El Tovar Hotel, Hopi House, Lookout Studio and Kolb Studio.

- **On the North Rim** (where classes are offered seasonally), you’ll enjoy learning about human history, geology and ecology while hiking a short distance on the historic North Kaibab Trail.

Tours can be structured around your group’s interest and skill level, making this the perfect way to get to know the canyon better, whether it’s your first time visiting or one of many special trips.

**Mary Colter’s Canyon**

Marjorie “Slim” Woodruff, one of the Field Institute’s longest-serving instructors, is well-versed on the topic of Mary Jane Colter, the designer of eight structures in the park built between 1905 and 1937.

Slim explains her interest in Colter’s life and work: “Mary Colter was a perfectionist who let nothing and no one interfere with her vision of an architecture that was organic and harmonized with the landscape. Her achievement and ideals would reach far beyond her incomparable work on the South Rim and would influence architecture in the entire National Park System.”

All of our Field Institute instructors bring a knowledge and passion for all things Grand Canyon to each class we offer. Join us for a Grand adventure!

Visit [www.grandcanyon.org/fieldinstitute](http://www.grandcanyon.org/fieldinstitute) for more information, or call the Field Institute at (866) 471-4435.
Kolb Studio, built on the canyon’s South Rim, served as home, studio and theater for the Kolb brothers. Ellsworth and Emery Kolb appreciated the unique beauty of the Grand Canyon. Their breathtaking photographs and films helped introduce Americans to the Grand Canyon and continue to shape how we view this incredible and remote landscape.

Built in stages from 1904 to 1937, Kolb Studio grew over time to accommodate the needs of the Kolbs’ growing business and family. From its humble beginnings in 1904, the building evolved to its current size of 6,000 square feet on five stories cascading down the canyon rim.

Surviving years of use and exposure to the often harsh weather on the canyon rim, time eventually took its toll. By the early 1990s Kolb Studio was in urgent need of stabilization. Grand Canyon Natural History Association, now Grand Canyon Association, offered to restore the building, which had remained unused since Emery’s death in 1976, and operate a bookstore there to fund improvements. The park agreed.

In 2014, the building was again in need of repairs, and with the help of GCA donors and support from park funds, a new wave of restoration took place. One year later, Kolb Studio is once again glowing with a fresh coat of paint and other major repairs.

We will never know how many people were motivated to visit the Grand Canyon by seeing the images taken by the Kolb brothers. What we do know is that the Kolb brothers’ entrepreneurial spirit and sense of adventure helped shape the visitor experience at Grand Canyon for nearly a century, and it remains GCA’s mission to preserve their home and legacy.

A Studio on the Edge

Photos courtesy Terri Attridge
PHASE 1 of the renovation encompassed projects that needed minimal approval from the National Park Service or the Arizona State Historic Preservation Office. The initial phase included partially reconstructing the balconies with the same type of materials used originally. Over 90 of the windows were stripped of their latex paint down to bare wood and then recoated with a linseed oil-based paint that is fully organic, has been tested for centuries in Europe and holds up to moisture. External beams affected by weather were replaced. Some doors were reconstructed using as much of the original materials as possible.

PHASE 2 encompassed painting the building and installing new gutters. The old gutters were pouring runoff into one centralized location on the south-central part of the building, causing water to pool and create more damage. The gutter system was redesigned in the same style and dimensions as the original, but rerouted so that water would be distributed to the back side of the building. When there was a clog in the old gutter system, water would end up inside Kolb Studio.

PHASE 3, which began this spring, includes sidewalk improvements and complete concrete replacement in some areas. The entry porch will be reconstructed, repurposing some of the wood from the original porch and following the Kolbs’ design. The National Park Service works with a historic structures report that details many of the intricate design aspects of the building and includes a time line of when building modifications were previously made. The document is used to maintain the building’s historic accuracy.
Mary Colter: Builder Upon the Red Earth
by Virginia L. Grattan
As architect for the Santa Fe Railway and Fred Harvey Company during the first half of the 20th century, Mary Colter designed eight remarkable structures at Grand Canyon. *Mary Colter: Builder Upon the Red Earth* tells the story of a strong, talented woman working in a field dominated by men and succeeding at her craft.
$11.95
**Member price $10.16**

Along the Rim
by Michael F. Anderson
Don’t go near the edge without this guide to the Grand Canyon’s South Rim. Dazzling photos and engaging text detail 22 must-see stops, including historic Hermits Rest, breathtaking Hopi Point, ancient Tusayan Ruin and the Trail of Time.
$9.95
**Member price $8.46**

Grand Reflections
You will find inspiration within these pages through beautiful writing and dramatic photography. Naturalists, writers, explorers and renowned photographers provide a sweeping journey from the canyon’s rim to the beaches of the Colorado River. Hardcover with 128 pages of stunning photography.
$16.95
**Member price $14.41**

Grand Reflections Gift Card Set
An attractive gift box with magnetic lid contains four each of five different greeting cards with envelopes.
$19.95
**Member price $16.96**
Memorial and Tribute Gifts

Did you know that you can make a gift to Grand Canyon in honor of a loved one? It’s a great way to show that you care and provides critical funds to Grand Canyon. It’s easy to make a tribute gift. Just click “Donate Now” at www.grandcanyon.org or call (800) 858-2808.

These tribute gifts of $50 or more were made from January through March 2015 and are a touching reminder of the importance of our friends and loved ones.

Steve Breckenridge, in honor of the Grand Canyon Clinic
Mary Chirnside, in memory of Mark Chirnside
Ron Cook, in memory of the Cook family
Alvin DeMaria, in memory of Vivian De Maria Meehan
Marlene D. Fuentes, in memory of her beloved husband and hiking partner
Christine Glover, in memory of James C. Ownby
Lianne Guglielmi, in memory of Paul J. Smith, loved friend, from Phil, Lianne, and family, George, Noreen, Julie and Geoff Wheaton
Louanna Haworth, in memory of Charles Ray Smith
M. Lynn Kelly, in memory of Paul Zerlan
Biff Kennedy, in memory of Joe and Muriel Kennedy
Daisy Mah, in memory of Lim Mar
Susan Mathews, in memory of Sylvia Flitchen
Susan Mathews, in memory of Richard and Lulu Mathews
Carolyn Miller, in memory of Alice Jones Jepson
Patrick Murray, in memory of Paul Lunbom
Nina Mason Pulliam Charitable Trust, in honor of Bob Berger
Susan D. Park, in memory of her nephew, Eric C. Park
Karen Patterson, in honor of Sally and Craig Clayton
Valerie Rhoads, in memory of Veronica del-Ask
Nancy Rommel, in memory of Joe Rommel
Bob Rutherford, in memory of Mike Ford
Thomas W. Simmons, in memory of James C. Ownby
Linda Valenza, in memory of George R. Dowdy
Virginia G. Piper Charitable Trust, in honor of Helen Ranney
South Rim’s Historic District

Grand Canyon Village, on the canyon’s South Rim, is the largest example of town planning in the National Park System. In its early years, the village was centered on the end of track for the Grand Canyon Railway. From there, Grand Canyon Village grew as both the National Park Service and the park concessioner, the Fred Harvey Company, built new facilities and expanded old ones. In 1910, when the Grand Canyon was still designated a national monument, Secretary of the Interior Richard Ballinger decided to create a development plan for the village before it grew further. Much of the building and subsequent landscaping took place in the late 1930s, thanks to Civilian Conservation Corps labor.
1. **Bright Angel Lodge**
What is now the Bright Angel Lodge was originally a small wood-frame hotel with an adjacent tent camp built by James Thurber in 1896. In the 1930s, the Santa Fe Railroad purchased the hotel and hired Mary Colter to design a replacement. Colter's initial designs for the lodge resembled her Hermits Rest and Lookout Studio structures, but she revised her plan to incorporate wood-frame construction. The tent cabins were replaced with rustic log cabins and local stone. Bright Angel Lodge was completed in 1935.

2. **Buckey O’Neill Cabin**
Built in 1890 by William “Buckey” O’Neill, this cabin, which sits on the edge of the canyon, is the oldest existing structure on the South Rim. O’Neill was a member of Theodore Roosevelt’s Rough Riders and had previously been an author, sheriff and judge in his native Arizona. The cabin was used as an office for tourist accommodations in the area during the 1890s.

3. **Lookout Studio**
Lookout Studio, designed by Mary Colter and constructed by the Santa Fe Railway in 1914, was established as a photography studio to compete with Kolb Studio. Lookout Studio employs Colter’s signature rustic style of using jagged native rocks to imitate indigenous structures of the region and to blend in with the environment.

4. **Hopi House**
Hopi House, another building designed by Mary Colter, was built by the Fred Harvey Company as a market for Native American crafts made by artisans on site. As the historic inhabitants of the area, the Hopi were chosen to be the featured artisans, and the building was designed to closely resemble a traditional Hopi pueblo. Hopi House opened on January 1, 1905, shortly before El Tovar Hotel.

5. **Stables and Mule Barn**
Built circa 1908 to house the animals used for general transportation around the park, this area was collectively called the Transportation Department in the early 20th century. The three structures found here are a horse barn or stable, a mule barn and a blacksmith shop.

6. **Kolb Studio**
Kolb Studio was the home and photographic studio of pioneers Emery and Ellsworth Kolb. Begun in 1904, the building has evolved through two major additions and countless minor changes during its century of existence at Grand Canyon.

7. **Verkamp’s Curio Store**
Built in 1906 by Ohioan John George Verkamp, who sold Native American crafts and souvenirs, the two-story shingled building has been described as modified Mission style that resembles an adobe building in form but not materials. Members of the Verkamp family lived upstairs through 1978. By 2008, when the store was the oldest concession in the National Park System, the Verkamp family elected not to renew their concession agreement. The store closed, and the National Park Service renovated the building as a visitor center run by Grand Canyon Association in partnership with the National Park Service.

8. **Powerhouse**
The Powerhouse is a former electric power plant that served National Park Service and concessioner facilities. It is significant for its architecture, although the architect is unknown. The building's industrial function is masked behind a veneer of rustic design. This building was designated a National Historic Landmark on the basis of its design quality and the level of preservation of its equipment.

9. **Grand Canyon Hospital**
The Grand Canyon Hospital, built in 1931, had 10 beds, a clinic, a delivery room and an operating room. By 1968, a new Grand Canyon clinic opened, and the old hospital building for years primarily served as a dormitory for seasonal fire crews. In 1989, Grand Canyon Association restored the building and moved in. It now serves as the GCA’s headquarters.

10. **Community Building**
The Community Building was built by Company 819 of the Civilian Conservation Corps and was completed in 1935. It replaced a structure in another location that had burned a year earlier. Over the years, the Community Building has housed a public library, hosted plays, movies and community meetings. In 1996, with funding from GCA, the historic building underwent a substantial rehabilitation that was completed in the fall of 1999.
I was born in what is now the Grand Canyon Association headquarters building on June 17, 1947. I am told it was a small two-bedroom clinic at that time. My father had returned from the war as a decorated Air Corps pilot and enrolled at Arizona State Teacher’s College in Flagstaff (now NAU), where he met a Los Angeles girl. He was working at the canyon as a trail laborer and then worked several seasons as a ranger naturalist. He and my mother married and lived in Flagstaff, and went to college there. In the summer of 1947 my mom, who was then pregnant with me, came to the canyon to be with her husband with the expressed intention of “having my baby at the Grand Canyon.” This she did, availing herself of a small clinic on the South Rim. My father was absent during the birth because he was fighting a small forest fire on Rowe Well Road in the park. The delivery went fine, and she was put in one of the two clinic rooms with her new little baby boy in an open air crib. Several days later, her mother visited from Los Angeles, arriving in Flagstaff on a Greyhound bus. As she entered the room to see her first grandchild, she
noted that the “windows of the room were wide open to the canyon air, and there were several little rats scurrying around on an outside ledge and into the room.” Grandmother was appalled at the conditions her daughter and grandson were subjected to, including open windows and small animals (identified by clinic staff as chipmunks) scurrying around the room. Her daughter felt very comfortable and at home with the healthy canyon air and her favorite little chipmunks welcoming her son into the world.

One thing led to another, and my father completed a career in the National Park Service. He served in a variety of postings, including as a respected senior superintendent at several national parks and seashores (Point Reyes, Cape Cod and Yosemite). My mother joined her husband in his National Park Service career, frequently noting that she started her career as a mother and housewife at Grand Canyon National Park. My father passed away June 23, 2003, and is buried in the Grand Canyon Pioneers Cemetery. My mother passed away November 2, 2015, and she will be joining her husband, once again by his side, in June, when the family will gather at the canyon to celebrate her life.

I went on to spend a long career in the National Park Service, following in the footsteps of my father, and I retired in 2003. From 1994 to 2000, I was superintendent of Grand Canyon National Park, my birthplace. Few, if any, superintendents in the entire 100-year history of the National Park Service have ever presided over the park in which they were born. It is probably a true statement that the canyon air and canyon chipmunks, combined with the beautiful log-and-rock clinic building, now the home of the Grand Canyon Association, forever destined that little baby to a life’s work in the national parks.
Member Profile: BARRY OLEKSAK

After 27 years of loving the canyon—hiking, backpacking and exploring the rim—I count my volunteer time with Grand Canyon Association among my best experiences. I would recommend it to anyone. It’s an opportunity to give back and experience parts of the canyon you never knew existed. The park staff and Grand Canyon Association employees work you hard, but they ensure a great experience—one that you will never forget. The 2014 North Rim volunteer week was a labor of love, a hard labor, but worth every minute! We learned about resource management and fire prevention, explored distant corners of the park and archeological sites, and worked with a great group of people who share a love of the canyon. And of course, the canyon, ever present, urged us on.

You can learn more about Grand Canyon Association’s members-only Volunteer Week opportunities and see a video Barry created about the program at www.grandcanyon.org.