



**George C. Thomas Memorial Library National Historic Landmark
Fairbanks, Alaska**

The George C. Thomas Memorial Library was an important community space in the early history of Fairbanks. The town was founded after a gold rush arrived in 1902, and not long after, Episcopal missionaries saw the need to provide reading materials to the isolated population. Since its construction in 1909, the building has mostly functioned as a library for Fairbanks with other significant meetings occurring there. In 1915, the library was host to a historic meeting between Alaska Territory officials and a group of Tanana Chiefs, where they discussed land claims, employment and educational opportunities. The meeting marked one of the earliest organized efforts by Alaska Natives to receive compensation for their lands. The building is named for a major donor who never visited Alaska. It is now privately owned.