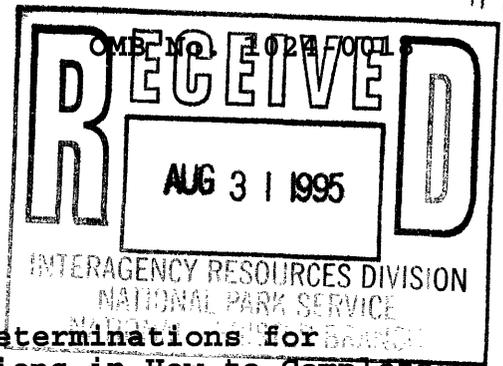


NPS Form 10-900  
(Rev. 10-90)

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM



This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

=====  
1. Name of Property  
=====  
historic name Jesse Lee Home for Children

other names/site number AHRS Site No. SEW-003

=====  
2. Location  
=====  
street & number Jesse Lee Heights Subdivision Addition #4, Swetmann Avenue

not for publication n/a  
city or town Seward vicinity n/a  
state Alaska code AK county Kenai Peninsula code 122  
zip code 99664

USDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form

Jesse Lee Home for Children

Kenai Peninsula, Alaska

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this X nomination \_\_\_ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X meets \_\_\_ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant \_\_\_ nationally X statewide \_\_\_ locally. ( \_\_\_ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Judith E. Buttrick
Signature of certifying official

August 22, 1995
Date

Alaska
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property \_\_\_ meets \_\_\_ does not meet the National Register criteria. ( \_\_\_ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register See continuation sheet.
determined eligible for the National Register See continuation sheet.
determined not eligible for the National Register
removed from the National Register

Edson H. Beall 9/29/95

Entered in the National Register

other (explain):

Signature of Keeper

Date of Action

USDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form

Jesse Lee Home for Children

Kenai Peninsula, Alaska

5. Classification

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property (Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>2</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	buildings
<u>1</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	sites
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	structures
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	objects
<u>3</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.) n/a

USDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form

Jesse Lee Home for Children

Kenai Peninsula, Alaska

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: <u>education</u>	Sub: <u>school</u>
<u>education</u>	<u>education-related</u>
<u>domestic</u>	<u>institutional housing</u>

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: <u>vacant/not in use</u>	Sub: _____
_____	_____

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

no style

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation concrete  
 roof wood shingle  
 walls stucco  
 other \_\_\_\_\_

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Construction of the Jesse Lee Home for Children began in 1925. The federal government donated one hundred acres that had been cleared for agricultural purposes on the western side of Resurrection Bay, one and a half miles northwest of downtown Seward in southcentral Alaska. The last of the home's buildings was completed in 1937. The complex of buildings included Jewel Guard Hall, Goode Hall, Balto Building, superintendent's house, barn, Mission Territorial School, a residence, garage, cold storage, and several outbuildings. Jewel Guard Hall, Balto Building, and the remains of Goode Hall remain as a group. Most of the other buildings are gone.

The buildings at the home were stucco, balloon framed buildings with steep, shingled hipped roofs and gable dormers. All were generous with window fenestration, particularly on the southern elevations of the buildings. The typical window was a 6/6 double hung sash window placed singularly, in pairs, and banded. The buildings had red roof shingles, cream stucco, and dark brown belt courses and trim. During World War II, a portion of the property was acquired by the military for Fort Raymond and the principal buildings were painted in camouflage colors. In 1966 the buildings were abandoned when the home was relocated to Anchorage and the land and buildings were deeded to the City of Seward. The city subdivided and sold the property. Two (Jewel Guard Hall and Balto Building) of the three core buildings of the home stand, and with the site of the third (Goode Hall), are on a 2.65 acre parcel of land. This is what is being nominated.

USDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form

Jesse Lee Home for Children

Kenai Peninsula, Alaska

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or a grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

social history  
education

Period of Significance 1926-1942

Significant Dates 1926  
1927

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)  
Benson, John Ben "Benny", Jr.

Cultural Affiliation n/a

Architect/Builder architect: Shaw, Stanley  
builders: Holm, John; Hanson, A.S.

USDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form

Jesse Lee Home for Children  
Kenai Peninsula, Alaska

Page 11

=====

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

=====

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Anchorage Daily Times. "Jesse Lee Home Observes 85th Anniversary Today," October 12, 1975.

Barry, M.J. Seward, Alaska; A History of the Gateway City, Volume 2: 1914-1923. Anchorage, Alaska: privately printed, 1993.

Bushell, S.B. "Jesse Lee Home Marks 100th Year Helping Children," Anchorage Daily News, August 10, 1983, p. C-3.

Hatton, Mrs. Charles T. "Industrial School for Natives," Cordova Daily Times, December 15, 1928, p. 19.

Jesse Lee Home, Kuevit, The Northern Lights, 1929-1930.

Jesse Lee Home for Children. Brochure on file at Seward Community Library, Seward, Alaska.

Johnson, B.B. The Jesse Lee Home; Shelter from the Storm. Bothell, Washington: privately printed, 1990.

Johnson, Jeanne B. "The Jesse Lee Home, 100 Years of Service to Alaska's Children," Alaska History News, Vol. 21, No. 1 (Winter 1990):4.

Krasilovsky, P. Benny's Flag. Cleveland and New York: World Publishing Co., 1960.

Lee, Mary E. Personal communication, 1994.

Pedersen, E. "For Three Generations Alaska's Jesse Lee Home has been Refuge for Children," Seattle Times, April 12, 1959, p. 10.

Seward Advertising Bulletin, "The Story Behind the Jesse Lee Home," January 7, 1953.

Seward Gateway, "Alaska Flag Unfurled for First Time," July 11, 1927, pp. 1 and 4.

----- . "Jesse Lee Home Starts Building in Early August," July 25, 1936, p. 4.

----- . "New Building at Jesse Lee Home Becomes Reality," April 6, 1937.

Sievert, Jessie M. Photograph collection, Seward Museum.

USDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form

Jesse Lee Home for Children

Kenai Peninsula, Alaska

=====  
 Previous documentation on file (NPS) n/a  
 \_\_\_ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.  
 \_\_\_ previously listed in the National Register  
 \_\_\_ previously determined eligible by the National Register  
 \_\_\_ designated a National Historic Landmark  
 \_\_\_ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

Primary Location of Additional Data  
 \_\_\_ State Historic Preservation Office  
 \_\_\_ Other State agency  
 \_\_\_ Federal agency  
X Local government  
 \_\_\_ University  
 \_\_\_ Other

Name of repository: \_\_\_\_\_

=====  
 10. Geographical Data  
 =====

Acreage of Property 2.65 acres

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	<u>06</u>	<u>364250</u>	<u>6667860</u>	3	___	___
2	___	___	___	4	___	___
	___ See continuation sheet.					

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

Lot 15A (43,499 square feet) and lot 15B (72,268 square feet), Jesse Lee Heights Subdivision, Addition No. 4, City of Seward. The property is bounded by Benson Drive to the north, Swetmann Avenue to the east, and Phoenix Road on the south and west.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary includes two core buildings and the site of the third that comprised the Jesse Lee Home at Seward. Private, single family homes and a school stand on the other acres that were originally part of the home. Other buildings and structures directly associated with the home no longer stand, have been altered, or are too far away from the core of the complex to be easily associated with the home.

USDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form

Jesse Lee Home for Children

Kenai Peninsula, Alaska

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Timothy M. Sczawinski, Contractor

organization Community Development Department, City of Seward

date June 21, 1995

street & number P.O. Box 167

telephone 907-224-3331

city or town Seward state AK zip code 99664-0167

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name Frank Irick

street & number 1518 D Street

telephone 907-276-4407

city or town Anchorage state AK zip code 99501

**USDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form**

Jesse Lee Home for Children  
Kenai Peninsula, Alaska

=====

Jewel Guard and Goode halls were constructed in 1926. The Balto Building, between the two halls, was constructed in 1937. Enclosed arcades connected the Balto Building with Jewel Guard and Goode halls.

**Jewel Guard Hall** housed a shop, vocational training classrooms, and a photographic darkroom in a partial basement; classrooms, a library and a gymnasium on the first floor; the Albert Newhall Chapel and apartments on the second floor; and dormitories on the third floor. The building has a rough "h" floor plan on a north/south orientation, with the bottom of the 'h' pointing north.

The windows were various combinations of 6/6 double hung sash windows. The first floor of the south elevation had, from left to right, these windows in combinations of triple, triple, paired, paired, entry, and finally band of four. The entry was a double leaf wood door with six lights mounted by a eight light transom. The second floor window pattern consists of windows in combinations of triple, triple, double, one six light single sash window, triple with arched head (over entry), and finally a triple. The third floor window pattern consists of a double placed in the leg of the 'h' gable wall, and doubles in the dormers. These windows align in six bays.

The first floor of the west elevation had, from left to right, a combination of 6/6 double hung sash windows of double, triple, triple, single, entryway covered by a porch, single, triple and finally a pair. Other than a triple 6/6 double hung sash window over the entry, the first and second floor window placement on this elevation is identical.

The first floor of the north elevation had, from left to right, combinations of 6/6 double hung sash windows, triple, triple, triple, single, triple and triple to form six bays. Only the two central bays have windows on the second floor, These consist of a triple and a single. A hip dormer that had a single 6/6 double hung sash window is centrally placed in the third floor.

The east elevation had a triple 6/6 double hung sash window and a single 6/6 double hung sash window on the first and second floors. The third floor had a single 6/6 double hung sash window placed in a hipped dormer centered on the elevation. The enclosed arcade that connects Jewel Guard Hall and the Balto Building is centered on the first floor of this elevation.

**Goode Hall**, the girl's dormitory and administrative offices, stood approximately 200 feet east of Jewel Guard Hall. The building had a "T" floor plan. Its main entries were in the south and east elevations. Severely damaged by the March 1964 earthquake, Goode Hall was condemned and torn down in 1972. The site where Goode Hall stood is an empty field.

The **Balto Building**, constructed in 1936, between Jewel Guard and Goode halls. A two story building with full basement, it has a "T" floor plan. The basement housed the home's heating and associated mechanical systems.

**USDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form**

Jesse Lee Home for Children

Kenai Peninsula, Alaska

Page 6

=====  
The first floor had a dining hall, kitchen, and food storage area; the second floor had staff quarters, library, and a classroom.

The south elevation had combinations of nine light fixed single sash windows. The full basement, from left to right, had a triple, single, triple, single, and a triple set of windows that defined three bays. On the first floor, window combinations were 6/12 double hung sash windows aligned with the basement windows. A triple 6/6 double hung sash window was in the central gable wall.

The west elevation had, from left to right, double and triple nine light fixed single sash windows in the right half of the basement. The first floor had a single 6/9 double hung sash window, an external chimney, the arcade, and a loading dock with double doors and transoms. The second floor had a double six light fixed single sash window above the doors.

The north elevation had no windows in the basement level. The first floor had, from left to right, a single 6/9 double hung sash window, a single 6/9 double hung sash window, a fixed nine light single sash window, a single 6/9 double hung sash window, and a double 6/9 double hung sash window. The second floor had two fixed ten light single sash windows in the gables.

The east elevation had, from left to right, a triple fixed nine light window and a large double garage door in the left half of the basement. The first floor had, from left to right, triple 9/15 double hung sash window, the arcade, triple 9/15 double hung sash window, and single 9/15 double hung sash window. The left half of the second floor is gabled and had a centrally placed triple 9/15 double hung sash window. Centrally placed in the right half of the second floor is a hipped dormer that had a fixed nine light single sash window.

The arcades that connect the Balto Building with Jewel Guard and Goode halls are single story with steep, wood shingled gable roofs. Each bay had double multi-paned windows with arched heads.

The exteriors of Jewel Guard Hall, Balto Building, and the arcades were not altered after their construction. The interior finishes are gone. All window sashes and most frames have been removed. The flooring and floor joist are beginning to deteriorate due to exposure to the elements since the buildings were abandoned.

USDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form

Jesse Lee Home for Children  
Kenai Peninsula, Alaska

=====  
**Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)**

The Jesse Lee Home for Children at Seward opened in 1926. Many Alaska Native children orphaned by epidemics, particularly devastating in western Alaska where medical care was extremely limited, lived at the home. The home was one of the largest and most stable institutions to care for and educate the hundreds of orphaned children. A number of Alaska's outstanding Native leaders were raised and educated at the Jesse Lee Home during its Seward years. John Ben "Benny" Benson, Jr., from Chignik, was one of the children who lived at the Jesse Lee Home. In 1927, his design was selected for Alaska's territorial, and later state, flag. While the Methodist Women's Home Missionary Society owned and operated the home, it received financial support from the territorial and federal governments. The period of significance for the Jesse Lee Home begins in 1926 when it opened in Seward, and ends with its temporary closing in 1942 by the U.S. Army. Although it reopened in 1946, the Jesse Lee Home no longer served as a school, government-provided food supplies usurped the gardens and livestock, and social policy favored placing orphaned children in foster homes instead of institutions.

The Jesse Lee Home for Children in Seward is the second of three institutions of that name. The first opened at Unalaska in 1890. The home moved to Seward in 1926, in part to reduce operating costs. Following damage to the home in the March 1964 earthquake, the home relocated to Anchorage in 1966.

Founded in Unalaska in 1890 and funded by the Women's Home Missionary Society of the United Methodist Church, the original Jesse Lee Home was a children's orphanage. Opened by Mr. and Mrs. John Tuck, Methodist missionaries, it provided refuge, education, and care for children from any ethnic background whose parents had died, were ill, or otherwise were unable to care for them. The name, Jesse Lee Home, honors a pioneer circuit riding Methodist preacher. Agnes Soule became superintendent when the Tucks left. In 1898, she married Dr. Albert Newhall. Mrs. Newhall died in 1917, but Dr. Newhall continued to serve as superintendent until 1925 when the missionary society decided to move the home to Seward.

Rampant tuberculosis and the 1919 influenza epidemic left many Alaska Native children homeless. Responding to the increased need, the Methodist Women's Home Missionary Society decided to construct a new, larger children's home at Seward and close its homes at Unalaska and Nome. The facilities at Nome and Unalaska were in need of major repairs and the costs to supply and operate these homes had become very high.

In 1923, the federal government deeded one hundred acres north of the City of Seward to the Methodist Women's Home Missionary Society for the Jesse Lee Home. This included land for dormitories, agriculture, animal husbandry, and a territorial school. Jewel Guard Hall, the boy's dormitory, and Goode Hall (named for one of the committee members who selected the Seward site), the girl's dormitory, were completed by late 1926. It cost \$117,000 to construct the buildings. Stanley Shaw, a

**USDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form**

Jesse Lee Home for Children

Kenai Peninsula, Alaska

Page 9

=====  
Tacoma, Washington architect, designed the buildings, Reverend R.V.B. Dunlap supervised construction, and John Holm was the local building contractor. Charles Lechner installed the plumbing and heating systems, and Gerhard "Stucco" Johnson did the plaster and stucco work. Reverend and Mrs. Charles T. Hatton were selected to be the school superintendents and ran the home for most of the years it was at Seward. The number of staff at the home fluctuated, but was around ten.

An average of 120 children lived at the home. Some children were not orphans, but lived at the home temporarily because their parents were in tuberculosis sanitariums. Most children were from the Aleutian Islands and the Seward Peninsula, but children of all races and regions of Alaska were welcome and represented.

The children attended classes and helped maintain the home. In addition to the school curriculum, children repaired clothes, did laundry, fed and cared for the animals, and weeded the gardens. Children and staff built a hydroelectric dam to provide power and dug a half mile trench for a sewer line. Seasonally, they gathered berries and preserved fish and game. The "family concept" was practiced at the home. Children were divided into groups of about ten and were assigned two houseparents who had rooms near the children and ate family-style meals with them. A letter from Mrs. Hatton printed in the Cordova Daily Times, December 15, 1928, reported:

The children from the first to the eighth grades are sent to the Mission Territorial School. The Home has established and maintains its own High School. Besides the regular routine work, industrial work is stressed for all the children. . . . Practical work in cooking, sewing, laundrying, cleaning, etc., are taught all of the girls, while the older girls have regular classes in sewing, fancy work, cooking, foods, and food values, serving, etc.

The 100 acres of land owned by the Home has furnished a practical field for industrial work for the boys; clearing land, sawing wood, making fences, plowing, planting, and cultivating gardens, etc., has kept the 60 or more boys busy for the past three years.

In connection with the farm are eight head of cattle, 21 hogs, 150 hens, 12 milk goats, all kept and cared for by the boys under the direction of an instructor. Classes in manual training, carpentry, shoe repairing and rug making are also given for the good of the boys.

The children in the home are from widely scattered places. They come to us from as far north as Point Hope, beyond Nome, as far west as Attu Island, and we have ten children from Cordova.

While visiting Washington, D.C. in 1926, someone pointed out to Territorial Governor George A. Parks that Alaska was the only state or territory not represented in Washington by a flag. When he returned to Alaska, Parks organized a flag design contest, sponsored by the American Legion, that was open to all seventh and eighth grade students in the territory. The judges selected the design by John Ben "Benny" Benson, a student at the Jesse Lee

**USDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form**

Jesse Lee Home for Children  
Kenai Peninsula, Alaska

Page 10

=====

Home, from 142 entries. Benny was from the village of Chignik on the Alaska Peninsula. His mother was killed in a house fire and his father, a fisherman, was unable to care for his two small sons. Benny's design had eight stars of gold on a field of blue. His explanation of the design was: "The blue field is for the Alaska sky and the forget-me-not [now the state flower]; the North Star is for the future state of Alaska, the most northerly of thê Union. The Big Dipper is for the Great Bear, symbolizing strength." On July 9, 1927, the flag was first officially flown at the Jesse Lee Home. Today, July 9 is Alaska Flag Day.

Other Native leaders who lived at the Jesse Lee Home include Billy B. Johnson, a director of the Thirteenth Region Native Corporation, who lived at the home from 1926 to 1938; Kenneth Lowney, a civil engineer in Anchorage, who lived at the home from 1933 to 1942; and Linda Trigg who has been president of the Alaska Native Brotherhood.

In 1936, construction began on a dining hall. A.S. Hanson, Seattle, was the construction supervisor. Thousands of school children across the United States and Mr. and Mrs. Henry Pfeiffer contributed money. The school children's fund raiser commemorated Balto, one of the lead sled dogs of a team that participated in the effort to get serum from Nenana to Nome to prevent a diphtheria epidemic in the winter of 1926. The new building was named the Balto Building.

Fearful the home was an easy war target, the U.S. Army asked that it be temporarily closed in 1942. The children were moved to Native boarding schools at Eklutna, north of Anchorage, and the Wrangell Institute in southeast Alaska. The home's buildings were painted in camouflage because of their proximity to Fort Raymond, established in 1942.

The home reopened in 1946, but the children attended Bayview Elementary School and Seward High School instead of attending classes at the home. The gardens and livestock were replaced with government provided food. The number of children declined to between thirty and forty. Following the devastating March, Good Friday earthquake in 1964, the Methodist Women's Home Missionary Society decided to close the Seward Home. Goode Hall was severely damaged by the earthquake, and the other buildings needed major repairs. The State of Alaska supported foster homes instead of orphanages. In 1966, the Methodist Church deeded the property to the City of Seward. Later, the city sold the property to private owners. Two of the core buildings and the site of the third are within one parcel of private property. They are a reminder of the social thinking of an earlier generation and commemorate the young man who designed Alaska's flag.

AHRS SEW 003

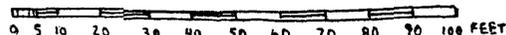
ALASKAS FLAG

Designed by Benny Benson  
Jesse Lee Home, Seward  
First flown there on  
July 9, 1927



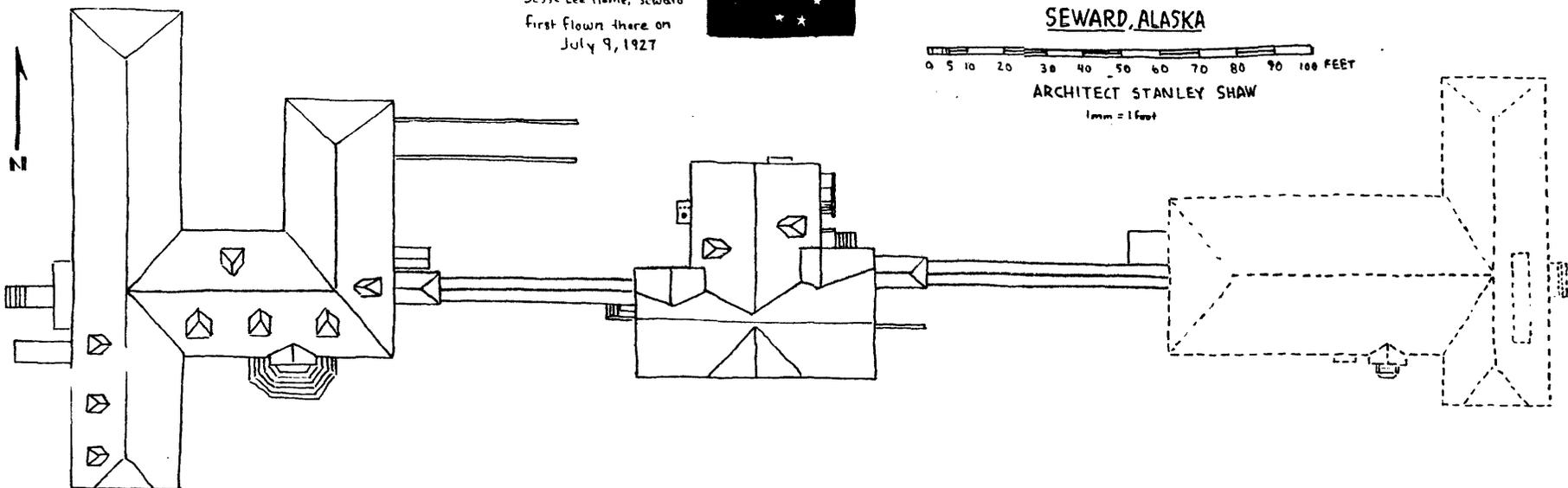
JESSE LEE HOME

SEWARD, ALASKA



ARCHITECT STANLEY SHAW

1mm = 1 foot



● SEW 162 Flag Raising Site



JEWEL GUARD HALL

Boys Dormitory  
built 1925-27  
builder John Holm

Western Arcade  
1936-37

BALTO BUILDING

built 1936-37  
builder A. S. Hanson

Eastern Arcade  
built 1936-37

GOODE HALL

girls dormitory  
built 1925-27  
builder John Holm  
(torn down c. 1972)