

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

For NPS use only

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

received MAY 2 1985
date entered 7

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic The Frances House AHRS SITE NO. JUN-076

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 137 Sixth Street not for publication

city, town Juneau vicinity of

state Alaska code county Juneau Division code

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name James B. Asper and Bridget A. Smith

street & number 137 Sixth Street

city, town Juneau vicinity of state Alaska

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Juneau Recording District

street & number 123 Seward Street

city, town Juneau state Alaska

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Alaska Heritage Resource Survey has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date July 26, 1973 federal state county local

State of Alaska
depository for survey records Division of Parks & Outdoor Recreation, Pouch 7001

city, town Anchorage state Alaska

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> moved date 1927
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Frances House is a wood frame, three story, detached dwelling, located in Juneau's residential area. The plan, a nearly square configuration thirty feet wide by thirty-four feet long, houses a total of 3060 square feet which is now divided into three apartments, one on each floor. The exterior elevations of this building show major elements of Queen Anne and occasional features of the Italianate style. The tall, narrow Italianate windows in the basement and first floors are echoed in the second floor where they are capped with a graceful Queen Anne arch with brackets and sunburst motif in the spandrel. The Queen Anne broken roofline with cresting and oversized cross gables provide large gable ends that are filled with shingles, creating an ornate textural effect. The shingle patterns, multiple squarebutt courses alternating with paired courses in fishscale pattern, flare out at the lowest course to the horizontal trim and provide a striking cap to the first two floors that are covered with horizontal wood drop siding. The simple, unadorned first and basement floors are connected to the detailed top floor by a horizontal trim course at the level of the first floor window heads. The turned columns supporting the entry roof, the unadorned frieze under the projecting eaves of the main roof, and the charming tall chimney all represent an ad-hoc evolution of other architectural styles into a pleasing blend of elements that work together in this elegant Queen Anne house.

The house is entered through either of the two covered porches on elevated walkways found on the north elevation. (One entry was reserved originally for formal occasions and the other opened directly into the kitchen area.) The doors are decorated with a floral relief pattern and are in sound condition. The windows are generally double hung, but also include a two story high bay on the south and a leaded glass piece in the formal entry hall. The formal entrance hall is adorned by a large oak staircase displaying turned railings as it ascends to the top floor. The interior trim is largely milled fir including the baseboards, window and door frames and sliding wood paneled doors separating the library from the original living room space. The living room ceiling is decorated with pulled plaster mouldings; the walls and ceilings are plaster and lath throughout the building. Original hardware still in common use includes the door plates, window latches and plates, and skeleton keys for interior doors.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates Built 1898 **Builder/Architect** Gerald Eicherly

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Frances House, built in 1898, is significant for its architectural character, its place in the historic development of the mining town, and association with important historic people who built and lived in the structure during the early development of Juneau.

Eighteen years after the discovery of gold in Juneau, Jerry Eicherly, postmaster and owner of the post office, built the Frances House. During that time, the house was leased to a Superintendent of the Perseverance Mine. In 1911, he sold it to John Rustgard, who owned it until 1927. Mr. Rustgard was the Attorney General of the Territory of Alaska from 1920 until 1933 as well as the author of a number of books on politics and economics. When the building was condemned by the city in 1927 to make way for the building of Capital School, Frances Davis purchased it. Mrs. Davis, one of the first recognized Alaskan painters, was married to J.M. Davis, the assistant manager of the Nowell Gold Mining Co. Her sons moved the house fifty feet to where it rests today. The building has been known to the community as "The Frances" since that time. The house remained in the Davis family until recently, under the stewardship of Trevor Davis, pioneer photographer and a prominent person throughout the history of Juneau in the civic and business community.

It is an outstanding example of late nineteenth century domestic vernacular architecture found in Juneau. Essentially the house is architecturally typical in materials, construction and scale for the period it was built in Juneau. It is significant for these reasons, but more so because stylistically this house is unique. A roofline like that found on the Frances House is not found elsewhere in Juneau. The design is a blending of different architectural influences from the continental U.S. with improvised changes to make it appropriate for Juneau. Detailing embodies unusually good design composition, and the quality of the craftwork is time-tested, in spite of minor changes in detailing that were made when the single family house was converted to boarding rooms (early 1900's) and the basement converted to an apartment (1929). The relationship of house to street is uniquely adapted to Juneau's topography and represents an interesting solution to a street regrading. The house is in a historic residential area where many of the "best" homes of early pioneers were located. It is a well known local landmark, appreciated for its reminder of Juneau's history. The structure retains character individually and as a significant example of Juneau's residential stock. The original fabric is intact and therefore its historic integrity as well.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Atwood, Evangeline and Bob DeArmond, Who's Who in Alaskan Politics.

Craft & Bradner, Touring Juneau, 1973.

Alaska Heritage Resource Survey, State of Alaska, Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation.
Personal Communications.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 1/16 (approx.)

Quadrangle name Juneau (B-2) Alaska

Quadrangle scale 1:63 360

UTM References

A

0	8	5	3	4	7	0	0	6	4	6	2	2	5	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

B

Zone		Easting				Northing								

C

Zone		Easting				Northing								

D

Zone		Easting				Northing								

E

Zone		Easting				Northing								

F

Zone		Easting				Northing								

G

Zone		Easting				Northing								

H

Zone		Easting				Northing								

Verbal boundary description and justification

The Northwest one-half of Lot 5, Block 22, Townsite of Juneau,
Juneau, Alaska.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title James B. Asper and Bridget A. Smith, owners

organization

date September 29, 1983

street & number 137 Sixth Street

telephone (907) 586-1411

city or town Juneau

state Alaska

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

William B. Burkhong

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date March 29, 1985

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I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

William B. Burkhong
for Keeper of the National Register

date 6/7/85

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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Continuation sheet Frances House (JUN-076)

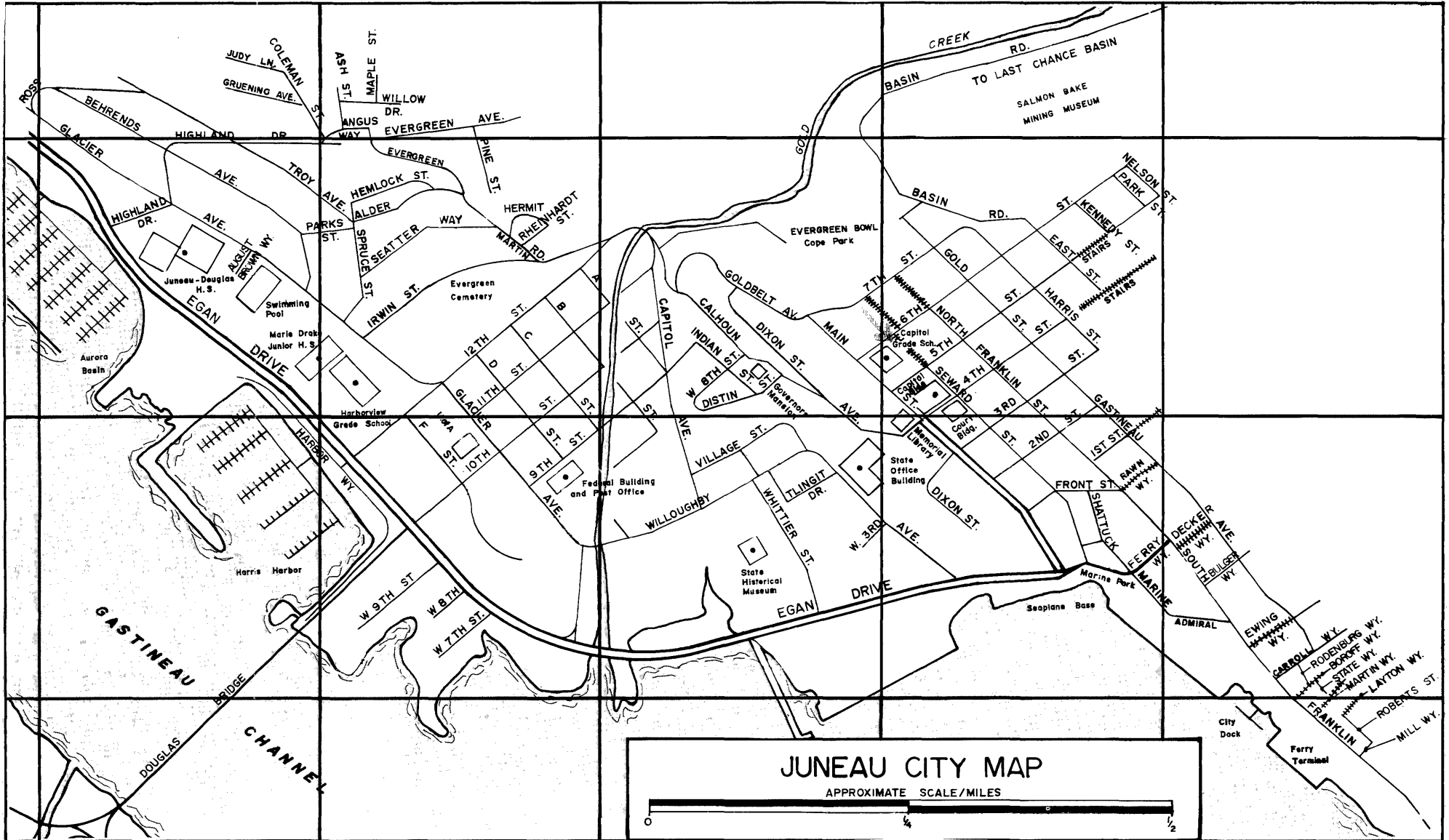
Item number 7

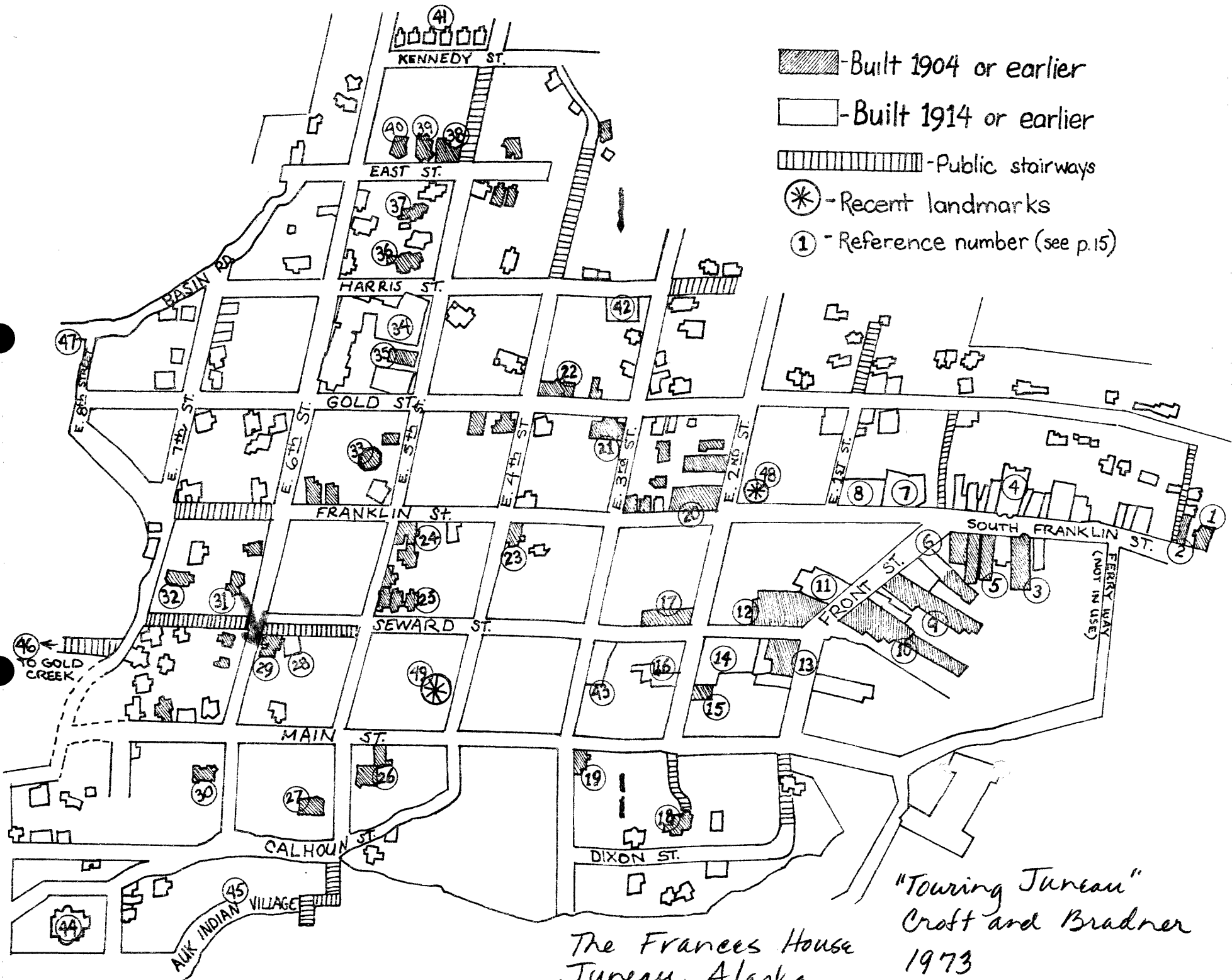
Page 2 of 2






The building is structurally sound despite the building having been moved fifty feet east to a new, adjacent site in 1927 to clear land for construction of Capitol School. The original house was altered by converting the basement into a living unit. The placement of the original basement windows was changed and a covered porch added on the same level. Three small dormers were added on the top floor in the late 1920's as well as an exterior emergency staircase from the top floor. The historic integrity is unaffected in general by additions made as a consequence of the move as they became part of the building more than fifty years ago.

The Frances House
AHR5 Jun 076
137 Sixth Street

Located at corner of Sixth Street
and Seward Street stairs





-  - Built 1904 or earlier
-  - Built 1914 or earlier
-  - Public stairways
-  - Recent landmarks
-  - Reference number (see p.15)

The Frances House
Juneau, Alaska

"Touring Juneau"
Croft and Bradner
1973