

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

PH 0504718

FOR NPS USE ONLY	<b>DATA SHEET</b>
RECEIVED	SEP 26 1977
DATE ENTERED	FEB 17 1978

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

\*\*

Alaska Steam Laundry (AHRS SITE NO. JUN-018)

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

174 South Franklin St.

\_\_NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Juneau

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Alaska

\_\_ VICINITY OF

Alaska, at large

CODE

02

COUNTY

Juneau-Douglas District 110

CODE

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

LE BOVICH 2/18/78

**CATEGORY**

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

**OWNERSHIP**

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH

**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**

- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

**STATUS**

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS

**ACCESSIBLE**

- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

**PRESENT USE**

- AGRICULTURE
- COMMERCIAL
- EDUCATIONAL
- ENTERTAINMENT
- GOVERNMENT
- INDUSTRIAL
- MILITARY
- MUSEUM
- PARK
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- RELIGIOUS
- SCIENTIFIC
- TRANSPORTATION
- OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

J.S. MacKinnon, Jr.

(907) 586-1133

STREET & NUMBER

1114 Glacier Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Juneau

\_\_ VICINITY OF

STATE

Alaska 99801

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

First Recording District, Juneau

STREET & NUMBER

Pouch V, Capitol Office Bldg.

CITY, TOWN

Juneau

STATE

Alaska 99801

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

Alaska Heritage Resources Survey (AHRS) (907) 274-4676

DATE

6-15-1976

\_\_FEDERAL  STATE \_\_COUNTY \_\_LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

619 Warehouse Drive, Suite 210

CITY, TOWN

Anchorage

STATE

Alaska 99501

# 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED      DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Physically, the exterior front appearance of Alaska Steam Laundry is almost identical to the facade under construction in 1901 and in operation by 1902. Then one of the most impressive business structures in Juneau or Alaska, the entire building could be seen and viewed; as it was surrounded by an open-space with a walk-way along the sides and rear. This was then First Street, in the heart of the business district. Later, as First Street became South Franklin--with growth pressure and high real-estate values--other buildings encroached and abutted on the sides and rear. For many years, residents have been denied the eye-filling quality of the full building. The commanding front tower remains a landmark despite the general decline of this old district.

As constructed, Alaska Steam Laundry was of modified Victorian design. In addition to the commanding semi-circular tower which juts from the left-hand corner second story, with conical roof a story higher, the otherwise horizontal store front, except for modest supporting frames, was entirely plate glass. The upper story front including the tower had nine large, but more conventional windows. Seventeen windows graced both side elevations for a total of 34, and there were 12 windows at the rear. Exterior finish at sides, rear and upper-story front was of horizontal shiplap. Twenty-four scrolled beams overhang the lower roof at tower and front elevation. The front roof which showed, was of parquet shingle pattern, with special attractive emphasis on the tower roof; topped by a six foot flagpole.

Front dimensions of the building are 39 feet, with a 3 feet overhang of the tower at the second story. It measures 32 feet high along the roof line, with the tower roof rising 8 feet above this. Length of the building is 60 feet.

The Alaska Steam Laundry occupied the full downstairs area; with quality apartments upstairs. In 1929, when a new plant was built at 175 Shattuck Way by then manager "Sim" MacKinnon, the downstairs became a sales outlet for the new plant and the largely outmoded mechanical equipment was removed. The trade name went out of existence at that time. Apartments continued upstairs. In 1965, a new and larger facility, including extensive dry-cleaning and a laundrymat was built by the MacKinnon's at 1114 Glacier Avenue and this phased out both the South Franklin and Shattuck Way operations.

The former Alaska Steam Laundry became entirely a business building, with an office supply firm downstairs and various offices upstairs. The office supply firm continues downstairs; and the upstairs has become a boutique, including arts and crafts shops, healthfoods, and a mountaineering-skiing store during the 1970's.

Even today after many years of changed usage, older residents refer to the structure as "The Alaska Steam Laundry Building."

# 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 type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" 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 1901 - Present

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

E. R. Jaeger

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

An excellent architectural example of an important commercial enterprise which bridged the historical continuity of 19th and 20th Century Juneau. When it became apparent after the 1880 placer gold strike that Juneau would not be a quick "boom and bust" camp --but rather would enjoy a long, prosperous future, with great mechanized mills, mines and a large payroll of miners, it grew more progressively than other mining camps and reached a level of sophistication surpassing any other in Alaska in the 19th Century. This was assured by, first, the Treadwell mines, just across the narrow Gastineau Channel on Douglas Island. Deep mining started there in 1882. By 1885, four corporate groups were mining; and several stamp mills and a smelter were in operation. In 1890 all operations at Douglas consolidated into the great Alaska Treadwell Gold Mining Company. It had then produced \$14,000,000 from its four mines and 880 stamps in five mills. It would add some \$40 million more to this by 1917 when wiped-out by an unexpected ocean cave-in. On the Juneau side, starting the same pattern only a few years later, the Alaska-Juneau Gold Co., began acquiring all claims in that district, combined into one great mine and mill which operated up to 1948 and produced \$67 million in gold.

Juneau was officially made the capitol of Alaska in 1900, with the executive offices gradually moved from Sitka by 1906. This brought about the residence here of most of the territorial and federal employees in Alaska, in 7 Territorial departments and 27 Federal offices.

At Tacoma, Washington in 1894, Mr. and Mrs. E.R. Jaeger flipped a coin to determine whether they should move to Hawaii or Alaska. The coin favored Alaska. In January, 1895, Mr. Jaeger selected Juneau as the most promising business location in the Territory, and arrived by steamship from Seattle. Because of the extensive payroll of miners and millworkers--mostly single--laundry and cleaning was a lucrative enterprise. He leased the Juneau Steam Laundry from A.H. Day, then located in log cabin on the hillside at the end of 2nd just beyond where the Baranof Hotel was later built. Mrs. Jaeger joined him in March, traveling on the maiden voyage of the new flagship of the leading Alaska line, Willapa. The Jaeger family, soon increased by the birth of a daughter, Hazel, lived in an adjoining cabin and operated the laundry from there for several years. Then they moved to a larger existing building on Front Street. Having prospered, he decided to build a show-case operation which would have outlets in Apollo, Valdez, Sitka, Ketchikan and Wrangell; thus the name: Alaska Steam Laundry. The Jaeger's resided in the master apartment upstairs while Hazel attended local schools. Then they built a home on Fourth Avenue.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

The Influential Weekly, Vol. 1, No. 1, March 1, 1976, Juneau.  
 De Armond, R.N., The Founding of Juneau, Gastineau Channel Centennial Assoc., Olney Printing Co., Seattle, Wash., 1976.  
Citizens of Juneau: A Modern City, Souvenir Ed., Record-Miner Printing, 1907.  
 Files: Alaska-Yukon Magazine, Vol. 3 (March) and Vol. 4, (Sept.), 1907; Alaska Monthly Magazine; Vol. 3, Nov. 1906, Oct. 1907. Annual Reports, Alaska Juneau Mining Co., and Alaska Treadwell Gold Mining Co.

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY -1 *less than 1 acre*

UTM REFERENCES

*975* *100*

A	0 8	5 3 4 6 7 6	6 4 6 2 5 1 7	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Lot 10, Block 81, 174 South Franklin Street

## 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

Michael S. Kennedy, Historian

ORGANIZATION

Alaska Division of Parks

STREET & NUMBER

619 Warehouse Drive, Suite 210

CITY OR TOWN

Anchorage

DATE

March 10, 1977

TELEPHONE

(907) 274-4676

STATE

Alaska 99501

# 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 Shevabe*

TITLE

*State Historic Preservation Officer*

DATE

*September 16, 1977*

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

*Robert B. Rettig*  
 DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

*William Shevabe*  
 KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE *2/17/78*

DATE *2-14-78*

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**CONTINUATION SHEET** 1901-present      **ITEM NUMBER** 8      **PAGE** 1 of 2

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While attending Juneau High School, Hazel was a classmate of James Simpson MacKinnon, son of a pioneer Fortymile and Juneau mining family. Hazel attended Mills College in California and then returned to Alaska to teach. "Sim" MacKinnon, was appointed to the U.S. Naval Academy and graduated as an officer. They were married in 1923 and spent several years in the Orient, where their son, J.S. Jr., was born, at Manila. In 1926 "Sim" retired from the Navy and returned to Juneau to take over management of his Father-in-law's laundry business--which, although no longer "Alaska Steam", nor at the same location, continues into the fourth generation. Grandson Neil MacKinnon, a graduate of the University of Alaska at Fairbanks, is now preparing plans for restoration of the old Alaska Steam Laundry building at 174 South Franklin Street.

Alaska Steam Laundry is one of the better existing examples of the transition of Juneau from mining camp to Capital City.

Scale Drawing, Front Elevation (left) Alaska Steam Laundry  
and presently appended adjoining structure, right.  
Neil MacKinnon, 1977.

1/8th scale.

