

United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For HCRS use only

received APR 28 1982

date entered

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

1. Name

historic J.M. Davis House (AHRS Site No. JUN-078)

and/or common Davis House

2. Location

street & number 202 6th Street not for publication

city, town Juneau vicinity of congressional district Alaska at large

state Alaska code 02 county Juneau Division code 110

3. Classification

Table with 4 columns: Category, Ownership, Status, Present Use. Includes options like district, building(s), site, object, public/private/both, occupied/unoccupied/work in progress, accessible (yes: restricted/unrestricted/no), agriculture/commercial/educational/entertainment/government/industrial/military, museum/park/private residence/religious/scientific/transportation/other: State Landmark.

4. Owner of Property

name Linn H. Asper and Mary K. Asper

street & number P.O. Box 37

city, town Haines vicinity of state Alaska 99827

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Juneau Recording District

street & number Pouch DR (State Office Building)

city, town Juneau state Alaska 99811

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Alaska Heritage Resources Survey #JUN-078 has this property been determined eligible? X yes no

date 7-27-73 federal X state county local

depository for survey records State of Alaska, Division of Parks, Office of History & Archaeology 619 Warehouse Avenue, Alaska

city, town Anchorage (907) 276-4676 state Alaska 99501

7. Description

Condition excellent good fair deteriorated ruins unexposed**Check one** unaltered altered**Check one** original site moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

This prominently-sited, stylish English-type 1892 landmark--a large two-story residence--was built (and today) is entirely of wood frame construction. The distinctive cross-gable roof has a dominant, bay at each wing. The closed porch, also, has a notable and attractive, bay extension. Three large well-grouped windows add decorative quality to the second story front, above the elongated porch. The exterior has always been shingled--in its entirety--with distinctive patterned shinglework under the gable which faces on 6th Street.

As originally built, the full-length veranda-like porch, was open. The porch due to "Taku Winds," however, was soon closed in, and part of it was extended into a second, large bay on the south side of the building facing 6th Street. The west wing, with its balancing bay, was added soon after construction by the original owners. In other regards the building retains its original appearance and integrity. It is readily recognizable from photographs taken while under construction in 1892.

The dimensions of this venerable Juneau mansion were most impressive for the time and place--and because of the high ground--the building yet remains impressive at this late date. The interior--with its large gracious rooms and quality woodwork finishing--has always possessed considerable 19th Century charm. Modernization of heating and plumbing facilities were done early in this century. But these alterations affected the original style and design only to a slight degree.

This landmark residence now overlooks the later Capitol buildings complex--as well as the oldest business and residential districts. Mount Juneau continues to tower majestically--a fitting, and very powerfull backdrop! The J.M. Davis House has generally been well maintained all of its life. Thus, to the uninitiated, it does not appear possible that the home actually dates from the first 12 years of Juneau's founding as Alaska's first significant gold camp--also the Capitol of both Alaska Territory and the State of Alaska--for three-quarters of a century.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify) Period home.
	<input type="checkbox"/> invention			

Specific dates Constructed 1892 **Builder/Architect** Mr. & Mrs. J.M. Davis

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Rare among the oldest quality residences built in early-day Juneau--the J.M. Davis House ranks as the first mansion of exceptional architectural charm and distinction. This building bears rich association with the history and lifestyle of Juneau after 1892. It is associated with many persons of prominence (including the builders) and significant events. It has been considered a "landmark" structure by Juneauites through most of this century.

Mrs. J.M. Davis--wife of the builder--was a wealthy artist (from England) who visited early-day Juneau to paint and to observe the frontier gold rush camp. She met Mr. Davis (who was a Juneau prospector and miner) on the ship which brought her into Juneau. After their marriage, the Davis's built the "mansion" on the further side of the old Boston Mining Claim--paying \$25 to clear title in order to build on this choice view site. Because Mrs. Davis was wealthy they also had 6th Street cleared in order to better proceed with their ambitious home-building project. There were no other residences then on the commanding part of Sixth Street, prior to this construction of the J.M. Davis House. (In fact, this is now one of the two or three oldest surviving residences in all of Juneau.) The West wing of the large, (at the time, pretentious "Mansion") was added by the Davis's about 1900 to provide Mrs. Davis with a studio for her painting. Some of her art work (oil paintings) are among the best in the Alaska State Museum collection at Juneau. The impressive house was the childhood residence of the Davis's son, Trevor, who was Annapolis (U.S. Naval Academy) educated, and became a pioneer photographer of Alaskan scenes, prominent in civic and business affairs in Juneau. For some years the house was later leased to be the residence of the Admiral commanding the U.S. Coast Guard District; with headquarters in Juneau.

Mrs. Trevor Davis, septugenarian daughter-in-law of the J.M. Davis's--is a former Poet Laureate of Alaska, who has also written and studied the music, art and poetry of the Tlingit Indians--and has other made significant cultural contributions to Alaska. She is a noted long-time musician and teacher, yet active in Juneau public, social and cultural affairs--as are their her children and grandchildren. The Davis Clan has been significantly associated with Alaskan history, art, ethnography, photography, music and cultural advancement, for almost a century. The Home continues as a fitting memorial to a distinguished Alaskan family--and as a true Alaskan Landmark.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Croft and Bradner, "Touring Juneau", 1973, p. 22

10. Geographical Data

Alaska + some part of...

Acreege of nominated property 1/4 (approx.)

Quadrangle name Juneau (B-2) USGS

Quadrangle scale 1:63 360

UMT References

A

0	8	5	3	4	6	5	0	6	4	6	2	4	0	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

Lots 1 and 2, Block 28, Juneau Townsite, Juneau Recording District, First Judicial District, State of Alaska (originally patented as portion of Boston Mining Claim)

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 Linn H. Asper/Owner

organization

date 3-14-80

street & number P.O. Box 37

telephone 907-766-2555
766-2580

city or town Haines

state Alaska 99827

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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

[Handwritten Signature]

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date 4/13/82

For HCRS use only

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

[Handwritten Signature]
Keeper of the National Register

date 8-31-82

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration