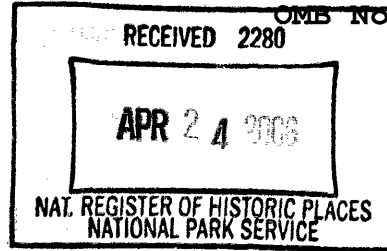


463

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



OMB No 1024-0018

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 Juneau Memorial Library

other names/site number Veterans Memorial Building
AHRS Site No. JUN-00038

=====

2. Location

=====

street & number 114 West Fourth Street

not for publication n/a

city or town Juneau vicinity n/a

state Alaska code AK county Juneau code 110

zip code 99801

USDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form

Juneau Memorial Library

Juneau, 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.)

John M. Anderson

4/11/06

Signature of certifying official

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 6.7.06

other (explain):

for

Signature of Keeper

Date of Action

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Juneau Memorial Library

Juneau, Alaska

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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> 1 </u>	<input type="checkbox"/> buildings
<u> 1 </u>	<input type="checkbox"/> sites
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> structures
<input type="checkbox"/>	<u> 2 </u> objects
<u> 2 </u>	<u> 2 </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

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Juneau Memorial Library

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6. Function or Use

=====

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: education Sub: library
recreation and culture monument/marker

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: recreation and culture Sub: museum
recreation and culture monument/marker

=====

7. Description

=====

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Neo-Classical Revival

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation concrete
roof asphalt
walls concrete
other n/a

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

The Juneau Memorial Library has a commanding presence, sitting on a hillside at the corner of Fourth and Main streets, across from the Alaska State Capitol and overlooking downtown Juneau. Now the city museum, the former library is a two story, concrete building with Neo-Classical Revival architectural elements, and a side gable wood-framed, low pitch roof. The foundation, basement, walls, and exterior decorative elements are reinforced concrete. A full height pedimented porch intersects the façade. A sloping walkway to one side and a stair to the other extend from the porch. The property is partially surrounded by a rough stone and concrete retaining wall from the street to the level of the lawn. Prominent on the front lawn of the property is the Alaska statehood site with a commemorative marker situated between two flagpoles (counted as one site). Behind the building, a narrow concrete walkway separates the building from a concrete retaining wall marking the edge of the property. Two totem poles, *Harnessing the Atom* by Amos Wallace installed in 1970 and *Four Story Pole* by John Wallace installed in 1994, are on the property and counted as non-contributing objects.

The full height pedimented, porch, cornice and frieze display Neo-Classical Revival architectural elements. Centered in the gable above the porch is a circular, red marble inlay. A cornice and wide dentil frieze are below the pediment. They continue across the front and side elevations. Also below the pediment is a high-inward-angled, inset trabeated entryway with molding and trim. A metal book drop is on the southwest side wall of the entry, and a red marble square inlay etched with "1951" is on the northeast wall. Four large red marble panels are located above the metal framed, glass

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)

- X 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.
X F a commemorative property.
X G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

Community planning and development
Social history
Politics/government

Period of Significance 1951-1959

Significant Dates 1951
1959

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)
n/a

Cultural Affiliation n/a

Architect/Builder Ross & Malcolm

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Juneau Memorial Library

Juneau, Alaska

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9. Major Bibliographical References
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(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

Alaska Library Association, "Public Libraries: The Juneau Public Library System," Sourdough Newsletter, Vol. 12, No. 3.

"A Short History of Juneau," in *Juneau Convention and Visitor Bureau Visitors Guide* (1999).

Blackwell, Mike. Interview with author, January 2006.

Borneman, Walter R. *Alaska: Saga of a Bold Land*. New York: Harper Collins Publishers, Inc., 2003.

Daily Alaska Empire, November 1951, January 4, 1959, July 6, 1959.

Daniels, Linda. Early Juneau. Manuscript in files of Juneau-Douglas City Museum, Juneau, Alaska. 2003.

DeArmond, Bob. "Juno's Days of Yore," July 4, 1987.

"The 49th Star," *The Wall Street Journal*, July 2, 1958.

Gastineau Channel Memories, Vol. 1, p. 98. Juneau: Pioneer Book Committee, 2001.

Gotschall, Gerald. Personal communication with author, July 15, 2004.

Juneau Rotary Club. *Celebrating 60 Years of Service Above Self*. Juneau: privately printed, 1995.

Metcalf, Mac, "The Cold War Chills Juneau; Statehood Warms It Up," *Juneau Empire*, 2003.

Pierce, Donna, and Barbara Berg. Interview with author, August 6, 2004.

Stewart, Jeannette. *Library Service in Alaska; An Historical Study*. Unpublished M.A. thesis, University of Washington, 1957. Copy in files at the University of Alaska Anchorage Library.

Wilson, Rod. Personal communication with author, July 20, 2004.

Wyatt, Mary Pat. Interview with author, July 23, 2004.

USDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form

Juneau Memorial Library
Juneau, Alaska

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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

Local government

University

Other

Name of repository:

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property less than one

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

	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	08	534506	6462458	3		
2				4		
	<u>See continuation sheet.</u>					

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

The property is located on lots 3 and FR 4, block 20, Juneau Townsite as shown on the attached site map. The property is bounded by Calhoun Avenue to the southwest, West Fourth Street to the southeast, and Main Street to the northeast. To the northwest, the property abuts a private residence, located at 113 West Fifth Street, and State of Alaska offices.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundaries are shown on the accompanying site map. They include all of the two lots acquired by the City of Juneau in 1946 for the memorial library building and include the site where the official Alaska statehood ceremony took place on July 4, 1959.

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Juneau Memorial Library

Juneau, Alaska

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11. Form Prepared By
=====

name/title Alysia McLain

organization City and Borough of Juneau/Juneau-Douglas City Museum

date February 15, 2006

street & number 155 South Seward Street

telephone 907-586-3572

city or town Juneau **state** AK **zip code** 99801

=====
Additional Documentation
=====

Submit the following items with the completed form:

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 City and Borough of Juneau

street & number 155 South Seward Street

telephone 907-586-3572

city or town Juneau **state** AK **zip code** 99801

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Juneau Memorial Library

Juneau, Alaska

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double doors. "Juneau-Douglas City Museum" in metal lettering is on the two lower panels. Painted, metal flag hanging fixtures are on either side of the entrance. The fixtures were added when the museum moved into the building in 1989. The ramp landing juts out two feet from the doorway. A ramp descends to the street to the southwest, and a stairway descends to the street to the northeast. Originally, a staircase existed in place of the platform, but to comply with public building access requirements the stairs were replaced in the early 1980s.

The front porch is flanked by bands of windows. Each band is comprised of five metal framed awning windows with four sashes. The windowsills are of formed concrete. The foundation, also of textured, reinforced concrete, is painted green and extends two feet above ground and outward. Spaced rows of 4 over 4 glass blocks in the foundation allow light into the basement. East of the main entrance, a concrete stairway with metal railing provides access to the basement.

On the northeast side, a large pediment with a circular, louvered vent, and the cornice and frieze, is above a large trabeated window opening that has 18 square, 3 across and 6 down, windows. A stained glass artwork of the same dimensions has been installed behind the window. The foundation extends from the lower edge of the window and forms a half round concrete planter. The north half of this elevation is recessed two feet. Two 3 sash awning windows are at the far end of the elevation, with a third window of the same style at the end creating an unsupported corner. The roof of this back section is an elevated low-pitched built up roof that appears to be flashed to the main roof. Originally, the back roof was flat, but before 1980 was made a shed roof. The joint between the two roofs is covered with several rows of shingles and roofing asphalt.

The back elevation resembles the front elevation with a protruding central portion and two wings, but lacks the decorative elements. The pediment and cornice along this elevation are similar, but the frieze is not ornamented. In the center of this elevation are four awning windows with three sashes above formed-concrete sills and textured, reinforced concrete panels. The windows and panels are separated by five smooth pilasters. The lower level window at the southwest end has been replaced with a metal personnel door. A sheltered subterranean stairway provides access to the boiler room in the basement. Two frosted-glass vertically stacked, horizontally oriented awning windows are located between the projecting center of the elevation and the stairway. A short, wide metal door provides exterior access to a wood/coal bin at the southwest end of the elevation. The doorframe juts out from the elevation slightly, and is covered with pvc roofing membrane. At the northwest end a wood framed, corrugated plastic awning is above a metal personnel door. The roof is composed of three-tab composite shingles. The retaining wall along the back edge of the property slopes down to the southwest meeting the building just below the window sill at the southwest corner of the back elevation.

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Juneau Memorial Library

Juneau, Alaska

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On the southwest side elevation, a small pedimented portico with a raking cornice is over a vertically stacked awning window and a wide, metal, personnel door at the northwest end. The window and door were added along with an intercom for accessibility. The rest of the elevation mirrors that of the northeast elevation. The large window on this side also has stained glass artwork.

Returning to the façade, the main doors open into a high coved ceiling foyer with galleries on either side. Originally, the two large wood frame doors with a glass light were separated by a wall. The wall was removed and the original doors were put together making a set of double doors.

The Juneau Memorial Library outgrew the space and in the 1980s moved to new larger quarters. The old building became the city museum. Although the building has had exterior and interior changes since its construction in 1951, it retains its historic and physical integrity. It has always been used by the community for civic purposes.

In front of the building a ceremony officially proclaiming Alaska's statehood occurred on July 4, 1959. For the event two metal flag poles and a commemorative marker were permanently placed at the site. The marker is bronze, measures 2 feet by 1 foot, and is even with the ground. It is inscribed: Commemorating the Raising of the 49th Star Flag, July 4th 1959, Juneau, Alaska. A 49-star U.S. flag and the Alaska flag are flown.

Two totem poles stand on the property, considered to be noncontributing objects. Off the corner of the northeast side of the building is the 34-foot *Four Story Pole* carved by Haida artist John Wallace. This painted wood totem was installed in 1994. Near the southwest corner of the building is the fourteen foot *Harnessing the Atom* pole carved by Tlingit artist Amos Wallace. This totem was installed in 1970. The pieces were installed after the period of significance and are not associated with the building as a library or with the statehood ceremony.

The building dominates the site, although the statehood site is in a commanding location on the lawn in front of the building entrance.

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Juneau Memorial Library

Juneau, Alaska

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

The Juneau Memorial Library, completed in 1951, was the first major community project initiated by Juneau residents. The local Rotary Club undertook construction of a library building for the town's residents as a memorial to the men and women of the area who fought in World Wars I and II. The building stands on a prominent location in the community, next to Alaska's state capitol, on a hill overlooking downtown Juneau with a residential area behind it. A local architectural firm designed the stately reinforced concrete building incorporating Neo-Classical Revival architectural elements. On the building's lot is the Alaska Statehood Site, consisting of two flagpoles and a commemorative marker. This site is significant as the official site of the Alaska statehood ceremony and first raising of the 49 star United States flag on July 4, 1959. Although this event occurred less than fifty years ago, the site is of exceptional significance to Alaska as one of few designated locations of official statehood ceremonies. It is a commemorative site, but also is the location associated with a significant event in the history of Alaska. The building housed the community's library until the mid-1980s. It is now the city's museum, continuing to be a public facility serving the community. The period of significance starts in 1951 when the library opened and ends in 1959 to encompass the statehood event.

Historic background

Following the discovery of gold on Gold Creek in Silver Bow Basin in 1880, the town of Juneau was established. It became a center for large scale hard-rock mining. The city incorporated in 1900 and became Alaska's capital in 1906. It was Alaska's largest community from 1920 to 1950.

In 1897 the Juneau Public Library Association, comprised mainly of local ministers, organized and provided a library collection that was housed in the federal courthouse. In 1898 the building burned and the library with it. A library was not reestablished. In 1906 a party of American Library Association visitors met with Juneau's mayor and left a collection of books. The mayor told the group he would try to get the City Council to pass an ordinance to establish a free library. Apparently, the Carnegie Library Foundation Association made an offer of a building to the city after the visit. Juneau did not have a public library again, however, until 1914 when the Juneau Draper Club, a civic group, founded one. The club bought books, rented a small building, and hired a librarian. They opened a reading room in August 1914 and a circulation department in December 1914. A Juneau Library Association organized in April 1915, and at the end of the year reported 141 monthly subscribers and 55 yearly subscribers to the association. In a letter to the librarian at the Seattle Public Library, dated May 18, 1915, the association's president wrote that "Our library is small, consisting of about fifteen hundred books, and at present the position pays \$75 per month. It is a free circulating library with a reading room. We prefer a lady, one not too young, and a Protestant. If you know of any person or persons who would

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Juneau, Alaska

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like this position, will you please have them apply as soon as possible?" On the first anniversary the library cited impressive statistics. They had 1,180 borrowers, 350 of whom were children. During December 1915 there had been 700 people visiting the reading room.

The Draper Club paid \$150 to operate the library, and in 1915 the president, B. D. (Ben) Stewart, said the group could not continue to support it. Stewart, however, also was the city's mayor. He persuaded the City Council to pledge \$1,800 a year for library support. The City of Juneau took over the library on August 16, 1918, and housed it in two rooms on the top floor of Juneau City Hall. The Juneau librarian wrote an article, "Libraries in Alaska," that appeared in the American Library Association's journal in 1918. The librarian mentioned that Juneau "has not been able to accept the generous offer of a \$20,000 building" made the year before by the Carnegie Library Foundation. By the end of World War II the two rooms were badly overcrowded. The Juneau City Hall was razed in 1950 for construction of the Alaska Office Building, and the library moved temporarily to the Teen Age Club on South Seward Street.

Rev. Herbert Hillerman, Juneau Rotary Club president, announced at the August 28, 1945, meeting--shortly after World War II ended--that building a library as a memorial and tribute to area veterans of the World Wars would be the club's top priority. The next year, under the leadership of B. Frank Heintzleman, B. D. Stewart, and James C. Ryan, the Rotary Club purchased the Olds family property at the corner of West Fourth and Main streets and hired architects Ross and Malcolm to design a building to be the community library. The federal Public Works Administration advanced funds to pay for architectural services. The architects completed the drawings in 1946 and the Juneau Memorial Library Board of the Rotary Club sold the land that year for \$2,500.00 to the city. In 1949 a new Alaska Public Works program allowed the architects to increase the size of the building and add the basement to the plans. The Rotary Club then called upon members of the community for donations to construct the building.

"Want to buy a ticket?" was heard throughout town. Service clubs, fraternal organizations, church groups and members of the community sold tickets to bazaars, hosted home cooked food sales, dinners, card parties, dances, white elephant sales, minstrel shows and even peddled chances to win an automobile. The Alaska Native Brotherhood and Sisterhood performed tribal dances and the Filipino Community held a special dance and costume exhibition. Residents raised \$82,000 and the federal Public Works Administration provided another \$71,000 for construction (*Celebrating 60 Years of Service Above Self*, 1995). Ann Coleman, longtime and beloved community librarian, broke ground for the building on September 10, 1950.

At the dedication ceremony November 11, 1951, Heintzleman said, "this project represents I think the finest example in this territory of community spirit and enterprise working for a cultural project to benefit 'old and young, rich and poor'". The construction of the library was the first major community effort to "obtain a facility of major size by the direct method of public contributions," making it an example of community

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Juneau Memorial Library

Juneau, Alaska

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planning and development in Juneau. Heintzleman insisted the library serve some twenty smaller communities in the Juneau area as well.

Many local residents view the building as a landmark in the community and have fond memories of it. In 1951, Mike Blackwell was eleven and remembers being paid twenty-five cents an hour to work for Miss Lomen, the librarian, after school each day for two hours and on Saturday afternoons. The first floor housed fiction and non-fiction and had a high shelf with books children were not allowed to check out. Blackwell remembers that one could examine the loan record in the books, and he often looked at who had checked out a particular book. He also recalls that the new building was spacious and "for a long time there was a lot more room than books." The library was designed to house 18,000 volumes. The children's section in the basement was called the Ann Coleman Room.

Today, the building is home to the Juneau-Douglas City Museum. According to former librarians Donna Pierce and Barbara Berg, because of the strong emotional attachment to the building the City Museum was the only suitable tenant. At the May 16, 1989, assembly meeting, local Veterans of Foreign Wars and Donna Olds Barton suggested the building be rededicated as the Veterans Memorial Building. The rededication ceremony was held July 1, 1989, as part of the opening of the Juneau-Douglas City Museum in the building. The building is now dedicated to "all the men and women of the Juneau Area who served in our country's Foreign Wars."

On the library property is the Alaska Statehood Site, significant as the official site of the statehood ceremony and first raising of the 49 star flag on July 4, 1959. Non-voting territorial delegate James Wickersham introduced the first bill for Alaska statehood in the U.S. House of Representatives in 1916. Low population, geographical separation from the other states, and how Alaskans would pay the expenses of statehood delayed statehood for more than forty years. Finally, President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed the proclamation admitting Alaska as the 49th state of the union on January 3, 1959. By executive order the new 49 star national flag did not become the official ensign until July 4th of the year.

An estimated three thousand people stood at attention as the first 49 star flag was raised in front of the Juneau Memorial Library by a military honor guard on July 4, 1959. Author, lecturer, world traveler and New Yorker, Lowell Thomas was master of ceremonies. At 3:00 p.m. Governor Bill Egan spoke to the crowd while the flag was being raised. One of the territorial governors, Waino E. Hendrickson, was present. The site, marked with a commemorative plaque between the flagpoles, was dedicated at the ceremony. Two large weather balloons carrying flags of Alaska and the nation were released in the hopes they would carry the news of Alaska statehood to the rest of the world. A parade went past the front of the library after the ceremony. The July 6, 1959, edition of the Juneau newspaper reported "Special guests from across the nation observed the 49th star flag raising ceremonies from stands at one wing of the State Office Building. The State signs were carried by members of a delegation of Westinghouse appliance dealers who flew to Juneau for the ceremonies."

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The flagpoles at the site fly a 49 star flag and an Alaska flag and the plaque can be read by people passing on the sidewalk. Only two other sites in Alaska associated with Alaska statehood have been documented and designated historic places. Constitution Hall on the University of Alaska campus at Fairbanks was listed in the National Register of Historic Places on November 3, 2005, for its association with the 1955-1956 Constitutional Convention. The American Flag Raising Site at Sitka, designated a National Historic Landmark on October 15, 1966, is another site of an official statehood ceremony, but it is better known as the site of the ceremonial transfer of Alaska from Russian to U.S. administration in 1867.

For the residents, the Juneau Memorial Library building stands as a tribute to their commitment to the community, and the well-being and education of its residents. The statehood site is appropriate in the community that was the capital of the Territory of Alaska and is the capital of the State of Alaska.

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Juneau Memorial Library

Juneau, Alaska

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Section photograph identification
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1. Juneau Memorial Library
Juneau, Alaska
Richard Kent
July 2005
City and Borough of Juneau, 155 South Seward Street, Juneau, Alaska
99801
Looking northeast, library in center, from left, private residences,
former school, and state capitol

2. Juneau Memorial Library
Juneau, Alaska
Richard Kent
July 2005
City and Borough of Juneau, 155 South Seward Street, Juneau, Alaska
99801
Looking northwest at building's façade

3. Juneau Memorial Library
Juneau, Alaska
Richard Kent
July 2005
City and Borough of Juneau, 155 South Seward Street, Juneau, Alaska
99801
Looking southwest at side elevation

4. Juneau Memorial Library
Juneau, Alaska
Richard Kent
July 2005
City and Borough of Juneau, 155 South Seward Street, Juneau, Alaska
99801
Looking southwest at side and rear elevations

5. Juneau Memorial Library
Juneau, Alaska
Richard Kent
July 2005
City and Borough of Juneau, 155 South Seward Street, Juneau, Alaska
99801
Looking northeast at side elevation; state capitol and other office
buildings are in the background

