

(8-86)

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_\_

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SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 14000454

Date Listed: 08/06/2014

Creek Street Historic District  
Property Name

Ketchikan Gateway AK  
County State

N/A  
Multiple Name

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This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of the Keeper

8/6/14  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Action

=====

Amended Items in Nomination:

Classification-Resource Count:

The Resource Count is amended to delete the three contributing sites. [The Native Village, Shingle Mill, and Venetia Lode sites retain no physical features or discernible elements, at least as conveyed by the current documentation. The Chief Johnson Pole, the sole remnant feature with association to the Native Village, is counted independently. While each of these locations played a role in the historic development of the district, the fact that they retain no identifiable features precludes their designation as contributing sites. The National Register does not classify these types of "former" sites as contributing resources unless character-defining aspects of their historic composition are documented and can convey historic significance. Their discussion in the narrative as reflections of past use is fine.]

Maps:

The map containing the UTM points is sufficient for UM Reference purposes, while the photographic map containing district resource numbers and addresses serves the formal verbal boundary description.

These clarifications were confirmed with the AK SHPO office.

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DISTRIBUTION:

- National Register property file
- Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

# 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 National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. 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.



### 1. Name of Property

Historic name: Creek Street Historic District

Other names/site number: AHRS Site No. KET-00031

Name of related multiple property listing:  
N/A

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

### 2. Location

Street & number: Creek Street, Married Man's Trail, Totem Way

City or town: Ketchikan State: Alaska County: Ketchikan Gateway Borough

Not For Publication:  Vicinity:

### 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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 at the following level(s) of significance:

\_\_\_ national \_\_\_ statewide X local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

X A \_\_\_ B X C \_\_\_ D

<u>Jean M. Antonson, Deputy SHPO</u>		<u>18 June 2014</u>	
Signature of certifying official/Title:		Date	
<u>Alaska</u>			
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government			
In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.			
Signature of commenting official:		Date	
Title :		State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government	

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**4. National Park Service Certification**

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
- determined eligible for the National Register
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain:)

  
Signature of the Keeper

02/06/2014  
Date of Action

**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

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**Number of Resources within Property**

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>9</u>	<u>8</u>	buildings
<u>3</u>	<u>          </u>	sites
<u>2</u>	<u>          </u>	structures
<u>1</u>	<u>          </u>	objects
<u>15</u>	<u>8</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 1

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

- Commerce - Business
- Recreation and Culture – Music Facility
- Domestic - Village Site, Single Dwelling
- Landscape – Natural Feature
- Industry/Processing/Extraction - Manufacturing Facility
- Culture - Work of Art
- Transportation - Pedestrian-related

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

- Commerce/Trade - Specialty Store, Professional, Restaurant
- Domestic – Single Dwelling, Hotel
- Social – Meeting Hall
- Culture – Museum, Work of Art
- Landscape - Natural Feature

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## 7. Description

### Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Other

**Materials:** (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: Wood, Metal

### Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

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#### Summary Paragraph

Ketchikan was positioned by geography, resources, and timing to become the historic gateway to Alaska in the late 1800s. Canneries and mines brought people to the area. Its protected waters and position on the Inside Passage meant that virtually all ships came through the area when water transport was key in Alaska. Ketchikan Creek, with its bountiful salmon runs, abundant fresh water, and large watershed with hydropower potential, drew Natives and early settlers to its mouth. There in the early 1900s, on a confined, narrow strip of steep land, small houses were built shoulder-to-shoulder on wood pilings over the creek and accessible only by a wood, pedestrian boardwalk called Creek Street. Construction of the clapboard houses was simple. Wood, the basic building material, was abundantly available for framing, siding, windows, piling, railings, decking, and stairs. The buildings were basic, usually rectangular, one or two stories high, with steeply pitched roofs to divert the rain and snow. The Creek Street area's special role in the development of the town of Ketchikan has long been recognized by residents. First as the site of Tlingit Indian settlement for centuries, and then in the early 1900s, Creek Street began 50 years of notoriety as the most infamous red-light district in the Territory of Alaska.

The district comprises the boundaries of the local Creek Street Historic District. It includes the buildings built on pilings over Ketchikan Creek that are accessible only from the Creek Street boardwalk, the tidal-affected waters of Ketchikan Creek and creek banks near its mouth, the Venetia Lode mining claim, the Ketchikan Shingle Mill historic site, the Creek Street pedestrian bridge and the boardwalk, an adjacent Alaskan Native village site, the Totem Way boardwalk, and the Chief Johnson Totem Pole. Creek Street's rich history is still evident in the buildings, sites, structures, and object that together contribute to its historic character.

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**Location and Setting.** Ketchikan Creek is the dominant natural element. It is a tidal-influenced water course that can at some times be a raging, flooding torrent and at other times a tranquil stream. It supports four strong runs of salmon and a range of animals and birds. There are remaining natural creek banks with red alder, Sitka spruce, and Western hemlock trees, and an understory of salmonberries, blueberries, huckleberries, and various ferns and mosses. The backdrop of the creek (east side) is a forested steep bank that effectively prevents expansion of the built environment (with the exception of a cable car and stairway that climbs to the top of the ridge).

The Stedman Street Bridge marks the southern boundary, the forested slope marks the eastern boundary, the rapids and steep canyon of Ketchikan Creek mark the northern boundary, and the creek side of the retail, office, and residential structures along Stedman Street and the Centennial parking lot along Totem Way mark the western boundary.

In addition to buildings, key architectural elements are the Creek Street boardwalk and pedestrian bridge that provide access through the district. There is no vehicular access. The designs of these features have changed little since their earliest construction circa 1900. The Chief Johnson totem pole, at the north entry to Creek Street, raised in 1902 continues to be an iconic landmark of early Native settlement, Creek Street and downtown Ketchikan.

**Architectural Styles and Characteristics.** According to the 1906 Venetia Lode survey, just five buildings stood along the east side of Ketchikan Creek. By 1914 there were 22, and by 1927 there were 32. Some of the early buildings were shacks and some were more substantial industrial style wood structures associated with a shingle mill. None of these has survived. Most other buildings in the area were relatively well-built one and two story houses. While they would be classified as Pioneer style, which was common in the Pacific Northwest during the latter half of the nineteenth century, they have some characteristics which make them unique. "Creek Street Pioneer" or "Vernacular Pioneer" might be more appropriate style names.

The style is simple: little ornamentation, wood frame construction, on pilings over tidal waters, backs of buildings built on rock where possible, one or two stories in height, without porches or additions, and typically rectangular or square in plan. The usual gabled roof would be covered with cedar shingles, initially many made at the nearby shingle mill. Roofs were steep (8 to 12 inches in rise for every foot of horizontal length) to shed heavy snow. The buildings fronted onto the boardwalk, with the entry door having a small shed-style roof for some rain protection. Primary windows faced the creek.

Because of their use for prostitution and bootleg liquor sales during Prohibition, some houses had special features in addition to the tell-tale red light over the doorway. These included back entrances and stairways, secret compartments, trap-doors in the floor where liquor could be delivered by boat at night, and covered stoops and front windows where the women could be seen.

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The buildings fall into four types.

**1 Story.** Once these buildings were the most common type on the Creek; in 1927, half were single story. Most had a gabled or hip roof; a few had a shed style roof. Because of their smaller size, they most likely were operated by one or two women who lived and worked in the building. Three such houses are on Creek Street today.

**1½ to 2 Stories.** The addition of one or, rarely, two upper floors provided greater business opportunities for women operators. They could have more rooms, thus more "female boarders" could live and work there. Upper bedrooms offered more privacy, allowing the ground floor for drinking and socializing as well as more living space for ground floor residents that could include a kitchen and dining area. Today, four historic, multi-story buildings remain.

**Storefront.** Storefront buildings were common along Stedman Street, but only one was on Creek Street, at the corner of Stedman and Creek (June's Cafe). This type of building was simple, with a sloping shed or gable roof and large, flat "billboard" false fronts facing the street. Most often they were two stories with one or two businesses on the street level and a residence above. The storefront typically had display windows, recessed doorway, and classic cornice held up by decorative brackets.

**Amalgamation.** A few of the houses incorporated Creek Street Pioneer style characteristics, but were built in atypical shapes. Two examples are notable. A box-like, three-story, nearly flat-roofed building that sat between Dolly's and N° 28 is visible in many older photos of lower Creek Street. It stood until the late 1940s. The present day Star House (N° 5) (individually listed in the National Register of Historic Places) is the result of an initial gabled 1½-story building to which a much larger rectangular addition was joined in an unusual manner. This was done sometime between 1910 and 1913 to add a dance hall and upstairs rooms. A hipped roof was added in the late 1920s.

**Physical Relationship of Buildings.** Most of the Creek Street area was part of the 1903 Venetia Lode mining claim. The mining claim permitted "informal" development along the banks of Ketchikan Creek resulting in the non-rectangular layout found today (unlike other parts of town where a predetermined grid established a very different development pattern). Also, the claim facilitated another kind of informal development that enabled women on the social margins to have the freedom and security to build houses and operate their businesses. At the time the mining claim was surveyed for title, there were at least seven houses of prostitution, as well as the Ketchikan Shingle Mill within its boundaries. The lots were not surveyed and land titles were not legalized. By 1919, the Venetia Lode claim was subdivided. At that time, there were more houses, and the lot lines only formalized the existing layout.

**Changes in District Appearance.** After a Town Council decision in 1903 to restrict prostitution to the Creek Street area, and especially after the Alaska Bone Dry Act of 1918 and Prohibition in 1920 kept liquor out of other parts of town, Creek Street boomed. By the early 1930s, virtually every buildable lot had a structure.

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After Prohibition ended in 1933, liquor sales in the Creek Street area plummeted as saloons in other parts of town reopened. By the time World War II ended, there was a growing intolerance for prostitution. Some underground activity went on and a few women continued to live along the Creek. Some of the houses were converted into apartments. During these years and up until the early 1970s, virtually no new building in the district occurred. With each passing year, more windows and doors were boarded up. By 1970, seven of the remaining twelve houses on the Creek were abandoned, in serious disrepair, or in danger of being lost.

In the early 1970s, the Ketchikan Gateway Borough Planning Department worked with Creek Street property owners and the community to form a historic district with the intent of preserving remaining structures, facilitating renovation, and guiding new development. The Borough established the Creek Street Historic District in 1976. A Creek Street Historic District Architectural Design Review Board was created and, with district zoning laws and professional assistance from the Planning Department, new development in the district began and key historic buildings were renovated.

The zoning laws require key design characteristics to be respected: wood siding and windows, a roof pitch consistent with the earliest buildings, and a height limitation (2 stories plus attic). Since 1976, seven new buildings stand in the district and seven historic buildings have been restored. There is relative consistency with the architectural design and detailing. The historic boardwalk and bridge have been restored with virtually identical detailing to that of the early 1900s.

**General Character of the District.** Creek Street today is Ketchikan's premier heritage visitor destination. The boardwalk level of most buildings has retail shops, with galleries featuring local and Native art, Alaskan-made products, and the inevitable curios and t-shirts. There are three eating establishments, a museum (Dolly's House), a hotel, and an Eagles Lodge. The second levels are most often residential uses and offices.

The creek and the natural beauty of the area remain much as they always have. Locals and visitors enjoy seeing the salmon spawning runs from June to September and the seagull feast on salmon eggs after the September spawn. A walk along Married Man's Trail leads to exceptional views of the canyon above the Creek Street area and to a salmon ladder and falls.

Pedestrian movement is limited to the boardwalk and trail which, in most locations, does not exceed six feet in width. Four viewing platforms enable views of the creek and the district, and provide respites from the busy boardwalk. A cable car connecting to the boardwalk provides a means of reaching Ketchikan's civic center and the Native-owned Cape Fox Lodge some 130' above Creek Street.

**General Condition of Properties.** Most Creek Street buildings are in good condition. The one property listed on the National Register (Star House) has been maintained since its restoration in 1991. Three other properties, N° 28 Creek Street, Dolly's House, and N° 20 Creek Street, have been restored and are in very good condition. Other contributing buildings are in varying

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conditions. N° 2 Creek Street is unoccupied, in currently poor condition and is not being maintained. N° 4 Creek Street is presently undergoing restoration in a manner consistent with the period of significance including restoration of its shingle roof, removal of a historically inappropriate addition, and restoration of period siding and fenestration. N° 10 and N° 11 Creek Street have been well maintained. The June's Cafe building was completely restored in recent years with appropriate siding and windows, and is considered to be in excellent condition.

There are eight non-contributing buildings (by virtue of year of construction less than 50 years ago) that meet the Creek Street Historic District design codes. Seven of these newer buildings are in good condition and are regularly maintained. N° 1 Creek Street was altered beyond recognition in the 1970s and has since fallen into disrepair and is unoccupied. It is on a condemnation path that will likely cause it to be torn down.

One object and one structure are considered eligible for the National Register. The Chief Johnson totem pole is a replica of one of Ketchikan's oldest man-made objects (1902) and certainly its most visible. It was raised in 1989 and is in excellent condition. The Stedman Street Bridge (1945) is a single-span, Warren pony truss bridge across the mouth of Ketchikan Creek. The Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities has improved and maintained the bridge.

Finally, the Creek Street Bridge and boardwalk, Totem Way, and Married Man's Trail is the pedestrian network that has served Creek Street since its beginning. The boardwalk, bridge and Totem Way have been altered minimally since their construction circa 1902. Married Man's Trail was developed during the heyday of prostitution circa 1920 to facilitate an entry to Creek Street activities without being seen. All elements of this network are well maintained. The City of Ketchikan has a several year program underway to restore piling and footings for the boardwalk.

**Contributing and Non-contributing Resources.** The Creek Street Historic District includes 17 buildings, 9 are contributing and 8 are non-contributing. Non-contributing buildings are those built or dramatically altered less than 50 years ago. Three sites, two structures, and one object are contributing features.

Contributing buildings:

- N° 2 Creek Street (c. 1920)
- N° 4 Creek Street (c. 1920)
- Star House, N° 5 Creek Street (1903), listed in National Register
- N° 10 Creek Street (c. 1921)
- N° 11 Creek Street (late 1920s)
- N° 20 Creek Street (c. 1920)
- Dolly's House, N° 24 Creek Street (1905)
- N° 28 Creek Street (1902)
- June's Café, 203/203A Stedman Street (1903)

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Contributing structures:

Creek Street pedestrian network (boardwalk, bridge, Totem Way boardwalk, Married Man's Trail) (early 1900s)  
Stedman Street bridge (1944)

Contributing object:

Chief Johnson Totem Pole (1989)

Contributing sites:

Ketchikan Shingle Mill (1904)  
Venetia Lode Mining Claim (1903)  
Native Village (pre-1902)

Non-contributing buildings

N° 1 Creek Street (1930, altered dramatically 1972)  
Eagles Lodge, No. 7 Creek Street (1976)  
N° 13 Creek Street (1991)  
N° 18 Creek Street (1974)  
N° 21 Creek Street (1993)  
N° 22 Creek Street (1974)  
N° 28 Creek Street (2005)  
Cable car terminal (1992)

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section 7. Description

Creek Street Historic District

Ketchikan Gateway Borough, Alaska

Buildings on the National Register



**Star House** 1903  
The Star House dance hall & brothel played a key role in Creek Street development and maintains its historical authenticity.

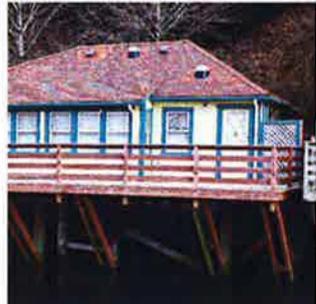
Contributing Buildings, Register Eligible



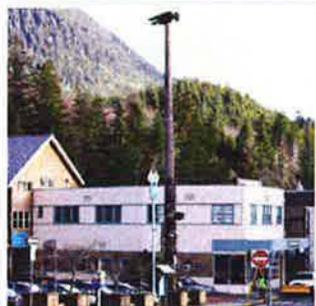
**Dolly's House** 1905  
Dolly's House was the home/business of Creek Street's most famous madame and retains historic authenticity.



**N° 28 Creek Street** 1902  
This is the oldest remaining building on Creek Street and retains all historic architectural detailing.



**N° 20 Creek Street** c.1920  
This building maintains its massing, roof design, siding and features typical of early Creek Street: small, one story, and rectangular with a steeply-pitched shingle roof.



**Chief Johnson Pole** 1902  
Replicated in 1989, this pole has been a historic landmark since the earliest days of Ketchikan and remains in its original location.

Contributing Buildings

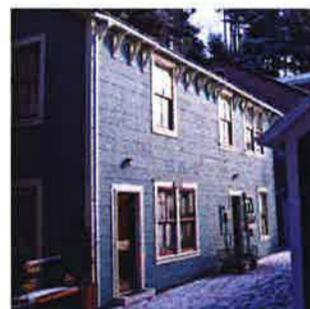


**N° 4 Creek Street** c. 1920  
While extensively modified, its building mass has not been altered significantly and with certain restoration conditions, may be Register eligible.

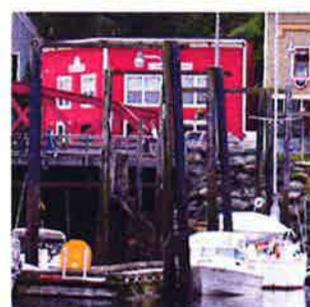
Pages 28-29



**N° 10 Creek Street** c. 1920  
This building maintains its original massing and characteristics distinctive of early Creek Street buildings. May be Register eligible with certain conditions.



**N° 11 Creek Street** c. 1925  
This building has been altered little and is associated with an early Ketchikan pioneer. May be Register eligible with conditions.



**June's Café** 1903  
One of Creek Street's oldest buildings, it has been modified extensively but still retains its original footprint and massing.



**N° 2 Creek Street** c. 1920  
While modified extensively, this is one of the district's oldest buildings and retains its original form.

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

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**Continuation Sheet**

**Section 7. Description**

**Creek Street Historic District**

**Ketchikan Gateway Borough, Alaska**

**Contributing Structures**



**Boardwalk, bridge & trail network** Early 1900s

While renovated over the years, the Creek Street boardwalk and bridge, Totem Way and Married Man's Trail are the historic access and have changed little in design and location.

**Contributing Structure, Register Eligible**



**Stedman St Bridge** 1945

This steel, single-span, pony truss bridge replaced a wood trestle bridge serving Indian Town, Coast Guard Base, canneries, Saxman and So. Tongass neighborhoods.

**Contributing Historic Sites**



**Native Village Site** Until 1960s

Cluster of Native dwellings at mouth of creek around which Creek Street and Ketchikan grew up. Chief Johnson Pole and Totem Way are only remaining features in 2011.



**Venetia Lode** From 1904

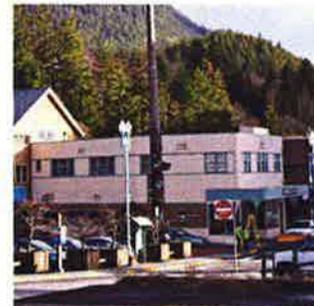
An 11-acre mining claim including lands along east bank where some of Creek Street's first buildings were located. Old assessment tunnel remains adjacent to cable car terminal.



**Shingle Mill** 1904

This industry was a key economic development force for the Creek Street area as well as Ketchikan.

**Non-Contributing Adjacent Properties, Recommended for Stedman/Thomas National Historic District Amendment**



**105 Stedman** 1945

This building is characteristic of post-war industrial architecture and retains original architectural features.

Not in study area



**Bayside Hotel** c. 1925

3-story, false-front, commercial building on pilings, built in the mid-1920s. Building retains original form and fenestration. Renovated in 2010.

Not in study area



**Presbyterian Church** c. 1931

Built on site in 1914, rebuilt in 1931. Served as church until 1961. Exterior significantly modified.

Not in study area

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Non-Contributing Buildings (under 45 years or extensive alteration)



N° 1 Creek Street  
Year Built: c. early 1900s  
Extensively altered 1971



Eagles Lodge  
Year Built: 1976



Cable Car Terminal  
Year Built: 1992



N° 12 Creek Street  
Year Built: 1991



N° 18 Creek Street  
Year Built: 1974



N° 21 Creek Street  
Year Built: 1976



N° 22 Creek Street  
Year Built: 1993



N° 26 Creek Street  
Year Built: 2005



706 Totem Way  
Year Built: 1976

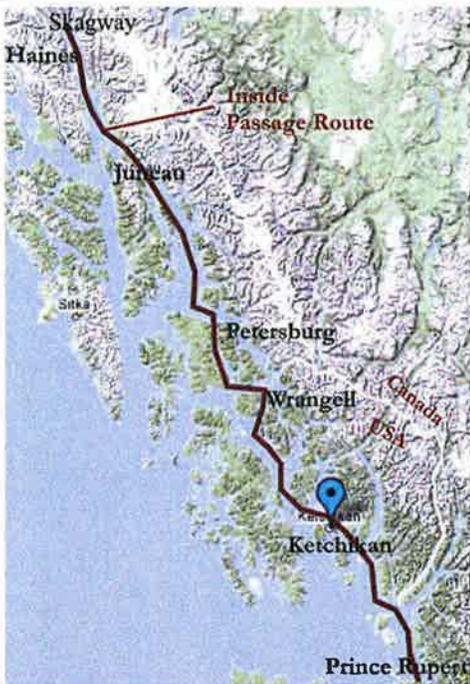
United States Department of the Interior  
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Creek Street Historic District

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Ketchikan Gateway Borough, Alaska

Section 7. Description



*Ketchikan, located on the southwest edge of Revillagigedo Island, was positioned by geography, resources and timing to become the “gateway” to Alaska. Cannery and mining booms brought people to and through the area. Its protected waters and position on the Inside Passage meant that virtually all shipping came through the area at a time when water transport was key. And Ketchikan Creek, with its bountiful salmon runs, abundant fresh water, and large watershed with hydropower potential, drew both Natives and early settlers to this spot.*



*The Creek Street area is one of three existing or proposed historic districts: the local Creek Street district; the Stedman/Thomas National Historic District; and the proposed Downtown historic district.*

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## 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 grave
- D. A cemetery
- E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- F. A commemorative property
- G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

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**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Community Planning and Development

Social History

**Period of Significance**

1902-1954

**Significant Dates**

1902, 1918-1920, 1954

**Significant Person**

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

N/A

**Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph**

(Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The Creek Street Historic District is a cohesive neighborhood that represents the social and economic history of Ketchikan and Alaska during the first half of the twentieth century. It represents individuals from many walks of life and many cultural backgrounds whose skills and talents contributed to the development and growth of the city. Early residents included Native people, business proprietors, trades people, and prostitutes. The district embodies distinctive characteristics of Ketchikan's early residential architecture and adaptation to the location. While many of the dwellings lack individual distinction, they are representative of simple, frontier, southeast Alaska construction using local materials built on pilings over tidewater and designed to serve the rapidly growing territory.

Creek Street began between 1902 and 1917, had its heyday from 1918-1933, and changed after the city shut down the houses of prostitution on the street in 1954. The period of significance for the Creek Street Historic District begins in 1902 when Natives lived on the Ketchikan Creek banks, the Chief Johnson Pole was raised, Ketchikan became a city, and N° 28 Creek Street, the oldest remaining house in the district, stood. The period of significance extends through three decades of prostitution and bustling development, followed by two decades of gradual decline. It ends in 1954 when community-wide demand for reform all but ended prostitution and vice along the Creek.

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The district includes buildings, structures, sites, and an object related to three significant periods of Ketchikan history: Creek Street Beginnings (1902-1917); Heyday of Prostitution (1918-1933); and Decline (1934-1954). These periods tell the story of the rise and fall of prostitution in one of the most notorious red light districts, known not only in Alaska but also in the lower forty eight states and the nation's capitol. During this time prostitution was--while not completely legal--accepted and, to a certain extent, locally regulated. It was a part of the social fabric of the city of Ketchikan and surrounding region. It went beyond just the sale of sex, including a range of associated entertainments and activities: gambling, drinking, bootleg liquor production and sales, dancing and other nightlife, music, and drugs. Of particular interest is the fact that in Ketchikan the business of prostitution was dominated not by men who controlled the business (usually referred to as "pimps"), but by strong-willed, enterprising women, some of them minorities. They owned their houses and ran them as successful businesses for years. As such, they played a role in the economic development of the community. At Creek Street's height there were over thirty houses and fifty or more "employees" working. A number of the women, most notably Dolly Arthur, have become historic figures as a result of their lives along Creek Street.

#### **Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary)**

The Chief Johnson totem pole has marked the entrance to Creek Street since a pole was raised in 1902. The pole standing today is a replica, raised in 1989. It is a practice in southeast Alaska to replace totem poles when they deteriorate.

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#### **Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least one paragraph for each area of significance.)**

**Social History.** During the first half of the twentieth century, the white population of Ketchikan was largely single men determined to make a fortune in fishing, mining, or timber. Some were passing through after a rigorous sailing trip from Puget Sound and on their way to points further north to seek gold. Others were hardworking fishermen, builders, or spruce mill workers who lived in town but found few available women to meet. Many of the men were away from families for long periods, often alone for months or weeks at a time. The women of Creek Street provided relaxation, companionship, and fun.

As with so much of the history of the West, the role of "good time girls" is a key chapter. Ketchikan was a steamship ticket away from the Pacific Northwest and, like the men, many women came to this first port in Alaska for adventure and economic wealth. They were independent, hard working, and capable business women. They, too, were an important part of Ketchikan's social and economic fabric. They bought homes on Creek Street and elsewhere, spent their money locally, invested in businesses, and helped the needy in the community. Prostitution was an important part of the town's economic development.

Creek Street was a women's world. The 1926 Creek Street property ownership map shows that at the heyday of prostitution, virtually every building was owned by female entrepreneurs. Most of the women were not beholden to "pimps" or other men. Many lived out their lives in the houses they

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worked in, and adjusted to changing times. All of Creek Street's remaining historic buildings had been owned, operated and maintained by madams.

The 1900 town plat shows an "Indian Village" along the banks of Ketchikan Creek adjacent to what is now the Creek Street area. Long before white explorers and pioneers, this site and others around the mouth of Ketchikan Creek were used by Native peoples. It was an excellent location with huge runs of salmon, protected water, extensive beach flats, and southern exposure. Like much of Creek Street which later shared the banks of Ketchikan Creek, the village was an informal, unplatted settlement into the early 1900s. Parcels were gradually alienated as Ketchikan spilled into the area and buildings were lost to fire and disrepair. In the 1960s most of the original village site was changed by a project to create the library and museum and associated parking lot. The Native village site is contributing to the Creek Street Historic District.

No buildings or structures that comprised the village remain, but the iconic Chief Johnson Pole and the Totem Way boardwalk at the north entry to Creek Street are village features. The buildings that comprised the village were a hybrid of classic early Pioneer style architecture combined with traditional Native design of the facades. The Chief Johnson Pole, originally raised in 1902, belongs to the Kadjuk House of the Tlingit Gaanaxádi Clan. It is 55 feet tall and is crowned by a fabled bird called Kadjuk. The pole represents a story of the experiences of Raven. Fog Woman--the brightly colored figure at the base of the pole--is identified with the summer salmon run when fog lies at the mouths of streams. She produces all salmon and causes them to return to the creeks of their birth.

**Community Planning and Development.** When Ketchikan was founded in 1900, the Creek Street area was not part of the gridiron pattern created for Downtown. The Venetia Lode gold mining claim, comprising much of what was to be Creek Street, was staked in 1903. Improvements soon to appear on the claim included at least seven houses of prostitution and the Ketchikan Shingle Mill. This development was informal; lots were not surveyed and land titles were not legalized. By 1919, the Venetia Lode claim had been subdivided and the area annexed by the city. The lot lines merely formalized the existing layout of buildings. This pattern of development, non-rectangular layout of small lots with crowded buildings built on pilings over the water connected only by a wooden boardwalk, continues in the area today. The unrestricted development prior to annexation enabled Creek Street to prosper. It was also key to facilitating another informal development that enabled women on the social margins to have the freedom and security to build houses and operate their businesses.

Creek Street has survived, but has had some close calls. In 1952, it was designated one of three "slum clearance areas" by the pre-statehood Alaska Housing Authority. The Native Village site adjacent to the Creek Street Foot Bridge and Totem Way was also so designated. It was cleared in the 1960s, with only the Chief Johnson pole and Totem Way remaining. (The third area to be designated was Thomas Street, now part of Stedman/Thomas Street District listed in the National Register of Historic Places.)

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After prostitution was shut down in the 1950s, very little changed on Creek Street until the 1970s. The Ketchikan Borough Planning Department joined with private property owners in the mid-1970s to form a historic district to facilitate restoration of a number of historic buildings and provide design guidance for construction of new buildings. Historic district design codes were put into place as well as fire codes. The Creek Street area is now a popular heritage tourism site for the nearly one million cruise ship visitors who visit Ketchikan every year.

**Historical Context.** For centuries before the arrival of Europeans along the Alaskan coast there had been Indian settlements around the mouth of Ketchikan Creek. The 1890 Census indicates a population of 40 at Ketchikan, and identifies 26 as Native Alaskans. The 1900 city plat shows an “Indian Village” consisting of two clusters of houses, 20 on the west side of Ketchikan Creek on higher ground and 9 houses on the east side where Stedman Street is today. A wood viaduct linked the two enclaves.

The houses on the west side were in the area that came to be known as Barney Way for the walkway that was its main thoroughfare. Many of these houses stood until the 1960s when removed as part of an urban renewal project. Amidst these houses, the Chief Kyan totem pole was raised in 1898 and the Chief Johnson pole in 1902. Today, a replica of the Chief Johnson pole stands in the original pole’s location (though turned about 60 degrees). A replica of the Chief Kyan pole stands about a block away in Whale Park, outside of the district. Downtown residents and customers to Creek Street would pass through “Indian Town” along Barney Way or Totem Way to one of the two bridges that crossed Ketchikan Creek.

After the U.S. purchased Alaska, non-Natives traveled from west coast ports by boat along a route that became known as the Inside Passage. Ketchikan was a regular stopping point for vessels following this route and was the first port of call in Alaska. The bountiful runs of salmon, and later dreams of gold, brought people to and through southeast Alaska. The introduction of commercial canning launched a wave of investors, businessmen and pioneering settlers. Canneries first appeared at Klawock and Sitka in 1878, and by the late 1880s, Tongass Packing was operating a cannery where downtown Ketchikan is today. While canneries offered seasonal work and some prosperity, it was the gold discoveries at Juneau in 1880 and the Klondike in 1896 that brought large numbers of people to the Ketchikan area. The town became the regional center and “gateway” to the rest of Alaska.

**Creek Street Beginnings (1902-1917).** In 1900, Ketchikan had a customs house, post office, newspaper, general stores, hotels, large cannery, and a population of 454. A townsite had just been laid out with streets and platted lots, framing the frenzied growth that occurred over the following decade. As in all booming frontier towns with mostly single, working-male populations, prostitution began to flourish, primarily in the Newtown area, north of the burgeoning downtown.

By 1903, Ketchikan had a Town Council and began to see itself as a more respectable community. Prostitution and “indecent” behavior became more apparent. People knew they couldn’t stop it, but they could move it to be less visible and to not disrupt the order of the increasing number of family-raising, church-going, law-abiding residents. In March 1903, in response to a citizen’s petition, the council ordered that “certain bawdy houses be moved from Newtown to Indian Town and placed on the east side of Ketchikan Creek.”

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The west side of Ketchikan Creek was part of the original town plat. It had surveyed lots ready to be developed, as well as the informal cluster of Native houses between the Episcopal Mission and the Creek. Ketchikan Creek's west side was visible and accessible and, because it was considered a part of the rapidly expanding town, the Creek became a convenient demarcation for a prostitution ban by the City fathers.

The other side of Ketchikan Creek was different. Development was a challenge there due to difficult access, steep terrain, and a sometimes roaring creek with nearly twenty feet of tidal change. Much of the area was part of the Venetia Lode mining claim. There were just a few buildings on the east side of the lower creek, including N° 28 Creek Street near the Stedman Street viaduct and a couple of ramshackle structures near the bridge across Ketchikan Creek from Barney Way. Only a rough part-boardwalk/part-trail linked the two areas along the steep slopes above the high tide line.

The 1903 action by the Council set in motion a building boom and established Creek Street as the de facto red light district in the community. It gave "working women" who settled along the Creek the confidence to not just practice their trade, but also to invest in buildings and put down roots in the community. They could live openly within their own neighborhood. The trail/boardwalk was upgraded and located completely on pilings over the Creek channel, enabling building on the adjacent upland side, often taking advantage of some solid ground for foundations. Houses used by "female boarders" initially clustered around the two bridges. A 1904 photo captures this first building boom around the Stedman Street bridge, with eight houses sporting fresh cedar shingle roofs and a wide new boardwalk. N° 28 Creek Street and 203 Stedman (June's Café) are visible, and Dolly's House would be added a year later.

Further north along the Creek, where a small footbridge crossed over to the Native settlement and Downtown beyond, the first part of the Star House (N° 5) was built in 1903. By 1914, there were four dwellings in this area, three of which were labeled as "female boarder" use. The Star House was the largest house on the Creek after the addition of a dance hall and more rooms in 1910.

In between the two clusters of houses--nearly all owned and operated by their madams--was a shingle mill. A. J. "Ott" Inman and his partner Charles Borch saw available hydropower and easy water access at higher tides, as well as a demand for barrels for shipping salted fish. They owned the land between the two red light areas and in 1904, they completed a flume, a 22-foot diameter waterwheel, and the requisite structures needed to begin production at their cooperage. Within a year they expanded their operation to also produce cedar shingles. The shingle mill operated until about 1918.

By 1914, there were 22 buildings along the boardwalk, 13 of which were known houses of prostitution. But Creek Street was not yet the red light district that it would become; during this period, the bawdy houses shared the boardwalk with at least one respectable residence, a machine shop, and a bustling shingle mill.

**Heyday of Prostitution, 1918 to 1933.** Two things happened to launch another building boom along the Creek and bring a new era of activity and prosperity to the area. The first was the relocation of the Shingle Mill to Charcoal Point north of town. This made more land available for enterprising women to buy property and establish their own house and business. They paid off the law to operate,

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were members of the community, donated to worthy causes, some married, and all shopped in local stores. The Creek was an opportunity for a few Black women to gain a level of independence in their lives that was not as easily available to them other places.

The second thing that occurred was the enactment of the Alaska Bone Dry Law in 1918, followed by the start of National Prohibition in 1920. The sale and consumption of liquor moved out of the bars and into the houses on Creek Street. Business flourished as never before. Nearly every available lot was built upon. Structures began to be located on both sides of the boardwalk. For nearly 16 years, from 1918 until the repeal of the 18th Amendment in 1933, Creek Street was in its heyday. The number of buildings along the east side of the lower Creek went from 22 to 32.

By 1920, there were at least 21 “bawdy houses” on the Creek with 37 women working out of them. Income from bootlegged Canadian whiskey and home-brew far exceeded the revenue from prostitution. Reminders of the flourishing Prohibition period can still be found in secret panels and hidden closets in some of the houses.

In much the same way that Prohibition laws were widely ignored by the public and not rigidly enforced, not many took the flagrant violation of the anti-prostitution laws very seriously in Ketchikan. The women, nevertheless, were expected to abide by some unwritten rules. When a working woman arrived in town, her first stop was the police station to be fingerprinted and fill out a lengthy questionnaire. She also was required to visit the doctor and obtain a certificate of health. But during most of its heyday, Creek Street operated with little interference from the authorities

While Creek Street remained at the center of prostitution, bootleg liquor, gaming rooms, speakeasies and other wild and illicit activity, these activities expanded into nearby Barney Way, Stedman Street, Mission, Dock, and even to Main Street. There was money to be made, and people found ways around the laws to do it. In the mid-1920s Ketchikan was notorious, not just in Alaska, but in Seattle, Los Angeles, and Washington D.C. One newspaper article referred to the town in 1926 as “the worst pest hole in America,” where vice was “arrogant” and “defiant.” Over the years campaigns were waged to clean-up the Creek; some resulted in closures of a few houses, but nothing changed much, at least not until 1933.

**Decline, 1934 to 1954.** With the end of Prohibition in 1933, bootleg liquor no longer brought the business and profits to Creek Street it had in the previous years. Bars in other parts of town took a growing share of the nightlife business. While the business of prostitution continued, there were no investments in new buildings on Creek Street. Existing houses along the Creek continued to serve their owners’ needs as places to both work and live, but they began to need considerable attention to maintenance and upkeep. Money became tight, first during the years of the Great Depression.

Increased military presence around Ketchikan during World War II brought a temporary increase in activity on the Creek, in spite of efforts by military authorities to suppress it.

By 1946, after a long depression and war, everyone was ready for life to return to normal. While the aging madams always could find young new girls looking for work and customers to pay for their services, the fact that times were changing could not be ignored. Creek Street and the nearby Stedman/Thomas and Barney Way neighborhoods had aging buildings and limited auto access in an

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increasingly auto-centered way of life. The community was growing out into the suburbs where whole new neighborhoods could be created. There were new industries such as the pulp mill bringing jobs and a new prosperity. There was a demographic shift away from seasonal and single males in the community to year-round residents with families.

Most important, by the early 1950s the social intolerance for prostitution and its associated illegal gambling, drug use, payoffs of officials, and other shady dealings, at least as it was openly practiced on Creek Street, reached a tipping point. The corruption of city officials, their involvement with payoffs and operations on the Creek, brought everything to a halt. In 1954, a Grand Jury investigation resulted in an indictment against the Chief of Police, charges against a Police Captain and the District Attorney, and loss of confidence in the City Manager. As a result, prostitution on Creek Street was officially shut down.

**Deterioration, 1954-1971.** Shutting down the Creek did not stop prostitution in Ketchikan, but it did change Creek Street. A few women simply went underground, plying their trade when they could, hiding out when the heat was on. Beatrice Greene, who lived in N° 20 was one of these, reportedly staying and working on the Creek until at least 1960. Some of the women moved to other parts of Ketchikan or simply left town. At least three women remained on the Creek, all owners of their real estate and businesses, living out the remainder of their lives there, converting their houses into apartments, surviving with limited incomes:

- Annie Watkins, the owner of N° 4 Creek Street and an African American from Arkansas, was an ardent and fiery defender of the women of Creek Street. With the closure of prostitution in 1954, Annie stayed in her home at N° 4, continuing to work until dying there in 1966.
- Thelma Baker Graham bought the Star House Dance Hall from “Black Mary” Thomas in 1924 and lived there until her death in 1972. She created Creek Street’s liveliest hot spot, offering sporting women, alcohol, and dancing to the tunes of “Blind Ernie’s” piano.
- Dolly Arthur first practiced her trade in Vancouver, Juneau, Petersburg and on the Creek before settling at N° 24 in 1919 and living there for 54 years.

By 1970, Creek Street had had no new buildings added since the 1920s. It had just 13 buildings in various states of use and deterioration.

**Restoration and Renewal, 1971-2011.** Between 1970 and 2011, a few of the remaining Creek Street buildings were lost to fire or disrepair, including N° 8, N° 21-22 and N° 26. The rest just got older, requiring more and more maintenance, which was more often than not neglected.

An urban renewal project in the mid 1960s that resulted in the Centennial Building (library and museum) and parking lot, replaced the Indian Town/Barney Way neighborhood. It also set the stage for other development in the Creek Street area. The Ketchikan Gateway Borough formed the Creek Street Historic District in the early 1970s, assisting a new wave of interest and investment: construction on N° 1 began in 1972; N° 18 and N° 22 were built in 1975; and 706 Totem Way and N° 7 (Eagles Lodge) were built in 1976. This new construction brought a new scale and character to the Creek, as well as different uses. Attention began to focus on the remaining historic buildings. This resulted in the

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purchase and restoration of three of them by individuals interested in maintaining their historic integrity, notably:

- N° 24 (Dolly's House) restored in 1976 as a museum;
- N° 28 (the Preacher's House) restored in 1976; and
- N° 5 (Star House) restored in 1991, placed on National Register of Historic Places in 1993

Several other buildings were renovated and adapted to residential and commercial use as Creek Street drew more and more tourists to its boardwalk every summer. Renovations and changes were done consistent with the Creek Street Historic District guidelines, although some changes altered some of the historic aspects of the buildings, most often changes to the windows and doors. These were:

- N° 20, renovations in 1974 and 2008
- June's Café, renovations in 2002
- N° 4, 1973 window and siding alterations, 1982 roof alteration, 2006 historic siding replacement

In 2011, the Creek Street district included 18 buildings, 9 of which date back to at least the 1920s and were at one time or another used as houses of prostitution. There were 18 businesses operating on the Creek and 21 residences/apartments. Two buildings were vacant or unused: N° 1 and N° 2. Nonetheless, a visitor gets a sense of a distinct part of Ketchikan with its history through the buildings of Creek Street and the surrounding area.

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

*Alaska-Yukon Gazetteer and Business Directory*. Seattle: R. L. Polk & Co. 1901-1902, 1909-1910, 1911-1912, 1915-1916, 1923-1924.

Campbell, Douglas. *Historic Downtown Ketchikan: A Restoration Handbook*. 1986.

City of Ketchikan. Tax assessments, Town: 1909-1919, City: 1920-1955.

Reeve, Stephen, Kent Miller, and Ron Kasprisin. *Ketchikan Comprehensive Plan Policies for the City of Ketchikan and the Ketchikan Gateway Borough*. 1976.

Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps for Ketchikan, Alaska. 1914, 1927, 1927 updated through 1946, 1927 updated through 1952.

Tucker, Phil and Gary Benner. *Ketchikan, A City Historic Properties Survey*. Vol. 2. Ketchikan Gateway Borough Planning Department. 1984.

Van Cleave, Richard. *Construction Projects List*. Tongass Historical Museum. 2011

**Maps:**

1900 - Map Showing a Portion of the Supplemental Plat of the Town of Ketchikan, Alaska

1905 - Plat of the Claim of Walter S. Coutant, et al., Known as the Venetia Lode Claim

1910 - Plat of the Subdivisional Survey of Ketchikan Townsite U.S. Survey No. 437

1919 - Map of subdivision of "Venetia" Mining Claim

1922 - Map of Ketchikan Power Company Showing Buildings, and Log Storage, Wharf and Joining Property on Tide Flats

Circa 1925 - Plat maps of Ketchikan Streets, Blocks 1-38

1943 - Port of Ketchikan Security Maps

Circa 1980 - City of Ketchikan Property Map

**Newspapers:**

Alaska Fishing News (1934-1945)

Daily Miner (1906-1914)

Daily Progressive-Miner (1915-1919)

First City News (1925-1926)

Helm Bay and Ketchikan Miner (1900)

Ketchikan Alaska Chronicle (1919-1957)

Ketchikan Daily Alaska Fishing News (1945-1947)

Ketchikan Daily News (1922-1923)

Ketchikan Daily News (1947-present)

Ketchikan Miner (1907-1915)

Ketchikan Mining News (1907)

Ketchikan Record (1989-1990)

Ketchikan Times (1919-1920)

Ketchikan Weekly Journal (1919-1920)

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Mining Journal (1901-1907)  
Morning Mail (1913-1914)  
Saturday Mail (1914-1915)  
Southeastern Log (1971-1989)

**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 # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other
- Name of repository: \_\_\_\_\_

**Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):** AHRS Site No. KET-00031

**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreage of Property** 3.97 acres

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

**Latitude/Longitude Coordinates**

Datum if other than WGS84: \_\_\_\_\_

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

- |              |            |
|--------------|------------|
| 1. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 2. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 3. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 4. Latitude: | Longitude: |

**Or**

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**UTM References**

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

NAD 1927 or  NAD 1983

- |            |                 |                   |
|------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| 1. Zone: 9 | Easting: 332415 | Northing: 6136142 |
| 2. Zone: 9 | Easting: 332489 | Northing: 6136083 |
| 3. Zone: 9 | Easting: 332535 | Northing: 6135986 |
| 4. Zone: 9 | Easting: 332534 | Northing: 6135932 |
| 5. Zone 9  | Easting: 332517 | Northing: 6135915 |
| 6. Zone 9  | Easting: 332419 | Northing: 6136017 |
| 7. Zone 9  | Easting: 332360 | Northing: 6136104 |
| 8. Zone 9  | Easting: 332364 | Northing: 6136130 |

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

The district boundary is the entire local Creek Street Historic District boundary with the addition of approximately 250 feet by 6 feet Married Man's Trail right-of-way between the local historic district boundary and the Park Avenue right-of-way, as well as the addition of a 200 square foot area to include the Chief Johnson Totem Pole, and to delete the two properties at 706 Totem Way and 105 Stedman Street. See attached map.

**Boundary Justification** (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundaries accommodate the local Creek Street Historic District that reflects historical and geographic boundaries. The historic district boundary includes all of the remaining buildings that were known to be houses of prostitution, as well as significant sites, structures and objects known to exist during the period of significance. The 2011 historic property survey identified the Married Man's Trail as an integral part of the story of Creek Street, and it is included in the nominated district. The Chief Johnson Totem Pole is immediately adjacent to it and included in this nomination's boundaries due to its relevance as part of the story of the Creek Street area. Two properties in the local district boundary are non-contributing to the period of significance and physically removed from the Creek Street boardwalk.

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### 11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Stephen Reeve, AIA, AICP  
organization: RAI Development Solutions  
street & number: P.O. Box 23154  
city or town: Ketchikan state: AK zip code: 99901  
e-mail smreeve@mac.com  
telephone: 907-242-0810  
date: November 15, 2012; reviewed June 15, 2014

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### Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A USGS map or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

### Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

### Photo Log

Name of Property: Creek Street Historic District

City or Vicinity: Ketchikan

County: Ketchikan Gateway Borough State: Alaska

Photographer: Stephen Reeves

Date Photographed: June 17, 2014

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

AK\_KetchikanGatewayBorough\_CreekStreetHistoricDistrict\_0001: *Aerial view, Creek Street Historic District Boundary Map.*

AK\_KetchikanGatewayBorough\_CreekStreetHistoricDistrict\_0002: *Looking north, South Entrance.*

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AK\_KetchikanGatewayBorough\_CreekStreetHistoricDistrict\_0003: *Looking east, Section of Creek Street Boardwalk.*

AK\_KetchikanGatewayBorough\_CreekStreetHistoricDistrict\_0004: *Looking northwest, Middle Section of Creek Street Historic District.*

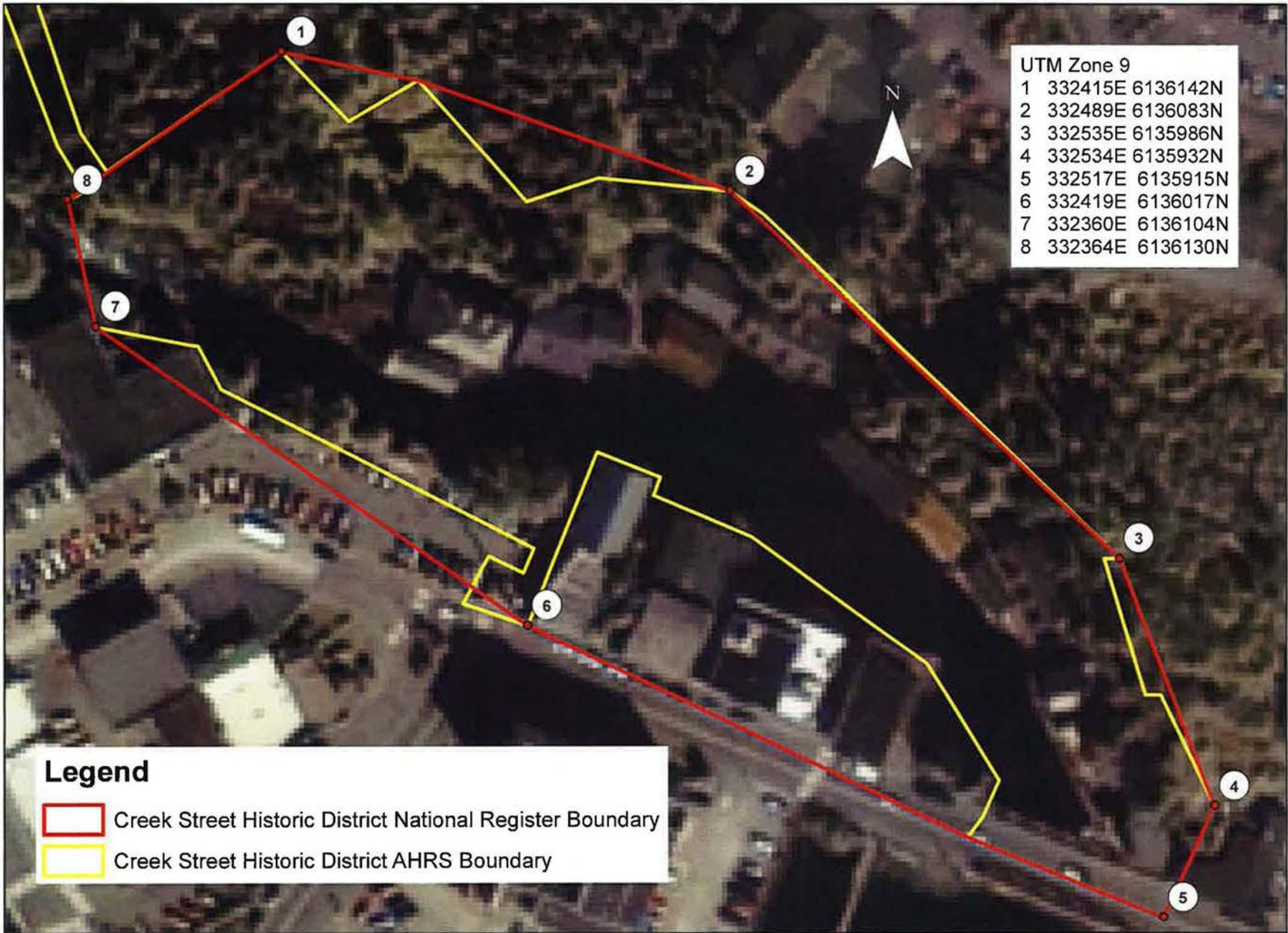
AK\_KetchikanGatewayBorough\_CreekStreetHistoricDistrict\_0005: *Looking southwest, south section of Creek Street at low tide.*

AK\_KetchikanGatewayBorough\_CreekStreetHistoricDistrict\_0006: *Looking east, number 28 and June's Café.*

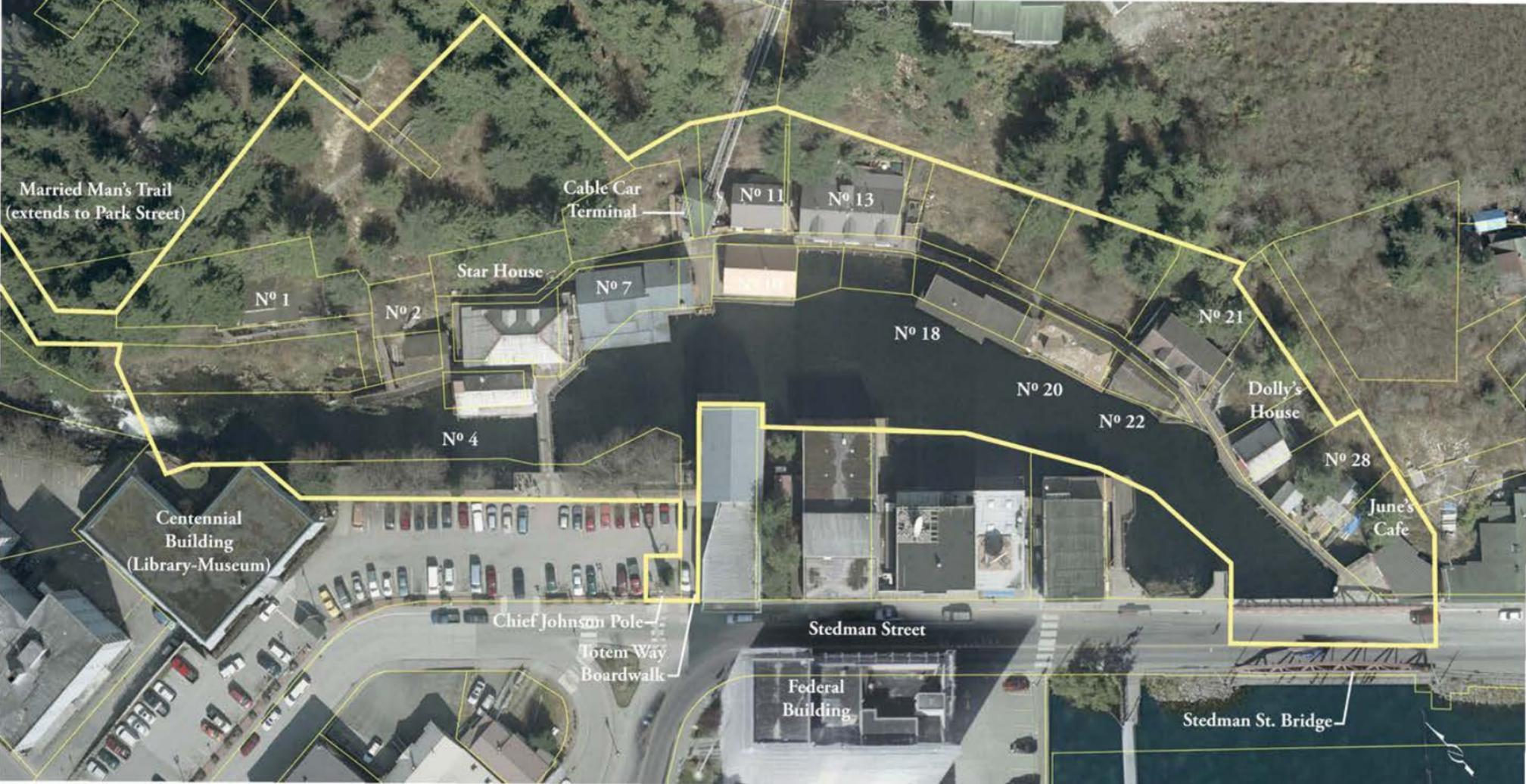
AK\_KetchikanGatewayBorough\_CreekStreetHistoricDistrict\_0007: *Looking southeast at the southern portion of Creek Street in 1905. No. 28 Creek Street is the oldest of these building and it and June's Café remain today. Tongass Historical Museum, Ketchikan.*

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 460 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.







Married Man's Trail  
(extends to Park Street)

Cable Car  
Terminal

Star House

N° 1

N° 2

N° 7

N° 11

N° 13

N° 18

N° 21

N° 4

N° 20

N° 22

Dolly's  
House

N° 28

June's  
Cafe

Centennial  
Building  
(Library-Museum)

Chief Johnson Pole  
Totem Way  
Boardwalk

Stedman Street

Federal  
Building

Stedman St. Bridge



CREEK STREET

Kichxan  
Heen Ka dachá'ku  
Kichikana  
Carver at the Creek

DOGS MUST BE ON LEASH  
WHEN ON BOARDWALK  
OWNER OR PERSON IN  
CONTROL MUST REMOVE  
FECAL MATTER IMMEDIATELY  
A.M.C. 14.29.030 24



ARCTIC



TOPEM  
HOTEL

MADRID

ALASKA'S  
LARGEST  
GOLD NUGGET  
SELECTION!  
ALASKA  
SILVER







Seafood - Chowder - Beer

SEAFOOD RESTAURANT



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Creek Street Historic District  
NAME:

MULTIPLE  
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: ALASKA, Ketchikan Gateway

DATE RECEIVED: 6/20/14 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 7/11/14  
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 7/28/14 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 8/06/14  
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 14000454

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N  
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N  
REQUEST: Y SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

\_\_\_ ACCEPT \_\_\_ RETURN \_\_\_ REJECT \_\_\_\_\_ DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

The Creek Street Historic District is locally significant under National Register Criterion A and C in the areas of Social History and Community Planning and Development. Uniquely perched on wood pilings along the edges of the tidal Ketchikan Creek, the district reflects the historic growth patterns of early twentieth century Ketchikan, as the Alaskan gateway community developed and expanded to meet the needs of local and transient residents seeking their fortune in the regional canneries and gold fields of Alaska. The vernacular buildings comprise a rare extant collection of period building forms built largely to serve the city's former red-light entertainment district, secluded from the remainder of the community. While not overlooking the plight and often deplorable social conditions accompanying such areas, the Creek Street district nevertheless represented a significant aspect of the social and economic development of the Alaskan frontier community of Ketchikan during the historic period.

RECOM./CRITERIA Accept Criteria A-C

REVIEWER Paul R Lusignan DISCIPLINE HISTORIAN

TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE 8/6/14

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.

**MINUTES**  
**Ketchikan Historic Commission Meeting**  
**December 13, 2011**

The meeting was called to order in the Tongass Historical Museum at 5:34 PM.

Members present: Morgan Barry, William Bird, Leslie Jackson, Dragon London, Michael Naab, Susan Peters, Dave Rubin, and John Stewart. Members absent: Elinore Jacobsen.

**NEW BUSINESS: Nominations of Ketchikan's Downtown and Creek Street districts for registering in the National Register of Historic Places**

Commission Chair Michael Naab reviewed the Downtown and Creek Street Survey project, undertaken by the Commission under a Historic Preservation Fund grant provided by the State of Alaska in 2010. He reminded the Commission members that, at a meeting of the Commission held on November 29, 2011, they had authorized preparation of draft nominations of the Downtown and Creek Street districts for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

Chairman Naab referred to the two draft nominations, prepared on behalf of the Ketchikan Historic Commission by RAI Development Solutions and circulated to Commission members for review. He asked for a motion.

Motion: Dragon London moved that the draft nomination of the **Ketchikan Downtown Commercial historic district** for registration in the National Register of Historic Places, completed by RAI Development Solutions in December 2011, be approved and submitted to the Alaska State Historic Preservation Office for review and subsequent submission to the Alaska State Historical Commission and the Keeper of the National Register, with the intent that said historic district be officially listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Susan Peters seconded the motion.

There was lengthy discussion, principally concerning the district boundaries and the reasons for designating certain properties "contributing" and "non-contribution." There were no requests for changes, however. The Chair called for a vote. The motion carried, with all of the Commission members present voted in favor; there were no votes in opposition

Motion: Susan Peters moved that the draft nomination of the **Creek Street historic district** for registration in the National Register of Historic Places, completed by RAI Development Solutions in December 2011, be approved and

submitted to the Alaska State Historic Preservation Office for review and subsequent submission to the Alaska State Historical Commission and the Keeper of the National Register, with the intent that said historic district be officially listed in the National Register of Historic Places. The motion was seconded by Dave Rubin.

Discussion centered on the proposed district boundaries, in particular the omission of 706 Totem Way and the Stedman Street Properties, all of which are included within the locally-designated historic district boundaries. Chairman Naab explained the reasoning for omitting the properties. No amendments were offered, and the Chair called for a vote. The motion was approved, with all members present voting in favor, none in opposition.

#### **ADJOURN**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:42 PM.

**ALASKA HISTORICAL COMMISSION**  
**VOTING RECORD FOR NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES**  
**INDIVIDUAL PROPERTY AND DISTRICT NOMINATIONS**

Date: November 26, 2012

It is moved that the Creek Street Historic District qualifies for the National Register of Historic Places under criterion/criteria A, C; exception/ exceptions D; level of significance local. The property is associated with Alaska Comprehensive Historic Preservation Plan theme/themes planning and development and social history.

Moved by: Jonathon Ross      Seconded by: Terrence Cole

Vote on motion:

IN FAVOR	OPPOSED	ABSTAIN	RESULT
Treadwell		Bittner	Passed 5-0-1
Cole			
Moore			Rejected
Ross			
Veltre			Tabled

If tabled or rejected, reasons or instructions on how to proceed:

Other comments:

Commission members said the buildings included in the district boundaries are representative of the period of significances. It was noted the documentation discussed interaction with area Native people and their original presence around the mouth of the creek. The City of Ketchikan's Historic Preservation Commission found the district eligible for listing. Commission members reaffirmed their determination at their December 2013 meeting.



THE STATE  
of **ALASKA**  
GOVERNOR SEAN PARNELL

**Department of Natural Resources**

DIVISION OF PARKS AND OUTDOOR RECREATION  
Office of History and Archaeology

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June 18, 2014

Re: 3330-2 Creek Street Historic District

Carol Shull, Interim Keeper  
National Register of Historic Places  
National Park Service 2280, 8<sup>th</sup> Floor  
1201 I (Eye) Street NW  
Washington, D.C. 20005

Dear Carol:

Enclosed is National Register of Historic Places documentation for the Creek Street Historic District in Ketchikan, Alaska.

The Alaska Historical Commission, the state review board, found the district eligible for listing on November 26, 2012, and reaffirmed that decision on December 13, 2013. The City of Ketchikan, a Certified Local Government, used Historic Preservation Fund grants to hire a contractor to prepare the documentation. The local commission reviewed the nomination and found the property eligible for listing.

Prior to the Alaska Historical Commission meeting a statewide press release went out with specific mention of National Register documentation review, and letters were sent to each property owner within the district boundaries about the program, results of listing, and how to comment or object to the listing. No one submitted written comments or addressed the Alaska Historical Commission members at the 2012 and 2013 meetings when the nomination was discussed. I concur with the eligibility of the historic district and have signed the nomination.

If you have any questions regarding the documentation please contact Joan (Jo) Antonson, State Historian, at e-mail [jo.antonson@alaska.gov](mailto:jo.antonson@alaska.gov) or phone 907.269.8714.

Sincerely,

*Joan M. Antonson*

Judith E. Bittner  
State Historic Preservation Officer

Enclosure: Creek Street Historic District nomination package

Cc: Stephen Reeve, P.O. Box 23154, Ketchikan Alaska 99901-3154