

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

PH036187X

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RECEIVED SEP 24 1976
DATE ENTERED NOV 2 1976

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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

1 NAME



HISTORIC

Wickersham, House of (AHRs SITE NO. JUN-021)

AND/OR COMMON

House of Wickersham

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
213 7th Street

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN
Juneau

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
Alaska

VICINITY OF

STATE
Alaska

CODE
02

COUNTY
Juneau Division

CODE
110

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

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

OWNERSHIP

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH
- PUBLIC ACQUISITION**
- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE**
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

PRESENT USE

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

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Robert Giersdorf Alaska Tour & Marketing Service (206) 624-8551

STREET & NUMBER
Park Place Bldg. (S-312), 6th and University

CITY, TOWN
Seattle

VICINITY OF

STATE
Washington 98101

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. District Recorder (907) 465-3430

STREET & NUMBER
Pouch U

CITY, TOWN
Juneau

STATE
Alaska 99801

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE Alaska Heritage Resources Survey (AHRs) (907) 274-4679

DATE July 1972
FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Alaska Division of Parks, 323 E. 4th Avenue

CITY, TOWN
Anchorage

STATE
Alaska 99501

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

EXCELLENT
 GOOD
 FAIR

DETERIORATED
 RUINS
 UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

UNALTERED
 ALTERED

CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE
 MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

With a commanding view of the City of Juneau, including the State Capitol complex, the Gastineau Channel of the inner-passage of the North Pacific Ocean, and the towering surrounding mountains, the House of Wickersham remains an impressive part of the City's most venerable residential district.

The house itself, although large and well-situated, bears few distinguishing architectural features. It is sturdy, solid and functional; and carries none of the gingerbread, large gables and embellishments characteristic of turn-of-the-century, fashionable near-mansions. This was more true of Alaska than in the "Lower States."

The builder was a pragmatic man. He knew mining and he knew Alaska. As owner of the Sheep Creek Mining Company, Frank Hammond enjoyed the affluence to build as he wished: strength, comfort, quality and convenience were considerations he prized above pomp and ostentation. Building supplies were not a serious problem as they were in the Interior, Juneau, as the major mining center of the Far North since 1880, had well-stocked lumber, hardware and furniture supply houses and was a principal ocean port north of Seattle and San Francisco. He built accordingly.

The house as originally constructed, and as it remains with virtually no alteration, is 2½ storys with full poured concrete basement. The high gabled roof, shingled, encloses a full-length attic, with windows at each end--the southernly one serving as a ship's beacon during the earlier years. All roofs are corniced, box plain, enclosing extensive storm drains to accomodate heavy rainfall of the locality. Exterior is shiplap siding, which as far as can be determined has always been painted white. The windows are conventional slipsill sash; and except for the true front exposure (not used as the normal entrance) are modestly limited. The true front profile--the home's most gracious architectural feature--with the largest use of glass enclosing a full-length first-floor sun-porch, is usually not seen by visitors unless they tour the grounds, or make special effort. The back (and least attractive exposure) has always provided the entranceway because of its easy accesability off 7th Street. Interior orientation was designed for this practical consideration. Here the principal feature is a center dormer gable pyramided from the first story roof slope to fall some 3' short of reaching the main roof.

The interior is gracious, with high ceilings, a fireplace and large rooms. One notes the influence of Judge Wickersham, a noted bibliophile. All downstairs rooms have extensive book-shelfing; added after 1928. Heating, lighting and some bathroom details have been modernized over the years; but other than this, the home, as built, and as lived in by Judge Wickersham from 1928 to 1939 retains its original integrity.

Due to property growth and residential development, the once open vista on all sides--particularly across 7th Street toward Evergreen Bowl, Gold Creek and Mount Juneau--no longer exists; but the view from the front and upper floors remains dramatic.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

1899, 1900-1939

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

Frank Hammond

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Although important as one of the most impressive period homes of Old Juneau, its greatest significance derives from association with the imposing public figure whose name it bears--The Honorable James V. Wickersham.

James V. Wickersham served as U.S. District Judge in Alaska from 1900-1908; and as Territorial Delegate to the Congress of the United States for 14 years. The editor of the 7-volume Alaska Law Reports, he authored A Bibliography of Alaskan Literature--regarded as an invaluable tool for serious students of Alaskan history; Old Yukon Tales--Trails--and Trials, an autobiographical account providing much information about early 20th Century Alaska; and scores of monographs on Alaskan history, ethnography, and politics. He was an Alaskan public figure whose achievements remains exceptionally significant.

When the U.S. Congress passed the Act of June 6, 1900 extending civil government in Alaska, two district judgeships were also authorized. As a result of previous services in helping to secure the appointment of Senator A.G. Foster (R-Washington) to the U.S. Senate, Wickersham received one of these judiciary posts--that for the Third Judicial Division of the Territory of Alaska, with head-quarters at the City of Eagle on the Uukon River. After travelling by steamship to Skagway, from there to Whitehouse, Y.T., on the narrow gauge White Pass and Yukon Railroad, and then down the Yukon River on the sternwheeler John S. Cudahy, Wickersham and other officials of his court arrived at Eagle on Sunday, July 15, 1900.

The new magistrate's domain was vast: 300,000 square miles; and sparsely populated: some 1,500 whites had been counted in the 1900 census. Four log churches were in the district, but "no court-house, jail, school or other public building". Nor was there a "mile of public wagon road or trail". No money had been appropriated for public purposes, although the Judge had been authorized to reserve two town lots for public purposes and "build a court-house and jail out of license funds". Even as he was letting bids for construction, Judge Wickersham recommended to the Department of Justice that he might profitably assist the judges in other divisions by holding special terms for them. In June of 1901, he left Eagle to hold sessions in the Second Division (Judge Noyes) at Nome and Unalaska. Returning to Eagle, Judge Wickersham continued to make the circuit in his

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Allman, Ruth, House of Wickersham, leaflet, written and illustrated by the author, Juneau, 1960.
 Bradner, Phyllice & Croft, Toni, Touring Juneau, 32 p. monograph, publ, Juneau, 1973.
 Wickersham, James V., Old Yukon Tales, Trails & Trials, Washington, D.C., 1938.
 Alaska Historical Library and Juneau Memorial (public) Library, Juneau; University of Alaska archives, Fairbanks.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY .06

UTM REFERENCES

A	08	534418	550	6462391	450	B			
	ZONE	EASTING		NORTHING			ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C						D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Lot 7, Block 9, Hammond Addition at Seward and 7th Streets as shown on City of Juneau Plat Map, Sheet 4, 1965.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE: Michael S. Kennedy, State Historian

ORGANIZATION: Alaska Division of Parks DATE: August 15, 1976

STREET & NUMBER: 323 E. Fourth Avenue TELEPHONE: (907) 274-4679

CITY OR TOWN: Anchorage STATE: Alaska 99501

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL STATE LOCAL

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

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE: *Russell W. Cahill*

TITLE: SHPO DATE: 9/21/1976

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION DATE: 11/21/96

ATTEST: *Charles [Signature]* DATE: 4/15/76

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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CONTINUATION SHEET

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Third Division, hearing civil and criminal cases along the Yukon and its tributaries. In December of 1940, Judge Wickersham was directed to remove his court to Fairbanks as a result of a bonanza discovered near that settlement; and consequent increase in judicial business there. His career as a pioneer Judge during the heyday of mining involved some of Alaska's most significant cases. Often, for the first time, he brought United States administration of justice to vast segments of the Territory.

James V. Wickersham went on to become Territorial Delegate to the Congress of the United States for fourteen years. He introduced Alaska's first Statehood Bill to the Federal Congress on March 30, 1916. His legal residence thereafter was Juneau. He was elated to be able to purchase, in 1928, the impressive and well situated residence, built in 1899 on part of an old placer mining claim in the Gold Creek District by Frank Hammond, owner of the Sheep Creek Mining Company. The fourteen years as delegate were not however, successive. After a seating fight in the Sixty-fifth Congress, Wickersham decided to retire to private life, opening a law practice in Juneau and working on the bibliography of Alaskana, published by the University of Alaska in 1927. He briefly returned to public service in 1930, winning election as Delegate again. The 1932 Democratic landslide swept him from office, and he returned again to Juneau where he continued to practice law until his death in 1939.

Since 1958 the Judge's Niece, Mrs. Ruth Allman, has graciously hosted and entertained tens of thousands of visitors to the private museum known to many parts of the world as "House of Wickersham". Here, in a dignified manner may be seen the memorabilia and life-style of a preeminent Alaskan. In 1968 the property was acquired by Alaska Airlines. They continued to retain Ruth Allman as lecturer-curator, as has the present owner, Robert Giersdorf.