

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR FEDERAL PROPERTIES

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED **MAR 23 1987**

DATE ENTERED **JUL 16 1987**

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

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC Ketchikan Ranger House (AHR Site No. KET-275)

AND/OR COMMON Ketchikan Ranger House

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER 309 Gorge Street

— NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN Ketchikan

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT  
1

STATE

Alaska

CODE

02

COUNTY

Ketchikan Gateway Borough

CODE

130

**2 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
			<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
			<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

**4 AGENCY**

REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: (If applicable)  
USDA Forest Service, Alaska Region

STREET & NUMBER P.O. Box 21628

CITY, TOWN

Juneau

— VICINITY OF

Alaska

STATE

99802-1628

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. State of Alaska District Recording Office

STREET & NUMBER 415 Main Street

CITY, TOWN

Ketchikan

Alaska

STATE

99901

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE Alaska Heritage Resource Survey

DATE February 17, 1987

— FEDERAL  STATE — COUNTY — LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Office of History & Archaeology, Alaska Division of Parks & Outdoor Recreation, P.O. Box 107001

CITY, TOWN

Anchorage

STATE

Alaska 99501

JUN 8 1987

## 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

The Ketchikan Ranger House, which was built in 1916, is a single, detached unit, rectangular in plan, that is oriented north/south. It is of nailed frame construction with post on piling foundation. It is one and one-half stories high. A poured concrete foundation under the southern portion of the house was added when the basement was excavated in 1931.

Structurally, the house has been virtually unaltered. Only relatively minor modifications have occurred since 1933, the year in which the last major modification--construction of a sunporch--was completed. The exterior appearance is very much as it was in 1933. The interior also retains a great deal of integrity. Only two rooms, the kitchen and the bathroom, have been remodeled. This occurred during the early 1960's.

The exterior walls are clad with shiplap siding, while the gable ends and walls below the watertable and the south and east elevations are covered with wooden shingles. The roof trim includes verges projecting, plain, and eaves projecting, with rafters exposed. There are two hipped-roof dormers on the east slope of the roof, and one large shed-roof dormer offset on the west slope. A stretcher bond brick exterior chimney is located at the southwest corner of the house.

With regard to the windows, fenestration is regular, surrounds are flat, with plain trim and slipsills. The main window divisions are as follows: On the first floor, in the hipped dormers, and the west gable end, there are one-over-one double hung sash windows; whereas the kitchen windows and the mullion window on the east gable end are single sashes with single panes.

The main entry is offset to the far left on the east elevation, and the rear entry is lightly offset to the left on the north gable end. An enclosed sunporch, built in 1933, with a hip roof, extends the width of the south gable end on the first story. Nine straight side steps, with a single railing on the outside, mount to a small platform enclosed by a solid shiplap railing, access the main entry located in the east end of the sunporch. A hipped roof porch extends the width of the north gable end, fully enclosed with shiplap sheathing to the right, and partially enclosed by a plywood railing to the left.

Alterations to the structure are as follows: an extension of the hipped gallery roof to cover the entry platform, enclosure of the entryway with fiberglass panels and replacement of the original single-leaf glass panel door with a laminated door containing three small windows. An aluminum storm door has been added. The solid shiplap railings that had been on both the interior and exterior stairs have been replaced with a simple railing on the outside only. Lattice replaces the shingled enclosure of the porch staircase. On the northeasterly portion of the rear porch, the small dimension porch post and lattice railing have been replaced with a post of heavier dimension and a plywood railing. Fiberglass panels have been added to enclose the space between the railing and the roof on the east side. The double-sash horizontal opening windows in the kitchen have been replaced with single sashes. A galvanized stove pipe protrudes from the east elevation and pierces the eaves trim of both the main roof and the west dormer. The original shingle roof materials have been replaced with composition shingles. There are no structural additions.

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input 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      1916; 1933      BUILDER/ARCHITECT      Unknown

**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

The Ketchikan Ranger House, of 309 Gorge Street, was built in 1916 by the USDA Forest Service for the purpose of providing housing for the first District Ranger detailed to manage forestry in the Territory of Alaska. The total sum of money allocated for the construction (and excluding costs for finishing the interior) amounted to \$650. The lot upon which the dwelling is situated was obtained by the Forest Service through public land order (7300 Buildings and Structures files). The Ketchikan Ranger House has been owned and managed by the Forest Service ever since, and was continuously occupied by District Rangers until 1978.

The house is historically significant for its association with early Forest Service administration in Alaska as well as for its architectural values. The Ketchikan Ranger House was constructed while the Tongass National Forest, created in 1907, was managed from Regional headquarters located in Portland, Oregon (Rakestraw, 1981). It was not until 1919 that administration of Alaskan forests was transferred from Oregon. In that year, the Alaska District was created with headquarters situated in Ketchikan, Alaska. In 1921, the regional office was moved to Juneau, Alaska. At that time, in addition to the Ketchikan Ranger District, supervisory headquarters were situated in Ketchikan (*ibid.*). Since 1909, well over 75 percent of the land area of Southeast Alaska has been under Forest Service management.

The very existence of the Ketchikan Ranger House may exemplify the recognition the agency has historically accorded the District Ranger. Although divisional, regional, and supervisory headquarters have all been situated in Ketchikan at one time or another, the Forest Service only built a residence for the District Ranger. Moreover, its location in the prestigious Captain's Hill neighborhood implies a heightened recognition of the status of the District Ranger in the eyes of the agency.

The House's vernacular Victorian architecture, with adjustments for Alaska, typifies the place and period and clearly reflects local building traditions. The adaptation of contemporary domestic architecture for administrative purposes characterizes the physical establishment of the Forest Service in its formative years. The Ketchikan Ranger's House possesses sufficient integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association to convey its historic identity. The improvements and changes made prior to 1938 describe the historical development of the building as a District Ranger's residence, and are significant.

Despite the alterations described above, the principal value of the Ketchikan Ranger's House is the historical association embodied in the period architecture. A sufficient amount of original features and materials have been retained to provide the visitor with the sensation of having entered a time warp and being transported to the 1930's.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Campbell, Chris  
 1984 A Report on the Historical Significance of the Ketchikan Ranger House. In 2360 files, Supervisor's Office, Federal Building, Ketchikan, Alaska, USDA Forest Service.

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 0.15 acres  
 UTM REFERENCES

A	[0,1]	[3,3,1]	[4,0,0]	[6,1]	[3,6]	[4,5,0]	B	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	D	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]

## VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The property nominated is a rectangular lot 60' by 100' bounded on the southeast by Gorge Street and surrounded by residences to the north, west, and southwest.  
 The lot is LOT 6, BLOCK 2, KETCHIKAN TOWNSITE (USS 1761).

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
N/A			
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Chris Rabich Campbell, Forest Archeologist

December 18, 1985

ORGANIZATION

DATE

USDA Forest Service, Ketchikan Area, Tongass National Forest

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

Federal Building

907-225-3101

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Ketchikan

Alaska 99901

# 12 CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

YES

NO

NONE

Judith E. Bittner  
 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

In compliance with Executive Order 11593, I hereby nominate this property to the National Register, certifying that the State Historic Preservation Officer has been allowed 90 days in which to present the nomination to the State Review Board and to evaluate its significance. The evaluated level of significance is National  State  Local .

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

Walter D. Ricketts

TITLE

AGENCY PRESERVATION ORDER

DATE

MAY 27 1987

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

William B. Bushong

DATE

7/16/87

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

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The interior retains several elements that contribute to the historic integrity of the dwelling. These include materials and features. Materials are the white oak flooring in the living area and the stained softwood flooring in the downstairs bedroom and throughout the upstairs. Features include the spatial arrangement, the windows--number, location, and size, surrounds, molded trim, sills, and glazing patterns thereof; the doors--location, size, surrounds, trim, pattern, and finish; the picture molding in the living room; the baseboards in the living room, bedrooms, and sunporch; the light fixtures--two ceiling fixtures in the sunporch, the ceiling fixture in the upstairs hallway, and the wall fixture in the front upstairs bedroom; built-in storage--closets, drawers, shelves, and window seats; hardware--doorknobs, latch plates, brass switch plates, drawer pulls on built-in bedroom storage, brass window fittings; and the unusual curved upstairs hallway.

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Rakestraw, Lawrence

1981 A History of the United States Forest Service in Alaska. A Cooperative Publication by the Alaska Historical Commission, the USDA Forest Service, and the Alaska Historical Society: Anchorage, Alaska.

Throop, Gail

1984 Historic Ranger's Dwelling, Ketchikan Ranger District. In 2360 files, USDA Forest Service, Supervisor's Office, Ketchikan, Alaska.

7300 Buildings and Structures Files. Ketchikan Ranger House. USDA Forest Service, Supervisor's Office, Ketchikan, Alaska.