REVISION AND CONFIRMATION OF TOTEM POLE PRESERVATION DISTRICT

Form 10-300

(Revised July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(No Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

1. NAME

COMMON:
Alaska Totems: A Heritage in Peril

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
Between Park and Deermount Avenues

CITY OR TOWN:
Ketchikan

STATE:
Alaska

COUNTY:
Gateway Borough

FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY NUMBER:
DATE:
116.02.0002 4/1/71

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY
(District Building Site Structure Object)

OWNERSHIP
Public Private Both

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

STATUS

ACCESSIBLE
TO THE PUBLIC

PRESENT USE

(Agricultural Commercial Educational Entertainment)

(Park Private residence Military Museum)

[ ] Occupied [ ] Unoccupied X in Process [ ] Unrestricted

[ ] Public Acquisition [ ] Being Considered [ ] Preservation work in progress

[ ] Occupied Yes: [ ] Restricted [ ] Unoccupied [ ] Transportation [ ] No

Comments

unoccupied lands

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER’S NAME:
City of Ketchikan

STREET AND NUMBER:
334 Front Street, Room 10 (Box 110)

CITY OR TOWN:
Ketchikan

STATE:
Alaska

CODE: 02

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:
Ketchikan Recording Precinct

STREET AND NUMBER:
U.S. Federal Building

CITY OR TOWN:
Ketchikan

STATE:
Alaska

CODE: 02

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
None

DATE OF SURVEY:

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

STATE:

CODE:

NOTE: Senators Mike Gravel and Ted Stevens
Congressman Nick Begich
This site's significance is due to the totem pole collection to be housed thereon.

The site itself is a lightly wooded area in a medium density residential district; it is faced on one side by Ketchikan Creek, and on the other three sides by scrub brush and trees.

The poles appear as they did when they were retrieved in the summer of 1970 from their original locations; they are well-weathered, and a silver-grey in coloration. No paint remains on them, and generally they show marked deterioration. They are presently being treated to permanently preserve their appearance when retrieved, and will become the focal point of a series of exhibits to be housed in a building to be erected on the site.
Totem poles are synonymous with Indian history, and particularly with Alaska, and yet until the development of Alaska Totems only four original 19th century poles had been permanently preserved in Alaska. The totems in the Alaska Totems collection are the last salvable examples of an ethnic art form which flourished from British Columbia to Yakutat, Alaska from the mid 1700's - early 1900's. This form was indigenous to only one area of the North American continent now a State of the United States -- Alaska. Thus this collection has unique national significance culturally, esthetically and historically, as it will be permanently located in the community (Ketchikan) where the majority of the descendants of Village Island, Tongass Island (both Tlingit), and Old Kasaan (Haida) now live.

Totem poles appear to be a relatively recent development on the Northwest Coast; early explorers accounts mention the presence of small carved pieces but little of great size. The poles preserved in Alaska Totems are of several types: memorial poles, story poles, family or clan poles. The poles were traditionally the specific property of a given family or clan; today they are still recognized as legally belonging to the Tlingit and Haida peoples.

(Continued)
9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES


Clark, Joe W., Preservation of Totem Poles. U.S. Forest Products Laboratory, Madison, Wisconsin, 1967.


(continued)

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CORNER</th>
<th>LATITUDE</th>
<th>LONGITUDE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NW</td>
<td>55° 20′ 35″</td>
<td>131° 37′ 55″</td>
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<td>NE</td>
<td>55° 20′ 35″</td>
<td>131° 37′ 55″</td>
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<td>SE</td>
<td>55° 20′ 35″</td>
<td>131° 37′ 55″</td>
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<tr>
<td>SW</td>
<td>55° 20′ 35″</td>
<td>131° 37′ 55″</td>
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APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 1.68 sq. acres

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

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<tr>
<th>STATE</th>
<th>CODE</th>
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11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Jane Wallen, Director

ORGANIZATION: Alaska State Museum

STREET AND NUMBER: Pouch FM

CITY OR TOWN: Juneau

STATE: Alaska

CODE: 99801

DATE: Febr. 11, 1971

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National [X] State [ ] Local [ ]

Name: Theodore G. Smith

Title: State Liaison Officer for Historic Preservation

Date: February 23, 1971

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

[Signature]

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

JUN 21 1971

ATTEND: William Manly

Keeper of The National Register

MAR 29 1971
8. Statement of Significance: (Continued)

In the late 1800's life in Southeastern Alaska drastically changed with the advent of gold-seekers, missionaries, cannery operations and schools. Groups of Indian peoples moved from their older communities to "modern" towns. The totem poles have remained at the older villages (now unoccupied) until this time, and as such constitute some of the few remaining memorials to the traditional life-style which once predominated in Southeastern Alaska.

9. Major Bibliographical References: (Continued)