

PH0055727

Form 10-300  
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: <b>Alaska</b>	
COUNTY: <b>Gateway Borough</b>	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER <b>716.02.0002</b>	DATE <b>6/5/71</b>

**1. NAME**

COMMON:  
**Alaska Totems: A Heritage in Peril**

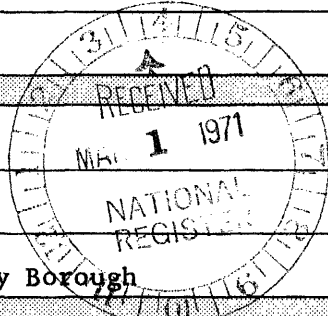
AND/OR HISTORIC:

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**Between Park and Deermount Avenues**

CITY OR TOWN:  
**Ketchikan**

STATE: **Alaska**      CODE: **02**      COUNTY: **Gateway Borough**      CODE:



**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <b>unoccupied lands</b>

**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:       Federal     State     County     Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:      STATE:      CODE:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE:      COUNTY:      ENTRY NUMBER: **716.02.0002**      DATE: **6/5/71**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

NOTE: Senators Mike Gravel and Ted Stevens  
Congressman Nick Begich

7. DESCRIPTION

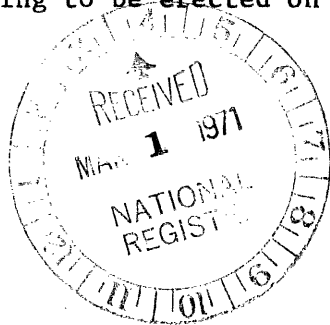
CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input type="checkbox"/> Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

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.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**SIGNIFICANCE**

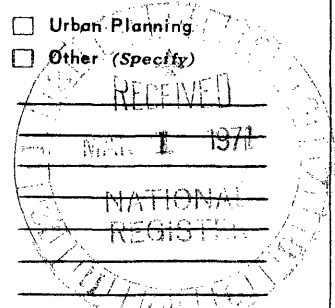
PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |                                       |  |                                       |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century            | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century  | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century |                                       |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |   |   |  |
|--|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal          | <input type="checkbox"/> Education              | <input type="checkbox"/> Political            | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric         | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering            | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy  | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry               | <input type="checkbox"/> Science              |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture         | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention              | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sculpture |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture        | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian  |  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Art      | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature             | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater              |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce            | <input type="checkbox"/> Military               | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation       |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications      | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                  |   |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation        |   |   |  |



STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

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)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Alaska State Council on the Arts, Proceedings, Conferences on Southeast Alaska Native Artifacts and Monuments, Vol. I & II, July, Nov. 1967.  
 Barbeau, Marius, Totem Poles, Vol. I & II. National Museum of Canada, Ottawa, 1950, 1964.  
 Clark, Joe W., Preservation of Totem Poles. U.S. Forest Products Laboratory, Madison, Wisconsin, 1967.  
 Duff, Wilson (editor), Jane Wallen, Joe Clark, Report of Field Survey and Follow-up Activities (Totem Pole Survey of Southeastern Alaska), Alaska State Museum, Juneau, 1969.

(continued)

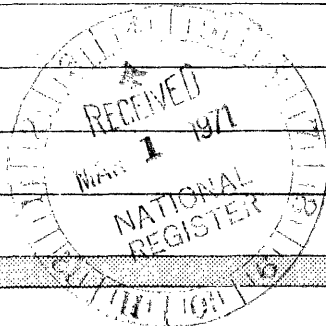
**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		55 ° 20 ' 35 "	131 ° 37 ' 55 "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **1.68 sq. acres**

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE:  
**Jane Wallen, Director**

ORGANIZATION: **Alaska State Museum**      DATE: **Febr. 11, 1971**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**Pouch FM**

CITY OR TOWN: **Juneau**      STATE: **Alaska 99801**      CODE: **02**

**12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION      NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

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     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.

Ernest A. Connally  
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation  
 JUN 21 1971  
 Date \_\_\_\_\_

ATTEST:  
William M. Muntz  
 Keeper of The National Register  
 Date: MAR 29 1971

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Alaska	
COUNTY Gateway Borough	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER 716.02.0002	DATE 6/21/71

(Number all entries)

## 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)

- Garfield, Viola E. and Linn A. Forrest, The Wolf and the Raven, University of Washington Press, Seattle, 1961.
- Keithahn, Edward L., Monuments in Cedar, Superior Publishing Co., Seattle, 1961.
- Kuh, Katharine, "Alaska's Art in Peril", Saturday Review, March 25, 1967.
- , "Alaska's Vanishing Art", Saturday Review, Oct. 22, 1966.
- Niblack, Albert P., The Coast Indians of Southern Alaska and Northern British Columbia, Annual Report of the U.S. National Museum, Washington, 1888.
- Wallen, Jane, "Totems: A Heritage in Peril", Cross-Cultural Arts in Alaska, Alaska Review, Vol. IV, No. 2., AMU, Anchorage 1970.

