

CREEK STREET

KETCHIKAN ALASKA

A SURVEY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES

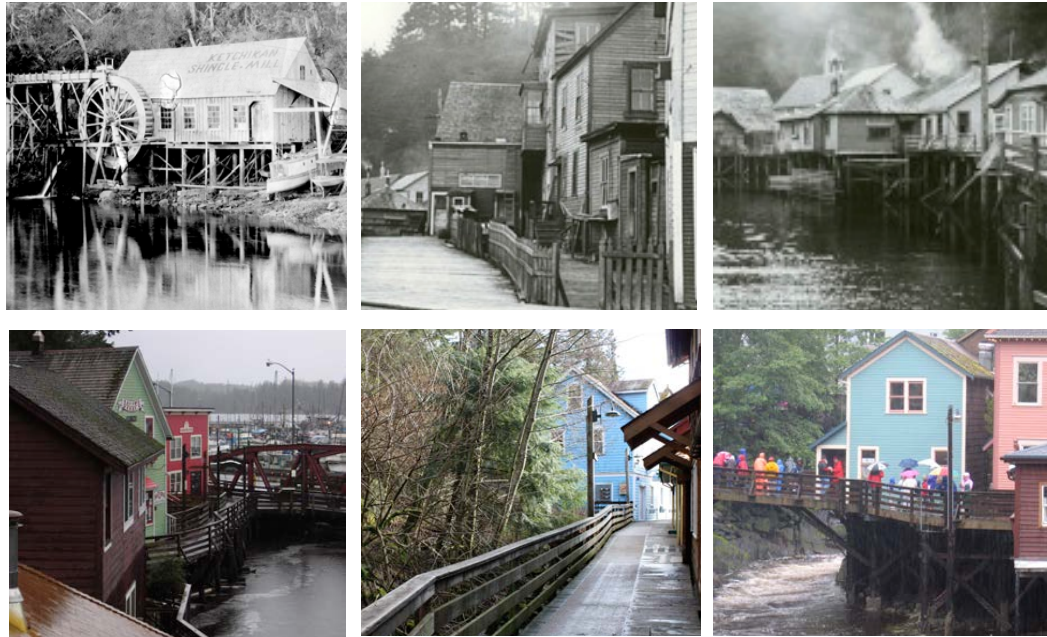
prepared by

RAI DEVELOPMENT SOLUTIONS

&
HISTORIC KETCHIKAN, INC.

for the
Ketchikan Historic Commission
and
Alaska Office of History & Archaeology

NOVEMBER, 2011



CREEK STREET

K E T C H I K A N A L A S K A

A SURVEY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES

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Because artists are drawn to scenic and historic places, their skills and vision capture our community heritage in their art. "Absolutely Creek Street" created by resident Creek Street artist Ray Troll, along with fellow artist, Halli Kenoyer, helps "tell our story" through art.

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CONTENTS

Part One Background

Introduction to the Survey Area	1
Historical Context	2
Summary Timeline of Historic Themes.....	8
Comparative Changes, 1914-1927	10

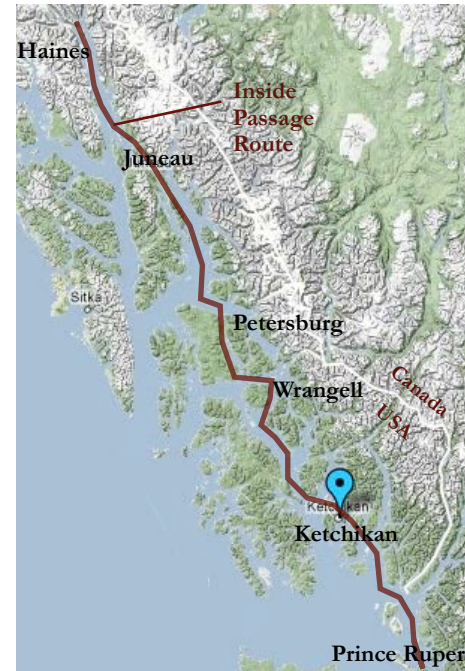
Part Two Survey of Buildings, Structures, Sites and Objects

Survey Methodology and Criteria.....	13
Early Creek Street Building Types	14
Analysis of Creek Street Properties	16
Comparative Summary of Properties	18
Survey of Buildings, Structures, Sites and Objects	20

Part Three Conclusions and Recommendations

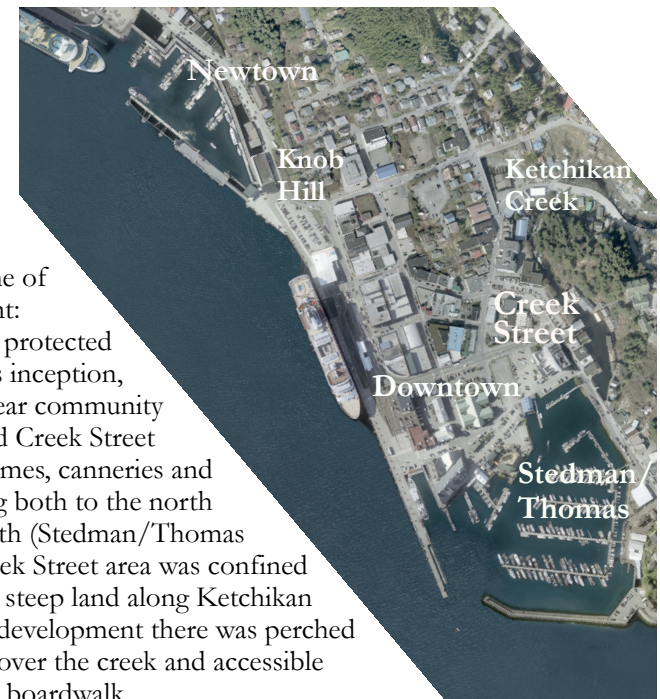
National Historic District Eligibility Determination	51
Statement of District Significance.....	52
Recommended Boundaries and Justification.....	53
Properties Eligible for National Register.....	54
Summary of Contributing/Non-Contributing Resources.....	56

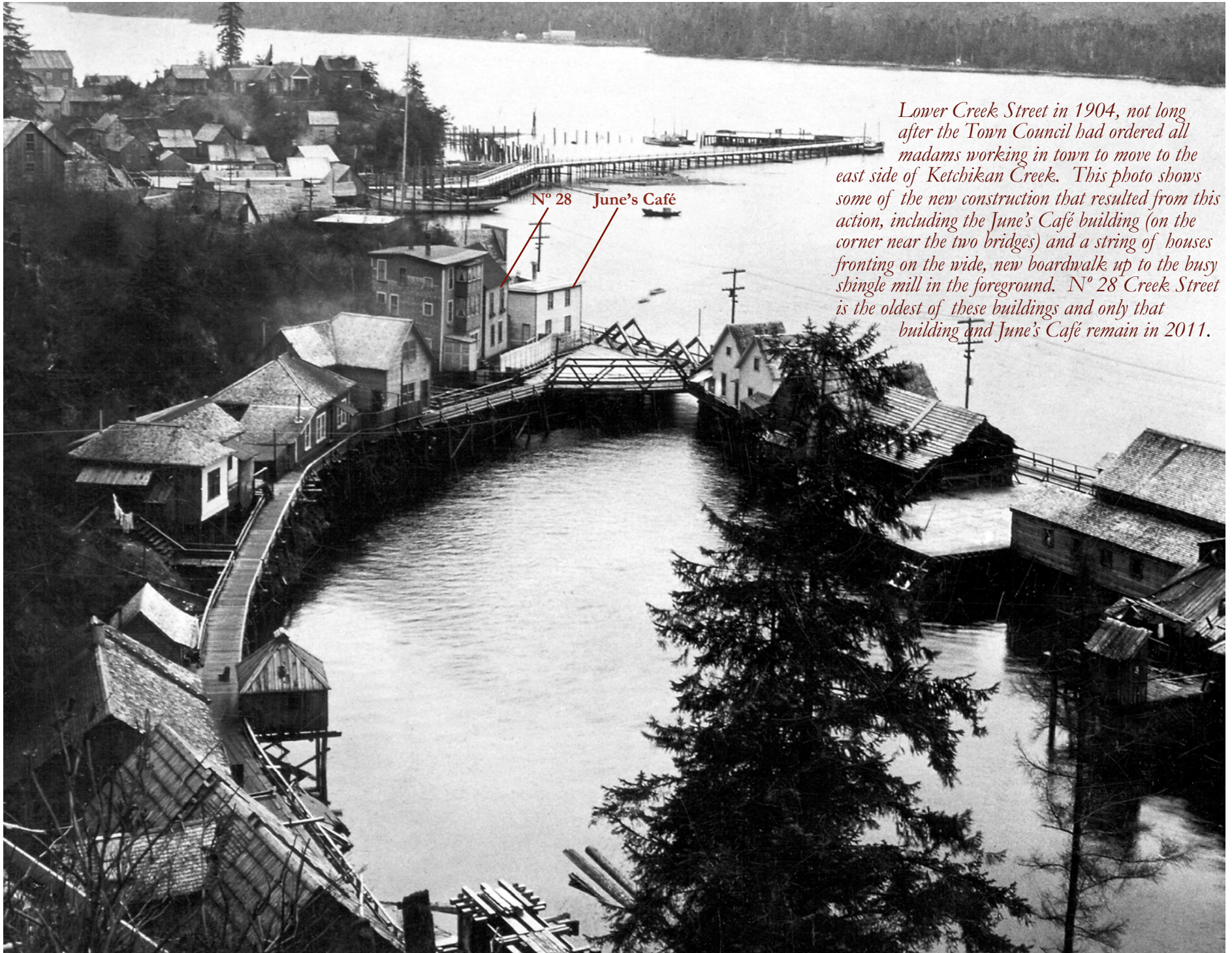
References	58
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Ketchikan, located on the southwest edge of Revillagigedo Island, was positioned by geography, resources and timing to become the “gateway” to Alaska. Cannery and mining booms brought people to and through the area. Its protected waters 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.

While Ketchikan had relatively little flat, easily-developed land, it did have an abundance of something which was probably more important at the time of its early development: accessible, relatively protected waterfront. From its inception, Ketchikan was a linear community with Downtown and Creek Street at the center and homes, canneries and other uses extending both to the north (Newtown) and south (Stedman/Thomas area). Since the Creek Street area was confined to a narrow strip of steep land along Ketchikan Creek, most of the development there was perched on wood piling out over the creek and accessible only by a pedestrian boardwalk.





Lower Creek Street in 1904, not long after the Town Council had ordered all madams working in town to move to the east side of Ketchikan Creek. This photo shows some of the new construction that resulted from this action, including the June's Café building (on the corner near the two bridges) and a string of houses fronting on the wide, new boardwalk up to the busy shingle mill in the foreground. N° 28 Creek Street is the oldest of these buildings and only that building and June's Café remain in 2011.

PART ONE: BACKGROUND

Introduction to the Survey Area

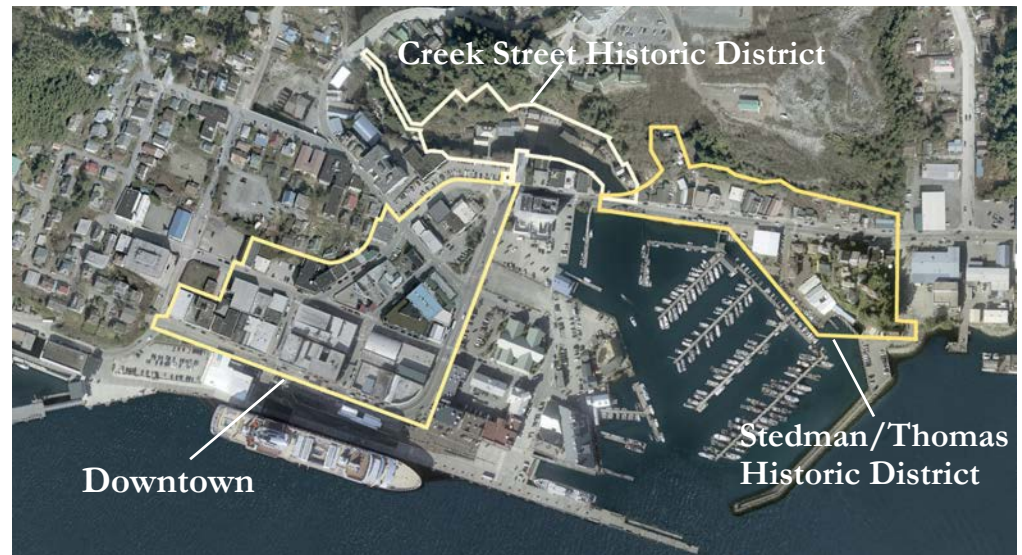
The Creek Street area's special role in the historical development of Ketchikan has long been recognized. First, as the site of Tlingit Indian settlements for untold centuries and then, in the early 1900s, Creek Street began 50 years of notoriety as the most infamous red-light district in the Territory of Alaska.

Following a 25-year period of decay and disrepair on Creek Street, the Ketchikan Gateway Borough in 1976 recognized the area's historic importance and created Ketchikan's first and only local historic district. Rules were established to protect significant historic buildings and to guide new construction in a manner that was consistent with Creek Street's special architecture. Considerable restoration of existing buildings as well as new construction followed. By 2011, Creek Street had become Ketchikan's most famous visitor destination.

In 2010, the Ketchikan Historic Commission, together with the Ketchikan Gateway Borough Planning Department, obtained a Historic Preservation grant through the Alaska Office of History and Archaeology to survey and document heritage resources in the Creek Street area as well as the Downtown business district. A local planning, design and historic preservation firm, RAI Development Solutions, was selected to lead the project, working with Historic Ketchikan, a local non-profit organization that promotes economic development through historic preservation.

The survey study area comprises the boundaries of the local Creek Street Historic District. It includes the many buildings built on piling over Ketchikan Creek that are accessible only from the Creek Street boardwalk, the tidal-affected waters and creek banks near the mouth of Ketchikan Creek, the historic Creek Street pedestrian bridge and the Creek Street boardwalk, two buildings along Totem Way near Ketchikan Creek, Totem Way and the Chief Johnson Totem Pole. Creek Street's rich history is still evident in some 24+ buildings, sites, structures and an object that, together, contribute to its historic character, many of them dating from the turn of the century to the early 1930s.

A key purpose of this project is to evaluate whether the Creek Street district is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. Listed historic properties and districts are special places recognized as having



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

important local or national significance, as determined by the Keeper of the National Register of Historic Places, National Park Service, Department of the Interior. The request to nominate an area is locally initiated and, if successful, the district would be managed locally to support historic preservation and to benefit cultural heritage tourism.

This document assesses Creek Street's unique heritage and its contribution to the Ketchikan and Alaska story. In conducting this assessment, a community outreach process included Creek Street property and business owners as well as many local citizens who have an interest in Creek Street's history and have stories to tell about its history. An important objective of this work is to document the buildings and heritage sites, as well as the stories of those associated with its development, in order to share with future generations. Through potential national recognition, through the interest, participation and "ownership" of property owners and others interested in Ketchikan's cultural heritage, and through the documentation of historic resources provided in this document, it is hoped that continued preservation of this important area and of its historic buildings can be accomplished.

Based on the survey results, the Historic Commission, in consultation with Creek Street property owners, may recommend nomination of Creek Street to the National Register of Historic Places. If a nomination is advanced, the final boundaries will be determined in consultation with the Historic Commission, Borough Planning Department and the Alaska Office of History and Archaeology.

HISTORICAL CONTEXT

Creek Street Beginnings, 1902 to 1917

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 Ketchikan population 40, 26 of whom were 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 along the east shoreline where Stedman Street is today. A wood viaduct linked the two enclaves.

The Native houses on the west side of the Creek were in the area that came to be known as Barney Way (for the walkway that was its main thoroughfare) and many of these survived until a 1960s urban renewal project. Amidst these houses, the Chief Kyan totem pole was raised in 1898 and the Chief Johnson pole in 1902. Today (2011), a replica of the Chief Johnson pole stands in the original pole’s location (though turned about 60 degrees) and a replica of the Chief Kyan pole stands about a block away in Whale Park. Downtown residents and customers of the houses on the north end of Creek Street (near the Star House Dance Hall) would pass through “Indian Town” along either Barney Way or Totem Way to one of the two bridges that crossed Ketchikan Creek there.



The newly-raised Chief Johnson Totem Pole, Chief George Johnson (Gut-Wain) in his regalia (above and right), and the Chief’s house, 1902.

The first non-Native settlement in Alaska was a fur trade outpost at Kodiak Island, established by Russians in 1784. It wasn’t until after the Alaska Purchase in 1867 that non-Russian settlers started coming to Alaska, most often from Seattle. They traveled by boat along a route that became known as the “Inside Passage.” On this route, Ketchikan was a regular stopping point for vessels plying this route and became the first U.S. port of call.

At first, it was the bountiful runs of salmon, and later the dream of gold, that 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 at Loring--the world’s largest--in 1885. 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 (Juneau, 1880 and Klondike, 1896), as well as other promising mining prospects, that brought large numbers of people to the area and established Ketchikan as the regional center and “gateway” to the rest of Alaska.

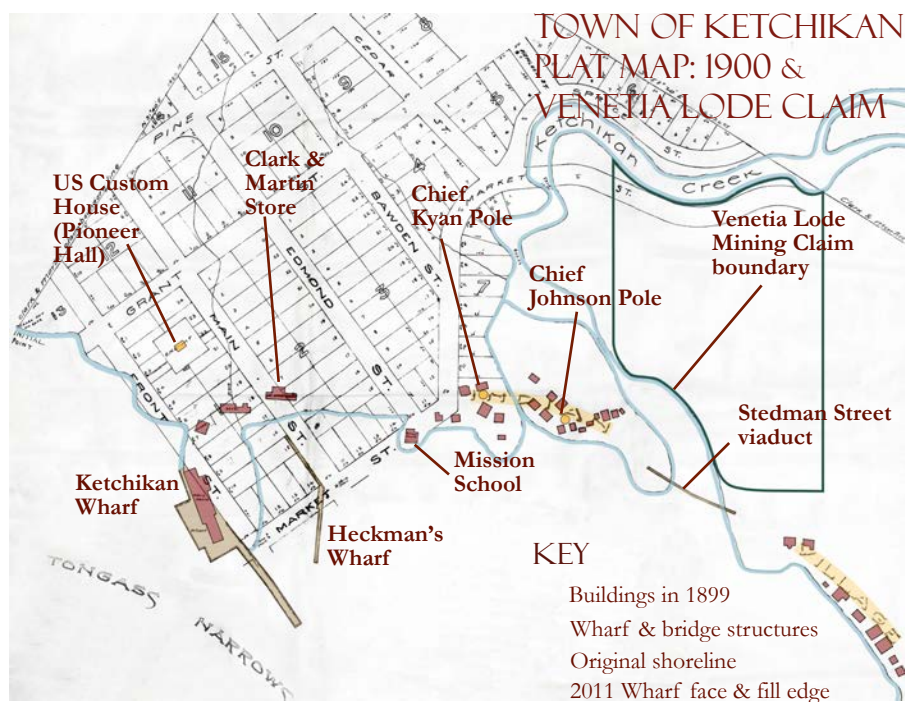
In 1900, Ketchikan was starting to behave like a real town. It boasted a Custom House, post office, newspaper, general stores, hotels, large cannery, and a population of 454. A townsite had just been laid out with streets and platted lots, framing the frenzied growth that occurred over the following 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 and people began to demand action. They knew they couldn’t stop it, but they could at least 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.”

The west side of Ketchikan Creek was part of the original town plat and had surveyed lots ready to be developed, as well as an 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.





This 1900 plat map and 1905 Venetia Lode mining claim survey help tell the story of the Creek Street area. The Ketchikan town plat dedicated public thoroughfares that would become the Front, Grant, Main, Bowden and Mission streets of today. It set the standard for the 50' x 100' lot as a building block for the Downtown area. The plat map also shows a sizable number of informal houses on either side of the creek mouth, labeled "Indian Village." The Creek Street area was not part of this original town vision. It first developed as unsurveyed lots along boardwalks and trails, much of it in the Venetia Claim.

The other side of Ketchikan Creek was different. Much of it was part of the Venetia Lode mining claim and had not yet been subdivided. Development was a challenge there due to difficult access, steep terrain and a sometimes roaring creek with nearly 20 feet of tidal change.

At the time, 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 other entry point, 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 Council to ban prostitution to that side of the Creek set in motion a building boom and established the area 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 to also invest in buildings and put down roots in the community. They could live openly within their own neighborhood.

Things were now changing rapidly. The trail/boardwalk was upgraded and located completely on piling over the Creek channel, enabling new buildings to be built on the adjacent upland side, often taking advantage of some solid ground for foundations. Houses used by "female boarders" (a euphemism for prostitutes at the time) initially clustered around the two bridges. The 1904 photo facing page 1 captures this first building boom around the Stedman Street bridge, with 8 houses visible (7 on the east side of the Creek, and one on Stedman at the bridge), sporting fresh cedar shingle roofs and a wide new boardwalk. N° 28 Creek Street, as well as the newly built 203 Stedman (June's Café) building, are visible and Dolly's House would be added just a year later (1905).

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. Here, development was slower; by 1914, there were only four dwellings in this area, three of which were labeled as "female boarder" use. It did boast the largest house of prostitution on the Creek (N° 5) with the addition of a dance hall and more rooms in 1910.

In between these two clusters of houses--nearly all owned and operated by their madams--was the Shingle Mill. While the City Council saw the east side of Ketchikan Creek as ideal for prostitution, a couple of local carpenters/boat builders and entrepreneurs had another vision. 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 as the madams were putting up their houses, they were engaged in a building frenzy of their own.



In 1904, they completed a flume, a 22 ft diameter waterwheel, and the requisite structures needed to begin production at their cooperage.

Two of Ketchikan's early pioneer leaders, Ott Inman (top) and Mike Martin (bottom), in 1897. Inman was one of the first white men to settle in early Ketchikan. He married a local Tlingit woman, had four children and pursued his lifelong passion for boat building. He was an accomplished businessman, elected leader, and founder of the Ketchikan Shingle Mill on Creek Street. Martin was Ketchikan's colorful co-founder (with George Clark); co-developer of a saltery, wharf and the first store; proprietor of the Sideboard (one of Ketchikan's first saloons); and the town's first mayor.

Within a year, they had expanded their operation to also produce cedar shingles. This June 24, 1905 *Mining Journal* article describes the new mill, noting the ingenuity of its builders:

“Inman and Borch have completed their shingle mill at the mouth of Ketchikan Creek and began sawing shingles Thursday afternoon. The gentlemen composing this firm are experienced coopers, boatbuilders and carpenters, and have made most of the machinery in the mill themselves. Water power is used, a flume from the falls giving them all the power necessary. A 22 ft. wheel receives water and shafts and belts transmit the power to the different saws. Inside are two 10 ft. wheels used to increase the speed of the transmitted power. A fine Perkins shingle saw has been installed, which with a cut-off saw and rip saw finish the shingle for the weaver.

A force of three men is employed. At present about 10,000 shingles per day are turned out. Cedar timber is used, that from this island being especially excellent for this purpose-much better, experts say, than that growing on the Sound in Washington.

A good local market is assured for the shingles at good prices, and as the shingles they turn out are of the highest grade, a demand for them will come from all over the district.”

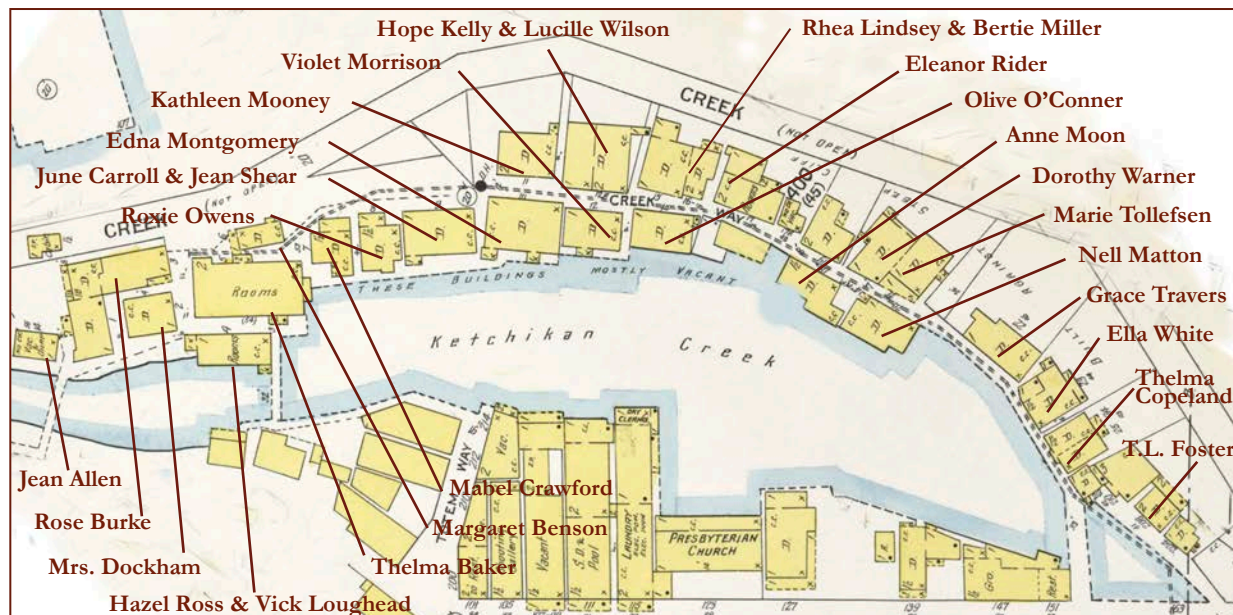
The Shingle Mill operated on Ketchikan Creek until about 1918. Its cluster of buildings effectively divided the red light district into two groupings of houses, one centered between the Stedman Street bridge and the shingle mill, and one near the Star House, on the upstream side of the mill.

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. More land became readily available for enterprising women already working the Creek (or new arrivals) to establish their own house and business. Alaska attracted tough, resilient, independent women who had a hand at business. They were not “citized” like many of the “working women” down south. They bought property, paid off the law to operate, and spoke out. Most were members of the community, donated to worthy causes, some married, and all shopped in local stores. Most of them were not beholden to “pimps” or other men to operate their businesses. Many lived out their lives in the same houses that they worked in, adjusting to changing times, surviving. 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 at the time down south.

The second thing that occurred was the enactment of the Alaska Bone Dry Law at the beginning of 1918, followed by the start of National Prohibition in 1920. The sale and consumption of liquor had always been part of the prostitution business, though more often through saloons and bars that were not owned and controlled by the madams. With the Bone Dry Law and Prohibition, the sale and consumption of liquor moved out of the bars and into the houses, now controlled more by women. Business flourished as never before. New houses appeared up and down the Creek. Nearly every available lot was built upon. Structures began to be located on both sides of the

boardwalk, blocking views of many existing buildings (although people usually didn’t go to Creek Street to enjoy the pleasant waterfront scenery). For nearly 16 years, from 1918 until the repeal of the 18th Amendment in 1933, Creek Street was in its heyday.



Owners' names from the 1927 tax rolls superimposed on this 1927 Sanborn Fire Map illustrate that Creek Street was a women's world. Virtually every building was owned by female entrepreneurs. Some worked alone, some in pairs and at the Star House (the only registered brothel in the Territory), a group of at least eight worked under the leadership of "Black Mary" Thomas and later Thelma Baker.

Throughout Prohibition, business on Creek Street boomed. By 1920, there were at least 21 “bawdy houses” on the Creek with 37 women working out of them, according to Patricia Roppel. 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 old 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 a number of unwritten rules. When a working woman arrived in town, her first stop was the police station where she was fingerprinted and required to fill out a lengthy questionnaire. She was also required to visit the doctor and obtain a certificate of health. A number of other rules governed the women’s activities 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 areas during this period (Barney Way, Stedman Street, Mission, Dock and even to Main Street), though not as openly as on the Creek. There was money to be made and people found ways around the laws to do it wherever they could. As a result, by 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 many campaigns were waged to clean-up the Creek; some resulted in closures of a few houses, but nothing really changed much, at least not until 1933.

The Los Angeles Examiner, Sunday, April 4, 1926

Gamblers, Liquor Dealers and Red Light Women Uncle Sam's Tenants

A CHALLENGE resolution was sent to the House of Representatives in Washington Monday that the United States Government is guilty of neglect and dereliction in failing to enforce the laws of the United States against the sale of liquor and gambling in Ketchikan, Alaska. The resolution, which is being circulated in Ketchikan and other parts of Alaska, contains the following: "Resolved, That the United States Government is guilty of neglect and dereliction in failing to enforce the laws of the United States against the sale of liquor and gambling in Ketchikan, Alaska. The resolution is being circulated in Ketchikan and other parts of Alaska."



Because the Federal government does not take the trouble to enforce the laws of the United States against the sale of liquor and gambling in Ketchikan, Alaska, the United States Government is guilty of neglect and dereliction in failing to enforce the laws of the United States against the sale of liquor and gambling in Ketchikan, Alaska. The resolution is being circulated in Ketchikan and other parts of Alaska.

The Only Daily Paper Published in Ketchikan, Alaska

Ketchikan Alaska Chronicle

Associated Press — International News Service

"ALL THE NEWS WHEN IT IS NEWS"

VOL. XV — NO. 290 KETCHIKAN, ALASKA, FRIDAY, APRIL 24, 1925 PRICE TEN CENTS

SENATOR HUNT SAYS KETCHIKAN IS WICKED

(Special to Chronicle)

JUNEAU, April 24.—Ketchikan, Alaska, is a terrible town. It is

The Sutherland man in the senate yesterday brought about the defeat of Representative Sheldon's

The general taxation measure was reported to the house yesterday, with the salmon tax schedule

Steady Decline, 1934 to 1954

With the end of Prohibition in 1933, liquor sales no longer brought in the business and profits that it had in the previous years. Bars and saloons sprang up throughout town. 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 require considerable attention to maintenance and upkeep. The already numerous houses had to compete for fewer customers, adding to reductions in revenues. Money became tight, first during the Great Depression, and then during the war years as fewer men were to be found in the community and Creek Street was closed briefly by military authorities. Creek Street began a slow but steady decline until the War ended.



This 1930 photo of storm-swollen Ketchikan Creek documents one of many floods that caused the demise of Creek Street buildings—especially those built on piling over the creek.

By 1945, after a long depression and war, everyone was ready for life to return to “normal.” Creek Street was again open for business, but, like the world around it, much had changed. First, the whole area began to look dilapidated. Creek Street and the nearby Stedman/Thomas and Barney Way neighborhoods had aging buildings and limited auto access. They were out of step with the increasingly auto-centered way of life. The community was growing out into the suburbs where whole new neighborhoods could be created, and new industries such as the pulp mill would bring 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 importantly, 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. Some defended the activities on the Creek, including a few of the madams themselves; but it wasn't so much the prostitution as the corruption of City officials, their involvement with payoffs and operations on the Creek, that 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.



In 1970, Creek Street was a shell of its former self. Many of the few remaining buildings were boarded up and others were in disrepair. Of the 10 Creek Street buildings in these photos, 4 have since been lost and only the Star House, N° 10, N° 11, N° 20, Dolly's and N° 28 remain.

Deterioration and Death, 1954-1971

Shutting down the Creek did not stop prostitution in Ketchikan, but it did change a way of life on 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 entrepreneurial women remained on the Creek, all owners of their real estate and businesses, living out the remainder of their lives there, 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” when she could get away with it, and finally 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, Prohibition alcohol, and dancing to the tunes of “Blind Ernie's” piano.
- Dolly Arthur first practiced her trade in Vancouver, Juneau, Petersburg and at the other end of the Creek (Star House) before ultimately settling at her place of business at N° 24 in 1919 and living there for 54 years.

As each of these women passed away, the story of Creek Street receded into history, many of the details lost forever.



Dolly Arthur was Creek Street's most famous “sporting woman” and one of its longest residents. Dolly, whose given name was Thelma Copeland, stayed on at her house until 1973, when ill health required her to move to a nursing home. Today, a museum at her house commemorates her life and those of other women who played important roles in Creek Street's 50 years of notoriety as the most infamous red light district in the Territory of Alaska.

Restoration and Renewal, 1971-2011

By 1970, Creek Street had had no new buildings added to it since the 1920s. In the 40 years leading up to 2011, a few of the remaining buildings were lost to fire and/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, especially after prostitution ended. By 1970, Creek Street had just 13 buildings in various states of use and deterioration. Despite their central location adjacent to the downtown, many were boarded up. The boardwalk itself was often piled high with discarded furniture and debris.

The urban renewal project of the mid 1960s that resulted in the Centennial Building and parking lot replacing the old “Indian Town/Barney Way” neighborhood set the stage for other development in the Creek Street area. Creek Street Historic District was formed 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.

All 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 which were in increasing danger of being lost. This resulted in the purchase and restoration of many of the remaining structures by individuals interested in maintaining their historic integrity, notably:

- 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 the National Register of Historic Places in 1993

At the same time, other buildings were renovated and adapted to residential use and, increasingly, to commercial activities 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, but some included changes which altered some of the historic aspects of the structures, 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.

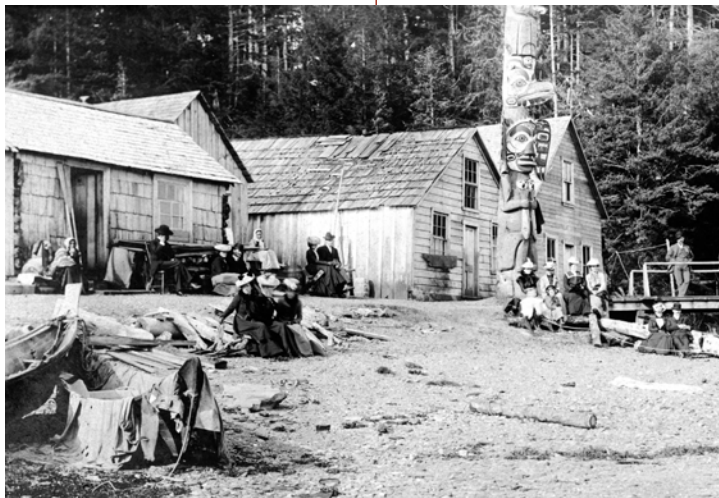


As can be seen in these 2007 aerial perspectives, many of the buildings dating from Creek Street’s early years have been joined by recent additions over the past few decades. The boardwalk remains virtually unchanged and the creek still supports four runs of salmon and the same birdlife, wildlife and dramatic tidal and flow changes that have been the experience of countless generations of Natives and the past 110 years of Creek Street lives.



SUMMARY TIMELINE OF HISTORIC THEMES AND EVENTS

RELEVANT THEMES	1880s	1890s	1900s	1910s
NATIONAL ALASKAN REGIONAL	Alaska & Yukon/Klondike Gold Rush Cannery beginnings	Cannery boom throughout Alaska Bank failures/unemployment	Tongass Forest created Prospecting & mining boom in Southeast	
KETCHIKAN		Early community beginnings Fisheries industry/canneries/cold storage/shipping development Steamship excursions to Ketchikan begin	Rapid downtown growth Wood products development	Consolidation as
CREEK STREET	Traditional Native use along Ketchikan Creek	Native settlement along Ketchikan Creek mouth	Relocation of prostitutes east of Creek Creek Street beginnings	
NOTABLE EVENTS	Gold discovered Juneau, 1880	1st Ketchikan cannery, 1887 Metlakatla, Loring, Klawock main growth centers in Region 1890 Census, Ketchikan pop. 40	Klondike Gold Rush, 1897-98 Nome Gold Rush, 1899-1900 Gold discovered in Thorne Arm, Helm Bay Ketchikan gets electricity (30kw) from Creek power 1900 Census, Ketchikan pop. 454 Ketchikan incorporated Chief Johnson Pole raised Nº 28 built (oldest remaining house on Creek St) Star House built June's Cafe built Dolly's House built Shingle mill, water wheel operating Consolidation of prostitution to Creek Street area	Tongass Forest created, 1907 Territory of Alaska designated, 1912 More canneries added as salmon prices soar 1910 Census, Ketchikan pop. 1,600 (largest in SE Alaska) Star dance hall added Venetia Lode mining claim platted



The newly-raised Chief Johnson Totem Pole towers over early Ketchikan and the Native settlement along Ketchikan Creek, 1902.

1920s

1930s

1940s

1950s

Alaska Bone Dry Law and Prohibition

Great Depression

World War II

Post war economic boom

Shift of growth to Southcentral Alaska

regional center/Alaska's most populous city

Community population expands north & south of city core

Pulp mill established

Heyday of Prostitution

Decline and end of prostitution



The local establishment of Creek Street Historic District in 1976 ended a long period of decline of Creek Street. In this 1977 photo, 4 new buildings and two restorations were underway. New construction must meet a local design and restoration code and secure the approval of an Architectural Design Review Board.

Military installations fuel growth of Anchorage & Fairbanks

Record salmon pack, 1941

Ketchikan becomes "Salmon Capital of the World"

1920 Census, Ketchikan pop. 2,400 (50% growth over 1910)

1930 Census, Ketchikan pop. 3,800 (largest town in Alaska)

1940 Census, Ketchikan pop. 4,695

N° 10 built

N° 4 built

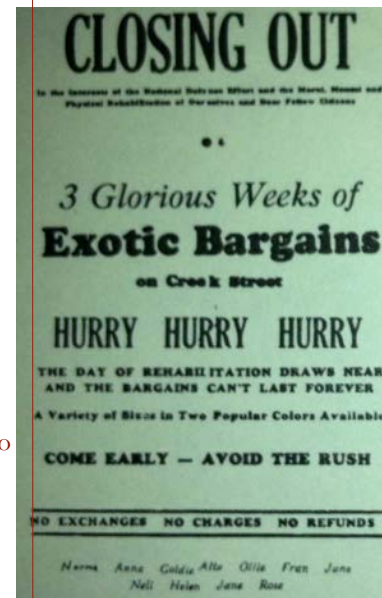
N° 20 built

N° 11 moved to present location

Presbyterian Church opens at 123 Stedman

Thomas Basin breakwater built

105 Stedman "Western Auto Parts" built



A tongue-in-cheek flyer circulated before the military shut down Creek Street during a period of WWII.



Periodic floods have taken their toll on buildings along Creek Street and Barney Way. This 1920s photo shows powerful flood waters along the Barney Way and upper Creek Street areas. The structure for the shingle mill flume is still visible on the left.

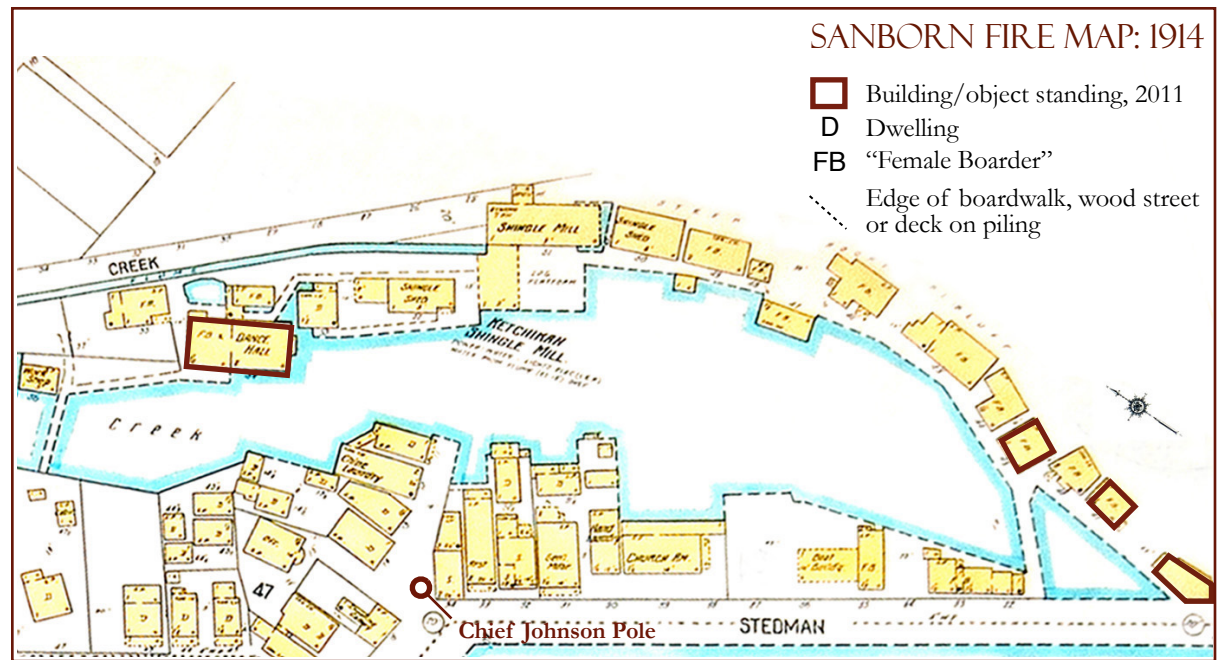
Stedman Street Bridge built

Houses of prostitution closed by City authorities

COMPARATIVE CHANGES 1914-1927

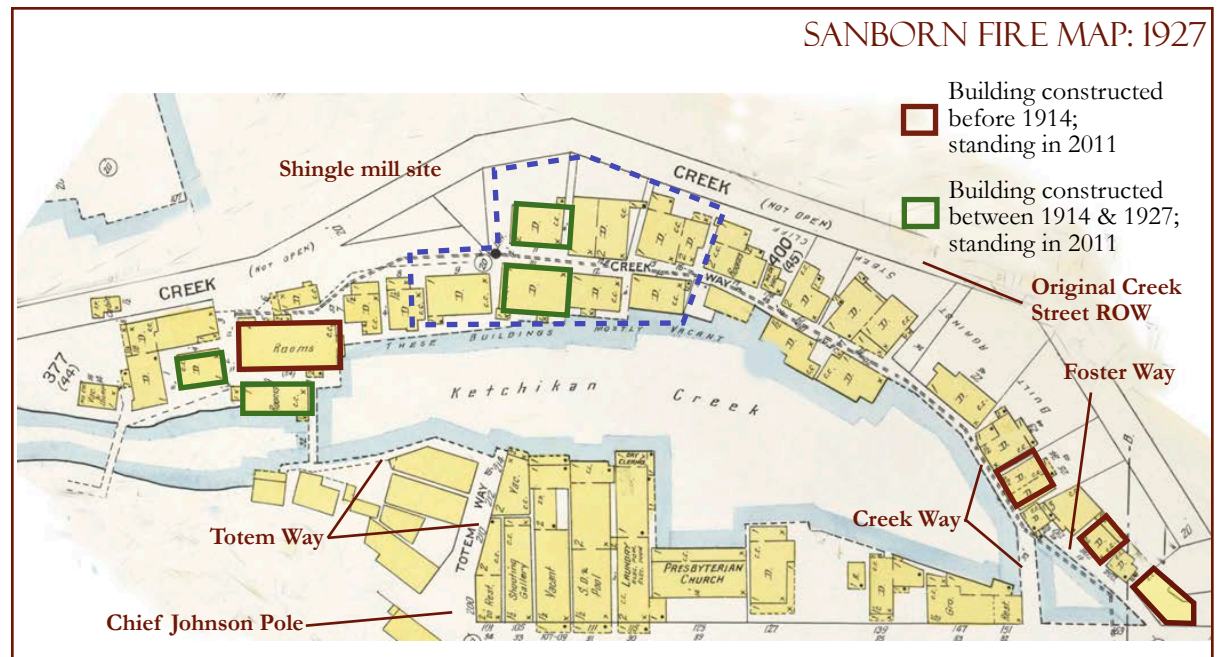
By 1914, Creek Street had a mix of buildings used for a variety of purposes. “Female Boarders” (“FB” on the map) were listed for 13 of the 22 buildings. 5 of these were single story; 7 were 1½ to 2 stories; and 1 was 3 stories high. There was 1 dance hall (Star House); 2 “dwellings” (suggesting they might not have been used for prostitution); and 6 industrial structures (a workshop and 5 buildings of the Ketchikan Shingle Mill).

By comparison, Stedman Street north of the bridge was a mix of 1½ to 2 story homes and businesses. The area around Chief Johnson Pole and to the north were mostly Native-occupied, single-story dwellings organized much as they appeared to be in 1900.



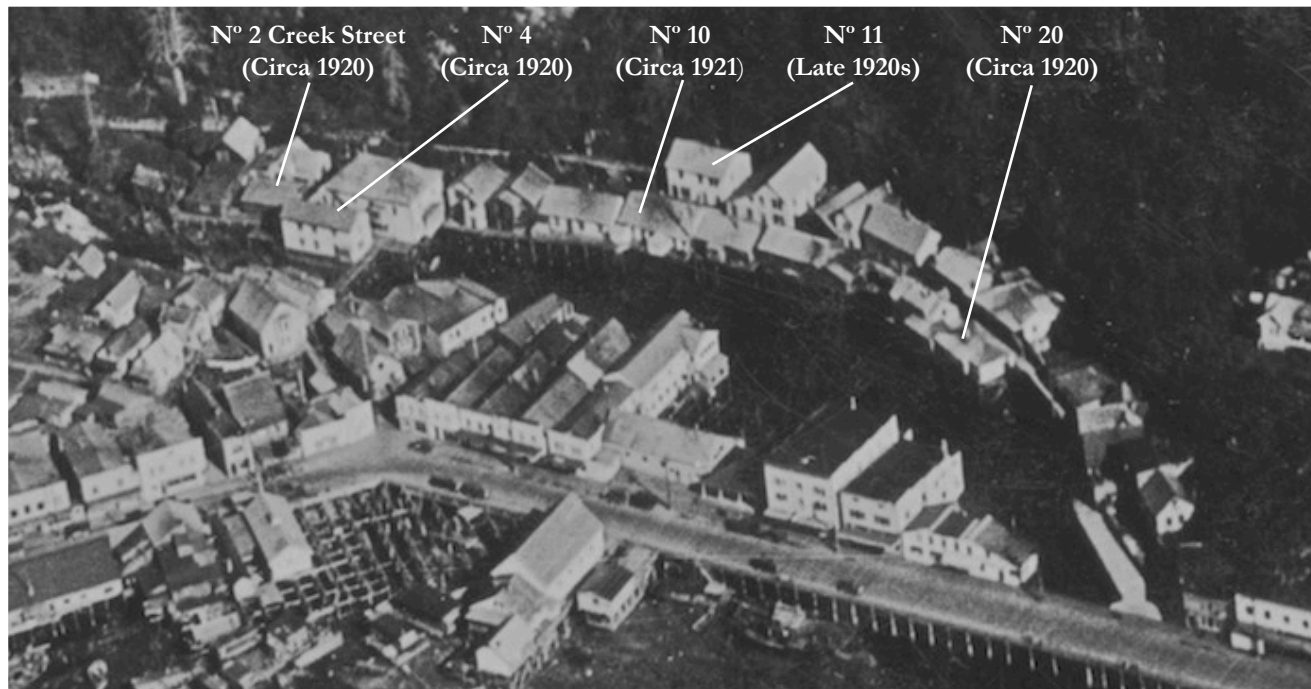
By 1927, “Creek Way” as it was labeled on the map, had 32 buildings, with nearly every developable lot occupied (in 2011, this same area contained half as many--just 16 buildings). The label “Female Boarder” was no longer used; nearly all of the structures (28) were “dwellings” (indicated by a D). Three were called “rooming houses” and there was a luncheonette (later June’s Café) on the corner of Creek and Stedman. The Shingle Mill was no longer there, its 5 buildings replaced by 6 new dwellings. Over half of the buildings were single story. The bridge across the Creek to the area near N° 4 and N° 5 was added by this time.

By comparison, Stedman Street north of the bridge had hardly changed.





This 1915 photograph captures the look of lower Creek Street corresponding to the Sanborn map to the left. The roofs in the bottom left are of the Shingle Mill. All of the houses along the Creek Street boardwalk shown were used by "female boarders", including the first house on Stedman street by the bridge. Only three buildings shown in this photo survive today; June's Café, N° 28, and N° 24 (Dolly's House). Compare this photo with the earlier, 1904 photo on the following page (and note that in it Dolly's House had not yet been built).



This early 1930s aerial photo shows how densely developed Creek Street was at the end of its prostitution heyday. Virtually every buildable lot was occupied by a structure. Since that time, many of the buildings have been lost to floods, decay and disrepair. Buildings constructed during the period 1918-1933 and still remaining in 2011 are indicated on the photo.



This 1906 photo of the lower end of Creek Street and the Stedman Street viaduct was taken several years after prostitution had been ordered to the east side of Ketchikan Creek. Only Dolly's House (partially obscured by the two white houses on Stedman Street), N° 28 Creek Street and June's Café remain today. The three-story building between Dolly's and N° 28 was the tallest building ever built on the Creek.

PART TWO: SURVEY OF BUILDINGS, SITES, STRUCTURES & OBJECTS

Methodology and Criteria

Most of the lots in the Creek Street district had structures on them by 1930. The historic buildings reflect the economy, materials available and construction purpose. They were small, simple, wood, clapboard structures with steeply-pitched roofs to shed the elements. Many of the original buildings fell into disrepair and were demolished by fire, flood or decay. It wasn't until the establishment of the local Creek Street Historic District in the early 1970s and the growth of tourism that newer, usually larger buildings were built on empty lots, beginning to replace demolished structures. Today, the district is characterized by a mix of historic smaller buildings, one historic 1945 structure and newer, often larger structures built after 1974.

Within the Creek Street district boundaries there are 23 tax lots. On the 23 tax lots, there are 17 principal buildings. According to historical research and Ketchikan Gateway Borough assessment records, of the 17 principal buildings, 10 were built prior to 1930, 1 in 1945 and 6 after 1974. Of the 11 buildings built through 1945, there are now 2 residences, 1 museum, 2 commercial uses, and 6 mixed commercial/residential uses. Of the buildings constructed by 1945, 1 is on the National Register and 3 are on the Historic Commission's list of historic properties. In addition to buildings, there are 2 significant historic structures (the Creek Street bridge and boardwalk system built in the early 1900s and the Stedman Street bridge built in 1945), and 1 historic object (Chief Johnson Pole, initially placed on its site in 1902).

Each building, structure and object in the survey area was evaluated based both on individual characteristics and the potential to contribute to an historic district. All properties were surveyed at a reconnaissance level and each was individually evaluated for potential National Register listing as well as for its contribution to the story of Creek Street. The survey focussed on the district's history and evolution over its period of significance with particular attention to the following National Register criteria:

- Criterion A: Association with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of history
- Criterion B: Association with lives of persons significant in our past
- Criterion C: Embody distinctive characteristics of a type, period or method of construction

Integrity evaluation was a key part of the survey project. Building resources were evaluated in four categories representing the main character-defining features of a Creek Street building: plan, siding, windows/doors, and roofs. The elements of each building were evaluated as being intact or with slight alterations, moderate alterations or severe alterations. Integrity, or level of alteration, was determined by the following table and the results of evaluation are reported in the survey forms in Part Three.

Character Defining Features					
	Plan	Siding	Windows/Doors	Roof	
Evaluation Criteria/Integrity	In tact/Slight	No additions or early additions were carried out during period of significance	All siding is historic with partial replacement with identical material	All windows/doors are historic or have nearly exact replications	Roof not modified in form and clad in cedar shingles or historically appropriate roofing
Moderate	Compatible additions, to rear of building or not affecting front building mass	Siding replaced with compatible historically appropriate materials	Several non-historic windows/doors, especially on non-visible elevations	Roof form partially modified in visible location, use of non-historic roofing materials	
Severe	Major additions to front or sides; building not recognizable as historic structure	All siding replaced with non-historic materials, e.g., T-111 or cedar shake.	All or most windows/doors replaced with non-historic shapes or materials.	Roof form extensively altered in visible locations, use of non-historic roofing materials	

To reach a preliminary decision as to whether a building is contributing or non-contributing to a potential historic district, the criteria above, along with age of the building, were employed per the following:

1. If built after 1966, the building was considered non-contributing.
2. If a building had "severe" alterations in any two of the four categories of integrity, the building was considered non-contributing.
3. If a building had "moderate" alterations in three or more categories, the building was considered non-contributing.
4. A marginally non-contributing building could be elevated to contributing if historical research identified a significant individual or event that occurred at the property.

In each survey form, elements of improvement were outlined that could enhance the historic character of the building. Recommendations on contributing buildings were made by the Ketchikan Historic Commission applying these criteria.

EARLY CREEK STREET BUILDING TYPES

According to the 1906 Venetia Lode survey, there were just five buildings along the east side of Ketchikan Creek. By 1914 there were 22, and by 1927 there were 32. Some of the early buildings were cheaply erected “shacks” and some were more substantial industrial style wood structures associated with the shingle mill. None of either type has survived. Most others 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 19th century, they have some characteristics which make them unique; “Creek Street Pioneer” style might be a more appropriate name.

The style is simple: with little ornamentation; of wood frame construction; on piling over tidal waters (backs of buildings built on rock where possible); of one to two stories in height; and without porches or additions (typically rectangular or square in plan). The usually gabled roof would be covered with cedar shingles (initially many from 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 always front onto the boardwalk, with the entry door having a small shed-style roof for some rain protection. Primary windows face towards the Creek. Typical door, window, siding, and roof details are illustrated and discussed on the facing page.

Because of their use (prostitution and bootleg liquor sales during Prohibition), some houses had a number of 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.

Within the Creek Street Pioneer style, historic buildings fall into four types.



1 Story

Once the most common building type on the Creek, (in 1927, half were single story). They had either a gabled or hip roof, a few had a shed style roof. Because of their smaller size, they were most likely operated by one or two women who both lived and worked in the building. Three such houses remain 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 more living space for residents on the ground floor, such as 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 many of the 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 1930s. The present day Star House (N° 5) 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.



CHARACTER DEFINING FEATURES & DETAILS

The size, shape and building methods of a Creek Street building usually followed a general pattern during the time of its building boom (1900-1930) resulting in the “Creek Street Pioneer” building style described on the facing page. The finish details (doors, windows, siding and trim) were guided by three principles:

- little ornamentation or decorative treatment
- utilitarian in nature
- wood as the primary material, most often locally-milled cedar



Roofs were typically 10:12 to 12:12 pitch to shed the heavy snows and rain. Most were simple, gable roofs without dormers. Most often they were cedar shingle roofs and some were corrugated steel.

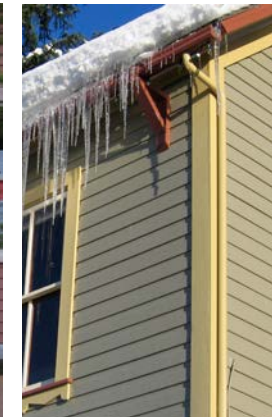
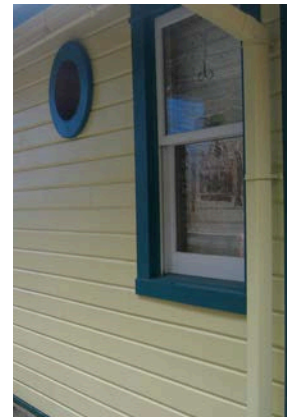
Wooden Piling were the only means of building support, except for a few of the houses that were built on rock or partially on rock. Yellow cedar was the piling species of choice and, in a few cases, piling of 100 years or more are still in place.



Windows were long and narrow, containing double hung sashes. Early ones had small panes, usually 6 over 6. Later houses used 1 over 1 or 2 over 2 panes. Window groupings never exceeded 2. Bay window groups had up to four window units, as at Dolly's and the Star House.



Entrance Doors typically were one to four panels, usually with glass in the upper panel. A number of houses had wood entrance canopies with shed roofs and braces attached on each side next to the door trim.



Siding was either clapboard (bevel cedar siding) with an exposure of 3-4" (Star House, Eagles), 1x6 drop channel siding (N° 28, N° 4), 1x6 channel siding (June's Cafe) or 1x6 v-rustic siding (N° 20, Dolly's). Board and batten siding (N° 12) was also common on the earliest buildings.

Trim consisted exclusively of one-inch boards usually a minimum of 5 inches in width. The top trim piece over the doors and windows was either the same width or larger. A drip cap was occasionally placed over the window. Corner boards were either 1x5 or 1x6. Frieze boards were 1x8 or greater.

ANALYSIS OF CREEK STREET PROPERTIES









PROPERTY	AHRs #	DATE(S) OF CONSTRUCTION	NOTES	SURVEY PAGE #		
				HISTORIC QUALITY REMAINS OVER 45 YEARS OLD		
Nº 1 Creek Street	00160	1930/1972	Small original building from 1930s with significant alterations in 1970s	•		38-39
Nº 2 Creek Street	00161	c. 1920s	Altered structure in original location	•	•	30-31
Nº 4 Creek Street	00162	c. 1920	Original core of structure intact with some exterior alteration	•	•	20-21
Star House	00163	c. 1903	Restored & listed on National Register	•	•	32-33
Eagles Lodge	—	1976				
Cable Car Terminal	—	1992				
Nº 10 Creek Street	00165	c. 1921		•	•	32-33
Nº 11 Creek Street	00166	c. 1925		•	•	34-35
Venetia Lode Claim	01165	1904	Historic site, shallow, rudimentary shaft remains			44-45
Ketchikan Shingle Mill	01166	1904	Historic site, nothing remains			46-47
Nº 13 Creek Street		1991 - 1992				
Nº 18 Creek Street		1974				
Nº 20 Creek Street	00167	c. 1920	Restored	•	•	26-27
Nº 22 Creek Street		1974				
Nº 21 Creek Street		1993				
Dolly's House	00076	1905	Restored, house of Dolly Arthur (person of historic significance)	•	•	22-23
Nº 28 Creek Street	00169	1902	Restored, designated local historic property	•	•	24-25
June's Cafe	00342	1903	Renovated	•	•	36-37
Stedman Street Bridge	00643	1944 - 1945	Owned by Alaska State Department of Transportation	•	•	48-49
706 Totem Way		1975				
Native Village Site	01167	late 1800s				42-43
Chief Johnson Pole	00190	1902	Replica stands in original location	•	•	28-29
Boardwalk, Bridge, Trail	01168			•	•	40-41
133 Stedman			Bayside Hotel*			
123 Stedman			Original site of Presbyterian Church*			
111 Stedman						
105 Stedman		1945	Western Auto store initially*	•	•	

* Historic structure which may be Register eligible and/or included in expanded Stedman-Thomas National Historic District. Further study recommended.

BUILDINGS, SITES, STRUCTURES & OBJECTS SURVEYED



KEY

- | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
|  | Properties Evaluated (Buildings over 45 years that have retained some historic characteristics) |  | Married Man's Trail |
|  | Creek Street address |  | Shingle mill site |
|  | Boardwalks |  | Venetia Lode Mining Claim assessment tunnel |
|  | Creek Street Historic District Boundary (Established 1976) |  | Waterwheel site |

COMPARATIVE SUMMARY OF PROPERTIES

Buildings Listed in the National Register



Star House 1903
The Star House dance hall & brothel played a key role in Creek St. development and maintains its historical authenticity.
Pages 20-21

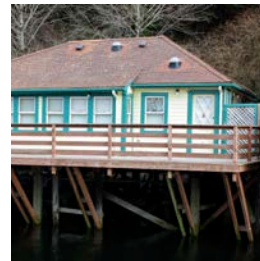
Contributing Buildings, Register Eligible



Dolly's House 1905
Dolly's House was the home/business of Creek Street's most famous madame and retains historic authenticity.
Pages 22-23



N° 28 Creek Street 1902
This is the oldest remaining building on Creek Street and retains all historic architectural detailing.
Pages 24-25



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.
Pages 26-27



Chief Johnson Pole 1902
While replicated in 1989, this pole has been a historic landmark since the earliest days of Ketchikan and remains in its original location.
Pages 40-41

Contributing Buildings



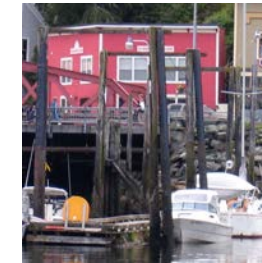
N° 4 Creek Street c. 1920
While extensively modified, its building mass has not been altered significantly and with certain restoration conditions, may be Register eligible.
Pages 28-29



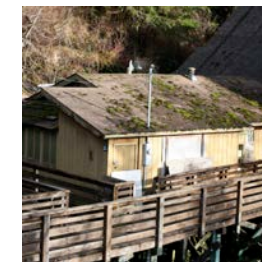
N° 10 Creek Street c. 1920
This building maintains its original massing and characteristics distinctive of early Creek Street buildings. May be Register eligible with certain conditions.
Pages 30-31



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.
Pages 32-33



June's Café 1903
One of Creek Street's oldest buildings, it has been modified extensively but still retains its original footprint and massing.
Pages 34-35



N° 2 Creek Street c. 1920
While modified extensively, this is one of the district's oldest buildings. It is sited at the entry to the district of the Married Man's Trail and adjacent to the Creek's most beautiful remnant shoreline.
Pages 36-37

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. Pages 38-39

Contributing Structure, Register Eligible



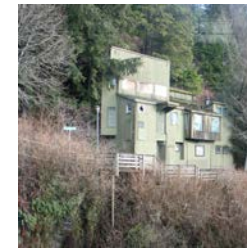
Stedman St Bridge

1945

This steel, single-span, pony truss bridge replaced a wood trestle bridge serving Indian Town, early canneries, Thomas Basin, and Saxman.

Pages 48-49

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



No. 1
Creek
Street



Eagles
Lodge



Cable
Car
Terminal



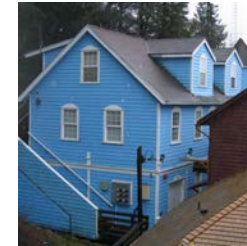
No. 12
Creek
Street



No. 18
Creek
Street



No. 21
Creek
Street



No. 22
Creek
Street



No. 26
Creek
Street



706
Totem
Way

Contributing Historic Sites



Native Village

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.

Pages 42-43



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.

Pages 44-45



Shingle Mill

1904

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

Pages 46-47

Non-Contributing Adjacent Properties, Recommended for Stedman/Thomas 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 piling, 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

STAR HOUSE

Contributing Building Listed in the National Register of Historic Places

ALASKA BUILDING INVENTORY FORM ° AHRS #KET 00163 ° ASSOCIATED DISTRICT: CREEK STREET DISTRICT

CURRENT OWNER'S NAME & ADDRESS: Creek Street Historic Properties, LLC PO Box 23154 Ketchikan, AK 99901			
OTHER BUILDING NAMES:			
USGS QUAD NAME & MAP SHEET: Ketchikan (B-5) SW AK	SECTION: 30	TOWNSHIP: 75S	RANGE: 91E

HISTORIC ASSOCIATION

HISTORIC FUNCTION & SUB-FUNCTION: House of prostitution, dance hall, residence	
CURRENT FUNCTION & SUB-FUNCTION: Commercial, office	
SIGNIFICANT PERSON(S): "Black Mary" Thomas, Thelma Baker Graham	SIGNIFICANT DATE(S): 1954 (end of prostitution)
ARCHITECT, BUILDER, CONTRACTOR, DESIGNER:	ORIGINAL OWNER: Mattie Wilkes (earliest known owner prior to 1917)

ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: Circa 1903	DATE MOVED:	DESTRUCTION DATE:	RECONSTRUCTION DATE:
ALTERATION DATES: 1910-1913, 2-story addition; late 1920s, hipped roof; 1991, restored			
RESOURCE TYPE: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	STORIES: 2½		
ARCHITECTURAL STYLE: Creek Street Pioneer	PLAN: Rectangular	CULTURAL AFFILIATION: Euroamerican	
NO. OF ANCILLARY STRUCTURES:	BUILDING TYPE: Hipped roof dance hall, boarding house		
FOUNDATION MATERIALS: Wood piling	ROOF MATERIALS: Cedar shingles	EXTERIOR WALL MATERIALS: Beveled lap siding	OTHER MATERIALS:

ELIGIBILITY

* Already on National Register		CRITERIA CONSIDERATIONS:
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No If Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D		<input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D <input type="checkbox"/> E <input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/> G
PREPARED BY: RAI Development Solutions	REVIEWED BY PROFESSIONAL THAT MEETS THE FOLLOWING PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architect <input type="checkbox"/> Arch. Historian <input type="checkbox"/> Historian <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hist. Architect <input type="checkbox"/> None	DATE: July, 2011

SHPO RESPONSE

<input type="checkbox"/> Eligible (Concur) <input type="checkbox"/> Eligible (Do Not Concur) <input type="checkbox"/> Not Eligible (Concur) <input type="checkbox"/> Not Eligible (Do Not Concur)	
MINOR RECOMMENDATIONS & COMMENTS INCLUDE:	
<input type="checkbox"/> NEED MORE INFORMATION RELATED TO: <input type="checkbox"/> Historic Context <input type="checkbox"/> Integrity <input type="checkbox"/> Architectural Description <input type="checkbox"/> Period of Significance	
AUTHORIZED SIGNATURES:	DATE:



Front Elevation

Northeast Elevation

Northwest Elevation

Creek Street Bridge

Architectural Description

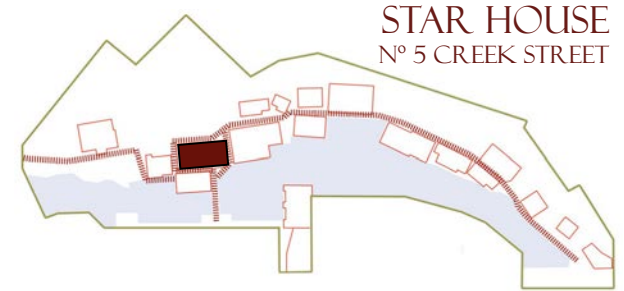
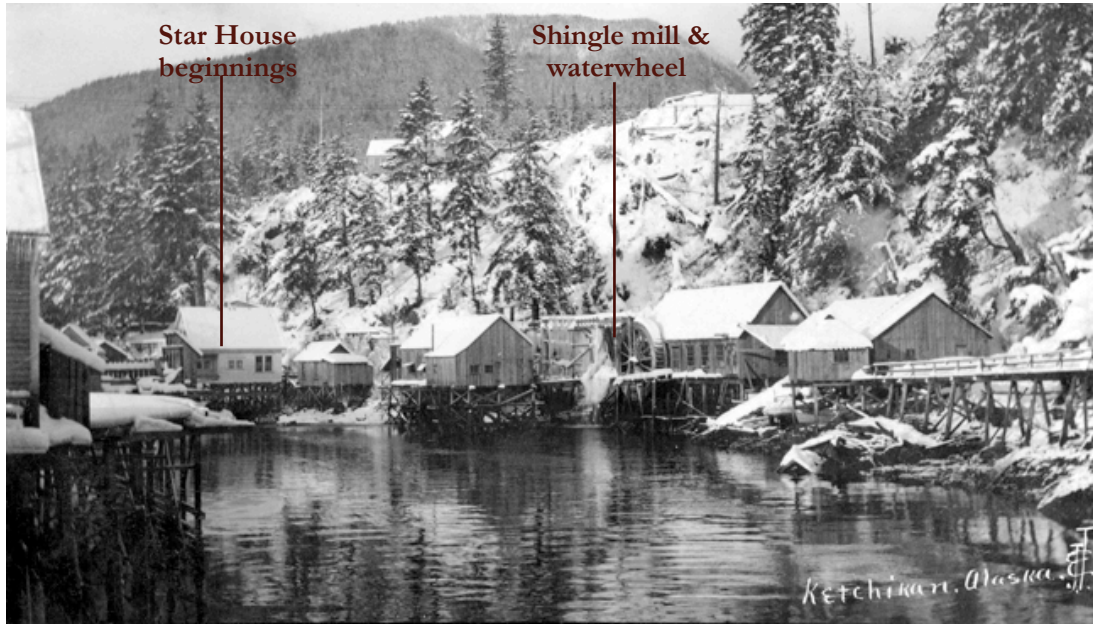
The Star House is a balloon-frame structure built on wood piling entirely over the water. It began in the early 1900s as a 21 by 31 foot, rectangular, gabled, two-story building. A two-story, flat-roofed addition to house a dance hall and rooms upstairs was constructed circa 1910. This created a total building size of 31 by 63 feet. A hipped roof, added in the late 1920s, provided attic space and created the present roofline. The building retains most of its original cedar bevelled lap siding, many of its original windows and a cedar shingle roof. The original maple dance hall floor and its inlaid star have been restored.

Statement of Significance

The Star House is the largest, most commanding building on the Creek Street boardwalk. It was the Territory of Alaska's only registered brothel and served this business purpose until prostitution was closed on the Creek in 1954. For many years, the Star House was owned by "Black Mary" Thomas who kept seven or eight girls at a time, and a blind piano player who played while the customers danced with the girls. Joining Black Mary at the Star was Dolly Arthur, who later became Ketchikan's most famous prostitute. In 1924, Black Mary sold the Star House to Thelma Baker who continued to operate it as a house of prostitution until 1954. For many years, fishermen, miners and loggers from throughout southeast Alaska visited the Star House. Today it stands as a reminder of Ketchikan's notorious red-light district.

Historic Preservation Recommendations

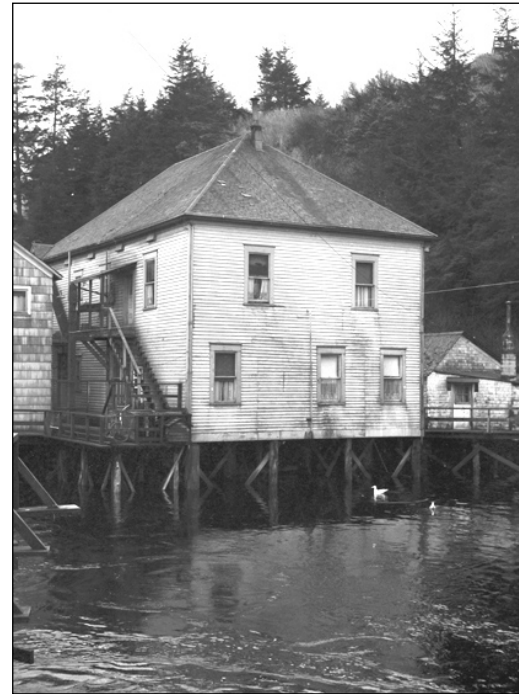
After its restoration, the Star House was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1993. The building has had no modifications since that date and continues to be eligible for its National Register listing. It is recommended that as maintenance and repairs continue into the future, priority be given to retaining its historical authenticity and architectural detailing, including a cedar shingle roof, wood double-hung windows, bevelled cedar lap siding and historic entry doors.



Creek Street in the winter, circa 1905. The building that was to grow into the Star House is the furthest upstream. The waterwheel and flume near the center of the photo was built in 1904.



The dance hall was added between 1910 and 1913 and boasted an inlaid star in the floor, from which the building derived its name. At an unknown date the bay window was removed.



The Star House in 1950. The hip roof was added in the late 1920s. After prostitution was ended in 1954, "Thelma's Place" became apartments only.



The Star House in 2010. After restoration in 1991, the building continued to feature successful female entrepreneurs.

DOLLY'S HOUSE

Contributing Building, Eligible for the National Register

CURRENT OWNER'S NAME & ADDRESS: Dolly's House Museum, LLC 655 South Point Higgins Road Ketchikan, AK 99901			
OTHER BUILDING NAMES:			
USGS QUAD NAME & MAP SHEET: Ketchikan (B-5) SW AK	SECTION: 30	TOWNSHIP: 75S	RANGE: 91E

HISTORIC ASSOCIATION

HISTORIC FUNCTION & SUB-FUNCTION: House of prostitution, residence	
CURRENT FUNCTION & SUB-FUNCTION: Museum	
SIGNIFICANT PERSON(S): Dolly Arthur	SIGNIFICANT DATE(S): 1919, Dolly opens business
ARCHITECT, BUILDER, CONTRACTOR, DESIGNER:	ORIGINAL OWNER:

ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

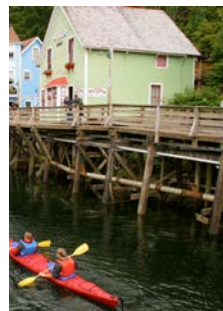
DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: Circa 1905	DATE MOVED:	DESTRUCTION DATE:	RECONSTRUCTION DATE:
ALTERATION DATES: 1976, restored			
RESOURCE TYPE: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	STORIES: 2		
ARCHITECTURAL STYLE: Creek Street Pioneer	PLAN: Rectangular	CULTURAL AFFILIATION: Euroamerican	
NO. OF ANCILLARY STRUCTURES:	BUILDING TYPE: Residence		
FOUNDATION MATERIALS: Wood piling, concrete	ROOF MATERIALS: Cedar shingles	EXTERIOR WALL MATERIALS: V-rustic siding	OTHER MATERIALS:

ELIGIBILITY

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No If Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D		CRITERIA CONSIDERATIONS: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D <input type="checkbox"/> E <input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/> G
PREPARED BY: RAI Development Solutions	REVIEWED BY PROFESSIONAL THAT MEETS THE FOLLOWING PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architect <input type="checkbox"/> Arch. Historian <input type="checkbox"/> Historian <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hist. Architect <input type="checkbox"/> None	DATE: July, 2011

SHPO RESPONSE

<input type="checkbox"/> Eligible (Concur) <input type="checkbox"/> Eligible (Do Not Concur) <input type="checkbox"/> Not Eligible (Concur) <input type="checkbox"/> Not Eligible (Do Not Concur)	
MINOR RECOMMENDATIONS & COMMENTS INCLUDE:	
<input type="checkbox"/> NEED MORE INFORMATION RELATED TO: <input type="checkbox"/> Historic Context <input type="checkbox"/> Integrity <input type="checkbox"/> Architectural Description <input type="checkbox"/> Period of Significance	
AUTHORIZED SIGNATURES:	DATE:



South elevation



Boardwalk-level fenestration



West elevation

Architectural Description

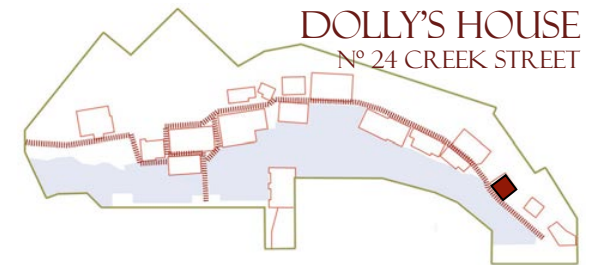
Dolly's House at N° 24 Creek Street is a 1½-story wood frame building partially on piling over tidewater and partially on a concrete foundation. The building footprint is 24 by 26 feet. It was built in 1905 and retains most of its original architectural details including its brightly-painted bay window and double hung, center-mullion windows, bevelled tongue-and-groove siding, steeply pitched cedar shingle roof, and historic entry doors. There appear to be no alterations to its original plan and no discernible alterations to its exterior features. The building was carefully restored in 1976 for use as a museum.

Statement of Significance

Dolly's House is one of Creek Street's oldest houses. It was the business location of Ketchikan's most famous prostitute, Dolly Arthur, from 1919 through the 1940s. It was also her home until 1973 when ill health required her to move to a nursing home. The building is significant as one of the best remaining examples of Creek Street's early architecture. Due to the level of integrity of the building, coupled with the building's colorful history, Dolly's House is a key contributing building to the historic district. After its restoration in 1976, Dolly's House was awarded a local "Historic Property" status by the Ketchikan Historic Commission. The building's age and its role in Ketchikan's and Creek Street's early history, as well as its careful preservation to date, would render it eligible for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places.

Historic Preservation Recommendations

Dolly's was tastefully restored and the present owner carefully maintains the building. It is recommended that as maintenance and repairs continue into the future, priority be given to retaining its historical authenticity and architectural detailing, including a cedar shingle roof, cedar siding, wood double-hung center-mullion windows, historic entry doors and the bay window.



This photo of the south end of Creek Street was taken from Boston Smith Heights in 1912. Creek Street and the Stedman Street/Thomas Street area were bustling centers of activity. Of all the buildings shown, only Dolly's House, N° 28 and the June's Café building remain.



Both buildings on either side of Dolly's House, seen in this 1950s photo, have been lost. The house on the left--lost to this fire-- was built in the early 1900s, before Dolly's.



Shortly after restoration in 1976, Dolly's House sports restored siding and window trim and a new cedar shake roof.



36 years after its restoration, Dolly's House still serves as a colorful and popular museum. The architectural integrity of the building has been carefully maintained.

N° 28 CREEK STREET

Contributing Building, Eligible for the National Register

CURRENT OWNER'S NAME & ADDRESS: Stephen and Perry Reeve PO Box 23154 Ketchikan, AK 99901			
OTHER BUILDING NAMES: Preacher's House			
USGS QUAD NAME & MAP SHEET: Ketchikan (B-5) SW AK	SECTION: 30	TOWNSHIP: 75S	RANGE: 91E

HISTORIC ASSOCIATION

HISTORIC FUNCTION & SUB-FUNCTION: House of prostitution	
CURRENT FUNCTION & SUB-FUNCTION: Native carver, commercial	
SIGNIFICANT PERSON(S):	SIGNIFICANT DATE(S): 1954, end of prostitution
ARCHITECT, BUILDER, CONTRACTOR, DESIGNER:	ORIGINAL OWNER: D.L. Foster

ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: 1902	DATE MOVED:	DESTRUCTION DATE:	RECONSTRUCTION DATE:
ALTERATION DATES: 1976, restored			
RESOURCE TYPE: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	STORIES: 2½		
ARCHITECTURAL STYLE: Creek Street Pioneer	PLAN: Rectangular	CULTURAL AFFILIATION: Euroamerican	
NO. OF ANCILLARY STRUCTURES:	BUILDING TYPE: Residence		
FOUNDATION MATERIALS: Wood piling, concrete	ROOF MATERIALS: Cedar shingles	EXTERIOR WALL MATERIALS: Cedar drop siding	OTHER MATERIALS:

ELIGIBILITY

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No If Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D		CRITERIA CONSIDERATIONS: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D <input type="checkbox"/> E <input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/> G
PREPARED BY: RAI Development Solutions	REVIEWED BY PROFESSIONAL THAT MEETS THE FOLLOWING PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architect <input type="checkbox"/> Arch. Historian <input type="checkbox"/> Historian <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hist. Architect <input type="checkbox"/> None	DATE: July, 2011

SHPO RESPONSE

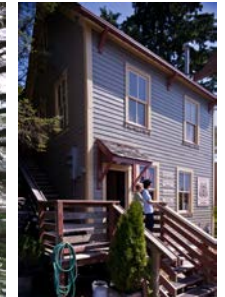
<input type="checkbox"/> Eligible (Concur) <input type="checkbox"/> Eligible (Do Not Concur) <input type="checkbox"/> Not Eligible (Concur) <input type="checkbox"/> Not Eligible (Do Not Concur)	
MINOR RECOMMENDATIONS & COMMENTS INCLUDE:	
<input type="checkbox"/> NEED MORE INFORMATION RELATED TO: <input type="checkbox"/> Historic Context <input type="checkbox"/> Integrity <input type="checkbox"/> Architectural Description <input type="checkbox"/> Period of Significance	
AUTHORIZED SIGNATURES:	DATE:



Southwest Elevation



North Elevation



Northwest Elevation

Architectural Description

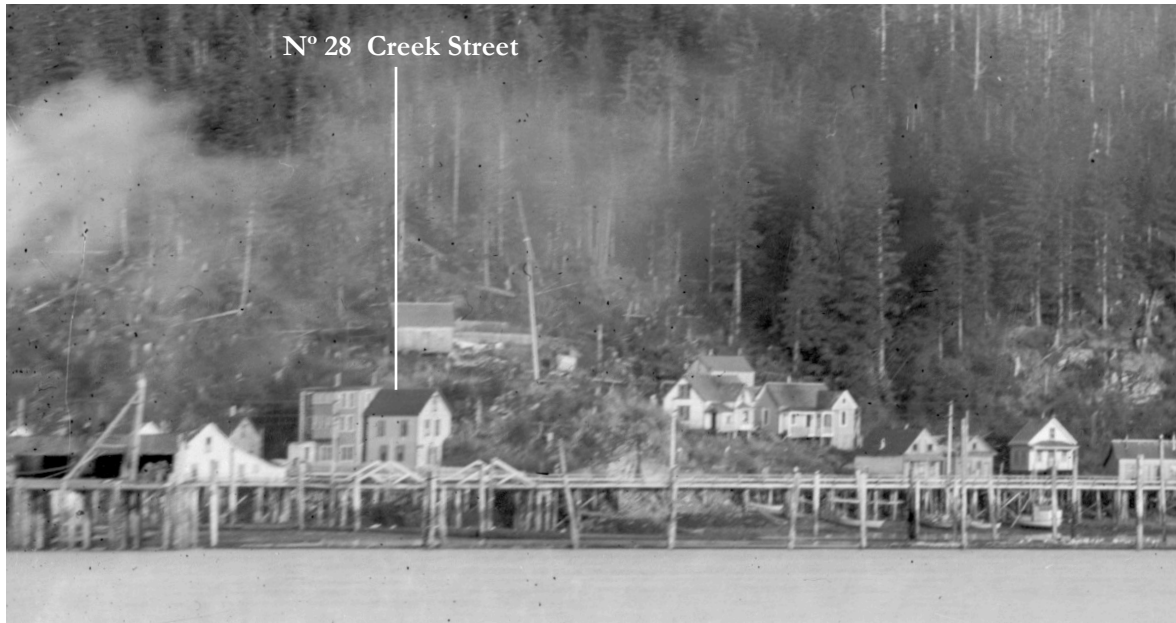
N° 28 Creek Street is a 2½-story wood frame building partially on piling and partially on a concrete foundation. As with most of the early Creek Street buildings, its steeply pitched roof (12:12) was designed to divert the heavy rains and snows. The building footprint is 20 by 28 feet. The building was faithfully restored in 1976 and retains much of its original cedar drop siding, its double-hung, center-mullion windows and its window trim and architectural detailing. The roof is cedar shingles. The building is presently used as a Native art gallery on the boardwalk level and residence above.

Statement of Significance

N° 28 is Creek Street's oldest remaining house. When the City Council decided in 1903 to ban all houses of prostitution to the east side of Ketchikan Creek, N° 28 Creek Street was already going strong. N° 28 was, along with Dolly's House and the June's Cafe building, at the center of flourishing activity because of its location near the harbor where the prosperous fishing fleet moored. A preacher who resided here in the 1930s tried unsuccessfully to reform the Creek. Unable to do so, he changed the house number to 208 Stedman in order to escape the stigma of a red-light district address. Between Dolly's and N° 28 was the tallest building ever built on Creek Street (3 full stories) and its site is now part of the N° 28 parcel. After its restoration in 1976, N° 28 Creek Street was awarded a local "Historic Property" status by the Ketchikan Historic Commission. While the building has not been submitted for National Register status, its age and role in Ketchikan's and Creek Street's early history as well as its preservation to date would likely render it eligible.

Historic Preservation Recommendations

The 1976 restoration has been well-maintained. It is recommended that as maintenance and repairs continue into the future, priority be given to retaining the building's historical authenticity and architectural detailing, including a cedar shingle roof, cedar siding, wood double-hung center-mullion windows, and historic entry doors.



N° 28 Creek Street



N° 28 CREEK STREET

“Lower” Creek Street and a portion of Indian Town along the Stedman trestle, in the early 1900s. Boats were pulled on the beach in the vicinity of today’s New York Hotel and the Ohashi Building. N° 28 Creek Street --an early brothel--is the only building remaining in 2011. Its future longstanding neighboring buildings were built later: June’s Café in 1903 and Dolly’s House in 1905. The trestle footbridge in the foreground crossed Ketchikan Creek connecting with Native homes on the south side of the creek and nascent development of the Stedman and Thomas streets area.



The entrance to Creek Street from Stedman, in the 1930s. The only 3-story building ever built on Creek Street is, at the time of this photo, in a bad state of repair. It was removed in the 1940s.



New, locally-milled cedar (Ben Fleenor’s Herring Bay Lumber) to match original siding was needed to repair deterioration on one facade, 1975. Original windows and trim were also restored.



N° 28 in 2010. This nearly 110-year old has been the home of “working women,” a preacher, bookstore, inn, galleries and artists.

N° 20 CREEK STREET

Contributing Building, Eligible for the National Register

ALASKA BUILDING INVENTORY FORM ° AHRS #KET 00167 ° ASSOCIATED DISTRICT: CREEK STREET DISTRICT

CURRENT OWNER'S NAME & ADDRESS: Keith & Bonnie Douglas N° 20 Creek Street Ketchikan, AK 99901			
OTHER BUILDING NAMES:			
USGS QUAD NAME & MAP SHEET: Ketchikan (B-5) SW AK	SECTION: 30	TOWNSHIP: 75S	RANGE: 91E

HISTORIC ASSOCIATION

HISTORIC FUNCTION & SUB-FUNCTION: House of prostitution	
CURRENT FUNCTION & SUB-FUNCTION: Retail, residence	
SIGNIFICANT PERSON(S): Beatrice Greene	SIGNIFICANT DATE(S):
ARCHITECT, BUILDER, CONTRACTOR, DESIGNER:	ORIGINAL OWNER:

ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: Circa 1920	DATE MOVED:	DESTRUCTION DATE:	RECONSTRUCTION DATE:
ALTERATION DATES: Renovations & window alterations, 1974; renovations & window alterations, 2008			
RESOURCE TYPE: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object		STORIES:	
ARCHITECTURAL STYLE: Pioneer		PLAN:	CULTURAL AFFILIATION: Euroamerican
NO. OF ANCILLARY STRUCTURES:	BUILDING TYPE: Bungalow on piling		
FOUNDATION MATERIALS: Wood piling	ROOF MATERIALS: Cedar shingles	EXTERIOR WALL MATERIALS: V-rustic cedar siding	OTHER MATERIALS:

ELIGIBILITY

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		If Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D		CRITERIA CONSIDERATIONS: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D <input type="checkbox"/> E <input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/> G			
PREPARED BY: RAI Development Solutions	REVIEWED BY PROFESSIONAL THAT MEETS THE FOLLOWING PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architect <input type="checkbox"/> Arch. Historian <input type="checkbox"/> Historian <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hist. Architect <input type="checkbox"/> None			DATE: July, 2011			

SHPO RESPONSE

<input type="checkbox"/> Eligible (Concur) <input type="checkbox"/> Eligible (Do Not Concur) <input type="checkbox"/> Not Eligible (Concur) <input type="checkbox"/> Not Eligible (Do Not Concur)	
MINOR RECOMMENDATIONS & COMMENTS INCLUDE:	
<input type="checkbox"/> NEED MORE INFORMATION RELATED TO: <input type="checkbox"/> Historic Context <input type="checkbox"/> Integrity <input type="checkbox"/> Architectural Description <input type="checkbox"/> Period of Significance	
AUTHORIZED SIGNATURES:	DATE:



Boardwalk elevations

Roof view & west elevations

Architectural Description

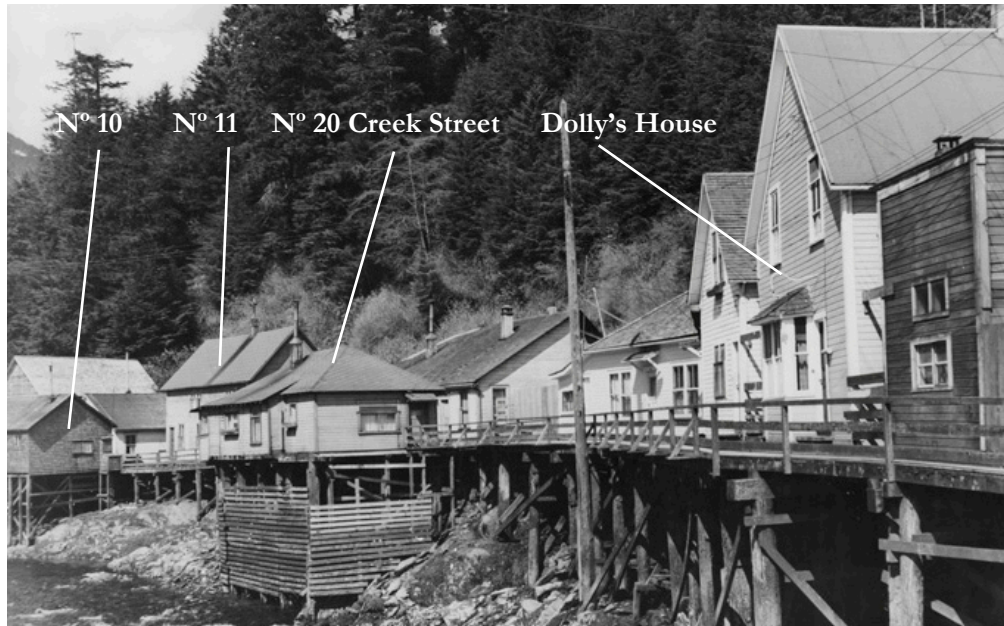
N° 20 Creek Street is a 1-story, wood-frame, Pioneer style building constructed entirely on wood piling over the tidal-influenced waters of Ketchikan Creek. One elevation fronts the Creek Street boardwalk and one elevation overlooks the creek. It has an approximately 6:12 pitched roof with a building footprint of 21 by 40 feet. The building has been modified several times over its history with much of its original fenestration altered but otherwise the one-story building mass and footprint remain the same. The siding is a 1x6 v-rustic profile (commonly used during the period of significance) and the roof is cedar shingles. It was carefully renovated in 2008, including a new deck and piling.

Statement of Significance

N° 20 Creek Street was built in circa 1920. For at least 35 years, the building was part of Ketchikan's notorious red light district. Its most infamous resident/entrepreneur was Beatrice Greene, who began to ply her trade in 1947. When authorities brought an end to open prostitution in 1954, Beatrice simply went underground and extended her business until at least 1960. In the years that followed Beatrice, the building was restored and altered several times by various owners. Its simple architecture and scale is reminiscent of the earliest Creek Street buildings and the building retains that early charm. In spite of its alterations, N° 20 Creek Street is a contributing building to the period of significance and, given its association with an historic figure, it may be eligible for nomination to the National Register.

Historic Preservation Recommendations

The building has been recently restored in a manner consistent with the period of significance. With this restoration, it is assured that the building will have a continued long life. It is recommended that the single-story structure be retained (the Historic District code allows the possibility of an additional level) and that the cedar shingle roof and siding, period windows and trim also be maintained into the future.



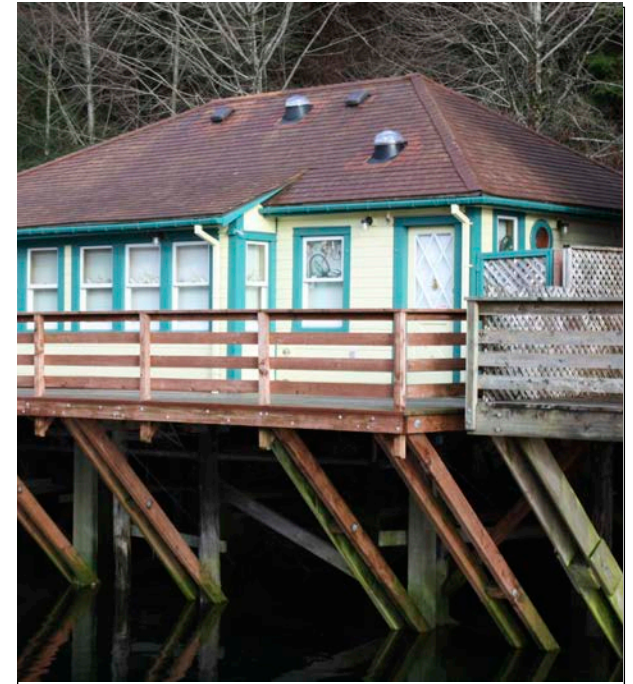
Over the 110 years of Creek Street's history, many buildings have been lost to the storm-swollen waters of Ketchikan Creek. N° 20 Creek Street was built at an exposed location along the creek that was subject to periodic severe flooding. The extensive batter board protection of its piling to resist high water was no doubt a reason for the building's longevity. Of the buildings in this circa 1950 photo, only N° 20, N° 10, N° 11 and Dolly's House remain today.



In this 1972 photo, N° 20 Creek Street remained while buildings around had disappeared. 3 of these 7 visible Creek Street buildings no longer remain in 2011. Restorations and new construction began after creation of the local historic district in the early 1970s.



Renovated in 1974, N° 20 is nestled between two new buildings in this 1976 photo.



In its 2008 renovation, a waterside deck was added to provide stunning views of Ketchikan Creek's ever-changing waters. The original shingle roof, siding and window details were restored.

N^o 4 CREEK STREET

Contributing Building

ALASKA BUILDING INVENTORY FORM • AHSR #KET 00162 • ASSOCIATED DISTRICT: CREEK STREET DISTRICT

CURRENT OWNER'S NAME & ADDRESS: Creek Street Historic Properties LLC PO Box 23154 Ketchikan, AK 99901			
OTHER BUILDING NAMES:			
USGS QUAD NAME & MAP SHEET: Ketchikan (B-5) SW AK	SECTION: 30	TOWNSHIP: 75S	RANGE: 91E

HISTORIC ASSOCIATION

HISTORIC FUNCTION & SUB-FUNCTION: House of prostitution, residence	
CURRENT FUNCTION & SUB-FUNCTION: Restaurant	
SIGNIFICANT PERSON(S): Annie Watkins	SIGNIFICANT DATE(S):
ARCHITECT, BUILDER, CONTRACTOR, DESIGNER:	ORIGINAL OWNER:

ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: Circa 1920	DATE MOVED:	DESTRUCTION DATE:	RECONSTRUCTION DATE:
ALTERATION DATES: 1973, window/siding alterations; 1982, roof alteration; 2006, historic siding replacement			
RESOURCE TYPE: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	STORIES: 2		
ARCHITECTURAL STYLE: Pioneer style	PLAN:	CULTURAL AFFILIATION: Euroamerican	
NO. OF ANCILLARY STRUCTURES: 5	BUILDING TYPE: Gable residence		
FOUNDATION MATERIALS: Wood piling	ROOF MATERIALS: Cedar shingle	EXTERIOR WALL MATERIALS: Cedar siding	OTHER MATERIALS:

ELIGIBILITY

<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No If Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D		CRITERIA CONSIDERATIONS: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D <input type="checkbox"/> E <input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/> G
PREPARED BY: RAI Development Solutions	REVIEWED BY PROFESSIONAL THAT MEETS THE FOLLOWING PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architect <input type="checkbox"/> Arch. Historian <input type="checkbox"/> Historian <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hist. Architect <input type="checkbox"/> None	DATE: July, 2011

SHPO RESPONSE

<input type="checkbox"/> Eligible (Concur) <input type="checkbox"/> Eligible (Do Not Concur) <input type="checkbox"/> Not Eligible (Concur) <input type="checkbox"/> Not Eligible (Do Not Concur)	
MINOR RECOMMENDATIONS & COMMENTS INCLUDE:	
<input type="checkbox"/> NEED MORE INFORMATION RELATED TO: <input type="checkbox"/> Historic Context <input type="checkbox"/> Integrity <input type="checkbox"/> Architectural Description <input type="checkbox"/> Period of Significance	
AUTHORIZED SIGNATURES:	DATE:



South elevation



West elevation from Totem Way



Creek Street bridge & rapids

Architectural Description

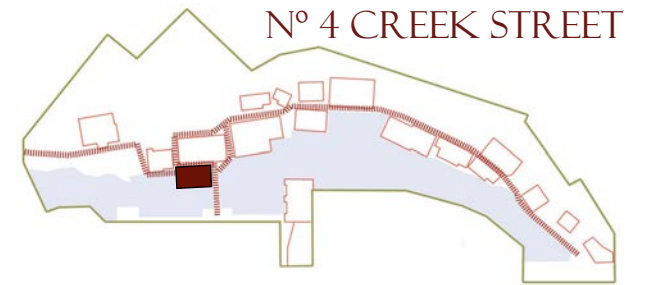
N^o 4 Creek Street is a 2-story, wood-frame, Pioneer style building constructed entirely on piling adjacent to a narrow gorge of Ketchikan Creek. The building is adjacent to the historic Creek Street pedestrian bridge and is at the primary entry to the Historic District. Two elevations front the Creek Street boardwalk and two elevations face directly onto a particularly dramatic and scenic portion of Ketchikan Creek. It has a steeply pitched roof (9:12) with a building footprint of approximately 22 by 48 feet. The building has been modified several times over its history with much of its original fenestration altered. A one-story, lean-to structure was added on the creek side but otherwise the two-story building mass and footprint remain the same. The siding on two elevations is a 1x6 cedar drop profile (commonly used during the period of significance) and the remaining two elevations are undergoing restoration with the same siding. The roof is cedar shingles.

Statement of Significance

N^o 4 Creek Street was built circa 1920. It was situated at the entry to Creek Street leading from the downtown area and, together with its notorious neighboring Star House, provided a boisterous introduction to “the Creek.” Long-time owner/entrepreneur/resident of N^o 4 Creek Street, Annie Watkins, was one of the most colorful characters on Creek Street. A Black American from Arkansas, she was popular with the other women and was an ardent and articulate defender of her fellow entrepreneurs and their right to enjoy a full life. While the building has been altered extensively over the years, it is a contributing building to Creek Street Historic District and, given its association with an historic figure, it may in the future--with careful restoration--be eligible for nomination to the National Register.

Historic Preservation Recommendations

The building is a prominent entry to Creek Street and should be restored in a manner consistent with the period of significance. It is recommended (in addition to completing the siding restoration) that period double-hung windows replace the “picture” windows installed on the creek facade and that the roof modification at the NE corner be removed to restore the original massing. The cedar shingle roof should also be maintained into the future.



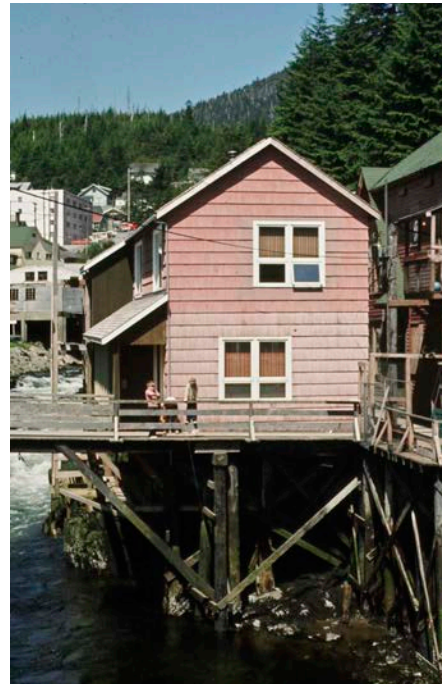
This 1940s photo of Creek Street and the Totem Way areas shows the decline in maintenance after the beyday of prostitution. On the left, the old Totem Way boardwalk can be seen. It went from the Chief Johnson pole between a number of buildings to the Creek and then followed the front of these buildings to the Creek Street bridge. A portion of the old Barney Way neighborhood can be seen as well as Main School and Ketchikan Hospital.



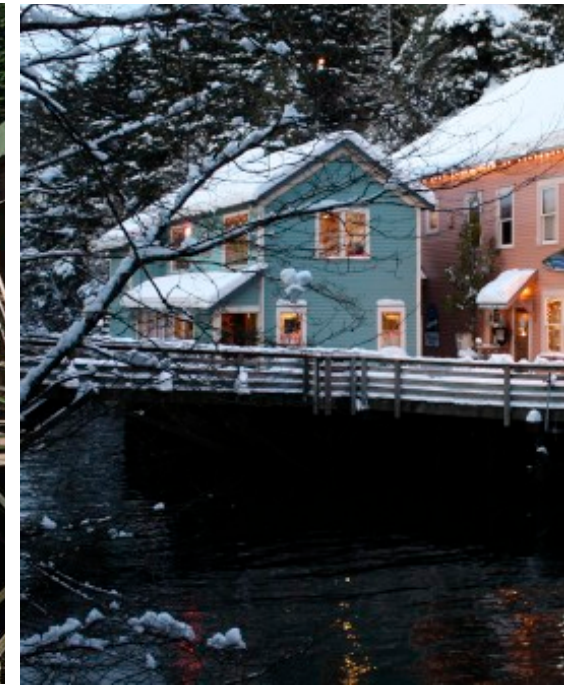
A 1938 view from the new Federal Bldg shows a well-maintained N° 4 and dense buildings on both sides of the Creek.



This early 1950s photo shows cedar shake siding then recently installed over the original channel siding.



Historically inappropriate picture windows and a shed addition were installed in the 1970s.



By 2011, siding of the original type had replaced the shakes on two elevations and some non-historic windows had been replaced with double-hung windows.

N^o 10 CREEK STREET

Contributing Building

ALASKA BUILDING INVENTORY FORM • AHSR #KET 00165 • ASSOCIATED DISTRICT: CREEK STREET DISTRICT

CURRENT OWNER'S NAME & ADDRESS: Steve Abajian PO Box 6594 Ketchikan, AK 99901			
OTHER BUILDING NAMES:			
USGS QUAD NAME & MAP SHEET: Ketchikan (B-5) SW AK	SECTION: 30	TOWNSHIP: 75S	RANGE: 91E

HISTORIC ASSOCIATION

HISTORIC FUNCTION & SUB-FUNCTION: House of prostitution	
CURRENT FUNCTION & SUB-FUNCTION: Retail	
SIGNIFICANT PERSON(S):	SIGNIFICANT DATE(S):
ARCHITECT, BUILDER, CONTRACTOR, DESIGNER:	ORIGINAL OWNER: Fred Athorp, earliest known owner

ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: Circa 1921	DATE MOVED:	DESTRUCTION DATE:	RECONSTRUCTION DATE:
ALTERATION DATES: 1950s siding replacement, early 2000s entries modified			
RESOURCE TYPE: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object		STORIES: 1½	
ARCHITECTURAL STYLE: Creek Street Pioneer		PLAN:	CULTURAL AFFILIATION: Euroamerican
NO. OF ANCILLARY STRUCTURES:	BUILDING TYPE: Residential		
FOUNDATION MATERIALS: Wood piling	ROOF MATERIALS: Metal shingles	EXTERIOR WALL MATERIALS: Cedar shakes	OTHER MATERIALS:

ELIGIBILITY

<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No If Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D		CRITERIA CONSIDERATIONS: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D <input type="checkbox"/> E <input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/> G
PREPARED BY: RAI Development Solutions	REVIEWED BY PROFESSIONAL THAT MEETS THE FOLLOWING PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architect <input type="checkbox"/> Arch. Historian <input type="checkbox"/> Historian <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hist. Architect <input type="checkbox"/> None	DATE: July, 2011

SHPO RESPONSE

<input type="checkbox"/> Eligible (Concur) <input type="checkbox"/> Eligible (Do Not Concur) <input type="checkbox"/> Not Eligible (Concur) <input type="checkbox"/> Not Eligible (Do Not Concur)	
MINOR RECOMMENDATIONS & COMMENTS INCLUDE:	
<input type="checkbox"/> NEED MORE INFORMATION RELATED TO: <input type="checkbox"/> Historic Context <input type="checkbox"/> Integrity <input type="checkbox"/> Architectural Description <input type="checkbox"/> Period of Significance	
AUTHORIZED SIGNATURES:	DATE:



North elevation from viewing platform

South elevation

Architectural Description

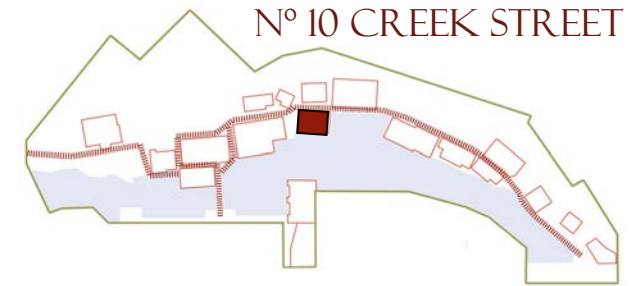
N^o 10 Creek Street is a 1½ story, 43' by 28', wood frame gable building built on wood piling over the water. It was built circa 1921. The entries have been modified, cedar shake siding has been applied over the original siding, and some windows have been altered. The building does retain its original shape and roof line (10:12 pitch) without any building additions. It has retained its classic red color for at least 50 years.

Statement of Significance

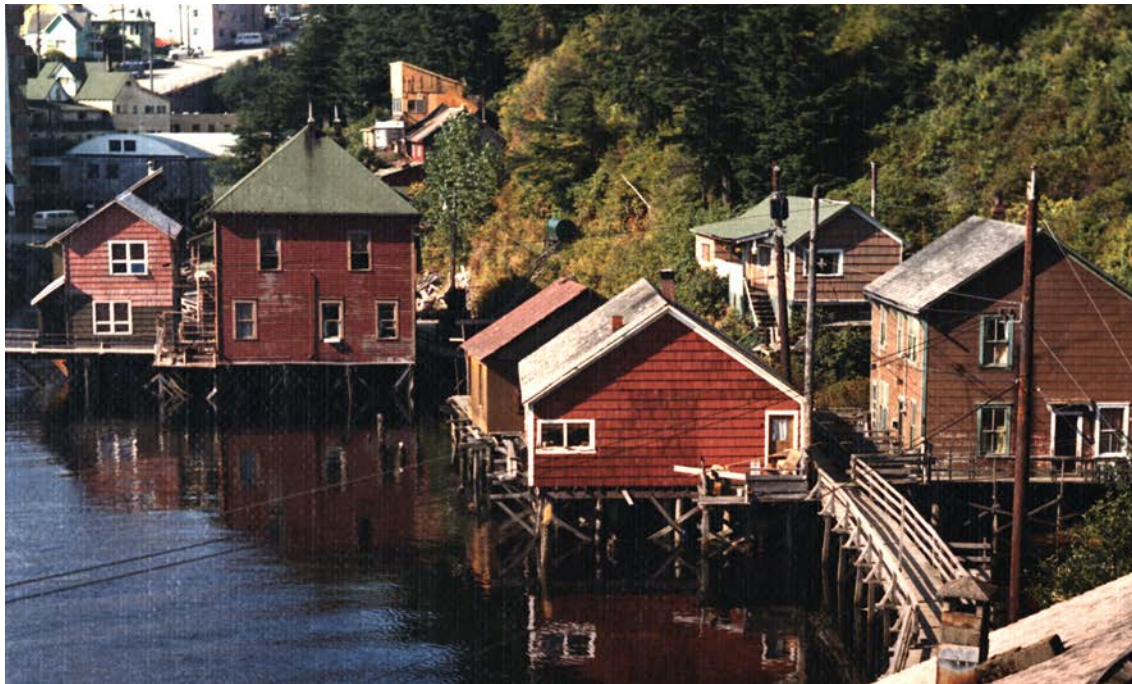
N^o 10 is one of Creek Street's older buildings. Its simple architecture is representative of early Creek Street buildings: small, rectangular, modest and of a personal scale. The building is on the site of the waterwheel that powered the barrel-making factory and shingle mill in early years.

Historic Preservation Recommendations

N^o 10 Creek Street is a contributing building to the historic character of Creek Street Historic District. It retains its scale and form and with minor preservation improvements, this building may be eligible for the National Register. These recommended improvements could be carried out in the normal course of maintenance and repair and would include restoration of a cedar shingle roof to replace the present metal faux shingle roof, replacement of the siding with historically appropriate cedar siding, and consideration of historic doors as well as addition of shed roof rain covers at key entries.



For its first 20 years, Creek Street developed largely as a string of houses fronting on the upland side of a boardwalk that was directly over the Creek. Houses had good light, entrances were visible, and the boardwalk provided some protection from floods and drifting logs. After 1919, as building on the upland side of the boardwalk occupied all lots, structures began to be added on the creek side of the boardwalk. This late 1930s photo illustrates the height of this trend; the ten visible, creekside buildings occupied all remaining buildable lots seaward of the boardwalk. These structures were more exposed to the periodic flooding of Ketchikan Creek and only the Star House and three others in this photo survived to 2011.



In this 1972 photo, N° 20 Creek Street remained while buildings around had disappeared. 3 of these 7 visible Creek Street buildings no longer remain in 2011. Restorations and new construction began after creation of the local historic district in the early 1970s.

N° 10 Creek Street in early 2011. Like so many buildings with shops oriented to the summer tourist season, N° 10 is boarded up for the winter and unoccupied.

N^o 11 CREEK STREET

Contributing Building

ALASKA BUILDING INVENTORY FORM • AHSR #KET 00166 • ASSOCIATED DISTRICT: CREEK STREET DISTRICT

CURRENT OWNER'S NAME & ADDRESS: Hu Yao Wen 6590 Glacier Hwy, Unit 287 Juneau, AK 99801			
OTHER BUILDING NAMES:			
USGS QUAD NAME & MAP SHEET: Ketchikan (B-5) SW AK	SECTION: 30	TOWNSHIP: 75S	RANGE: 91E

HISTORIC ASSOCIATION

HISTORIC FUNCTION & SUB-FUNCTION: Boathouse, house of prostitution, residence	
CURRENT FUNCTION & SUB-FUNCTION: Commercial, residence	
SIGNIFICANT PERSON(S): A.J. Inman	SIGNIFICANT DATE(S):
ARCHITECT, BUILDER, CONTRACTOR, DESIGNER:	ORIGINAL OWNER: A.J. Inman, earliest known owner

ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: Circa 1906	DATE MOVED: Circa 1925	DESTRUCTION DATE:	RECONSTRUCTION DATE:
ALTERATION DATES: 1970s, lean-to addition			
RESOURCE TYPE: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object		STORIES: 2	
ARCHITECTURAL STYLE: Creek Street Pioneer		PLAN: Rectangular	CULTURAL AFFILIATION: Euroamerican
NO. OF ANCILLARY STRUCTURES:	BUILDING TYPE: Boathouse, residence		
FOUNDATION MATERIALS: Wood piling	ROOF MATERIALS: Metal	EXTERIOR WALL MATERIALS: Asbestos siding	OTHER MATERIALS:

ELIGIBILITY

<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No If Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D		CRITERIA CONSIDERATIONS: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D <input type="checkbox"/> E <input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/> G
PREPARED BY: RAI Development Solutions	REVIEWED BY PROFESSIONAL THAT MEETS THE FOLLOWING PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architect <input type="checkbox"/> Arch. Historian <input type="checkbox"/> Historian <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hist. Architect <input type="checkbox"/> None	DATE: July, 2011

SHPO RESPONSE

<input type="checkbox"/> Eligible (Concur) <input type="checkbox"/> Eligible (Do Not Concur) <input type="checkbox"/> Not Eligible (Concur) <input type="checkbox"/> Not Eligible (Do Not Concur)	
MINOR RECOMMENDATIONS & COMMENTS INCLUDE:	
<input type="checkbox"/> NEED MORE INFORMATION RELATED TO: <input type="checkbox"/> Historic Context <input type="checkbox"/> Integrity <input type="checkbox"/> Architectural Description <input type="checkbox"/> Period of Significance	
AUTHORIZED SIGNATURES:	DATE:



Boardwalk Elevations

North Elevation

Architectural Description

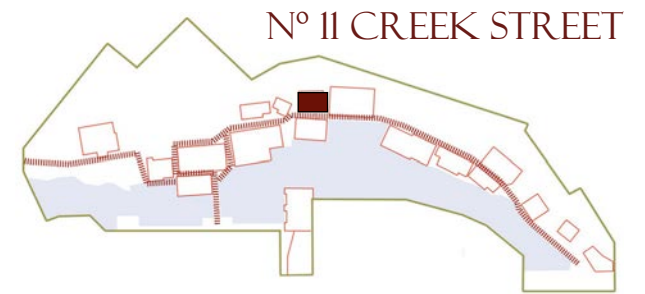
N^o 11 Creek Street is a 2 story, 34 by 24 foot, wood frame building with an attached 10 by 24 foot lean-to, built on wood piling over the water. The building was partially renovated (interior and piling) in 2006. While its siding is not original, the building retains its original fenestration and much of its architectural detailing. Its double hung windows at the boardwalk level were renovated rather than replaced. It has a steeply pitched roof (10:12). According to Ketchikan Gateway Borough records, the building was built in 1906 and served as the Inman family boathouse prior to being moved to its current site before 1927. Further research is needed to confirm this building's history.

Statement of Significance

N^o 11 is one of Creek Street's older buildings. Its simple architecture is representative of the Creek Street area's beginning and heyday of prostitution: 1900 to 1930s. The building exterior has been altered in only minor ways and prior owners have maintained most architectural detailing. The building is on the site of the early Inman Cooper Shop (barrel making factory) and subsequently the Ketchikan Shingle Mill.

Historic Preservation Recommendations

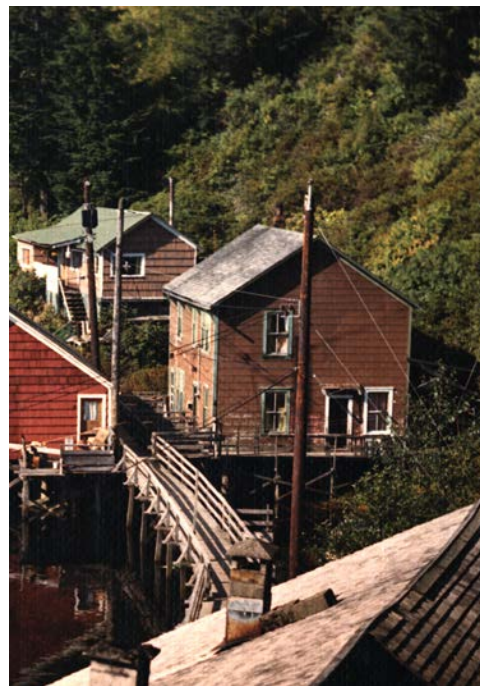
N^o 11 Creek Street is a contributing building to the Creek Street Historic District. It retains its original architectural detailing. While the building has not been submitted for National Register status, its age and its preservation to date may render it eligible, especially with restoration of key period features. It is recommended that as maintenance and repairs continue into the future, priority be given to maintaining its original double hung windows, replacing the recently installed plastic gutter and excessive braces on the boardwalk side (both of which detract from its otherwise authentic character), and replacing the asbestos siding with wood siding typical of early Creek Street.



By the early 1930s, after three decades of growth, Creek Street was almost fully built out. A close look at this 1940s aerial photo shows that very few lots were vacant or unused. N° 11 Creek Street, in the center of the photo, shares an important location in Creek Street's history. The building was part of the site of the Ketchikan Shingle Mill that was built in 1904 and operated until 1917.



For most of its history, N° 11 Creek Street has been hidden from view by nearby buildings. By outliving its neighbors, the building enjoys views of the Creek in 2011.



In 1973, three historic properties are visible: N° 11 (right), N° 10 (left), and N° 8 (above). N° 8 was built in 1910 and burned in the late 1990s.



N° 11 Creek Street in 2011. While much of the historic character and detailing are visible in the above photo, the asbestos siding and excessive gutter brackets are not traditional for historic Creek Street buildings.

JUNE'S CAFE

Contributing Building

CURRENT OWNER'S NAME & ADDRESS: Robert & Marjorie McCamy 203 Stedman Street Ketchikan, AK 99901			
OTHER BUILDING NAMES:			
USGS QUAD NAME & MAP SHEET: Ketchikan (B-5) SW AK	SECTION: 30	TOWNSHIP: 75S	RANGE: 91E

HISTORIC ASSOCIATION

HISTORIC FUNCTION & SUB-FUNCTION: House of prostitution	
CURRENT FUNCTION & SUB-FUNCTION: Retail, apartment	
SIGNIFICANT PERSON(S): Vivian Inman	SIGNIFICANT DATE(S):
ARCHITECT, BUILDER, CONTRACTOR, DESIGNER:	ORIGINAL OWNER:

ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: Circa 1903	DATE MOVED:	DESTRUCTION DATE:	RECONSTRUCTION DATE:
ALTERATION DATES: Early 1930s, 1960s, 2002			
RESOURCE TYPE: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object		STORIES: 2	
ARCHITECTURAL STYLE: Commercial		PLAN:	CULTURAL AFFILIATION: Euroamerican
NO. OF ANCILLARY STRUCTURES:	BUILDING TYPE: False front		
FOUNDATION MATERIALS: Wood piling	ROOF MATERIALS: Metal	EXTERIOR WALL MATERIALS: Wood channel siding	OTHER MATERIALS:

ELIGIBILITY

<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No If Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D		CRITERIA CONSIDERATIONS: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D <input type="checkbox"/> E <input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/> G	
PREPARED BY: RAI Development Solutions	REVIEWED BY PROFESSIONAL THAT MEETS THE FOLLOWING PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architect <input type="checkbox"/> Arch. Historian <input type="checkbox"/> Historian <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hist. Architect <input type="checkbox"/> None		DATE: July, 2011

SHPO RESPONSE

<input type="checkbox"/> Eligible (Concur) <input type="checkbox"/> Eligible (Do Not Concur) <input type="checkbox"/> Not Eligible (Concur) <input type="checkbox"/> Not Eligible (Do Not Concur)	
MINOR RECOMMENDATIONS & COMMENTS INCLUDE:	
<input type="checkbox"/> NEED MORE INFORMATION RELATED TO: <input type="checkbox"/> Historic Context <input type="checkbox"/> Integrity <input type="checkbox"/> Architectural Description <input type="checkbox"/> Period of Significance	
AUTHORIZED SIGNATURES:	DATE:



Boardwalk view

Creek Street & Stedman Street elevations

View from Stedman Street bridge

Architectural Description

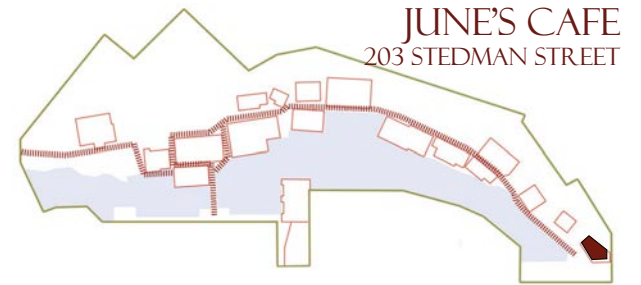
June's Café is 2-story, 5-sided, false-front, Commercial style building. It faces both Creek Street (32 feet of frontage) and Stedman Street (25 feet) and is situated within both the Creek Street Historic District and the Stedman/Thomas Historic District. A parapet wall wraps around four sides of the building with a bracketed soffit on two sides. The original building has been modified several times, most recently in 2002. The Stedman and Creek Street facades each have two sets of two double-hung windows on both stories. The building retains its original form and footprint. It is sided in cedar, channel siding and has historically appropriate corner and window trim.

Statement of Significance

June's Café is one of Creek Street's oldest remaining buildings. It was built circa 1903 and served for many years, along with its Creek Street neighbors, as a house of prostitution. A number of retail uses occupied the ground floor in its initial decades, and by the early 1930s June's Café was established. In the late 1940s, Vivian Inman purchased and operated June's Café until her death in 1999. Her entrepreneurial tenure was the longest of any black American in Ketchikan and she was a well-known personality on Creek Street. June's Café was once featured on "Good Morning America" and the chili was reputed to be "world famous." The building is considered a contributing building to the Creek Street Historic District.

Historic Preservation Recommendations

The June's Café building was renovated less than 10 years ago. It is recommended that as maintenance and repairs continue into the future, priority be given to retaining its historical authenticity and architectural detailing, including its cedar channel siding, wood double-hung windows, period window and door trim, and corner boards.



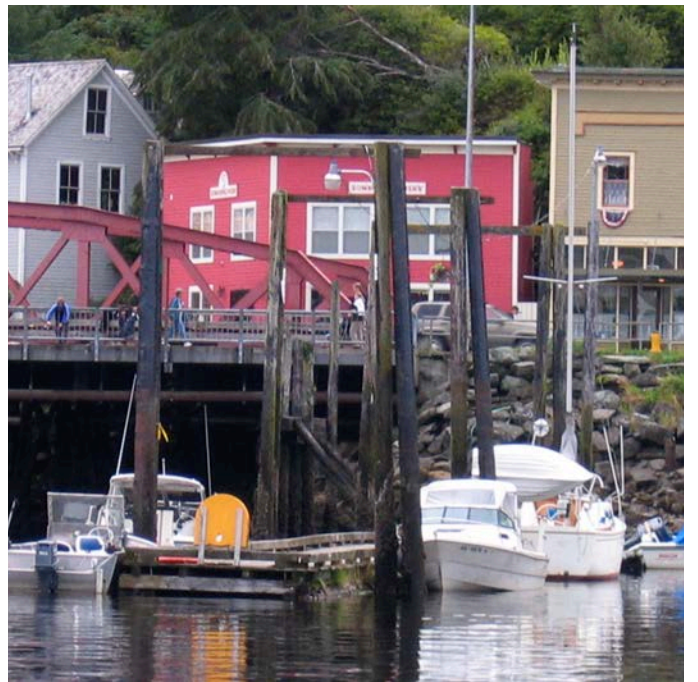
High tide at the door step to June's Café adjacent to Stedman Street bridge, circa 1920. N° 28 Creek Street is visible behind June's, the only 2 buildings in the photo remaining today.



One of Creek Street's earliest buildings, June's Café opened also on Stedman Street. This circa 1930 photo shows a narrow addition to the north end of the building to add an upstairs room. This building form and footprint remain today.



Vivian Inman ("June") and the June's Café building in the 1990s.



The renovated June's Café building (now called "Something Fishy") has retail on the ground floor and an apartment on the second floor.



This early 1950s photo shows N° 2 Creek Street and the dense development around it prior to ending prostitution on the Creek. By 2011 (see photo on opposite page from approximately the same perspective), three of the four buildings in the complex no longer existed.



Early 1970s. N° 2 Creek was just remodeled and Native artist Jones Yeltatze's salmon was just installed.



In 2011, the south facade retains its original shingle siding, classic double-hung windows and entry shed roofs.



These two primary elevations no longer have period windows and siding (2011 photo). The building is not presently occupied and is in danger of demolition. The City replaced the adjacent boardwalk, railings and piling in 2010.

BOARDWALK, BRIDGE & MARRIED MAN'S TRAIL

Contributing Structures

ALASKA BUILDING INVENTORY FORM ° AHS #KET 01168 ° ASSOCIATED DISTRICT: CREEK STREET DISTRICT

CURRENT OWNER'S NAME & ADDRESS: City of Ketchikan 334 Front Street Ketchikan, AK 99901			
OTHER BUILDING NAMES:			
USGS QUAD NAME & MAP SHEET: Ketchikan (B-5) SW AK	SECTION: 30	TOWNSHIP: 75S	RANGE: 91E

HISTORIC ASSOCIATION

HISTORIC FUNCTION & SUB-FUNCTION: Boardwalk, bridge and trail	
CURRENT FUNCTION & SUB-FUNCTION: Boardwalk, bridge and trail	
SIGNIFICANT PERSON(S):	SIGNIFICANT DATE(S):
ARCHITECT, BUILDER, CONTRACTOR, DESIGNER:	ORIGINAL OWNER:

ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: Early 1900s	DATE MOVED:	DESTRUCTION DATE:	RECONSTRUCTION DATE:
ALTERATION DATES:			
RESOURCE TYPE: <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object		STORIES:	
ARCHITECTURAL STYLE:		PLAN:	CULTURAL AFFILIATION:
NO. OF ANCILLARY STRUCTURES:	BUILDING TYPE: Boardwalk, bridge and trail		
FOUNDATION MATERIALS: Wood piling, concrete footings	ROOF MATERIALS: NA	EXTERIOR WALL MATERIALS: NA	OTHER MATERIALS: Wood planking, railings

ELIGIBILITY

<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	If Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D	CRITERIA CONSIDERATIONS: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D <input type="checkbox"/> E <input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/> G
PREPARED BY: RAI Development Solutions	REVIEWED BY PROFESSIONAL THAT MEETS THE FOLLOWING PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architect <input type="checkbox"/> Arch. Historian <input type="checkbox"/> Historian <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hist. Architect <input type="checkbox"/> None	DATE: July, 2011

SHPO RESPONSE

<input type="checkbox"/> Eligible (Concur) <input type="checkbox"/> Eligible (Do Not Concur) <input type="checkbox"/> Not Eligible (Concur) <input type="checkbox"/> Not Eligible (Do Not Concur)
MINOR RECOMMENDATIONS & COMMENTS INCLUDE:
<input type="checkbox"/> NEED MORE INFORMATION RELATED TO: <input type="checkbox"/> Historic Context <input type="checkbox"/> Integrity <input type="checkbox"/> Architectural Description <input type="checkbox"/> Period of Significance
AUTHORIZED SIGNATURES: _____ DATE: _____



Boardwalk near N° 18...and near Dolly's House

Creek Street Bridge

Architectural Description

The Creek Street boardwalk and bridge, the Totem Way boardwalk and the Married Man's Trail comprised the historic network of access to and from the buildings and activities of the "other side of the Creek." The wooden Creek Street boardwalk is approximately 950' in length and varies in width up to 6'. The wooden Creek Street bridge is approximately 40' in length and 8' in width. Both the bridge and boardwalk are built over the creek and tidal waters on wooden piling. Married Man's Trail is a 420' gravel trail and boardwalk about 4-6' in width beginning at the falls and following the steep creek bank to come out on the boardwalk near the Star House. Totem Way is approximately 250' in length connecting the Stedman Street and Chief Johnson Pole area to the bridge and boardwalk. While historically a wooden boardwalk, Totem Way is now a mixture of wood and concrete. All elements of the boardwalk/bridge/path network share an identical wood railing design.

Statement of Significance

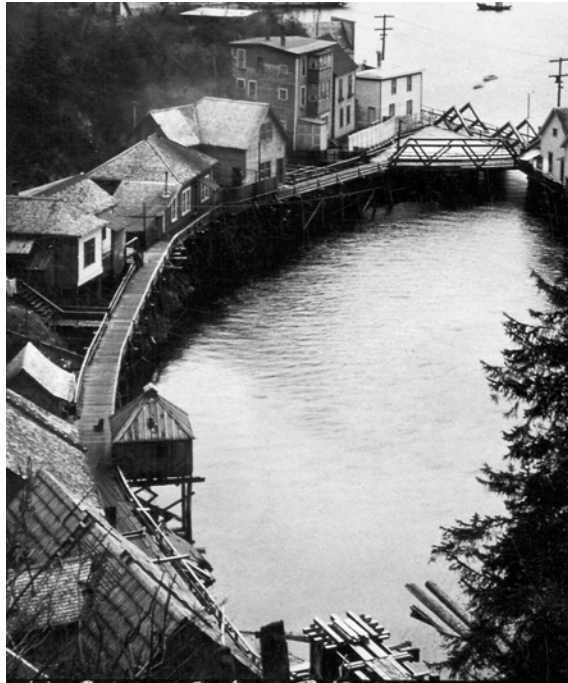
The wooden boardwalks and bridges were the only means of pedestrian access (there were never vehicles) to the Creek Street area. They were built from local materials produced in Ketchikan. The boardwalk location and design have been altered minimally since its earliest construction circa 1900. There were historically 3 pedestrian bridges connecting the boardwalk to Stedman Street and Totem Way; only the present one connecting to Totem Way remains. Married Man's Trail was developed during the heyday of prostitution to facilitate an entry to Creek Street activities without being seen.

Historic Preservation Recommendations

The historic boardwalk/bridge/path network is a contributing structure to the character of the Creek Street historic area. It is recommended that the wooden structure of the boardwalk and bridge (piling, deck and railing) be preserved and the existing Married Man's Trail be maintained in its natural setting. It is also recommended that improved signage and interpretation be installed to communicate the historic significance of these structures. Future viewing platforms at key locations along the boardwalk and path would enhance the settings for viewing and appreciating the creek.



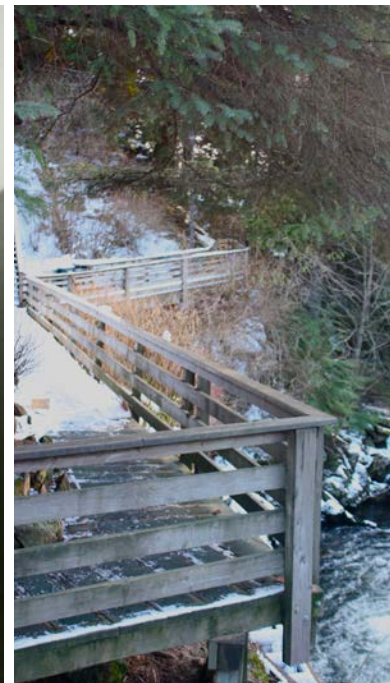
Creek Street's historic pedestrian access network is comprised of the Creek Street boardwalk, Married Man's Trail, Creek Street Bridge and Totem Way. This network serves all buildings and activities throughout the district. With the exception of Married Man's Trail (gravel surface) the network is primarily one of wooden boardwalks and decks. The railings throughout the network share a common wood design as seen in the photos below.



South part of Creek Street, 1905. The boardwalk from Stedman along N° 28 was called Foster Way and the bridge crossing to Creek Street was called Creek Way.



Foggy day along the boardwalk, 1930s. During prostitution's heyday, buildings lined both sides of the boardwalk.



Married Man's Trail, 2011. It begins at the falls, follows the steep creek bank and joins the boardwalk near the Star.



The Creek Street boardwalk and bridge and the Totem Way boardwalk on a rainy, summer day, 2009.

CHIEF JOHNSON POLE

Contributing Object, Eligible for the National Register

CURRENT OWNER'S NAME & ADDRESS: Ktn Gateway Borough & Tongass Hist. Society 1900 1st Avenue Ketchikan, AK 99901			
OTHER BUILDING NAMES:			
USGS QUAD NAME & MAP SHEET: Ketchikan (B-5) SW AK	SECTION: 30	TOWNSHIP: 75S	RANGE: 91E

HISTORIC ASSOCIATION

HISTORIC FUNCTION & SUB-FUNCTION: Object, totem pole	
CURRENT FUNCTION & SUB-FUNCTION: Object, totem pole	
SIGNIFICANT PERSON(S): Chief George Johnson (Gut Wain)	SIGNIFICANT DATE(S):
ARCHITECT, BUILDER, CONTRACTOR, DESIGNER:	ORIGINAL OWNER: Kadjuk House, Tlingit Gaanax̄.ádi Clan

ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: 1902	DATE MOVED:	DESTRUCTION DATE:	RECONSTRUCTION DATE: 1989
ALTERATION DATES:			
RESOURCE TYPE: <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Object		STORIES:	
ARCHITECTURAL STYLE: Totem pole		PLAN:	CULTURAL AFFILIATION: Native Alaskan
NO. OF ANCILLARY STRUCTURES:	BUILDING TYPE:		
FOUNDATION MATERIALS:	ROOF MATERIALS:	EXTERIOR WALL MATERIALS:	OTHER MATERIALS:

ELIGIBILITY

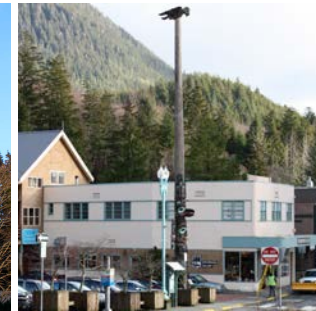
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PREPARED BY: RAI Development Solutions	REVIEWED BY PROFESSIONAL THAT MEETS THE FOLLOWING PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architect <input type="checkbox"/> Arch. Historian <input type="checkbox"/> Historian <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hist. Architect <input type="checkbox"/> None	DATE: May, 2011

SHPO RESPONSE

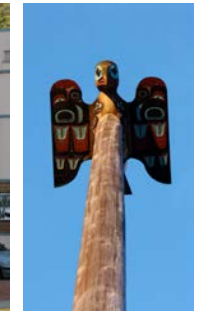
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MINOR RECOMMENDATIONS & COMMENTS INCLUDE:	
<input type="checkbox"/> NEED MORE INFORMATION RELATED TO: <input type="checkbox"/> Historic Context <input type="checkbox"/> Integrity <input type="checkbox"/> Architectural Description <input type="checkbox"/> Period of Significance	
AUTHORIZED SIGNATURES:	DATE:



Raven/Fog Woman



Present context in the Centennial Lot



Kadjuk

Architectural Description

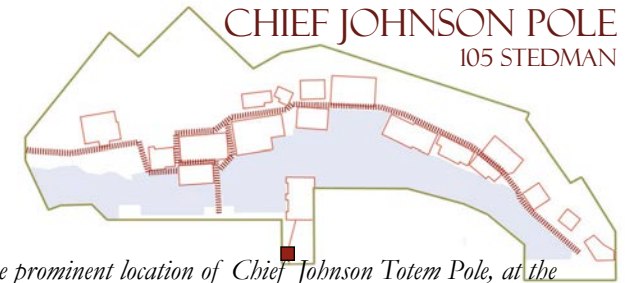
Chief Johnson Pole is a totem pole belonging to the Kadjuk House of the Tlingit Gaanax̄.ádi Clan. It is 55' tall and is crowned by a fabled bird called Kadjuk. The pole represents a story of the experiences of Raven. Fog Woman--the brightly colored figure at the base of the pole--is identified with the 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.

Statement of Significance

The Chief Johnson Pole was raised by George Johnson (Gut-Wain) in 1902. The pole served as the iconic landmark both of the surrounding Native village on the banks of Ketchikan Creek as well as the developing community of Ketchikan from its earliest days. While there are no remains of the Native village buildings, this pole survives to tell the village story. It was one of Ketchikan's oldest man-made objects and certainly its most visible. Except for stabilization work in 1933-34, the original pole stood until 1982. The present pole is a replica and was raised in 1989 on the site of the original.

Historic Preservation Recommendations

Chief Johnson Pole is a contributing object to the historic character of the present Creek Street Historic District. It meets criteria for listing on the National Register in that it is a construction that is "primarily artistic in nature" and is an "object associated with a specific setting or environment." It also meets the following three National Register requirements for reconstructed properties (Criteria Consideration E): 1) the property is reconstructed accurately in a suitable environment; 2) the property is presented in a dignified manner as part of a restoration master plan; and 3) no other building or structure with the same associations has survived. It is recommended that the Chief Johnson Pole be nominated for listing on the National Register. It is further recommended that improved landscaping, signage and paving be installed near the totem base as well as a wooden boardwalk along Totem Way. These improvements will enhance the setting for viewing and appreciating this important pole.



The prominent location of Chief Johnson Totem Pole, at the junction of Stedman and Mission streets and Totem Way leading to Creek Street, is clearly visible in this 1904 photograph. The new building with distinctive two story bay windows directly behind the totem, was a landmark seen in Ketchikan photos of this area until it and other aged structures around it were razed for a 1960s urban renewal project. The photo illustrates how Ketchikan challenged early builders: with little flat land, buildings (as well as roads and boardwalks) had to either climb up the hillsides or extend out over the water. Almost all of the tide flats seen in this photo were filled with the construction of the Federal Building in 1936-37 and the Mission and Stedman Streets road improvements in 1939.



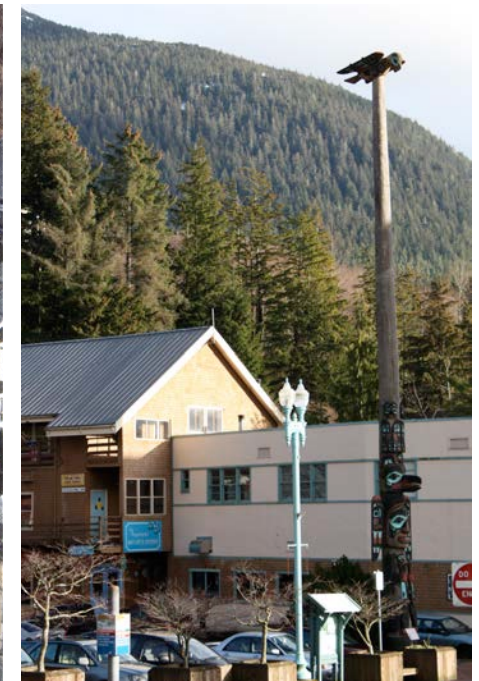
Chief Johnson pole and house and the village setting in 1902. The pole has always stood at its present site...presiding over change around it.



Creek Street growing up around the pole. The shingle mill & waterwheel are visible on the other side of the creek in this 1910 photo.



The view from the Federal Building in the 1950s.



The present day. An urban renewal project transformed the setting in the 1960s.

NATIVE VILLAGE SITE

Contributing Historic Site

ALASKA BUILDING INVENTORY FORM ° AHRS #KET 01167 ° ASSOCIATED DISTRICT: CREEK STREET DISTRICT

CURRENT OWNER'S NAME & ADDRESS: Multiple private owners and City of Ketchikan			
OTHER BUILDING NAMES:			
USGS QUAD NAME & MAP SHEET: Ketchikan (B-5) SW AK	SECTION: 30	TOWNSHIP: 75S	RANGE: 91E

HISTORIC ASSOCIATION

HISTORIC FUNCTION & SUB-FUNCTION: Native village	
CURRENT FUNCTION & SUB-FUNCTION: City library & museum, parking, private commercial	
SIGNIFICANT PERSON(S): Chief Johnson, Chief Kyan and many predecessors	SIGNIFICANT DATE(S):
ARCHITECT, BUILDER, CONTRACTOR, DESIGNER:	ORIGINAL OWNER: Native peoples

ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

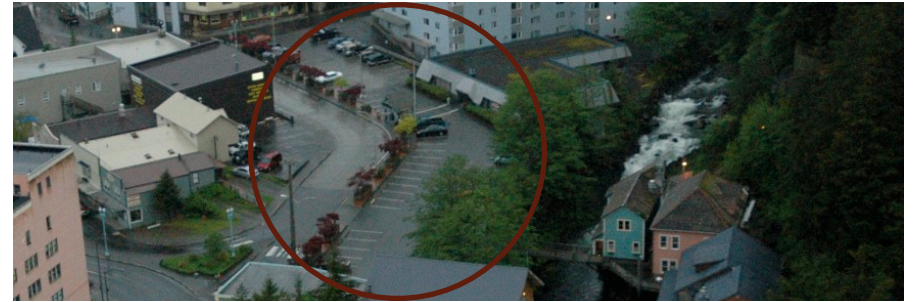
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ALTERATION DATES:			
RESOURCE TYPE: <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object		STORIES:	
ARCHITECTURAL STYLE: Native village		PLAN:	CULTURAL AFFILIATION: Native Alaskan
NO. OF ANCILLARY STRUCTURES:	BUILDING TYPE:		
FOUNDATION MATERIALS:	ROOF MATERIALS:	EXTERIOR WALL MATERIALS:	OTHER MATERIALS:

ELIGIBILITY

<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No		If Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D		CRITERIA CONSIDERATIONS: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D <input type="checkbox"/> E <input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/> G	
PREPARED BY: RAI Development Solutions	REVIEWED BY PROFESSIONAL THAT MEETS THE FOLLOWING PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architect <input type="checkbox"/> Arch. Historian <input type="checkbox"/> Historian <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hist. Architect <input type="checkbox"/> None			DATE: August, 2011	

SHPO RESPONSE

<input type="checkbox"/> Eligible (Concur) <input type="checkbox"/> Eligible (Do Not Concur) <input type="checkbox"/> Not Eligible (Concur) <input type="checkbox"/> Not Eligible (Do Not Concur)	
MINOR RECOMMENDATIONS & COMMENTS INCLUDE:	
<input type="checkbox"/> NEED MORE INFORMATION RELATED TO: <input type="checkbox"/> Historic Context <input type="checkbox"/> Integrity <input type="checkbox"/> Architectural Description <input type="checkbox"/> Period of Significance	
AUTHORIZED SIGNATURES:	DATE:



Approximate site of the Native Village adjacent to today's Creek Street

Architectural Description

Until the late 1800s, the only structures in Ketchikan were Native dwellings on a site along Ketchikan Creek that is now primarily the Centennial Library/ Museum and parking. Nothing remains of the structures that comprised the village except the iconic Chief Johnson Pole and Totem Way boardwalk. The buildings that comprised the village were a hybrid of classic early Pioneer-style architecture (similar in scale and materials to Creek Street architecture) combined with traditional Native design in the treatment of the facades. They had steeply-pitched, cedar shake roofs, cedar siding, and often 6 over 6 double-hung windows in the gable facades.

Statement of Significance

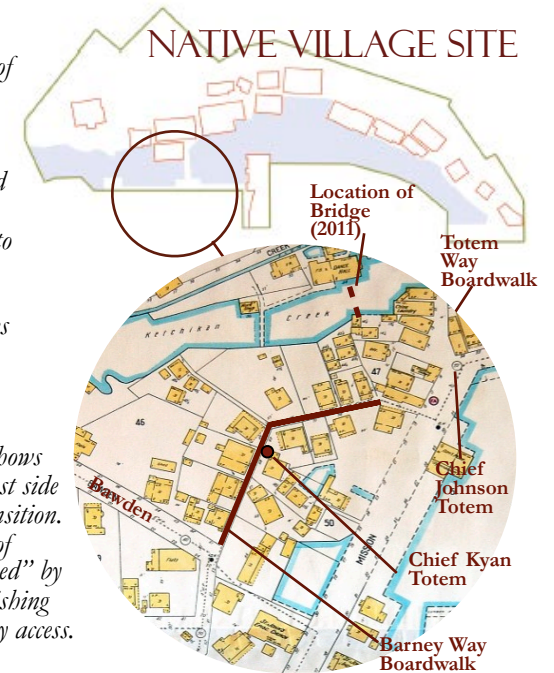
Long before white explorers and pioneers, this site near the mouth of Ketchikan Creek was used by generations upon generations of Native peoples. It was a perfect location: huge runs of salmon, protected water, extensive beach flats and south exposure. When Ketchikan was first platted in 1900, the site was occupied by a sizable number of houses. Like Creek Street, which later shared the banks of Ketchikan Creek, the village had remained an informal, unplatted settlement well into the 1900s. During Creek Street's heyday, the village's architecture, neighborhood character, and socioeconomic circumstances of its people gave it more of an affinity to Creek Street than to the emerging prosperity of the predominately white Downtown. Customers of houses at the north end of Creek Street passed through "Indian Town" along Totem Way or Barney Way to one of two bridges that connected the village to Creek Street. In subsequent years, village 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 forever by an urban renewal project that was to create the library and museum. The Native village site helps to tell the story of early Creek Street and Ketchikan and is a contributing historic site.

Historic Preservation Recommendations

The focus of preservation should be to provide interpretive signage about the village site and about the role of Natives in the development of Ketchikan. The village site should be designated a local historic site and interpretive signage provided at appropriate locations.



This early 1900s photo illustrates the preeminence of the Native village in Ketchikan's earliest days. The cluster of Native dwellings on the high ground around the west side of the creek's mouth was situated to take advantage of the site's many benefits while also protecting it from the ravages of flood and storm tides.



This 1914 Sanborn map shows the Native village on the west side of Ketchikan Creek in transition. The informal arrangement of dwellings is being "formalized" by demarcating lots and establishing Barney Way & Totem Way access.



This 1902 village photo illustrates how builders adapted Pioneer style building and milled wood with traditional Native architecture. Early Native houses had doors in the center, flanked by windows on either side, often with another window above the door.



The Native village shared Ketchikan Creek with Creek Street. The village site was the gateway to Creek Street and had similar development circumstances. It was an informal, dense cluster of houses and shops with access only by boardwalks including Totem Way and Barney Way.

VENETIA LODGE MINING CLAIM

Contributing Historic Site

ALASKA BUILDING INVENTORY FORM ° AHS #KET 01165 ° ASSOCIATED DISTRICT: CREEK STREET DISTRICT

CURRENT OWNER'S NAME & ADDRESS: Multiple private owners and City of Ketchikan			
OTHER BUILDING NAMES:			
USGS QUAD NAME & MAP SHEET: Ketchikan (B-5) SW AK	SECTION: 30	TOWNSHIP: 75S	RANGE: 91E

HISTORIC ASSOCIATION

HISTORIC FUNCTION & SUB-FUNCTION: Mining claim, location for much of red-light district	
CURRENT FUNCTION & SUB-FUNCTION: Mixed use retail, public viewing platform, open space	
SIGNIFICANT PERSON(S): Ole Hamre & E.S. Stackpole; Walter Coutant	SIGNIFICANT DATE(S): 1903, claim filed; 1906 title issued
ARCHITECT, BUILDER, CONTRACTOR, DESIGNER:	ORIGINAL OWNER:

ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

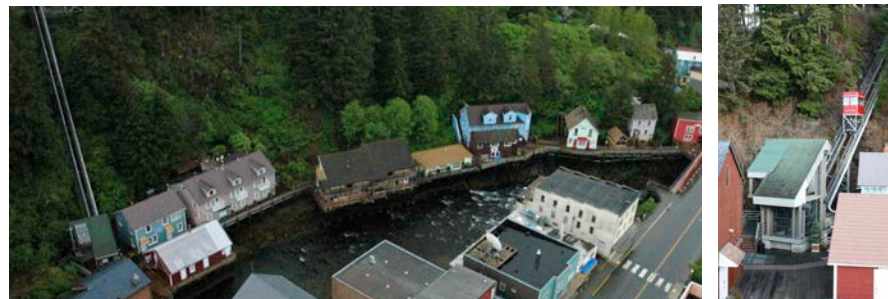
DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: 1903	DATE MOVED:	DESTRUCTION DATE:	RECONSTRUCTION DATE:
ALTERATION DATES:			
RESOURCE TYPE: <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	STORIES:		
ARCHITECTURAL STYLE:	PLAN:	CULTURAL AFFILIATION:	
NO. OF ANCILLARY STRUCTURES:	BUILDING TYPE:		
FOUNDATION MATERIALS:	ROOF MATERIALS:	EXTERIOR WALL MATERIALS:	OTHER MATERIALS:

ELIGIBILITY

<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No If Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D		CRITERIA CONSIDERATIONS: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D <input type="checkbox"/> E <input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/> G
PREPARED BY: RAI Development Solutions	REVIEWED BY PROFESSIONAL THAT MEETS THE FOLLOWING PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architect <input type="checkbox"/> Arch. Historian <input type="checkbox"/> Historian <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hist. Architect <input type="checkbox"/> None	DATE: August, 2011

SHPO RESPONSE

<input type="checkbox"/> Eligible (Concur) <input type="checkbox"/> Eligible (Do Not Concur) <input type="checkbox"/> Not Eligible (Concur) <input type="checkbox"/> Not Eligible (Do Not Concur)	
MINOR RECOMMENDATIONS & COMMENTS INCLUDE:	
<input type="checkbox"/> NEED MORE INFORMATION RELATED TO: <input type="checkbox"/> Historic Context <input type="checkbox"/> Integrity <input type="checkbox"/> Architectural Description <input type="checkbox"/> Period of Significance	
AUTHORIZED SIGNATURES:	DATE:



Venetia Lode claim area today and site of assessment tunnel near the cable car landing

Description

The southern part of Creek Street, from N° 10 and N° 11 down to N° 28, was developed on land that was part of the Venetia Lode mining claim. According to mining records, it was discovered in 1903 by Ole Hamre and E.S. Stackpole. The claim consisted of a 1500 by 600 ft area (20 acres) and included much of “Boston Smith Heights” (the early name for the hill bordering Creek Street). According to Juan Munoz, a miner who researched the history of the mine, “it is dubious that they expected to find an orebody. As was done in other areas, they used the mining laws to claim real estate.” In 1906, the claim was surveyed for title and an “assessment” tunnel adjacent to the present cable car tramway was also drilled--not for a mine--but for “proving up” on the claim.

During this time, other “improvements” appeared on this claim, mostly along the portion fronting Ketchikan Creek. These consisted of at least 7 houses of prostitution, as well as the Ketchikan Shingle Mill. This development was “informal”: lots were not surveyed and land titles were not legalized. By 1919, the Venetia Lode claim along Creek Street was subdivided. At that time, there were houses all along it and the lot lines only formalized the existing layout. Interestingly enough, “Creek Street” was a dedicated, unbuildable 20 ft right-of-way on the hillside above all lots (the boardwalk was called “Creek Way”).

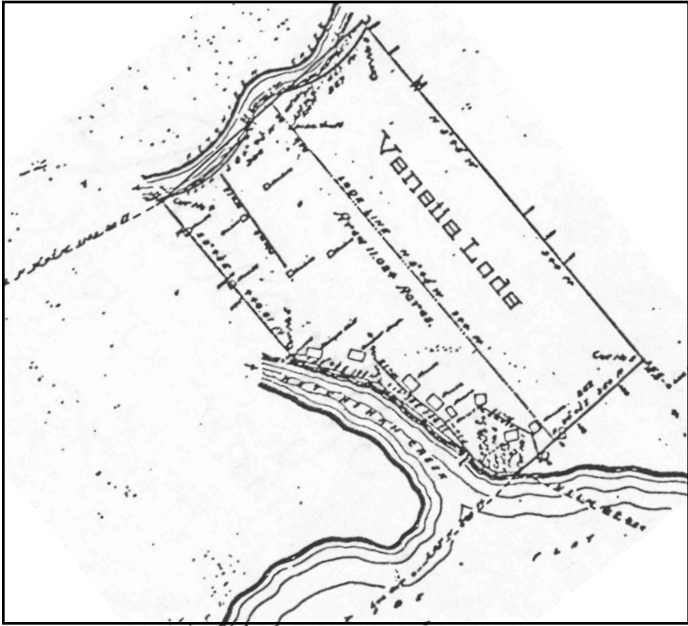
Statement of Significance

The Venetia Lode Mining Claim is a contributing site. The “assessment tunnel” near the cable car landing is the only physical feature remaining from mining activity. The mining claim permitted “informal” development along the banks of Ketchikan Creek and this resulted in the “organic” or non-rectangular layout found today (unlike other parts of town where a predetermined grid established a very different development pattern). Also, it was key to facilitating 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.

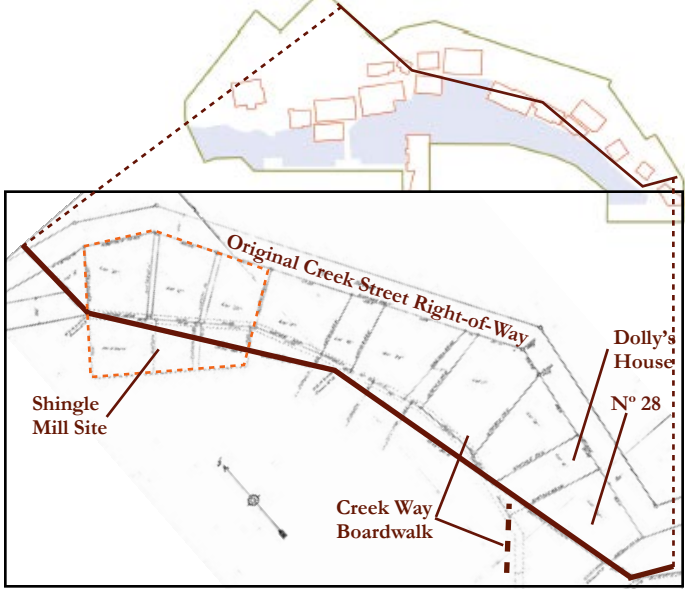
Historic Preservation Recommendations

The story of the Venetia Lode mining claim should be told with interpretive signage located by the cable car landing platform (where an assessment tunnel was made and is still visible).

VENETIA LODE MINING CLAIM



The Venetia Lode Claim had very important implications for the development and character of Creek Street. This copy of the plat of Mineral Survey 731 of the Venetia Lode claim was surveyed and recorded in 1906. It shows eight buildings already standing within the southwest corner of the claim, along or near Ketchikan Creek.



This 1919 subdivision plat shown here established a legal framework for the informal development that had already occurred along the east side of Ketchikan Creek within the Venetia Lode claim area. At that time the buildings along this part of the Creek fronted along the boardwalk.



All of the buildings visible in this 1910 photo were within the Venetia lode mining claim except for the building at the far right (which became June's Café). All eleven along the Creek housed "Female Boarders," a term used to indicate prostitution (the small shed in the far left was part of the Ketchikan Shingle Mill).



This 2011 photo is much the same view as the adjacent photo--100 years later. Over time, more buildings were added seaward of the boardwalk. In 2011, 4 of the 6 outside lots added after the 1919 plat had buildings on them.

KETCHIKAN SHINGLE MILL

Contributing Historic Site

ALASKA BUILDING INVENTORY FORM ° AHS #KET 01166 ° ASSOCIATED DISTRICT: CREEK STREET DISTRICT

CURRENT OWNER'S NAME & ADDRESS: Multiple private owners and City of Ketchikan			
OTHER BUILDING NAMES: Dunton and Inman Shingle Mill, Red Cedar Shingle Company			
USGS QUAD NAME & MAP SHEET: Ketchikan (B-5) SW AK	SECTION: 30	TOWNSHIP: 75S	RANGE: 91E

HISTORIC ASSOCIATION

HISTORIC FUNCTION & SUB-FUNCTION: Shingle mill	
CURRENT FUNCTION & SUB-FUNCTION: Mixed use retail, public viewing platform	
SIGNIFICANT PERSON(S): Austin J. ("Ott") Inman	SIGNIFICANT DATE(S):
ARCHITECT, BUILDER, CONTRACTOR, DESIGNER:	ORIGINAL OWNER: Inman, Borch, Dunton

ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

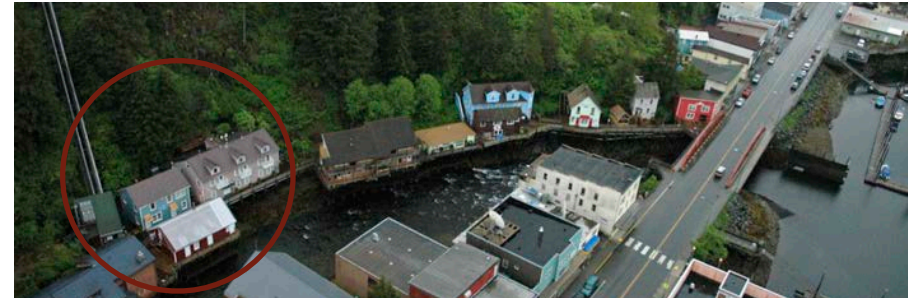
DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: 1905	DATE MOVED:	DESTRUCTION DATE:	RECONSTRUCTION DATE:
ALTERATION DATES:			
RESOURCE TYPE: <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object		STORIES:	
ARCHITECTURAL STYLE: Pioneer		PLAN:	CULTURAL AFFILIATION:
NO. OF ANCILLARY STRUCTURES:	BUILDING TYPE: Industrial		
FOUNDATION MATERIALS:	ROOF MATERIALS:	EXTERIOR WALL MATERIALS:	OTHER MATERIALS:

ELIGIBILITY

<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No If Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D		CRITERIA CONSIDERATIONS: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D <input type="checkbox"/> E <input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/> G	
PREPARED BY: RAI Development Solutions	REVIEWED BY PROFESSIONAL THAT MEETS THE FOLLOWING PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architect <input type="checkbox"/> Arch. Historian <input type="checkbox"/> Historian <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hist. Architect <input type="checkbox"/> None	DATE: July, 2011	

SHPO RESPONSE

<input type="checkbox"/> Eligible (Concur) <input type="checkbox"/> Eligible (Do Not Concur) <input type="checkbox"/> Not Eligible (Concur) <input type="checkbox"/> Not Eligible (Do Not Concur)	
MINOR RECOMMENDATIONS & COMMENTS INCLUDE:	
<input type="checkbox"/> NEED MORE INFORMATION RELATED TO: <input type="checkbox"/> Historic Context <input type="checkbox"/> Integrity <input type="checkbox"/> Architectural Description <input type="checkbox"/> Period of Significance	
AUTHORIZED SIGNATURES:	DATE:



Approximate site of the Ketchikan Shingle Mill and water wheel in today's Creek Street

Architectural Description

The Ketchikan Shingle Mill (also known as Dunton and Inman Shingle Mill and the Red Cedar Shingle Company) and water wheel occupied a site that is now portions of N° 9, N° 10 and N° 11 Creek Street. Nothing remains of the structures that comprised the mill, water wheel and related structures. The buildings that comprised the shingle mill were classic early Creek Street architecture: steeply-pitched, cedar shake roof; board and batten siding; and 6 over 6 double-hung windows. The water wheel was 22 feet in diameter; a plume brought water to the wheel from a point 700 feet upstream.

Statement of Significance

Creek Street's history wasn't only about prostitution, bootlegging and entertainment. In the earliest years, several Ketchikan industries were started on the Creek all in the same complex of buildings. They included a cooperage (barrel-making factory) in 1904 to facilitate shipping salmon south to markets; a shingle mill in 1905 that produced roofing and siding (10,000 shingles/day) for the booming building industry; and boat shop. A key figure in development of the cooperage and shingle mill was early pioneer boat builder and elected leader, A.J. ("Ott") Inman. He and Charles Borch started the cooperage and he operated the shingle mill with a partner named Dunton. This mill played a large role in the development of Creek Street and provided needed building materials for the rapidly developing Downtown area until it ceased functioning on the Creek in 1919. Ketchikan Shingle Mill is a contributing historic site to the Creek Street Historic District.

Historic Preservation Recommendations

The focus of preservation should be to provide interpretive signage about the cooperage, shingle mill and water wheel and about the role of Ott Inman in the development of Ketchikan. The interpretive signage should be on or near the site of these historic structures.



In this wintry 1905 photo, the cooperage and shingle mill (center right) was in full operation. This industry competed with prostitution on the Creek until 1919, when the mill machinery was moved to Charcoal Point (near the present ferry terminal) and became Ketchikan Lumber and Shingle Company. The Creek Street boardwalk is visible on the right and the initial building that would grow into the Star House (see pages 20-21) is on the far left.



A 700' flume (20" deep and 24" wide) brought water from a point near the present falls to run the water wheel that transmitted power to the mill's saws. The mill building was 24' by 48'. With a crew of 3, the mill produced 10,000 shingles/day.



In the early years, the tidal waters of Ketchikan Creek provided a safe harbor for many smaller boats as well as access to the shingle mill. This circa 1911 photo shows a float and ramp associated with a boat shop operated by H.A. Buhring.

STEDMAN ST. BRIDGE

Contributing Structure, Eligible for the National Register

ALASKA BUILDING INVENTORY FORM • AHRS #KET 00643 • ASSOCIATED DISTRICT: CREEK STREET HISTORIC DISTRICT

CURRENT OWNER'S NAME & ADDRESS: Alaska Department of Transportation & Public Facilities PO Box 112500 Juneau, AK 99811			
OTHER BUILDING NAMES:			
USGS QUAD NAME & MAP SHEET: Ketchikan (B-5) SW AK	SECTION: 30	TOWNSHIP: 75S	RANGE: 91E

HISTORIC ASSOCIATION

HISTORIC FUNCTION & SUB-FUNCTION: Bridge	
CURRENT FUNCTION & SUB-FUNCTION: Bridge	
SIGNIFICANT PERSON(S):	SIGNIFICANT DATE(S):
ARCHITECT, BUILDER, CONTRACTOR, DESIGNER: Federal Works Agency, Public Roads Admin.	ORIGINAL OWNER: State of Alaska

ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: 1945	DATE MOVED:	DESTRUCTION DATE:	RECONSTRUCTION DATE:
ALTERATION DATES: 1961, painted; 1970s, metal railing installed; 1997, rehabilitated, fishing platform added			
RESOURCE TYPE: <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object		STORIES:	
ARCHITECTURAL STYLE:		PLAN:	CULTURAL AFFILIATION:
NO. OF ANCILLARY STRUCTURES:	BUILDING TYPE: Bridge		
FOUNDATION MATERIALS: Reinforced concrete, steel H-piles	ROOF MATERIALS: NA	EXTERIOR WALL MATERIALS: NA	OTHER MATERIALS: Steel truss

ELIGIBILITY

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No If Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D		CRITERIA CONSIDERATIONS: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D <input type="checkbox"/> E <input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/> G
PREPARED BY: RAI Development Solutions	REVIEWED BY PROFESSIONAL THAT MEETS THE FOLLOWING PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architect <input type="checkbox"/> Arch. Historian <input type="checkbox"/> Historian <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hist. Architect <input type="checkbox"/> None	DATE: July, 2011

SHPO RESPONSE

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MINOR RECOMMENDATIONS & COMMENTS INCLUDE:	
<input type="checkbox"/> NEED MORE INFORMATION RELATED TO: <input type="checkbox"/> Historic Context <input type="checkbox"/> Integrity <input type="checkbox"/> Architectural Description <input type="checkbox"/> Period of Significance	
AUTHORIZED SIGNATURES:	DATE:



Downstream fishing platform



View along Creek Street boardwalk

Architectural Description

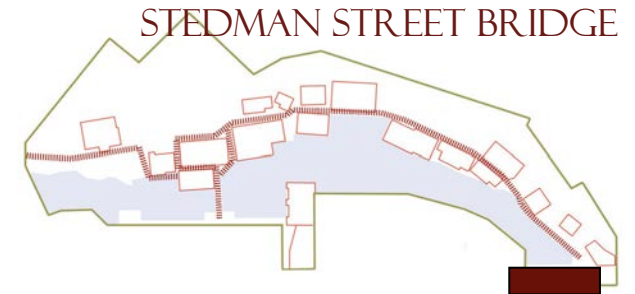
The Stedman Street Bridge is a single-span steel Warren pony truss bridge with polygonal top chords that spans the mouth of Ketchikan Creek. The superstructure is 125 feet long and 55 feet wide, with a roadway width of 33 feet. The bridge has an 8 foot wide walkway and fishing platform on the downstream side and a 5 foot walkway on the upstream side. The truss extending above street level rises to a height of 14 feet. The bridge has been improved and maintained over the years by the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities.

Statement of Significance

The Stedman Street Bridge was built in 1945. It replaced a trestle bridge and prior vehicular and pedestrian bridges located at the same crossing. This Ketchikan Creek crossing has been in place since the earliest days of the community. It connects with the southern entry to Creek Street Historic District and is the northern entry to the Stedman/Thomas National Historic District. As a handsome historic structure, it complements the architecture of the two historic districts. It is a contributing structure because it was constructed during the Creek Street area's period of significance and it has served as an entry to Creek Street for over 65 years. The bridge is eligible for nomination to the National Register as an historic structure.

Historic Preservation Recommendations

The focus of preservation should be to maintain (regular pressure washing has been absent) and enhance the appearance of the bridge with regular painting. The Stedman/Thomas Neighborhood Association recommended that lighting be installed to highlight the bridge as an attractive element of the neighborhood. Attention could also be given to expanding the upstream sidewalk at least one foot to accommodate the heavy visitor pedestrian flows.



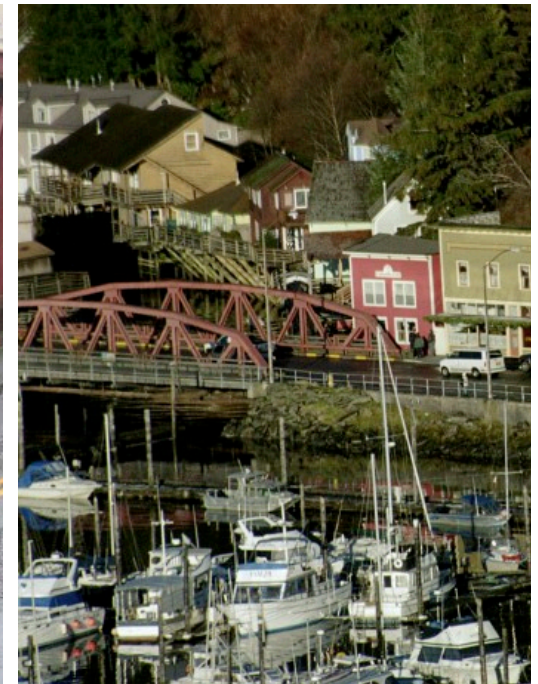
Stedman Street Bridge in the early 1950s. N° 28 Creek Street and June's Café are visible, as is the Benlah View Mission that once stood above Creek Street.



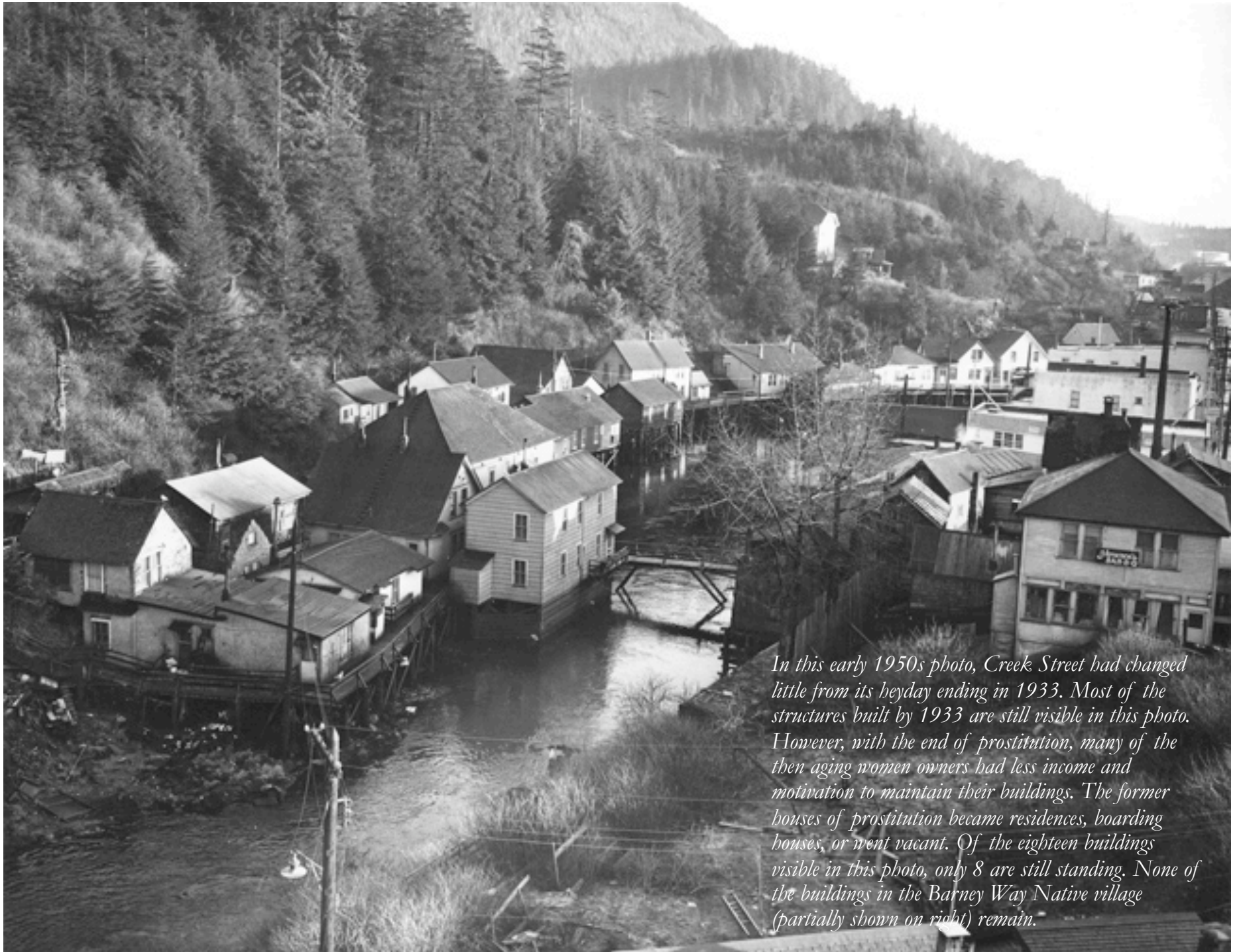
Stedman Street Bridge shortly after construction, circa late 1940s. The wood railing on the walkway was replaced by a steel one in the late 1970s.



Fourth of July parade, 2006. In 1997, the downstream walkway was expanded to create a popular fishing platform and the bridge was painted its present color.



An eagle's-eye view looking up Creek Street in 2009. The bridge is a key visual element at the nexus of Ketchikan's two historic districts.



In this early 1950s photo, Creek Street had changed little from its heyday ending in 1933. Most of the structures built by 1933 are still visible in this photo. However, with the end of prostitution, many of the then aging women owners had less income and motivation to maintain their buildings. The former houses of prostitution became residences, boarding houses, or went vacant. Of the eighteen buildings visible in this photo, only 8 are still standing. None of the buildings in the Barney Way Native village (partially shown on right) remain.

PART THREE: CONCLUSIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS

Eligibility for Listing on National Register of Historic Places

The period of significance for the Creek Street Historic District begins in the early 1900s with Native settlement on the Ketchikan Creek banks, the raising of the Chief Johnson Pole, the formation of the frontier community of Ketchikan and the construction of N° 28 Creek Street, the oldest house in the district. It extends through three notorious decades of prostitution and bustling development, followed by two decades of gradual decline. It ends in the early 1950s, when community-wide demands for reform all but ended prostitution and vice along the Creek.

The Creek Street Historic District is eligible for the National Register under *Criterion A* as a cohesive neighborhood that represents a broad pattern of the social and economic history of Ketchikan and Alaska. As such, the district represents a cross culture of individuals from many walks of life whose skills and talents contributed to the development and growth of the city. Early residents included Natives, business proprietors, tradespeople, and prostitutes. The district is also eligible under *Criterion C* as an area that embodies the distinctive characteristics of Ketchikan's early residential architecture. While many of the dwellings lack individual distinction, they are representative of simple, frontier, southeast Alaska construction using local materials built on piling over tidewater and designed to serve the rapidly growing community.

The district embodies the growth and development of the Territory of Alaska. In pre-history and in the early years of the district's period of significance, the creek and its natural resources were a focus for settlement. The boom years and the district's notoriety as a center for entertainment came as a result of the Gold Rush, the expansion of fishing and lumbering, and the resulting influx of a predominantly male population. Much of the neighborhood was developed speculatively to serve the interests of men. The district boundaries take in only 17 principal structures. The period of significance is represented by one building on the National Register, three Register-eligible historic properties, one Register-eligible historic object (Chief Johnson Pole), eight contributing historic properties, three contributing sites, and a contributing structure comprised of the historic boardwalk, bridge and trail network.

In the years following the formation of the local historic district in the early 1970s, eight non-contributing (under 45 years) structures were built and one historic building was altered beyond recognition (prior to the historic district

establishment). Design guidelines administered with the advice of a specially-created Creek Street Architectural Design Review Board have tempered the potentially negative intrusion of new buildings. New buildings must maintain wood siding, steeply-pitched roofs, historically appropriate fenestration, and a height not exceeding historic building heights of 2½ stories. While it can be argued that good, historically appropriate design cannot be easily administered (and the design of each new building is often hotly contested), the now 35-year local process has been respected and most pay tribute to its contribution to preservation of the design quality of the historic district.

NATIONAL REGISTER EVALUATION CRITERIA

The criteria applied to evaluate properties for the National Register have to do with the quality of significance in American history, architecture, archeology, engineering, and culture that is present in districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects. All National Register eligible properties must possess integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association and

Criterion A: be associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history; or

Criterion B: be associated with lives of persons significant in our past; or

Criterion C: embody distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or that represent the work of a master, or that possess high artistic values, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction; or

Criterion D: have yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Note: In the Creek Street area, buildings, structures, sites and objects have been justified using Criteria A and C and Criteria Considerations (b) and (e).

Criteria considerations. Ordinarily cemeteries, birthplaces, or graves of historical figures, properties owned by religious institutions or used for religious purposes, structures that have been moved from their original locations, reconstructed historic buildings, properties primarily commemorative in nature, and properties that have achieved significance within the past 50 years shall not be considered eligible for the National Register. However, such properties will qualify if they are integral parts of districts that do meet the criteria or if they fall within these categories:

(a) A religious property...or

(b) A building or structure removed from its original location but which is significant primarily for architectural value, or which is the surviving structure most importantly associated with a historic person or event; or

(c) A birthplace or grave of a historical figure...or

(d) A cemetery...or

(e) A reconstructed building when accurately executed in a suitable environment and presented in a dignified manner as part of a restoration master plan, and when no other building or structure with the same association has survived; or

(f) A property primarily commemorative in intent...or

(g) A property achieving significance within the past 50 years...

STATEMENT OF DISTRICT SIGNIFICANCE

The proposed Creek Street Historic District includes buildings, sites, structures and objects related to three significant periods of Ketchikan history: Creek Street Beginnings (1902–1917); Heyday of Prostitution (1918–1933); and Gradual Decline & Closure (1934–1954). These three 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 frontier and early developing city of Ketchikan and surrounding region. It went beyond just the sale of sex, including a full range of associated entertainments and activities: gambling,

drinking, bootleg liquor production and sales, dancing and other night life, music and drugs. Of particular interest here is the fact that in Ketchikan, strong-willed, enterprising women--some of them minorities--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 its height there were over 30 houses and fifty or more “employees” working. A number of these women, most notably Dolly Arthur, have become legends as a result of their lives along Creek Street. The three periods of significance trace the full trajectory of locally-sanctioned prostitution, from its beginning, rise, and eventual demise.

1. Creek Street Beginnings (1902--1917)

The Creek Street red light district originated when the Ketchikan Town Council, in response to a citizen’s petition, ordered certain “bawdy houses” that had established in Newtown to move to the east side of Ketchikan Creek, away from “respectable” development. At the time this area was largely undeveloped, though a few houses, including N° 28, had already been built near the creek mouth and were likely used for prostitution. The steep terrain, with an often-roaring creek running through it, meant that access could only be provided by a boardwalk above the tidal-influenced waterway. It was here that the prostitutes who had been banished from Newtown, followed by others, built houses and began to run their businesses. By 1914, there were 22 buildings along the boardwalk, 13 of which were known houses of prostitution. But Creek Street was not yet the single-use 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.

Resources Related to this Period

- N° 28 Creek Street (1902, building)
- Boardwalk, Bridge and Totem Way (from early 1900s)
- Married Man’s Trail (from early 1900s)
- Chief Johnson Totem (1902, object)
- The Star House (1903, building)
- June’s Café (1904, building)
- Ketchikan Shingle Mill (1904, site)
- Dolly’s House (1905, building)
- Star House Dance Hall (1910, addition)

2. Heyday of Prostitution (1918--1933)

Imposition of the Alaska Bone Dry Law at the start of 1918, followed by the advent of Prohibition in 1920, led to a boom along Creek Street. Also at that time, the shingle mill relocated, freeing up more space on the Creek for nefarious activity. The number of buildings along the east side of the lower Creek went from 22 to 32, and virtually every one was used for not just prostitution, but also bootleg liquor sales, gambling, drugs, and other illegal activities now that the community’s bars and saloons had been shut down. This was a period of huge profits, as well as one of corruption, community outrage, investigations, and various attempts at “cleaning up the Creek”--but little real change.

Resources Related to this Period

- N° 2 (circa 1920, building)
- N° 20 (circa 1920, building)
- N° 4 (circa 1920, building)
- N° 10 (circa 1921, building)
- N° 11 (reportedly moved to site in 1920s, building)

3. Gradual Decline (1934--1954)

The end of Prohibition in 1933 and the Great Depression resulted in a significant revenue decline to the women working on Creek Street. Prostitution continued to be practiced there, but liquor sales plummeted and saloons and bars in other parts of town reopened, capturing a growing share of the nightlife business. Nevertheless, many of the women stayed and continued to practice their trade. Increased military presence around Ketchikan during WWII resulted in a temporary increase in activity on the Creek, in spite of efforts by the military authorities to suppress it. While the aging madams could always find young new girls looking for work and customers to pay for their services, the fact that times were changing could not be ignored. After the end of the war there was a growing intolerance for prostitution. Finally, a 1954 Grand Jury linked local officials to accepting bribes and involvement in activities along the Creek, and closed down prostitution. Some underground activity went on and a few women continued to live along the Creek, converting their houses into apartments. But, with each passing year, more and more of the windows and doors were boarded up. By 1970, 7 of the remaining 12 houses on the Creek were either abandoned, in a serious state of disrepair, or in danger of being lost.

Resources Related to this Period

- Stedman Street Bridge (1945, structure)

RECOMMENDED BOUNDARIES

Historic District Definition

According to the National Park Service, “A Historic District possesses a significant concentration, linkage, or continuity of sites, buildings, structures, or objects united historically or aesthetically by plan or physical development. The identity of a district results from the interrelationship of its resources, which can convey a visual sense of the overall historic environment, or be an arrangement of historically or functionally related properties.” Significance means that it is important for historical, architectural, archeological, engineering or cultural values.

Description

The district boundary is to include all of the locally-designated Creek Street Historic District, less the two properties at 706 Totem Way and 105 Stedman Street, plus approximately 250 feet of the Married Man’s Trail right-of-way to the Park Avenue right-of-way, plus a 200 sf area surrounding Chief Johnson Totem Pole adjacent to Totem Way.

Acreege: 3.907 acres



Use the existing local historic district boundary (shown here) with the additions and exclusions noted. *The existing local 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.*

Add what is locally known as “Married Man’s Trail,” following the existing boardwalk and trail past Nº 1 Creek Street upstream to its juncture with the Park Street sidewalk. *This trail was used for access to Creek Street houses of prostitution during the period of significance.*

Add Chief Johnson Totem Pole and approximately 200 sf surrounding it, adjacent to Totem Way. *(This pole is one of the few remaining objects from early Ketchikan’s and Creek Street’s beginnings.)*

Delete the two properties, 706 Totem Way and 105 Stedman. *(These two buildings are non-contributing to the period of significance.)*

PROPERTIES ELIGIBLE FOR THE NATIONAL REGISTER

One property within the Creek Street Historic District (Star House, N° 5 Creek Street) is already listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Three additional contributing buildings, one contributing object (totem pole) and one contributing structure (Stedman Street Bridge) appear to meet basic criteria for individual nomination. Recommendations have been included regarding actions which could be taken to restore some modified portions of these buildings to be more consistent with their appearance during the period of significance.

Descriptions of all five of these nomination-eligible properties, as well as the Star House, are included here.

In addition, three buildings, all on Stedman Street, while not within the proposed Creek Street Historic District (and not within the scope of work for this project), would likely be eligible for nomination on their own merit and may be considered for inclusion in the Stedman/Thomas Street Historic District. They should be investigated further. These are: 105 Stedman (Western Auto Store, built in 1945); 133 Stedman, the Bayside Hotel, built in the mid 1920s; and 123 Stedman, the site of the Presbyterian Church, built in 1931.



Star House Built 1903
Built circa 1903 with dance hall and second floor additions 1910-1913 and a hipped roof added in the late 1920s. A two-story, rectangular hip roof structure (31 by 63 ft) built entirely on piling over tidal-influenced creek channel. It was the home of two prominent madams on the Creek: “Black Mary” Thomas and Thelma Baker Graham. It was the largest building on the Creek, the only one that included a dance hall (with its signature “star” inlaid in the maple floor) and it reportedly housed up to eight “working” girls during its heyday in the 1920s. The building was completely restored in 1991, retaining many original windows and most of its cedar bevel lap siding. It was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1993.



N° 28 Creek Street Built 1902
This 2½-story wood frame, 20 by 28 ft. building is the oldest house on Creek Street (and one of Ketchikan’s oldest). It was one of the pioneering houses of prostitution on the Creek, already in operation when the City Council relegated these activities to the east side of the Creek in 1903. It has also been referred to as the “Preacher’s House” after a resident minister who lived there for a time and tried to reform the Creek Street area. The building was faithfully restored in 1976, retaining much of its original cedar drop siding, double hung center mullion windows, window trim and architectural detailing. It was recognized as a local “Historic Property” by the Ketchikan Historic Commission in 1976. Its age, role in Ketchikan’s and Creek Street’s early history as well as its preservation indicate National Register eligibility.



Dolly's House Built 1905
 This 1½ -story wood frame, gable roofed, 20 by 28 ft. building is partially on pilings over tidewater. It is one of Creek Street's oldest houses, owned, lived in, and operated by the most famous of the Creek's many madams, Dolly Arthur, from 1919 until 1973. The building was carefully restored in 1976, retaining most of its original architectural details, most notably its brightly painted bay window. Both the exterior and the interior (it is operated as a museum with original furnishings and details associated with Dolly) have been altered little. It was recognized as a local "Historic Property" by the Ketchikan Historic Commission in 1976. Its age, association with a historic figure, condition and careful preservation would make Dolly's House eligible for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places.



Chief Johnson Totem Pole Adjacent to Totem Way Raised 1902
 The Chief Johnson pole, depicting Raven, Fog Woman and honoring the return of salmon runs to Ketchikan Creek, has stood in its present location since its initial raising in 1902. It belongs to the Kadjuk House of the Tlingit Gaanax̄.ádi clan. It is a replica of one of Ketchikan's oldest remaining man-made objects. As a contributing object, it meets criteria for listing on the National Register in that it is a construction that is "primarily artistic in nature" and is an "object associated with a particular setting or environment." It also meets criteria for reconstructed properties: 1. Reconstructed accurately in a suitable environment; 2. Presented in a dignified manner and 3. No other building or structure with the same association has survived.



No. 20 Creek Street Built circa 1920
 A one-story wood frame, Pioneer style, 21 by 40 ft. building constructed entirely on piling over the tidal-influenced Ketchikan Creek. This building was part of Ketchikan's notorious red-light district for at least 35 years. Its most infamous resident, Beatrice Greene, was known to be one of the last "working women" on the Creek, practicing her trade clandestinely after the end of prostitution on the Creek from 1954 to at least 1960. While the building has been modified several times, most notably with changes to the windows, its simple architecture and scale remain. Its role in the history of Creek Street, association with an historic figure, and condition all indicate National Register eligibility.



Stedman Street Bridge Built 1945
 This single-span, steel-truss, 55 by 125 ft. structure replaced a series of bridges and viaducts which had crossed the mouth and tide flats of Ketchikan Creek since the beginnings of Ketchikan. Initially, two bridges were located here, one to the Stedman/Thomas streets area and a separate one to Creek Street, landing where Dolly's house stands. As a handsome historic structure, it complements the architecture of the two historic districts it has served as gateways for over 75 years: Creek Street and Stedman/Thomas Streets. Due to its age, location, design and function, the Stedman Street Bridge is eligible for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places as an historic structure.

SUMMARY OF CONTRIBUTING & NON-CONTRIBUTING PROPERTIES

The Creek Street Historic District survey area included 17 buildings. Of these 9 were determined to be contributing to the periods of significance and 8 were non-contributing. Three structures, four sites and one object were identified which were determined to be contributing. In addition, three non-contributing properties (two of which were outside of the survey area) were determined to have historic and/or architectural merit and could be considered for local recognition or national register nomination. These should be studied further. All properties are listed below and located on the facing page map.

- Bold face type indicates contributing
- Year constructed is indicated in parenthesis.

BUILDINGS

Nº 1 Creek Street (1930, altered dramatically 1972)
Nº 2 Creek Street (circa 1920)
Nº 4 Creek Street (circa 1920)
Star House, Nº 5 Creek Street (1903)
Eagles Lodge, Nº 7 Creek Street (1976)
Nº 10 Creek Street (circa 1921)
Nº 11 Creek Street (circa 1900, moved to site by 1927)
Nº 13 Creek Street (1991-92)
Nº 18 Creek Street (1974)
Nº 20 Creek Street (circa 1920)
Nº 21 Creek Street (1993)
Nº 22 Creek Street (1988)
Dolly's House, Nº 24 Creek Street (1905)
Nº 28 Creek Street (1902)
June's Café, 203/203A Stedman Street (1903)
(this building is also within the Stedman/Thomas Street National Historic District)
Western Auto Building, 105 Stedman Street (1945)
706 Totem Way (1975)

STRUCTURES

Cable Car Terminal (1992)
Creek Street Boardwalk & Pedestrian Bridge (from early 1900s)
Totem Way Boardwalk (from early 1900s)
Stedman Street Bridge (Structure, 1944-45)

OBJECTS

Chief Johnson Totem Pole (1902)
(this object is also within the Downtown district proposed for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places)

SITES

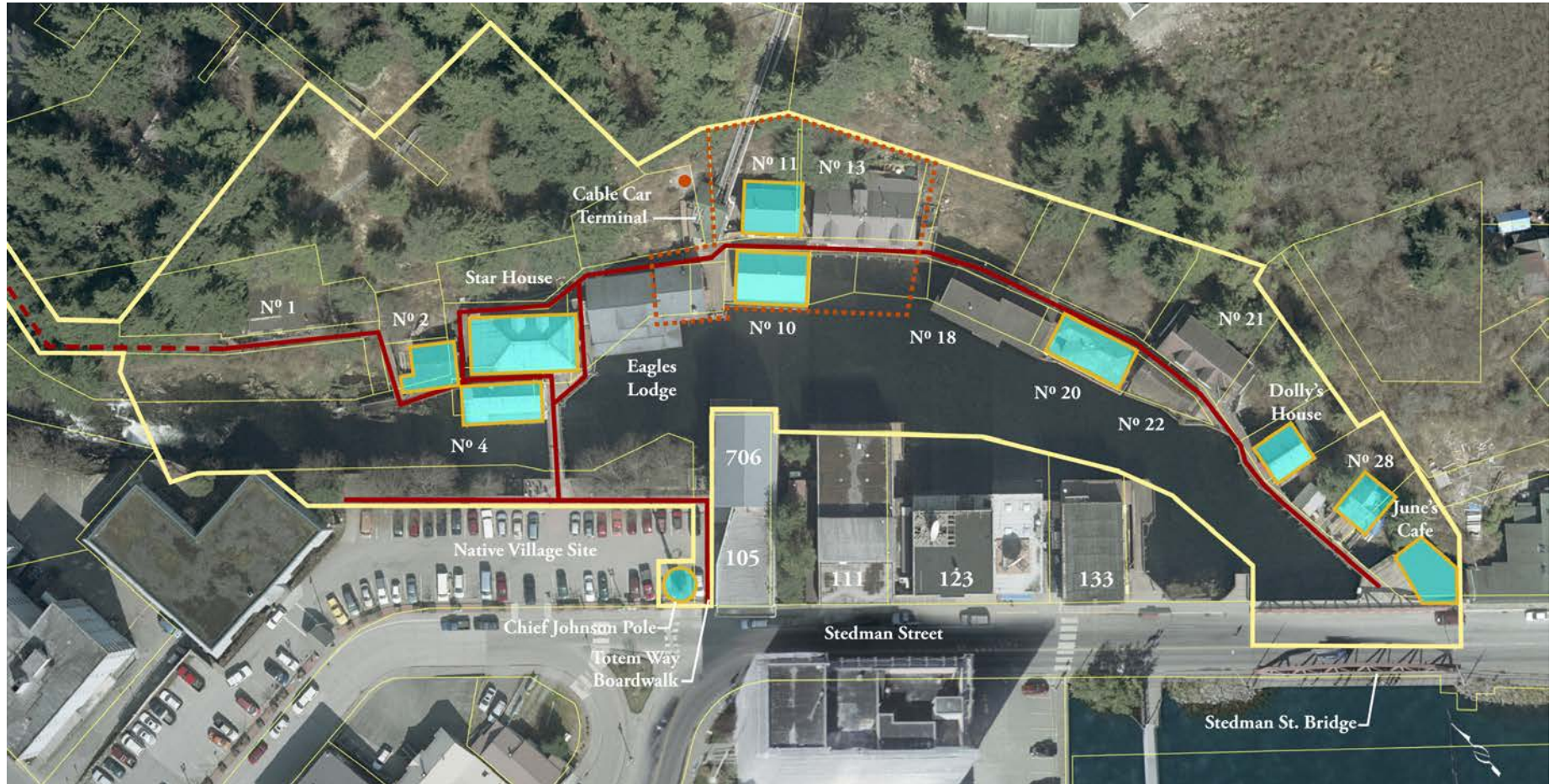
Married Man's Trail (from early 1900s)
Ketchikan Shingle Mill (1904)
Venetia Lode Mining Claim (1903)
Native Village (pre-settlement to 1960s)

HISTORIC BUILDINGS REQUIRING FURTHER STUDY









(may be eligible for National Register nomination and/or inclusion in an amended Stedman/Thomas Street National Historic District)

133 Stedman, Bayside Hotel (early 1920s)
123 Stedman, first Presbyterian Church (1931)
105 Stedman, Western Auto Building, (1945)

SUMMARY MAP OF PROPERTIES



KEY

- | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
|  | Properties Evaluated (Buildings over 45 years that have retained some historic characteristics) |  | Married Man's Trail |
|  | Creek Street address |  | Shingle mill site |
|  | Boardwalks |  | Venetia Lode Mining Claim assessment tunnel |
|  | Creek Street Historic District Boundary (Established 1976) |  | Waterwheel site |

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1905 - *Plat of the Claim of Walter S. Contant, 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

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Survey Photographs of Buildings, Structures, Sites & Objects:

Stephen Reeve, RAI *Development Solutions*

This Byron Birdsall painting captures wintry Creek Street in 1905 when the shingle mill was operating along with early houses of prostitution. The Creek Street boardwalk is visible on the right and the initial building that would be expanded into the Star House is on the far left.

