

JUNEAU'S HISTORIC NEIGHBORHOODS



Volume One
Starr Hill

The Kennedy Street
Mineworker's Houses

Community Development Department
City and Borough of Juneau, Alaska

Alaska Archives Resource and Records Management
Juneau and Skagway, Alaska

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FOREWORD

This publication is the first in a series which will focus on Juneau's historic neighborhoods and on particular structures within the neighborhood. Our goal is to draw attention to Juneau's unique history through interpretation of its buildings and neighborhoods and the people associated with them.

Starr Hill, the research site for this publication, has many fine houses associated with people important in Juneau's past. Because of limited funds and staff, it was decided that those houses unique to Starr Hill would be chosen and their history would be used to interpret the history of the hill.

As planner and historian working together and representing both the public and private sphere, we decided that the six houses sitting in a row on Kennedy Street which are visible in photographs of Starr Hill since 1913, would tell a part of Juneau's history. We also hoped that these efforts would encourage other homeowners to want to learn more about their property and its past, and that a new sense of participation in the historical process would develop in each of us.

As a result of the research, writing and preparation of this publication, we have experienced a new appreciation for our community and those who created its history. Now, when we look up at Starr Hill, Frank Starr with his dark eyes, entrepreneurial skills and mysterious relationships come to mind. The wonderful photograph of Dan Kennedy reveals a man of history who came to Alaska and fulfilled the immigrant's dream. Although our property owners were employed by the mines, they were first immigrants who came to help build Alaska: Conrad Fries, Knute Hildre, Bernt Alstead and Kennedy are only a few of the many who came to work in the tunnels and mills, and on the fishing boats.

Our history of Starr Hill is only just beginning and we have planted seeds which we hope will grow as people question and search for answers. This is what it is all about—the history of a town, neighborhood by neighborhood, to share among ourselves and with those who come to see the Alaska of their dreams. We who are here, live the dream and want to share it. Our thanks to Frank Starr, Dan Kennedy, Conrad Fries, and all the others; our lives are richer because of their contribution to our history.

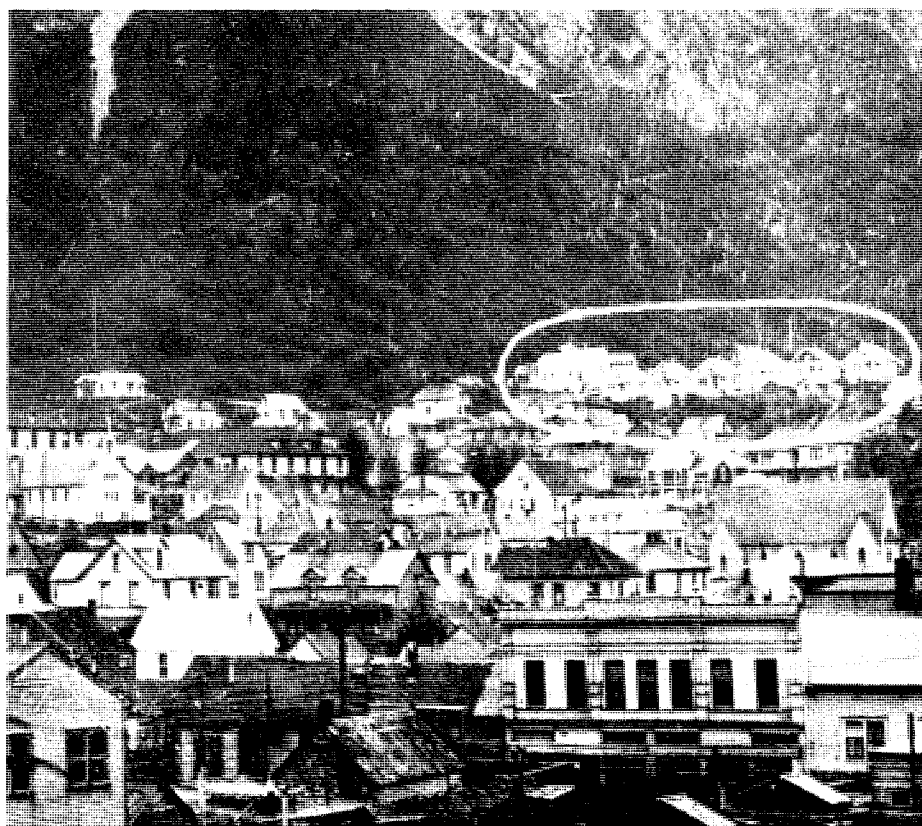
Glenda Choate
Gabrielle LaRoche

STARR HILL HISTORY, AN INTRODUCTION

Entrepreneurs George Pilz, Joseph Juneau and Richard T. Harris, coaxed by an Auk Tlingit Chief, discovered gold in the Gold Creek Drainage Basin in 1880. The rush of miners up Gastineau Channel to the Gold Creek placer deposits began almost immediately and Harris and Juneau were quick to stake both placer and lode claims for themselves and others in Silver Bow Basin. Their claim to a town site along the beach was entered into the record by Harris:

"This is to certify that R.T. Harris, Joseph Juneau and N.A. Fuller have this date recorded 160 acres for purposes of erecting a town site, commencing at a point one mile above the mouth of Gold Creek and running up the coast one-half mile and along the bay and anchorage right opposite Douglas Island, to be surveyed into 59 foot lots running back 200 feet. Said town site named and styled Harrisburg. October 18, 1880. R.T. Harris, Recorder."

Harrisburg, Rockwell, or Juneau as it eventually came to be known, was situated on the shore of Gastineau Channel under the shadows of Mount Roberts and Mount Juneau. The town site area encompassed all available land from the water's edge up the lower slopes to the steep scarps of the mountains. A mining camp located on the beach, Juneau was composed of tents and cabins constructed of materials taken from the only available sources—trees which grew through the town site, and supplies and materials brought from Sitka. A heavy stand of hemlock and spruce was cleared to construct the new settlement and provide fuel to keep miners warm through the winter. George Pilz shipped a pre-framed building from Sitka which became the first structure in town. In March 1881, before the first winter was over, Master Gustave Carl Hanus, a Navy Officer from Sitka, ran lines to formally survey the new town.



The Starr Hill houses. Circa 1913-14. W.H. Case, photographer. Alaska State Library.

Originally, Juneau, Harris and their Indian guides attempted a trail along Gold Creek. But as the explorers proceeded up the creek they found the brush too compact and canyons blocking their way. Soon, however, their Indian guides found an alternate path up the mountain and over into the basin. Upon reaching the summit, the exploring party had a beautiful view of what came to be called "Silver Bow Basin" and "Quartz Gulch."

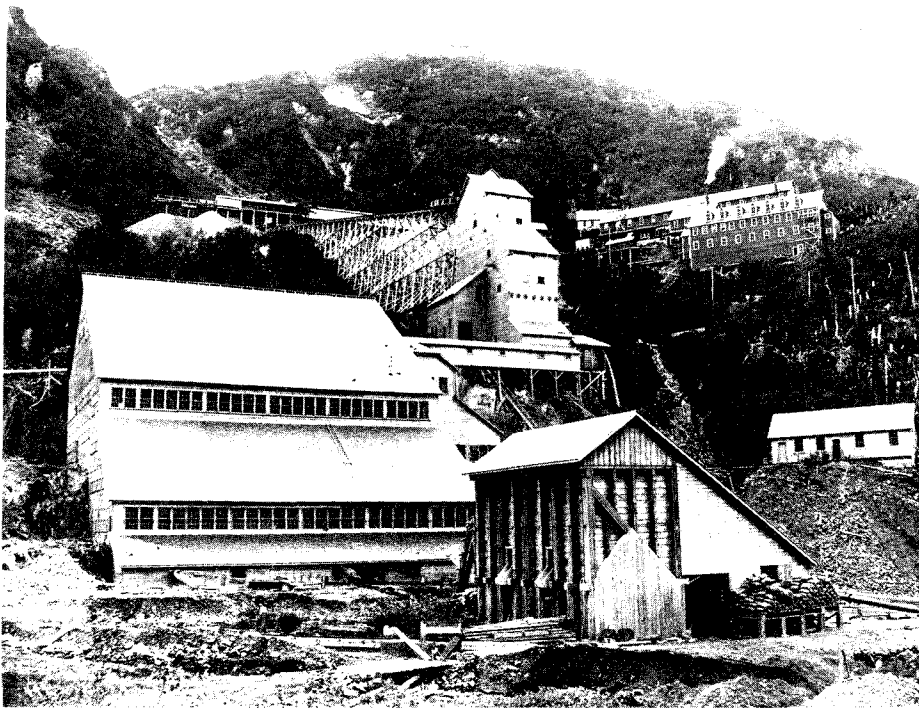
Robert N. DeArmond in the *Founding of Juneau* speculates "it seems entirely possible that Chief Cowee of the Auks, anxious to earn his hundred blankets, all but led them (the miners) by the hand up Snowslide Gulch, down Quartz Gulch, and into the Promised Land of Silver Bow Basin." As DeArmond continued his discussion of the miners' travel to their claims:

"The early trail from the beach at Miners Cove to Silver Bow Basin angled up what is now known as

Starr Hill to a point at or near the start of the present Mount Roberts Trail. It then crossed the ridge into Last Chance Basin, crossed Gold Creek somewhere near the upper end of the basin and thence followed the creek as nearly as the terrain made possible. Building a pack trail was a lot of work—brushing out, cutting trees both standing and fallen, building bridges over rivulets and ravines . . ."

Settlement along the beach and establishment of a town center continued within the town site, but to reach many of the claims, miners had to walk up the trail and over into Silver Bow Basin.

Construction within the townsite progressed at a steady pace, and during the first winter, 12 to 15 cabins were built. Soon the first hotel appeared, then a small store, and the town, although little more than a mining camp, began to take shape. A mining district was designated



Perseverance Mine in Silver Bow Basin. Alaska State Library.

and land was formally claimed by residents of the new community. In the spring of 1881 the United States Navy established a military post only to close it six months later.

Frank Starr arrived in Juneau in early 1881 where he staked claims in the Silver Bow Basin and townsite area, and began to establish himself as a man of property, at least on paper. Starr was born in Maine about 1849. Later he became a soldier in the Civil War and in 1873, was stationed at Fort Wrangell. During the 1880's he claimed lots outside the Juneau town site on a hillside area that later became known as Starr Hill in his honor. The trail to Silver Bow Basin traversed Starr Hill. Although Starr did stake some mining claims and expressed interest in mining, he worked as a builder and contractor for wharves at Sitka, Killisnoo, and Treadwell; Carroll Wharf in Juneau, and Nowell Wharf at the Alaska-Union Mill. He also put in foundation pilings for some of the first buildings on the tidelands adjacent to the townsite.

Frank Starr was also interested in whaling and entered into an agreement on July 25 1884, to plan a whaling expedition from Juneau. In an agreement made with five other men which was legally recorded, he agreed to furnish two whaling boats with supplies and receive one-half of the proceeds of the expedition.

There is no record of Starr's proposed expedition beyond the planning stage.

For several years Starr was in and out of Juneau because of his work and business interests. In 1895 he filed an application in court asking to be appointed guardian of "the infant Lucy Danielson." Lucy owned property valued at 250 dollars and had no living relatives. Starr was appointed Lucy's guardian and remained so until his death in 1898. At the time of his guardianship appointment, Starr filed claims to lands on Starr Hill in Lucy Danielson's name. He claimed for Lucy a number of lots in Block 119 and 120 on Starr Hill. The lots were located on Kennedy Street between 5th and 6th Streets. Lucy Danielson's property on Starr Hill included Lots 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7 in Block 119 and Lots 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7 in Block 120.

On June 25, 1895, George R. Perry sued Frank Starr, guardian of Lucy Danielson, for money owed to him. Earlier that year, Perry constructed a frame building one-and-a-half stories high on Lot 8, Block 120 for Starr. Under terms of the contract negotiated between the two men on April 10, 1895, to build the structure, Perry was to be paid four dollars per day for his work. He completed the house in thirty-five and a half days, spent \$45.60 on materials and paid a ferrriage fee of \$1.50. Perry in his suit indicated that Starr had paid \$36.00 but still owed \$153.10 to

Perry. In October 1895 Starr paid the balance to Perry and a lien on the property was removed.

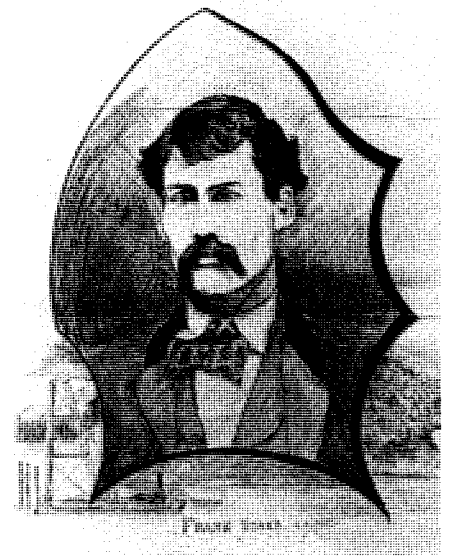
After Frank Starr's untimely death at age 49 in 1898, Albert C. Smith, Starr's brother, requested the court appoint him as Lucy Danielson's guardian. Smith also asked the court for permission to send Lucy to live with his and Frank Starr's mother in California. The court gave permission but Lucy remained in Juneau. Smith, in his role as guardian, sold some of Lucy's property and at the time of her death in 1905, she owned only Lots 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7 in Block 120. All of Block 119 had been sold.

Lucy Danielson's death at age 16 in 1905 adds a sad but curious note to our story. *The Daily Alaska Dispatch* reported in its November 20, 1905 edition that:

"Lucy Donaldson, a young girl sixteen years of age who had been very ill of tuberculosis, died at St. Ann's Hospital early this morning. The funeral will be held Wednesday with interment at Evergreen Cemetery. The young girl was an orphan and was raised by the Sisters of Charity."

A second Juneau paper, *Alaska Record Miner* on November 21, 1905 recorded a similar story but with an interesting twist:

"Sarah Starr, age 16, who has been ill for some time past of tuberculosis died at St. Ann's Hospital yesterday. The deceased who was possessed of



Frank Starr as sketched by Richard T. Harris. University of Alaska, Anchorage, Archives & Manuscripts Department. Richard T. Harris Collection.

a bright, lovable nature, had attended the Sisters school for a number of years and had a host of friends among the young people of the city who will mourn her untimely death. The funeral will be held Wednesday."

Lucy Danielson/Lucy Donaldson/Sarah Starr, probably one and the same person, is important because she was among the first to own extensive property on Starr Hill and interesting because of her relationship to Frank Starr. *The Family Papers of Richard Tighe Harris, Co-Founder of Juneau, Alaska* at the University of Alaska, Anchorage Archives and Manuscript Department identify Sarah Starr as the daughter of Frank and Jennie Starr. A native from Killisnoo, Jennie Starr was the sister of Kitty Harris who was the wife of Richard T. Harris, Co-Founder of Juneau and mother of his children. The Probate Records identify Jennie Starr as an aunt of Lucy Danielson. Jennie is listed in the 1910 census records as Tlingit, born in Killisnoo and working as housekeeper for William Harris of Juneau. Probate records filed January 10, 1939, for "Final Account and Petition For Distribution of the Estate of Jennie Starr Menumen" identify her as having been known as Mrs. W.J. Harris and Jennie Harris. They make no mention of a relationship with Frank Starr. Jennie Starr Menumen did bequeath her estate to her grand nephews, Richard T. Harris and his brother, Frederick B. Harris.

Albert C. Smith requested the court to appoint him administrator of Lucy Danielson's estate which was valued at \$1,500. Bills totaling over \$1,700 were filed with the court which included a bill for services from Dr. L.O. Sloane and \$1,616.50 in expenses for Lucy at St. Ann's Convent and Hospital from 1900 to 1905. Probate records show that Dr. H.C. Wyman and R.P. Nelson purchased Lucy's lots in Block 119 in 1899. Albert C. Smith sold Lot 7, Block 120 (with house) from Lucy's estate to Jennie Starr. She occupied the house for a while and later sold to R.T. Harris.

The relationship between Frank Starr, Lucy Danielson/Sarah Starr, Jennie Starr, Albert C. Smith, and the Richard T. Harris family is open to speculation. But what is known is that Lucy Danielson/Sarah Starr was a woman of property even as an

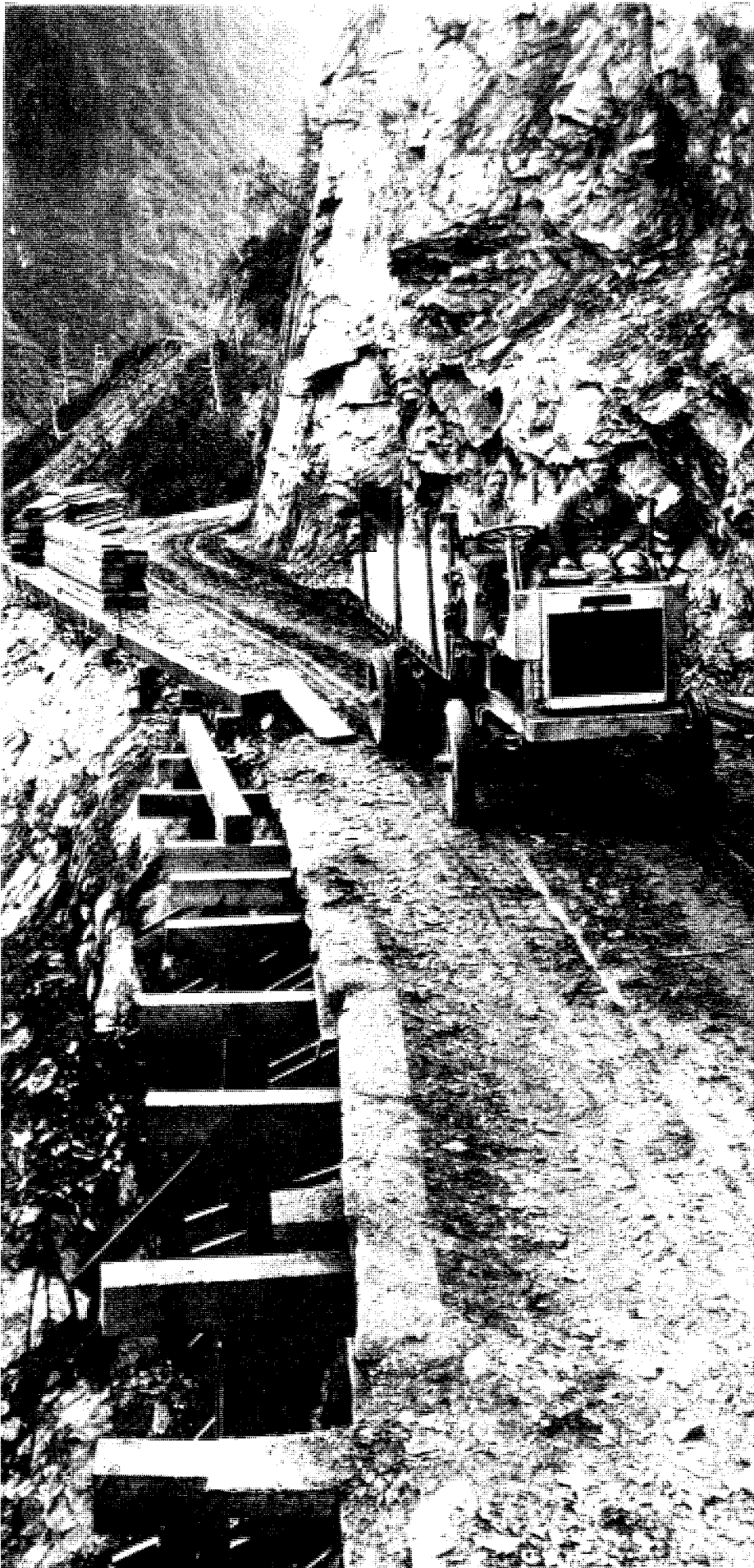


Lucy Danielson. University of Alaska, Archives & Manuscripts Department, Anchorage. Richard T. Harris Collection.

infant and the property was located on Starr Hill. For whatever reason, Frank Starr and his brother, Albert C. Smith, requested and were appointed by the court to be her guardian, claimed property in her name and later administered her estate.

Settlement of Juneau Townsite proceeded slowly with houses being built up Main, Seward and Franklin Streets toward Chicken Ridge which overlooks Evergreen Bowl and the town site. Buildings

on pilings along Front and lower Front Streets were constructed and this permitted the town to expand down the Gastineau Channel. Cabins for miners began to appear on Starr Hill due to its accessibility to the mines and downtown. Basin Wagon Road was built to Last Chance Basin in 1885 and 1886 and was extended to Silver Bow Basin in 1889. Transportation to and from mining claims became easier and by 1890, the wagon road to the Basin was five miles long. The city limits in the summer of 1900, for fire protection



Basin Road enroute to the Last Chance Basin. Circa 1912. Alaska State Library.

purposes, extended from Dixon Street at the top of Telephone Hill, to Gold Street, and from Bulgar Way north to Fifth Street.

In 1885 Karl Koehler claimed land "situated north of trail leading to Silver Basin, and on or near 3rd Street." William McLernan in April 1888, recorded a claim to a "lot on hill, adjoining the town site of Juneau, 90'x100,' and is on what used to be the trail leading to the Basin and in the rear of the lot located by Patrick McKenna about 200 feet up the Hill." The records in 1888 began to make reference to a new addition to the townsite by surveyor C.W. Garside which included the Starr Hill area. Land on Starr Hill in the 1890's had various claimants and all insisted they had long periods of occupancy prior to filing formal claim to specific lots and blocks.

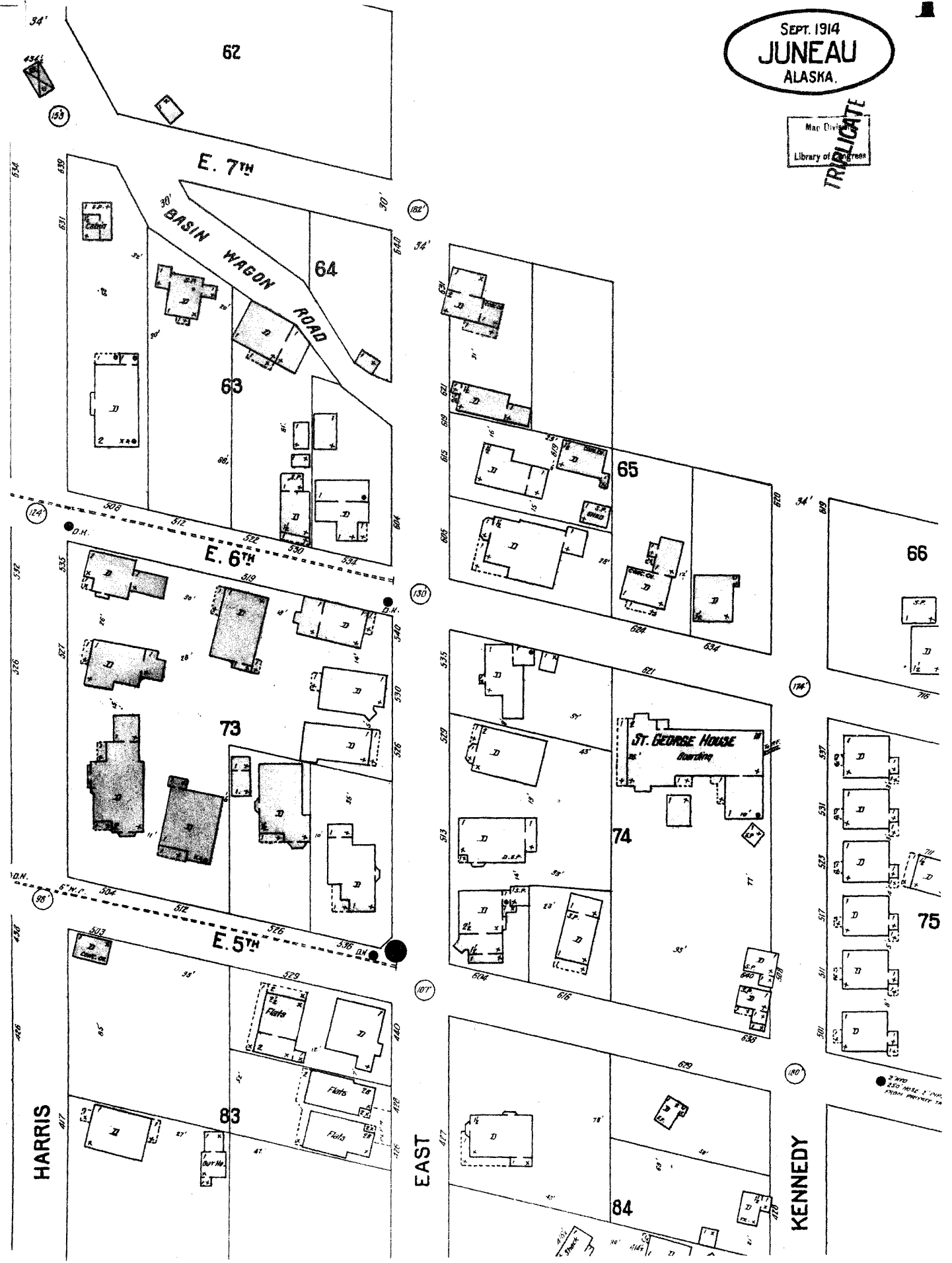
Starr Hill's accessibility to miners made it more and more attractive as a location for cabins and home sites. Some speculation by local businessmen appears evident in claims to land on the hill. Land was bought, held, and eventually sold with a few significant improvements by a number of local businessmen. The list includes B.M. Behrends, William Bosch, C.W. Young and D.M. Summers, R.P. Nelson, Claude Erickson, Ernest R. Jaeger, Conrad W. Fries and Dr. H.C. Wyman. Although many mine workers made their homes on Starr Hill, none of the local mining companies actually built employee housing there. In 1914 Juneau newspapers informed readers of R.P. Nelson's new park addition located on Starr Hill above Kennedy Street.

The Sanborn Fire Insurance Map in 1914 records six identical structures on Kennedy Street located between 5th and 6th Streets. Situated on Lots 1 and 8, Block 120, all six houses appear for the first time on tax rolls in 1914. Early newspapers refer to them as "Fries Miners Cabins" or "Fries Cabins." A review of literature and research into historical documents verifies that the homes indeed were occupied and owned by men and their families who, through the years, worked in mining and principally for the Alaska Juneau Gold Mining Company. Arthur Riendeau, Superintendent of the AJ Mine, William Steinback, Douglas Mead, James Chapados and many others lived in the houses causing them to merit

SEPT. 1914
JUNEAU
ALASKA.

Map Division
Library of Congress

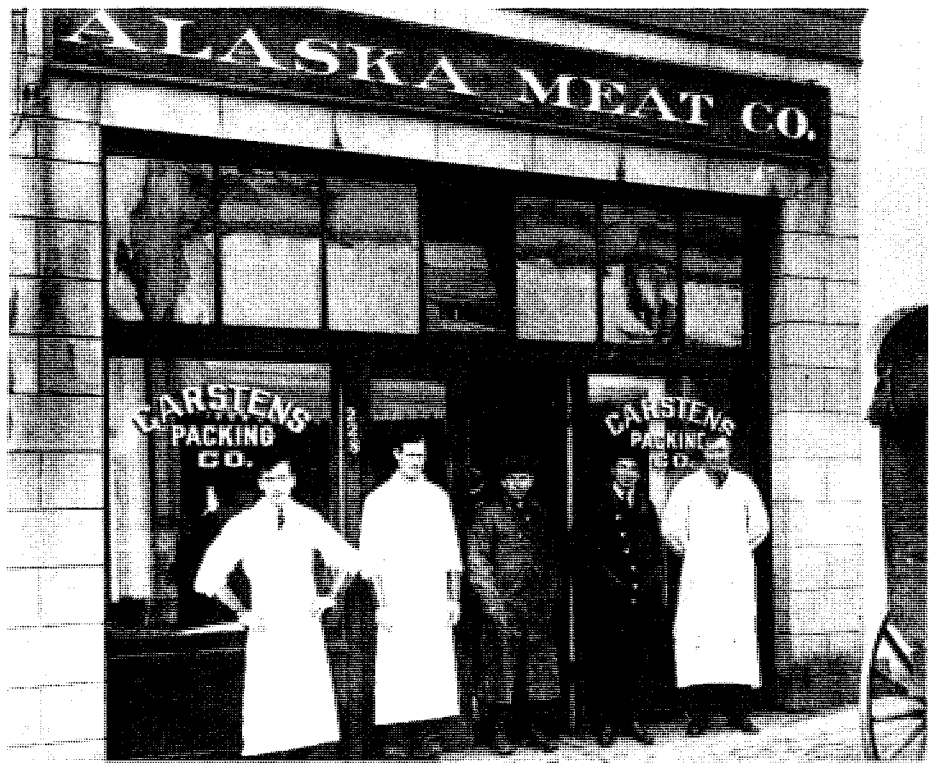
TRIPPLICATE



Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, 1914. Alaska State Library.

their historic name of "Miners Cabins." Although the AJ was clearly the largest and most important employer in the area for many years, many Juneauites had occupations other than mining prior to and after their stint in the mines. Certainly other professions were represented among early owners of the Kennedy Street Mine Workers Houses: Harley Turner, bookkeeper and credit man for B. M. Behrends and later Juneau City Clerk, William Wakeham, butcher and sausage maker for the Alaska Meat Company, George Mock, fox farmer, and Samuel Guyot, traveling salesman. In more recent years the houses have been occupied by a commercial fisherman, federal and state employees, a postal worker, an engineer, and an attorney.

A second characteristic of people who have occupied the Kennedy Street Mine Workers Houses is their large families. Starr Hill as a neighborhood historically is a place where children have the best of all worlds—Capital School is within walking distance and the summit of Starr Hill is two blocks from their front doors. Over the summit young adventurers explore old mining trails and discover artifacts and structures abandoned as mining activity ceased. Trails that crisscross mountains and basins where men and supplies once were moved today provide unlimited opportunity for exploration and adventure. Whether it's sledding down Kennedy Street, playing in the Chicken Yard or walking along miners trails, living on Starr Hill offers fun and adventure right outside the front door.



Alaska Meat Company. Alaska State Library.

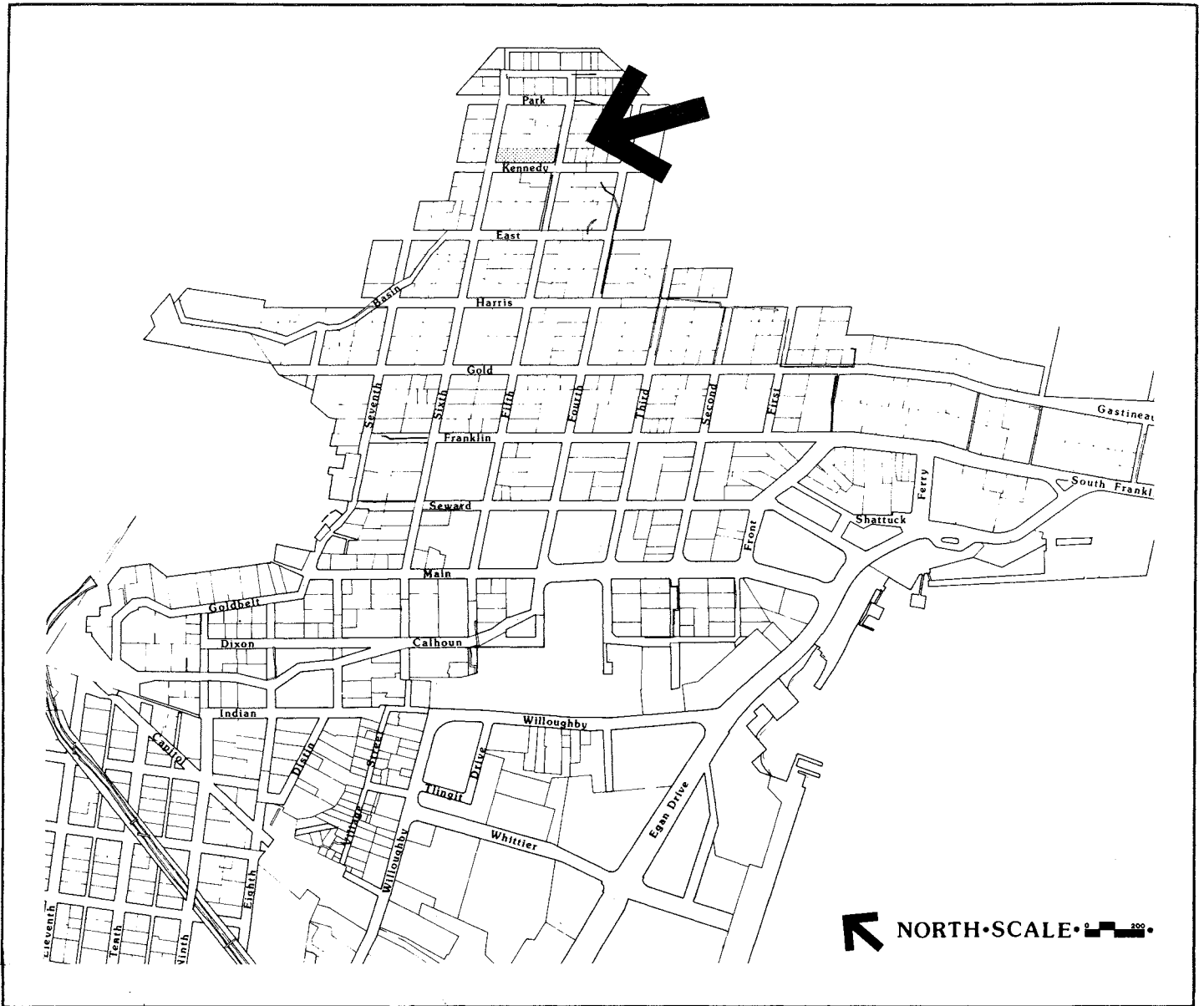


Sledding down Kennedy Street. Winter and Pond, photographers. Alaska State Library.

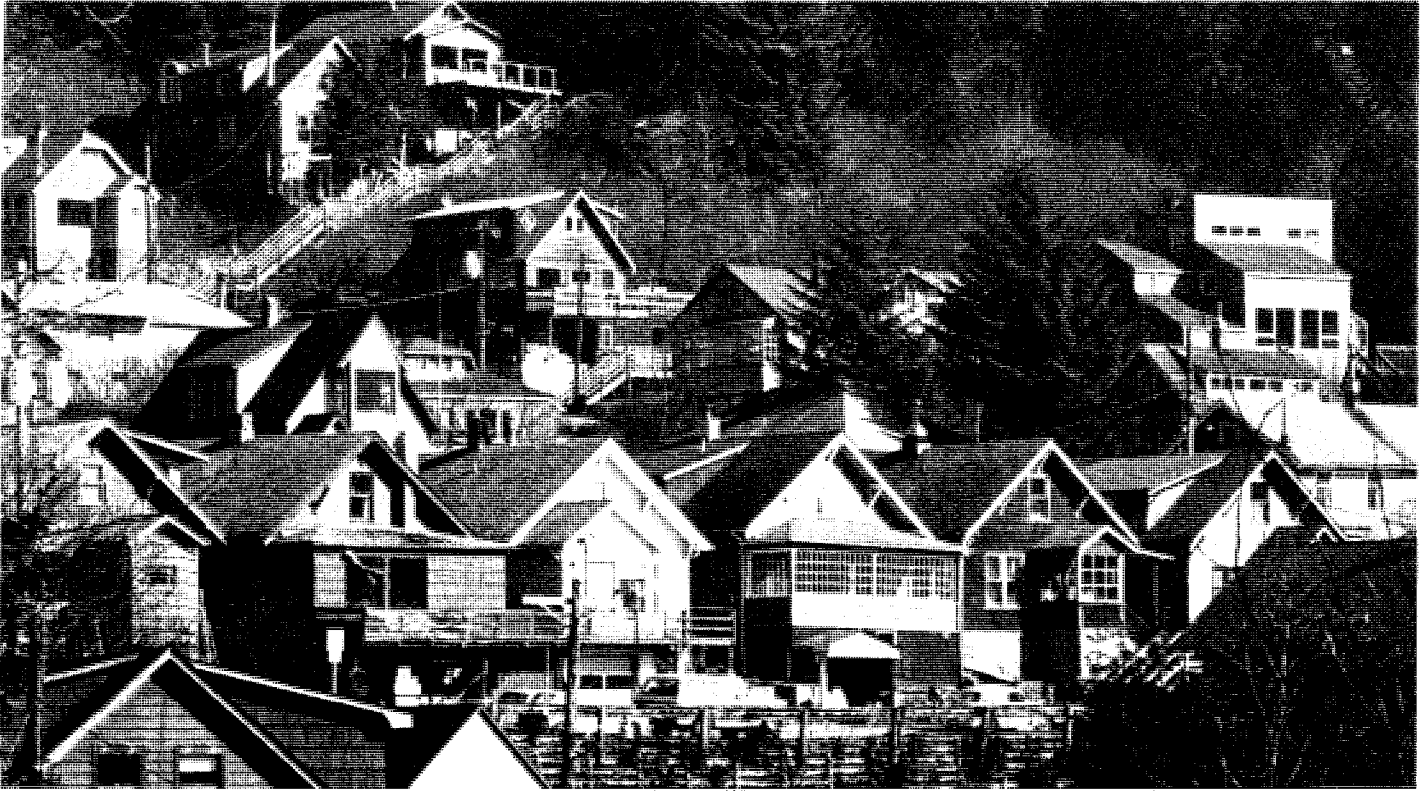


Alaska Gold Mining Company stock certificate. Circa 1903. Alaska State Library.

The Starr Hill Houses in Juneau



ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION



The Starr Hill houses as they exist in 1987. Gabrielle LaRoche, photographer.

The Kennedy Street houses are representative of houses that were built throughout the Juneau area to be rented and sold to mine workers. The gold mines of Juneau and Douglas were the primary source of employment beginning with the discovery of gold in Silver Bow Basin in 1880 until closure of the Alaska Juneau Mine in 1942. Approximately 200 houses using simple, utilitarian design and building materials were constructed throughout the local area by both mining companies and local builders for miners and their families.


With lumber from the local sawmill on South Franklin Street, the Kennedy Street houses were constructed identical in architectural style and detail. Houses of similar style can be found in the Juneau Townsite and at Salmon and Annex Creeks where six Alaska Gastineau Mine Workers Houses remain.

Built as Craftsman Style Bungalows, which were popular from 1900-1915 on

the West Coast, the Kennedy Street houses stand in a row between 5th and 6th Streets on Starr Hill. The Juneau variation of the Craftsman Style Bungalow is 1½ stories in height and clad with wood shingles from top to bottom. Double hung windows are characteristic as are the attached front and rear porches. Of wood frame construction, the houses have a high pitch roof structure which provide headroom for occupancy on the second level. Construction materials appear to have been the same for the six houses. All have concrete perimeter foundation walls with wood pilings supporting the main floor beams and joists. Wood shake shingles covered the roofs. An interesting architectural characteristic found in the houses is the roof beam extensions and braces on the gable ends at the roof line.

The original floor plan of the houses included a living area, kitchen, two bedrooms, and bath. The addition of second-floor dormers increased living space and

allowed significant interior changes. Through the years, the original front and rear porches were enlarged and enclosed.

The Kennedy Street Mine Workers' Houses retain much of their original exterior detail. Many of the alterations made through the years were designed to increase the livability of a house allowing continuity in ownership and occupancy. Their location on Starr Hill and access to downtown Juneau combined with their historical architecture and building and occupancy history provide an attractive focus for Juneau history. 

EARLY OWNERSHIP AND CONSTRUCTION

The City of Juneau was incorporated in 1901 and immediately began taxing property owners. From 1901 to 1913 taxes were collected on the land only from Lots 1 and 8, Block 120, and there is no record of a structure on either of the two lots during this period of time. Dr. H.C. Wyman was the first owner listed on City Tax Rolls to pay taxes on Lots 1 and 8, Block 120. Wyman, one of the first physicians in the area, was employed at the Treadwell Mine. Reportedly his daughter was the first white child born in Douglas. Dr. Wyman left Juneau in the early 1890's but continued to own property in the area for the next twenty years.

B.M. Behrends paid taxes on the lots in 1907 and 1908. A Juneau businessman, Behrends established the B.M. Behrends Bank and owned property throughout the community. The Behrends Cabins were

B. M. BEHREND'S,
— DEALER IN —

GENERAL MERCHANDISE.

CREAMERY BUTTER
AND CHEESE
A SPECIALTY

SECOND DOOR BELOW COON'S DRUG STORE.

* Goods delivered free of charge to any part of the City.

B.M. Behrends newspaper advertisement. R.N. DeArmond, Collector. Alaska State Library.

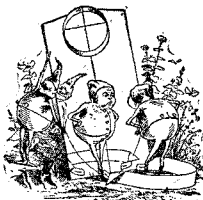
four small structures located in the 400 Block of Kennedy Street and were also low-cost housing for local mine workers. Additionally, Behrends owned rental properties on Telephone Hill until the 1950's when they were razed for new development.

Ernest R. Jaeger, Juneau businessman and developer, purchased Lot 8 in 1909 and his friend and business partner, Claude Erickson, bought Lot 1. Together and separately, Jaeger and Erickson were responsible for much of the business development in the downtown area from

1900-1920. Jaeger arrived in Juneau in 1895 and immediately went into the laundry business. He was also associated with the building industry. Together with Claude Erickson, the two men constructed the Hotel Gastineau in 1914. Jaeger also built residential homes throughout the city and developed other business property in the downtown area.

JUNEAU STEAM LAUNDRY
E. R. JAEGER, Lessee

JUNEAU — — ALASKA



If our work doesn't suit you, you are very hard to please.

If our work does n't suit you, we will do it over, free of charge.

We make the prices right, and don't lose your clothes.

Work called for and delivered to all parts of Alaska.

Juneau Steam Laundry newspaper advertisement. R.N. DeArmond, Collector. Alaska State Library.

Claude Erickson was owner of the Alaska Soda Bottling Works in Juneau. The *Alaska Yukon Dictionary and Gazetteer* in 1911-1912 advertised the company as bottlers of Rainier and Tannhauser Beers and carbonated beverages. Erickson was also identified as Proprietor of Hotel Gastineau and Cafe.


Jaeger was the owner when three structures on Lot 8 appeared on the tax roll in 1914. He sold one of the three houses in 1918 but retained ownership of the other two structures until 1925 and 1927. All were rental properties until their sale and then were owner occupied for many years.

Erickson owned Lot 1 until 1913 but tax rolls in 1914 reveal three structures and three different owners sharing Lot 1. The three owners were Conrad W. Fries, James Chapado, and Arthur Riendeau. Fries rented his house while Chapados and Riendeau occupied their houses. (Later all three houses were occupied by their owners.) All were mining men and help verify the designation of the six houses as "Mine Workers Houses."

Historically, the six houses on Kennedy Street, located between 5th and 6th Streets, were known as "Fries Cabins." The *Daily Alaska Dispatch* reported to its

readers on May 27, 1913, that "C.W. Fries is putting up three modern dwellings near the government hospital on Kennedy Street." A separate item in the same newspaper column also informed readers that "John R. Scott is building two dwellings on 6th Street, Starr Hill. The homes have already been sold, one to Arthur Riendeau and the other to Mr. Chapi-deau." Tax records reveal that owners of two houses on Lot 1 in 1914 were indeed James Chapados and Arthur Riendeau. John R. Scott was listed as a carpenter in the *Alaska Yukon Gazetteer and Dictionary* in 1903.

A third structure on Lot 1 listed on the 1914 tax roll, was owned by Conrad W. Fries. A mining man who came to Alaska in 1905 for his health, Fries owned property throughout the local area and probably was financially involved in development of the Starr Hill neighborhood. A review of property ownership throughout the Starr Hill residential area shows the interest of many prominent local businessmen and includes Wyman, Behrends, Jaeger, Erickson, and Fries. Speculation in real estate development began almost immediately in Juneau's earliest days.

The six mine workers houses were indeed constructed with identical floor plans using similar building materials. With a simple utilitarian design, the houses appear to be well suited to their basic function, a home to working men and their families. An examination of property ownership, occupancy and physical features of the houses reveal they have remained true to the original design and purpose. The Kennedy Street Mine Workers' Houses were probably Juneau's first tract housing. 

CONRAD W. FRIES


Reportedly the builder of the Kennedy Street Mine Workers' Houses, Conrad W. Fries and his wife, Mary, came to Alaska in 1905. Fries' ill health in St. Louis caused his doctor to recommend a healthier climate for him and Alaska was chosen. Accompanied on their move to Alaska by his wife's companion, Lena Kron, the Fries eventually decided to settle in Juneau.

Fries became involved in Juneau business affairs and the owner of extensive property holdings in Southeast Alaska. Both Fries and his wife were natives of Bavaria who had immigrated to the United States. In Alaska they first journeyed to

Windham Bay where he worked in mining. Fries continued this interest after the move to Juneau. Gradually Fries acquired considerable municipal investments. In 1918, Fries and associates secured an option on property on Chichagof Island and were successful in financing its exploration and development. He also was involved in a fox farming venture, a favorite activity of many early Juneau residents.

Fries was involved in Juneau municipal government and served four terms on the City Council. His wife died in 1917. Fries became ill on a trip to San Diego, California and died there in 1922.

At the time of his death, Fries' estate was valued at \$43,000. The Fries estate was inherited by Mrs. Fries' former companion, Lena Kron. Kron married John Marshall in 1926 and for many years they were prosperous property owners in Juneau. Lena Kron Marshall owned two of the Kennedy Street Mine Workers' Houses as well as other real estate including the Fries' family home on 6th Street.

The records do not clearly show that Fries was the builder of the six houses. What they do show is that he owned one of the houses and was likely the financial investor for the others. 

DAN KENNEDY


Kennedy Street on Starr Hill, location of the six mine workers houses, was named for Daniel Kennedy, an Irish-born immigrant who arrived in Juneau in 1880. He became "Town Watchman and Night Constable" and later "Constable of Police and Fireman." Kennedy died in Juneau in 1913 at the age of 81.

Dan Kennedy was born in County Dublin, Ireland in 1832 and went to sea at age eleven. He jumped ship in Philadelphia and spent the following years living in

California, Oregon, Idaho, Washington and British Columbia. Kennedy immigrated to Sitka in 1876 and two years later married Chatherin Kvasnihoff, daughter of a Russian Missionary. In late 1880 Kennedy came to Juneau, staked land, and eventually moved his growing family to the new community. He became night watchman for Juneau in 1883.

Kennedy owned property in the townsite area which included part of the area where B.M. Behrends Department Store building now stands, a portion of the land

occupied by Alaska Electric Light and Power Company, and a home on the site of the present Baranof Hotel. Kennedy also owned property up on Starr Hill which included a large garden plot.

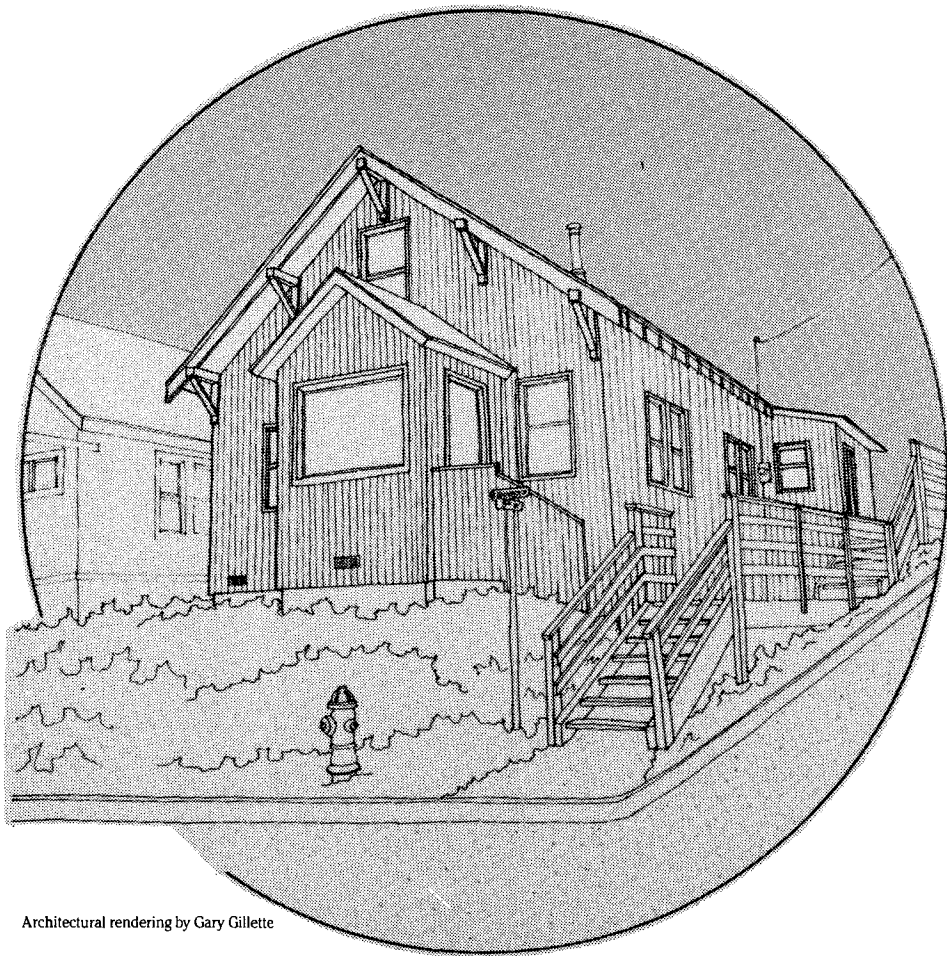
His initial job in 1883 as town watchman and night constable, was paid from funds raised by subscription. In 1892 Kennedy and his family, which by that time included five sons, moved temporarily to Katchamak Bay. Upon return to Juneau, he resumed his work as "Constable of Police & Firemen" which continued until 1911. 



Daniel Kennedy. Winter and Pond, photographers. Alaska State Library.

RIENDEAU-BROWN HOUSE

501 KENNEDY STREET



Architectural rendering by Gary Gillette

Claude Erickson owned Lot 1 from 1909 until 1913 and may have been responsible for construction of three houses on the lot in 1913. Arthur Riendeau owned the house at 501 Kennedy from 1914 until 1924. Arriving in Alaska in 1899, Riendeau worked for the Ebner Mine in Silver Bow Basin. He later worked at Placer Mine at Lisianki Inlet and at the Jualin Mine in Berners Bay. In 1922, Riendeau became mine foreman at the AJ Mine and superintendent two years later. He retired from this position January 1, 1949.

William and Jeanette Wakeham owned and occupied the house from 1927 until 1934. He worked for the Alaska Meat Company in Juneau as butcher and sausage maker. In later years, Wakemen too, was a miner. Fred Jaeger continued the tradition of mine worker's ownership of the property. Later owners included George and Irma Purlington, Leo and Helen Jewett and Harold Lockwood.

George Guffason, owner from 1956 to 1961 was Commander of Alford John Bradford Post No. 4, Juneau American Legion. His wife was President of the Juneau American Legion Auxiliary. Belle Simpson, member of Juneau's pioneer Goldstein Family and local business owner, acquired this property in a legal action. She rented and then sold the house to Austin and Elsie Brown who continue to own and occupy the property. The Brown Family has lived in the house twenty-four years and raised a family of eight children.

The Riendeau-Brown house was extensively remodeled in 1982. A dormer was added to one side of the upper level thus changing the original roof line. The front and rear porches were enclosed and two small additions added to the rear. The exterior of the house was totally redone and vertical cedar siding was applied. All windows have been replaced and most are double hung which is similar to the orig-

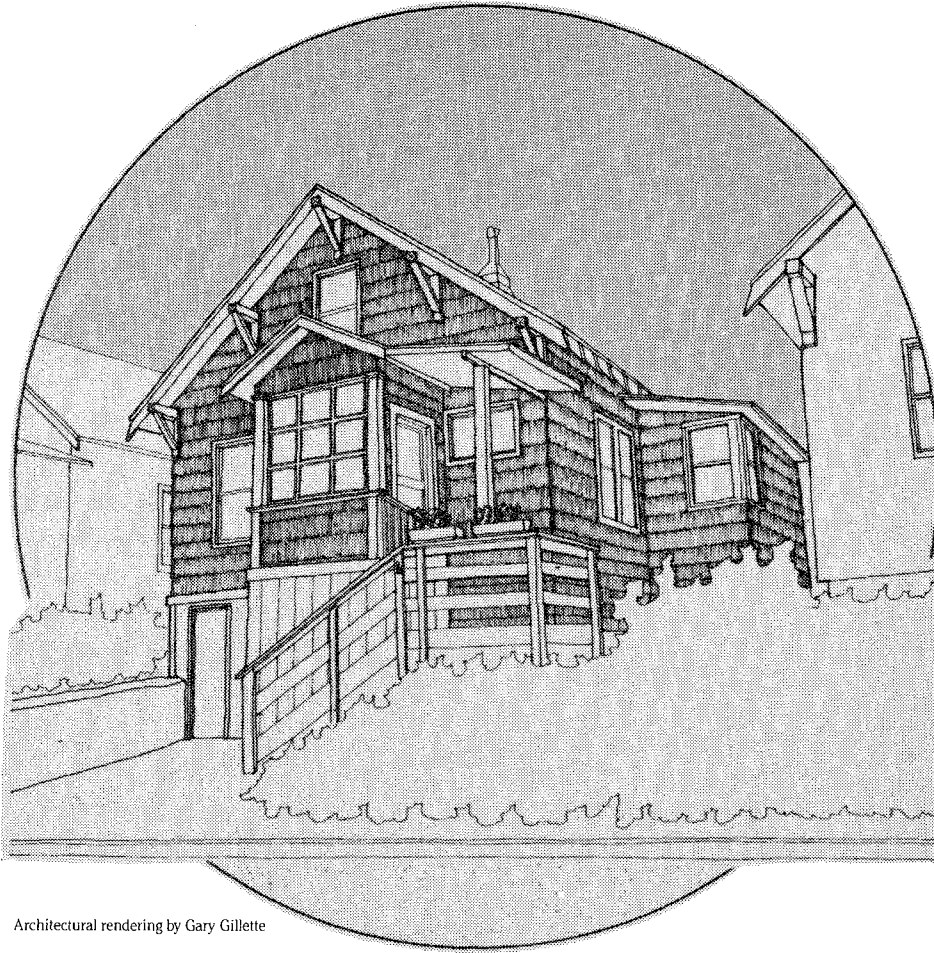
inal windows. A large plate glass window was installed in the front porch addition. The roof beam and extensions are in place but were cut flat during remodeling. The original roofing material was replaced with three-tab asphalt composition roofing. The hose is finished with a heavy body natural wood stain and dark brown trim.



Bell Goldstein Simpson with Sons and Daughters of '87 Pioneers. Alaska State Library.

FRIES-FIORELLA HOUSE

511 KENNEDY STREET



Architectural rendering by Gary Gillette

Conrad W. Fries came to Alaska in 1905 and began investing in mining ventures. He also acquired real estate in Juneau and reportedly built the six houses on Kennedy Street. Lot 1 was owned by Claude Erickson from 1909 to 1913. Juneau City Tax Assessor's Roles record that Fries owned the house and a portion of Lot 1 from 1914 to 1926. Upon Fries' death in 1922, his estate was inherited by Lena Kron, a former companion of Fries' wife, Mary, who preceded him in death.

Lena Kron and her husband, John Marshall, a miner, owned the property until 1936 when they sold to Knute Hildre. A commercial fisherman, Hildre came to Alaska in 1900 from Hildre, Norway. Upon his arrival in Alaska, his first stop was Petersburg where he fished. Later he spent several years packing for Carlson Canneries near Juneau. In 1914 Hildre began fishing solely for halibut. During the years prior to his death in 1939 he

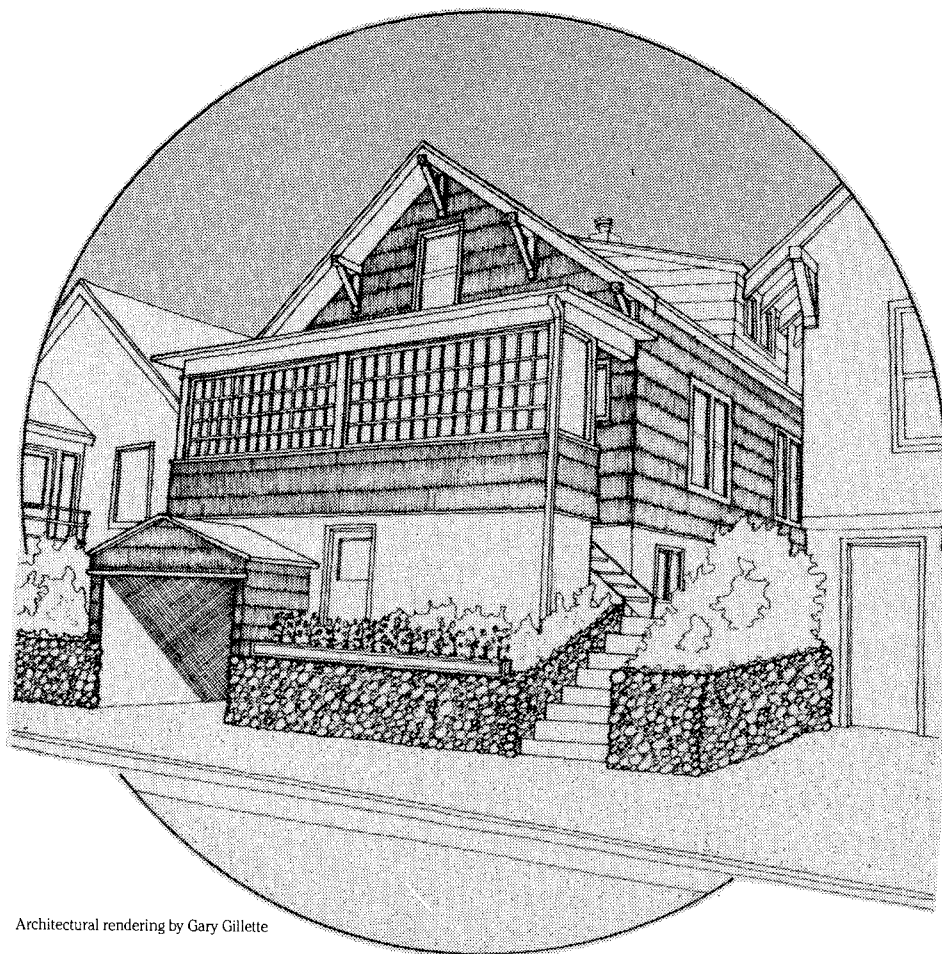
owned the boats *Naid*, *Sea Bird*, *Avona*, and *Louhelen*. His widow owned the property until 1943 when it was sold to Norma and Allene Cook. The house was purchased by Dan and Eileen Cole from the Cooks in 1955. An inspector for Alaska Public Works, Cole and his family lived there until 1962 when it was sold to Louis and Marguerite Fiorella. Fiorella was Adjutant Quartermaster for the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Department of Alaska. They raised their family in this house and since his death, Marguerite has continued to live on Kennedy Street.

A minimal amount of change has been made to the original exterior of the Fries-Fiorella house. The original front and rear porches have been enclosed and a small roof added over the front entry steps. An addition with a shed roof was placed on the side of the house. The original shingle siding is in place as well as the roof beam extensions. The original roofing material was replaced with an as-

phalt composition roll roofing product. Most windows appear to be original and the added porch windows are typical of the period of construction. The house is painted dark brown with peach trim. 🏠

RUSSELL-WAGNER HOUSE

517 KENNEDY STREET



Architectural rendering by Gary Gillette

Claude Erickson, owner of Alaska Soda Bottling Works and partner of Ernest R. Jaeger in the Gastineau Hotel and other business enterprises, owned Lot 1, Block 120 from 1909 to 1913. It is not known if the three houses constructed on Lot 1 in 1913 were built under his direction or that of Conrad W. Fries or John R. Scott. It is known that this house was owned in 1914 by James Chapados, a miner at the AJ Mine. The *Daily Alaska Dispatch* reported May 27, 1913 that:


"John R. Scott was building two dwellings on 6th Street, Starr Hill. The houses have already been sold to Arthur Riendeau and one to Mr. 'Chipadeau.'"

It appears that the houses noted by the *Daily Alaska Dispatch* were located on Kennedy Street near 6th Street, as two Kennedy Street Mine Workers' Houses appear on the tax roll in 1914 with Rien-

deau (501 Kennedy) and Chapados (517 Kennedy) as owners.

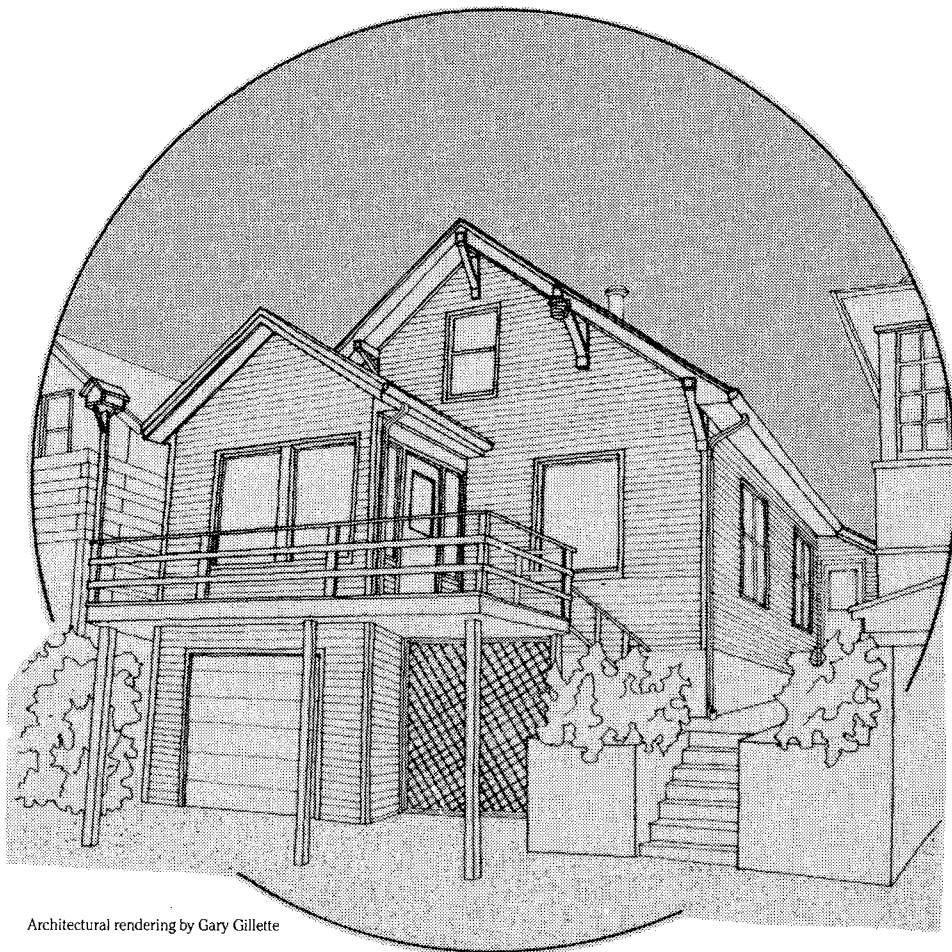
James Chapados owned the property for ten years and then sold to Douglas Mead, a fellow miner at the AJ Mine. Mead sold the house in 1930 and built a new dwelling on the corner of 6th and Nelson Streets. His new house became "Juneau Room's," a rooming house which Mead operated for a number of years. Miner John Sutherland owned and lived in the house until 1948 when it was purchased by Fred and Mabel Schmitz. He came from Washington State to work in the mine but after its closure, worked for various transfer companies in the city. Schmitz, an avid baseball player, died at an early age. His widow married Simon Russell, a local shipwright. Born in Scotland, Russell came to Juneau and repaired fishing boats. The Russells made their home here until the house was sold to Thomas and Eileen Wagner. The Wagners continue the Kennedy Street tradi-

tion of being a home to a growing young family. Wagner, an attorney, and his wife, a former school teacher, have owned the house since 1979.

There have been changes to the Russell-Wagner House. Dormers were added to both sides of the upper level thus changing the original roof line. The roof beam extensions were retained and the original shingle siding is in place. The original roofing material was replaced with three-tab asphalt composition roofing. The front and rear porches were enclosed. A garage addition at the street level was added as well as a large enclosed porch along the front of the house. The enclosed porch uses authentic divided windows similar to window types of the period. The house is painted light green with white trim and red foundation. 

ALSTEAD-DAU HOUSE

523 KENNEDY STREET



Architectural rendering by Gary Gillette

Ernest R. Jaeger, Juneau businessman and entrepreneur, owned Lot 8, Block 120 when three of the Kennedy Street Mine Workers' Houses were constructed on Lot 8 in 1913. The house was rental property for Jaeger from 1913 to 1927. One occupant during the early years was Samuel Guyot, a traveling salesman, sometime fox farmer, who later became a miner. In 1927, Jaeger sold this house to Bernt (Bert) Alstead, who lived here until 1969.

Alstead, a commercial fisherman, came to Alaska in 1918. He bought the boat, *Thelma*, from his uncle and fished commercially until he was past 75 years of age. Alstead married his childhood sweetheart in Norway who immigrated to America with him. The Alstead home on Kennedy Street was the scene of gatherings of young fishermen who came at Christmas and other times for parties. Mrs. Alstead and her neighbor, Mrs. Knute Hildre, played the piano, Bernt the

violin, and all would dance. In 1969 Alstead sold the house to Eugene and Marian Dau. Dau came to Alaska from Washington State to work for the U.S. Postal Service. He had been active in scouting in Washington and continued this interest in Juneau. Their family grew up in the house and the Daus still live in their family home on Kennedy Street. Today, Marian Dau is employed by the State of Alaska and Eugene Dau continued with the Post Office.

The Alstead-Dau House has been extensively remodeled. The front and rear porches were enclosed. An addition was added to the rear as well as a garage addition on the street level and a living room addition on the main level. An open porch was added to the front of the house. The original windows were replaced with double hung windows which are in character with the period. Horizontal vinyl lap siding has been installed over the original siding. The roof beam

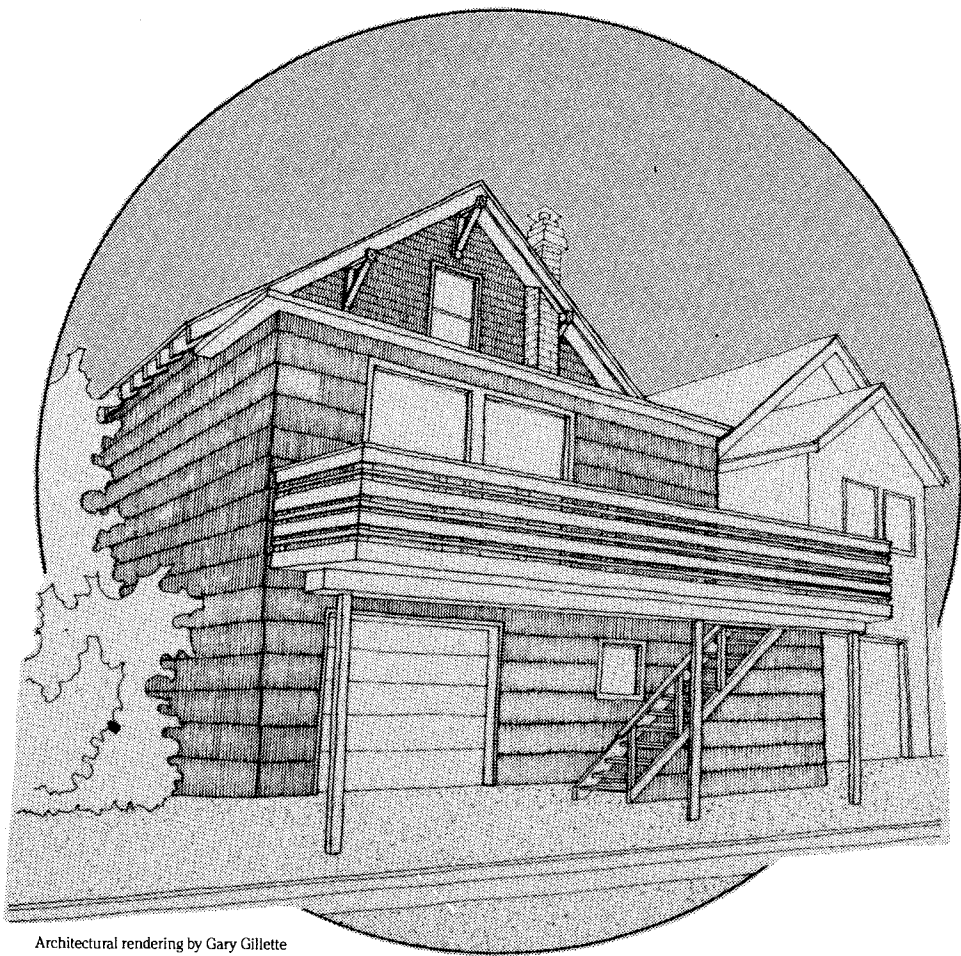


Mrs. Bernt Alstead, March 1938. Alstead-Dau Collection.

extensions are in place although they have been cut flat and covered with vinyl caps. The original roofing material has been replaced with three-tab asphalt composition roofing. The house is white and the trim is light green.

JAEGER-DAUGHERTY HOUSE

525 KENNEDY STREET



Architectural rendering by Gary Gillette

Owned by Juneau businessman and entrepreneur, Ernest R. Jaeger, the house was used as rental property from 1913 to 1926. Miners W.R. Ducey, J.M. Ousby and W.L. Martin lived here as renters. The property was sold to Gustav E. Anderson, a miner, in 1926, and then to Juneau businessman, Ludwig Nelson, in 1927. Nelson, a jeweler, had his own business for a number of years which was located on South Franklin Street.

William Steinbach, carpenter and miner, owned the house from 1929 to 1932. The *Alaska Yukon Gazetteer and Dictionary* in 1911-1912 listed William Steinbach as jailer at the U.S. Jail. He reportedly built other structures throughout the city. John and Lena Kron Marshall, investors in local real estate and owners of the Fries-Fiorella House at 511 Kennedy, acquired the property for a time and then sold to Ray S. Day in 1948. The John Daugherty Family owned and raised a family of eight

children in the house from 1955 to 1979. Elizabeth Daugherty was a school teacher while John Daugherty worked for the Department of Revenue. The house was sold to Gladys Tinney Foris in 1979.

The Jaeger-Daugherty House has had extensive changes to its exterior. A dormer was added to one side of the upper level to create space for a small apartment with outside entry by exterior stairs. The rear porch was enclosed and a large addition placed on the back of the house. The front porch has been enlarged to run the entire length of the front of the house and enclosed. A garage on the street level has also been added. A fireplace was installed and the chimney appears on the front facade of the building and extends through the roof. The original roofing material was replaced with three-tab asphalt composition roofing. Large sliding glass doors were placed on the front addition. Original shingle siding remains and all addition work was sided to match. The roof

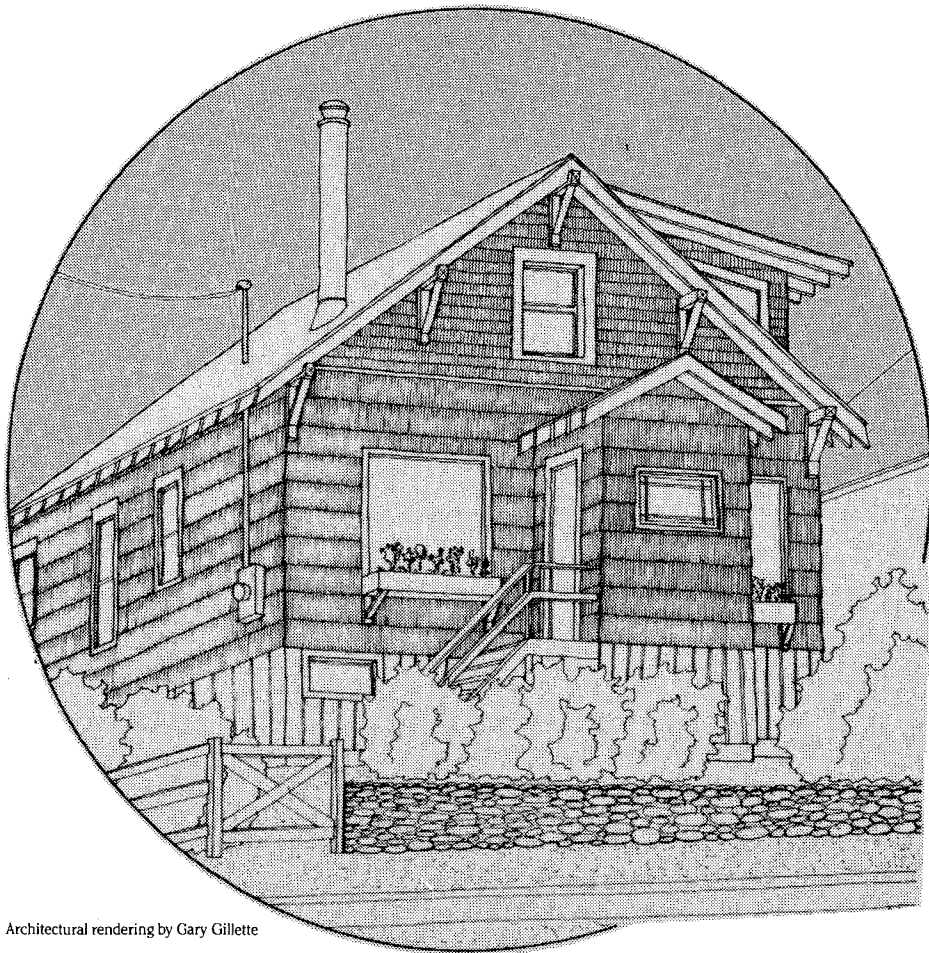
beam extensions are in place. The house is painted deep red with black trim.



Starr Hill boys. From left to right, Jimmy May, Chris Thomas, and Tom Daugherty. 1958-1959. Daugherty family photograph collection.

TURNER-HAIGHT HOUSE

535 KENNEDY STREET



Architectural rendering by Gary Gillette

One of the three houses on Lot 8, Block 120 owned by Ernest R. Jaeger from 1913 to 1919 was sold to Gunnar Blomgren in 1919. Blomgren, a Juneau businessman, purchased the Sanitary Grocery in 1913, and entered the grocery business. In 1924, he built the Blomgren Building on Front Street to house his grocery store. Blomgren also served on the Juneau City Council. In 1938 Blomgren drowned when his canoe capsized at Point Louisa. A fellow businessman, J.W. Gucker, was with Blomgren at the time and narrowly escaped losing his life.

W.L. Martin, a miner, owned the house from 1920 until it was sold to Harley Turner in 1922. Turner came to Alaska in 1899, and was first employed by C.W. Young Hardware Company. For over twenty years he was office manager and credit man for the B.M. Behrends Company. Turner served two terms as City Clerk of Juneau. The property was owned

by the Jerome Halowka Family, Charles Cartmill and Robert Cousart during the 1950's. In 1958 Frederick B. and Dorothy Harris purchased the house and lived there for almost twenty years.

Harris is a descendant of Richard T. Harris, co-founder of Juneau. Ben and Kris Haight and their children have lived in the house since 1977. Haight, an electrical engineer, is remodeling the structure. The Haight's are continuing the tradition of raising a family in their Kennedy Street home on Starr Hill.

The Turner-Haight House has been extensively remodeled in the interior but the exterior changes have been minimal. Much of the original architectural character has been maintained. The roofing material is not original but is similar to the original in character. A dormer was added to one side of the upper level thus changing the original roof line. Plate glass windows in the dormer and at the front of

the house have been added. The front and rear porches were enclosed and an addition placed on the back of the house. Original shingle siding has been retained and was used in the addition work. The roof beam extensions were retained. The house is painted dark grey with blue trim and accent.



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