

Wickersham State Historic Site

Master Interpretive Plan



The Wickersham State Historic Site

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Executive Summary

The Wickersham State Historic Site on Chicken Ridge in Juneau is an exceptional asset for Alaska as well as the rest of the United States. The State of Alaska was farsighted in 1984 to recognize the Wickersham House's importance and to acquire the house and its contents. Associated with a pre-eminent historical figure who established many of the statewide systems that we take for granted today, the property includes furnishings, personal belongings, ethnographic artifacts, and invaluable archival materials collected and used by Judge James Wickersham and his immediate family. This property provides the opportunity to interpret Alaska's history through James Wickersham, considered by many historians as the most pivotal person in the state's early 20th-century development. His home, typical of 'Alaska-style' architecture, is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. This is one of the finest opportunities available in Alaska to preserve and enhance a historical resource of this stature for both residents and visitors.

Wickersham was appointed to his judicial position in 1900, when greed and corruption were rampant in Alaska. As a district judge, he gained the reputation as a just and tireless protector of the rights of the people. He walked, mushed, and took steamers to hold court around his 300,000 square-mile district. He was a pioneer and adventurer, walking his court circuits, climbing Mt. McKinley, dog mushing the Seward Peninsula, discovering a mining district, and helping establish the town of Fairbanks.



James Wickersham on the front porch of the Wickersham State Historic Site

He was “Our Jim” or “Fighting Jim.” He won seven political races on a home rule platform and became Alaska’s sole delegate to Congress, where he served from 1908-1921 and from 1930-1932. His insightful legislation includes the 1912 Organic Act, which created territorial status, the 1914 Alaska Railroad bill, the 1915 Alaska Agricultural College and School of Mines bill, the 1916 bill, which created Mt. McKinley Park (now know as Denali National Park and Preserve), and the 1916 Statehood bill.

Wickersham moved to Juneau after years as a peripatetic delegate from Fairbanks. In 1928, he purchased his Juneau home and gathered together his vast library, most of which is in the Alaska State Library, where it is available digitally for interpretive use and to aid in rehabilitation. Wickersham made monumental contributions that documented and preserved Alaskan history. Valued resources include his *Bibliography of Alaska 1724-1924*, the book *Old Yukon: Tales, Trails, and Trials*, and later volumes of his eight *Alaska Law Reports*, compilations of Alaska judicial opinions from 1884-1937.

The Wickersham State Historic Site Master Interpretive Plan offers a vision of what should occur over the next few years to interpret and operate this valuable historic resource. This plan defines a mission statement and goals and offers a history of Wickersham, the house, and the collections. It identifies interpretive themes and recommends interpretive projects and historic locations of furnishings and objects. This plan also defines visitors’ experiences and goals, and recommends staffing levels, house operations, and funding possibilities.



The Wickersham's Fairbanks home



The 1915 Fairbanks Tanana Chiefs Conference



James Wickersham at his desk



Arthur Tappan Company

1.

INTRODUCTION

Background

In 1984, the Alaska State Legislature funded the purchase of the Wickersham House and collections to recognize its historic importance to the State of Alaska. The Alaska Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation (DPOR) was designated as the managing agency. Over the years, preservation projects have included installation of a fire suppression system, improved foundation and drainage, and replacement of the roof and second floor windows. In the interior of the house, the library was renovated. Recently, the roof was repaired and the second and third floors have undergone extensive renovations. Over the years, the DPOR has assumed responsibility for landscaping and house maintenance and repairs to the extent budgeted, while relying heavily on volunteer caretakers for routine care and operation. The collection was cataloged in a computerized database in 1984, and again in 2004. During these projects, the collection was inventoried and boxed for storage. The property has never been funded with a dedicated operating budget, staffed with paid employees, or restored for historical interpretation.

Mission Statements, Purpose, and Goals

Alaska Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation Mission Statement

The Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation provides outdoor recreation opportunities and conserves and interprets natural, cultural, and historic resources for the use, enjoyment, and welfare of the people.

Wickersham State Historic Site Mission Statement

The Wickersham State Historic Site is dedicated to preserving and interpreting the history, home, and material culture of Judge James Wickersham for the education and appreciation of Alaska's residents and visitors.



James Wickersham in his garden

Wickersham State Historic Site Purpose

The primary purposes of the Wickersham State Historic Site are:

- To house, display, and interpret the Wickersham collection of ethnographic and historical memorabilia as it reflects the territorial history of Alaska.
- To provide the opportunity for visitors to gain knowledge of James Wickersham's significant contributions to Alaska's judicial, political, and economic development.
- The secondary purposes of the Wickersham State Historic Site are:
 - To provide a unique opportunity to appreciate territorial Alaskan culture, interior design, and architecture.
 - To recreate a context in which to interpret and study Alaska's judicial and political leaders.

Wickersham State Historic Site Goals

The Wickersham State Historic Site will be managed as a house museum kept in the public trust and supported by recognized museum practices. These efforts will include ongoing maintenance of the historic property, professional collection management, historically accurate interpretation, and public access.



James Wickersham

2.

HISTORY OF JAMES WICKERSHAM

Early Years—Patoka and Springfield, Illinois 1857 - 1884

James Wickersham was born Oct. 9, 1857, the first son of Mary Jane McHaney and Alexander Wickersham of Patoka, Illinois. He was the oldest of several siblings who included Sarah, Nancy, Edgar, Harry, Clyde, Mary (May), Frank, and Jennie. Throughout his life, he maintained close familial relationships, particularly with his mother Mary Jane, Edgar (who became a United States Deputy Marshal in Alaska), and his sisters. He was proud of his family's history in America. His ancestors, Thomas and Alice (Hogge) Wickersham, were Quakers who arrived in Pennsylvania from England in 1700.

He attended public school in Patoka through the 8th grade. After teaching school for several years in rural Illinois, he moved to Springfield in 1877. Springfield was the hometown of Abraham Lincoln. Wickersham was strongly influenced by this Republican president and by the impact of the Civil War on his family and community. In Springfield, he worked in the office of former Governor John Palmer. He swept the floors and shuttled coal in exchange for \$5.00 per month,

a bed in the office, and access to the office's library. He studied Governor Palmer's books to study for the bar exam and was admitted to the Illinois bar on January 14, 1880. During these years, he also taught school while boarding with the Isaac Bell family.

He married Deborah Bell in 1880, and their first son Darrell was born in 1882. In 1883, the young family moved to Tacoma, Washington Territory, probably traveling there on the new transcontinental railway. His parents and his younger siblings moved to Washington Territory in 1884, where they established the town of Buckley.

Tacoma, Washington 1884 – 1900

Wickersham was involved in legal and historic endeavors while in Tacoma, some of which influenced his move to Alaska. Life-long friendships and enemies that contributed toward his future challenges and successes were made while he was in Tacoma. During this period, he also developed his lifelong interest in ethnology. His collection still holds a rare Salish robe and several baskets that were collected while he lived in Tacoma.

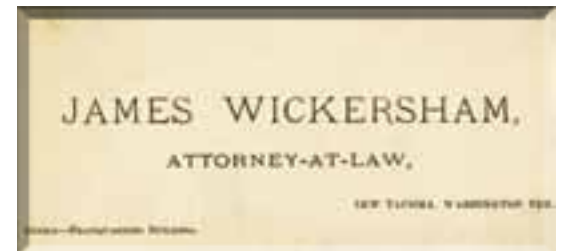
He established his law firm and built his own home at 230 South C Street. Within months, he was elected Pierce County probate judge, serving from 1884-1888. He ran as a Republican and an Independent his first term



Wickersham's library in Tacoma, WA



The "Committee of Fifteen"—Wickersham is standing on the top row, fourth from the left



Wickersham's business card

and on the People's (Populist) ticket in 1886 for his second term. His cases frequently involved "translating Indian mores into white man's laws" (Atwood p.19).

In 1885, racial tensions swept the Pacific Northwest. A steep recession contributed to a growing tension between whites and Chinese, primarily over availability of work. Wickersham joined a group of Tacoma leaders called the "Committee of Fifteen," which was in charge of organizing the expulsion of the Chinese from Tacoma.

In February 1888, his second son Arthur died. This was a time of great personal turmoil for Wickersham. His wife Debbie and young son Darrell went back east to visit family for some months in 1888 or early 1889. During this time, he was ostracized from the Republican Party. In 1888, he joined the Union Labor Party and gained a reputation as a dynamic, radical, and popular speaker. He is credited with convincing Puget Sound University to locate in Tacoma rather than Seattle in 1889. He also acquired new law partners: John Palmer, D.F. Murray, and Benjamin Sheeks.

One event that caused much personal and political grief was his role as the defendant in the 1889 Sadie Brantner seduction case. Although he admitted his guilt, he argued against her innocence and claims. His marriage survived this crisis, but it haunted his political career

forever. "Fortunately for the sake of his future career, Wickersham's interlude of political radicalism and extramarital proclivities was short-lived and he reverted to his former conservative pattern of behavior" (Ibid-p. 23). This may have been one reason why he, Debbie, and their son moved to a farm near Gig Harbor in 1889. He commuted to his law office in Tacoma on the daily steamer. They moved back to their home in Tacoma two years later.

In the summer of 1889, Wickersham returned to the Republican Party and served as a delegate to the territorial convention in Walla Walla, WA. He actively promoted statehood. On November 11, 1889, President Harrison issued a proclamation admitting Washington into the Union.

Wickersham was an avid outdoorsman. He belonged to the Washington Alpine Club, and possibly the Mazama Club. This love of the outdoors was a contributing factor in accepting his judicial appointment in Alaska. He wrote articles for magazines (Goldwaite's Geographical Magazine, Frank Leslie's, and Century) on various topics, including his outdoor adventures and dreams of creating Olympic National Park. In 1893, he was a member of the Tacoma Academy of Science and wrote a paper, *Is it Tacoma or Mt. Rainier?* In this pamphlet, he reviewed the history of Vancouver's naming of the mountain and interviews Klilikat, Yakima, Nesqually, Lummi and other Native American

groups in the Puget Sound area.

The Wickersham's third son, Howard Sullivan, was born in 1893. Howard was Wickersham's favorite child. In 1894, Mayor and friend, Edward Orr, appointed Wickersham to a two-year term as Tacoma city attorney.

Wickersham gained many enemies after successfully litigating a fraud suit against an electric and water utility for the city of Tacoma. However, he was well regarded by the voters. He was elected to the Washington State House of Representatives, where he served from 1898-1900. Wickersham was recommended for two alternative appointments—Consul General to Japan and as a District Judge of Alaska. His diary mentioned disappointment over not getting the appointment in Japan. However, he telegraphed: "Assignment perfectly satisfactory; wife specially pleased. Hurry commission and instructions. Am ready to go" (Ibid: 30). He received his commission on June 12, 1900.

1900-1904

In 1900, President Roosevelt appointed Wickersham to a four-year term as the first United States Federal Judge for the new 3rd Judicial District. Alaska was not yet a territory; it was the "District of Alaska," purchased from Russia in 1867. Gold had been discovered in Juneau in 1880. The Klondike Gold Rush of 1897-1898 and the Nome gold rush in 1899

brought Alaska into the national limelight. The soaring number of miners and adventurers were causing an increasing strain on the almost non-existent law and judicial system. The 1st Judicial District headquarters had been established in Juneau. The 1900 Civil Code of Alaska authorized two new judicial districts—the new 2nd Judicial District, headquartered in Nome, and the 3rd Judicial District, headquartered in Eagle. Next to Fort Egbert on the United States/Canada border, Eagle was as close as one could be to the Klondike gold fields. The famous Alaska-Yukon Pioneer slogan was “There’s no border line here.” On July 2, 1900, Wickersham started his first diary. Over the next 39 years, he chronicled his Alaskan adventures in 40 different diaries.

Traveling to Alaska: Tacoma to Eagle City July, 1900

On July 2, 1900, the Wickershams left Tacoma for Alaska. In Seattle, Wickersham and Judge Arthur Noyes, the newly appointed judge for the 2nd District, met to draw up the boundaries between their districts. From Seattle, Wickersham took the steamship “City of Seattle” to Skagway.

The steamer trip took six days. The ship stopped off the coast for fireworks on July 4, and stopped in Ketchikan, Wrangell, Treadwell, and Juneau before arriving in Skagway on July 6. In

Juneau, Wickersham conferred with Judge Brown on the 1st and 2nd district boundaries.

The party took the White Pass and Yukon Route railroad, crossing the border into Canada on the way to Lake Bennett. They took a steamer to Cariboo Crossing, the new railway to Whitehorse, and then a steamer up the Yukon River to Dawson. In Dawson, Wickersham met former Tacoma mayor Edward Orr, who gave the group a tour of the Bonanza and Eldorado gold prospects. The group then took a steamer down the Yukon River, crossing back into Alaska and arriving at Eagle on July 15, 1900.



A portion of the White Pass Railroad



The steamship “City of Seattle” traveling from Seattle to Alaska

Eagle 1900 – 1904

In October of 1900, the first cable line between Eagle and Dawson was completed. Wickersham sent the first telegram. During this time, Wickersham was authorized to spend up to \$5,000 to build a courthouse and other public building such as a jail or school. The source of funding was to be local license fees from mercantiles and saloons. So the new court levied fees and a courthouse and jail was built. Recently, the Eagle Historical Society preserved the two-story courthouse.

After getting his family established in their new log cabin, Wickersham started his first court circuit. From January thru mid-March of 1901, Wickersham completed a 1,140-mile circuit to Circle and Rampart. His group included the other court officials, Ed Couch the mail carrier and his dog team, and Wickersham's brother Edgar, who was serving as a United States Deputy Marshal in Circle. They averaged 26 miles a day. During the 45-day trip, Wickersham suffered from exhaustion, blisters, and snow blindness.

Floating Court 1901

In August and September of 1901, one year after arriving in Alaska, Wickersham and his court officials conducted the first "floating court" in the Aleutian Islands. While aboard the United States Revenue Cutter used for the trip, Wickersham tried two murder cases: the Hardy murder case in Unalaska (guilty), and another in Dutch Harbor (guilty). Afterwards, instead of heading south, he received orders from the United States Attorney General to go directly to Nome to try cases there that had been neglected by Judge Noyes.

Nome 1901 – 1902

From September of 1901 to July of 1902, Wickersham served on the 2nd judicial district bench in Nome, trying a backlog of important mining cases. His predecessor, Judge Noyes, had been accused of using his office to swindle miners out of their claims and had left Nome. Noyes was eventually found guilty of contempt, and in 1902 President Roosevelt removed him from the bench.

In January, after successfully completing a heavy load of work, Wickersham called a court recess. He took a snowshoeing/dog team trip to Cape Prince of Wales, Teller, and the Bering Straits to see the scenery and pursue his ethnological study of the Eskimos. Accompanied by Louis Lane, a young guide, he spent 10 days at the ancient village of Kingegan, and later wrote an article on the Eskimo

"...The Nome court tangle has...annoyed and distressed the national administration and I have a chance to correct the evil, if I am of such weight and character as to manage the immense and wide-spread questions and interests involved."

- Wickersham diary 9/15/1901



Nome courthouse

dance house they visited. During this trip, Wickersham bought a collection of artifacts, primarily utensils made and used by the Eskimos' ancestors; he also bought a bell said to have been made in Russia a hundred years before. He took copious notes so that he could prepare a paper on the lifestyle of the Eskimos, which he presented at the Nome Literary Society. In it he concluded that "there was no obstacle to the migration of the Mongolian people via the Straits to America".

During his time in Nome, Wickersham lived in the Golden Gate Hotel, where he developed a group of social friends. One of them, Captain Hansen, commanding officer at Fort Davis, may have been the first to encourage Wickersham to run for the office of Alaska's first delegate to Congress.

During this time period, his family lived in Washington because his son Howard was ill with pleurisy. Howard died Jan. 1, 1902 in Tacoma, but Wickersham did not learn of it until March 3. He was devastated. Debbie visited their son Darrell in Maryland. She planned to come to Alaska as soon as the ice cleared on the route to Nome, allowing ships to pass through again. He recorded his loss in his diary, remembering also the death of his sister Clyde.

During his time in Nome, Wickersham rendered many controversial cases, often in favor of the miners, and became known for his hard work, thoroughness, and fairness. He hoped to stay in Nome, where there were more interesting and important legal cases. But despite over 100 endorsements sent to Washington, Roosevelt decided not to appoint him to the Nome judgeship. In June of 1902, Wickersham received orders to return to Eagle.



"Outside mail in this morning Telegrams from Heilig saying that Howard died on Jan. 1st—Oh my son, my son. Would to God I had died for them and I would as willingly have done it for the light of my life is gone—I held sweet Clydes hand until she died—and am robbed the last look from my sons eyes—Oh Howard—Howard—will I never see your sweet face again."

- Wickersham diary, 1902

Fairbanks 1903

Since Valdez and Unalaska were recently added to the 3rd Judicial District, Wickersham did not feel too constrained by returning to Eagle. Debbie, who was now suffering from pleurisy, arrived in Nome in June, and after meeting with his replacement, the family left by steamer up the Yukon River to Eagle. A month later, in August, 1902, the Wickershams left Eagle for four months outside, his first leave in 2 years. It is during this period that he started *The Alaska Reports*, his compilation of all judicial opinions about Alaska since 1867.

With Debbie staying in Tucson for her health, Wickersham returned to Alaska in December. He took the steamship “Bertha” to Valdez and heard cases there until the end of February. He again considered the possibility of running for delegate of Alaska. Since the overland trail from Valdez to Eagle was restricted to military travel, Wickersham had to take a steamer to Skagway, and then the White Pass and Yukon Route railroad to Whitehorse. From Whitehorse, he took a stage drawn by four horses to Dawson, where he hopped on a one-horse sled that traveled down the frozen river to the almost deserted town of Eagle.

During this time period, Felix Pedro discovered gold in the Tanana Valley region. Wickersham

heard about this discovery and asked to name the new town created from the influx of miners to the region “Fairbanks,” after his friend Charles Fairbanks, the Senator from Indiana who was an aspiring Republican presidential candidate. In exchange, Wickersham would try to get the court headquarters moved there. His request was granted and the new boom town was named Fairbanks. Wickersham sold his home in Eagle, then set out for the Tanana Valley region with a six-dog team, arriving in April of 1903. Shortly after, he received official notice to move the headquarters for the district to Fairbanks.

In 1903, Wickersham built a log home in Fairbanks at 1st and Cushman, expecting Debbie, who was still ill with pleurisy, in the fall. However, she stayed in Arizona that winter on her doctor’s orders. Wickersham kept busy with court business and staked mining claims. There were also festive occasions. He hosted one event, documented in both the first edition of the Fairbanks Miner and his diary, during which he used Felix Pedro’s gold pan, “the one he used when he made his big discovery.” He later gave this pan to Senator Fairbanks. He attended the Arctic Brotherhood and other fraternal order events. He also decided to take the summer off to climb Mt. McKinley.



The interior of Wickersham's Fairbanks home



An early Fairbanks dog team

Mt. McKinley Expedition 1903

Wickersham, George Jeffrey, Charlie Webb, Morton Stevens, and John McLeod were the first white men to attempt to climb Mt. McKinley, the largest mountain in North America. To help fund the expedition, they published seven copies of a hand-typed newspaper, the Fairbanks Miner. The paper had space for 36 ads, which were sold at \$5 each. Mostly written by Wickersham, the newspaper was read before paying audiences. There is a copy in the Alaska State Library's Wickersham Collection.

They scheduled May to July of 1903 for their expedition. The group took the steamer "Isabelle" to Chena, purchased more supplies and boarded the "Tanana Chief," whose captain took them up the Kantishna River. Supplies consisted of personal gear, guns, cameras, flour, bacon, beans, dried apples and prunes, 300 feet of rope, alpenstocks, mukluks, and 100 lbs. of rolled oats and a bale of hay for the mules, Mark and Hannah. After being dropped off by the steamer, they hiked and took a small skiff they found upriver, discovering gold and staking claims along the way.

It was mid-June when Wickersham, Jeffery, Webb, and Stevens started their ascent up the

mountain. McLeod remained at base camp with the mules. Their summit attempt was thwarted by a nearly vertical wall, known today as the Wickersham Wall. The route they took, via the Peters Glacier and the North Face, has tremendous avalanche danger and was not successfully climbed until 1963.

The return down the McKinley Fork to the Kantishna River proved dangerous. Their log raft fell apart and they lost much of their supplies, except for what was on the mules that Wickersham and Jeffery took overland. Relationships deteriorated. Stevens began talking to his gun. Eventually, they resurrected the raft and floated down the river where McLeod and the mules boarded the steamer "North Star" for Fairbanks. The rest walked the 50 miles to Rampart, where Wickersham found Debbie sitting on a porch waiting for him.

Although they failed to reach the summit, Wickersham, in *Old Yukon: Tales, Trails, and Trials*, wrote "This happily ended the first attempt of white men, or probably any other men, to scale the mighty walls of Denali... We returned to our labors without any feeling of failure, but with a glow of satisfaction that we had done so much with so little."

"About five miles up the main glacier they came to the confluence of a branch glacier coming down from a high bench; it seemed a more direct ascent, so they chose to follow it rather than to continue on the main glacier... They thought that once they reached that bench, they could continue right on to the summit... They trudged through the sunlit night in single file, fifty feet apart in Indian style; their leader kept sounding for crevasses with the long hickory handle of his alpenstock. At seven o'clock the next morning, after traveling for nine hours without resting, they reached the bench they were aiming for only to discover that they were 8,100 feet above the mountain's base and were on a precipice beyond which they could not go. The alternative was to climb the vertical wall of the mountain and that was impossible; the wall [later named Wickersham Wall], reached an elevation of 16,500."

- Atwood:110

Rampart, Floating Court, and Valdez 1903

In July of 1903, after returning from the Mt. McKinley expedition, Wickersham held court at Rampart. A surprise visit by the Senate Committee on Territories, who were investigating the needs of Alaska, gave him a chance to make his opinions known.

In mid-August he started a 37-day “floating court” circuit, which ended in Valdez on Sept. 17. He had important business in Bristol Bay, held court in Nushagak and Kodiak, named Dillingham, and appointed officials. Debbie traveled directly from Rampart to Valdez by steamer, arriving in mid-October.

The Wickershams were in Valdez for several months, living at the Imperial Hotel while he held court. He wrote up his McKinley adventure for submission to the National Geographic, entitled *The First Attempt to Ascend Mt. McKinley*. He was excited to receive a copy of his first volume of the *Alaska Law Reports*.

He presided over several major cases. The Bonanza copper case (*Chitina Co. v. McClellan*) lasted two months and attracted attorneys and politicians from outside. Wickersham’s ruling in favor of the discovering miners instead of the Chittyna Exploration Company was not politically popular. Although it was appealed, his decision was upheld in 1905 by the United States Court of Appeals.

The Alaska Syndicate formed in 1906 with the fortunes of the Morgan and Guggenheim families.

The Syndicate purchased the Kennicott-Bonanza copper mine and controlled most of Alaska’s steamship and rail transportation, as well as its salmon canning industry. The Syndicate used its lobbying power in Washington D.C. to oppose further extension of home rule for Alaska. Wickersham opposed the Syndicate, arguing that Alaska’s resources should be used for the good of the entire state, not the absentee interests of outside special interest groups. Wickersham’s disgust with the Syndicate was evident by the 1910 Ballinger-Pinchot affair, which involved more than 20 illegal coal land distributions to the Guggenheim interests.

In December, the Wickershams took the steamer “Santa Anna” to Seattle-Tacoma. Debbie visited the doctor and was diagnosed with tuberculosis. After attending Darrell’s graduation in Annapolis, Wickersham went to Washington, D.C. to visit academic and political acquaintances: Alfred Brooks at the U.S. Geological Survey, Lt. George T. Emmons, Dr. W. H. Dall, Philander Knox the Attorney General, and Senator Charles Fairbanks, among others. Senator Foster took him to visit President Roosevelt, to whom he presented a framed photograph of Mt. McKinley. He appeared before the House Committee on Territories. He took this opportunity to research the Minook Russian citizenship issue and pursue the Marshal Richards Nome case and his re-appointment. He took the train to Tacoma before heading back to Alaska. Debbie stayed in California.

“Str. Santa Ana came from westward & Dr. Fredk. A. Cook & his party from Mt. McKinley came in—they got to the mountain, found our camps and reached the same height that we did—about a mile farther around on the fingertips of the Hanna glacier (Peters glacier it is called on an unpublished map). They went round the mountain & came down the Chulitna river & think the mountain cannot be climbed! But I think it can! Cook gave me a copy of Brooks unpublished map, which contains all of the errors on Kantishna outlet, &c.”

- Wickersham diary October 2, 1903

Fairbanks 1904 – 1908

Wickersham left for Alaska on the steamship “Dolphin.” At the Ketchikan stop, he visited ex-Governor Swineford, who suggested he run for governor, and other acquaintances, who encouraged his bid for delegate. He had gained the reputation as the preeminent political figure in Alaska.

After trying several minor cases in Eagle, Wickersham walked to Fairbanks where he continued working to get the courthouse built, pursued his mining interests, and began preparation of his opinion on the naturalization of John Pavloff, the “John Minook” case. He built a house. It was ready for Debbie’s surprise arrival in mid-June and boasted the first picket fence in Fairbanks. His sister-in-law Lizzie planted flower seeds.

William Day, an Assistant Attorney General, was sent from Washington, D.C. to investigate charges filed against all three Alaskan district judges, plus Governor Brady and Marshal Richards. In November of 1904, Day made a favorable report about Wickersham, and President Roosevelt reappointed him for another four-year term. The President also designated Wickersham as a delegate to the Universal Congress of Lawyers and Jurists in St. Louis.

Wickersham returned to Alaska from St. Louis in February of 1905, without Debbie, traveling

by steamer to Valdez and then over the trail to Fairbanks. He took with him a phonograph with a horn amplifier and a hundred tubular records. He presented the first mechanical outdoor concert in the Tanana Valley when one evening he set the machine in an open window with pillows stuffed around it to keep out the cold. The whole town was entertained with strains of grand opera, Sousa’s marches, and other popular melodies floating through the frosty winter atmosphere.

He rendered an opinion that declared an actual discovery of gold was necessary to make a valid mining claim and that the discovery must be made within 90 days of staking of the claim. This revolutionized gold mining in the Tanana Valley, but made more political enemies. Wickersham faced a lot of criticism during this time and was indecisive about wanting to leave public life, make money, or make his life’s work worthwhile through his publications.

He left Alaska again in August and spent the fall in the Seattle-Tacoma area working on his second *Alaska Law Reports*. He was authorized to travel to Washington, DC in the fall to appear before the Senate Judiciary Committee and answer charges against him.

Wickersham was there for five months defending himself. He took advantage of being in Washington to speak before various committees on behalf of Alaskan bills, including the Cushman

“‘Til midnight. I am up against the hardest fight of my life—with a packed subcommittee of the Senate Com. on Judiciary—Senator Nelson is making the most bitter & malicious personal fight on me—but thank Clark, Barnette, McGinn & others Senators Knox, Spooner, Patterson, Bailey & a number of the strongest men in the Senate are for me.”

- Wickersham diary, 1906



Miners on the Tanana Valley Railroad

bill for an elected delegate from Alaska, which passed in 1906. He searched for rare histories to add to his growing library and conducted research in the Library of Congress. Fairbanks was now vice president and Wickersham enjoyed several dinners with him and his family. Charges against Wickersham continued until finally President Roosevelt ordered the Attorney General to stop any further investigations and reappointed him, making it his eighth recess appointment. During this time, he resisted temptation from the Morgan-Guggenheim group to quit his judgeship and become a general counsel for the Morgan-Guggenheim interests, which would have made him wealthy.

In mid-May, a fire destroyed downtown Fairbanks, including two of Wickersham's rental properties, the new courthouse, and the jail. While in Washington D.C., he arranged for the funding of a new courthouse. He and Debbie returned to Fairbanks in July, having been gone 11 months. They were welcomed back by cheering throngs.

Wickersham received orders to go to Juneau to try the Decker v. Berners Bay case, along with other mining cases. He took a harrowing 10-day stage-sled ride in -45 degree weather from Fairbanks to Valdez to conduct court there before heading to Juneau.

In Juneau on July 2, 1907, Wickersham made a rare note about acquiring some ethnographic

material for his collection, which he apparently had delivered to the Ferry Museum of Tacoma where other items in his collection were stored.

While in Juneau, he made an unpopular decision not to disbar a lawyer, losing the important friendship of Gov. Hoggatt. In Seattle, he made a rare, critical public statement at a bar association banquet, reported in the Seattle Times on July 13, 1907:

"WICKERSHAM ASKS AID FOR THE NORTH Federal Judge in Alaska Declares He is Weary of Acting as Governor and Wants Congress to Give People Power. DUTY IS OWED BY CITY OF SEATTLE Impassioned Appeal of Jurist Overshadows the Vice-President's Speech in Importance at Bar Association Banquet. Tired, disgusted and disheartened in an effort to bring organization to Alaska, to separate the judiciary from the executive department and to grant to Alaskans a modicum of self-government, Federal Judge James Wickersham last night appealed to the bar of the State of Washington for assistance. Set down on the program to succeed Judge R. A. Ballinger in response to the toast, "The Law, the Land and the Home," Judge Wickersham plunged boldly into a recital of Alaskan wrongs, and for the first time since he has been on the bench in Alaska struck back at the Congress which has ignored his reappointment and demanded that Alaska be considered. Judge Wickersham is a picturesque figure of Pacific Coast legal

"I have just bought some interesting Chilkat Indian curios from Jim Williams, nephew of the Chilkat chief "Hlat-redge"—the chief is in the last stages of disease, the tribe has either died off—joined the whitemans ways and habits & the old chief finds Indian ways & customs deseated (sic) & is selling out the rich & rare objects of value which slavery, the customs service of Chilkat over the trade from the interior to the coast, gave to his ancestors, & I am getting some of them. I bought two copper masks—2 Chilkat blankets—a finely carved ceremonial spoon & two rare copper knives with carved handle ends. It is the finest Indian work I ever saw."

- Wickersham diary

evolution. A pioneer lawyer, territorial judge, re- form municipal official, legislator and Alaskan pathfinder he talked to the State Bar Association without embellishment and without equivocation. For three or four years he has been fighting from session to session of Congress for a confirmation of his reappointment and he is now preparing to go into the interior of Alaska to remain there during the winter. What Congress does or does not do will not affect him and the speech he delivered last night was a defiant challenge to politicians.”

Back in Valdez on July 17, Wickersham heard the Katella Railroad case and was dismayed and disgusted at the political posturing. On August 22, Wickersham left Valdez on the “Saratoga” for Seattle, the necessary route to Skagway. During this trip, he prepared his letter of resignation to President Roosevelt, effective March 1.

During his eight years on the bench, he had rendered decisions on 1,726 cases, of which 43 were appealed and only ten reversed. He awaited the arrival of his replacement, and adjourned his court for the last time on December 31, 1907. At that time, the Fairbanks Bar Association presented him with a gold watch, inscribed and covered with gold nuggets. This gift is now in the Alaska State Museum.

Alaska’s Delegate to Congress 1909 - 1921

President Roosevelt supported Alaska’s

entitlement to an elected delegate. And in March 1906, despite powerful lobbying by taxable corporations, a bill passed the Senate and the House that awarded Alaska territorial status, authorized moving the capital from Sitka to Juneau, and allowed its residents to elect one voteless delegate. The delegate job was an attractive position, but the pay was poor—\$4,383, plus \$1,500 for travel.

After leaving the bench, Wickersham was admitted to the Alaska bar and, having decided to stay in Fairbanks. He opened his law office with his old clerk of the court, Albert Heilig, as his partner.

Although Wickersham did not initially campaign for the delegate position, he finally agreed to run as an independent candidate, creating the “Wickites”, a new political party. He campaigned in the Interior and the Seward Peninsula, but not Southeast, supporting home rule and opposing outside interests and the Morgan-Guggenheim Syndicate. Wickersham won in a landslide victory.

Wickersham was elected to six successive two-year terms as Alaska’s sole delegate to Congress. During his first term in office, he fought the mechanisms of Governor Hoggatt and the Republican National Committeeman Louis Shackelford. He won appointments for two of three judgeship endorsements, opposed Walter Clark as governor appointment, and

introduced his first bill to create a legislative assembly for Alaska. After Congress recessed, the Wickershams returned to Fairbanks, where he continued his law practice.

When Congress resumed, the Wickershams returned to Washington, staying at the New Varnum Hotel. The Ballinger-Pinchot controversy split the Republican Party. Wickersham denounced the Guggenheim monopoly of Alaska’s coal and natural resources and argued that if Alaska had home rule, Alaskans could control exploitation of their resources. He vigorously opposed a bill that would have put Alaska under the control of the Bureau of Insular Affairs, under the War Department. He introduced a bill providing for the Alaska Railroad Commission. He wrote an article for Colliers magazine in which he stated “nothing less than the dissolution of the nation will prevent the organization of the State of Alaska.”

Wickersham’s 1910 Delegate race was run on the home rule issue. His campaign button, an image of a denim shirt, was inscribed “I am a roughneck; so is Wickersham.” Again, Wickersham won, despite illegal voting by non-residents. The Wickershams left Fairbanks in late September, via California and Springfield, for Washington, D.C. They lived in the new Congress Hall Hotel that session. Automobiling became a favorite Sunday recreation activity of the Wickershams during this time.

Wickersham was anti-Taft and exposed President Taft's affiliation with the Guggenheims whenever possible. He opposed the Mondell leasing bill, which would have allowed big interests to overwhelm the small coal miner, and got in a physical fight with Mondell on the House floor. He objected to a bill that would give the Cordova wharf, waterfront, and adjoining tidelands to the Copper River and Northwestern Railroad in what would have been an exclusive monopoly. He continued his fight for home rule, introducing a home rule bill before the House Committee on Territories. Ex-Governor Hoggatt and Governor Clark strongly opposed him.

In 1911, he again introduced a bill for an elected territorial legislature. The Organic Act of 1912 passed the House by unanimous consent. The bill provided for eight Senate members and 16 House members. "Our Jim's getting the home rule passed in the House" headlined Alaska's newspapers. When it finally passed the Senate, it had many amendments attached. Wickersham was delighted when the home rule bill, despite its limitations, was signed by President Taft on August 24, Wickersham's birthday.

When the Mt. Katmai eruption buried six villages, he rushed through legislation providing relief, and remained in Washington instead of campaigning in Alaska, vacillating about whether to run again. He attended Roosevelt's new Progressive "Bull Moose Party," in part to insure

that the party platform would include home rule for Alaska. At an independent Republican convention held in Valdez in May of 1912, he won his party's nomination, and then won the election with 40% of the votes. He was the first "Bull Moose" to win a state election.

He supported a bill for a government-owned railroad into the Interior. He delivered a 5½ hour speech in January of 1914 describing all the attributes of Alaska and the reasons why the government should build a railroad there. It was the longest speech on record in Congress. The bill passed, allowing for the creation of the Alaska Railroad.

Wickersham had strong opinions on what was best for Alaska and did not hesitate to use whatever means necessary to achieve his goals. In 1914, he was embraced by the Democratic Party, including President Wilson and Speaker Champ Clark, and was listed as a Progressive Democrat in the Congressional Directory. Delegate Wickersham was escorted home from Valdez that year to Fairbanks in a caravan of 17 automobiles. He was re-elected that year, beating Charles Bunnell by receiving 59% of the vote. During the 1915 session, Wickersham opposed a new fur seal regulatory bureau but his highest priority was getting a school land bill approved. Wickersham envisioned a land grant



Wickersham's campaign headquarters in Nome

Juneau 1921 – 1930

The Republicans advocated Wickersham for governor, sending 5,500 signatures to President Warren G. Harding. Wickersham became the top candidate. President Harding and others were hesitant to support Wickersham because he did not have “the right temperament.” He was called “Fighting Jim” for several reasons—his opponents said he was divisive, that his appointment would destroy the Republican Party, and that he was a “disturber.” And they brought up his 1889 Sadie Brantner affair. In the end, Scott Bone, former editor of the *Seattle Post-Intelligencer* was appointed, because President Harding concluded “that no Alaskan resident could be appointed because of the bitter factionalism which existed in the territory.”

Wickersham wrote in his diary that he was determined to “keep his powder dry,” and “step on the tail” of undesirable political schemes. He was now 64. His 64th birthday dinner was his favorite meal: fried chicken and strawberry shortcake prepared by his 84-year old mother on a visit to her home in Buckley, Washington. During this visit he tallied his worth: \$20,500 in stocks, \$12,897 in cash, 95 acres of farmland in the Puyallup Indian reservation, 25 residential lots in Buckley, a house and two lots in Tacoma, a house and lot each in Valdez, Fairbanks, and Ft. Gibbon, and two mining claims near Fairbanks.

He was warmly welcomed to Juneau at the Moose Hall, greeted by attorney John Marshall and Governor Bone, among others, including Dan Noonan who wrote a poem for the occasion. The Wickershams were frequent guests at the Governor’s new home. He attended weekly meetings of the Moose Legion, the Pioneers of Alaska, the Elks, and the Juneau Bar Association.

His law practice grew rapidly and he took Joe Kehoe as partner. His business required that he travel north, and to Seattle and San Francisco. He traveled to Fairbanks in 1922, taking the Alaska Railroad, stopping over at Curry where the infamous “Alaska Nellie” was the roadhouse cook. He sold his Fairbanks home for \$1,500. He was in Anchorage for July 4, and gave the principal patriotic address. Debbie’s lungs were getting worse, and she spent winters in California.

President Harding’s visit in the summer of 1923 was the first time a president had visited Alaska. The local organizers excluded Wickersham. However, Mayor Izzy Goldstein created a new reception committee, including Wickersham. However, instead of attending many of the festivities, at the request of the President’s press secretary he worked on a brief advocating for statehood. The Wickershams did attend the evening reception at the Governor’s house. Harding later said that the panhandle of Alaska

would be ready for statehood “in a very few years” as it had developed resources. This encouraged some to lobby for the panhandle to split away from the rest of the territory.

On a trip to Hyder, Wickersham was intrigued by an unoccupied Indian village on Tongass Island. He recalled that an Indian in Ketchikan said there was a totem there that looked like Abraham Lincoln. He persuaded the captain to go ashore and found the 30’ tall pole, the top 6’ depicting Lincoln. The traveling group formed the “Lincoln Association of Alaska” to preserve the pole. When Harding visited, Wickersham petitioned to have the area preserved. He wrote a story about it, which was published in *Sunset* magazine’s February 1924 issue. The top part of the totem is now in the Alaska State Museum.

Debbie was in Seattle when she became seriously ill from tuberculosis. She died on November 23, 1926. Wickersham barely made it to her side. Darrell came up from San Francisco to help with the funeral plans. Bishop Trimble Rowe, the pioneer Alaskan Episcopalian bishop, conducted the ceremony. She was buried with her two sons in the Tacoma cemetery. They had been married 46 years, and Wickersham was now 70 years old.

About 1927, Wickersham took a case for D. E. Skinner of the Alaska Steamship Company to

lobby for a bill to give the Bureau of Fisheries authority to lease trap sites to cannery men. Sutherland refused to introduce this bill as he was opposed to all trap fishing and was biased against nonresident trap owners, as was Wickersham. Taking the case primarily for the money, acceptance of a case for an outside interest group proved embarrassing to him in later years.

He published his *A Bibliography of Alaskan Literature, 1724–1924* in 1927. It was the first volume of the *Miscellaneous Publications of the Alaska Agricultural College and School of Mines*.

He had a number of friends in Juneau, among them Grace Bishop, with whom he enjoyed cards, movies, dinner, and her home cooking. Grace Bishop's husband, Harry, who had been a United States Marshal and had served as the Mayor of Juneau, had died around 1926 after years of illness. Wickersham mentioned meeting the Bishops on a steamer while returning to Alaska in 1914. He thought them "kind, modest and sensible folk." In a letter to Darrell in 1928 he described Grace: "She is a woman of intelligence, refinement and fine character; a student and reader of good books; she has the respect and confidence of the people of Juneau and mine likewise; she has many of those admirable womanly qualities which caused me to love your mother and my own mother above all women." Darrell gave his approval.

Grace Vrooman Bishop and James Wickersham married at her family's homestead between Tacoma and Seattle. Among the 30 guests in attendance was her niece, Ruth Coffin. Originally, they planned to build a home in Juneau where he could gather his books and collections—he had lived at the Zynda Hotel for seven years. However, when they learned that the Alaska Gastineau Mining Company's house on Chicken Ridge was for sale they were delighted. They purchased the 14-room home for \$6,000 and spent an additional \$4,000 on renovations. They moved into their new home in October of 1928.

1928 was also an election year, and President Herbert Hoover was elected. Wickersham tried again to get a judgeship or governorship, but with no luck. The Wickites were still prominent and wanted to get rid of Governor George Parks. The other side wanted to keep him. Sutherland announced in 1928 that it was his last term as delegate. Wickersham, and his close friend John Rustgard, both decided to run. The primary campaign, which took place over the fall of 1929 through the spring of 1930, was brisk. The outcome depended on the Native Alaskan vote in Southeast. Wickersham eventually defeated Rustgard to become the Republican candidate, but he had lost a friend. He closely defeated his old Democratic rival Grigsby in November to earn his 7th term as delegate. It was a tense race, and in those days it took almost two weeks

"Have finished my address to be spoken at the Dedication ceremony Saturday evening—"Alaska's Trade Value To The United States"...I am not at all pleased with it, but there are so many things I do not want to talk about that it rather circumscribes me in what I can talk about – I've barred all controversial matters & political ones, of course – just trade value, which has no powder in it to explode. It will not take longer than 20 minutes—which is a virtue in a public talk."

- Wickersham diary



Just a few of Wickersham's diaries

for the election results to be reported.

He postponed leaving for Washington so that he could give a speech at the dedication ceremony for the new Capitol in Juneau, which he was instrumental in securing.

Alaska's Delegate to Congress 1931 – 1933

Immediately after arriving in Washington in March he got involved in the Lomen Brothers reindeer monopoly controversy, testifying for almost two hours against the government for giving the Lomen-Baldwin interests a federal contract. Wickersham also made an effort to repeal Alaska's Bone Dry law, but his bill found opposition. However, his work did establish congressional legislation providing territorial control of liquor traffic and the creation of an Alcoholic Beverage Control Board. This allowed Alaskans to drink liquor legally for the first time since 1917. He felt it was better to have saloons than the smuggling and bootlegging caused by the unenforceable law.

During this time, Wickersham worked on a bill to establish a Supreme Court in Alaska. He also promoted the construction of an "International Highway" connecting Alaska to the lower '48 through Canada and encouraged Charles Lindbergh to attempt a flight using the "Great Circle" route over Alaska.

During this time period, he had an operation to

remove two tumors from his prostate. Grace wrote in his diary during his five week stay in the hospital. He was a cranky, bossy patient. It took another week recovering at home before he went back to work in his office.

He spent the rest of the summer and fall answering mountains of correspondence, promoting one cause or another, meeting with constituents, and rewriting chapters of *Old Yukon: Tales, Trails, and Trials*. He consciously made an effort to have Alaska treated the same as the other territories, and to keep Alaskan interests known. He announced his candidacy for another term in the fall of 1931. He worked on a bill that proposed allowing Native Alaskans in Southeast Alaska to bring suit in the court of claims to recover the fair value of their hunting grounds and homes.

Grace thoroughly enjoyed her time in Washington D. C. The Wickershams attended two social events at the White House with President and Mrs. Hoover. Wickersham wrote in his diary that a reception for House members was "a very spectacular and dressy function—Grace likes 'em that way." About a small dinner party for 20 guests, he recorded that after dinner, the ladies went with Mrs. Hoover to "a red room where the ladies remained while we men followed the President to the Lincoln room...I enjoyed it—Grace was thrilled."

Despite his age of 75 and his failing eyesight, he

"A fine young newspaper man came into the offices yesterday to talk Alaska and I explained the aviation value of Alaska to him & he interviewed me on Lindbergh's proposed flight to the Orient. At his suggestion wrote a letter to Lindbergh & sent him a map of the Great Circle Route—I have no doubt Lindberg has the map & knows far more than I do about that route, but I could not resist the idea of urging him to the Alaska idea."

- Wickersham diary, June 9, 1931

was ready to run for delegate again. In June of 1932, Wickersham left Washington and arrived in Alaska in July to campaign in the general election as the Republican candidate against Valdez attorney Anthony Dimond. Because of the depression, it was a ripe time for the Democrats. When he returned to Alaska, he met with the new national committeeman, Edward Rasmuson of Skagway, to strengthen the Republican Party. Campaigning was quite different now. Dimond used an airplane to get around. The Wickershams went by steamer and car. Dimond also used the radio, which Wickersham only used once and did not like. Wickersham criticized Dimond's association with outside interest groups and Dimond brought up Wickersham's 1927 assistance to fishing interests. But the Democrats came out to vote and swept their candidates into office in Alaska and throughout the nation. His last two actions while finishing his last term were to help defeat a motion to eliminate the territories of Alaska and Hawaii from a bill creating Federal Home Loan Banks and the recommendation of Democrat John Troy for the Governor's Appointment.

Juneau Scholar 1933 – 1939

Back in Juneau by April, the Wickershams attended John Troy's swearing in ceremonies. Troy offered Grace a seat on the new board of education, which she turned down. But she did accept an appointment to be on the board of trustees of the Alaska Agricultural College and

School of Mines. Wickersham accompanied her to her first trustee's meeting where he delivered the commencement address "The Asia-American Migration Route." The 21-page commencement address was printed in full in the local Fairbanks newspaper.

Grace was a calming influence on her husband, helping him to dismiss his resentments against former political enemies. As a result, the Wickershams were frequent visitors at the Governor's mansion, and Grace was often invited to pour tea at the social events there.

Wickersham attended weekly bar association lunches, where he received a great deal of respect. The group passed a resolution making every August 24 "Wickersham Day" and urged others to petition the legislature to do the same. (The legislature designated August 24 as Wickersham Day in 1949.) Every morning he walked to his office in Room 1 in the Valentine Building. Although there wasn't a lot of work, he kept busy on projects including divorce cases and advocating for a Taxpayer v. Juneau and the Alaska-Juneau Gold Mining Company suit. He described himself as "a creature of habits—chains which keep me in the groove but which seem good to me." This persistence compelled him to continue working on his book, *Old Yukon: Tales, Trails, and Trials*. While Wickersham worked to finish his book, Grace researched her own book, *The Vrooman Family in America*, which she eventually had published in 1949.



Wickersham with the University of Alaska's president



James and Grace in front of the fireplace



Creation of the University of Alaska

In October of 1933, they modified the attic into another apartment to rent, as money was a constant issue. In addition to miscellaneous legal and investment managing, he continued revising *Old Yukon: Tales, Trails, and Trials*. He also worked on editing his last edition of the *Alaska Law Reports*. Wickersham read and worked long hours in his library, which was his special sanctuary. In 1935, He traveled to Fairbanks to receive an honorary Doctor of Laws degree from the University of Alaska. Wickersham was only the second recipient of an honorary degree from the university.

During this time, financial worries continued to plague the family—the economic depression was felt throughout Alaska. Clients had difficulty paying, and he had trouble selling his various investment properties. They had additional financial problems when Grace’s brother’s widow and her son spent a year with them. It was extra work for Grace, and Wickersham was depressed about not having the assets to hire help. However, he was still involved in political intrigue, which kept him active.

In the spring of 1935, Wickersham began discussions with Dr. Charles Bunnell at the University of Alaska about writing a history of Alaska, which Bunnell hoped to fund with a Carnegie or Rockefeller grant. In exchange, Wickersham intended to donate his library to the University. In the spring of 1936, he learned that funding was secured to catalog and translate

his library, but that this work was to be done by others with no compensation to him. He telegraphed Bunnell that this was unfair, and the project did not work out.

In the summer, Rex Beach visited and offered to write an introduction to *Old Yukon: Tales, Trails, and Trials*, which was making the rounds at the publishing houses.

Ruth Coffin moved to Juneau to work as a music and art instructor and Wickersham was pleased to have his niece live with them. He wrote in his diary that he enjoyed her “youth, life, music & happiness.” On October 12, Wickersham was one of the main speakers at the grand opening of the new Douglas Bridge, which he suggested naming Kowee Bridge after Chief Kowee of the Auk Indians, who at one time lived on Gastineau Channel. In 1937, a publisher was found for *Old Yukon: Tales, Trails, and Trials*, and in 1938, the book was finally published. Ruth Coffin helped market the book in Seattle.

Wickersham began having difficulty seeing. In May of 1939, Wickersham traveled to Seattle to have his eyes examined. While he was in the lower ‘48, he boxed up his books that were stored in Oregon and Washington and had them shipped to Alaska so he could have his collection in one place. For a while, he was able to continue his passion for reading by using a magnifying glass, but soon he became virtually blind. However, he continued legal

“I am working in my leisure time now on a series of Biographies of Early Day Prominent characters of Alaska! Gov Kinkaid, the first Gov., Jack McQuesten, Capt. Mayo, & his group, etc. and the Early Russian Governors of Russian America which work I greatly enjoy. I will leave this material in my library for the use of future scholars & students of Alaska History.”

- Wickersham diary, Sept. 27, 1936

consultations and relied on Grace to read to him.

Hitler and the looming war in Europe, the potential sale of *Old Yukon: Tales, Trails, and Trials*, and his desperate financial situation dominated his diary in September of 1939. He stayed active, and was the speaker at a dinner for retiring Governor John W. Troy. Several days before his death, Wickersham's diary focused on the history of George Carmack and becomes difficult to read, with his last comment on October 19 being "Just a shadow—cannot see—blind." At this point, Grace started to write in the diary for her husband. On October 22, he had become so restless that Grace had him taken to St. Ann's hospital. On October 23, he suffered a stroke. He died October 24, 1939.

The anticipated governor, Ernest Gruening, paid tribute to Wickersham:

"In the death of Judge James Wickersham Alaska lost a great pioneer, a preeminent citizen whose public and private services to the community in many fields, in the halls of Congress, on the bench, at the bar and domain of letters is enduring and has helped make the Alaska of today. His work and name will be imperishable and will be gratefully recorded in the Territory's history."

Memorial services were held in Juneau and his remains were taken south for cremation and burial in Tacoma. Another service was held in Seattle by his friend of 40 years, Bishop Peter Trimble Rowe, who flew in from California to conduct the service for an overflowing crowd. In his will, he left Grace his home, furniture, and library, plus other Alaskan and Washington property. He left Darrell his Washington dairy property and his gold nugget watch and chain, and the Bell family Bible. In 1941, Governor Gruening accepted the painting of Henry Seward that Wickersham bequeathed to the territory. Wickersham's dream of having his library preserved for Alaska was finally realized. In December of 1941, the territory of Alaska purchased Wickersham's library for \$20,000, less \$2,500 to defray the cost of cataloging the collection.



Eskimo grave in Nome, photo taken by Wickersham

"Pioneer, lawyer, jurist, author, congressman and crusader, Wickersham has been in the center of more controversies than any other figure who has grown up with Alaska."

"Alaska's "Wickersham" burns out; but his light shines on."

"Alaska will not forget James Wickersham. His place in our history is secure."

- Quotes from Wickersham's obituaries

3.

HISTORY OF THE HOUSE

Chicken Ridge Neighborhood

Chicken Ridge was first settled in 1893 when the area was staked as a placer claim by five men. The neighborhood is thought to have derived its name because of the grouse or ptarmigan that lived there. By the early 1890s, the residents suggested the name be changed to “Gold Hill” because each shovelful of dirt contained “color.” Other names that were tried were Nob Hill, Knob Hill, Gastineau Heights, and Observation Heights. Chicken Ridge stuck.

During the period of gold mining in region, many things increased the pressure to extend settlement in Juneau, including the expansion of large mining companies, the expansion of Juneau’s role in territorial government, and the need for living space. The Chicken Ridge neighborhood eventually housed some of the more prominent residents of Juneau, an affluent socioeconomic class comprised of attorneys, doctors, business owners, mining executives, government employees, and politicians. Because of the remote location of the city, building materials were scarce and so were skilled craftsmen to do the work. Most houses were built as modest interpretations of national stylistic trends that varied only according to the amount of detailing and square footage that could be afforded by the individual owner.

The Chicken Ridge Historic District is now listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Included in this designation are all properties along Basin Road, 7th Street, Goldbelt Avenue, and Dixon Street, most properties on Main Street above 6th Street, and a few properties on Calhoun Avenue.

The House on the Hill

The Wickersham property was listed in the 1972 Alaska Heritage Resources Survey and entered into the National Register in 1976 as follows:



Juneau, with Chicken Ridge in the background, 1935

“The high gabled roof, shingled, encloses a full-length attic, with windows at each end—the southernly (sic) one serving as a ship’s beacon during the earlier years. All roofs are corniced, box plain, enclosing extensive storm drains to accommodate heavy rainfall of the locality. Exterior is shiplap siding, which as far as can be determined has always been painted white. The windows are conventional slipsill sash; and except for the true front exposure (not used as the normal entrance) are modestly limited. The true front profile—the home’s most gracious architectural feature—with the largest use of glass enclosing a full-length sun-porch, is usually not seen by visitors unless they tour the grounds, or make special effort. The back (and lease attractive exposure) has always provided the entrance way because of its easy accessibility (sic) off 7th Street. Interior orientation was designed for this practical consideration. Here the principal feature is a center dormer gable pyramided from the first story roof slope to fall some 3’ short of reaching the main roof.... Although important as one of the most impressive period homes of Old Juneau, its greatest significance derives from association with the most imposing public figure whose name it bears—The Honorable James V. (sic) Wickersham.”

A 1992 Juneau historic buildings survey by the City and Borough of Juneau describes the Wickersham State Historic Site as the

Hammond/Wickersham House, located at 213 7th Street, built in 1898. It is classified as having a “mixed” architectural style. Its architectural elements include fishscale shingles in the gables, glass enclosed porch on the south side, ribbon windows, and pedimented portico with rounded underside and pilasters. The survey describes it as retaining integrity, having little evidence of change, and being an important contributing element to the architectural and historic unity of the neighborhood.

Early Owners and Residents

The following is a list of known occupants before and after Wickersham and his family lived in the house.

Frank C. Hammond was general manager of the Juneau Improvement Co. in 1897. Hammond is credited with having the house built. By 1899, he was the superintendent of the Sheep Creek Mining Company, a subsidiary of the Alaska Gold Mines Company. He, his wife, and four daughters lived in the house for several years, until the mine closed. Ruth Allman recalled that one of the girls came back to visit and wondered if she still had the 9’ bathtub (there was a 7’ bathtub noted in the 1912 architectural drawings). The Hammonds apparently left Juneau after the close of the Sheep Creek Mining Company, which would have been sometime after 1904. By 1918, he was involved in mining in eastern Washington.



The Wickersham State Historic Site



Wickersham outside the Wickersham State Historic Site

John F. Malony somehow gained or shared rights to the house after 1904. He arrived in Juneau from Sitka around 1895. John and Cora Malony had two sons, Joseph and John F. Malony, Jr. In addition to his work as a lawyer, Malony, Sr. invested in mining, development of the Dalton Trail (he was Jack Dalton's lawyer), the Porcupine Trading Company, canneries, the Alaska Electric Light and Power Company, and real estate. J. H. Cobb and Malony, Sr. were co-developers of the Gold Belt addition to Juneau. Also, he served on the first Juneau City Council in 1900 and was Mayor of Juneau in 1907. The Malonys likely occupied the house between 1905 and 1914.

Judge Royal Arch Gunnison received his appointment as United States District Court judge for the 1st judicial district in Juneau in December 1904, a position he held until 1909. He then went into law practice, with R. E. Robertson joining him as partner in 1913 in Juneau. At the time of his death in June of 1918, he was the Federal Food Administrator for Alaska. They likely lived in the house sometime before 1914. Wickersham mentions meeting Judge Gunnison in 1906 in Juneau, and in 1907 they were both in Valdez for a trial.

Bartlett L. Thane, freshly graduated from the University of California with a mining degree, arrived in Alaska in 1898 to work at the Sum Dum Chief Mine. He made his greatest mark

with his innovative operation and management of the Alaska Gastineau Mining Company. Bart Thane married Fay Blaine, and they established a home in Juneau. He needed a large house for entertaining, and moved into the house sometime around 1914, living there until about 1916. He lived in the house with his wife Fay and their daughter Fay. Ruth said that the carriage house was across 6th street then. Fay used to take the carriage to Thane (about 5-6 miles) with her husband's lunch. One day she overturned the carriage and broke her back.

Dr. L. O. Sloane lived in the house from 1917 to 1920. Sloane was a prominent physician in Juneau. In October of 1918, Mayor Emory Valentine, chairman of the Health Board, J.H. Montgomery, and City Health Officer Dr. L.O. Sloane ordered the town quarantined as a precautionary measure against the spread of the virulent Spanish influenza. Sloane was Commissioner of Health in 1921.

The **Herbert L. Faulkners** lived in the house from about 1920 to 1928. Faulkner arrived in Alaska in 1902. He came to Juneau in 1907 as a United States Deputy Marshal. In 1909, President Taft appointed him the United States Marshal for the First Judicial District. One of his most well known acts as Marshal was his arrest of Robert Stroud, later known as the 'Birdman of Alcatraz.' He signed the house purchase agreement papers with the Wickershams. The

Faulkners became the Wickersham's social friends.

Grace Vrooman Bishop Wickersham. After the Judge died in 1939, Grace continued to live in the house until her death in 1963. Grace Vrooman arrived in Juneau around 1900 to work as an 8th grade teacher. In 1910, she met and married United States District Marshal Harry Bishop of Juneau. Harry was Juneau's mayor from 1912-1914. Harry became ill and paralyzed and Grace nursed him while she was principal of the school. She served on the Alaska Agricultural College and School of Mines Board of Trustees Board from 1933 to 1935 and the University of Alaska Board of Regents from 1935 to 1941. She worked as a bookkeeper for the Nugget Shop in the 1940s and 1950s.

Ruth Coffin was Grace's niece. She lived with the Wickershams on and off since around 1935, moving in with Grace permanently sometime in the 1940s after her husband died. Ruth taught music and art in the Juneau schools. To supplement their income, Ruth started giving house tours and dinner parties in the 1950s to paying guests. When Grace died in 1963, Ruth inherited the house. She continued giving tours, and through shrewd marketing, managed to make a living at it. She continued running the House of Wickersham, while renting out the small apartments, until the house was sold to the state in 1984. She died in 1989.

Purchase and Renovations 1928 - 1935

The house originally faced 6th Street, with the main entrance on the southwest corner. Across 6th Street was the carriage house for the horse and buggy, with an iron hitching ring in the west sidewalk. The first known renovation was in 1912, when Bart Thane commissioned A. H. Stanley, a local architect, to make renovations to the house. The plans show the existing structure and the recommended changes. It appears that only a few of these recommendations were made.

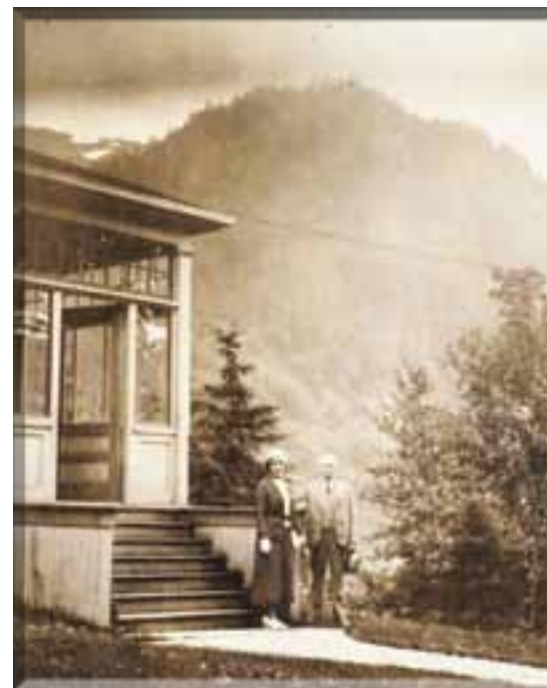
When the Wickershams purchased the property, a white picket fence enclosed the large lawn. A lawn mower was included in the purchase. Wickersham reports hurting his leg when he tripped while mowing the lawn. At some point, the carriage house lot was sold. In the 1930s, the narrow east side yard had a clothesline. The south side slope was planted with strawberries and raspberries and fenced at the bottom.

Grace planted the red English hawthorne at the southwest corner of the porch. In the triangular garden against the west side of the house, Grace grew tall flowers (delphiniums, foxglove, hollyhocks) plus day lilies, tulips, daffodils, bachelor buttons, and forget-me-nots. Near the 7th Street frontage, Ruth remembered 6" high white and yellow Iceland poppies. At some point, Wickersham replaced the picket fence with a wire fence that had a looped top edge, with one gate near the front steps and another at the sidewalk

to the sun porch. This fence is documented in several outdoor photographs taken in the 1930s. The current concrete walks in the yard may be the same as in the 1930s photographs and likely date to the late 1920s.

The outside of the house always appears to have been painted a light color. In the 1930s, the exterior walls were light, but the window frames were a darker tone. The bottom and top ledge of the windows, the sun porch mullions, and the storm windows were darker still. Wickersham mentions having the house painted in 1928 and again in 1932, but it isn't clear whether it was the inside or outside.

When they moved into the house, Wickersham may have reviewed the A. H. Stanley plans, but his changes differed. Wickersham put in a new front entry on 7th Street and added an addition along the 7th Street side to include a new front porch and foyer, a relocated bathroom, and a back hall and back stairs to access the second floor and the basement. They also took out the walls in two of the bedrooms upstairs creating a new master bedroom and a large library. They added a wall to make two upstairs bathrooms. Ruth said that they regretted not moving the attic stairs at that time to make it more accessible. In addition, Grace was constantly papering and painting. In 1932, Wickersham had the furnace and fireplace grate repaired and the fireplace tiles replaced.



The Wickersham State Historic Site

Modifications 1935 to Present

The Wickershams renovated the attic into a rental apartment about 1935. After Wickersham's death, the house was divided into smaller apartments. The library was one rental apartment with a kitchenette against the north wall. Grace lived in her bedroom, with a kitchenette in the southeast corner. Ruth had the northeast bedroom with a plumbed sink in the southeast corner. For a while, even the downstairs and the attic were rented.

In the 1950s-1960s, Ruth's brother, Ralph, enclosed the 7th Street porch and added the extension on the sun porch to better accommodate visitors. He also helped renovate the cupboards in the kitchen. On the west side of the yard Ruth put in the hedge of roses (Sitka and Alaska) along the wire fence.

In 1984, there were white and blue lilacs in the south and east yard according to Ruth. When the house was purchased by the state in 1984, the library, the attic, and the northeast bedroom were rented. Ruth lived in the large front bedroom while the downstairs was used primarily for tours and house management. The downstairs kitchen supported the tours.

Since the house was purchased by the state in 1984, preservation projects prior to 2007 have included the following:

- Installation of a halon fire suppression



Juneau, 2006

- system (now defunct) on the first floor and a sprinkler system on the second and third floors
 - Exterior repainted white
 - Third floor apartment remodeled
 - Handicap accessible ramp to back kitchen door installed
 - Surface mount conduit, switches, and outlets rewired
 - Walls removed and sheetrocked, floors refinished, and radiators installed in the library
 - Main floor sanded and refinished
 - New foundation installed
 - New roof and chimney installed
 - New windows on south face, excluding sun porch, installed
 - New boiler installed
 - Foundation repaired and drain tile installed
- 2007-2008 repairs have included:
- Third floor and second floor extensive renovation including new insulation and vapor barriers in the ceiling and walls, refinished walls and floors, and new wiring, plumbing, and fixtures
 - Hitching ring and the concrete sidewalk removal in 2008 by the City of Juneau—they plan to replace both

4.

HISTORY AND SUMMARY OF THE COLLECTIONS

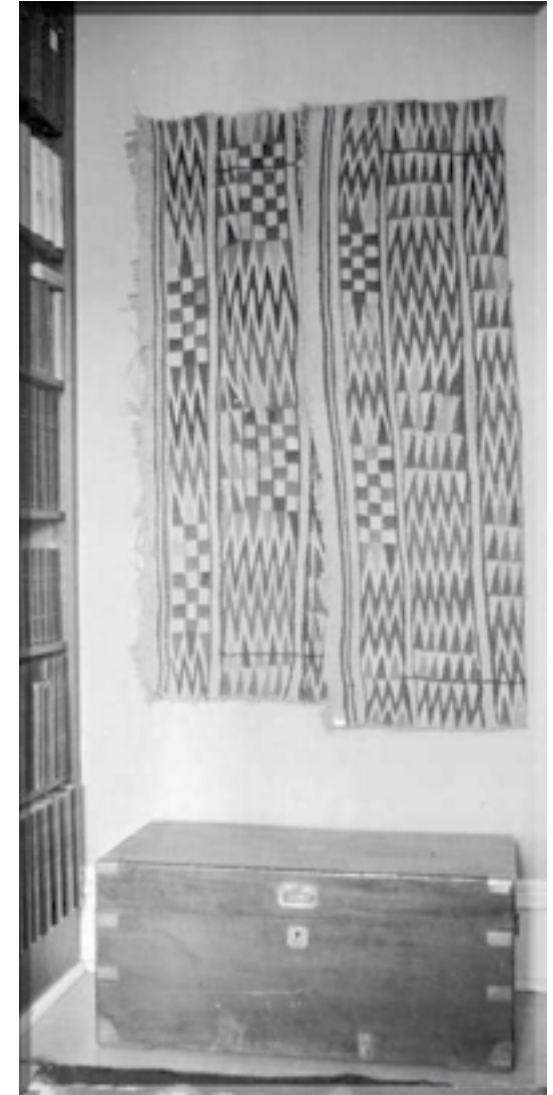
The Wickersham State Historic Site collections are very special. To date, 959 objects that are almost exclusively associated with the house and the occupants have been accessioned into a collection database. This is extremely rare. Generally, historic houses have gone through so many ownerships that the contents have been separated from the house. A list of objects in the collections which have the most relevant interpretive value can be found in Appendix B.

Origin of the Collections

Objects came into the house in several ways. Objects have been documented through historic photographs, Ruth Allman's oral history and taped tour, Wickersham's diaries, notes attached to objects, and interviews with friends and volunteers.

Some furniture was purchased with the house in 1928, as documented by a list of objects found with the deed of purchase. The list, which itemizes the furnishings by room, gives an idea of how the house was furnished when the Wickershams purchased it, and how the house was used by previous owners. For example, a round table, six chairs, two glass oval front china closets, one buffet and a rug are listed in the dining room. A few items are still in the house, such as the electric stove, one of the oval front china closets, the dining room chairs, the double laundry tub, the old vacuum cleaner, and more.

Some extraordinary objects that Wickersham had for many years are well documented. For example, the collection contains three Navaho rugs. One Navaho rug is in a photo of his Fairbanks home, and all three Navaho rugs are seen in 1930s photos in his Juneau home. Plus, he mentions purchasing all three in his diary. A dance paddle given to him by Tlingit Chief Aanyalahaash has a note attached in Wickersham's writing, describing the event. A gold spoon has Felix Pedro's (the man credited with the Fairbanks gold discovery) gold nuggets as the handle. An ivory plaque, purchased by Wickersham from the Captain Daniel Libby family of Western Union Telegraph, is illustrated in *Old Yukon: Tales, Trails, and Trials*. Baskets, ladles, pottery bowls, the Chief Shakes



Salish Robe and chest in the Wickersham State Historic Site

box, the Salish robe, paintings, and more are documented in 1930s photos.

Grace purchased the large Persian rugs, and bedroom furniture (now gone), plus other items in 1928, according to Ruth who helped with the shopping in Seattle.

Grace and Ruth inherited Vrooman and Coffin objects in the late 1950s. This included many of the larger pieces of furniture such as the dining table and chair set, the bedroom set, the secretary, and more. Many of these items are of the correct period to interpret the house.

Grace or Ruth purchased items between 1939 and 1984. Between the 1940s and the 1970s, they purchased furnishings for the apartments that divided the house. Other items were purchased by Grace or Ruth to replace items that had been sold, or new kitchen and serving items for use during Ruth's house tours. Yet other items were gifts to Grace and Ruth, in part because friends were aware of their efforts to "make a go" of the house tours. The large court chair was a gift received after the old courthouse was torn down in the late 1960s.

Display Value

This collection includes framed or matted photographs and a few archival objects. The collection spans Washington and Alaska ethnographic material, furniture, household

items including china, cookware and silver, decorative items, and personal belongings such as clothing, political and fraternal ribbons, cosmetics, and traveling trunks. Manufacture dates range from 1800-1980. Objects were rated as excellent, good, fair, or poor in the "display value" field in the 2005 collection database upgrade.

223 objects are rated as having an "excellent" display value (see Appendix B). These objects are documented as having been owned by Wickersham or Grace in the 1930s and are in good condition. Some of these items are documented in the 1930s interior photographs of the house and should be used in interpretation (see Chapter 6 for recommended placement of objects):

- Ethnographic material including Tlingit, Aleut, Athabaskan, Eskimo and Washington Indian baskets, cribbage boards, ivory watch chains, fobs and necklaces, ivory carvings, pots, tools and weapons, dance paddles, carved staff, a Shakes bowl, the Salish robe, and more.
- Collectibles including souvenir spoons, political/fraternal buttons and pins, Russian calendars, copper pots, and samovars.
- Furnishings including the electric stove, chairs, carpets, tables, desks, china cabinet, radio, chests, trunks and book boxes, sofa, artwork, office equipment



Chairs in the Wickersham State Historic Site



Books in the Wickersham collection

- and supplies, ink wells, fireplace tools, kitchenware, china, silver, and more.
- Personal items include Wickersham's vest, cigar box, canes, shaving mugs, Grace's hats, hat pins, items of clothing, jewelry, cosmetics, and containers.

287 objects have a "good" display value (see Appendix B). These objects may have been used in the house during the Wickershams' occupancy and are interesting, but are not documented. They could contribute to interpretation of the period.

253 objects are "fair" display value. They have a correct manufacture date but are in poor condition, are less interesting or duplicates, or were personal items owned by Debbie that were never used in the house. An example is clothes that might have been worn by Ruth or Grace, but are in poor condition. They could be used in special exhibits.

177 objects are "poor" display value. These appear to be newer than 1939 or in poor condition and not easily used for interpretive projects. Many are small, such as hairpins or hairnets, others are odd, such as the old vacuum cleaner, and some are obviously of recent manufacture. However, some of these objects might be used for an exhibit about Grace Wickersham. Some should be reconsidered and possibly deaccessioned to another museum that has a broader collecting scope.

19 objects are not rated. Architectural features such as lighting fixtures or the fireplace surround are not accessioned or recorded.

Books and Archival Material

There is an extensive collection of books that belonged primarily to Wickersham, plus some that belonged to Grace or Ruth. These are not accessioned, but should be.

Wickersham had an extensive library of Alaska and Northwest Coast books. The majority of Wickersham's Alaska volumes were sold to the Territory of Alaska in 1941, and they are now held by the Alaska State Library, Historical Division. Additional materials, including his diaries, photographs, and miscellaneous papers were also transferred here when the house and collection were purchased in 1984.

The collections at the Alaska State Library, Historical Division are not all available online, but the finding aid indicates a number of interesting ephemera that should be digitized, such as steamship and train tickets. The finding aid for PCA277 and MS107 can be seen at http://library.state.ak.us/hist/online_resources/collections01.cfm. The diaries have been digitized and are available on line at <http://vilda.alaska.edu>.

There remains in the house over 100 boxes of the Wickersham's books including 300 Congressional Records, about 200 Federal

Reporters, 40 Congressional Globes, Alaska Law Reports (which he edited), 100 legal books, and Alaskana, many with Wickersham's book plate, signature, or numbering system. There are enough books, pamphlets, and papers to make his library look almost as it did in the 1930s. There is one box of 35+ books, many that date to pre-1939, which belonged to Grace or Ruth, that includes cookbooks, genealogy books, novels, and Alaskana. There are also post-1939 books and clippings that belonged to Ruth and Jack Allman. Other materials assembled by the Wickersham Society are excellent reference materials.

Collection Management 1984 – 2008

The collection was appraised in 1983. In 1984, the objects on that appraisal list were accessioned. However, there were additional objects not on the list of historical value. Substitutions and additions were made with 654 objects accessioned in 1984 (1984.01). This totaled about 50-100 more than on the initial appraisal list. These items were photographed in black and white, and contact prints were affixed to 4 x 6" object cards. The object record was typed onto an 8 ½ x 11" form, duplicated, and put in 3-ring binders. At the same time, an itemized list was made of the archival material. Most of the unique, historically valuable, archival material was transferred to the Alaska State Library, Historical Division.

In 1987, a museum volunteer accessioned an additional 115 objects (1987.01). In 2004, the collection records were entered into a museum software database. The collections were inventoried, new color photographs taken, missing numbers reapplied, missing records rewritten, missing objects documented, records updated with additional information, the collections packed into storage boxes pending house restoration, and a final report written. An additional 187 objects were identified that were accessioned in 2005 into the collections database (1984.02), plus the only object which has been donated to the collection, a bible (2002.01), which belonged to Susan Deborah Bell and Darrell Wickersham. The 1984 object cards and records have been retained. The object cards, with their 25-year old photographs, should be retained indefinitely.

An object has been found! The original kitchen stove from 1928 (used on the third floor in the 1980s) was discovered walled in the eaves during renovation.

The 2004 inventory revealed that 13 of the 654 objects accessioned in 1984, plus 14 of the 115 objects accessioned in 1987 were lost. Over this 20-year period, objects were lost by theft, breakage, accidental loss, and loans that were not tracked. The reason they were lost is the same: the lack of professional, paid oversight of the collection. In addition to loss of objects, deterioration of some objects was documented in 2004. Comparing the photographs from 1984 with those from 2004 shows the damage many historical objects suffered from excessive use. Accessioned historical objects were used as serving pieces at receptions, and inappropriate cleaning by dedicated yet untrained volunteer staff caused wear, corrosion, and deterioration. Visitors and volunteer staff used the historic furniture, causing wear and tear of the upholstery and damage of the wood surfaces.

Since 2006, there has been construction on the second and third floors. The walls and ceilings have been stripped and sheet rocked, some walls removed, new historic-style brass lighting and new plumbing fixtures installed, and the floors partially restored. To accommodate occasional visitors, furniture was moved out of storage from the parlor and placed in the first floor rooms and the small storage room. Non-collection items are now stored in the library designated for collection storage.



Items in the Wickersham State Historic Site collection

Other Wickersham Collections

Objects that belonged to Wickersham can also be found in the Alaska State Museum, the University of Alaska Museum, the Burke Museum, and the Washington State Historical Museum, among others.

When security and operations of the Wickersham State Historic Site are finalized, attempts should be made to borrow on extended loan several items in the Alaska State Museum. These include his top hat (III-O-491), the gold nugget watch and chain given to him in 1908 (III-O-216), the painting of Seward that Wickersham found in Washington D.C. (V-A-145), and a Chilkat blanket (II-B-1841). A reproduction of a 1916 ballot with “Wickersham for Delegate to Congress” (2002.21.1), housed at the Alaska State Museum, and an 1884 political flyer, found at the Washington State Historical Society, (1903.1.52) should be digitized for the exhibit collections.

The Tanana-Yukon Historical Society preserved Wickersham’s Fairbanks house, which was built in 1904. It is now a house museum, listed on the National Register of Historic Places. In Eagle, the Eagle Historical Society preserved the two-story courthouse and jail that Wickersham had built in 1901. The courtroom is interpreted with many of the original furnishings. The Wickersham’s log cabin, built in 1900 in Eagle, is also still standing as a private residence, with its logs now sheathed in wood siding.



The Wickersham’s Fairbanks house



The interior of the Wickersham’s Eagle cabin



The Wickersham’s log cabin in Eagle

5.

INTERPRETIVE THEMES

The Wickersham State Historic Site and collections provide the opportunity to tell the story of James Wickersham, Alaska's territorial history, and Alaskan architecture from 1900 to 1939. The interpretive themes listed on the following pages provide guidelines for program content, development, and presentation. The themes offer the visitor a comprehensive understanding of Wickersham's involvement in, and contributions to, Alaska's territorial history.

The following themes and theme statements provide the basis for interpretation and offer direction to designers, planners, managers, and partners. The central theme provides the basic context to interpret and understand the sub-themes.

Central Theme

The Wickersham State Historic Site offers a chance to step back in time and drink in the history of Alaska's territorial days as seen through the eyes of James Wickersham, a man who made a deep and varied impact on Alaska's heritage through his involvement in politics, government, commerce, literature, history, and philosophy.

Sub-Themes

Setting the Stage: James Wickersham was the product of a modest, Midwest family. He was influenced by the work ethic and humble beginnings of his parents and Illinois' favorite son, Abraham Lincoln. He married and followed the American dream west to Washington territory where his legal, political, and scholarly activities and his adventuresome nature made him the perfect candidate to mold Alaska's future.

Pioneer Jurist and Lawyer: Wickersham's judicial appointment was physically and mentally difficult. He gained a reputation for fairness and hard work, crucial to his goal of establishing a respected judicial system for Alaska, fraught by corruption and outside interests. He established methods for the legal system in Alaska, and precedents for future legal proceedings. He heard over 1,400

“Interpretation is a communication process that forges emotional and intellectual connections between the interests of the audience and the inherent meanings of the resource.”

-Brochu, 2005

cases in his eight years on the bench as a District Judge of the Third Judicial District, with temporary appointments to the Second and First Judicial Districts.

Adventuresome Spirit: Wickersham was an adventurer. Westward travel, Olympic Peninsula hikes, and Mt. Rainer climbs prepared him for the physical challenges in Alaska. A typical court circuit might take 45 days to complete by dog team in the middle of winter. Travel to, from, and around Alaska was always uncertain. He embraced adventure, building his own homes, creating courthouses, serving on floating courts, helping to establish and living in booming mining towns, taking his 1902 Nome-Teller pack ice trip, and attempting to ascend Mt. McKinley.

Delegate to Congress: Wickersham was the consummate politician but not a diplomat. He was strongly opinionated on what was best for the people of Alaska, and for its future as a state. Home rule and equal status for Alaska were his goals, and he was willing to move between political parties to achieve these goals. He survived seven campaigns and served seven terms as Alaska's sole, and non-voting, delegate to Congress. He is responsible for bills that created an elected territorial legislature with home rule, the Alaska Railroad, the University of Alaska, and Denali National Park and Preserve. His political opinions and influence were dominant from as early as

1902 through the late 1930s. Submitting the first statehood bill in 1916, he set the stepping-stones for Alaska's statehood.

Scholar: A lifelong writer, bibliographer, researcher, and ethnologist, Wickersham's scholarly contributions influenced the period, while preserving and providing documentation of Alaska's history. His library, documents, and photographs are preserved in the Alaska State Library, Historical Division, as well as other libraries and collections.

Architecture: Wickersham State Historic Site is a turn of the century residence typical of Juneau and Alaska. The house was owned by Juneau mining interests until purchased by Wickersham. Renovations in 1928 were influenced by the growing community and by Wickersham's desire to create an elegant, yet comfortable home.

Interior Design: The restored interior of the home reflects Wickersham's occupancy of 1928 to 1939. The Wickershams were older and not wealthy, and this was the period of the great depression. Thus, the interior design has more of a feeling of the 1920s than the 1930s. It also reflects the scholarly interests of a 40-year Alaskan.

Home Life—Alaska Style: The Wickershams lived a typical urban home life of influential, but not wealthy, Alaskans. The home interprets furnishings, technology, entertainment, housekeeping, and the general lifestyle of the 1930s.

“Interpretation is a part of how we manage and understand our heritage...And if they appreciate it, people may support efforts to conserve or protect the place...Interpretation not only tells people what is interesting about a place, it aims to convince people of its value, and encourage them to want to conserve it.”

-Carter, 2001

6.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Introduction

This section is intended to help make decisions related to historical documentation, house rehabilitation, access, furnishings and object placement, prop furnishings, security, and interpretation. Recommendations draw from professional experience with the Wickersham State Historic Site, familiarity with the collections and the Wickersham's lifestyle, and from other historic house museums and professional practices of house museums. Recommendations, when implemented, will reach out to a broader audience by employing interpretive techniques, while helping visitors make their own connections with the meanings and significance of the Wickersham State Historic Site. It is important to recognize these recommendations are only suggestions and should not in any way limit the creativity essential to the implementation process. On the other hand, suggestions will be specific enough to provide meaningful guidelines and define parameters.

Recommendations in this chapter are organized by the following categories:

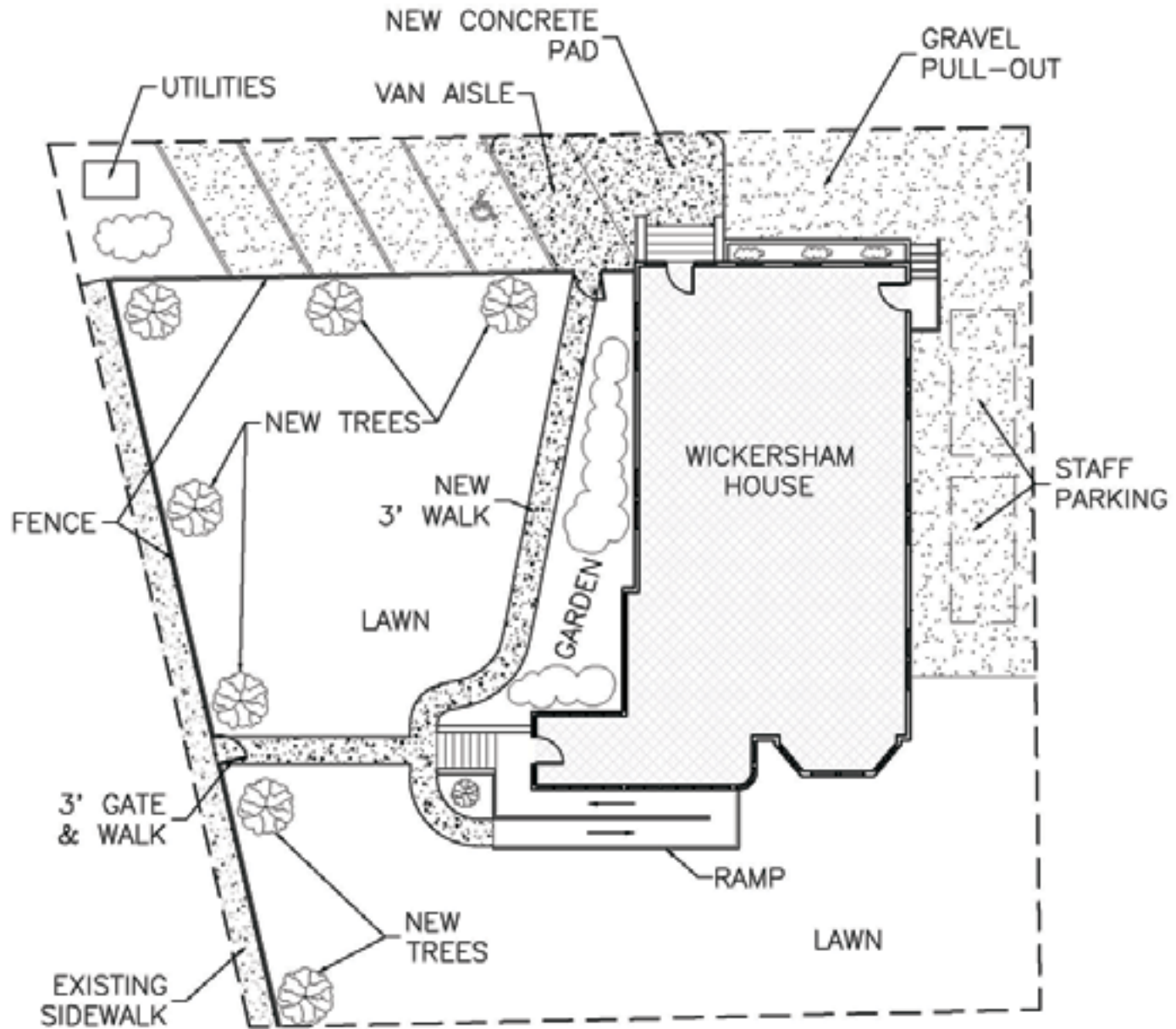
- Historical Documentation
- Exterior and Interior Rehabilitation
- Public Access and Staff Use
- Furnishings and Object Placement
- Prop Furnishings
- Security
- Interpretation

It is suggested that implementation priorities flow in the order presented by the categories in this plan. However, this flow should only be used as a guideline for implementation—the projects may be implemented in any order at any time. Site and floor plans show visitor flow patterns, public and support areas, plus locations of major objects and interpretive devices.



James Wickersham

Figure 1. Wickersham State Historic Site Outdoor Site Plan



Historical Documentation

Historical documentation includes samples of original wall or floor coverings or photographs to collect documentary evidence of the house. Typical items should include wall and ceiling paper and paint, floor coverings, window treatments and textiles, and architectural details such as electrical and plumbing fixtures, wood trim details, hooks, and evidence of renovation or old placement of cabinets, fixtures, wiring, and renovation. General historical documentation recommendations include the following actions:

- Linoleum: Samples should be as large as possible, preserving an entire room when possible. This will allow for potential reuse and preserve repeating patterns.
- Window treatment: Photographs should be taken of the corners of window trim for evidence of curtain rod attachment.
- Paint: Samples of exterior and interior paint from all rooms should be taken and analyzed by an expert to determine the 1930s paint colors. Definition, instructions, and links about paint analysis can be found at wikipedia.org/wiki/Historic_paint_analysis.
- Wall and ceiling paper: All paper analysis must follow current best practices. It should be determined if in-place preservation of paper is possible prior to any destruction. Samples of wall/ceiling paper should be preserved in about 1"x1"

squares from three wall locations in each room. These should be taken from about 3' high, 5' high, and about 8' high in order to document repeat patterns in the paper, wall/ceiling borders, and other potential paper change areas. Three samples of each paper should be taken: one to be soaked or steamed apart for immediate study, one to be preserved for future steaming in case the first one is ruined, and one to be preserved (to be separated by the next generation). Label each document by room, wall (NESW), and location on wall (or ceiling or floor). The Office of History and Archaeology took samples in 2002. These samples may sufficiently document the paper in many rooms.

- Photographs: Each wall should be photographed to show the current condition, plus details of the walls, ceiling, fixtures, and evidence of past fixtures.

Exterior Rehabilitation

In consultation with a preservation specialist and a landscape architect, the exterior of the house and the grounds should be rehabilitated through the 1912 renovation plans, 1930s photographs, and Ruth Allman's transcribed 1984 oral history. These resources include recommendations regarding the fence, trees, landscaping, flowers, use of the grounds, tones of the exterior paint (in the black and white photos), historic porch

details, and the hitching ring in the west sidewalk. Further site planning is needed that considers the architecture of the house while balancing preservation of historic values with reduction of visual impacts. See Fig. 1 for a conceptual outdoor site plan which details the following recommendations:

- The ramp location and design should be reevaluated. The location and design must meet the guidance established in Preservation Brief #32.
- Landscaping should include new 3' wide accessible concrete walks with 1' gridded surface to replace the existing narrow walks, which may date to the 1930s, in appropriate locations. The lawn should be improved and the west garden by the house replanted (see Fig. 1). A narrow raised bed should be added to the north side to soften this often-photographed frontage and planted with shade friendly plants, perhaps wild goat's beard with old-fashioned primroses.
- Gravel or paved diagonal parking for four vehicles should be installed on the 7th Street grounds frontage.
- The cottonwood trees should be removed due to age and replaced with new trees, as large as can be afforded. Grace liked mountain ash and English hawthorne.
- A wire fence with two 3' gates should be installed, primarily to protect the new trees. This fence should be a replica of the 1930s

fence. It should be 17' from 7th Street to allow for diagonal parking.

- The house exterior should be painted in historic colors as determined by an historic paint expert.

Interior Rehabilitation

In consultation with a preservation specialist, interior rehabilitation will result in the house looking as similar as possible to the way it did in the 1930s. Rehabilitation components include walls, ceilings, floors, doors, windows and hardware, electrical and lighting, and plumbing and heating. Let the tastes of the Wickershams guide implementation decisions. The Wickershams were conservative and elegant in their tastes, yet they wanted to modernize their home. They were not wealthy. Grace liked blue (a dark turquoise/teal) and browns. When choosing wallpaper or re-upholstery, match from this color palette. In her bedroom, Grace liked smaller floral patterns, often with a vertical stripe. Photographs of bedrooms papers were taken in 2005. Instead of reupholstering, use a slipcover. Grace might have chosen a light blue grey stripe.

Architectural details that were potentially in the house during the 1930s should be identified. A historic architect sensitive to historical preservation should look at the structural components and advise on how these recommendations could be achieved. General

rehabilitation recommendations include the following actions:

- Throughout the house, replace electrical plates, switches, and receptacles with original designs, probably dark plastic or metal, often with push buttons. Use a twisted cord for hanging lights where appropriate and feasible.

Remove all surface mounted conduits. Install concealed conduits in the walls when the walls are opened for insulation. This may only be done when preservation of the lathe plaster is determined as not feasible. Preserving the lathe and plaster is a priority. Save all fixtures in a safe place for reinstallation.

Demolish the first floor storage room walls to return the space to being the front hall, with public access from the sun porch to the dining room. If possible, preserve the 1940s wallpaper to patch the sidewalls.

- Walls/ceilings: Remove existing wall and ceiling papers (after taking paper samples), preserving the 1930s fixtures. Appropriately insulate areas following the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Rehabilitation of Historic Properties. Maintaining the lathe and plaster is a priority. Repair should be undertaken where possible and feasible. Sheetrocking should only be considered as a last resort. All walls and ceilings

should be papered, except for the kitchen wainscoting, and perhaps the ceiling, and the sun porch walls and ceilings, which should be painted with enamel paint.

- Historic wallpapers: Apply wall and ceiling papers that are reproductions of, or similar in style to, Grace's taste, as documented by the original 1930s papers. Use a manufacturer that documents historic paper, like Bradbury and Bradbury.
- Electrical wiring: Replace all the modern (1940s and later) surface mount conduits and switches with concealed conduit wiring (retaining 1930s and earlier fixtures, switches, wiring, etc.). Leave some of the twisted electrical wiring exposed for historical interpretation. Wire electrical switches to operate the chandeliers instead of the individual pull chains (only if sheetrocking is determined necessary). Retain the floor outlets.
- Lighting: Emergency lights should be wired into the ceiling lights instead of separate fixtures. Use energy-efficient screw-in fluorescent lights wherever possible.
- Remove the defunct Halon tank and plumbing.
- Rehabilitate the wood trim and doors on the main floor, except the kitchen, bathroom, sun porch, and the back hall and stairs, which should be painted.

Current preservation best practices must be used.

- Floors: The fir floors, which were installed over the old floors at some point, should be rehabilitated (see 1930s photos). The floor under the radiators should be infilled. The main stairs and balustrade to the second floor should also be rehabilitated as the stairs will be observed, but not used, by visitors after this phase is completed. A complete condition assessment should be completed for the sun porch.
- Storm windows containing low-profile sealed insulating glass that is UV and low-e coated and that meets the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for rehabilitation should be installed on all the first and second floor windows. This will reduce heating costs, condensation on the insides of the windows, and light degradation to the window trim and objects inside the house. Installation of these windows on the third floor will help keep heating costs down.
- All radiators and exposed pipes should be prepped and painted a dull silver or gold metallic paint per Ruth Allman. Choose the same color for all of the main floor rooms that will go best with the wallpaper—probably a dull gold.

The bathroom could be silver.

- Restore and reuse sinks, faucets, switches, hardware, etc. whenever possible to ensure historical accuracy.
- Do not enhance history. Replacing an old historic light fixture with one that looks nicer or older is recreating history. This is inappropriate. The Wickershams lived in the house in the 1930s and would have tried to update the old Victorian interior, not preserve it. Purchase replacements when necessary from an architectural renovation supply house.

Specific room rehabilitation recommendations include the following actions:

Vestibule Rehabilitation

- Repaint the entry walls and ceiling appropriate colors as determined by paint samples.
- Install a reproduction light globe and doorbell.

Reception Entry Rehabilitation

- Remove the 1950s/60s radiator. Do not replace.
- Install a floor baseboard after removing the radiator.
- Restore the ceiling light and retain.
- Retain the metal switch plate.

Dining Room Rehabilitation

- The Windsor secretary, dining table, and dining chairs need restoration.
- Exchange the new chandelier in the upstairs bathroom with the dining room chandelier from the Zynda Hotel installed after 1939. The original dining room light matched the others downstairs.

Bathroom/Kitchen Hall Rehabilitation

- Replace the ceiling light and the electrical conduit.
- Add a period electrical switch and plate.
- Restore the door to swing both ways. Prop it open during open hours.
- After refinishing, paper or paint the ceiling, wood door, and floor trim.
- Carefully remove the lower board with hooks. Keep the hooks for the sun porch. Gently pry up the white board, if possible, to see if the paper underneath is in good shape. If it can be taken off, take it off, otherwise, paint the board the same color as the trim.
- Stabilize the Chinese wallpaper by adhering loose areas and tinting loss areas. Replace it if research shows it is too new.
- Refinish the floor.

Living Room Rehabilitation

- Follow the general restoration guidelines detailed for the house.
- Clean the tiles and grout around the chimney using current preservation best practices.
- Clean and inspect the chandelier for safety.
- The unaccessioned rocking chair needs re-upholstery, both lamps need wiring and shades, and the photos need framing.

Downstairs Bathroom Rehabilitation

- Remove the surface mounted conduit, new outlet, and ceiling light. Patch the tiles. Install a 1930s ceiling light. There is no need for an outlet. Use a 1930s switch plate.
- Remove the cabinet over the toilet and patch the walls.
- Restore the hand towel rack. Move it to a more useful location or to the end of tub. Install an old-style toilet paper holder.
- Replace the chrome bars with legitimate handicap bars. If the one in back is not required by code, remove it.
- Repaint the outside of the tub (see ends). Send the sink and faucets out for restoration.
- Remove the modern toilet and replace it with a 17" accessible toilet, mounted tight to the back wall to allow for more space

in front.

- Prepare the walls above the tiles and wallpaper with a light, soft-patterned historic wallpaper. The ceiling may be painted.
- Research the color of the wood trim and prep and paint it and the medicine cabinet.
- Leave the door to swing as is for accessibility. Patch the door trim.

Parlor Rehabilitation

- Install a brown Bakelite or metal electrical switch plates instead of a chandelier pull cord.

Front Hall and Stairs Rehabilitation

- Remove the storage room walls, creating a hall entrance.
- Remove the 1940-50s baseboard heaters, and install a new baseboard as needed. If needed, install a radiator where historically indicated.
- Remove the Halon tank and use the closet under the stairs for museum storage.
- Salvage the north and east wallpaper for the east wall. If not salvageable, use the striped downstairs wallpaper or a similar historic floral.
- Retain the original wallpaper on the south

and west walls. Conserve as needed.

- Restore the front door and associated hardware: doorbell, transom, and round light switch.
- Do not use a window treatment on the door or stair windows.
- Refinish the window, door, picture rail, and floor trim. Add a picture rail in the hall.
- Install a blue/maroon oriental carpet runner up the stairs. Use a carpet patterned linoleum on the floor (see original sample) or a new Oriental carpet runner.
- Restore the pendant light at the stair railing and replace the broken shade. Another similar light should be installed at the north end of the hall.

Sun Porch Rehabilitation

- The sun porch extension should be retained. The wood on the sun porch and the stairs should be evaluated and an appropriate preservation treatment identified. The historic color of the exterior of the house should be determined.
- Remove shelves from all walls except the north original porch.
- Remove and dispose of the green nylon floor covering.
- Install a new floor in the north end,

ramping up to the door to provide an accessible entry into the house through this door.

- Do not remove old twisted electrical wire above the base board.
- Determine appropriate flooring that meets the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation.
- Place a new oval braided walk-off mat at the outside and main door. Put a jute mat outside.
- Paint the interior walls the original yellow/ecru matte enamel color (see ceiling).
- Remove hooks, name holders, etc. For visitor use, install about 10 old coat hooks on a painted board on the east wall of the original porch.
- Replace the surface mounted electrical outlets and reinstall existing lighting, period switches, plates, and outlets. At minimum, there should be an outlet at the east and north ends of the porch.

Kitchen Rehabilitation

- Remove and dispose of the refrigerator, stove, dishwasher, and modern sink unit under the east window.
- Remove the vinyl flooring. There may be 1928 linoleum under a subfloor. Purchase a 1920-30s linoleum rug and put it over the painted wood floor.

This rug should cover all but 1-2 feet around the edges, stopping at the barricade. Check old linoleum at www.secondhandrose.com. Old linoleum is expensive, but has a huge impact on authenticity.

- Prep and paint the chimney brick with an off-white enamel or match the trim.
- Prep and paint the wainscoting, window, doors, door trim, and east wall shelving.
- Paper and repaint as appropriate. Paint the ceiling.
- Replace the modern surface mount electrical with ivory or brown Bakelite flush-mounted electrical switches and outlet plates.
- In addition to the three brass wall fixtures, add a 1930s period ceiling light.
- Research window curtains, checking out ruffled Marquisette in white or pale blue across the top. No shades are required in this room.
- Restore, prep, and repaint cupboards. Remove the bottom drawer unit of the north cupboard, which was later added by Ruth. Line the shelves of cupboards with oilcloth that coordinates with the wallpaper. Replace the yellow linoleum countertop with zinc sheet, per Ruth.
- Paint the pantry and line the shelves with oilcloth. Fill with reproduction foodstuffs.

7th Street Back Entry/Hall Rehabilitation

- This area is not open to the public, but it should be significantly cleaned up and maintained. Keep the NE corner cupboard and the west wall cupboards. Line the shelves with oilcloth. Use them for house operation and storage.
- Restore, if possible, the period linoleum under the carpet. If it is too deteriorated, retain a large (3'x 4' or larger) sample and replace with linoleum.
- Put a mat inside and outside the door.
- Use the downstairs space for storing garbage (unless changing to an outdoor "bear tote"), recycle bins, house operation paper products, new security equipment, and seasonal grounds supplies. Museum exhibit/ collection management supplies may be stored on the top landing.
- Remove mailboxes, pegboard, etc.
- Prep and paint the area dusty pink and Grace blue.
- Keep the same or similar curtains in the windows.
- If research reveals appearance, put a sign in the window that says "25," which was how they told the iceman they wanted a 25-pound chunk of ice delivered.

Front Upstairs Hall and Stairs Landing Rehabilitation

The following actions should take place if and when the second floor becomes open to the public:

- Prep and varnish the doors, baseboards, and trim in the hallway. The door to the north back hall should be a locking operable door that divides public space from museum office and storage space.
- Either change out the glass door to the third floor or install a historic gathered fabric.
- Extend the carpet stair runner up the hall, ending in front of the bathroom door (originally, this was an Oriental rug runner (1984.01.517)).
- Install concealed electrical wiring with period switches, plates, and brass ceiling fixtures.

Upstairs Bathroom Rehabilitation

The following actions should take place if and when the second floor becomes open to the public:

- Install a white and blue tile-patterned oilcloth around the lower half of walls. If this pattern cannot be found, purchase a white oilcloth and stencil or paint pale

blue rectangular tile lines. A sample of this cloth is in the files.

- One wallpaper in this room was blue with gold stars. A sample is in the files.
- The ceiling may have been papered, or painted with a white enamel paint like the 2-3" white enamel painted trim which was between the oilcloth and the wallpaper. Match with the first floor bathroom.
- Purchase and install a toilet paper dispenser. Purchase and install towel bars by the tub and the sink (consider moving the towel bar from downstairs), a toothbrush holder, a shower attachment, a glass shelf over sink, and a white porcelain or metal door hook (see page 1010 of the 1927 Sears Roebuck Catalog. A reproduction can be purchased from ABE Books, Amazon, or Ebay).
- Rehabilitate the outside of the bathroom doors using current best practices; paint the inside of both bathroom doors.
- Stain and varnish the fir floor and put in the linoleum that was salvaged from the hall outside.

Bedroom Rehabilitation

The following actions should take place if and when the second floor becomes open to the public:

- East wall NE: Purchase an Art Deco wardrobe for this location.
- Refinish floors similar to the rest of house. Repaint the wood trim off white.
- Remove exposed pipes, per historic photos.
- Reinstall the radiator under the main windows, per historic photos.
- Paper the walls with a small print and striped floral, white-patterned ceiling paper, and a floral horizontal band at the door height.
- Install dotted Swiss shear swags with ruffles and roller shades.
- Keep the floor bare, but add small area rugs.
- Restore the dressing table, mirror, chair, and ottoman.

Wickersham's Library Rehabilitation

The following actions should take place if and when the second floor becomes open to the public:

- Install plain light wallpaper on walls and ceiling.
- Paint wood window, door, and floor trim off-white.
- Refinish floors with a dark stain.
- Paint the radiators and exposed pipes silver.
- Line the north and west walls with

varnished fir bookshelves (see Fig. 2).

- Install ecru or linen-colored roller shades, no curtains.
- Exchange the dining room chandelier with the new brass one currently in the library. Wickersham had a square leaded glass shade in this location.
- Repair and stabilize the desk and refinish the glass bookshelf, which should be painted white.

Upstairs Back Hall, Bedroom, and Bathroom Rehabilitation

It is recommended that this area be used as the museum office, preparation, and storage. The bathroom could be a multipurpose restroom and prep/lab area. The bedroom and hall could be an office and primary collection storage. Third floor occupants should access it by the front main stairs, not through the office and back stairs.

- Rehabilitate the floors using current best practices or cover with linoleum.
- Paint the doors and trim in a historic off-white like the rest of the second floor (except the hall).
- Install telephones, network ports, electrical outlets, and energy-efficient fluorescent lights.

Public Access and Staff Use

Public Access

- The sun porch should be considered for the main entrance since this is how it was used when the Wickershams lived here.
- The 7th street entrance was for special occasions, installed because 7th Street was new at the time.
- The sun porch could be a visitor walk-off and waiting area before entering the house and a place to serve and eat food and drinks.
- The northern portion of the porch could be a place to hang wet umbrellas, coats, shopping bags, and back packs.
- Before the sun porch can be used as the main entrance it will need to be rehabilitated to stabilized.

Staff Use

- An intern or volunteer may be housed in the upstairs front bedroom, accessed by the front or back stairs. They may entertain and live in their quarters, the kitchen, or the sun porch only. All their guests should be escorted to and from the door.
- Caretakers may occupy the top floor, with access through either set of stairs. They may entertain and live in the third

floor, kitchen, and sun porch only. All guests should be escorted to and from the door.

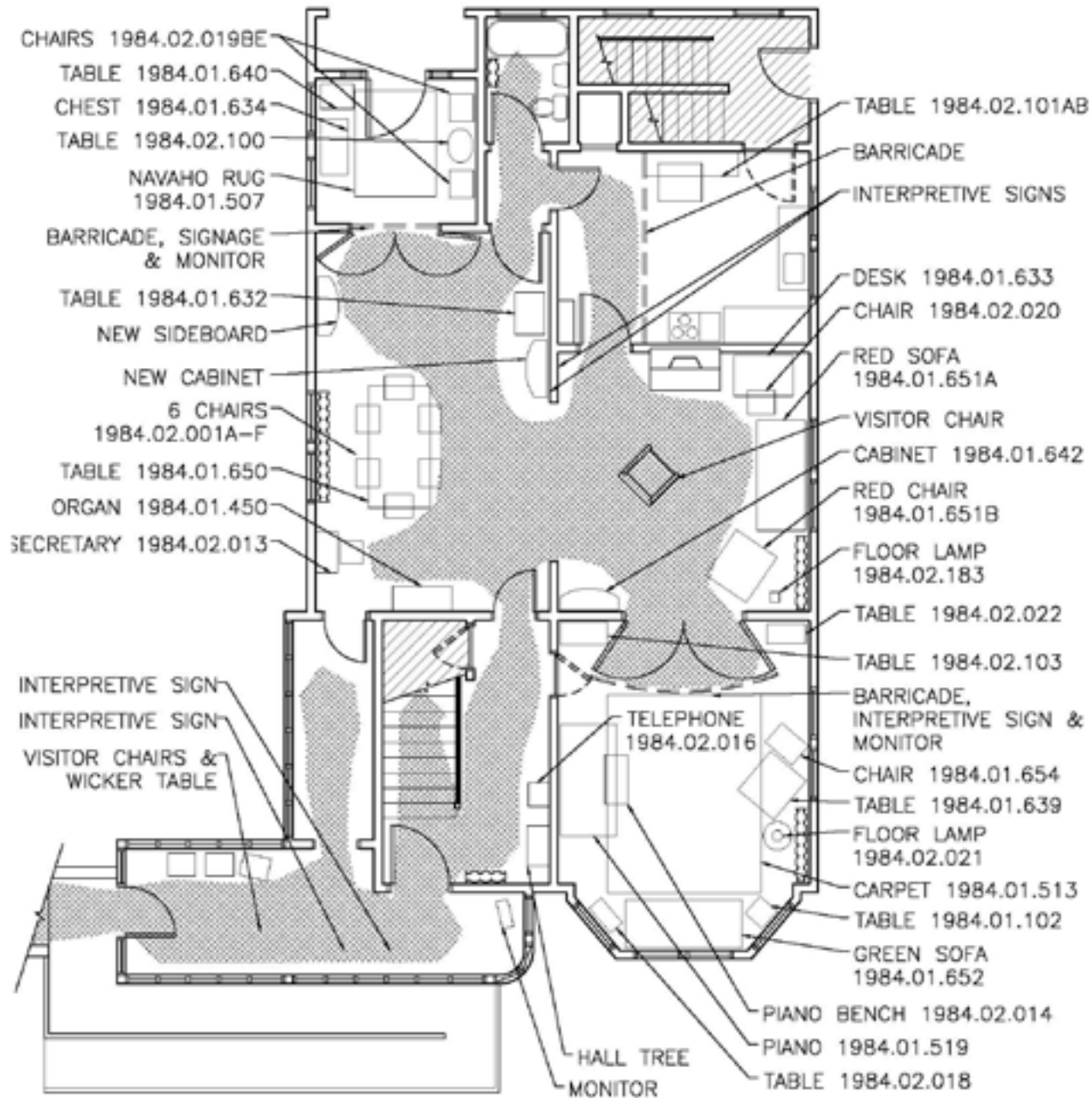
- The upstairs back bedroom should be the museum office. Until collection storage is added in this area, the library will be the secure collections storage.

Furnishings and Object Placement

This section is a room-by-room description of furnishing and object placement needs. Included is a list of items recommended to furnish each room, identified by accession number. First and second floor site plans show rooms open to the public, placement of larger furniture, and visitor flow (see Figs 1 & 2). A security system for intrusion should be installed prior to placement of furnishings and objects.

Furnishings include moveable furniture, household and personal items, floor and window coverings, and prop furniture. Furnishings were selected to make the rooms look appropriate for the 1930s, offer interpretive opportunities, and be secure from loss or damage. Objects refer to materials in the Wickersham Collection. Objects were selected based on historical presence in the house, correct period, the object's condition, and their interpretive potential.

Figure 2. Wickersham State Historic Site First Floor Site Plan



Previous historical documentation activities assisted in furniture placement recommendations: Ruth Allman's videotaped tour, her 1984 object-by-object interviews, and a transcribed interview helped ascertain where furnishings and objects were historically located. Also researched was the "notes" field in the data base object records, 1984 photographs, 1930s photographs, the 1912 floor plan, the 1928 list of furnishings purchased with the house, Wickersham's diaries, and historical evidence in the house.

Vestibule Furnishings and Objects

- Lay down a new jute mat

Reception Entry Furnishings and Objects

- If the reception entry room is used as an interactive room (see interpretive recommendations section) instead of following the below recommendations, furnish it with prop furniture and chairs, and place hands-on items there.
- Place a Navaho rug (1984.01.507) on the floor.
- West wall: Put the red Chinese/Russian tea chest (1984.01.634) with a samovar (1984.01.559) on a key hole tray (1984.01.546).
- East wall: Place an oval table



Christmas dinner in the dining room: 1934 or 1935, ASL-P277-019-039, Note wallpaper, windows, pipes, and chair

here (1984.02.100) and set a vase (1984.01.433) of artificial African violets on top. Set prop calling cards on a brass tray (1984.01.556), flanked by lyre back chairs (1982.02.019b&e). Hang icons (1984.01.523 and 1984.01.525) on the wall over the table.

- NW Wall: Put a table (1984.01.640) with a copper/brass pitcher (1984.01.098) housing seasonal artificial flowers. Set a copper umbrella stand near (1984.01.545) with four canes inside (1984.01.055, 1984.01.056, 1984.01.057, and 1984.01.058).

Dining Room Furnishings and Objects

- Center a table (1984.01.650) with 6 oak chairs (1984.02.001a-f) under the ceiling light. Set a tablecloth (1984.02.104 or 1984.01.114) on the table. On the tablecloth, set a candelabrum (1984.092ab) with white tapers and a glass bowl (1984.02.146 or 1984.02.113) containing artificial fruit.
- NW wall: Put the china cabinet (1984.01.642) containing china, silver and glassware (1984.01.133, 1984.01.145, 1984.01.047, 1984.01.101,

- 1984.01.109ab, 1984.01.119, 1984.01.094, 1984.01.140, 1984.01.136, 1984.01.098, 1984.01.403abc, 1984.01.427, 1984.01.416ab, 1984.01.085, 1984.01.142ab, 1984.01.141ab, 1984.01.149, 1984.01.137, 1984.01.429, 1984.01.422, 1984.01.098, 1984.01.099, 1984.01.082ab, 1984.01.130ag, 1984.01.145a-m, and if room, 1984.02.191). On the plate rail, also set china, silver and glassware (1984.01.408, 1984.01.434, 1984.01.435, 1984.01.409, 1984.01.436, 1984.01.405, 1984.01.406ab, 1984.01.430ab, 1984.01.426ab, 1984.01.148ab, 1984.02.147, and 1984.02.148).
- Construct two 1' x 2' vertical spoon display racks out of acid-free board, with locking hinged oak framed glass covers and spaces for 40 various sized spoons. These should flank the china cabinet. Inside the display racks, set items (1984.01.073, 1984.01.074, 1984.01.075, 1984.01.078ab, 1984.01.118a-o, 1984.01.119a-e, 1984.01.120ab, 1984.01.122abefgjkl, 1984.01.123a-d, 1984.01.124b-g, 1984.01.125, and 1984.01.354).
 - West wall, south of windows: Set the Winthrop secretary (1984.02.013) and prop a chair for staff. As this item does not have a Wickersham history, the drawers and the desk surface

may be gently used for daily reception needs. A laptop could be set up and work accomplished during slow hours. In the locked upper cabinet of the secretary, in the bottom shelf, set 6-12 of the best Alaskan books (Beach, Noonan, Schwatka, etc.) and a bookend (1984.01.296). On the second shelf, put overflow material from the south wall case. Hang the photo of a baby in a carrier (1984.02) south of the secretary.

- South wall: Put the existing tall modern display case with baskets and ethnographic material inside. Ethnographic material should move to the second floor if and when the second floor opens to the public. Put the following items in the display case:
 - Pacific NW baskets (1984.01.046, 1984.01.047, 1984.01.048, 1984.01.049, 1984.01.050, and 1984.01.037), and a knife sheath (1984.01.472ab).
 - Aleut baskets (1984.01.008-13) and Russian calendar (1984.01.345 and/or 1984.01.346).
 - Eskimo basket (1984.01.058), bowl (1984.01.226), cribbage boards (1984.01.206 and 1984.01.207), ashtray (1984.01.164), letter knife (1984.01.185), watch chains (1984.01.212, 1984.01.214, and/or 1984.01.215), snow goggles

(1984.01.340), kayak model (1984.01.456), harpoon heads (1984.01.245 and 1984.01.329), and ivory plaque (1984.01.211).

- Athabaskan basket (1984.01.002) and pennants (1984.01.473 and 1984.01.474).
- Tlingit/Haida & Tsimshian items (1984.01.018, 1984.01.019, 1984.01.034, 1984.01.038, 1984.01.043, 1984.01.042, 1984.01.036, 1984.01.020, 1984.01.027, 1984.01.021, 1984.01.024, 1984.01.026, 1984.01.025, 1984.01.028, and 1984.01.296), bowls (1984.01.252, 1984.01.259, and 1984.01.275), totem poles (1984.01.622ab, 1984.01.628, and 1984.01.621), candlestick (1984.01.619), earrings (1984.01.478), cane (1984.01.281), box (1984.01.251), trade beads (1984.01.217, 1984.01.495, 1984.01.489, 1984.01.490, and 1984.01.492), paddles (1984.01.288, 1984.01.290, and 1984.01.289), pendant (1984.01.095), and spoon (1984.01.497).

If not all the above items fit, don't use several of the largest baskets and/or the less stable totem poles, and/or move the trade beads to the secretary. Arrange items by origin, as listed

above, with old-style typewritten 1"x 3" off-white cardstock labels in Courier14 font.

- East wall: Set a table (1984.01.632) with a runner on top (1984.02.117). Place the blue vase (1984.01.431) with seasonal artificial flowers and a chair (1984.01.644) to the south side of the table. Hang the Laurence print (1984.02.012) on the east wall.
- Install the unaccessioned gilt horizontal mirror vertically between the north doors.

Downstairs Public Bathroom Furnishings and Objects

- Move the soap holder on the tub to the second floor bathroom.

Living Room Furnishings and Objects

- North wall, east of fireplace: Place a desk (1984.01.633) and chair (1984.02.020). On the desk, place a row of 3-5 of Grace's genealogy books, a restored lamp (1984.02.082) with a shade, and the framed photo of Howard (1987.01.115), which should be rematted. Above the desk, put a letter holder (1984.01.475) and a painting (1984.01.350ab).
- North wall above fireplace: Hang a borrowed Alaska State Museum portrait of Seward. On the mantle, place a

kettle (1984.01.083), balance (1984.01.382), and candlestick (1984.01.560) with a white candle.

- On the hearth, place fireplace tools (1984.01.079a-d) and a coal scuttle (1984.02.017) with wood chips.
- East wall: Put the red sofa and chair (1984.01.651ab) here, with a Navaho rug (1984.02.091) on the back. Put a tray (1984.01.103) on the wall north of the windows.

South of the windows, behind the red chair floor lamp (1984.02.183), the wiring, lights, and shade of which should be restored, hang the framed photo of Fairbanks (1984.02.035) and the framed lithograph of Seattle (1987.01.104).

- SE wall: Install the framed Rainier painting (1987.01.105).
- SW wall: Set the legislative desk here (1984.01.638). Hang a Wickersham portrait (1984.01.349) on the west stem wall. On the north wall, hang the clock



James Wickersham in the living room

(1984.01.048), repaired if possible. On the south wall next to the desk, hang the 1904 Roosevelt certificate (1984.02.04).

- Re-upholster the unaccessioned rocking chair in brocade or leather and put it in front of the fireplace for visitor use.

Parlor Furnishings and Objects

- South wall: Center the green sofa (1984.01.652) under the window. Install a stand (1984.02.018) with the Jardinière (1984.01.561) and an artificial sanseveria plant to the west. To the east of the sofa, put a table (1984.02.102) with a doily (1984.02.119) and a samovar (1984.01.557a-c) on a tray (1984.01.551).
- West wall: Set the piano (1984.01.519) and bench (1984.02.014). On the piano,

set 1930s sheet music, with a shawl (1984.02.075) or prayer rug (1984.01.518) draped over the damaged end. Place a stereoscope and several cards on Mylar on the scarf/rug. Place a book and the totem poles (1984.02.087, 1984.02.088, 1984.02.182, and 1984.01.620) on the far end of the piano. Over the instrument, lay a Salish robe (1984.01.505).

- East wall: Place the rocking chair (1984.01.654) with the antimacassar (1984.02.124ab) here. Hide the missing arm of the antimacassar by placing a 1930s newspaper or open book over the arm. Put a floor lamp (1984.02.021) by the chair. On a table (1984.01.639), display the radio (1984.01.520), the cigarette set (1984.02.094a-c), and ashtray (1984.01.086). On the floor, set

a basket (1984.01.047) with a newspaper and 1930s magazine inside. On the wall north of the window, install a framed photo (1984.02.033).

- NE wall: Set a tea table (1984.02.022) here with a tray (1984.01.550) and four teacups (1984.01.440ab, 1984.01.441ab, 1984.01.442ab, and 1984.01.445ab), plates (1984.02.150a-c), and napkins (1984.02.109a-d).
- Option for NW center of room: Prop up a 1930s card table with cards (1984.01.047), and an unaccessioned bridge book, surrounded by 3-4 chairs (1984.01631b-e).
- NW corner: Place the phonograph (1984.01.521a-f) on a table (1984.01.103) with five cylinder records (1984.01.449a-e).
- Lay down the best oriental carpet (1984.01.513).



Parlor with chairs, piano, and couch

Front Hall and Stairs Furnishings and Objects

- East wall: Install the wall telephone (1984.02.016), centered at five feet. Place the 1930s telephone book on the phone's ledge, or punch a hole through the corner and tie it in place with a string (the Alaska State Library may have a spare and/or duplicate phone book). Prop up a mission style or Art Deco hall tree (or coat rack and an unaccessioned mirror). Hang an unaccessioned woman's hat on a hook. The hall tree may also be against the south wall. SE Corner: Place the fire extinguisher (1984.01.002) on the floor.
- West wall: Hang a framed poster (1984.02.040) from the picture rail.

Kitchen Furnishings and Objects

- North wall: Place a table (no leaf) (1984.02.101), with an oilcloth cover under the wall cabinet. Use three unaccessioned slat back chairs, and place a clothespin holder (1984.02.126) above the radiator. Put on the table cooking utensils (1984.02.131, 1984.02.133, 1984.02.132, and 1984.02.144), blown

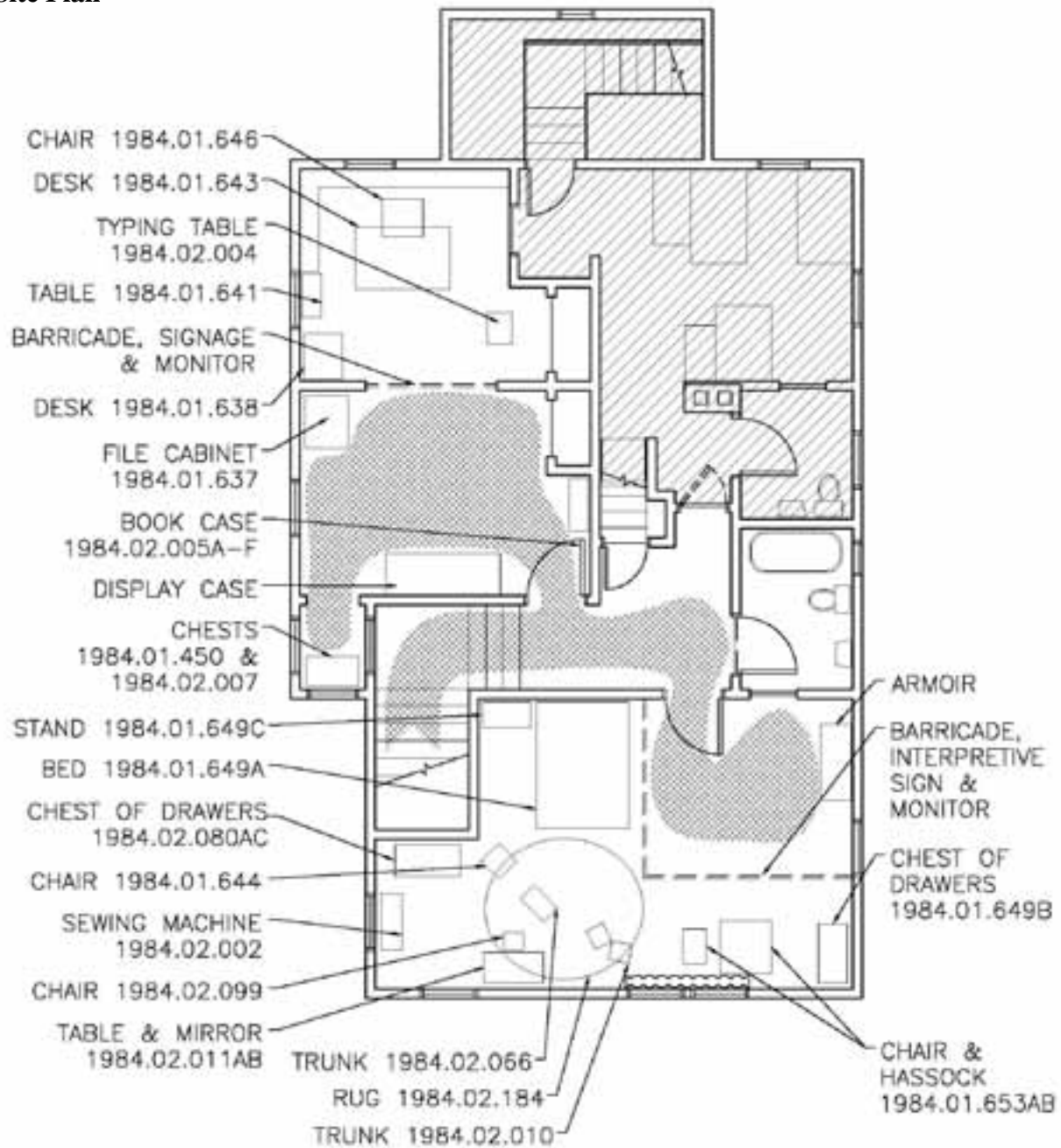
eggs in a bowl, artificial berries, and 1930s spice cans. One cabinet door could be open, exposing accessioned dishes inside, possibly including the 1980s teacup collection on hooks, which would reduce storage needs upstairs.

- Pantry: Fill with stuffed burlap and/or paper bags and/or cans of rice, coffee (Hills Bros.), potatoes, flour, sugar, and/or wooden box of eggs, lamp fuel, etc. Search the community and ebay for old food boxes, bags, and spice jars. Fill canning jars (1984.01.394a-g) with simulated fruit. Put reproduction can labels for salmon, Carnation milk, etc. on cans. Place the old vacuum cleaner (1984.01.001a-cin) in the back of the pantry.
- East wall: Purchase and plumb in a sink and faucet (see example and indication under window). On the sink, place a kettle (1984.01.097) and period dish towel. Underneath the sink, set a reproduction trash can.
- NE corner: Set a carpet sweeper (1984.02.169). On NE corner shelves: Set a silver tea set (1984.01.103abc), creamer, and sugar (1984.02.143ab).
- East wall windowsill: Place copper and brass pitchers here (1984.01.093, 1984.01.096, 1984.01.098,

1984.01.099, and 1984.01.142).

- South wall: Put the range in front of the chimney. On the range, set a kettle (1984.01.095), a pan (1984.02.141a) filled with artificial berries, a hot pad (1984.02.125), plus a couple more period hot pads. Built-in cupboards with closed glass and wood doors may store boxed and exposed accessioned kitchen items. On the countertop, place a coffee grinder (1987.01.100) and a coffee pot (1984.01.092). On the west end of the cupboard put some spoons (1984.01.274ab, 1984.01.263, 1984.01.262ab, and 1984.01.273ab).
- West wall: Located between the wall cabinet behind the door and the door into the bathroom hall could be a small kitchen table, covered in oilcloth with hands-on items such as a prop 1930s cookbook, egg beater, etc. On the wall above the table could be placed a 1930s prop calendar, a prop wall rack with reproduction recipes, note cards, invitations, and a prop apron on a hook.
- Alternatively, the west wall could be a good place to install a restored 1930s refrigerator or an icebox, if it fits under the wall light. If the refrigerator works, it could be used to keep water cool for guests.

Figure 3. Second Floor Site Plan



James' and Grace's Bedroom Furnishings and Objects

The following actions should take place if and when the second floor becomes open to the public:

- North wall: Install the double bed (1984.01.649a) and wash stand (1984.01.649c), unless lower priority Art Deco twin beds can be obtained. Acquire bed coverings (quilt or chenille) and pillows from the community. Put a pair of gloves (1984.02.078ab) and a blue velvet dress (1984.02.062 or 063) on the closet bed. On the washstand put a doily (1984.02.119), glasses (1987.01.059ab), and an unaccessioned book.
- Alcove north wall: Put an Art Deco chest of drawers (1984.02.080a-e) here, with a scarf (1984.02.116) and box (1987.01.050) on top. Set a chair nearby (1984.01.644), with a hatbox (1984.02.045) on the seat.
- West wall: Set the sewing machine (1984.02.002) here, with a dress (1984.02.065) draped over the machine.
- South wall between windows: Install the dressing table and mirror (1984.02.011a-d) here. Put a chair nearby (1984.02.099). On the table lay a tray (1984.02.152), vases (1984.01.417 and 1984.01.419), hand mirror set

(1987.01.065a-c), and doll (1984.02.098 or 1984.01.439). Hang two photos (1984.02.029 and 1984.02.034) on the wall west of the mirror. Hang two paintings (1987.01.111 and 1987.01.112) on the wall east of the mirror.

- South windows: Put a chair and hassock (1984.01.653ab) in front of the reinstalled radiator, reupholstered or slipcovered in a blue fabric. Put a Yupik basket (1984.01.058ab) next to the hassock (1984.01.029). Put a book on the chair.
- Center of room: Place a trunk (1984.02.010a-q) with a few of Grace's dresses (1984.02.066ab and 1984.02.064) and a cape (1984.02.059) hanging in and over the trunk. Put hats (1984.02.048 and 1984.02.046) on a hatbox (1984.02.044). Put another trunk down (1984.02.006ab) and place inside a vest (1984.02.186), a box (1984.02.187ab), a borrowed top hat from the Alaska State Museum (satchel 1987.01.071), a camera box (1987.01.028), and a camera (1987.02.026 or 1987.02.027).
- East wall: Place a dresser and oval mirror here (1984.01.649b). On top of the dresser put brushes (1984.01.066), a dresser scarf (1984.02.116), and a King George box (1987.01.049). Add the closet or Art Deco style wardrobe. Put Grace's dresses inside, hanging on

padded hangers.

- On floor: Lay down an oval braided rug (1984.2.184) and an Oriental rug (1984.01.514 or 1984.01.515) in the alcove by the sewing machine.

Front Upstairs Hall and Stairs Landing Furnishings and Objects

- Try to borrow a Chilkat blanket from the Alaska State Museum to hang on the north wall of the landing. No other furniture is necessary here.
- Hang a framed Juneau photo (1984.02.032) on the wall opposite the library door.



Ruth sitting at the vanity in the bedroom

Upstairs Bathroom Furnishings and Objects:

The following actions should take place if and when the second floor becomes open to the public:

- West wall: Place a laundry basket here (1984.01.077).
- South wall: Place a hand towel (1984.02.011) on the bar.
- Put the bathtub soap holder from the first floor here with a bar of soap. Prop up a hooked rug on the tub edge.
- East wall: Put a shaving mug (1984.01.414) and hairpin box (1984.01.428ab) on the new glass shelf. Set soap on the sink and put toilet paper in the holder.
- Install a reproduction of the shear white curtains with yellow trim (1982.02.110).

Wickersham's Library Furnishings and Objects

The following actions should take place if and when the second floor becomes open to the public:

- North wall: Install bookshelves lined with a closed-cell polyethylene mat and filled with law books. Put a ladle (1984.01.260) on one of the shelves.
- Center of wall: Place a desk here

(1984.01.643) and a desk chair (1984.01.646), with a Navaho blanket (1984.01.506) over the chair. On the desk, place a blotter (1984.02.168), shaker (1984.02.167), notary stamp (1984.01.007), Shakes box (1984.01.251), copper inkwell (1984.01.527), pens (1987.01.037a-c and 1984.02.164ab), moistener (1984.01.399), fastener (1987.01.008), paper knife (1984.01.529), paperweight (1984.01.532), train model (1984.01.396), cigar box (1987.01.048), ashtray (1984.01.533) with a cigar inside, brown file folders from the Alaska State Library, and Wickersham's books: *Old*

Yukon: Tales, Trails, and Trials, Alaska Bibliography, and Alaska Law Reports.

- East wall, door and closet: Put the typewriter stand (1984.02.004), a typewriter (1984.01.044), and a typed document in front of the closet. On the wall hang a pennant (1984.01.474). Tack another pennant (1984.01.473) to the door.
- West wall: Install a bookshelf adjacent to the window. Place a cyclopedia table (1984.01.641) with books on top under the window. Also, put the legislative desk (1984.01.638) under the window. Set a gavel (1984.01.616) on top of the desk, and purchase a 1920s globe to put on



Desk and globe in Wickersham's library

- the desk. Hang the 1904 Roosevelt certificate (1984.02.041) above the desk.
- Set an oval braided rug (1984.02.185) or two of the smaller oriental rugs or runners on the floor.
 - South wall: Install the existing glass and oak display case with ethnographic material from downstairs. Replace the downstairs display case with the organ. Frame and hang a Bill McPhee print (1984.02.026) and a reframed (no glazing or mat) painting of Wickersham (1984.02.024) on the wall.
 - South alcove: Place two book boxes (1984.01.635 on top of 1984.02.007), with the printing on the left side showing.
 - West wall, north of window: Put a file cabinet (1984.01.647) facing east with two of the unaccessioned two-drawer green metal card files on top. Place a watercolor painting (1984.01.347ab) on the wall above.
 - West wall, south of window: Pick two of the reproduction photographs that the Wickersham Society framed to hang here.
 - East wall: Install a bookcase (1984.02.005a-f), which should be refinished and painted white, per Ruth. Place Alaskana books on the shelves, along with memorabilia objects to be identified at a later date.

- Install a wood table and four chairs in the center of the room as a study and worktable.

Upstairs Back Hall, Bedroom, and Bathroom Furnishings and Objects

- Install one 2' x 4' office desk and chair, one computer table and chair, two 4-drawer file cabinets, and two 5' x 3' metal storage cabinets.
- Put a bookshelf along the west hall wall.
- Install a coffee station, microwave, mini fridge, and an outlet in the back hall closet under stairs.
- Use the front closet for material and equipment storage.
- Put coat hooks on the door or place a hall tree for staff and volunteers.

Prop Furnishings and Objects

Newly purchased, antique furniture and other items are recommended as exhibit props in order to provide security and display options for the collections. Reproduction furniture and props should be marked on the underside or backside with a label clearly stating it is an exhibit prop. Do not accept props as loans, only as donated display objects. Props should be solicited from the community before being purchased. General prop recommendations include purchasing and placing the following items throughout the house:

Vestibule

- Lay a new jute mat in the vestibule

Reception Entry

- Place artificial African violets and seasonal flowers to go inside the vases on the tables in the reception entry.
- If the reception entry room is used as an interactive room (see interpretive recommendations section), furnish it with prop furniture and chairs and place hands-on items there, along with a couple of books and a copied and laminated 1930s newspaper.

Dining Room

- Carpets are needed on which the public can walk. Purchase a reproduction 12' x 14' blue and maroon oriental carpet for placement under the dining room table.
- Place artificial fruit to go in the glass bowl on the dining room table.
- Construct two 1' x 2' vertical spoon display racks out of acid-free board with locking hinged oak framed glass covers and spaces for 40 various sized spoons. These should flank the china cabinet in the dining room.
- Hang linen-backed (Holland) ecru- or linen-colored roller shades with cotton-

covered round or rayon tassel pulls. Note the current location of some attachment fixtures and old attachment holes for shades and shears. Use cotton or nylon net shear curtains, with no design or flounce.

Living Room

- Purchase and install a reproduction 14' x 12' 1930s blue and maroon oriental carpet for the living room. See photos and existing carpets in collection (which are in poor condition).
- Place a white candlestick in the holder set on top of the living room fireplace mantle.
- Hang linen-backed (Holland) ecru- or linen-colored roller shades with cotton-covered round or rayon tassel pulls. Note the current location of some attachment fixtures and old attachment holes for shades and shears. Use cotton or nylon net shear curtains, with no design or flounce.

Downstairs Bathroom

- Purchase a reproduction hooked rug for the downstairs bathroom and hang it over the tub edge.
- Purchase a new wicker trash can for use in the downstairs bathroom. Line

the bottom only.

- Consider adding a restored cotton towel roller, if it can be found, perhaps from a restoration hardware company. It would be interactive/for use. Purchase or make 10+ duct cotton towels, changing and washing as needed, probably changing daily in summer.
- Replace the curtains with something similar but simpler than the ruffled shears currently installed. Perhaps reproduce a curtain like the one in the upstairs bath.
- Use a bar of white soap, not a liquid dispenser.
- Put paper towels in a basket on the back of the toilet for visitor use. Do not install a paper towel dispenser.

Parlor

- Set 1930s sheet music on the piano.
- Set a stereoscope and several cards on the piano.
- Prop up a 1930s card table with cards in the NW center of the parlor.
- Place an artificial sanseveria plant on the stand by the green sofa.
- Hang dark teal blue Pongee or Shantung drapery on reproduction black curtain rods with black rings (zoom in on ASL P277-021-006).

Sun Porch

The following actions should take place if the sun porch is used as the main entrance:

- Put 3-6 small plants (geraniums/ marigolds/ivy) along the west wall shelf. Use clay pots or Dundee marmalade jars with saucers.
- Place 2-4 new wicker (or synthetic wicker) or wood chairs and the lavender wicker table from storage (painted creamy white) with books for visitors.
- Place a reproduction umbrella stand and wicker-like trash can for visitors.

Kitchen

- Between the wall cabinet behind the door and the door into the bathroom hall, consider placing a small kitchen table, covered in oilcloth with hands-on items such as a prop 1930s cookbook, egg beater, etc. On the wall above the table could be placed a 1930s prop calendar, a prop wall rack with reproduction recipes, note cards, invitations, and a prop apron on a hook. Place reproduction foodstuffs in the kitchen cabinets.
- Fill canning jars with simulated fruit and make reproduction labels for salmon,

- Carnation milk, etc. Place in kitchen cabinets.
- Set a reproduction trash can under the sink.
- Put artificial berries in a pan on the range.

Front Upstairs Hall and Landing

If and when the second floor becomes open to the public, purchase and place the following items:

- Lay new runners for the stairs and upstairs hall.

Library

If and when the second floor becomes open to the public, purchase and place the following items:

- Install bookshelves lined with a closed-cell polyethylene mat on the north wall and fill with law books.
- Install an Art Deco wardrobe.
- Place a 1920s globe on the desk.
- The old 36" tall display case in the dining room should be moved to the library, to display baskets, political memorabilia, etc. in a more historically correct fashion. An oak and glass curio/china cabinet should be purchased for the living room

- to display small ethnographic objects.
- A wood table and four chairs should be placed in the center of the library as a study and worktable.

Security

This section addresses security concerns and gives recommendations for unauthorized access, protection from visitors' accidental and intentional damage or loss, an intrusion alarm system, protection from wear, protection from damage caused by excessive cleaning, and protection from damage caused by excessive daylight or poor storage techniques. Smaller objects need to be locked behind glass. A security system for intrusion should be installed prior to the placement of furnishings and objects.

Reception Entry Security

- If the reception entry is used as the main entry, install a doorbell device that rings near the staff station when the door is opened.
- If the sun porch is used as the main entry, install a barricade. Open the doors wide and install a 2-part 3' high wood railing the width of the doors. One section should open by gate to allow for cleaning. Or this could be two standards with a heavy dark blue or black velvet cord with the interpretive panel mounted separately.

Dining Room Security

- Keep the doors of the secretary, china cabinet, and modern display locked, with either small locks as before or a hidden pin.
- Instruct staff not to open the cases unless an item has fallen or is in danger of falling. Dusting inside the cabinets should only be required once a year.
- Tie a simple ½" black or dark teal blue ribbon on chairs to prevent sitting. Pin to the seat bottom.

Living Room Security

- All the artwork should have security clips to prevent easy removal.
- To prevent visitors from using the furniture, the sofa and chair should have a blue or black ribbon pinned to the top seam of the back, stretched to the bottom seam of the seat. The wood chair's ribbon should be tied to the top rail and pinned to the bottom of the seat.

Parlor Security

- Install a barricade-like stair railing to make a 6 x 6' viewing area in the room. Hinge the barricade on one side to permit access for cleaning and moving objects.
- Install a motion detector to detect motion

3'-4' inside the room and a voice alarm with a "the parlor is not open to visitors" message. Do not put anything closer than 4'.

Front Hall and Stairs Security

- Install a small hook and tie a cord across the stairs to close the upstairs for visitors use. Since staff will use the stairs, it should be easily removed and reattached.
- Install a motion detector below the landing to prevent unauthorized access to the second floor, but permit staff movement in the second floor hall.

Sun Porch Security

- If the sun porch is used as the main entry, install a doorbell device that rings near the staff station when the door is opened.

Kitchen Security

- Install a barricade and motion detector to limit access into the kitchen area. Add a hinged gate to allow staff access to the back hall.

Front Upstairs Hall and Landing Security

- Install security clips on the artwork and the Chilkat blanket.

- Install a security camera at the landing to cover the hallway.

Bathroom Security

- Install a thick blue velvet cord across each bathroom door as barricade.
- Install a motion detector to cover that has a "please do not enter the bathroom" message.
- Fix in place the objects on the glass shelf to prevent migration by putting little dots of clear silicone on the shelf, then putting the object in the middle of the dots.

James' and Grace's Bedroom Security

If the second floor becomes open to the public, take the following actions:

- Install a thick blue velvet cord from the north wall to within 6' of south wall, turning to the east wall, as indicated in site plan (see Fig. 3).
- Install a motion detector to cover diagonally across room from the SE corner dresser to the alcove dresser, with an audio component: "Please do not enter the bedroom."
- Install a security camera in the northeast corner to cover the entire room.
- The roller shades in the west window

should always be halfway down. The west window roller shades should be halfway down every morning.

Wickersham's Library Security

If the second floor becomes open to the public, take the following actions:

- Install a barricade similar to a stair railing that divides the room. Do not install a gate; access should be through the door.
- Install a motion detector east to west to cover the north end of room with an audio component that has a "please do not enter the library" message.
- Install a security camera in the southeast corner over the door to cover the entire room.
- The roller shades in the west windows should always be halfway down.

Interpretation

The following recommended interpretive projects are designed to further define, support, and realize the interpretive themes of the Wickersham State Historic Site. Recommendations, when implemented, will reach out to a broader audience by employing innovative interpretive techniques, while helping visitors to make their own connections with the meanings and significance of the house and collections. Project topics will avoid being purely informational by addressing interpretive themes' intangible meanings in subtle ways. Exterior and interior interpretive recommendations are listed, as well as informational signage.

Exterior Interpretation and Signage

- Once the wire fence is installed, place two 24 x 30" signs, each mounted on the fence near a gate. The signs should include the Wickersham State Historic Site title, Department of Parks and Outdoor Recreation credit, and hours of operation.
- Once the wire fence is installed, on the fence by the diagonal parking post the following sign: "Wickersham State Historic Site Parking Only." The east parking place will need a handicap van accessible sign, per code. On the north wall by the back door post the following sign to sign the 'van pullout' and the side

parking: "Wickersham State Historic Site Parking."

- Once the wire fence is installed, install two gate signs. Each gate should have a small 6" x 12" sign that reads: "Wickersham State Historic Site invites you to enjoy Judge Wickersham's yard. Please supervise and clean up after your pets and children."
- Two interpretive panels should be installed in the yard that highlight the interpretive themes. See interpretive panel project descriptions later in this chapter

Interior Interpretation

Project #1: Electronic Kiosks

Touch-screen electronic kiosks with an audio component are recommended for placement throughout the Wickersham House. To prevent long waits for the learning tool, four free-standing devices are recommended, three downstairs and one upstairs (if and when the upstairs becomes open to the public). Recommended locations include (1) the east wall of the sun porch (if the sunporch is rehabilitated and used as the main entry), (2) the dining room, (3) the parlor, and (4) the library. If funding or preference doesn't allow purchase of four devices, an alternative suggestion is to purchase only two, placing them in the dining room and the parlor.

These devices could be used simultaneously by school groups, independent visitors, and during tours. A software program should be selected that allows updating, and that is easy to access by the public. It should be a resource that could be added to by future researchers and interns. Research Past Perfect's Virtual Exhibit software as well as the touch screens used at the Heard Museum in Scottsdale. On the touch screen, the visitor or researcher should be able to access:

- The public collection database.
- Digitized photographs from the Wickersham Collection at the Alaska State Library, Wickersham's diaries, the various presidents, vice-presidents, and political friends and adversaries, boats that he traveled on, etc.
- Photos of life in Juneau in the 1930s: theaters, grocery stores, downtown, steamships, people, etc.
- Floor plans, photographs of wallpaper, linoleum, and other architectural details in the house.
- Photos of 1930s flower gardens and a list of flowers that Grace grew in the garden.
- Maps of Patoka, Tacoma, and his travel routes and homes in Alaska, and Alaska in general.
- Selected resources such as "Alaska's Gold" website, "Trail's End" 1930s interpretation, discussions of Alaska life, and 1930s history, design, and culture.

- Scanned books and documents.
- Audio components that include edited portions/excerpts from Ruth Allman's tours, documentary footage if available, excerpts from Wickersham's favorite radio news program if available, phonograph music, readings of poems by or about Wickersham, and discussion by knowledgeable curators about items in the collections.

APPROXIMATE COST: \$15,000 per device

Project #2: Framed Reproduction Photographs

Reproduction photographs placed in rooms will help to interpret interpretive themes and furnishings. The Wickershams primarily had photos of family on display in the house. Print new 8" x 10" or 5" x 7" photos, framed and matted appropriately for 1930 to either hang on the wall or sit on a surface. Visit <http://www.frameusa.com/victoria.htm> to purchase Victorian-style wood frames. Photos are available for download on the Alaska State Library's online digital archive: <http://vilda.alaska.edu/index.php>. Reproduce photos per the Alaska State Library accession number in the following rooms:

- Living Room: Hang a framed photo of Wickersham's parents and siblings (ASL P277-019-035).
- Parlor: South of the window, place a reproduction Juneau photo from the

Wickersham Society collection.

- Other rooms and locations as appropriate.

APPROXIMATE COST: \$100 per framed photograph

Project #3: Stereopticon and Cards

A stereopticon is a projector or "magic lantern", which has two lenses, usually one above the other. These devices date back to the mid-19th century and were a popular form of entertainment and education before the advent of moving pictures. Purchase a sturdy stereopticon (stereoscope) and 1-2 dozen cards for hands-on use (visit <http://www.goantiques.com>). Place in the parlor on the piano or in another room as appropriate. Recommended images include the Klondike, Fairbanks, Eskimos, Tlingits, an Alaskan steamship, a WPYR train, and the AYP Exposition.

APPROXIMATE COST: \$1,000

Project #4: Photo Albums

Create two small photo albums, one of Eagle and Fairbanks photographs, and another of Juneau photographs. Reproduce photographs found on the Alaska State Library's online digital archive: <http://vilda.alaska.edu/index.php> and firmly glue them onto black paper. In white ink, write a short description of the photograph. Set the albums in either an interactive room (see

project #6), the sunporch, or another location where visitors would be able to page through the albums. Attach a tag or sign to the album that invites visitors to look through the pages.

APPROXIMATE COST: \$300 per album

Project #5: Hands-on Kitchen Items

Between the wall cabinet behind the door and the door into the bathroom hall, consider placing a small kitchen table, covered with an oilcloth. On the table, place hands-on items such as a prop 1930s cookbook, egg beater, and sifter. Attach tags to the items that invite visitors to guess how they were used. On the wall above the table may be placed a 1930s prop calendar, a prop wall rack with reproduction recipes, note cards, invitations, and a prop apron on a hook. Place reproduction foodstuffs in the kitchen cabinets. Fill canning jars with simulated fruit and make reproduction labels for salmon, Carnation milk, etc. Put artificial berries in a pan on the range.

APPROXIMATE COST: \$1000

Project #6: Interactive Room

If the reception entry room is not used as the main entrance, an alternative to furnishing the space as suggested would be to use it as an interactive room. It could be seasonally furnished with prop period furniture and chairs, and have most of the hands-on items there,

along with a couple of books, the photo album, and a copied and laminated 1930s newspaper.

APPROXIMATE COST: \$1,000

Project #7: Period List of World Events

Create a list of what was happening elsewhere in the world in 1900-1928 and in the 1930s, including things such as movies, inventions, actors/actresses, politicians, scientific innovation, etc. The list could be put in an interactive room (see project #6), the sun porch, or in another room as deemed appropriate.

APPROXIMATE COST: \$200

Project #8: Landscaping Guide

Create a summer guide to the flowers, shrubs, and trees on the grounds. The list could be put out in the sun porch or in another room as deemed appropriate.

APPROXIMATE COST: \$200

Project #9: Binoculars

Purchase 1930s binoculars (can be purchased on ebay) and put on a chain in the sun porch.

APPROXIMATE COST: \$200

Project #10: Sears-Roebuck Catalog

Acquire a 1927 and/or 1930s Sears-Roebuck reproduction catalog, or a booklet of advertising

reproductions of items in the house, i.e. General Electric Hotpoint stove, Pongee fabric, etc. Visit ebay or <http://www.alibris.com> to purchase.

These items could be put out in the interactive room (see project #6) the sun porch, or in another room as deemed appropriate.

APPROXIMATE COST: \$50

Project #11: Life-sized Wickersham Photo

Create a life-size photo cutout of Wickersham (ASL P277-021-005 or ASL P277-019-071), possibly holding his favorite cane (1984.02.055) and/or a newspaper. Place the display in the reception entry, against the front door.

COST: \$3,000

Project #12: Prop Calling Cards

Design, create, and set prop calling cards on a brass tray (1984.01.556) in the reception entry. Cards should be made with a cream card stock. Visit <http://www.lahacal.org/gentleman/cards.html> for card examples.

APPROXIMATE COST: \$200

Project #13: Ethnographic Item Labels

Create old-style typewritten 1"x 3" off-white cardstock labels in Courier14 font for ethnographic materials placed in the dining room display case.

APPROXIMATE COST: \$200

Project #14: Interpretive Panels

Nine interpretive panels will be created to interpret Wickersham's life and history. Interpretive panels will be simple and will not dominate the historical ambiance. Two 36.5" x 30.5" panels will be installed in the front yard. Seven two-sided 11" x 17" interpretive panels are proposed for rooms inside the house. Interpretive panels will be made from durable, high-pressure laminate. In rooms with a barricade, a panel holder may be attached to the barricade, while in other rooms the panel may be placed in a floor or wall-mounted holder. A small hole will be punched through each panel, which will be attached via this hole by a thin chain to holders. Visitors will be able to take the panel out of the holder and view both sides. In most cases, one side of the panel will describe the room's furnishings and how the Wickersham's used the room, with a 1930s photo of the room when available, and/or image of original wallpaper or carpet, and/or architectural detail. The other side will highlight an interpretive theme. These interpretive signs will meet the needs of the visitor who wants a more casual and immediate resource. Recommended topics and interpretive sign placement are as follows:

Panel 1: James Wickersham and the Wickersham State Historic Site

Panel Size: 36.5" x 30.5" (see Fig. X)

Location: Front yard

Interpretive Significance of House: The Wickersham State Historic Site offers a chance to step back in time and drink in the history of Alaska's territorial days as seen through the eyes of James Wickersham, a man who made a deep and varied impact on Alaska's heritage through his involvement in politics, government, commerce, literature, history, and philosophy.

Project Description: Install a standard 36.5" x 30.5" interpretive panel in the front yard of the Wickersham State Historic Site that interprets the house through James Wickersham.

APPROXIMATE COST: \$6,000

Panel 2: Evolution of Juneau

Panel Size: 36.5" x 30.5" (see Fig. X)

Location: Front yard

Interpretive Significance of Juneau: Juneau grew from a boomtown to a center for large-scale hard-rock mining when the loose gold in the stream beds ran out. Today, government agencies employ one out of every two people. Tourism is the largest private employer and commercial fishing and mining continue to play a role in Juneau's economy.

Project Description: Install a standard 36.5" x 30.5" interpretive panel in the front yard of the Wickersham State Historic Site that interprets the evolution of Juneau. Include a historic photo

of the view of Juneau from the sun porch (there is a photo in JD City Museum collections).

APPROXIMATE COST: \$6,000

Panel 3: Alaska Architectural Style

Panel Size: Two-sided 11" x 17"

Location: Sun porch

Interpretive Significance of Room: This was the main entrance when the Wickershams lived here. The family walked to town up and down the Seward St. stairs.

Project Description: Complete this project only if the sun porch is used as a public area. Install a wall or floor-mounted panel holder on the other side of the doorway to the north porch. The interpretive panel will interpret Alaska Architectural Style on one side and the sun porch on the other side.

APPROXIMATE COST: \$6,000

Panel 4: Wickersham's Home Life

Panel Size: Two-sided 11" x 17"

Location: Dining room

Interpretive Significance of Room: The dining room was where the Wickershams entertained their many guests. The location permits a view of both doors, and most of the main floor.

Project Description: Install a wall or floor-mounted panel holder at the north side of the living room entrance. Use the Christmas dinner photo (ASL P277-019-039) in the panel, with a description of furnishings, objects, and the room on one side. Interpret what the Wickersham's

home life in Juneau was like on the other.

APPROXIMATE COST: \$6,000

Panel 5: Wickersham the Adventurer

Panel Size: Two-sided 11" x 17"

Location: Living Room

Interpretive Significance: According to Ruth Allman, sitting in front of the fireplace after dinner and just before bedtime was a tradition. This was considered the center of the house.

Project Description: Install a wall or floor-mounted panel holder at the west side of the kitchen entrance. On one side of the panel, describe the furnishings, objects, and the room and on the other interpret Wickersham's adventurous nature.

APPROXIMATE COST: \$6,000

Panel 6: Wickersham's Formative Years

Panel Size: Two-sided 11" x 17"

Location: Living Room

Interpretive Significance: This was considered the center of the house.

Project Description: Install a wall or floor-mounted panel holder at the west side of the kitchen entrance. On the panel, use photo (ASL P277-019-075) and/or (ASL P277-019-035). Interpret Wickersham's formative years on both sides of the panel.

APPROXIMATE COST: \$6,000

Panel 7: Wickersham the Scholar

Panel Size: Two-sided 11" x 17"

Location: Parlor

Interpretive Significance of Room: The Wickershams may have sat in here to listen to the news on the radio, which was received in the winter. Sometimes dinner parties would split up with Grace playing cards downstairs and James upstairs in the library talking history and politics.

Project Description: Install a panel holder on the parlor barricade (or a wall or floor-mounted panel holder if there is no barricade). The interpretive panel will include two photos (ASL P277-019-073 and ASL P277-019-067/ ASL P277-21-009) and a description of the parlor on one side of the panel and Wickersham's scholarly interests and contributions on the other.

APPROXIMATE COST: \$6,000

Panel 8: Pioneer Jurist and Lawyer

Panel Size: Two-sided 11" x 17"

Location: Parlor

Interpretive Significance of Room: The Wickershams may have sat in here to listen to the news on the radio, which was received in the winter. Sometimes dinner parties would split up with Grace playing cards downstairs and James upstairs in the library talking history and politics.

Project Description: Install a panel holder on the parlor barricade (or a wall or floor-mounted panel holder if there is no barricade). Create an interpretive panel using at least two historic photos. Describe and interpret Wickersham's

political experiences and contributions on both sides of the panel.

APPROXIMATE COST: \$6,000

Panel 9: Juneau lifestyle in the 1930s and Wickersham's Wives

Panel Size: Two-sided 11" x 17"

Location: Kitchen

Interpretive Significance of Room: Kitchens are popular rooms in historic house museums. A lot can be learned about life in the 1930s. Ruth Allman indicated that the Wickershams did not have a refrigerator. They used an icebox on the 7th Street back entry porch.

Project Description: Mount an interpretive panel holder on the kitchen barricade (or a wall or floor-mounted panel holder if there is no barricade). An interpretive panel will interpret the kitchen on one side. On the other side, the panel will interpret Juneau lifestyle in the 1930s from a women's perspective. Connect the text on this panel with a hands-on interpretive kitchen display (see interpretive project #5). This panel may also explore Debbie and Grace's influence on Wickersham's contributions to Alaska.

APPROXIMATE COST: \$6,000



The Wickersham State Historic Site

7.

ASSESSMENT OF PAST AND POTENTIAL VISITOR NEEDS

This chapter highlights the Wickersham State Historic Site's visitor history and recommends seasonal visitor strategies, while considering accessibility and special events issues.

Visitor History

The house was opened to visitors in the late 1950s by Ruth Allman, Wickersham's niece. Initially, she gave dinner parties, which was popular, but too much work. By the 1960s, the dinners evolved into sourdough waffle meals. Tables were set up in the dining room to seat from 10-20 guests by prior reservation. Guests were greeted and welcomed to tour the main floor where Ruth had accumulated most of Wickersham's more interesting items and books. The walls were covered with displays. They were then invited to sit on a variety of historic and modern chairs and tables and served flaming sourdough waffles with coffee or tea by Ruth's assistants while she entertained her visitors with a ½ hour or so monologue on Wickersham and Alaska history. She gave 1-2 of these tours a day as the demand warranted, each lasting about 2 hours. The personal approach and Ruth's relationship to Wickersham made this a popular tourist attraction. Ruth advertised through brochures, the Alaska Magazine, and other media. She stopped giving tours in 1983.

Although the property was purchased by the state, operating costs were not funded. The non-profit Wickersham Society was created, which spearheaded some restoration projects, fundraising events, advertising, and house operations. For 1-2 summers, a State Parks employee helped with interpretation. After cleaning the house, rearranging furnishings, and working on interpretation, the state opened the house in the summer months for the growing tourism industry. Various means of attracting interest and funding were tried to pay for utilities and minor renovation. Wickersham Day, Museum Day, and neighborhood picnics were attempted. The state also rented the house out for parties, receptions, and dinners. After a while, lack of support and ongoing needs appear to have caused burnout.

In the late 1990s, the house was leased to the Southeast Alaska Guidance Association as a training



Items in the Wickersham State Historic Site collection

program for youth. When this ceased, after one or two years, it was leased to an individual who attempted to give presentations dressed as Wickersham, using historical objects as props for his presentations.

From about 1998 on, the house was operated by live-in caretakers. Elva Bontrager was the dedicated caretaker for 5-6 years until 2006. In exchange for housing on the third floor, Elva opened the house to visitors 5-6 days a week in the summer, serving tea, ice water, and sourdough cookies to visitors. She also paid utilities and often cut the grass. She opened the house sporadically in the winter. The house was rented out for dinners and receptions. During these years, marketing was spotty and the fact that the house was open was not always known by tourism information providers.

For a couple of years, the house was included on a Heritage Tour provided by Princess Tours. The 12-passenger van also visited the Alaska State Museum, the Juneau-Douglas City Museum, and the Last Chance Mining museum. Unfortunately, that tour was only funded by Princess for a couple of years.

Today, the house is not advertised as being open to the public. However, the current caretaker has taken objects out of storage and placed some furniture around the main floor, opening the house to groups by appointment.

Visitation Recommendations

If the house is rehabilitated and operated professionally, it will be a popular tourist attraction and community asset. However, as with almost all museums, it will not bring in enough revenues to support operations and maintenance.

In summer, between early May and late September, Juneau receives 800,000 visitors annually with approximately 700,000 of these visitors arriving on cruise ships. A goal for the Wickersham State Historic Site should be to attract 5,000, but no more than 7,500 visitors per summer. This would average 50 visitors per day during the summer. This would be possible after several years of operation and if a joint tour or admission ticket to Juneau's museums, and possibly the Gruening historic site, was offered. If a Juneau heritage tour is possible, a van with no more than 12-15 passengers is advised for an uncrowded visit, and for parking limitations. Visitors in the house should be limited to 15 at a time.

Reasonable hours to accommodate the summer visitor would require being open seven days a week, from about 10:00 AM – 5:00 PM. Mid-morning and mid-afternoon are popular times for visitation; early morning and evening hours are not popular. This would require a minimum of 1.5 FTE staffing, plus 40 hours per week in intern and/or volunteer assistance (see Chapter

8 for detailed staffing recommendations).

An admission fee of \$5.00 per adult in the summer is recommended. Consider increasing fees after assessing the first couple of seasons of operation. Most Juneau museums allow youths under a certain age free admission. Consider allowing children under age 13 free when accompanied by an adult, and children ages 13-18 free.

Winter should be a time to cater to the local resident. Unless there is a special activity, estimate an average of 5-10 visitors per week in winter, probably in small groups of 2-5 people.

Reasonable hours to accommodate the winter visitor are from 1:00 – 5:00 PM, one to two afternoons a week (one afternoon should be Saturday), and by appointment for groups. Anticipate one group tour every couple of weeks, with more in the spring. This would require 5-10 hours per week in intern and/or volunteer assistance (see Chapter 8 for detailed staffing recommendations). The intern or volunteer should have clerical or superficial cleaning duties, which could easily be set aside if visitors arrive.

In the winter, free admission is recommended. The public relations gained would far outweigh the revenue. A donation jar could be left out and a winter sponsor might help cover operations costs.

School groups should be kept to a maximum of 15-20. There should be a 1:4 ratio of adults to students, with the teachers informing the adults to stay with their four kids. At this ratio, a typical classroom of 26-28 would be divided in half. Half could do an activity on the porch or outside, while the other half toured the house. To facilitate school group visits, it would be wise to coordinate with another museum in town to provide the teacher with a couple of venues to visit during field trips.

Accessibility Recommendations

Parking is an important issue. Many visitors will arrive on foot, but others may have cars, use taxis, or arrive in vans. It will be important to provide 4-5 visitor parking spaces. School groups will want to arrive by bus. One school group scenario might include being dropped off for a visit to the state capitol and walking up the hill to the house to walk off energy. A site plan in Chapter 6 suggests a parking layout.

This site plan also recommends using the sun porch as the main entrance, widening the walks to 3 feet, which makes them wheelchair accessible, and relocating the ramp to the south side of the building. A ramp on the north side of the sun porch would allow easy access over the door jam into the dining room and thus throughout the main floor

Restoring and providing access for visitors to

the second floor is recommended. CBJ city architect Sarah Lewis advised that access to the upstairs would meet American Disability Act and international building code requirements. As it is an historic building, and because the downstairs and interpretive signage is accessible, it would not be necessary to make the upstairs accessible as well. All accessibility recommendations should be approved by the state preservation officer.

A 1998 letter by a Department of Justice attorney at www.usdoj.gov/crt/foia/tal777.htm states:

“When it is not possible to remove certain barriers to accessibility because it is not readily achievable to do so or because the alteration would threaten or destroy the historic significance of the qualified historic facility, the ADA requires the use of alternative methods to provide access to the goods or services, if it is readily achievable to do so. For example, if the second floor of a historic house museum can only be reached by climbing stairs, it may be appropriate for a docent to show a set of photographs or a video that depicts the items, space, and information shown on the second floor to a person who is unable to climb the stairs. The photographs or video would have to be shown in an accessible location. This would permit people with a mobility disability to obtain information about the items and space on the upper level...”

Special Event Recommendations

The mission statement specifically identifies preservation as one of the guiding missions of the Wickersham State Historic Site. The past use of food and drink in the house and the use for reception and social events, where visitors were permitted to sit on and use the furnishings, have resulted in serious deterioration and loss of the collections. It is not recommended that this house museum be used for social events where food and drinks are served. Not only can food and drinks cause damage to the historical furnishings through spilling, but they also attract insects and other vermin. It is not possible to have functions with food inside the historic, interpretive portion of the house without risking damage to the collections.

During summer, special events could take place on the grounds, with food service outside or on the sun porch. Rentals and other special events would require at least one staff in attendance and have the same rules as during regular operation: no sitting on furniture and no food in the house. If the kitchen is remodeled, there will be no food preparation space in the house. Special events would be best suited for light coffee and dessert functions on the porch.

Other events are possible. Three small two-month changing exhibits in October, December, and February could be installed downstairs. These exhibits could interpret the 1920s-30s

and pioneer Alaskans. Ideally, they might be small exhibits of period pottery, jewelry, and postcards that might be guest-curated by locals or another museum. It would be a way to invite the community to participate in the house.

Another event might be 1-3 short museum training workshops held in the library, co-sponsored by the Alaska State Museum, Museums Alaska, and/or the University of Alaska.

Other potential annual events might include inviting the legislature for statehood day on January 3 for coffee and sourdough cookies on the porch, participating in Museum Day with other area museums, and honoring Wickersham on his birthday (Territorial Day), August 24. Perhaps this event could be a neighborhood potluck on the lawn. Each event should target a different support group, such as the legislature, neighborhood, tourism volunteers, etc.



Wickersham delivering the 4th of July address at the dedication of the first Fairbanks courthouse

8.

HOUSE OPERATIONS

This chapter covers areas important to maintaining a professional and consistent level of historic house operation: staff training, staffing levels, educational development, security, maintenance, partnerships, project strategies, and funding possibilities.

Staffing Recommendations

Unfortunately, the house has never been funded for management. There was some paid assistance in the late 1980s. Since the state took over management of the house, a State Park Specialist, who recruits summer volunteers and caretakers, has provided ongoing supervision.

The Park Specialist conducted most of the collection inventories over the past 20 years, assisted by caretakers or volunteers. Most of these inventories showed a 5-6% “not found” rate. There has been no museum professional direction or supervision. Collection management contracts in 1984, 2004, and 2005 were the only professional museum assistance ever funded, aside from facility maintenance projects.

Lack of operating funds has resulted in efforts to generate public interest and financial support. The house went through a period of gross neglect where it was let out to the “highest bidder” in hope that someone else would assume the state’s responsibility, or at least pay the utility bills. It is a difficult and awkward situation for staff to be assigned a public trust responsibility without resources. The State of Alaska needs to change its policy on managing this historic property.

Recommendations:

The staff needed to operate the Wickersham State Historic Site professionally depends on staff responsibilities, scope of programming, services offered, special projects, and size of the collections and the house. A permanent staff of 1.5 FTE would be adequate for administration, budget management, collection management, exhibit design and interpretation, house cleaning, fundraising,

“It is a difficult and awkward situation for [Wicksham House] staff to be assigned a public trust responsibility without resources.”

facility management, and some educational programming and volunteer coordination. This staff should be augmented by facility, grounds, and administrative support, plus volunteers, and 3-6 months of a graduate museum studies intern. This assumes that the house is open 6-7 days per week in the summer, and 2 afternoons a week, and by appointment, in the winter. At least one FTE position should be a museum professional at the curatorial level, similar to those in the Alaska State Museum. The following positions and duties are recommended:

The curator should assume the following responsibilities:

- Recruit, train, and supervise staff, volunteers, and museum studies interns.
- Coordinate an operating schedule serving summer visitors and year-round residents, plus special events, assisting with open hours about 4-8 hours per week in the summer.
- Maintain the collections on display and in storage, inventorying annually, and assisting with research and collection requests.
- Manage and clean the house with professional care, identifying and reporting problems for maintenance.
- Supervise and assist with special and

on-going maintenance and renovation projects.

- Help re-establish the Wickersham Society, providing direction and support, and developing other partnerships to achieve long-range goals.
- Write 1-2 grants per year for prioritized projects and develop and manage the operating budget.
- Develop and maintain active advertising and marketing strategies.
- Develop educational programs for the summer visitor and resident.
- Develop 1-2 changing exhibits per year to encourage return visitation.
- Provide 10-15 interpretive tours per year.

A half-time assistant would assume the following responsibilities:

- This part-time person would probably work about 1 day a week in the winter and 5 days a week during the busy summer season.
- Provide clerical support and bookkeeping year-round.
- Assist with house open hours and visitor assistance in the absence of trained volunteers.
- Assist with updating brochures, marketing, and grant writing.
- Provide back up for house management and cleaning in absence of the curator.

A museum studies graduate student can be a terrific boon for a small museum. They bring amazing enthusiasm and professional training in museum studies, and are generally in their second year of a museum studies graduate program. Interns should be offered a quality experience supervised by a museum professional. Interns generally do either a 10-12 week or a six-month internship. It is important to offer housing and a small stipend.

- Interns would complete a small special project that needed to have done.
- Interns would assist in daily operation and assigned projects, as needed.

Volunteers are invaluable and bring community connectedness and enthusiasm. However, there would always need to be one of the above staff on site for support, back up, assistance, and emergencies. Volunteers might provide the following assistance, critical to operating the house:

- Visitor reception and open hours in 3-hour shifts, and docents for visiting youth groups.
- Collection management assistance: inventories, record updates, and research.
- Winter special exhibit development.
- Landscape assistance: lawn mowing, gardening, sweeping, grounds pick-up.

- Minor house maintenance and cleaning.

Staff Training

Recommendations:

- Write a Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) Manual and an abbreviated Volunteer Manual for management staff and volunteer staff. It is critical that all staff be trained and given a copy of the SOP manual for back-up should operational questions arise. This will insure consistent operation. Borrow ideas from other house museums' and regular museums' manuals.
- Have one-on-one training for all staff, plus an annual group training in the spring.
- Join the Juneau Convention and Visitors Bureau and encourage all paid and volunteer staff to attend the spring informational tourism training. It is important that staff be aware of other tourism opportunities in town.
- Have staff read all the interpretive signage. Make DVDs of Ruth Allman's tours and any Wickersham or related material available to borrow or watch during slow spring shifts. Ask all volunteers to

read *Old Yukon: Tales, Trails, and Trials* and selected short articles by Wickersham.

Educational Programming

Recommendations:

- Educational programs for children would encourage the public, private schools, and youth groups to bring children to the house. Identify the needs of the teachers and leaders and develop age and theme appropriate programs to meet their educational needs. Components could include a pre-visit introduction (flyer/DVD/etc), a visit to the house, and a follow-up activity for the classroom. Prioritize program theme and age groups. Coordinate with other museum and other community offerings.
- Educational programs for adults might include special tours in the winter focusing on a selected theme offered by specialists. For example, the Alaska State Museum curator could speak on Wickersham's ethnographic collections and pull out stored objects. Programs should be limited to attract less than 20 participants. Another program could be to place the house on annual local garden or house

tours.

- Develop marketing to let the public know the house is open and restored to the 1930s period. Print brochures, join the Juneau Convention and Visitors Bureau, add Wickersham State Historic Site signage about town, put PSAs in the paper and on the scanner, and enhance the Wickersham State Historic Site website.
- Create a joint Wickersham State Historic Site and Gruening State Historic Site tour.

Maintenance

Recommendations:

- Maintenance of the physical structure of the house, the grounds, the interior, and the collections should be ongoing.
- Identify who will be responsible for which maintenance tasks. Duties should be shared by State Parks groundskeepers and maintenance staff, house staff, and volunteers.
- Create a daily, weekly, seasonal, and annual maintenance chart and identify the responsible party for the house, grounds, and collections.
- All parties should participate in and agree to the schedule and assignment of duties.

Security and Public Safety

This section further addresses the security of the collections. The State of Alaska has a public trust responsibility to manage the collections in the house for the people of Alaska. Historic objects should be accessioned, documented, and preserved for perpetuity. This collection is comprised of very rare, old, and delicate objects as well as routine ephemera. However, they all need to be cared for with the same professional concern. Old objects are in danger of being damaged, destroyed, or lost by environmental conditions (light, humidity, moisture, accumulated dust, and insects), excessive and inappropriate handling, use, vibration and shaking, and theft. All of the above have damaged this collection.

Environmental Conditions

Recommendations:

In a typical museum environment, objects are generally exhibited in glass cases to protect them from environmental conditions, as well as from inappropriate handling and theft. Below are several guidelines and recommendations to protect the Wickersham collection.

- Use glass display cases: Historically, this house had two, possibly three, china cabinets; it now has one. If the second floor becomes open to the

public, a second similar china cabinet should be purchased. Smaller, delicate china, silver, and brass objects should be displayed in one cabinet and smaller ethnographic and exotic items in the other. One or both of the old wood and glass display cases currently downstairs should be moved to the second floor library to display Wickersham's ethnographic and 'early days' collection. Almost all baskets should be in glass cases as their porous organic surfaces are delicate and easily damaged from dust, soot, and handling.

- Vibration: Ensure that objects are securely displayed so that they do not migrate. Display objects so that they look appropriate, but also so they are secure from theft, breakage from accidental bumps, vibration, and earthquakes. This could mean tying items down, and/or special bumpers to avoid 'migration.'
- Vacuum: Purchase a new vacuum with upholstery attachment and a soft duster to keep grimy dust from accumulating on upholstered and wood furniture.
- The historic style roller shades should be used to cut down on the quantity of light. Using shades is historically correct. The shades should be pulled whenever sunlight comes in through

the windows, probably every summer afternoon from noon – 7:00 PM (the exterior photos of the house in the 1930s show the shades tidily pulled ½ way down).

- Borrow environmental monitoring equipment from the Alaska State Museum to take several seasonal readings of the relative humidity and light levels in the house in each room (a good intern project). Use the resources and advice from the Alaska State Museum's conservator.
- Pests: Purchase pest strips and watch for damaging insects. Vacuum at least once a month, even if it doesn't look dirty, especially in the back dark corners and under the furniture where pests live. Install a screen door on the sun porch entry to prevent flying insects from entering the house.
- Storage: Use the large metal storage cabinets to store objects. This prevents them from loss or other damage. Oversized objects could be stored in the library closet. If an oversize object, such as the bedroom or dining set, is determined not historically appropriate, consider deaccessioning it and transferring it to another museum collection. Store silver and brass objects in tarnish resistant cloth, which greatly slows tarnishing.

Excessive and Inappropriate Handling, Use, and Care:

Many objects in the collection suffer from excessive use. Accessioned historical objects have been used as serving pieces at receptions and the furniture used by visitors, staff, and caretakers and their families. Objects have also been cleaned inappropriately by dedicated yet untrained volunteer staff. Damage resulting from excessive washing and polishing of silver and brass includes wear, breakage, and loss of applied accession numbers. Objects have been broken from handling and use. Upholstered furniture shows increased wear through torn upholstery and broken and inexpertly repaired structural pieces. Four pieces of historic furniture were removed from the house for repair and were lost. Wood furniture has heat blush, stains, and varnish loss and scratches; chairs have broken arms and stretchers and dowels with lost pieces. In the past, live-in caretakers have mingled their belongings with the collections and used historic furniture in their quarters. As a result, there is fingernail polish spilled on the leather top of a table documented in 1930s photographs, a wicker table partially painted lavender, and glue and glitter on an unaccessioned kitchen table. The following are several guidelines and recommendations to protect the Wickersham collection.

- Separate caretaker and operation use: It is absolutely critical to keep private living quarters, public interpretive areas, and collections storage areas separate for the safety and preservation of the collections. Staff or live-in interns/ caretakers should never use the public areas of the house for personal reasons. They should escort their guests to and from their quarters to the door.
- Staff and volunteers should be trained never to handle objects except for curatorial care duties (inventory, research, storage, and treatment).
- Objects should not be used by visitors. Visitors should not handle, sit on, or walk on any historic furnishing.
- Food and drinks should not be allowed off the sun porch.
- Repair of collections: The collections should be repaired by trained individuals educated in restoring historic objects. Cabinetmakers, finish carpenters, upholsterers, and object and textile conservators know how to restore an object, respecting and following the original appearance. Many pieces of furniture need structural repair, re-varnishing, and/or re-upholstery or slip covers to make them appropriate for interpreting the home.

Protection from Loss:

Most visitors are respectful and honest, however, objects must be protected from the few dishonest or irrepressible visitors. 27 accessioned objects are known to be missing. However, not all of the losses have been from theft. The 1984 accessioned collections is inventoried every year or two. These inventories helped speculate on some of the missing objects. Some objects were probably removed by Ruth Allman, forgetting that they had been accessioned into the state collection. After she and her executor Bob Giersdorf both died, accessioned and non-accessioned objects were recovered from Giersdorf's storage unit. Had staffing been in place, loan forms would have documented short-term loans to Ruth, and loaned objects would have been retrieved upon her death. (Some of these items probably included the Russian copper kettle, Chinese robe, and the two quilts.)

Between 1990 and 2002, three objects were probably stolen by visitors or used and mixed up after a reception (The Wickersham Society and renters used objects from the collection for serving). Eight smaller objects were probably lost due to casual caretaking. One large book chest, if the 2002 inventory is correct, mysteriously disappeared between 2002 and 2004. The 115 objects accessioned in 1987 were never inventoried.

The damage or loss is the direct result of the lack of professional care. Museum professionals are trained to preserve collections—volunteers and park management personnel are not. Care of museum collections requires ongoing professional management. This public trust responsibility cannot be delegated to volunteer caretakers and summer volunteers.

Visitor Security Recommendations:

- Greet visitors and tell him or her about appropriate behavior at the beginning of their tour or visit. Instructions should include why there is no touching, sitting, eating, or drinking, and the importance of staying with the group and keeping track of children.
- Keep tour groups to 15 or less people.
- Install barricades in several rooms (see Chapter 6) to allow more objects to be out on open surfaces in some rooms.
- Install exhibit security systems at the barricades to notify staff and the visitor if visitors “cross the line.”
- Use display cases for small and fragile objects, such as china cabinets and historic display cases.
- Provide seating for visitors on designated chairs inside.
- Place a ribbon across historic chairs and sofas.
- Train volunteers: Provide written

guidelines and itemized lists with photographs of objects in each room. Establish a system for paid and unpaid staff to check each room on a regularly established schedule.

- Constant staff attendance: A staff person should always be on hand on the main floor during open hours. The upstairs should have security systems.

Public Safety Recommendations:

Care and maintenance of the house and the collections and exhibit installations must insure the safety of the visitors. Below are areas that need attention:

- Entrances: Both exterior entrances need handrails. The original handrails to the 7th Street entrance, currently in the basement, were originally installed by Wickersham and should be reinstalled with minimum modifications. Railings on the accessible ramp to the sun porch entrance should match.
- Tripping Hazards: Attention must be given to electrical cords, carpeting, and furniture in areas where visitors walk. Place non-rubber underlayment to prevent carpets from moving. Do not use carpets that curl up on the end.
- Secure tall pieces of tippy furniture to the wall. Make sure that there are no objects

that might fall if aggressively bumped by visitors. Secure objects on top shelves to keep from falling on visitors.

- Check display cases: Do not use historic display cases if the glass is broken or fragile. Visitors will lean on cases.
- Keep passageways clear to 36” minimum to allow for groups and wheelchairs.
- A Standard Operating Procedures manual should include daily inspections by trained staff to check the public areas daily and to look for possible safety hazards: i.e., wet floors, tripping hazards, slimy outside stairs, or furniture that has migrated into circulation areas.

Partnerships, Funding Possibilities and Project Recommendations

A minimum of one and a half permanent state-funded curatorial positions should be established to enable the development and ongoing management of partnerships, project strategies, and to pursue funding possibilities. Before approaching potential partners and funding sources, it is important to prioritize program and project goals.

Program and Project Goals and Strategies:

A prioritized list of short and long-term goals should be identified for educational, interpretive, collection management, exhibit development,

fundraising, and marketing. These goals should be reasonable, and could include the following actions:

- Establish an “Adopt a Room” restoration project. Develop guidelines and market the idea to various groups. \$10,000 would earn “Partnership” status and donors would be recognized. See some groups to approach further in this section.
- Establish a firm budget and maintenance agreement schedule through State Parks.

Potential Partnerships:

- Contact past members of the Wickersham Society and encourage the group to become active again. Identify specific areas of assistance: special programs, receptionist duties, fundraising and/or marketing for special projects.
- Coordinate with the Alaska State Museum, the Juneau-Douglas City Museum, the Gruening State Historic Site, and the Last Chance Mining Museum. Encourage these local museums to consider a joint admission ticket, promote a heritage tour van or consider other marketing ideas. Make sure these museums have Wickersham State Historic House brochures and hours of operation.
- Hold an annual May open house for

museum staff, volunteers, and Juneau Convention and Visitors Bureau staff.

- Coordinate with the Alaska State Museums in recruiting and supervising interns, possibly offering housing in return.
- Prepare a letter and brochure and/or short presentation for the Juneau and Alaska Bar Associations, North West Cruiseship Association, the local chapter of the American Institute of Architects, the City and Borough of Juneau, Don Young, Lisa Murkowski, Ted Stevens, Rotary Clubs, Downtown Business Association, the Republican Party, the Alaska Humanities Forum, the Alaska State Council on the Arts, the State Parks and Outdoor Recreation Board, the Alaska State Legislature, and groups of which Wickersham was a member including the Arctic Brotherhood, Order of the Moose, the Eagles, Pioneers of Alaska, and the Masonic Lodge. Request support on some aspect of house operation, interpretation, and/or renovation. Ask for letters of support from all of the above plus the Juneau Arts and Humanities Council, the Juneau Historic Resource Committee, Juneau-Douglas City Museum, Juneau Convention and Visitors Bureau, the Alaska State Museum, the Alaska Law Library, Museums Alaska, and Juneau Economic Development

Council to keep on file for various fundraising efforts.

- Establish a policy about how partners and donors will be recognized.
- Consider working with the Alaska State Museum and/or the University of Alaska to provide museum training during the winter months. There is a need for a 1-2 week training for statewide museum staff that have no formal museum training. The front part of the library could be kept minimally furnished so that in the off-season it might be used for short hands-on training sessions for 2-4 individuals in collection management techniques. Market the training opportunities through the Alaska State Museum statewide services, or Museums Alaska.
- Attempt to form a partnership with the Alaska State Law Library and/or the Alaska State Historical Library. Perhaps one of their librarians could work at the house one afternoon a week to assist researchers using the archival resources.

In 2004, the possibility that collection management might be assumed by the Alaska State Museum was discussed with the Chief Curator of the Alaska State Museum. Options for management, storage, inventory, and a potential use agreement were considered.

The following items are the relevant points and recommendations from that discussion.

- The collections and the house should stay together. The Alaska State Museum has established procedures for caring for historical and ethnographic material. They would not be able to assume management of the house without additional staffing.
- If the Alaska State Museum were to accept the collections, separate from the house, they would need space to care for the collections. Any loans back to the house managed by another agency would need to meet the state Museum's loan guidelines, which take into account security, environmental controls, and ability to care for objects. Under current house management, these guidelines would not be met.
- A reimbursable service agreement could be considered to curate the collection.

The Alaska State Museum is anxious to help all museums. In 2008, the Curator of Statewide Services at the Alaska State Museum offered to help recruit a museum intern for the Wickersham State Historic Site, and to provide the professional

assistance and supervision to give them the support that they would need and that their program advisers would require. This is a valuable, generous, and ongoing offer.

Funding Sources:

If a minimum of one permanent position, funded by the state, was established it would make the Wickersham State Historic Site eligible for several funding opportunities. The individual in this position should be selected for their grant writing and fundraising skills. The following items are just a few potential funding opportunities:

- The Rasmuson Foundation is an amazing resource for historical, cultural, and arts institutions because of their project grants programs. However, the Rasmuson Foundation does not fund projects where they have concern that their contribution would not be used effectively. The Wickersham State Historic Site does not currently qualify for Rasmuson funding due to lack of on-going support and management. However, if a staff position were funded, the Wickersham State Historic Site would be a potential recipient of Tier I capital projects of up to \$25,000 and the Organizational Advancement Fund Management Fund

Grants, among others.

- Other funding organizations include the Allen Foundation for the Arts, the M. J. Murdock Charitable Trust, the Alaska State Bar Association, the Republican Party, Pioneers of Alaska, and other organizations listed under the 'Partnerships' section.
- To obtain federal funding, such as from the National Endowment for the Humanities, an institution must have one dedicated staff position, plus written collection, mission, and goals statements. These funding agencies understand the importance of consistent, professional management.
- An active Wickersham Society could solicit funding from the Alaska State Museum Grant-in-Aid program. Annual grants could average between \$7,000 - \$10,000 per year.
- A permanent position, particularly if supported by an active board and a re-established Wickersham Society, could solicit funding for house renovation and interpretive improvements from private and governmental funding sources.
- Eventually, consider establishing an endowment fund for future resources.

These recommendations are based on the assumption that the Wickersham State Historic Site, a valuable historic resource for

the State of Alaska, will be rehabilitated and operated as an historical house museum. The collections and house, as a unit, are an extremely valuable historical resource for Alaska. Operation as a house museum will preserve these historic resources for generations to come.



James Wickersham

APPENDIX A: REFERENCE LIST

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Historic House Museum Websites

Asahel Bush House Museum—Salem Oregon: http://www.oregonlink.com/bush_house

Hearthstone Historic House Museum—Wisconsin: www.focol.org/hearthstone/apeekinside.htm

Manship House Museum—Mississippi: <http://mdah.state.ms.us/museum/manship.html>

Stenton—Pennsylvania: www.stenton.org/

Trail End State Historic Site—Wyoming: <http://wyoparks.state.wy.us/Sites/TrailEnd/index.asp>

Historic New England—Photographic Tour of the Gropius House: <http://www.historicnewengland.org/visit/tour/house.asp?floor=1&floororder=2>

1920s – 1930s Websites

Historic New England Searchable Wall Papers: <http://www.historicnewengland.org/wallpaper/catalog/search.htm>

Trail End Educational Resources: <http://www.trailend.org/main-education.htm>

Trail End Links and Resources—Several great articles (some bad) on 1920s -1930s: <http://www.trailend.org/main-links.htm#Household>

APPENDIX B: OBJECT LIST

Search results for: Display Value~EXCELLENT and Display Value~GOOD			
06/09/2008 Matches 516			
Catalog / Objectid / Objname			Status
O	W1984.01.002	Basket, Birch Bark	OK
O	W1984.01.005	Basket, Birch Bark	OK
O	W1984.01.008	Basket, Grass	OK
O	W1984.01.009	Basket, Grass	OK
O	W1984.01.010	Basket, Grass	OK
O	W1984.01.011ab	Basket, Grass	OK
O	W1984.01.012ab	Basket, Grass	OK
O	W1984.01.013ab	Basket, Grass	OK
O	W1984.01.014	Hat, Basketry	OK
O	W1984.01.015	Basket, Willow	OK
O	W1984.01.018ab	Basket, Bottle	OK
O	W1984.01.019a-c	Basket, Bottle	OK
O	W1984.01.020	Basket, Spruce Root	OK
O	W1984.01.021	Basket, Spruce Root	OK
O	W1984.01.024	Basket, Spruce Root	OK
O	W1984.01.025	Basket, Spruce Root	OK
O	W1984.01.026	Basket, Spruce Root	OK
O	W1984.01.027	Basket, Spruce Root	OK
O	W1984.01.028	Hat, Spruce Root	OK
O	W1984.01.029	Basket, Spruce Root	OK
O	W1984.01.031ab	Basket, Spruce Root	OK
O	W1984.01.034	Basket, Bottle	OK
O	W1984.01.036	Basket, Cedar Bark	OK

Catalog / Objectid / Objname			Status
O	W1984.01.037	Basket, Cedar Bark	OK
O	W1984.01.038	Basket, Cedar Bark	OK
O	W1984.01.042	Basket, Cedar Bark	OK
O	W1984.01.043	Basket, Cedar Bark	OK
O	W1984.01.045	Basket	OK
O	W1984.01.046	Basket	OK
O	W1984.01.047	Basket	OK
O	W1984.01.048	Basket	OK
O	W1984.01.049	Basket	OK
O	W1984.01.050ab	Basket	OK
O	W1984.01.051ab	Basket	OK
O	W1984.01.052	Shell	OK
O	W1984.01.058ab	Basket, Grass	OK
O	W1984.01.062	Mat, Basketry	OK
O	W1984.01.068	Basket	OK
O	W1984.01.069	Basket	OK
O	W1984.01.073	Spoon, Souvenir	OK
O	W1984.01.074	Spoon, Souvenir	OK
O	W1984.01.075	Spoon, Souvenir	OK
O	W1984.01.077ab	Set, Salt & Pepper	OK
O	W1984.01.078ab	Set, Salt & Pepper	OK
O	W1984.01.079ab	Shaker, Sugar	OK
O	W1984.01.081	Strainer, Tea	OK
O	W1984.01.082ab	Saltcellar	OK
O	W1984.01.085	Dish, Candy	OK
O	W1984.01.086	Tongs, Sugar	OK

Catalog / Objectid / Objname			Status
O	W1984.01.088	Ring, Napkin	OK
O	W1984.01.089ab	Candlestick	OK
O	W1984.01.091	Compote	OK
O	W1984.01.092a-d	Candelabrum	OK
O	W1984.01.093ab	Dish, Serving	OK
O	W1984.01.094	Compote	OK
O	W1984.01.099	Coffeepot	OK
O	W1984.01.104	Tongs, Sugar	Missing
O	W1984.01.106ab	Hairbrush	OK
O	W1984.01.107abc	Set, Dresser	OK
O	W1984.01.118a-o	Spoon, Souvenir	OK
O	W1984.01.119a-e	Spoon, Souvenir	OK
O	W1984.01.120ab	Spoon, Souvenir	OK
O	W1984.01.121ab	Spoon, Sugar	OK
O	W1984.01.122a-l	Spoon, Souvenir	OK
O	W1984.01.123a-d	Spoon, Souvenir	OK
O	W1984.01.124a-g	Spoon, Souvenir	OK
O	W1984.01.125	Spoon, Souvenir	OK
O	W1984.01.131	Inkwell	OK
O	W1984.01.132	Candlestick	OK
O	W1984.01.133	Bowl	OK
O	W1984.01.136	Cruet	OK
O	W1984.01.137	Glass, Shot	OK
O	W1984.01.141ab	Dish, Salt	OK
O	W1984.01.143	Bowl	OK
O	W1984.01.149	Dish, Sherbet	OK

Catalog / Objectid / Objname			Status
O	W1984.01.300	Knife	OK
O	W1984.01.301	Armor	OK
O	W1984.01.302ab	Button	OK
O	W1984.01.304	Labret	OK
O	W1984.01.305	Labret	OK
O	W1984.01.309	Adz	OK
O	W1984.01.310	Runner, Sled	OK
O	W1984.01.311	Hook, Meat	OK
O	W1984.01.312	Point, Projectile	OK
O	W1984.01.313	Point, Projectile	OK
O	W1984.01.314	Point, Projectile	OK
O	W1984.01.315	Scraper	OK
O	W1984.01.316	Scraper	OK
O	W1984.01.317	Point, Projectile	OK
O	W1984.01.318	Point, Projectile	OK
O	W1984.01.319	Scraper	OK
O	W1984.01.320ab	Spear	OK
O	W1984.01.321	Point, Projectile	OK
O	W1984.01.322	Knife	OK
O	W1984.01.323	Knife	OK
O	W1984.01.324	Knife	OK
O	W1984.01.325	Knife	OK
O	W1984.01.326	Adz	OK
O	W1984.01.327	Knife	OK
O	W1984.01.328	Graver	OK
O	W1984.01.329	Harpoon, Head	OK

Catalog / Objectid / Objname			Status
O	W1984.01.236	Stick, Throwing	OK
O	W1984.01.237	Stick, Throwing	OK
O	W1984.01.238	Stick, Throwing	OK
O	W1984.01.239	Sinker, Net	OK
O	W1984.01.241	Fastener	OK
O	W1984.01.243	Bola	OK
O	W1984.01.244	Scraper	OK
O	W1984.01.245	Harpoon Head	OK
O	W1984.01.246	Point	OK
O	W1984.01.247	Point	OK
O	W1984.01.248	Point, Spear/Harpoon	OK
O	W1984.01.249	Handle	OK
O	W1984.01.250	Shuttle	OK
O	W1984.01.251	Box, Bentwood	OK
O	W1984.01.260	Spoon, Potlatch	OK
O	W1984.01.262ab	Set, Salad	OK
O	W1984.01.263	Spoon	OK
O	W1984.01.266	Spoon	OK
O	W1984.01.268	Spoon	OK
O	W1984.01.270	Spoon	OK
O	W1984.01.273ab	Set, Salad	OK
O	W1984.01.281	Cane	OK
O	W1984.01.288	Paddle	OK
O	W1984.01.289	Paddle, Dance	OK
O	W1984.01.290	Paddle, Dance	OK
O	W1984.01.296	Bookend	OK

Catalog / Objectid / Objname			Status
O	W1984.01.300	Knife	OK
O	W1984.01.301	Armor	OK
O	W1984.01.302ab	Button	OK
O	W1984.01.304	Labret	OK
O	W1984.01.305	Labret	OK
O	W1984.01.309	Adz	OK
O	W1984.01.310	Runner, Sled	OK
O	W1984.01.311	Hook, Meat	OK
O	W1984.01.312	Point, Projectile	OK
O	W1984.01.313	Point, Projectile	OK
O	W1984.01.314	Point, Projectile	OK
O	W1984.01.315	Scraper	OK
O	W1984.01.316	Scraper	OK
O	W1984.01.317	Point, Projectile	OK
O	W1984.01.318	Point, Projectile	OK
O	W1984.01.319	Scraper	OK
O	W1984.01.320ab	Spear	OK
O	W1984.01.321	Point, Projectile	OK
O	W1984.01.322	Knife	OK
O	W1984.01.323	Knife	OK
O	W1984.01.324	Knife	OK
O	W1984.01.325	Knife	OK
O	W1984.01.326	Adz	OK
O	W1984.01.327	Knife	OK
O	W1984.01.328	Graver	OK
O	W1984.01.329	Harpoon, Head	OK

Catalog / Objectid / Objname			Status
O	W1984.01.330	Maul	OK
O	W1984.01.331	Whetstone	OK
O	W1984.01.332	Adz	OK
O	W1984.01.334	Drumstick	OK
O	W1984.01.335	Ring, Napkin	OK
O	W1984.01.336	Ring, Napkin	OK
O	W1984.01.338	Stetcher, Glove	OK
O	W1984.01.340	Goggles	OK
O	W1984.01.343ab	Snuffbox	OK
O	W1984.01.345	Calendar	OK
O	W1984.01.346	Calendar	OK
O	W1984.01.349	Painting	OK
O	W1984.01.350ab	Painting	OK
O	W1984.01.351	Spoon, Souvenir	OK
O	W1984.01.352	Fork, Cold-meat	OK
O	W1984.01.353	Silver Storage Cloth	OK
O	W1984.01.354	Spoon, Souvenir	OK
O	W1984.01.356ab	Spoon, Serving	OK
O	W1984.01.357ab	Spoon, Serving	OK
O	W1984.01.358a-j	Set, Flatware	OK
O	W1984.01.359a-j	Spoon, Dessert	OK
O	W1984.01.360	Spoon, Serving	OK
O	W1984.01.361a-c	Set, Flatware	OK
O	W1984.01.365	Spoon	OK
O	W1984.01.366a-bb	Set, flatware	OK
O	W1984.01.368a-v	Set, flatware	OK

Catalog / Objectid / Objname			Status
O	W1984.01.369a-m	Set, Flatware	OK
O	W1984.01.383	Spike	OK
O	W1984.01.385	Coin	OK
O	W1984.01.386	Nail	OK
O	W1984.01.389	Lamp, Floor	Missing
O	W1984.01.390a-m	Set, Flatware	OK
O	W1984.01.391ab	Set, Salt & Pepper	OK
O	W1984.01.394a-g	Jar, Preserving	OK
O	W1984.01.396	Model, Train	OK
O	W1984.01.398	Case, Flatware	OK
O	W1984.01.399ab	Moistener	OK
O	W1984.01.400	Plate, Dinner	OK
O	W1984.01.401a-e	Plate, Dinner	OK
O	W1984.01.402a-g	Plate, Luncheon	OK
O	W1984.01.403a-c	Cup	OK
O	W1984.01.404a-d	Plate, Dessert	OK
O	W1984.01.405	Plate, Dessert	OK
O	W1984.01.406ab	Plate, Salad	OK
O	W1984.01.407	Plate	OK
O	W1984.01.409	Plate	OK
O	W1984.01.411a-c	Saltcellar	OK
O	W1984.01.414	Mug, Shaving	OK
O	W1984.01.415	Mug, Shaving	OK
O	W1984.01.416ab	Cup & Saucer	OK
O	W1984.01.417	Vase	OK
O	W1984.01.418	vase	OK

Catalog / Objectid / Objname			Status
O	W1984.01.419	Vase	OK
O	W1984.01.427	Cup	OK
O	W1984.01.428ab	Box, Hairpin	OK
O	W1984.01.429	Mug	OK
O	W1984.01.430ab	Shaker, Salt & Pepper	OK
O	W1984.01.431	Vase	OK
O	W1984.01.433	Vase	OK
O	W1984.01.435	Plate	OK
O	W1984.01.438	Figurine	OK
O	W1984.01.439	Doll	OK
O	W1984.01.448	Coffeepot	OK
O	W1984.01.449a-e	Record, Phonograph	OK
O	W1984.01.456a-c	Kayak	OK
O	W1984.01.458	Parka	OK
O	W1984.01.461	Ball	OK
O	W1984.01.465ab	Boot	OK
O	W1984.01.471	Pouch	OK
O	W1984.01.472ab	Knife	OK
O	W1984.01.473	Pennant	OK
O	W1984.01.474	Pennant	OK
O	W1984.01.475	Holder, Letter	OK
O	W1984.01.477	Holder, Letter	OK
O	W1984.01.478ab	Earring	OK
O	W1984.01.479	Purse, Change	OK
O	W1984.01.480ab	Beadwork, Fragment	OK
O	W1984.01.481ab	Moccasin Beadwork	OK

Catalog / Objectid / Objname			Status
O	W1984.01.489	Necklace	OK
O	W1984.01.490	Necklace	OK
O	W1984.01.491	Necklace	OK
O	W1984.01.492	Necklace	OK
O	W1984.01.495	Necklace	OK
O	W1984.01.497	Spoon	OK
O	W1984.01.498	Spoon	OK
O	W1984.01.499	Spoon	OK
O	W1984.01.500	Spoon	OK
O	W1984.01.501	Robe	Missing
O	W1984.01.503	Hanging	OK
O	W1984.01.505	Robe, Coast Salish	OK
O	W1984.01.506	Rug, Navaho	OK
O	W1984.01.507	Rug, Navaho	OK
O	W1984.01.508	Quilt	Missing
O	W1984.01.509	Quilt	Missing
O	W1984.01.511	Rug	OK
O	W1984.01.512	Rug	OK
O	W1984.01.513	Rug	OK
O	W1984.01.514	Rug	OK
O	W1984.01.515	Rug	OK
O	W1984.01.517	Rug	OK
O	W1984.01.519	Piano	OK
O	W1984.01.520	Radio	OK
O	W1984.01.521a-f	Phonograph	OK
O	W1984.01.522ab	Censer	Missing

Catalog / Objectid / Objname			Status
O	W1984.01.523	Icon	OK
O	W1984.01.524ab	Icon	OK
O	W1984.01.525	Icon	OK
O	W1984.01.527ab	Copper	OK
O	W1984.01.529	Knife, Paper	OK
O	W1984.01.532	Paperweight	OK
O	W1984.01.533	Ashtray	OK
O	W1984.01.534	Core Sample	OK
O	W1984.01.536	Petrified Wood	OK
O	W1984.01.545	Stand, Umbrella	OK
O	W1984.01.550	Tray	OK
O	W1984.01.551	Tray	OK
O	W1984.01.552	Tray	OK
O	W1984.01.553	Tray	OK
O	W1984.01.554	Tray	Missing
O	W1984.01.556	Tray	OK
O	W1984.01.557a-c	Samovar	OK
O	W1984.01.559a-e	Samovar	OK
O	W1984.01.560	Candlestick	OK
O	W1984.01.562ab	Teapot	OK
O	W1984.01.563	Chimney, Samovar	OK
O	W1984.01.564	Fob	OK
O	W1984.01.565	Fob	OK
O	W1984.01.566a-c	Ribbon, Political	OK
O	W1984.01.567ab	Ribbon, Political	OK
O	W1984.01.568	Ribbon	OK

Catalog / Objectid / Objname			Status
O	W1984.01.569ab	Ribbon, Political	OK
O	W1984.01.570	Ribbon, Political	OK
O	W1984.01.571	Ribbon, Political	OK
O	W1984.01.572	Ribbon, Fraternal	OK
O	W1984.01.575	Ribbon, Political	OK
O	W1984.01.577ab	Ribbon, Political	OK
O	W1984.01.578ab	Ribbon, Political	OK
O	W1984.01.579	Ribbon	OK
O	W1984.01.580	Ribbon, Political	OK
O	W1984.01.582	Ribbon, Political	OK
O	W1984.01.583	Ribbon, Political	OK
O	W1984.01.584	Ribbon, Fraternal	OK
O	W1984.01.585	Ribbon, Fraternal	OK
O	W1984.01.586ab	Pin	OK
O	W1984.01.587	Pin, Political	OK
O	W1984.01.589ab	Pin	OK
O	W1984.01.590	Pin, Fraternal	OK
O	W1984.01.591ab	Pin, Fraternal	OK
O	W1984.01.592	Pin, Fraternal	OK
O	W1984.01.593	Pin	OK
O	W1984.01.594	Pin, Fraternal	OK
O	W1984.01.596ab	Pin, Fraternal	OK
O	W1984.01.597	Pin	OK
O	W1984.01.598a-c	Pin, Lapel	OK
O	W1984.01.600	Pin, Fraternal	OK
O	W1984.01.601	Pin, Fraternal	OK

Catalog / Objectid / Objname			Status
O	W1984.01.602	Pin	OK
O	W1984.01.606	Pin	OK
O	W1984.01.608	Charm, Fraternal	OK
O	W1984.01.609	Charm	OK
O	W1984.01.610	Pin, Fraternal	OK
O	W1984.01.612	Pin, Political	OK
O	W1984.01.613	Buckle, Belt	OK
O	W1984.01.615ab	Watch, Pocket	OK
O	W1984.01.616	Gavel	OK
O	W1984.01.617	Fob & Chain	OK
O	W1984.01.618ab	Sign	OK
O	W1984.01.619	Candlestick	OK
O	W1984.01.620	Model, Totem Pole	OK
O	W1984.01.624	Model, Totem Pole	OK
O	W1984.01.631a-1	Table, Dining	OK
O	W1984.01.633ab	Table, Library	OK
O	W1984.01.634	Chest, Tea	OK
O	W1984.01.635	Chest	OK
O	W1984.01.636	Chest	Missing
O	W1984.01.637ab	Table, Night	OK
O	W1984.01.638	Desk, Slant-top	OK
O	W1984.01.639	Table, Occasional	OK
O	W1984.01.640	Table, Occasional	OK
O	W1984.01.641	Table, Library	OK
O	W1984.01.642a-e	Cabinet, China	OK
O	W1984.01.643a-m	Desk	OK

Catalog / Objectid / Objname			Status
O	W1984.01.644	Chair, Host	OK
O	W1984.01.645	Chair	OK
O	W1984.01.646	Chair, Desk	OK
O	W1984.01.647a-c	Cabinet, Filing	OK
O	W1984.01.651	Sofa & Chair	OK
O	W1984.01.652	Sofa	OK
O	W1984.01.653ab	Chair, Easy	OK
O	W1984.01.654	Chair, Rocking	OK
O	W1984.02.001a-f	Set, Dining Chair	OK
O	W1984.02.002	Machine, Sewing	OK
O	W1984.02.003	Chest, Book	OK
O	W1984.02.004	Table, Typewriter	OK
O	W1984.02.005a-f	Bookcase	OK
O	W1984.02.006AB	Trunk	OK
O	W1984.02.007	Chest, Book	OK
O	W1984.02.008	Chest, Book	OK
O	W1984.02.010a-q	Trunk	OK
O	W1984.02.011a-d	Table, Dressing	OK
O	W1984.02.012	Print	OK
O	W1984.02.013	Secretary	OK
O	W1984.02.014	Bench	OK
O	W1984.02.015	Mirror	OK
O	W1984.02.016	Telephone	OK
O	W1984.02.017	Scuttle, Coal	OK
O	W1984.02.018	Stand, Plant	OK
O	W1984.02.019a-e	Set, Dining Chair	OK

Catalog / Objectid / Objname			Status
O	W1984.02.020	Chair, Hall	OK
O	W1984.02.021	Lamp, Floor	OK
O	W1984.02.022	Table, Tea	OK
O	W1984.02.024	Painting	OK
P	W1984.02.025	Print, Photographic	OK
P	W1984.02.026	Print, Photographic	OK
P	W1984.02.027	Print, Photographic	OK
P	W1984.02.028	Print, Photographic	OK
P	W1984.02.029	Print, Photographic	OK
P	W1984.02.030abc	Print, Photographic	OK
O	W1984.02.031	Frame, Picture	OK
P	W1984.02.032	Print, Photographic	OK
P	W1984.02.033	Print, Photographic	OK
P	W1984.02.034	Print, Photographic	OK
P	W1984.02.035	Print, Photographic	OK
P	W1984.02.036	Print, Photographic	OK
P	W1984.02.037	Print, Photographic	OK
P	W1984.02.038	Print, Photographic	OK
A	W1984.02.039	Map	OK
O	W1984.02.040	Frame, Picture	OK
A	W1984.02.041	Certificate, Confirmation	OK
P	W1984.02.042	Print, Photographic	OK
O	W1984.02.044	Hatbox	OK
O	W1984.02.045AB	Hatbox	OK
O	W1984.02.046	Hat	OK
O	W1984.02.048	Hat	OK

Catalog / Objectid / Objname			Status
O	W1984.02.049	Hat	OK
O	W1984.02.050	Hat	OK
O	W1984.02.054	Purse	OK
O	W1984.02.055	Cane	OK
O	W1984.02.056	Cane	OK
O	W1984.02.057	Cane	OK
O	W1984.02.058	Cane	OK
O	W1984.02.059	Cape	OK
O	W1984.02.060	Dress	OK
O	W1984.02.061	Coat	OK
O	W1984.02.062	Dress	OK
O	W1984.02.063ab	Dress	OK
O	W1984.02.064	Dress	OK
O	W1984.02.065	Dress	OK
O	W1984.02.066ab	Dress	OK
O	W1984.02.069	Slip	OK
O	W1984.02.070	Cape	OK
O	W1984.02.076ab	Glove	OK
O	W1984.02.078ab	Glove	OK
O	W1984.02.079abc	Set, Collar & Cuff	OK
O	W1984.02.080A-E	Chest of Drawers	OK
O	W1984.02.084	Case, Jewelry	OK
O	W1984.02.086A-F	Set, Manicure	OK
O	W1984.02.088	Model, Totem Pole	OK
O	W1984.02.090	Amulet	OK
O	W1984.02.091	Rug, Navaho	OK

Catalog / Objectid / Objname			Status
O	W1984.02.092	Fan, Dance	OK
O	W1984.02.094A-C	Set, Cigarette	OK
O	W1984.02.095	Pendant	OK
O	W1984.02.098	Doll, Ichimatsu	OK
O	W1984.02.099	Chair	OK
O	W1984.02.102	Chest, Book	OK
O	W1984.02.103	Table, Occasional	OK
O	W1984.02.104	Tablecloth	OK
O	W1984.02.106A-C	Napkin	OK
O	W1984.02.109A-D	Napkin	OK
O	W1984.02.110	Curtain	OK
O	W1984.02.111	Towel, Hand	OK
O	W1984.02.113	Blanket	OK
O	W1984.02.114A-K	Set, Tablecloth	OK
O	W1984.02.116	Scarf, Bureau	OK
O	W1984.02.117	Scarf, Bureau	OK
O	W1984.02.118	Doily	OK
O	W1984.02.121	Doily	OK
O	W1984.02.122AB	Doily	OK
O	W1984.02.124AB	Antimacassar	OK
O	W1984.02.125	Pad, Hot	OK
O	W1984.02.126AB	Holder, Clothespin	OK
O	W1984.02.128	Cleaver	OK
O	W1984.02.129	Maul, Meat	OK
O	W1984.02.130AB	Set, Carving	OK
O	W1984.02.131	Masher	OK

Catalog / Objectid / Objname			Status
O	W1984.02.132	Spoon, Wire	OK
O	W1984.02.133	Opener, Can	OK
O	W1984.02.136	Spoon	OK
O	W1984.02.139	Strainer, Tea	OK
O	W1984.02.140AB	Strainer, Tea	OK
O	W1984.02.141A-C	Pan, Frying	OK
O	W1984.02.142	Pitcher	OK
O	W1984.02.144	Squeezer, Fruit	OK
O	W1984.02.146	Bowl	OK
O	W1984.02.147	Plate	OK
O	W1984.02.148	Plate	OK
O	W1984.02.152	Tray, Dresser	OK
O	W1984.02.153AB	Comb	OK
O	W1984.02.154AB	Comb	OK
O	W1984.02.155AB	Necklace	OK
O	W1984.02.158	Pin	OK
O	W1984.02.160	Barnacle	OK
O	W1984.02.161A-C	Coal	OK
O	W1984.02.163	Pen	OK
O	W1984.02.166	Box, File	OK
O	W1984.02.167	Shaker, Sand	OK
O	W1984.02.168	Blotter	OK
O	W1984.02.170	Pin	OK
O	W1984.02.171AB	Pin	OK
O	W1984.02.183	Lamp, Floor	OK
O	W1984.02.184	Rug	OK

Catalog / Objectid / Objname			Status
O	W1984.02.186	Vest	OK
O	W1984.02.187AB	Box	OK
O	W1987.01.002	Extinguisher, Fire	OK
O	W1987.01.004	Briefcase	OK
O	W1987.01.006	Stamp, Notary	OK
O	W1987.01.007	Stamp, Notary	OK
O	W1987.01.008	Fastener, Paper	OK
O	W1987.01.009	Briefcase	OK
O	W1987.01.023	Antlers, Moose	OK
O	W1987.01.025	Flag	OK
O	W1987.01.026	Camera	OK
O	W1987.01.027	Camera	OK
O	W1987.01.030ab	Stereoscope	OK
O	W1987.01.034	Glass, Magnifying	OK
O	W1987.01.044	Typewriter	OK
O	W1987.01.047	Deck, Card	OK
O	W1987.01.048	Box, Cigar	OK
O	W1987.01.049	Box	OK
O	W1987.01.050	Box	OK
O	W1987.01.051ab	Bowl	Missing
O	W1987.01.065a-c	Set, Comb & Hairbrush	OK
O	W1987.01.066	Brush, Clothes	OK
O	W1987.01.067	Brush, Clothes	OK
O	W1987.01.068	Brush, Hat	OK
O	W1987.01.076	Trivet	Missing
O	W1987.01.077	Basket, Laundry	OK

Catalog / Objectid / Objname			Status
O	W1987.01.078	Sweeper, Carpet	OK
O	W1987.01.079a-d	Fireset	OK
O	W1987.01.082	Lamp, Oil	OK
O	W1987.01.084	Bucket	OK
O	W1987.01.086	Ashtray	OK
O	W1987.01.087	Candlestick	OK
O	W1987.01.088	Candlestick	Missing
O	W1987.01.092	Coffeepot	OK
O	W1987.01.093AB	Kettle	OK
O	W1987.01.094AB	Kettle	Missing
O	W1987.01.095AB	Kettle	OK
O	W1987.01.096	Kettle	OK
O	W1987.01.097ab	Kettle	OK
O	W1987.01.098	Pitcher	OK
O	W1987.01.100	Mill, Coffee	OK
O	W1987.01.101a-i	Box, Spice	OK
O	W1987.01.103	Tray	OK
O	W1987.01.104	Print	OK
O	W1987.01.105	Painting	OK
O	W1987.01.106	Print	OK
O	W1987.01.107	Drawing	OK
O	W1987.01.111	Painting	OK
O	W1987.01.112	Print	OK
O	W1987.01.115	Frame, Picture	OK
A	W2004.01.001	Handbill	OK

Total Items: 516



Wickersham and his niece, Ruth Allman

Photo credit

Front cover photos—Wickersham House, courtesy of Mary Pat Wyatt; Creating UAF, University of Alaska, General File, UAF-1958-1026-794

Page v—Fairbanks home and Tanana Chiefs Conference, Albert Johnson Photograph Collection, 1905-1917, UAF-1989-166-242-Print and UAF-1989-166-372-Print

Page vi—Wickersham house drawing, Alaska Department of Natural Resources

Page 2—Wickersham portrait, Alaska State Library Portrait File. Photographs. asl_cPo_Wickersham_James_1

Page 3—Committee of Fifteen, Jack Allman Papers, 1935-1959. ASL-MS-220, Tacoma, WA

Page 5—White Pass, Lawyer and Cora Rivenburg Photograph Collection, 1910-1912, UAF-1994-70-326, City of Seattle, J. Bernard Moore Family Papers, Album #1, UAF-1976-35-63

Page 8—Fairbanks home, Mike Ersig Album, UAF-1992-0207-118; Dog team, Mary Whalen Photograph Collection, UAF-1975-84-342

Page 11—Railroad, Candace Waugaman Collection, UAF-2005-10-11

Page 19—UAA, University of Alaska, General File, UAF-1964-94-35

Page 31— Mike Ersig Album, UAF-1970-0028-276; inside Eagle cabin, Jack Allman Papers, 1935-1959. ASL_MS220_01_04_09

All other photos courtesy of the Wickersham State Historic Site or Alaska State Park employees

Wickersham State Historic Site



Master Interpretive Plan—2008