

HCR

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RESOLUTION

"HOUSE OF WICKERSHAM"

WHEREAS a significant portion of Alaska's history is recorded during the years 1900 through 1930 only in the diaries and papers and manuscripts of Alaska's pioneer judge, James Wickersham; and

WHEREAS the House of Wickersham, located in Juneau, Alaska, is also of major historical significance as it was the first large home built in Alaska after the purchase from Russia and is a fine example of Victorian architecture of the period and is built on the site of the New Boston Gold Mining Claim and was owned first by the principals of the Treadwell Mine and was later acquired by Judge Wickersham as his home; and

WHEREAS the House of Wickersham is certified on the National Register of Historic Places and the private collection of historic papers is of major proportion along with the historic photo files and artifacts; and

WHEREAS the histories of Nome, the Aleutians, Fairbanks, Eagle, Anchorage, Mt. McKinley, Valdez, Skagway, Wrangell, Sitka, Ketchikan and Juneau are preserved and represented in these early documents, making the Wickersham collection of major statewide importance; and

WHEREAS in years past most of the major private historic collections have been sold off or moved out of Alaska being lost forever to future generations; and because this is probably the last and most important and largest private Alaskan historical collection remaining; and

WHEREAS, in Juneau's centennial year, it seems appropriate that this historical treasure of our state should be recognized and preserved for the benefit of all Alaskans now and in centuries to come;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska Visitors Association, acting on the sponsorship and request of the Juneau Chapter of AVA, recommends to the Governor and appropriate State officials, and to each member of the Legislature, and the Alaska Congressional Delegation that negotiations be commenced for the State to acquire the historic real property known as the House of Wickersham and the Wickersham collection of documents, photos, diaries, and artifacts; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the State initiate a plan to restore the home and preserve the documents in proper historic and museum quality professionalism to allow historians, scholars, and all Alaskans to view and share this historic treasure, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the above resolution would be distributed to all the above named individuals.



ALASKA VISITORS ASSOCIATION

Please reply to:

Post Office Box 2220
Anchorage, Alaska 99510
(907) 279-4116

**Tourism
is everybody's
business.**

March 4, 1981

Honorable Mike Miller
Pouch V
Juneau, AK 99811

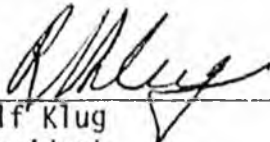
Dear Representative Miller:

The attached "House of Wickersham" Resolution was passed by the Alaska Visitors Association Board of Directors at their meeting in Juneau, February 23, 1981.


We respectfully draw it to your attention and request any assistance you may be able to offer in the implementation of this resolution.

Sincerely,

ALASKA VISITORS ASSOCIATION



Rolf Klug
President



Gary Walker
Executive Director

RK:GW/b1

Attachment

RESOLUTION NO. 6

SUBJECT: "HOUSE OF WICKERSHAM"

WHEREAS, a significant portion of Alaska's documented and written history during the years 1900 through 1930 is recorded only in the diaries and papers and manuscripts of Alaska's pioneer judge, James Wickersham; and

WHEREAS, the House of Wickersham, located in Juneau, Alaska, is itself also of major historical significance because it probably is the first large home built in Alaska after the purchase from Russia and is a fine example of Victorian architecture of the period and is built upon the site of the New Boston Gold Mining Claim and was owned first by the principals of the Treadwell Mine and was later acquired by Judge Wickersham as his home; and

WHEREAS, the House of Wickersham is certified on the National Register of Historic Places and the private collection of historic documents, diaries and papers is of major significance along with the historic photo files and artifacts; and

WHEREAS, the histories of Nome, the Aleutians, Fairbanks, Eagle, Anchorage, Mt. McKinley, Valdez, Skagway, Wrangell, Sitka, Ketchikan and Juneau are preserved and represented in these early documents, making the Wickersham collection of major statewide importance; and

WHEREAS, in years past most of the major private historic collections have been sold off or moved out of Alaska being lost forever to future generations; and because this is probably the last and single most important and largest private Alaskan historical collection remaining; and

WHEREAS, it seems appropriate that this historical treasure of our state should be recognized and preserved for the benefit of all Alaskans now and in centuries to come;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Directors of the Alaska Visitors Association, acting on the sponsorship and request of the Juneau Chapter of AVA, recommends to the Governor and appropriate state officials, and to each member of the Legislature, and the Alaska Congressional Delegation that negotiations be commenced for the State to consider the acquisition of the historic real property known as the House of Wickersham and the Wickersham collection of documents, photos, diaries and artifacts; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the appropriate state officials be requested to coordinate with the various federal government agencies and private foundations who have grants and matching funds for such historical restoration and preservation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the State consider the implementation of an appropriate plan coordinated to restore the home and preserve the documents to allow historians, scholars and all Alaskans and visitors to Alaska to view and share this historic treasure; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the above Resolution be distributed to all the above named state administration, legislative and congressional officials.