

STATE OF ALASKA

THE LEGISLATURE

1981

Source

Legislative
Resolve No.

CSSCR 13(SA)

30



Relating to the preservation of the House of Wickersham.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

WHEREAS a significant portion of Alaska's documented and written history during the years 1900 through 1938 is recorded only in the diaries, papers, and manuscripts of Alaska's pioneer judge, James Wickersham; and

WHEREAS the House of Wickersham, located in Juneau and built on the site of the New Boston gold mining claim, is itself of major historical significance as one of the first large homes built in Alaska after the purchase from Russia, and as a fine example of Victorian architecture; and

WHEREAS the House of Wickersham has been certified for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places, and its private collection of historic documents, diaries, papers, photo files, and artifacts is of major significance to scholars of early twentieth century Alaska; and

WHEREAS the histories of Nome, the Aleutian Islands, 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 many private historic collections have been sold or removed from Alaska; and

WHEREAS it seems appropriate that the Wickersham collection and its repository should be recognized and preserved for the benefit of all Alaskans now and in centuries to come;

BE IT RESOLVED by the Alaska State Legislature that the

Governor is respectfully requested to establish a task force to develop a plan for the continued operation and preservation of the House of Wickersham; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Governor appoint the directors of the division of parks of the Department of Natural Resources, the division of libraries and museums of the Department of Education, and the division of tourism of the Department of Commerce and Economic Development, and other officers of state government concerned with the history of the state to serve on the task force; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Governor invite the appropriate federal agencies and historical associations to work with the task force toward the achievement of its goal.