

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

received JUN 25 1986
date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Leopold David House AHRS SITE NO. ANC-308

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 605 West Second Avenue not for publication

city, town Anchorage vicinity of

state Alaska code 02 county Anchorage Division code 020

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: Law Offices

4. Owner of Property

name Pestinger, Mehner and Huddleston

street & number 605 West Second

city, town Anchorage vicinity of state Alaska 99501

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. District Recorder's Office

street & number 3601 C Street, Suite 1134 (Frontier Building)

city, town Anchorage state Alaska 99503

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Patterns of the Past: An Inventory of
title Anchorage's Heritage Resources has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1979 federal state county local

depository for survey records Municipality of Anchorage

city, town Anchorage state Alaska

7. Description

Condition

excellent
 good
 fair

deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check one

unaltered
 altered

Check one

original site
 moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Leopold David House is a one and one-half story house located on the corner of Second Avenue and "F" Street in downtown Anchorage. The house is approximately 25 feet wide and 40 feet long. The front facade house, facing Second Avenue, has two offset gabled ends. The first is over the front porch and the other is over the main body of the house. The roof has a broad, gentle pitch with deep, bracket-supported, projecting eaves. A bay window adds greater depth to the front facade. A side porch and dormer window, which are oriented to "F" Street, are also gabled. These features provide a substantial mass to the building, and are appropriate to its corner location.

The house was built for Leopold David and his family around 1917. It is a prime example of the town's pre-1920 era housing and is generally considered Anchorage's best example of bungalow style architecture. It is not known if the building was individually designed or if its design was ordered from a plan book, a common practice during the time of its construction.

The house is nestled into its site through the use of a flaired, style covered base typical of the Plains School or Bungalow style. The base is terminated through the use of a continuous horizontal sill trim which has always been painted in a contrasting color. Above the sill is the main body of this house, covered in horizontal clapboard. A wide fancy trim is used at the face of each eave with rafter ends exposed on the sides.

The Leopold David House has changed very little over the years. Originally it was painted in a tri-color scheme. The trim of the window facia, porch part and horizontal sill were white in sharp contrast to the mild tone of the clapboard and dark base. Today the original tonal relationship remains, with the clapboard and base having changed to different shades of gray.

Structural changes on the house have included the remodeling of the basement, which necessitated the addition of basement windows, and the enclosure of the side porch. The structure has changed from residential to office use in recent years. The local law firms who occupy the structure have helped to preserve and renovate the building. They have been careful to retain the characteristic features of the original bungalow style.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1924	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1917-1924 **Builder/Architect** Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Leopold David House is significant as an outstanding example of the bungalow style of architecture in early Anchorage and as the home of one of Anchorage's earliest leading citizens and its first mayor--Leopold David.

There are less than a handful of unaltered bungalows left in Anchorage. This house is considered the finest of those still in existence. The house was not modest by original Anchorage standards. The town developed with the construction of the Alaska Railroad. As a consequence, Anchorage's earliest housing was mostly of utilitarian frame or log construction. Only the management of the Alaska Engineering Commission, the federal agency which built the railroad, had houses which rivaled the size, comfort and design features of Leopold David's residence. Along with a few other bungalows in the Second Avenue and "F" Street area, the Leopold David House stands as a foremost example of the lifestyle and architectural choices of the town's early leaders.

Leopold David, Anchorage's first elected mayor, had a long, productive career in governmental service. His life was a success story revolving around the theme of the young immigrant who finds good fortune in the new world. Born in Nordhausen, Germany in 1881, Leopold David was one of five children. His Jewish parents, looking for the prosperity that America might offer, immigrated to New York when Leopold was a boy. Settling in Brooklyn, the five children were ultimately split apart in the mid-1890s by the death of their parents.

Leopold David joined the U. S. Army and served in the Philippines during the rebellious aftermath of the Spanish-American War. The Army then sent him to Alaska where he was assigned to Fort Egbert, Alaska. Arriving there in 1904, Sergeant First Class David served as a pharmacist's assistant in the Hospital Corps. Upon his discharge in 1905, he settled in Seward where he became manager of the Seward Drug Company. Like many pharmacists of that time, his basic knowledge of medicinal substances brought him the title "Dr. David." Newspaper advertisements listed him as "physician and Surgeon." While working in Seward, he met Anna Karasek. They married in 1909.

In 1909, David moved to Susitna Station and served as the U. S. Marshal. A year later, he settled in Knik where he continued to practice pharmacy.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bernice Bloomfield, Personal notes and conversations, summer 1978.
Seward Gateway, March 13, 1909.
Seward Gateway, March 18, 1911.

10. Geographical Data

Acree of nominated property 0.16 acres

Quadrangle name Anchorage (A-8) NW, Alaska

Quadrangle scale 1.25,000 (meters)

UTM References

A

0	6	3	4	6	1	9	10	6	1	7	9	11	0	4	10
Zone		Easting				Northing									

B

Zone		Easting				Northing									

C

Zone		Easting				Northing									

D

Zone		Easting				Northing									

E

Zone		Easting				Northing									

F

Zone		Easting				Northing									

G

Zone		Easting				Northing									

H

Zone		Easting				Northing									

Verbal boundary description and justification

Original Anchorage Townsite Survey, Lot 11A, Block 6

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Michael Carberry, Senior Planner and Steve Peterson, Architect

Historic Landmarks Preservation Commission/
Community Planning Department

date August 14, 1985

street & number P.O. Box 6650

telephone (907) 264-4228

city or town Anchorage

state Alaska 99502

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature *Jack E. Bittner*

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date June 18, 1986

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I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

William B. Bushong
for Keeper of the National Register

date 7/24/86

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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(AHR Site No. ANC-308)

Continuation sheet Leopold David House

Item number 8

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While living in Knik, he was appointed to the position of U. S. Commissioner, in which he recorded legal documents, such as deeds and mining claims, and served as ex-officio probate judge. It is believed that he studied law while living in Knik as he became a member of the Bar of the State of Washington during that time period.

In May of 1915, David moved to Anchorage just in time to see the bustling tent city at Ship Creek dissolve and the new townsite develop. As the U. S. Commissioner and District Recorder, his signature was affixed to virtually every land transaction in the new community of Anchorage. In 1917, he had the house on Second and "F" Streets built for himself and his family. As a resident of Anchorage, he held memberships in various fraternal organizations, including the Elks, the Moose Lodge, the Shriners and the Masons. David served as a trustee in the Anchorage Daily Times operation and became a director of the Bank of Anchorage. He was well-liked and admired by those around him, and he was active in community affairs. Friends often asked him to run for public office, but for a number of years he turned them down. After Anchorage became incorporated as a town, David ran for mayor. In November of 1920, he was elected to the first of three terms as Mayor of Anchorage. His tenure as mayor was especially important in that his three terms marked the transition of decision making in Anchorage from federal management to local government.

In 1921, David went into private law practice with L. V. Ray. Newspaper advertisements listed his occupation as "Attorney at Law," and his career as an attorney paralleled his service as mayor. On November 22, 1924, he died of heart disease at the age of only 43 years. David and his wife are buried in the Masonic section of Anchorage's Cemetery.