

PH 0665461

DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	MAR 22 1978
DATE ENTERED	JUN 13 1978

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC **Anderson, Oscar, House** (AHR SITE NO. - ANC-098) **

AND/OR COMMON
(Same)

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
Extension of Fourth Avenue, North of Elderberry Park NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN _____ CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT _____

Anchorage _____ VICINITY OF _____

STATE _____ CODE _____ COUNTY _____ CODE 20

Alaska

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input checked="" 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: VACANT

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME
Municipality of Anchorage

STREET & NUMBER
Property Management Office, Pouch 6-650

CITY, TOWN _____ STATE _____

Anchorage _____ VICINITY OF _____ Alaska

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. District Recording Office

STREET & NUMBER
911 West 4th Avenue

CITY, TOWN _____ STATE _____

Anchorage _____ Alaska

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE
Alaska Archaeological/Historic Survey

DATE
11-6-75 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS Division of Parks, Office of History and Archaeology

CITY, TOWN _____ STATE _____

Anchorage _____ Alaska

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MOVED
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		DATE <u>July 1976</u>

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Oscar Anderson House is an unpretentious, frame residence and represents an outstanding example of the modest, yet comfortable, living style of the earliest Anchorage period. The building is reputed to be the first residence to be completed after the platting of lots which created the Anchorage townsite in 1915. Oscar Anderson, a jack-of-all-trades, supervised its construction. Those artisans who actually built the structure included Aron Wicklund and "Stucco Johnson."

It's architecture approximates the bungalow style which was so popular during that era. Specifically, the bungalow-type features include its gabled roof in front and rear, and its one and one half stories which are accentuated by a single dormer window to its west side. Additional light to the upstairs bedrooms was allowed by windows under the moderately pitched gables. Wood shingles cover the roof and are also placed as horizontal fitted siding under the dormers of the upper portion of the house. One enters the smallish dwelling (20 feet x 40 feet) off a square, indented porch at the southeast corner. A flight of stairs to the upper story lies straight ahead of the foyer. Going to the left one enters the living room which is high lighted by a simplistically decorated brick fireplace and a slightly recessed bay window. Other downstairs rooms include the bath, kitchen and dining room. The latter remains highlighted by the original woodwork and cabinets, including a built-in buffet.

Oscar Anderson lived in the house until his death in 1974; the exterior fabric and color of the home were never changed. Interior alterations included the typical kitchen modernization (i.e., icebox & stove replacements as well as counter and cabinet space additions).

Mrs. Oscar Anderson gave the house by chattel deed to the Municipality of Anchorage for historic preservation purposes. In order to save the building the Municipal Assembly provided necessary support through an emergency ordinance in the summer of 1976. The Oscar Anderson House was then moved some 60 feet to a portion of Municipal land adjoining the nearby park (see attached photo). The integrity of its location has been maintained: first, the magnificent vista of Cook Inlet and the Alaska range (undoubtedly, one of Anderson's reasons in his site selection) is not disrupted; second, the original orientation of the house on a north to south axis to the extension of fourth avenue was also secured; and, finally, the vegetation which had been planted by the Anderson's will be appropriately reintroduced at the new site through a landscape plan.

The building will be used for interpretive purposes to depict the residential lifestyle of the early Anchorage era. Various furnishings are being held by the Anderson family and will be given to the Municipality when its restoration has been completed.

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/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1915

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Oscar Anderson, Supervisor

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The significance of the Oscar Anderson house is derived from three facets (1) the early developmental history of the Anchorage community; (2) the contributions of Oscar Anderson to commerce in this region of Alaska; and (3) the building itself.

Anchorage was born in the spirit of the railroad development of Alaska. The U.S. Congress, in creating the Alaska Territorial Legislature in 1912, also commissioned a study of potential railroad routes which would link the seaboard with the interior and its rich mineral deposits. However, it was not until 1915 that the selection of a route was actually made. President Wilson, by Congressional authorization, selected the Western or Susitna Route. This route would join Seward, an ice free port, with the interior which was so rich in gold, oil, timber and fertile soil. Of particular importance the railroad could transport coal from the Matanuska area. In short, the Alaska Railroad (as the route was to be called) can be justly attributed as the reason for bringing Anchorage into existence. Plans for the railroad's development proceeded and a site at Ship Creek was visualized as the ideal location from which construction could proceed north to the coal fields as well as south toward Seward. As lighterage could carry equipment and supplies from larger ships which lay "at anchor" in the Inlet's deeper waters off Ship Creek, the railroad's headquarters were constructed there. Workers flooded to the spot by the hundreds creating a "tent city" in the short space of a few months after Wilson had authorized the route. By midsummer the Alaska Engineering Commission (i.e., the Federal agency building the railroad), had cleared a townsite, platted lots according to the simplistic grid system of streets, sold those lots at public auction to create the town, and endorsed the people's vote to call the town, Anchorage.

Oscar Anderson arrived at Ship Creek in the early spring of 1915. By his own account, he was the eighteenth person to set foot in "tent city", the temporary settlement of those who anticipated railroad-related employment. He quickly went into business with a man by the name of Jensen as the primary meat packer for the region; their cold storage operation was first located at Riverside (i.e. the temporary tent settlement). Anderson was a successful bidder in four instances during the initial auction on July 15, 1915. He rapidly developed a building on his lot in Block 43 to which Ship Creek Meat Market was relocated. Similarly, he began construction of his house on Block 32, a site with a most impressive view of tide water, soaring mountains and ever changing sunset.

The house is said to be the first permanent residence to be completed after the creation of the Anchorage townsite. Mrs. Elizabeth Anderson, his widow, relates that her husband took pride in the supplies which he provided Anchorage - not only, food through his market, but also, fuel. Anderson was one of the original owners of the Evan Jones Coal Company started at Jonesville in 1921. Later he became the company's President and General Manager. That coal carried on the Alaska Railroad was a major energy source for Anchorage for over a quarter century. Besides his interest in the meat and coal business, Anderson, among others, also contributed to the town's development by giving his support to the Anchorage Times and in introducing air transportation to this region.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Interview, Oscar Anderson's Widow, Elizabeth Anderson, by Mike Kennedy, November 1975
- Letter, Elizabeth Anderson to Michael S. Kennedy, December 26, 1975
- COOK INLET PIONEER (Vol. 1, No. 1, June 5, 1915), "Business Firms and Individuals in Local Trade," p. 1-2 (Also see subsequent issues for year 1915).

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than 1 acre

UTM REFERENCES

344-150			6790-450					
A	0,6	149532	6,11,32,01	B				
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING	
C				D				

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Less than one lot of the parcel of municipal land just north of Block 35 (Elderberry Park) replatted and designated as a vacated municipal right-of-way; created from original townsite Block 33, Lot 6, following the 1964 earthquake dislocation.

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 E. Carberry, Historic Preservation Specialist

ORGANIZATION

Planning Department, Municipality of Anchorage

DATE

24 June 1977

STREET & NUMBER

Pouch 6-650

TELEPHONE

907 264-4267

CITY OR TOWN

Anchorage

STATE

Alaska

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

William Henshler

TITLE

State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

3/15/78

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST

William Lebovich
DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

Anty
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

6/13/78

DATE

June 12, 1978

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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE
CONTINUATION SHEET

SPECIFIC DATES: 1915
ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2

The Oscar Anderson House is an excellent example of the frame construction which was incident to that era of the city's history. Because it was not prefabricated as many of the early structures were, especially the homes for railroad employees, its design is unique to Anchorage architecture. Not changing ownership until 1976 when it was given to the Municipality, the Anderson Family kept the original design intact; this is particularly important as most early Anchorage residences have been altered severely or lost entirely. Exhibiting the most elementary of bungaloid features, the house stands as an expression of the simplicity and basic material comfort which surrounded the early Anchorage businessman. Perhaps most importantly it stands as a symbol of the spirit of Oscar Anderson and others like him who as America's latent pioneers helped to create the city and region.