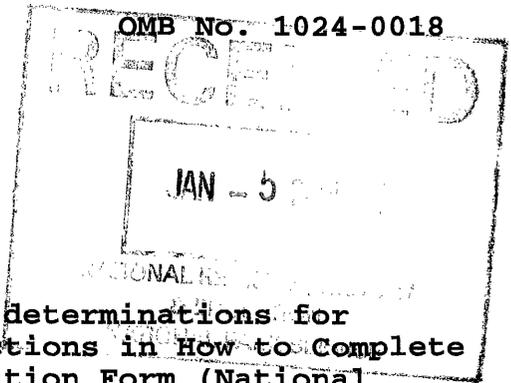


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM



This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

=====
1. Name of Property
=====
historic name Gill, Oscar, House

other names/site number AHRS No. ANC-00412

=====
2. Location
=====
street & number 1344 West 10th Avenue

not for publication N/A
city or town Anchorage vicinity N/A
state Alaska code AK county Anchorage code 020
zip code 99501

USDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form

Oscar Gill House
Anchorage, Alaska

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this X nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide X locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Judith E. Bittner
Signature of certifying official

Dec 26, 2000
Date

Alaska
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
 See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the
 National Register
 See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the
 National Register
- removed from the National Register

other (explain): _____

Edson H. Beall 2/2/01

for
Signature of Keeper

Date of Action

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Oscar Gill House
Anchorage, Alaska

=====

5. Classification

=====

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property (Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u> 1 </u>	<input type="checkbox"/> buildings
<u> </u>	<input type="checkbox"/> sites
<u> </u>	<input type="checkbox"/> structures
<u> </u>	<input type="checkbox"/> objects
<u> 1 </u>	<input type="checkbox"/> Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.) N/A

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Oscar Gill House
Anchorage, Alaska

=====
6. Function or Use
=====

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: Domestic Sub: Single dwelling

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: Domestic Sub: Hotel

=====
7. Description
=====

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Late 19th and Early 20th Century American Movements
Bungalow/Craftsman

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation concrete
roof metal
walls wood
other _____

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Oscar Gill built the house in the town of Knik at the head of Cook Inlet in 1913. He barged it across the inlet to the new town of Anchorage in 1916. In Anchorage it stood at 918 West 10th Avenue, facing north, until the 1980s. In 1916 the area was mostly farmland, but by the late 1930s the South Addition was an established residential neighborhood. The house, although moved from its original lot in the 1980s, stands today in the same neighborhood, still facing north, and still among residences along 10th Avenue. The house is now at 1344 West 10th Avenue, fifteen hundred feet west of its original location.

The 34' by 24' two-story house, sits on a full basement, and has an arctic entry on the front and a 34' by 10' shed-roofed addition on the back. The basement was added when the house was moved to its current site to conform with building codes. The house is balloon framed, and has shiplap fir siding that was milled locally. The gable roof, oriented east-west, is covered with corrugated metal. When the house was moved to Anchorage, Gill replaced the original pitched tar roof with a corrugated tin alloy roof. Original interior features include hardwood floors, window casings, and door moldings.

The house has Arts and Crafts Style details. The roof has exposed rafter tails, and the east and west gables have brackets supporting the overhang. The windows are mostly 1/1 double-hung sash, and measure 3' by 1'6". The

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Oscar Gill House
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8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or a grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

Exploration/settlement
Architecture

Period of Significance 1916-1928

Significant Dates 1916

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)
N/A

Cultural Affiliation N/A

Architect/Builder Gill, Oscar Stephen

USDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form

Oscar Gill House
Anchorage, Alaska

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9. Major Bibliographical References
=====

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Atwood, Evangeline and DeArmond, Robert N. *Who's Who in Alaskan Politics*. Portland, Oregon: Binfords and Mort for the Alaska Historical Commission, 1977.

Carberry, Mike and Lane, Donna. *Patterns of the Past: An Inventory of Anchorage's Historic Resources*. Anchorage, Alaska: Municipality of Anchorage, 1986.

Previous documentation on file (NPS) N/A

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary Location of Additional Data

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository: Anchorage Historic Properties, Inc.

USDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form

Oscar Gill House
Anchorage, Alaska

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10. Geographical Data
=====

Acreage of Property less than 1

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
1	<u>06</u>	<u>343879</u>	<u>6789779</u>	3	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
2	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	4	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	<u> See continuation sheet.</u>						

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The Gill House sits on Lot 6, Block 15B, of the New Townsite South Addition in the Municipality of Anchorage.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary encompasses the entire lot where the house stands. It is in a residential neighborhood setting among houses of a similar scale, size and massing. The house faces north on the Park Strip and is on the same street as it stood historically. A shed in the back yard is of recent construction and is noncontributing and not counted although it is compatible with the historic house.

=====
11. Form Prepared By
=====

name/title Casey Carruth-Hinchey, Student Intern

organization Anchorage Historic Properties, Inc.

date November 12, 1999

street & number 645 West 3rd Avenue

telephone (907) 274-3600

city or town Anchorage **state** AK **zip code** 99501

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Oscar Gill House
Anchorage, Alaska

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windows on the upper floor of the north elevation have been replaced with thermal glass, but match the originals. There are windows on the east and the west ends of the arctic entry. The east half of the north elevation of the house has a paired set of windows on the first floor, matched by a set on the second floor. The western half of the north elevation has single double-hung sash windows on the first and second floors.

The east elevation has four single double-hung sash windows. Two are evenly spaced on the first floor, with two almost directly above on the second floor. The west elevation has two 2' by 4' horizontal windows evenly spaced on the first floor, and two double-hung windows on the second floor that are aligned with the outer edge of the horizontal windows below.

The shed-roof addition at the western end of the south elevation was removed when the house was moved in the 1980s. A larger shed-roof addition now extends out ten feet across the back side of the house. The south elevation of the house had two closely-spaced windows on the first floor; one double-hung window on the west, and one smaller 2' by 1' single pane vertical window on the east. The second floor windows are in a similar arrangement and a small window compatible with the others has been added. The new addition is integrated into the first floor layout, whereas the earlier addition and the house were separated by a door.

The first floor has an entry, living room, dining room, kitchen, master bedroom with bath, laundry area, and a half bath. The second floor has a bedroom with full bath, two bedrooms, and another full bath. The new basement has a living room, dining area, kitchen, two bedrooms, laundry room, and a full bath. Changes to the original floor plan include moving the master bedroom to the first floor addition and adding a laundry area there. On the second floor, the bedroom originally entered from another bedroom now has its own entry. The walls around the staircase have been partially removed.

The house has been moved three times since its construction in Knik. The first was in 1916 when the Gills moved the house to Anchorage. In the 1980s the house had to be moved or demolished when the Anchorage Pioneer's Home expanded. The house stood on blocks until 1993 when it was moved to its current location in the Anchorage neighborhood where it had stood for over fifty years. It faces north as it did originally. The neighborhood has a number of older Anchorage homes of a compatible style and massing. A small shed in the back yard is compatible with the house, but is not historic. It is a noncontributing feature on the lot, but is not counted separately in section 5.

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Oscar Gill House
Anchorage, Alaska

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Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

The Oscar Gill house, moved to the new town of Anchorage in 1916, is one of the city's oldest existing residences. It has Arts and Crafts Style details of a Late 19th and Early 20th Century American Movement house. It is associated with Oscar S. Gill, a prominent entrepreneur and politician of early Anchorage. Gill built the house in 1913 at Knik, a town at the head of Cook Inlet, and barged it across the inlet to the new town of Anchorage in 1916. The family lived in the house until 1928. One of the earliest houses erected in the South Addition, Anchorage's first subdivision, it anticipated the transition of that area from farmland to residential neighborhood. To prevent its demolition, the house was moved when the State of Alaska enlarged the Anchorage Pioneers' Home in the early 1980s. In 1993, the house returned to its old neighborhood and stands on a site, facing north as it did originally, less than four blocks from its historic location. It is one of few residences from Anchorage's founding years still standing that retains much of its original appearance.

Background

Oscar Stephen Gill came to Seward, Alaska, in 1907 and stayed in southcentral Alaska the rest of his life. He ran a sawmill at Susitna, and carried mail for the Northern Commercial Company from Seward to Susitna and Iditarod. He prospected briefly at Eklutna and at Clear Creek. Gold discoveries in Iditarod and Innoko prompted the Gills to move to Knik at the head of Cook Inlet, when the town held promise of becoming the new trade center to serve mines in the Willow Creek area to the northeast as well as the Iditarod district to the northwest. Gill built the house for his family in 1913.

President Woodrow Wilson announced in April 1915 the selection of a route for a government-built railroad from Seward to Fairbanks. Speculation that the railroad would go along Ship Creek caused hundreds to move to the area. In March, the flat area near the creek became the site of a tent city. By June, it had more than two thousand people. Like other hopefuls, Gill rushed to Ship Creek in 1915 to work on railroad construction. After the government surveyed and platted a townsite, Gill and his wife, the former Emma Dohrmann, bought a one-acre home site in the South Addition of the new town named Anchorage. Gill barged their house across Cook Inlet from Knik to Anchorage in 1916. Lumber was scarce at the new townsite, and Knik was being bypassed by the railroad.

The South Addition, added to the Anchorage townsite with the East Addition in 1916, was the area south of Ninth Avenue and included the blocks running east-west along what is now known as the Delaney Park Strip. In 1917, the government reserved a mile of land between Ninth and Tenth avenues and A and P streets for park and fire protection purposes. It was the town's air strip from the mid-1920s to mid-1930s, and since has been a park strip. It has always distinguished the residential South Addition from the downtown area.

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Oscar Gill House
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The first lots sold in the South Addition were one-acre tracts between 10th and 11th avenues. Gill purchased one of them. The lots typically sold for two to three hundred dollars. Few homes were actually built on the lots in the early years. The remaining tracts in the South Addition were divided into 5 or 8.3 acre parcels. The government hoped to encourage agricultural development of those parcels and by Presidential Executive Order in 1917 prohibited the subdivision of tracts containing two acres or more in the townsite. The restricted use, the distance from town, and the lagging economic conditions combined so that not all of the larger lots in the South Addition were sold in the early years.

Fur farming, predominantly fox and mink, was a profitable industry in southcentral Alaska until the early 1930s and at least one fur farm operated in the South Addition during that time. Some land was cleared for vegetable gardens. A few places had dairy cows. Eventually the need for sites for housing led to a change in the 1917 Executive Order allowing subdivision. A 1939 *Anchorage Daily Times* article explained that "inflated property values closer to the center of the city have forced prospective builders to seek new building areas on the outskirts of town."

During his time in the house at its Anchorage location, 1916 to 1928, Oscar Gill was involved with the growth of the fledgling city. He ran a lighterage business transporting supplies from boats and ships to the docks at Ship Creek and to Knik from 1916 to 1923 while the railroad was under construction. In 1923, he opened Gill's Garage at the corner of Fourth Avenue and I Street, one of the first automobile service stations in Anchorage. Gill was a member of the town's school board in the 1920s.

The Gills moved out of the house in 1928 as he embarked on a political career. Gill served as a city councilman in Anchorage from 1929 to 1932, as mayor of Anchorage from 1934 to 1936, and as a member of the Territorial House of Representatives from 1945 to 1947. He was an active member of the Elks Club. After speaking at a banquet at the club on November 19, 1947, Gill suffered a fatal heart attack. He was Speaker of the Territorial House of Representatives at the time of his death.

Only a handful of the residences built or moved to Anchorage in the earliest years, 1915-1917, still stand. One is the Oscar Anderson House, listed in the National Register of Historical Places, that stands about six blocks north of the Gill House. The James Allenbaugh House, also barged to Anchorage from Knik, is on Second Avenue, moved from its earlier location about three blocks north of the Gill House. The Leopold David House, also on Second Avenue, has been listed in the National Register of Historic Places. These buildings, while not significant examples of an identified architectural style, are significant examples of architecture in early Anchorage. All are modest, comfortable, attractive wood houses and nicely complement each other.

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Oscar Gill House
Anchorage, Alaska

Additional Documentation

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Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

=====
Property Owner

=====
(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name Mark and Susan Lutz

street & number 1344 West 10th Avenue

telephone (907) 274-1344

city or town Anchorage state AK zip code 99501
=====

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Anchorage, Alaska

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Photograph identification

1. Oscar Gill House
Anchorage, Alaska
Mark Lutz
August 15, 2000
1344 West 10th Ave., Anchorage, Alaska 99501
Looking south at front of house
2. Oscar Gill House
Anchorage, Alaska
Mark Lutz
August 15, 2000
1344 West 10th Ave., Anchorage, Alaska 99501
Looking southwest at east elevation
3. Oscar Gill House
Anchorage, Alaska
Mark Lutz
August 15, 2000
1344 West 10th Ave., Anchorage, Alaska 99501
Looking north at rear of house
4. Oscar Gill House
Anchorage, Alaska
Mark Lutz
August 15, 2000
1344 West 10th Ave., Anchorage, Alaska 99501
Looking southeast at west elevation