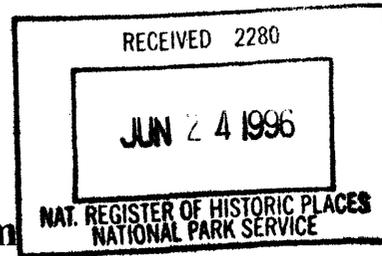


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National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Documentation Form

This form is for use in documenting multiple property groups relating to one or several historic contexts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

A. Name of Multiple Property Listing

Norwegian Settlement in Parkland, Washington

B. Associated Historic Contexts

1. *Exploration /Settlement, 1850 - 1890*
2. *Ethnic Heritage (Norwegian) 1890 - 1950*

C. Geographical Data

The subject of this study is the area known as Parkland, an unincorporated area south of Tacoma, in Pierce County, Washington. Generally, the study area addresses roughly a two-mile radius around Pacific Lutheran University, excluding McChord Air Force Base. The time period of study includes the pioneer era, 1850 to 1890, and Norwegian settlement from 1890 to 1950, when the most intensive Scandinavian settlement occurred.

D. Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this documentation form meets the National Register documentation standards and sets forth requirements for the listing of related properties consistent with the National Register criteria. This submission meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60 and the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Planning and Evaluation.

— See continuation sheet.

May M. Sampson

Signature of certifying official

6/12/96

Date

Washington State Historic Preservation Office
State or Federal agency and bureau

I, hereby, certify that this multiple property documentation form has been approved by the National Register as a basis for evaluating related properties for listing in the National Register.

Paul R. Jungius

Signature of the Keeper of the National Register

7/17/96

Date

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Pioneers and Land Speculation

The area now known as Parkland was homesteaded by Thomas Talentire and his wife, Agnes, some of the first settlers in Pierce County. Thomas was born in Cumberland County, England and Agnes in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. The couple settled in Oregon before establishing their 640 acre donation land claim on March 14, 1851 (Donation Land Claim Number 41) on what was known as "Washington Prairie". Native Americans, mostly from the Nisqually Tribe, were frequent visitors and sometime inhabitants of their land. After working their new claim for several years with their two children, controversy ensued when, in 1860, Thomas and Agnes Talentire were divorced. Agnes remained on the north half of the claim, but Thomas moved to Olympia. Agnes later sold her 320 acres to Mrs. Martha Smith, wife of the prominent settler on lands immediately to the west. The South half of the claim was sold in smaller pieces over the next several years.

Peter and Martha Smith were key figures in settlement of the Parkland area. Peter Smith was a Scottish emigrant who homesteaded in an area South of Tacoma in 1854 (Donation Land Claim Number 42), under the precept of the Donation Land Claim Act of 1850. (See *Peter Smith Donation Land Claim National Register Nomination, 1994*) (*National Register Designation, 1995*)

While initially, Smith was content raising sheep on his farm, he eventually amassed large land holdings in the area. It is estimated he and his wife held over one thousand acres of land at one time. In the interest of making profits through speculation of his land, Smith had much of his holdings surveyed into building lots. They filed *Clover Lea Addition to Tacoma* on February 1, 1889. On June 20, 1889, it was replatted to include 98.53 acres. *Violet Meadows Addition* was platted by the Smiths on the same day. The land to the east of Smith's Plats was platted and filed by Mary Fowler, 136.82 acres of Edward Crofts Donation Land Claim as the *Armour Addition to Tacoma*. While optimism ensued with the movement for Washington statehood, growth of Pierce County and the recent selection of Tacoma as the terminus of the Northern Pacific Rail Road, there was little to draw people to buy their lots. The move was on to establish a town to boost land values.

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On April 26, 1890, William and Isabella Wilson, local land promoters, established the plat of "Parkland Townsite" as follows:

...Know all men by these presents that we William Wilson and Isabella Wilson, his wife do hereby lay out and plat into blocks, lots and streets the following described tract of land to wit - Beginning at a point 1320 feet East of the N.W. corner of the Thos. Tallentire D.C. No. 41 in section 8,9,16 and 17, Township 19 N.R. 3E., W.M. and run thence South 2640 feet, thence East 1268.20 feet, thence North 1320 feet, thence West 1961.45 feet to the place of beginning -- save and excepting a tract of land belonging to school district number forty-five, Pierce County, described as beginning at a point 27.60 chains East of the Southeast corner of lot no. 3 of section 9, T. 19 NR 3 E WM thence running South 2 chains thence east 5 chains, thence North 2 chain, thence east 5 chains to the place of beginning containing 1 acre. The above described tract contains 97.02 acres and is hereafter to be known as "Parkland Townsite" State of Washington. And we do hereby donate and dedicate to the uses of the public forever all the streets in this townsite.

When drawing the proposed town, Wilson directed his map maker to "Call the place Parkland, it sure is pretty as a park..."

The next major action was the organization of the *Parkland Land Company*, whose articles of incorporation were filed on August 18, 1890. Ward T. Smith (son-in-law of Peter Smith) was named president and Walter S. Temple as secretary. William and Isabella Wilson then signed a warranty deed for \$18,000.00 for the land. Other lands were platted and filed in the area, increasing the prospects of urbanization.

(Note: Blocks in Parkland were laid out in typical nineteenth century Euclidean fashion, with average blocks oriented east-west. Typical block dimensions were 200' x 500', with typical lot sizes 25' x 100', with no provisions for alley access.)

On December 22, 1890, the Smith family, including Peter, his son William T. and his wife, Mary O. (William Wilson's daughter), Peter's daughter Helen and her husband Ward T. Smith filed the *University Addition to Parkland*. This 105.65 acre tract included 40 acres of the northwest corner of the Tallentire Donation Land Claim, 107.15 acres of the northwest corner of the Peter Smith Donation Land Claim and block 82 of Clover Lea Addition. The plat included a site for a university. Their intent was to advertise for an "Eastern" university to establish themselves in Parkland.

One final element remained to establish the "Town of Parkland". In January, 1891, the Lake Park Railway began operation. This street railway was an excursion route which ran from downtown Tacoma, via Edison (now South Tacoma) to Spanaway Lake to the South of Parkland. It was the desire of LPRR to establish a resort community along the shores of Spanaway Lake. The line was serviced in the beginning by a steam locomotive called "Old Betsy", although a motorcoach subsequently served the line until it was

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discontinued in the 1930s. The railway offered advantages to the burgeoning town, however, and a ticket and waiting station was located at the corner of Garfield and "E" Streets (now Garfield and "C" Streets). With the land platted, a site dedicated for a university and convenient transportation in place, the stage was set for a prosperous town to sprout.

Scandinavian Emigration

While Norway was a moderately prosperous country in the late nineteenth century, its people were subjected to economic stagnation in rural areas, food shortages due in part to the European potato famine and the search for religious expression free from the constraints of the state church. These factors, coupled with the lure of prosperity, began a wave of immigration from Norway to the United States. The first group of emigrants arrived in America in 1825 on the ship *Restauration*. Over the next 100 years, over 900,000 people would emigrate from their native land to America. Most sailed to New York and moved to the Midwest, to areas such as Minnesota and North Dakota. In Minnesota geographical similarities to the homeland made immigrants comfortable, while in barren North Dakota, expansive uncultivated prairies and railroad land promotions were attractive inducements.

In late nineteenth century as today, Lutheran was the state church of Norway, with over ninety percent of the population practicing its teachings. Immediately the quest was begun to form an American organized religion in the Norwegian tradition. Some found spiritual comfort in other religions, such as the Quaker movement, Methodist and Baptist Churches. While no clergy came to America until 1839, the Lutheran faith was practiced in an informal way. Perhaps because of this, several different sects of the Norwegian Lutheran Church were formed. These included the *Hauge Church*, which was formed in Norway by Hans Nielsen Hauge, a blacksmith--not a preacher, by trade. Hauge believed that the Lutheran church had grown away from the needs of the people and wanted to reform traditional Norwegian Lutheranism. His pastorate were lay people and he believed in intensive religious dedication -- qualities which were attractive to the immigrants. The *Norwegian Augustana Synod* was organized in 1890. It was by far the most conservative of the major Lutheran Church groups in America, and was closely associated with the German Lutheran Church, or the Missouri Synod.

The *Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran Church in America* was formed in 1853. This "Synod" was similar to the Hauge Church, but was somewhat less restrictive. Its goals were to conform to the state church's ideals, but allowed for more freedom of religious expression. It was the Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran Church which played the greatest role in the subsequent Norwegian settlement of the Parkland area.

Building of a University

The construction of Harstad Hall on the Pacific Lutheran University campus was the single most important factor in the establishment of Parkland as a seat of Norwegian Lutheran settlement. The decision of the Church to build in this location is as follows:

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By the 1880s, it became apparent that the religious needs of Norwegian Americans on the Pacific Coast needed to be met. On October 14, 1890, the Synod passed a resolution in Dekorah, Iowa, to establish religious institutions in the West:

The Conference deems the establishment of a Lutheran High School on the West Coast as very timely, yes, necessary, and wishes to encourage the brethren on the Coast to proceed with the erection of such a high school. Without in any way making the Synod responsible, the Conference recommends that the brethren here support the school with donations, and further, that the Rev. B. Harstad, if possible together with another pastor of practical bent, take a trip to the coast to assist in starting the work in the proper manner.

In addition, it was resolved to establish the Pacific Synod to further missionary efforts in the West and unify the scattered groups of Lutherans. The Reverend Bjug (*pronunciation: "j" is silent; rhymes with fugue*) Harstad, a pioneer Lutheran pastor and educator was selected to facilitate the job. Several sites were explored for the venture. Genessee, Idaho; Portland, Oregon; Spokane, Utsallady, Seattle and Poulso, Washington were considered. No substantial progress was made toward establishing a school, however. Then, by chance, Pastor Peder Langseth was introduced to Ward Smith. Langseth explained that the Lutherans had an interest in establishing a school in the Northwest. Smith showed him charts and maps of the Parkland area which identified, among other things, that a plot for a college had been laid out. Smith explained that some parties in the east had expressed interested in their land, but that they had backed out of the deal.

While obviously quite interested, Langseth explained that the Lutherans had no money to fund construction of a school. Smith explained that if the Lutherans would be interested in their site, the farmers and landowners around Parkland could band together under his leadership and promote the venture. Smith organized the *Ward T. Smith Co.* on April 10, 1891 to handle these affairs. His motivation was obvious: to realize profits from the value of the land he and his family held.

Reverend Harstad was immediately summoned from the Midwest to learn about the venture. But before coming to the Parkland site, Harstad held a conference with pastors from Seattle to determine whether there was any strong interest in establishing the school there. No viable offers were tabled, however, and the Seattle Chamber of Commerce wanted a large deposit before it would promote the project. He was free to peruse the Parkland proposal.

On December 11, 1890, Harstad formed the *Pacific Lutheran University Association*, a corporation charged with expediting construction of the new Lutheran school. The same day, Bjug Harstad was elected president, with locals Peder Langseth, Ole G. Storaasli Carl Hordness and Louis C. Evanson its other trustees. The Association was not an official part of the Church, and was initially funded separately.

The following transaction was established to fund the school, as Harstad wrote in the *Lutheran University Herald*:

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- The *Pacific Lutheran University Association* was given one hundred acres of land in Parkland, part of a large parcel which had been brought together by Ward T. Smith (including Peter Smith's land).
- The *Association* was guaranteed ten percent of all money taken in from the sale of some 4,000 lots owned by the promoters.
- The *Association* would be given an extra \$10,000.00 when all lots had been bought and paid for.
- The agreement would last for five years.

The Lutherans, of course, would promote land sales within its members to help fuel construction and maintenance of its school. This would bring a cohesive Scandinavian Lutheran character of the area and build a community with an ethnic basis.

Note: Attachment 1 is a reduction of what most likely one of the early land promotion maps. While it is not dated, it probably is from the early 1890s. Pacific Avenue is shown one block to the west of its current location.

The agreement was met with excitement. While some Norwegian settlers inhabited the area before the university was established, certainly the new venture would bring several more people from the homeland. Parkland was ideal for their school. Situated south of Tacoma, the site had convenient transportation, was fed with fresh water from Clover Creek which ran along its southern border (re-directed one quarter mile to the south in the 1960s) and had broad expanses of land which was economic to develop, since the land was primarily flat prairie land. Abundant timber and other building materials were in close proximity to the site. Attractive views of Mount Rainier to the southeast could be had. Nothing, it seemed, would stop the venture from being a success.

Now the task of building the school began. While Harstad had been charged by the Church to construct a high school, it was obvious his goals were greater. His task, as is evidenced by the name of the association he founded, was to build a university. It is not known whether this was in spite of the Synod's wishes, or the Synod's direction had changed. Regardless, plans were unveiled for the new building in the newly established Norwegian-language *Lutheran University Herold*. In it, an imposing, six-story masonry structure was shown. Harstad stated that this was to be the first of three buildings to be constructed on the site. He explained that it was "to be a first-rank school...all were in favor of it, and the influx of Scandinavians to the Coast made the need for it great." Practicality won out in the end, however, and the June issue of the *Herold* showed the building as it was actually to be built. As revised, it was somewhat smaller, five stories in height and with accommodation for two hundred forty-eight students, dining hall and administrative and classroom spaces.

In June of 1891, Harstad returned to the Midwest to begin promoting his project. He spoke to the Minnesota, Iowa and Eastern Districts, to explain that while the University was not a part of the Church, its construction was important to Lutheran education across the country. While he was away, the Corporation built Harstad a house, to his great surprise. This residence still survives, though altered, at 502 South 125th Street. He reported in the *Herold* that there was genuine enthusiasm for their project, and construction was begun. The cornerstone for the new building was laid on October 4, 1891, among great fanfare from the Church and community.

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While land sales were slower than anticipated, construction proceeded quickly on the building. Eventually, the Association mortgaged their land to finance their venture. But several events slowed progress. First, the mill which was to provide timber for the building, located on Clover Creek, went bankrupt. Eventually, the University bought it, and construction was able to proceed. With the panic of 1893, brought on by the bankruptcy of Jay Cook's Northern Pacific Railroad, however, land values dropped, land sales virtually ceased, and with it, the construction of Harstad Hall. PLU advertised desperately for donations from the Church for enough money to complete their building. The church in Stanwood, Washington, donated shingles for the roof. Eventually, enough money was subscribed from Lutherans and other sources to complete the building. It opened its doors on October 14, 1894 and started classes on October 25th of the same year.

The Lutherans had accomplished much: in a period of three years, it had constructed "the largest, most impressive building built by Norwegians in America". Indeed, it was one of the largest buildings in Pierce County, and towered over the scattered residences on the prairie in Parkland. For its first several years, the school functioned as the *Pacific Lutheran Academy* (PLA), with classes in Norwegian and English on the high school and college preparatory levels. Bjug Harstad was elected its first president in 1892, and served in that capacity until 1895. He resigned to peruse other religious pursuits. The Academy became *Pacific Lutheran College* (PLC) in 1940, with higher education courses. Finally, in 1963, Bjug Harstad's dream was realized when the school he founded became *Pacific Lutheran University* (PLU).

The construction of Harstad Hall (as PLU "Old Main" was to be named in 1960, in honor of PLU founder, Bjug Harstad, (See *Harstad Hall National Register Nomination Form*) was important not only as a massive building project. It was the catalyst for creating a Norwegian Lutheran community by several different means:

First, Scandinavian craftsmen were called in to construct Harstad Hall. They brought not only their carpentry skills, but served as a "first wave" of substantial Parkland Norwegian settlement. Along with their tools and skills, they brought wives and families to help build the community. Among the first to arrive was Sam Sinland, who is listed as builder of Harstad Hall. Of Norwegian descent, he brought to Parkland his traditional quality construction skills. Two houses associated with Sinland remain in the Parkland area. The *Sinland/Molden House* (1906) is on 118th Street, just north of the University. It exists in altered condition. The *Sinland/Dahl Residence* (1911) on 119th Street, was later inhabited by Sam Sinland's daughter, Malla, who married Hans Dahl and operated a store on Garfield Street. *Ole Benrud* was also a carpenter for the university building construction. His house, built circa 1900, remains remarkably intact. It is located on 121st Street, just east of the university. The *Glasso House*, built in 1892, is on Garfield Street, approximately four hundred feet to the east of Harstad Hall. Constructed by Harstad Hall's stone mason, it is constructed of structural board-and-batten (or "plank") perimeter walls, and a delicate porch. While it was once covered with inappropriate stucco, recent improvements have returned it to its original appearance. (The Bogstad House, built in 1891 near the Smith Farm to the south, is of similar construction.)

The next movement of Norwegians into the area were the teachers and staff for the university. Two houses belonging to Bjug Harstad remain in Parkland. (His first house has already been discussed.) Later, he bought the estate of land promoter *Ward T. Smith*, which is on the east side of Pacific Avenue at

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the intersection of Garfield Street, two blocks east of the university building he commissioned. Although reconstructed after a severe fire in 1920, as originally built it stood as a stately, shingled Dutch Colonial home. (Note: See *Smith/Harstad House National Register Nomination, 1995 for more information.*) The *Bakkum/Hovd House*, just west of the Benrud house on 121st Street, was built for a university maintenance worker. It is an Italianate-style residence. Norwegian emigrant *J.U. Xavier* was a noted teacher and acting president of the university from 1920-1921. His house, on 118th and "C" Street, is a modest shingled bungalow from 1910.

Finally, the homes and businesses of the people not directly related to the university, but drawn to the area because of business prospects, Norwegian cohesiveness and PLU students and alumni were built. Much of the property surrounding the university was bought by Norwegians in the Midwest to fund university construction. Many moved to Parkland to be a part of the new Lutheran town. These include the *Dahl Houses*, (1911 and 1921), *Ellingson Houses* (various dates) and *Fynboe House* of 1916.

As the university progressed, an entire infrastructure was established by Norwegian Lutherans. Businesses were built along the main commercial street, Garfield Street. These included the *Kraabel and Ericson Store* (demolished in the 1960s), (Ettie C. Kraabel was the first female graduate of the university in 1898), *Knudtson Store and Thompson Barber Shop*, circa 1906, on the corner of Garfield and "C" Street and the first important commercial building in the area. This building survives, but in significantly altered condition. The *Dahl Grocery Store*, 1908, reflected Parkland's conservative religious values. Although the building was originally built to house a pool hall, prompt community action stopped this idea because of concern that PLU students would be "corrupted". It is also recorded that during the depression in the 1930s, the Dahls extended credit to poorly paid faculty members so they would be able to keep food on their tables while the university solved its financial crisis.

An important institution was founded by Parkland Norwegians. *Parkland Light and Water Company*, the nation's oldest remaining power and light co-operative, was founded in 1914 to provide electricity and water to the growing community and provide low-cost electricity to Parkland residents. Its first president was E. B. Ellingson, a Norwegian builder who is credited with several houses in the Parkland area. While the Board of Directors initially met in Ellingson's living room, eventually they built an impressive, Art Moderne building on Garfield and "C" Streets in 1944.

The *Parkland Lutheran Children's Home*, on 123 and "A" Street, recalls the compassionate religious orientation of the area. It was built in 1902 and served as an orphanage. Its founder, Reverend Tobias Larsen, was an early teacher at PLU and married Bjug and Guro Harstad. Although converted to apartments in 1920, the building remains substantially intact and has been recently improved to its previous appearance by a sympathetic owner.

In 1917, an important rift occurred within the Lutheran Church in America. Reverend Harstad founded Parkland Lutheran Church in 1893. The congregation initially met in the basement of the university building until a new church building was built in 1904-5. In an effort to consolidate the Lutheran church, negotiations occurred between the three major Lutheran synods, the Hauge, Norwegian and United Norwegian synods. Many of the more conservative Lutherans in Parkland became concerned over the

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liberal movements which foreshadowed the merger, however. As a result, Bjug Harstad formed the conservative *Evangelical Lutheran Synod* or "*Little Lutheran Synod*"). Many of PLA's important figures followed Harstad to the new congregation. The older church joined the new *Lutheran Church in America* (later *Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*, after another consolidation in 1988).

While the Church has had an obvious, strong influence on Parkland, the two principal Lutheran churches in the area are of fairly recent construction. *Trinity Lutheran Church* remains a parish of great importance. The original church building, a modified Latin-cross structure with an impressive tower on the southeast corner was damaged by earthquakes and outgrew its needs. It was replaced by a more modern structure, based on a design of a church in Boda, Norway, in 1959. The present *Parkland Lutheran Church* was relocated from Fort Lewis Military Reservation in the 1963. It replaced an earlier structure from 1903, originally a Lutheran elementary school.

Parkland Lutheran Cemetery, located approximately three miles southeast of Parkland, is the final resting place of most of Parkland's Norwegian founders. It is sited on a relatively flat tract of land. Graves are arranged in a typical grid pattern, but some of the more prominent families are buried in gravesites which have raised curbs. These may be the influence of pre-Christian Scandinavian burial traditions, in which fur boughs were laid on graves to keep the spirits warm in winter. Many of the older graves have decorative headstones, some inscribed in Norwegian.

Influences and Customs

Important sociological issues shaped early Parkland. Scandinavians, especially Norwegians were "outcasts" in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. (While Bjug Harstad was a very important pioneer and educator, in Pierce County, he is not mentioned in William Bonney Pierce's History of Pierce County of 1927. This omission signifies the lack of respect for Norwegian importance to Pierce County history.) As a proud, stubborn, ethnocentric group, they clung to their customs and language and were slow to assimilate into contemporary American culture. This had an important impact on Parkland developing as a cohesive Scandinavian community. They developed a self-contained "town" which had to rely little on outside help. While this may have been a deficit from the standpoint of land sales, it had its advantages, too. All of the essential services were provided within the Scandinavian community. The area was well known to recent Scandinavian emigrants, and many Norwegians came to Parkland soon after leaving their home land. Stories are told of Norwegian fishermen from Ballard, near Seattle, coming to PLU for English instruction. The Ohop Valley, ten miles to the southeast, was settled by Norwegian farmers. It is known that close ties were drawn between the two communities, and Ohop Valley residents often stayed in Parkland homes on their way to Tacoma. Bjug Harstad is known have ministered to the residents of the Ohop Valley.

This is not to say that all Parkland residents were of Norwegian descent. Representatives of other ethnic backgrounds lived in the area and worked at the school, and of course, a large English/American population resided in the area before the advent of PLU. The Academy's first teacher was musician Carlo Sperati, (of Italian descent with a Danish mother.) Emigrants from other Scandinavian and European countries played important roles in the development of Parkland. But after the construction of Harstad Hall, Norwegians dominated the scene in Parkland through the early twentieth century.

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Although strong culturally, it is interesting that few architectural precedents were carried from the homeland. While Harstad Hall has a strong Germanic-Scandinavian feeling (the Harstad Hall National Register Nomination describes it as "English Renaissance" style), its style is more likely derived from pragmatic educational architecture before the onset of classical revival styles which were common for schools after 1900). As noted previously, the earliest residential examples, such as the Glasso House and Bogstad had a somewhat Scandinavian character. Bjug Harstad's brother, Gjermond Harstad constructed a large home south of the university in circa 1936, whose simple form and steep pitched roof have a Norwegian appearance. Revival styles, such as the Italianate Bakkum/Hovd House, had some precedent in nineteenth-century Norway. But generally, structures in the Parkland area were vernacular or pattern-book designs which were common to the Puget Sound region.

One interesting commonality was found, however. A surprising number of structures in Parkland have granite foundations. This is unusual in Pierce County, where most buildings have post-and-beam, brick masonry or concrete foundations. Notable examples of structures having dressed granite foundations are the Glasso House, Benrud House, Harstad House, and Bakkum/Hovd House. Attention was drawn to a house in the Ohop Valley because of its impressive, granite foundation. Upon inquiry, it was learned that the house was built by Torger Peterson, a Norwegian emigrant with ties to Bjug Harstad. Even more rare, the Parkland Lutheran Children's Home has a foundation of loose granite boulders. Granite is not a readily available material in Parkland, which has mostly alluvial or basaltic rock, and no granite quarries are known in the area, although the stone could have come from Mount Raimier. Certainly, talented stone masons were available after construction of Harstad Hall was completed. Perhaps these foundations have contributed to the longevity of Parkland structures.

Conclusion

What became of the "utopian society," conceived and built by Parkland's Norwegian Lutherans?

Today, Parkland remains a part of unincorporated Pierce County, with a population of approximately 20,00 people. The construction boom which was supposed to occur as a result of the construction of the university, occurred as the result of development of McChord Air Force Base to the West and Fort Lewis Military Reservation to the south of Parkland. The post World-War II-era brought massive residential construction to the area. While the community does not look historic, new residential construction occurred as infill, fortunately, several historic structures (and most of the important ones) remain.

Pacific Lutheran University remains the focal point of the community. The school has become much more culturally diversified and has a significant population of Asian students and members of various religions. Courses in Scandinavian studies and Norwegian are offered and the university maintains archives and Scandinavian Cultural Center which are repositories of Norwegian artifacts and cultural data.

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By the 1940s, Norwegians assimilated into American culture, due in part to American support of Norway during World War II. Scandinavians remain a vital part of the community. Second and third-generation Norwegians have occupied their ancestor's homes and continue to move to the area.

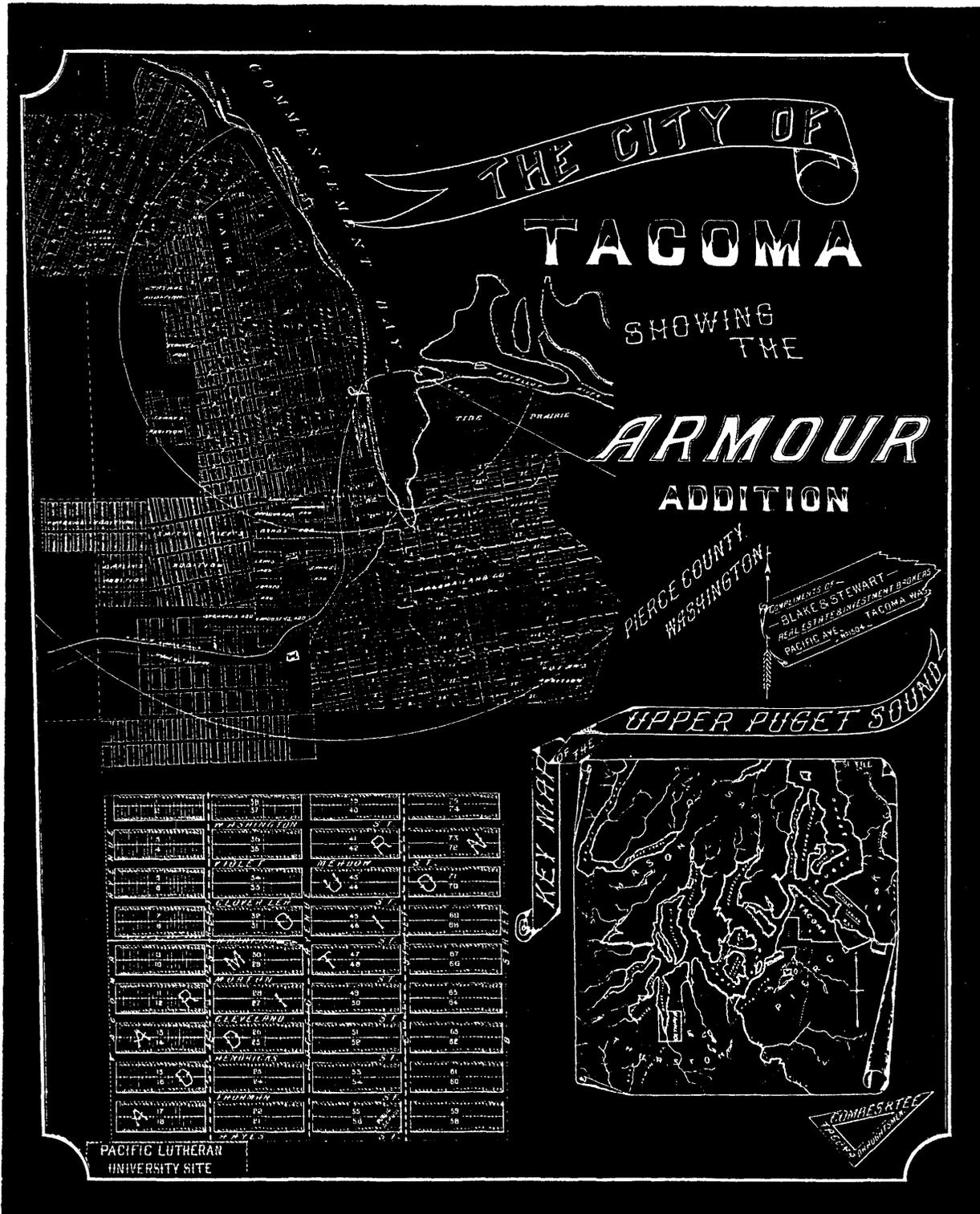
With the transportation shift from commuter rail to automobile in the 1930s, the major commercial strip has shifted from Garfield Street, which was anchored by the Lake Park Railway, to automobile-oriented Pacific Avenue to the east. Pedestrian-oriented Garfield Street is becoming a popular retail destination, however.

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Attachment 1: Early Parkland Land Promotion Map, C. 1890



F. Associated Property Types

I. Name of Property Type

I. Residential Vernacular

II. Description

Residential vernacular houses in Parkland make up the largest portion of structures in Parkland. Generally they are of simple wood construction, balloon or platform framing, although notable exceptions exist. Most examples surveyed and in existence in the area are of builder-pattern type. No examples of residential architecture by notable architects were found.

The Glasso House and Bogstad House are of unusual "plank" type construction, where exterior perimeter walls are constructed of vertically set lumber, which serves as both structural system and exterior siding.

Most of the houses surveyed had dressed granite foundations, an unusual feature in Pierce County which may relate to Scandinavian building traditions.

Few, if any houses in Parkland have antecedents in Scandinavian architectural styles. Generally they are of the same types and forms of most residences in the Tacoma area. The number of historic structures remaining may be attributed to Scandinavian tradition of quality construction.

III. Significance

The significance of residential vernacular structures in Parkland would be derived, in most instances, from the associations of their builders and inhabitants rather than their architecture. Most of the historic structures in Parkland are associated with important figures in the development of Pacific Lutheran University and the Parkland community.

Some homes should be recognized for their architectural styles. The Bakkum/Hovd home is a fine, intact example of an Italianate structure, which may have some precedent in late 19th Century Norway. The Glasso and Bogstad homes are important for their archaic construction.

IV. Registration Requirements

Generally, structures in Parkland, relative to this study, should be evaluated for the significance of their builders and inhabitants to the growth and development of the Norwegian Lutheran community in Parkland. While architectural integrity is an important consideration for evaluating registration appropriateness, some structures have had alterations which are important to their history. The Ward Smith/ Bjug Harstad House has had three significant reconstructions in its history which are an important part of the estate's evolution. Three houses which were constructed by E. B. Ellingson were found. While they were virtually identical when built, two of the houses have been altered to varying degrees over the years to respond to climatic conditions and individual tastes. These alterations are an important aspect of the houses history and demonstrates the need for generic pattern-type houses to respond to their environment.

The Ward Smith/ Bjug Harstad Estate is the only known example of a property which survives from the Pioneer and Land Promotion era, with the exception of the Peter Smith Homestead which is on the National Register. Should additional Pioneer properties be found, their eligibility would be evaluated by their direct link to promoting Parkland and Pacific Lutheran University.

F. Associated Property Types

I. Name of Property Type

2. Commercial Vernacular Structures

II. Description

Commercial vernacular structures in Parkland are of a variety of types and construction. Most of the historic commercial buildings are located on Garfield street, which served as the main commercial block from the 1890's until Pacific Avenue to the east of Garfield was developed as a major automobile transportation route after the 1930's.

Construction types are a mixture of wood frame, brick masonry and concrete masonry.

An interesting commercial vernacular building is the Dahl Grocery Store building, which remains relatively intact on Garfield Street. This two-story gable front structure has a false front and one-story extension on the west side. Painted advertising signs exist or have been documented on the east and south elevations.

The Parkland Light and Water Building at the corner of Garfield and "C" Streets is an interesting (late) example of Art Moderne architecture.

III. Significance

The significance of commercial vernacular structures in Parkland would be derived, in most instances, from the associations of their builders and inhabitants rather than their architecture. Most of the historic structures in Parkland are associated with important figures in the development of Pacific Lutheran University and the Parkland community.

Some commercial buildings should be recognized for their architectural styles. For example, The Dahl Grocery Store, 1908, reflected Parkland's conservative religious values. Although the building was originally built to house a pool hall, prompt community action stopped this idea because of concern that PLU students would be "corrupted". It is also recorded that during the depression in the 1930's, the Dahls extended credit to poorly paid faculty members so they would be able to keep food on their tables while the university solved its financial crisis.

The Parkland Light and Water Building is important for its architectural styling. More important, however, is the fact that it is the former home of the nation's oldest existing power and light cooperative, which was founded and operated in its early years by Norwegians to serve the utility needs of the community.

IV. Registration Requirements

Generally, structures in Parkland, relative to this study, should be evaluated for the significance of their builders and inhabitants, rather than their architecture. While architectural integrity is an important consideration for evaluating registration appropriateness, some structures have had alterations which are important to their history. To be eligible for the National Register under the auspices of this Multiple Property Nomination, commercial properties should have been built by Norwegian Americans and/or for commercial ventures which supported the growth and development of the Norwegian Lutheran community in Parkland.

There are no known examples of commercial structures the Pioneer and Land Promotion era, with the exception of the Peter Smith Homestead which is on the National Register. Should additional Pioneer properties be found, their eligibility would be evaluated by their direct link to promoting Parkland and Pacific Lutheran University.

F. Associated Property Types

I. Name of Property Type

3. Religious Sites

II. Description

Few historic religious property types exist in Parkland. The original Parkland Lutheran Church was demolished in the 1950s and replaced with the contemporary Trinity Lutheran Church in 1958. The present Parkland Lutheran Church was relocated from Fort Lewis Military Reservation in 1963. Two sites which represent the strong religious aspect of the community remain, however. Parkland Lutheran Children's Home was built in 1903 and remains substantially intact. The Children's Home was founded in 1890 to care for orphaned or single-parent children. Parkland Lutheran Cemetery was established in 1894 and is the burial place of many of Parkland's Norwegian Lutheran pioneers. While it is laid out in typical grid fashion, many of the tombstones are inscribed in Norwegian.

III. Significance

Since the basis of Norwegian settlement in Parkland is the growth and development of the Lutheran Church, religious sites and structures are of principal importance. Properties should be evaluated for their architectural significance, unique construction and representation of the ideals promoted by Parkland's Norwegian Lutheran pioneers.

IV. Registration Requirements

Generally, structures in Parkland, relative to this study, should be evaluated for the significance of their builders and inhabitants to the growth and development of the Norwegian Lutheran community in Parkland. While architectural integrity is an important consideration for evaluating registration appropriateness, some structures have had alterations which are important to their history. The current Trinity Lutheran Church, designed by Lea Pearson Richards Architects in 1958 could be considered eligible as a significant modern structure based on the design of a church in Boda, Norway. In addition, the church's site is significant for its historic function, and a large office-school and chapel wing to the east of the sanctuary dates from the 1940s and could be currently eligible. Though relocated, the current Parkland Lutheran Church dates from World War II. When combined with the significance of Parkland Lutheran Church's history to the development of Parkland, the property may be eligible for the National Register.

G. Summary of Identification and Evaluation Methods

Discuss the methods used in developing the multiple property listing.

The Multiple property nomination for Norwegian Settlement in Parkland was generally derived from analysis of the Pierce County Cultural Resource Inventory of 1985 and the 1994 Pierce County Historic Preservation Project by UPTOWN DESIGNS/J. Benjamin Dorris. Over 50 properties associated with Norwegians were found in the Parkland area, and more are certain to exist. While neither of these surveys were intended to document specifically Scandinavian properties, it was discovered that most of the historic resources in the Parkland area related to the Norwegian Lutheran community. Upon further analysis, it was discovered that the origin of the Parkland area was the construction of Pacific Lutheran University and the development of the Norwegian Lutheran community in the area.

None of the properties in the area are "monuments" in the typical sense. Banks, mansions and major public buildings are not present. It has been the intent of this Multiple Property Nomination to document the structures and parts of the histories of common emigrants and their influence on their environment. Some of the properties have been significantly altered from their historic appearance. They are included because it is the associations with their owner or builder, not their architecture, which gives them value.

Perhaps the most intriguing (and sometimes baffling) aspect of researching and documenting Scandinavian historic properties has been how intertwined the histories of different properties are with each other. As a close-knit and perhaps "outcast" community with a common religion, Scandinavians developed tight social networks. Families intermarried, friends helped each other and successful people donated land and time to charitable causes.

With this study, it is hoped that Scandinavians, their people and physical landmarks, are appropriately documented. Continuing study will reveal much more about their culture and how they settled in their new home.

H. Major Bibliographical References

*From Wilderness to Suburbia, an illustrated History of Parkland, Washington, Osness, Richard D. 1976.
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1994Pierce County Historic Preservation Project, Parkland and Ohop Valley Survey, Pierce County Planning and Land Services (UPTOWN DESIGNS/J. Benjamin Dorris, Consultant), 1994.
History of Pierce County, Washington, Volumes II and III, Bonney, William Pierce, 1927.
The Lamp and the Cross, Sagas of Pacific Lutheran University from 1890 to 1965, Schnackenberg, Walter C., 1965.
Educating for Service, Pacific Lutheran University, 1890-1990, Nordquist, Philip A., . 1990.
Lutheran University Herald, Various Issues.
Pacific Lutheran University Archives, Various References.
Centennial Celebration, Parkland Lutheran Church, 1893-1993.
A Brief Record of the Lives of The Rev. and Mrs. Bjug Harstad and their Descendants, Adolph Harstad, 1977.
Pierce County Assessor's Records, Various Resources*

Primary location of additional documentation:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> State historic preservation office | <input type="checkbox"/> Local government |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other State agency | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> University |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Federal agency | <input type="checkbox"/> Other |

Specify repository: **Pacific Lutheran University Archives**

I. Form Prepared By

name/title
organization
street & number
city or town

J. Benjamin Dorris
Owner
UPTOWN DESIGNS
310 South 117 Street
Tacoma

date **May 1, 1995**
telephone **206-535-6071**
state **WA** zip code **98444**

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 96000838

Date Listed: 7/29/96

Parkland Lutheran Children's Home
Property Name

Pierce
County

WA
State

Norwegian Settlement in Parkland MPS
Multiple Name

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

Paul R. Ferguson
Signature of the Keeper

7/29/96
Date of Action

Amended Items in Nomination:

Classification:

The name of Related Multiple Property Listing should read:
Norwegian Settlement in Parkland MPS.

Historic Function:

The Historic Function is amended to add: Domestic-institutional housing.

Significance:

Criterion C is dropped, as the documentation fails to adequately justify the building's significance in the area of architecture. The period of significance is also modified to reflect the single appropriate period 1902-1918.
(continued)

This material was confirmed with Lauren McCroskey of the WA SHPO.

DISTRIBUTION:

- National Register property file
- Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)