

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Name of Property
County and State
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number      Page   1  

Supplementary Listing Record

NRIS Reference Number: SG100004790

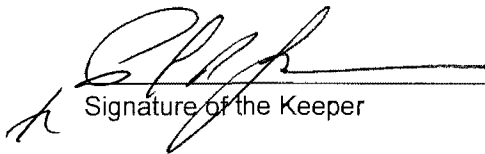
Date Listed: 12/19/2019

Property Name: Fraternal Order of Eagles Hall-Anacortes

County: Skagit

State: WA

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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

  
Signature of the Keeper

12/19/2019  
Date of Action

=====  
Amended Items in Nomination:

**Significance**

The Period of Significance is revised to read: *1920-1969*. [This period reflects the *continued* significance of the property under Criterion A in the area of Social History. The local Eagles hall served as an important cultural and social center of activity for the Anacortes community over a period of several years. The period of significance begins with the completion of the building and runs up to the 50-year point for a property with continuing use and local significance.]

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The WASHINGTON SHPO was notified of this amendment.

**DISTRIBUTION:**

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

4790

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 National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. 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 certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).**

### 1. Name of Property

historic name Fraternal Order of Eagles Hall - Anacortes  
other names/site number Anacortes Eagles Club - Aerie #249

### 2. Location

street & number 901 7<sup>th</sup> Street  not for publication  
city or town Anacortes  vicinity  
state Washington code WA county Skagit code 057 zip code 98221

### 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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 at the following level(s) of significance:

    national     statewide X local

Applicable National Register Criteria

X A     B X C     D

Allyson M 11-1-19  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

WASHINGTON STATE SHPO  
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property meets the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official Date  
Title State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

### 4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:  
 entered in the National Register     determined eligible for the National Register  
    determined not eligible for the National Register     removed from the National Register  
    other (explain):    

[Signature] 12/19/2019  
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

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**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**  
(Check as many boxes as apply.)

**Category of Property**  
(Check only **one** box.)

**Number of Resources within Property**  
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	private
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - Local
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - State
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - Federal

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	building(s)
<input type="checkbox"/>	district
<input type="checkbox"/>	site
<input type="checkbox"/>	structure
<input type="checkbox"/>	object

<u>Contributing</u>	<u>Noncontributing</u>	
<u>1</u>		buildings
		district
		site
		structure
		object
<u>1</u>		<b>Total</b>

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

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

N/A

None

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions.)

**Current Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions.)

SOCIAL: Meeting Hall  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

SOCIAL: Meeting Hall  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**  
(Enter categories from instructions.)

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions.)

LATE 19<sup>TH</sup> and 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY REVIVALS:  
Beaux Arts  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

foundation: CONCRETE  
walls: BRICK  
\_\_\_\_\_  
roof: SYNTHETIC  
other: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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### **Narrative Description**

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance of the property. Explain contributing and noncontributing resources if necessary. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, setting, size, and significant features.)

The Fraternal Order of Eagles Hall is located at the southwest corner of 7<sup>th</sup> Street and Q Avenue in downtown Anacortes, Washington. The building faces north and abuts the sidewalk on two sides. The building spans two 30' wide tax lots and has a foot print of 60' X 100'. Vegetation on the site is limited to one street tree within the sidewalk along Q Avenue and overgrown bushes on the west side of the building.

### **Exterior**

The building is a two-story structure resting on a raised basement. The exterior of the building is clad with brick laid in a common bond. The primary facades on 7<sup>th</sup> Street and Q Avenue are faced in ragged brick while the rear and west elevations are clad in common brick. The poured concrete foundation/base of the building is parged in stucco, scored to appear like stonework. The building has a flat roof hidden by a low parapet wall. The primary façade parapets are capped with a deep metal modillioned Classical Revival cornice. The south and west elevations lack the cornice and feature only brick capped with simple metal flashing. Entry to the building is highlighted by a raised triangular pediment centered on 7<sup>th</sup> Street facade. Bearing the name, "1920" and "Eagles' Hall" behind is a flagpole. Actual entry to the building is defined by a cast stone arch resting on integrated brick columns. The Capitals feature a classical egg & dart molding which is further distinguished by two plaster casted golden eagles with spread wings facing towards each other on either side of the entry stairs. The entry doors are deeply recessed above a short flight of seven stairs. The entry portico features wood paneled walls, and a modern set of full-lite aluminum entry doors. Above is an original full-width, wood fan transom window. Just above the entry arch is a neon blade sign gracing the word "EAGLES" vertically.

Windows are primarily grouped in pairs of two joined by continuous concrete sills and headers on the north and east facades. The first floor windows are one-over one wood units, while the second floor windows achieve addition height with the use of a single pane transom window. Most of the windows have been covered with plywood, installed first during the second world war as a blackout measure, then in the 1960s to darken the interior space for use as a nightclub. Other decorative features are limited to large cast stone rectangular panels above the second floor windows on the north façade. These are void of ornamentation. The rear of the building is void of ornamentation and features single, one-over-one windows and a metal fire escape from the second floor. Basement windows on the Q Avenue side have been infilled with concrete.

### **Interior**

The main floor consists of the entry way to the building, the Aerie and Auxiliary office and a social room for members and guests. The entry is defined by a central dogleg stair. On the landing is a display case of Eagles artifacts. The balusters and newel posts are painted rectangular wood elements, original to the building. Doors to the offices have been replaced with hollow core flush units. The main social room has a low ceiling covered in acoustical tile. The room contains a central dance floor between a series of wooden columns and a shallow stage area. To the south are restroom facilities and access to the basement. On the north wall is a newer bar and back bar area. Fixtures and finishes in this area as not original.

The second floor space is mainly occupied by the Grand Ballroom and its supporting spaces. This large space with high ceilings spans the width of the building and nearly the length. At the south end is a raised stage area featuring a simple plaster proscenium arch and a projecting stage. Access to the stage is via two side stairs at the east and west ends. The main space has a maple wood dance floor laid in log cabin pattern. The ballroom is defined by a boxed grid ceiling featuring classically inspired plaster moldings. Centered in each grid is a square plaster molding highlighting original drop pendant "school house" light fixtures. This grid

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system is tied to the walls and floor by the use of pilasters around the edges of the room. These feature the same decorative eagles as the entry portico. The east and west edges of the ballroom feature raised platforms which support original wood couches.

Used in ceremonial practices are a series of back lit images framed like windows. Each features an eagle in different poses with single words: Truth (North wall); Equality (South wall), Justice (West wall), and Liberty (East wall). These images were produced in mass quantity by the Gies & Co. Buffalo, NY; commercial lithographers, engravers and printers. The graphics are printed on velum and faced with glass for protection. The stage area has one additional ceremonial image of a man lying in a coffin.

The lower basement level originally housed a two lane bowling alley and secondary storage and meeting space. In the 1960's the kitchen was moved to the basement from the clubroom. Today the space is utilized for meetings, receptions, weddings, dinners and on Wednesday's public Bingo night. Lunches are also served. The space is utilitarian in nature and features exposed columns, concrete carpeted floors and walls, and dropped ceilings. It is primarily open in plan with some storage and mechanical areas divided off. The lower level is accessed from the main entrance by a long staircase, and an interior ramp at the rear of the building.

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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.)

Property is:

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

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

SOCIAL HISTORY

ARCHITECTURE

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Period of Significance**

1920

\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Dates**

1920

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Person**

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

\_\_\_\_\_

**Cultural Affiliation**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Architect/Builder**

Guenther, Emil G. (Architect)

Lovell, Art (Builder)

Cahail, Earl (Builder)

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### Statement of Significance

(Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

The Fraternal Order of Eagles Hall – Aerie #249 in Anacortes is historically significant at the local level under criteria A for its direct connection to Fraternal Order of Eagles which served the social and humanitarian needs of the community of Anacortes. Since its construction the hall has been in continual use by the Eagles, a group that has provided (and continues to provide) important financial and medical benefits for its members as well as charitable services to the community. The hall also serves as a center of social activity for the City of Anacortes. The hall is also significant under criteria C as a property that embodies the distinctive characteristics of its type and period of construction. The hall, constructed in 1920 is the best preserved fraternal/ social hall in the city and serves as an example of the work of Seattle architect Emil Guenther, who was active in Seattle and Spokane as well as other western cities. The Period of Significance begins and ends in 1920, the year the hall was built.

### History of Anacortes

The first decade of the 20th century was a prosperous time in the development of the city of Anacortes. The burgeoning lumber and fishing industries attracted many people to the area and the population nearly tripled in a ten year period. In 1900 the population was 1,476 but then swelled to 4,168 people by 1910.<sup>1</sup> In 1906 alone, new industries added 650 jobs. Three miles of railway track were added to the waterfront and 5,318 more feet of sewer were built. Mills and canneries were expanding their capacities and new plants were erected. Thousands of men and women from across the United States and many European countries came to the “Magic City” to find work in its booming manufacturing facilities.<sup>2</sup>

The demands of World War I for canned fish and timber ensured that this period of prosperity continued. The Army and Navy placed significant orders with Anacortes’ canneries, lumber yards and marine industries. With the armistice, however, the town went into a period of decline only to perk up again during the Roaring Twenties. The 1930s once again brought hard times to Anacortes, but then World War II witnessed a period of recovery. With the closing of the lumber mills and most of the canneries over the next few decades, the boom and bust cycle continued, although the Eagles continued to serve as a key social network. Today, the City enjoys a more diverse economy, with two oil refineries providing a large source of employment along with the growth of the tourist and marine industries.

When the nominated building was built, companies did not provide employees with medical and other benefits, and fraternal lodges with their affordable insurance policies and ready camaraderie offered an important safety net for workers and their families. Author David T. Beito notes in his book From Mutual Aid to the Welfare State that by 1920, members of fraternal lodges and societies carried over \$9 billion in life insurance.<sup>3</sup> A lodge member who fell upon hard times could count on his fellow members for various types of assistance, whether it was helping to bring in the harvest or replacing a home that burned.

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<sup>1</sup> An Illustrated History of Skagit and Snohomish Counties, Chap. VII: Cities and Towns, Interstate publishing, 1906, p. 217.

<sup>2</sup> An Illustrated History of Skagit and Snohomish Counties, Chap. VII: Cities and Towns, Interstate publishing, 1906, p. 206-219.

<sup>3</sup> David T. Beito From Mutual Aid to the Welfare State , University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, 2000, p.2.

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The community of Anacortes was noted for hosting a high number of fraternal lodges, which flourished in large part because of the existing industrial and social conditions within the city. The 1902 edition of the Skagit Illustrated noted: *"It is claimed that Anacortes, in proportion to her population, is the strongest city in the United States as to Fraternal orders; and it is very certain that all of the well-known societies have strong lodges here."*<sup>4</sup> Clubs included the Sons of Norway, the IOOF, the Benevolent Order of the Elks, the International Association of Lions Club, and the Knights of Pythias.

Large numbers of immigrants found a familiar setting in organizations that catered to their ethnic background, such as the Sons of Norway. Many Germans joined the Knights of Pythias. Small business owners and employees of the canneries and mills were attracted to fraternal orders because of their insurance and benefit plans, which helped people endure the boom and bust economic cycles that characterized much of Anacortes's history.

### **Fraternal Order of Eagles**

As an organization, the Fraternal Order of Eagles began in Seattle when a group of Seattle theater managers met to discuss some business matters on February 6, 1898.<sup>5</sup> During the course of the meeting, the men shared their ideas on democracy and brotherhood and decided to form an organization to reflect these thoughts, which they called the "Seattle Order of Good Things." The society, later renamed the Fraternal Order of Eagles, asked its members to "make human life more desirable by lessening its ills and promoting peace, prosperity, gladness and hope." The organization grew quickly and within ten years, the Eagles had 1,800 lodges scattered throughout the United States, Canada and Mexico and over 350,000 members.

A partial explanation for this rapid growth lies in the Eagles' fierce championing of the cause of the average working man at a time when contemporary social, political, and economic conditions favored the wealthy and powerful. By banding together, the Eagles formed a powerful voice for reforms benefiting the average working person. The Eagles sponsored the first Workman's Compensation Law and the first Old Age Pension Law. In 1935, they also supported the National Social Security Act and spent over a million dollars promoting it. In 1965, President Lyndon Johnson presented the pen with which he signed the Medicare bill—a result of Eagles' lobbying—to the organization along with this message: *"For your energetic and dedicated espousal of social justices, and for the generous support you have given to all measures designed to further economic opportunity and the compassionate treatment of the sick and disabled."*<sup>6</sup>

The Eagles also provided respite and financial care for those who became sick or were injured while working—a benefit that meant the difference between maintaining a decent standard of living and poverty. At the turn of the century, industrial conditions were harsh and dangerous. The National Safety Council reported in 1919 that the lumber and wood-manufacturing industries—key employers in Anacortes—had the highest death toll in the county.<sup>7</sup> There were few if any employee safeguards in place, and there was little recourse for employees who became sick or injured on the job.<sup>8</sup> An Eagles' member and his family, however, were entitled to receive free medical attention, weekly payments in

<sup>4</sup> Quoted in *First Views*, p. 91 from the Skagit County Illustrated 1902.

<sup>5</sup> Fraternal Order of Eagles, [www.foe.com](http://www.foe.com); en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fraternal\_Order\_of\_Eagles; National Register nomination for the Eagles' Auditorium Building, Seattle, WA .

<sup>6</sup> [www.foe.com](http://www.foe.com); en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fraternal\_Order\_of\_Eagles.

<sup>7</sup> "Accidents in Wood-working Plants," *The Wood-Worker*, Vol XXXVIII no. 8, Oct. 1919 p. 1.

<sup>8</sup> See Patrick Renshaw, *The Wobblies*, Doubleday & Co., Garden City, New York 1967 for good background material on industrial working conditions and labor relations; also David T. Beito *From Mutual Aid to the Welfare State*.



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case of sickness, and a funeral benefit ; all valuable services before the widespread availability of medical, disability, and life insurance.

### **Eagles' Hall, Aerie #249**

Anacortes Eagles' Aerie #249 was founded on August 19, 1902, just four years after the formation of the national organization in Seattle. A contemporary account reports that "the organization of Aerie 249 was completed Thursday night with 108 members, and in the point of numbers it is perhaps the strongest lodge in the City."<sup>9</sup> Aerie members from as far away as Walla Walla, Seattle, Sedro-Woolley, and New Westminster, British Columbia attended the charter ceremonies, which were held at the Opera House.<sup>10</sup>

Charter members included a wide cross-section of the community. The founding officers included Dr. E. E. Butler, a physician; George E. Woodruff, the proprietor of the Owl Drug Store; C. F. Hinman, owner of The Joker saloon; John Davison, a sailor; John R. Kinghorn, bartender at the Eureka Club; and George Chase, proprietor of the Monarch Oyster House. Occupations of other members included tailor, city marshal, mill worker, confectioner, barber, livery man, shingle weaver, and cannery worker.<sup>11</sup> Initially the club was open only to males, Caucasian and 19 or older.

The new club quickly became the largest fraternal organization in the city of Anacortes, and by 1920, 550 members were on the rolls.<sup>12</sup> The group first met in the Platt building, located at Fourth and Commercial Avenue, where they rented the second floor for their meetings.

Quickly running out of space, in November 1919, the membership decided to build their own lodge and had already purchased two lots in the heart of downtown just east of the main street. The new hall would house their expanding organization and serve as a venue for a variety of social and charitable events. Local historian and former *Anacortes American* publisher Wally Funk noted that the Eagles' required additional space for a ballroom and large banquets, physical fitness facilities and shower rooms.<sup>13</sup>

According to a contemporary newspaper account, members of Aerie #249 let a contract for the construction of a new home some time prior to March 11, 1919. Seattle contractor, R. Nelson, was hired to handle construction while Julius Nelson from Anacortes was to install the plumbing and heating. F.T. Church, a local resident, excavated the basement, a task that had been completed by the time the newspaper account was written. The article goes on to state that architect Emil Guenther of Seattle had submitted plans for the new building, which were accepted. Guenther, specified that the building was to occupy a footprint of 60 x 100 feet, and to be two stories high with a raised basement and flat roof. The basement was to be built of concrete, rising four feet above street level, while the walls were to be of brick veneer. The article concludes by stating "[It] will be one of the most imposing buildings in the City."

<sup>9</sup> "Eagles Organize Aerie," *Anacortes American*, August 21, 1902, p.3

<sup>10</sup> The 1950 liquor license application states that a charter was granted by the Grand Aerie Fraternal Order of Eagles on October 1, 1902 to 47 original signers of the application for charter.

<sup>11</sup> R.L. Polk and Company. Skagit County Directory 1902, 1905, 1908.

<sup>12</sup> Elaine Wilson, "Flying High for 100 years," *Anacortes American* 18 Sept 2002, p.B5.

<sup>13</sup> Wallie Funk, "Listing sparks new life for 80-year-old Eagles hall," *Anacortes American*, Nov 22, 2000 p. B5-6; Lunsford, p.32.

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Nine months later, however, the Hall was still not complete. According to the *Anacortes American*, Guenther and Nelson had proposed to bring in outside labor to construct the Hall. Other disagreements led to their firing. Members of Aerie #249 wanted to hire local contractors and decided to undertake construction of the hall themselves. Art Lovell and Earl Cahail were designated superintendent and foreman respectively. The *Anacortes American* reported in November 1919 that Arthur Earl Lovell, was a member of the local Aerie and a well-known builder and contractor in town. The project cost \$50,000—\$10,000 more than the original estimate.

While the Eagles apparently decided not to have Guenther oversee the project, his overall design was kept. Guenther's original signed elevations, a picture of which appeared in the March 18, 1919 issue of the *Anacortes American*, and the specifications, described above, track closely with the Hall as built. The most significant change occurred in the decorative treatment of the façade's second-story windows. Guenther's plan shows five arched bays of two double-hung windows each, while the south elevation (facing Q Avenue) has rectangular panels, also of cement, above the second story window—very similar to what now exists along the north elevation. In other words, the builders simply took the east elevation treatment of the second-story windows and used it along the façade, dropping the more elaborate arched decoration planned for the facade. Several reasons—alone or in combination—probably account for this decision. It may have been beyond the builders' skill; it may have been a matter of expediency—construction began in May and needed to be completed by September 1920; or it may have been a cost-containment measure.

The new building housing Aerie #249 was dedicated on September 5, 1920, and a contemporary account stated that the new club was "second to none in the northwest in the matter of room and equipment."<sup>14</sup> Seven hundred visitors from Seattle and surrounding communities attended the dedication ceremony and the festivities, and over a thousand people were served a banquet in the new hall.

In the days before television and other electronic amusements, fraternal and religious organizations were centers of community social life. In Anacortes, the Eagles' Hall played a major role in local celebrations such as New Year's and Christmas parties, Halloween costume parades, balls, banquets, school proms, activities honoring high school athletes, charitable fund raisers, political rallies, wedding receptions and funerals. As long-time resident and local historian Wally Funk explains, "It was the place to go."<sup>15</sup>

The Eagles' Hall also became a major focus for recreational and social activities, with the membership sponsoring dances and various celebrations. For example, in 1913 the Aerie celebrated its 11<sup>th</sup> anniversary with "big entertainment" and a dance at the then Eagles' hall. "The festivities were attended by 200 Eagles' and their families and friends and the reputation of the local lodge as lavish entertainers was fully sustained." The article continues by describing the hall as "beautifully decorated with flags, bunting and autumn flowers." The evening program consisted of an address by the club's president, orchestral selections, songs, and recitations followed by dancing.<sup>16</sup>

Typical of the festivities held by the Eagles' was their annual three-day autumn carnival. A newspaper account from 1923 reports that the Eagles were promising "every kind of carnival amusement with

<sup>14</sup> Anacortes Eagles Dedicate and Formally Open New Lodge," *Anacortes American*, Sept. 9, 1920, p.1

<sup>15</sup> Wallie Funk, "Listing sparks new life for 80-year-old Eagles hall," *Anacortes American*, Nov 22, 2000 p. B5-6.

<sup>16</sup>"Eagles of Anacortes Celebrate Anniversary," *Anacortes American*, October 16, 1913

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everything questionable or objectionable eliminated. There will be a troop of clowns and character impersonators...and games of all kinds for the visitors to amuse themselves with. There will be dancing each night, the Eagles' orchestra supplying the music." In addition, prizes were offered every day, including a \$225 phonograph, a piano and even an auto!<sup>17</sup>

Five years later, in 1928, a newspaper article notes that the Saturday night dances at the Eagles' Hall "continue to draw the crowds and the young people enjoy the peppy music and good dance floor." Local residents recall fishermen's balls; dances in the ballroom, and political rallies held throughout the years at the Hall.<sup>18</sup>

During the depression years of the 1930s, the Eagles faced a difficult period because of the high rate of unemployment in Anacortes. One sign of the times was that the Aerie relinquished its liquor license and confined its bar sales to beer only.<sup>19</sup> Nevertheless, the Eagles continued to find ways to offer inexpensive evening entertainment which included card parties, and dances. Despite the difficult economic times they continued their philanthropic activities. They held a joint program with the milk fund committee, for example, to raise funds to provide necessary nutrition for needy children.<sup>20</sup> They also joined with other organizations in promoting a "Buy American" campaign as a way to "stimulate employment and make our country more prosperous."<sup>21</sup> It was during this period that the Eagles as a whole mounted a national campaign to promote Social Security and other programs to benefit hard-hit working people.

By the 1940s, the Anacortes economy was recovering and so were the fortunes of the Eagles. The membership grew as workers migrated to the City for war jobs in the canneries and mills. Typical of efforts to support the troops included a donating a cabin cruiser to raise money for a War Memorial Field Fund project.<sup>22</sup> According to information submitted to the Washington State Liquor Control Board, there were 802 benefit members in 1949, each paying an initiation fee of \$7.00 and yearly membership dues of \$13.00. Shortly thereafter, the Eagles applied and regained their full liquor license.<sup>23</sup>

Today, the Eagles' continue to play an active role in the community. Each year, they prepare a community Thanksgiving dinner so that everyone can enjoy a good meal and not have to spend the holiday alone. A key fundraiser since 1952 has been the annual salmon barbeque that attracts participants from all over the country and serves 4,000 meals. Other community activities include raising money for the local food bank through annual donkey basketball games; offering scholarships to local students; and contributing to many local charities. In addition, the Eagles' support a wide variety of charitable and benevolent causes worldwide.<sup>24</sup>

<sup>17</sup> "Eagles Autumn Carnival Is On." *Anacortes American* Oct 25, 1923.

<sup>18</sup> "Eagles Attend Big Convention." *Anacortes American* June 28, 1928 .

<sup>19</sup> Washington State Liquor Control Board, Inter-Office Correspondence. Memo to Elwin Lang, Supervisor from Gordon Forrest, RE: New Club Application, Fraternal Order of Eagles Aerie #249, 9 Jan 1950.

<sup>20</sup> "Dances for milk fund held at Eagles' Hall," *Anacortes Daily Mercury*, Jan 21, 1933.

<sup>21</sup> "Eagles Going to Buy American," *Anacortes Daily Mercury*, Jan 3, 1933.

<sup>22</sup> "\$3,500 Cabin Cruiser Prize Memor'I Benefit," *Anacortes American* March 27, 1947 p.1.

<sup>23</sup> Washington State Liquor Control Board, Inter-Office Correspondence. Memo to Elwin Lang, Supervisor from Gordon Forrest, RE: New Club Application, Fraternal Order of Eagles Aerie #249, 9 Jan 1950.

<sup>24</sup> Joe LeBlonde, Washington Heritage Register nomination, Fraternal Order of Eagles' Hall, p. 1, n.d.

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For more than 100 years, the FOE Aerie #249 has actively promoted the welfare of Anacortes and its citizens through a variety of community activities. Further, the Aerie provides members and local residents with a sense of belonging that is necessary to ensure the life of the community.

### **Architect: Emil G. Guenther**

Perhaps at the recommendation of the main aerie, the Anacortes Aerie hired Seattle architect Emil G. Guenther to design the building. Guenther had designed the very first dedicated aerie in 1909. He was born in Berlin, Germany around 1855 and immigrated to the United States in 1879, first landing in New York. While his formal training is unknown, he reportedly studied architecture in Berlin "under the best masters." Author Harvey K. Hines stated that after graduation, he worked for the government for approximately three years, designing barracks and other related structures.<sup>25</sup>

Upon his arrival in the United States, Guenther spent three years in New York, then an additional three years in San Antonio, Texas, where he established an independent architectural practice. Reportedly he designed some of the finest private and public structures in Western Texas, however to date, no specific projects have been identified. Guenther got into legal trouble in 1887 when he was arrested on a bigamy and desertion charges while trying to marry the local school principal; Ms. Maria Murphy. Newspaper accounts note that Guenther's legal name was "*Count Emil Carl Frederick Guenther von Schwarzenberg*". Reportedly he had had three children with Flora Berger whom had acted as his wife for several years. When he tried to elope, the deception was discovered.

Perhaps due to his legal troubles, Guenther had relocated to Spokane by 1889. What attracted him to the city is unknown, but his timing was perfect, having arriving just before the Great Fire, which gutted the downtown. His architectural skills would quickly be in high demand. Within a short period, reportedly Guenther had designed and built over fifty buildings with an aggregate value of over a million dollars in the community.<sup>26</sup> His projects included Irving, Byant, Bancroft and Franklin Schools (all built in 1890); Medical-Lake High School; Holzman's Warehouse (c.1894); the Masonic Block; Hogan's Block (8-10 Post St.); Mohr's Block (Sprague NE Cor Monroe); Allen Block (823 Sprague Ave); Vermont Block (217 Stevens St.); and a Lutheran Church. He also designed several residences including homes for Gerow Koons (Ross Park); H. Currier; Edward J. Dyer (s 220 Walnut St); Joseph S. Allen (Rochester Heights); J. Young; P. Johnson and Judge Burke. He also did some design work for the State Normal School in Cheney in 1895, but his specific contribution is unknown. Most, if not all of these projects have been demolished.

For reasons unknown, by 1895 Guenther (by then age 39) moved to Fresno, California. While still practicing architecture, in 1896 he also started an all-German newspaper, called the *Tribune*. He served as the editor. At this time known projects in California are limited to an addition to the Donahoo, Emmons & Co. Store (1897) in Fresno.

For reasons unknown, in 1898 Guenther moved again, this time to New Westminster, B.C. where he formed a short-lived partnership with T. Van Aken. Together they designed the Opera House (1899); the Hotel Fraser (1899); and the Windsor Hotel (1899). By 1901 Guenther had relocated to

<sup>25</sup> Harvey Kimball Hines, An Illustrated History of the State of Washington, Lewis Publishing Co., 1893, pp 478-79. Otto von Bismark became the chief Minister of Prussia in 1862 and embarked upon a program of strengthening the Prussian army. Guenther, who had studied in Berlin, was probably hired to design barracks to house Bismark's expanding military.

<sup>26</sup> Hines, Harvey Kimball, An Illustrated History of the State of Washington, Lewis Publishing Co., 1893, pp 478-79.

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Vancouver and practiced under his own name, specializing in the design of hotels and apartment blocks. Among his known projects are the Oddfellows Hall (1899); the Sherdahl Block/Dominion Hotel (1901); the Terminus Hotel (1902); and the Eagles Fraternal Lodge (1902).

Guenther left Vancouver in 1906 and moved to San Francisco, undoubtedly lured there by prospects for work after the disastrous earthquake of April 1906. He advertised heavily in the local newspapers and remained there for six years, but returned to Vancouver in April 1912 and resumed his Canadian practice. Projects during this period in his career include the Canada/Marble Arch Hotel; the Regent Hotel (1913); several apartment blocks and Eagles Lodge No 6. (1914, unbuilt).

As work dried up, Guenther moved again, this time to Seattle in 1915. While there received his Washington State Architects license (No. 67) in 1919; the year the State began licensing architects. Well respected by his peers, Guenther was elected to serve as fourth vice president of the Washington State Society of Architects in 1923. The following year he served as secretary.

Known projects in the Seattle area are limited to a handful of buildings including the Young Men's Hebrew Association Building (1920); Estabrook Block (1923, unbuilt); the North/El Capitan Apartments (1925 with Charles W. Saunders); the Carlton Apartments (1926); a \$750,00 ten-story apartment (1926, unbuilt); and a \$275,000 six-story apartment (1930, Boren Ave & Union St).

Guenther passed away without fanfare in Seattle on April 14, 1935. No official obituary was published in the newspaper, only a standardized death notice.

Guenther was a perfect architect for the burgeoning cities of the West. Most of his surviving buildings were built as inexpensive housing for seasonal workers, travelers, and businessmen. Ornamentation was confined to street-facing elevations, although the buildings' symmetrical rhythm—obtained for the most part through repeating fenestration patterns—is elegant and displays good proportion. The surviving examples appear for the most part to be constructed of reinforced concrete covered with brick veneer with concrete details and metal cornices. They could be built quickly to meet the demands of owners/investors.

Eagles' Hall shares several design elements with the Rainier Hotel, located at 309 Carrall Street in Vancouver, B.C. The Rainier is a three-story, Neo-Classical Revival style hotel, situated on a corner lot. The building's facade is comprised of four bays of what were probably two double-hung windows each—they have now been removed—with flared trim. The upper facade has stone lintels and a projecting sheet metal cornice. Unlike Eagles' Hall, the Rainier has two-story pilasters setting off the bays and was designed to accommodate commercial establishments on the ground floor, which was typical of the period.

Eagles' Hall, Aerie #1, which was built in Seattle c. 1909, also may have influenced Guenther's design. This building, now demolished, has a recessed arched central entrance, a symmetrical facade with arched bays along the second story, a strong projecting cornice, and a central pediment set on a plinth that rises above the cornice with the words "Eagles' Hall."<sup>27</sup>

Other Guenther buildings, such as the Dominion Hotel, are marked by arched bays along the upper

<sup>27</sup> Eagles' Hall, Seattle c. 1909, property of Museum of History & Industry, Seattle, from King County Snapshots [http://content.lib.washington.edu/cdm4/item\\_viewer.php?CISOROOT=/imlsmohai&CISOPTR=2549&CISOBX=1&REC=6](http://content.lib.washington.edu/cdm4/item_viewer.php?CISOROOT=/imlsmohai&CISOPTR=2549&CISOBX=1&REC=6)

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stories, similar to the original design of Eagles' Hall. Most, like the Anacortes Aerie, have recessed entries, some with arches, and are sited along property lines to maximize available space.

A number of Guenther's surviving buildings have been renovated, restored, and repurposed as low-income housing, including the Dominion, the Terminus, and the Rainier. The Marble Arch and possibly the Regent are in the process of being converted to residence use under the sponsorship of Vancouver preservation groups and social welfare agencies. The Anacortes Eagles Hall, therefore, may be the most intact example of his work.

### **Architectural Context**

The Anacortes Hall was designed in the Classical Revival style which became popular following the Columbian Exposition of 1893. Many civic buildings, including fraternal halls, were constructed in this style—perhaps because classical architecture reflected local leaders' aspirations for their growing communities during the early years of the 20th century. It marked a departure in fashion and public taste from ornate, high Victorian exteriors to more restrained classical motifs.

Key elements of the style include elements from Classical Greek and Roman architecture including symmetrical facades, round arches, heavy entablatures, recessed porticos, bays of double hung windows capped by simple lintels, central pediments and arches. Compared to the earlier Greek Revival architecture of the 1820s and 30s, 20th century Classical Revival buildings employed more substantial materials such as brick and stone and were built on a more massive scale.

The Anacortes Hall boast typical features of the style including it use of a heavy modillioned cornice which is surmounted by a classical entablature; a raised plinth or foundation, a symmetrical façade of grouped windows, and a deeply recessed, arched entry portico.

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## 9. Major Bibliographical References

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Application for an H (Club) License to Sell Spirituous Liquor, Beer and Wine by the Glass, 1 Oct 1948 (lists officers and members and provides other information about the Eagles as of 27 Dec 1949.)

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Washington State Liquor Control Board, Inter-Office Correspondence, Memo to Elwin Lang, Supervisor from Gordon Forrest, Inspector, RE Fraternal Order of Eagles Anacortes Lodge No. 249, 24 Jan 1950 (Memo describes conversations between Liquor Control Board inspector and various residents and organizations in Anacortes regarding the Eagles' application for an H license.)

#### Previous documentation on file (NPS):

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 # \_\_\_\_\_  
 recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # \_\_\_\_\_

#### Primary location of additional data:

State Historic Preservation Office  
 Other State agency  
 Federal agency  
 Local government  
 University  
 Other  
Name of repository: \_\_\_\_\_

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): \_\_\_\_\_



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**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreage of Property** Less than one acre  
(Do not include previously listed resource acreage.)

**UTM References**      NAD 1927 or      NAD 1983

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

3	<u>    </u>	<u>    </u>	<u>    </u>
Zone	Easting	Northing	
2	<u>    </u>	<u>    </u>	<u>    </u>
Zone	Easting	Northing	
4	<u>    </u>	<u>    </u>	<u>    </u>
Zone	Easting	Northing	

**Or Latitude/Longitude Coordinates**  
(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places ) **City of Anacortes**

1	<u>48.516355°</u>	<u>-122.611294°</u>	3	<u>    </u>	<u>    </u>
	Latitude	Longitude		Latitude	Longitude
2	<u>    </u>	<u>    </u>	4	<u>    </u>	<u>    </u>
	Latitude	Longitude		Latitude	Longitude

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

The Fraternal Order of Eagles Hall is located in Section 18, Township 35, Range 02 E, east of the Willamette Meridian in Skagit County, Washington and is legally described as Block 21, Lot 1 & 2 in the original plat of Anacortes. It is otherwise identified as Tax Parcel P54979.

**Boundary Justification** (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The nominated property encompasses the entire urban tax lot (60 x 100) that is occupied by the Fraternal Order of Eagles Hall in Anacortes.

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title	<u>Joe LeBlonde: Historian</u>	(EDITED BY DAHP STAFF)
organization	<u>Fraternal Order of Eagles - Aerie #249 Inc.</u>	date <u>March 2019</u>
901n 7 <sup>th</sup> Street	<u>901 7<sup>th</sup> Street</u>	telephone <u>360-293-7447</u>
city or town	<u>Anacortes</u>	state <u>WA</u> zip code <u>98221-2413</u>
e-mail	<u>leblojf@frontier.com</u>	

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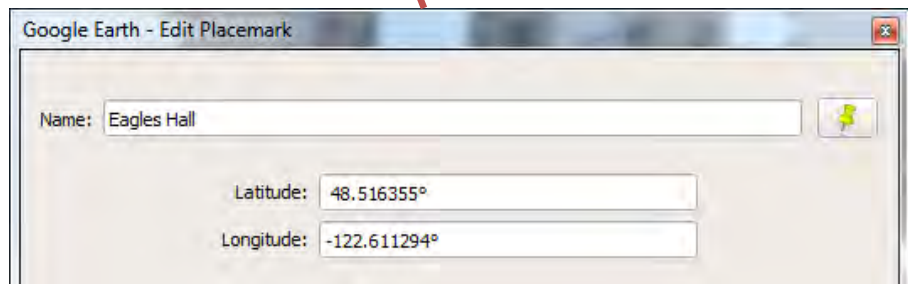
**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **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. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Continuation Sheets**
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)



**Google Earth Map**  
Fraternal Order of Eagles Hall  
Anacortes, WA



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**Skagit County Parcel Map**

Fraternal Order of Eagles

901 7<sup>th</sup> Street

Anacortes, WA

Parcel No. P54979

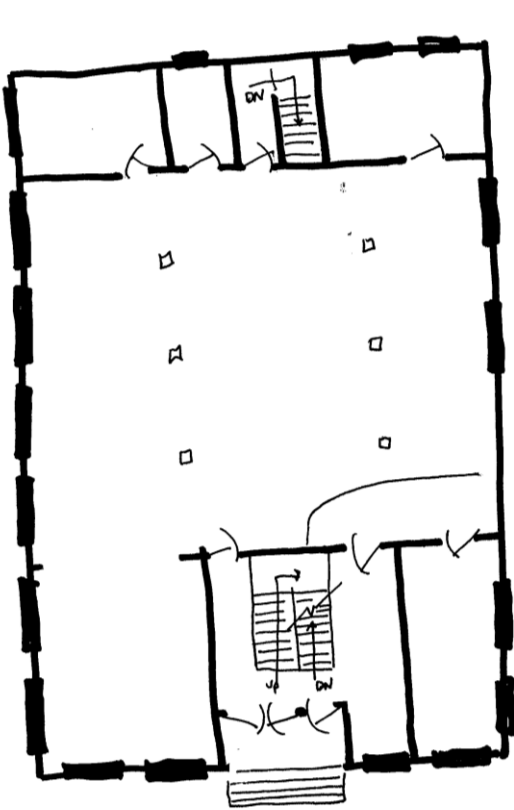
Fraternal Order of Eagles Hall

FRATERNAL ORDER OF EAGLES HALL - ANACORTES

Name of Property

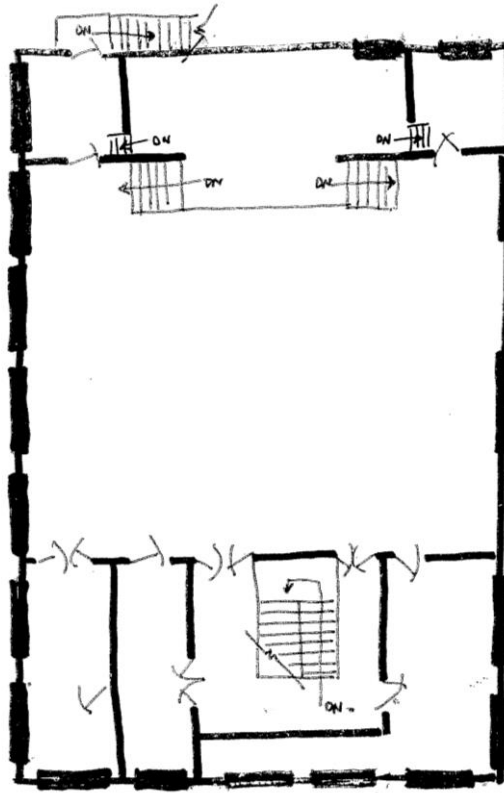
SKAGIT COUNTY, WA

County and State



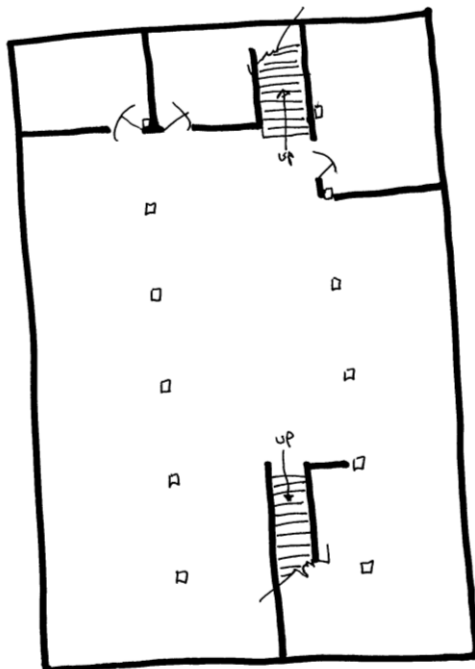
**Floor Plan – First Floor**

Fraternal Order of Eagles  
901 7<sup>th</sup> Street  
Anacortes, WA



**Floor Plan – Second Floor**

Fraternal Order of Eagles  
901 7<sup>th</sup> Street  
Anacortes, WA



**Floor Plan – Basement**

Fraternal Order of Eagles  
901 7<sup>th</sup> Street  
Anacortes, WA

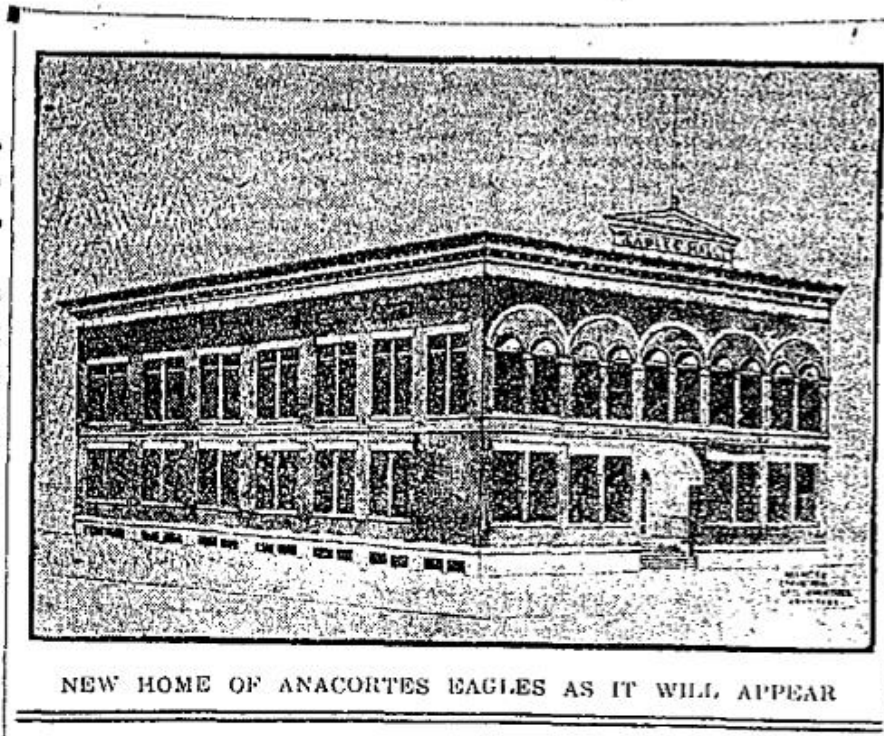


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Architect rendering – Anacortes American: March 18, 1920



Eagles Hall – Aerie #1, Seattle c 1909 – note similar design details.

Image courtesy of the Museum of History & Industry, Seattle, WA

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Eagles' Hall, Aerie #249, 1920 (postcard)



Eagles' Hall, Aerie #249, c. 1953



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**Photographs:**

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map.

**Name of Property:** Anacortes Eagles Building

**City or Vicinity:** Anacortes

**County:** Skagit **State:** Washington

**Photographer:** Michael Houser

**Date Photographed:** April 2019

**Description of Photograph(s) and number:**



1 of 21. Eagles' Hall, Main façade (north elevation) April 2019

FRATERNAL ORDER OF EAGLES HALL - ANACORTES

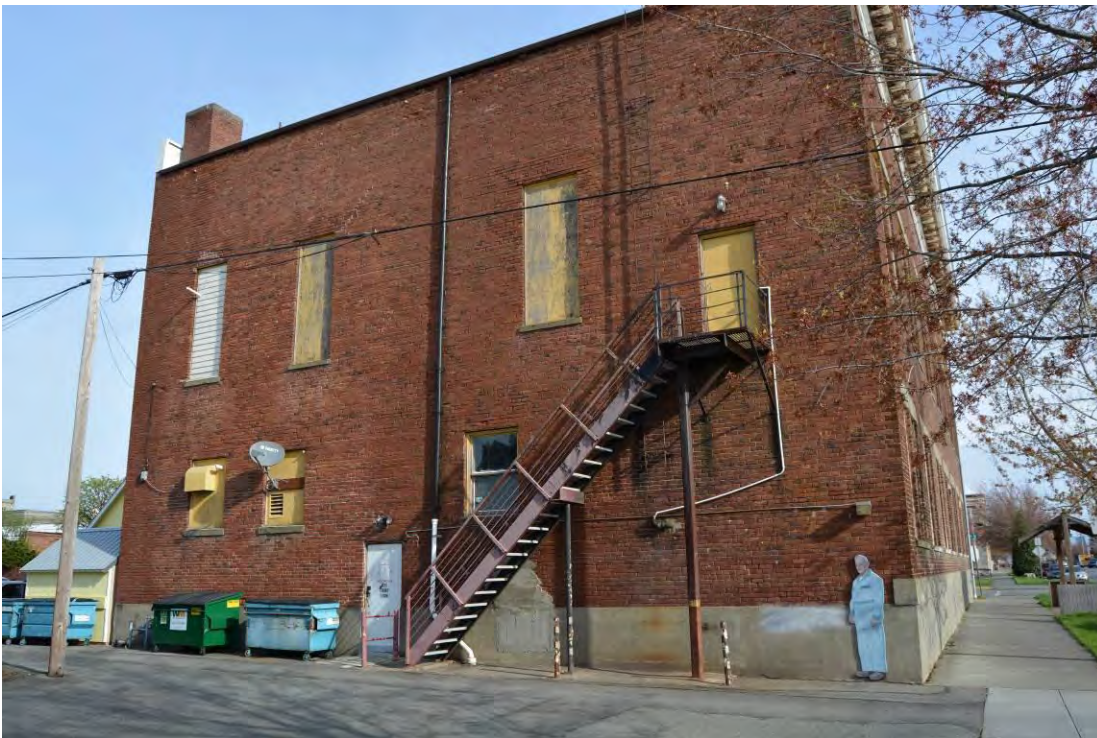
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2 of 21. Eagles' Hall, East façade, April 2019



3 of 21. Eagles' Hall, South façade, April 2019



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4 of 21. Eagles' Hall, West façade, April 2019



5 of 21. Eagles' Hall, Cornice detail, April 2019

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6 of 21. Eagles' Hall, Main entry detail, April 2019



7 of 21. Eagles' Hall, Main entry detail of arch capital, April 2019



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8 of 21. Eagles' Hall, Main entry stair detail,  
April 2019



9 of 21. Eagles' Hall, Main entry detail of  
doors, April 2019

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10 of 21. Eagles' Hall, First Floor Lounge looking southwest, April 2019



11 of 21. Eagles' Hall, First Floor Lounge looking northwest, April 2019



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12 of 21. Eagles' Hall, Second Floor landing looking southeast, April 2019



13 of 21. Eagles' Hall, Main lodge/ballroom looking southwest, April 2019

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14 of 21. Eagles' Hall, Main lodge/ballroom looking northwest, April 2019



15 of 21. Eagles' Hall, Main lodge/ballroom ceremonial elements, April 2019



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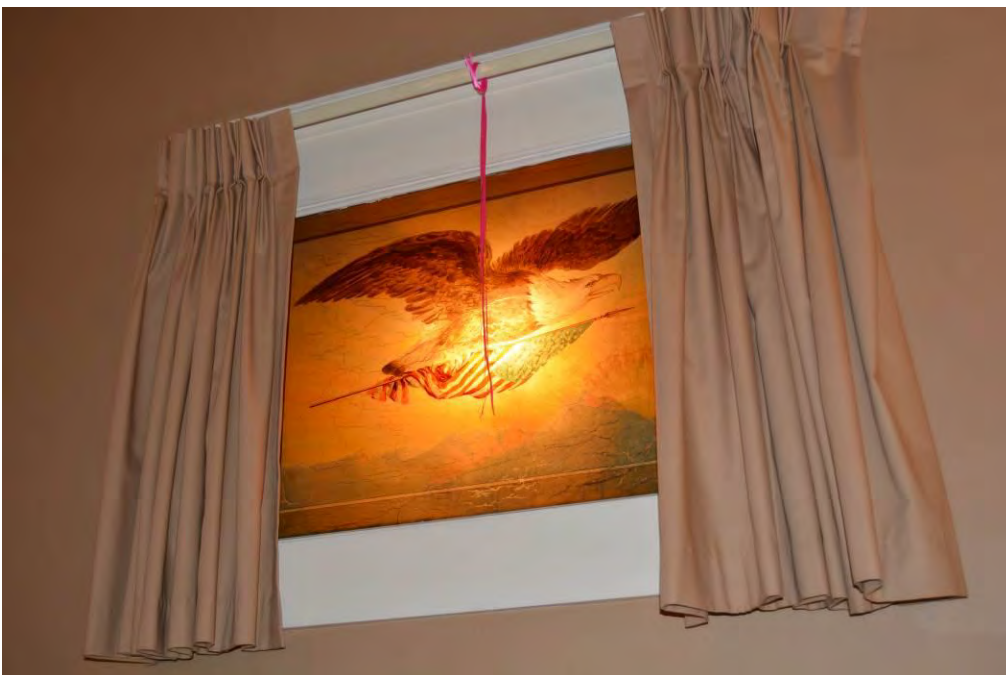
Name of Property

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16 of 21. Eagles' Hall, Main lodge/ballroom detail of raised side seating, April 2019



17 of 21. Eagles' Hall, Main lodge/ballroom detail of integrated ceremonial panel (backlit by lights), April 2019

FRATERNAL ORDER OF EAGLES HALL - ANACORTES

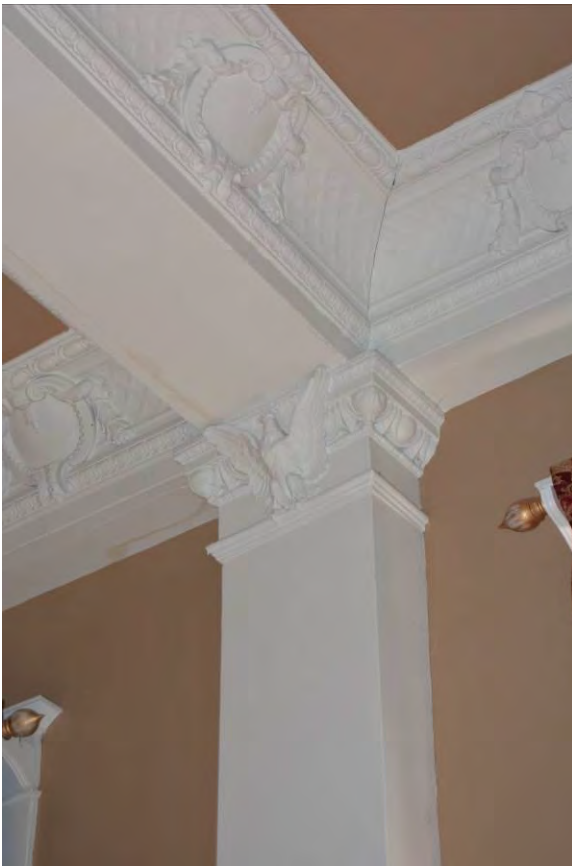
Name of Property

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18 of 21. Eagles' Hall, Main lodge/ballroom ceiling detail, April 2019



19 of 21. Eagles' Hall, Main lodge/ballroom ceiling and pilaster detail, April 2019



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20 of 21. Eagles' Hall, Basement kitchen, April 2019



21 of 21. Eagles' Hall, Basement meeting space, April 2019

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**Property Owner:** (Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

---

name Anacortes Eagles Aerie #249 Inc.

street & number 901 7<sup>th</sup> Street

telephone 360-293-3012

city or town Anacortes

state WA

zip code 98221

**Attn:** Joe LeBlonde

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.



EDINGER HALL

Retail



WALKER'S











EAGLES HALL



801  
7th

EAGLES CLUB  
249

EAGLES CLUB







































UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Requested Action: Nomination

Property Name: Fraternal Order of Eagles Hall-Anacortes

Multiple Name:

State & County: WASHINGTON, Skagit

Date Received: 11/4/2019      Date of Pending List: 12/6/2019      Date of 16th Day: 12/23/2019      Date of 45th Day: 12/19/2019      Date of Weekly List:

Reference number: SG100004790

Nominator: SHPO

Reason For Review:

- |   |  |   |
|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Appeal           | <input type="checkbox"/> PDIL            | <input type="checkbox"/> Text/Data Issue    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SHPO Request     | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape       | <input type="checkbox"/> Photo              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Waiver           | <input type="checkbox"/> National        | <input type="checkbox"/> Map/Boundary       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Resubmission     | <input type="checkbox"/> Mobile Resource | <input type="checkbox"/> Period             |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other | <input type="checkbox"/> TCP             | <input type="checkbox"/> Less than 50 years |
|   | <input type="checkbox"/> CLG             |   |

Accept       Return       Reject      12/19/2019 Date

Abstract/Summary Comments: The Fraternal Order of Eagles Hall-Anacortes is eligible for listing under Criterion A: Social History and Criterion C: Architecture, at the local level. Completed in 1920 in the Classical Revival/Beaux Arts tradition, from designs of prolific Pacific Northwest architect Emil G. Guenther, the building served as a major cultural and social venue for the local community of Anacortes. One of the more substantial masonry buildings in the city, the Hall reflected the common patterns and forms of early twentieth century fraternal hall design, with an imposing, stylish facade and well-appointed interior public and private/ceremonial spaces. Aerie #249 provided a key social support network to local workers and their families under the benevolent operations of the FOE fraternal organization.

Recommendation/ Criteria: Accept National Register Criteria A and C

Reviewer Paul Lusignan

Discipline Historian

Telephone (202)354-2229

Date 12/19/2019

DOCUMENTATION: see attached comments : No      see attached SLR : **Yes**





Allyson Brooks Ph.D., Director  
State Historic Preservation Officer

November 5, 2019

Paul Lusignan  
Keeper of the National Register  
National Register of Historic Places  
1849 "C" Street NW, MS 7228  
Washington, D.C. 20240



RE: **Washington State NR Nominations**

Dear Paul:

Please find enclosed new NR nominations for:

- **Fraternal Order of Eagles Hall - Anacortes - Skagit County, WA**  
(an all-electronic nomination)
- **Freeway Park - King County, WA**  
(an all-electronic nomination)
- **Harry & Catherin Bleecker House - Spokane County, WA**  
(an all-electronic nomination)
- **William & Ella Warner House - Spokane County, WA**  
(an all-electronic nomination)

Should you have any questions regarding these nominations please contact me anytime at (360) 586-3076. I look forward to hearing your final determination on these properties.

Sincerely,

**Michael Houser**  
State Architectural Historian, DAHP  
360-586-3076

E-Mail: [michael.houser@dahp.wa.gov](mailto:michael.houser@dahp.wa.gov)

