

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

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



1. Name

historic Linnea Hall

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 2066 NW Irving Street ___ not for publication

city, town Portland ___ vicinity of congressional district first

state Oregon code 41 county Multnomah code 051

3. Classification

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

4. Owner of Property

name Robert Phillips and Richard Michaelson, Linnea Hall Investors, Ltd.

street & number 2227 NW Johnson St.

city, town Portland ___ vicinity of state Oregon 97210

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Multnomah County Courthouse

street & number 1021 SW Fourth Avenue

city, town Portland state Oregon 97205

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Portland Historical Landmark has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date July 16, 1980 ___ federal ___ state ___ county local

depository for survey records Portland Historical Landmarks Commission, Portland Bureau of Planning

city, town Portland state Oregon 97205

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Linnea Hall was built in 1910 as a fraternal lodge with two large halls, a basement kitchen and large dining hall, a number of small meeting rooms, and a caretaker's apartment. Although built as a detached structure, its location on the western part of its 100 x 100 lot fronting NW Irving Street makes it read as part of a row of similarly-scaled structures. There is approximately 30" between the hall and the adjacent building to the west. Linnea Hall serves as a visual transition in scale and materials between the commercial buildings to the west and the residential area to the east.

The building with detailing based on Classical and Baroque precedent is rectangular in plan, measuring 46 x 98 feet. Its ground floor is poured concrete with a scored stucco surface treatment imitating coursed ashlar. The front third of the building is a 2½ story wood frame structure sided with V-grooved shiplap above the concrete basement. The rear two thirds of the building was originally a two-story tall dance hall matching the height of the front portion. After a fire in 1929, the rear hall was removed down to 4 feet above the floor, and a new roof was built at this height to cover the basement story, which was undamaged.

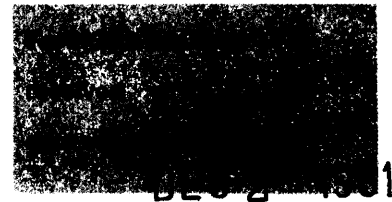
The facade of the building is divided into three double bays, and each story level is defined by a wood belt cornice. The first story is trimmed with wood pilasters with Corinthian capitals at the corners and flanking a deeply recessed central entrance with double leaf doors. A tripartite panel above the entrance is fitted with two stained glass windows on either side of a wood-carved and painted Swedish national emblem. A wooden canopy originally extended over the sidewalk for the width of the entrance, but it was removed long ago. Paired windows in the outer bays are 3'6" x 6'6" double-hung windows having upper sashes with nine panes above lower sashes with undivided glass. Window frames have a simple cornice molding.

The three pairs of windows in the second story of the facade are identical to the windows below except that they have 3'6" x 1'6" top lights which increase their verticality and the amount of light admitted to the second story hall. The second story is topped with a two-foot wooden overhang supported by 6" x 6" cantilevered beams. Their ends are carved into a four-part flower-like design. The overhang extends 6' around the corners along the sides of the building.

The attic story is fronted by a stepped and curvilinear gable which masks a double-pitch roof. This section is stuccoed and capped with sheet metal. Square turrets or pavilions with sheet metal domes mark the corners. Centered in the gable is an opening Palladian in organization with two multi-paned windows flanking a narrow louvered opening topped by a round arched molding with keystone.

The east side of the building, the only other side visible, is similar in scale and types of windows to the front facade but is not detailed to the same extent. For example, the parapet wall, instead of being stuccoed, is broken into rectangles by wooden battens and punctuated by diagonals within the rectangles. No information is available on the detailing for the portion that was removed in 1929, but it appears to have been identical to the existing treatment.

The interior of the building is undergoing substantial rehabilitation and some alteration. The ground level dining hall, which has no significant architectural detailing, is being

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converted into five subsidized housing units and some office space. The existing safe built in at the time of construction will be retained for use by the office. The interior front entry is paved with red and white hexagonal tiles, which will be retained. Wainscotting in the front stairway is a raised patterned pressboard which will also be retained. The first floor will be used as office space with some re-arrangement of interior walls. Door and window trim will be retained. The second story dance hall will be retained as open plan office space. Two bathrooms will be constructed along the windowless rear wall and the attic will be opened and rebuilt to produce a mezzanine 8' above floor level in the center portion of the space.

8. Significance

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

Specific dates 1909-1910 **Builder/Architect** E. J. Grahs

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Linnea Hall at 2066 NW Irving Street in Northwest Portland was constructed in 1910 as a Swedish fraternal lodge hall in the heyday of the Swedish Society Linnea, which is believed to be one of the oldest, if not the oldest of Swedish societies in the Pacific Northwest. The group was organized in Portland in 1888 as Svenska Broderna (Swedish Brotherhood), and the activities of the society quickly expanded to include Swedish women. The building, declared a Portland Historical Landmark by the City in 1980, is noteworthy among the numerous assembly and fraternal halls throughout the state as one of few which reflects its cultural associations, however, discreetly, in architectural terms. The 2½ story wood frame building on concrete basement is crowned at the facade by a sheet metal and stucco-clad stepped and curvilinear gable and square domed corner pavilions which are somewhat evocative of Scandinavian Baroque precedents. It is thought to be the only historic wood frame fraternal assembly hall still standing on Portland's West Side; it is one of the rare examples of its type anywhere in the city. The rear portion of the building, a two-story dance hall, was destroyed by fire in 1929. Long-range plans of the current owners are to rebuild the rear portion, but the building is presently undergoing adaptive-use rehabilitation in its existing form. The full basement is being converted to five apartments and some office space. First floor meeting rooms are to be converted to offices. Restroom facilities will be added along the windowless second story rear wall, and the attic story will be opened to additional light in side elevations to serve as conference room space. The building has served mixed commercial purposes (dance studio, office, workshop) since its sale by the Society's dwindling membership in 1979. Notwithstanding the loss of a portion of the building to fire 50 years earlier, the property overall possesses integrity of location, design, setting, and sufficient materials and workmanship to meet criteria of the National Register. Above all, it is significant for its long association with a distinctive cultural group, the Swedish Society Linnea, from 1910 to 1979.

Linnea Hall's cornerstone was laid on September 5, 1909. The building was completed for a ceremonial dedication on November 30, 1910. It was the creation of the only independent Swedish lodge in Portland and one of the oldest Swedish societies in the Pacific Northwest. The Society played an important role as a promoter of unity among Swedes and as a promoter of the Swedish heritage among other Americans.

The Society was organized in 1888 through the leadership of Phillip W. Lilijeson, a well educated man who was employed by the Post Office. The original name of the society was the Svenska Broderna, or the Swedish Brothers. The first meeting was held in O. T. Soderback's tobacco and bookstore at 5th and Morrison, a popular meeting place for young Swedes. Thirteen men attended the first meeting. On November 20, 1892 it was voted that ladies be allowed to become regular members and hold office in the lodge. At that time the name was changed to Svenska Sallskapet Linnea, or Swedish Society Linnea.

Membership in the Society could be one of two types. All early members were benefit members, that is, they paid dues of .50¢ per month plus an initiation fee of \$3.00 in return for a

9. Major Bibliographical References

See Continuation Sheet

10. Geographical Data *UTM NOT VERIFIED* *ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED*

Acreeage of nominated property less than one

Quadrangle name Portland, Oregon-Washington

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UMT References

A

1	0	5	2	4	0	3	0	5	0	4	1	4	1	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

B

Zone		Easting				Northing								

C

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D

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Verbal boundary description and justification

Lots 11 and 14, Block 282, Couch's Addition to the Plat of Portland, Multnomah County, Oregon.

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

state code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Richard Michaelson and Chris Johnson

organization date November 12, 1980

street & number 2227 NW Johnson St. telephone (503) 241-2243

city or town Portland state Oregon 97210

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

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

State Historic Preservation Officer signature 

title Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer date July 1, 1981

For HCRS use only

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

date 12/2/81


Keeper of the National Register

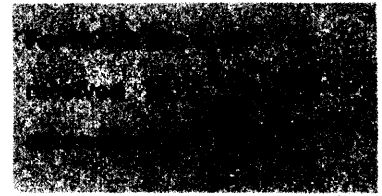
date

Attest:

Chief of Registration

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sick benefit that was \$7.00 per week and a death benefit of \$50.00. Later, social members were admitted who did not pay into or receive monetary benefits, but took part only in the social benefits of the organization.

Portland had a significant number of Swedes among its immigrants. Each arrived hopeful and slightly homesick. The Swedish Society Linnea created a formal institution from which support could be given to others in times of sickness, death, and loneliness. According to a Swedish newspaper, Oregon Posten, of 1917, the purposes of Linnea were fourfold: to help and steady the weak and faltering; to aid its members to grow both intellectually and morally; to nourish a consciousness of our national heritage; and to protect our treasured Swedish language.¹ The Linnea Society offered Swedes in the Portland area a rich organizational life.

The Swedish Society Linnea was the only Swedish lodge that was not part of a national organization in Portland. Several other national lodges existed in Portland. Two lodges, Noble Lodge and Harmoni Lodge, belong to the VASA Order of America. Two others, the Rosen Lodge for ladies and the Foresters for men, were part of the Order of Vikings. Another organization, the Order of Runeberg, which combined both Finns and Swedes in its membership, was part of an organization that had a branch in Alend, Sweden. Members chose one organization over another for various political or religious reasons.

The Linnea Society played an important role in the cultural and historical development of Swedish heritage in Portland. The organization had a variety of activities for its members. They held picnics, parties, special occasion dinners for Mothers' Day, Fathers' Day, September Homecoming, and Founders' Day Celebration, and offered yearly boat rides down the Columbia. On all occasions the Swedish language was spoken, Swedish food prepared, and people danced and sang in the Swedish folk tradition. The organization even had its own library to help preserve the Swedish language and literary tradition.

In addition, the Society made it a goal to teach the Swedish heritage to other Americans. Every month, from 1912 to 1970, the Society held a fund-raising dinner. These dinners were large affairs with good Swedish food and entertainment. Until the fire of 1929, dances were held as part of the dinner program. Each year the Society also held a Christmas festival, open to the public. In 1889 the Swedish Society Linnea was the first to institute the celebration of the mid-summer festival. Later, other Swedish societies joined Linnea in the celebration of this popular Scandinavian holiday. Colorful Scandinavian costumes, favorite Swedish dishes, music, dances, folk songs, games, and sports were all found at the festival.

Linnea Hall symbolizes the growth of the Swedish population in Portland. As the number of foreign born Swedish immigrants in Portland grew, so did the membership of the Linnea Society. From its original 13 members, the society had grown to 94 by 1900 and to 334 by 1910, after women were allowed to join.² The peak in the membership was reached at 500 in the early 1920s.³ In 1920 the Swedish foreign born population in Portland was also at a high of 10.7% of total foreign born, or 2% of the total population of Portland.

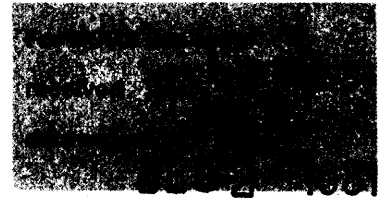
¹William Carlson Smith, "The Swedes of Oregon", American Swedish Historical Museum Yearbook, 1946, p. 44.

²Ibid., p. 45

³Mr. Willner, personal communication, 3/17/80.

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Membership declined in the 1930s, when money for dues was hard to find. By 1940, the Swedish born population in Portland had declined to 9.4% of total foreign born, or 1.2% of Portland's population. By 1946 the membership had shrunk to 125.⁴

Membership in Linnea Society decreased as the needs of the Swedes changed. The children of the foreign born were not as interested in learning the Swedish language, culture and history as their parents had been. The youth began to find other places to meet instead of at the dances, parties, or picnics at the lodge. Sick benefits became available from a variety of sources and were no longer an incentive for members to join. The Society's purposes were further eroded in 1946 when a committee presented a report with an English translation for an important ritual in the hope that the English translation would attract more American-born members.

Activities of the Society declined as the membership declined. For example, the monthly public dinners were discontinued in 1970 when it became difficult to locate good cooks trained in the art of Swedish cookery. The Society now meets twice monthly instead of weekly. Currently there are 72 members, all of whom are social members.

The Swedish Society Linnea was formed to satisfy the basic needs of an immigrant group. It played an important role in the lives of Swedes in Portland. As an independent lodge, it was unique among the other lodges. Linnea Hall had been built in 1910 when membership began its upward swing and was sold 69 years later when members recognized the property was no longer needed.

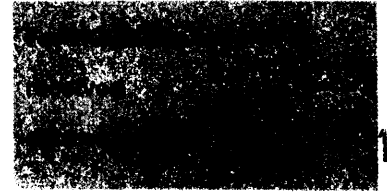
The building dates from the street car era, when social activities revolved around neighborhood institutions, and despite its recent change of use, the cultural identity of Linnea Hall continues to be strong in Northwest Portland.

⁴Smith, "The Swedes of Oregon", p. 34.

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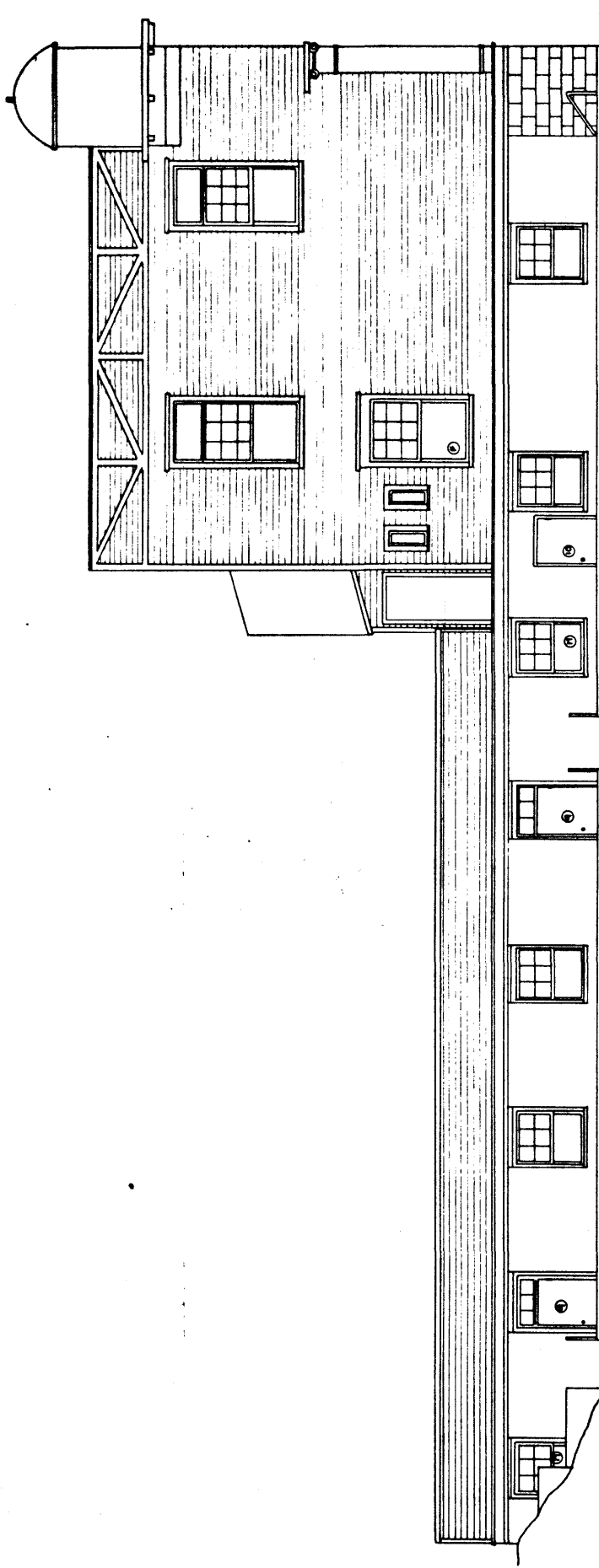
Foleen, Gust, "History of Swedish Society Linnea."

Program, Second Annual Midsummer Festival of the League of Swedish Societies of Portland, Oregon. Portland: League of Swedish Societies, 1929.

Smith, William Carlson "The Swedes of Oregon," American Swedish Historical Yearbook, 1946.

Wilner, Gunar "Swedish Society Linnea, Early History"

Johnson, Chris, "Historical Significance of Linnea Hall," 4 page transcript (1980).



LINNEA

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