

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

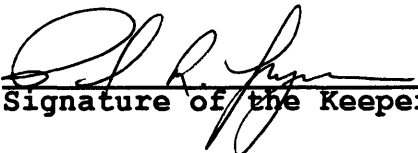
Parkland Lutheran Children's Home
Property Name

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.


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)

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Paul R. [Signature]
x Signature of the Keeper

7/29/96
Date of Action

Amended Items in Nomination:

Significance: (continued)

Ethnic Heritage-European is added as an area of significance to better reflect the resource's historic importance as developed in the MPS cover document.

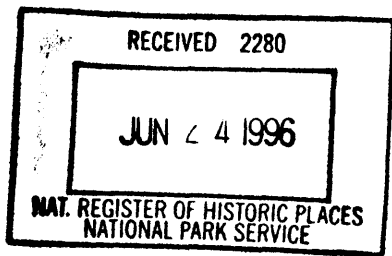
Norwegian-American is removed from Cultural Affiliation since this block is only used in association with Criterion D.

Criteria Consideration A must be checked since this property was constructed by a religious institution. The property meets the criteria consideration as a historic resource significant under the historic theme of social philanthropy and as a property illustrating the broad impact of a religious institution on the history of a local area.

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

DISTRIBUTION:

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



United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

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

1. Name of Property

historic name PARKLAND LUTHERAN CHILDREN'S HOME
other names/site number Parkland Children's Home

2. Location

street & number 12123 "A" Street Apartments not for publication
city or town Tacoma (Parkland) vicinity
state Washington code WA county Pierce code 053 zip code 98444

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

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

Mary Thompson Signature of certifying official 6/18/96 Date

Mary Thompson, State Historic Preservation Officer
State or Federal agency and bureau

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

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register.
 See continuation sheet
- determined eligible for the National Register. See continuation sheet
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain:) _____

Del R. [Signature] 8/7/96

X Signature of Keeper Date of Action

Property Name PARKLAND LUTHERAN CHILDREN'S HOME

County and State PIERCE CO., WA

5. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	No. of Resources within Property	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	contributing	noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>1</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> objects
		<u>1</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> Total

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

N/A

No. of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register:

0

6. Functions or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

RELIGIOUS: orphanage

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC: multi-family dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

No style

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation stone (loose granite boulders)

walls wood (beveled siding)

roof asphalt (shingles)

other _____

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

USDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form

Property Name PARKLAND LUTHERAN CHILDREN'S HOME

County and State PIERCE CO., WA

Page 3

8. Statement of Significance

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

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

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

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

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

RELIGION

SOCIAL HISTORY

Period of Significance

1902-1918

1922-1946

Significant Dates

1902

Cultural Affiliation

Norwegian-American

Significant Person

n/a

Architect/Builder

Unknown

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

Property Name PARKLAND LUTHERAN CHILDREN'S HOME

County and State PIERCE CO., WA

9. Major Bibliographical References

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

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 # _____

Primary location of additional data:

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

Specify repository:

Pacific Lutheran University

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property 1.0

UTM References

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
1	17Q	543220	5221140	3	17Q	543220	5221140
2	17Q	543220	5221140	4	17Q	543220	5221140

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title J. Benjamin Dorris
 organization Uptown Designs date 4-10-96
 street & number 310 South 117 Street telephone (206) 535-6071
 city or town Tacoma state WA zip code 98444-5412

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

- A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

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

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

name William and Randy Foley
 street & number Post Office Box 44577 telephone _____
 city or town Tacoma state WA zip code 98444

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Section number 7 Page 1 Name of Property PARKLAND LUTHERAN CHILDREN'S
HOME County and State PIERCE CO., WA

The Parkland Lutheran Children's Home is a two-and-a-half-story wood frame building built on a loose granite foundation. The structure is primarily rectangular in shape, with a wing along the north side. The siding is beveled wood. Decorative brackets are found on the turned porch columns at the principal elevation to the west. Windows are primarily two-over-two, double-hung sash and are substantially intact, with the exception of a large aluminum window on the south side on the main floor. The gable end on the west side has diamond and fishscale shingles. A wooden staircase is located on the east side of the building. Open porches with chamfered corner posts are found on the north and south sides.

A bellcast turret which crowned the building was removed in the 1920s. A shed dormer, which runs along the south, was a later addition made when the building was converted to living spaces.

The foundation is composed of loose granite boulders placed directly on the ground, with loose brick infill. This foundation appears to adequately support the structure, although a portion of the foundation had to be rebuilt in the late 1970s.

Despite several fires and lack of care over the years, the building remains substantially intact, though deteriorated. The current owner has sympathetically restored the building to its original appearance, with the exception of the cupola.

According to local legend, a large section of the building was segregated and moved to the north soon after construction, and served as a private residence, perhaps for Pastor Larsen. This may be apocryphal, however, since no documentary evidence of this alteration could be found. Early photographs show the building to have the same general form as today, and windows and siding on the structure do not bear evidence of alteration or patching. It seems more likely that the structure to the north was built separately as a parsonage for the Children's Home. This residence was demolished in the late 1980s.

The nominated building was constructed as an orphanage. It functioned in that capacity from 1902-1918. The ten acres on which it was built was donated by Mrs. O. Bakkum and Mrs. William Wilson, wife of a local land promoter.

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Section number 8 Page 1 Name of Property PARKLAND LUTHERAN CHILDREN'S HOME County and State PIERCE CO., WA

The Parkland Lutheran Children's Home was established in 1890 to meet the needs of orphaned and needy Norwegian Lutheran children. Originally it was housed in the basement of Pacific Lutheran University's "Old Main", Harstad Hall. In 1902 the structure on "A" Street was constructed to house the Children's Home. The ^{land} upon which it was built was donated by Mrs. O. Bakkum and Mrs. William Wilson, wife of a local land promoter.

The needs of children of the Norwegian Lutheran community were great in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century. Many Scandinavian emigrants were engaged in dangerous jobs in the fishing, construction and logging industries. Often a parent would lose their life or be severely injured at work or through illness. It was the Children's Home's charter to care for the needs of children who lost one or both parents. In addition, children were temporarily housed at the Children's Home while one or both parents engaged in seasonal work, such as fishing in Alaska. Happily, many of the children were able to reenter their homes after staying at the Home.

Pastor Tobias Larsen was the first president of the Children's Home. Larsen was a noted Lutheran educator and one of the first faculty members at Pacific Lutheran Academy. He married Bjug and Guro at Greenfield Lutheran Church in Harmony, North Dakota. Larsen died in 1908 from influenza and is buried in Parkland Lutheran Cemetery. His widow lived with Reverend Bjug Harstad and family in their home which remains to the north of the Children's Home. (See Bjug Harstad Home National Register Nomination form.)

While the Children's Home occupied the "A" Street structure until 1918, its subsequent moves closely parallel the complicated forces which shaped the Norwegian Lutheran Church in America in the early part of this century. The years 1917-1918 were important for the Lutheran Church. Until that time, several sects or "synods" of the Scandinavian Church existed in America. In 1918 the three dominant synods merged to form one synod, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. This merger was important for parishioners, but proved devastating for one of its most important educational institutions: Pacific Lutheran College (now Pacific Lutheran University). Money from the church was funneled away from the College and directed toward the church's jubilee celebration and merger plans in 1918. In addition, PLU founder and first president Bjug Harstad was unhappy with the merger of the church, fearing it would become too liberal, and formed his own synod with like-minded individuals, Parkland Lutheran Church of the Evangelical Lutheran Church. This conflict within PLU's administration led to the resignation of its president, E.A. Hong and caused great dispute within the organization. As a consequence, Pacific Lutheran University closed its doors in 1918. The Parkland Lutheran Children's Home moved from "A" Street to PLU's Harstad Hall.

Another important factor in PLU's decline (and the Children's Home's subsequent fate) was competition from other Norwegian Lutheran schools. These included a short-lived institution in Spokane, Washington and Columbia College in Everett, Washington. Columbia College was constructed in 1908 with a

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Section number 8 Page 2 Name of Property PARKLAND LUTHERAN CHILDREN'S
HOME County and State PIERCE CO., WA

similar charter as PLU -- to education Norwegian Lutherans. But it also served to direct funds and students from PLU to the new institution to the north. Eventually, Pacific Lutheran University prevailed and Columbia College was closed. In 1920, the Children's Home moved from Harstad Hall to the former Columbia College building, and PLU resumed classes in their building.

It is interesting that while the Children's Home moved from Parkland to Everett, approximately seventy miles to the north, it retained the name Parkland Lutheran Children's Home until approximately 1960. In the mid-1950s, due to social and governmental policies, the Children's Home's role changed from being an orphanage to being a social service agency, providing residential treatment and mental health services. The organization changed its name to Luther Children's Center, although it maintained a non-profit agency called Parkland Community Services until early 1995. Luther Children's Service will merge with another social service to become Life Net Health in the near future.

The Columbia College building was demolished in 1960. Local history tells that the stout concrete and masonry building proved difficult to tear down. The structure was burned and dynamited to no avail. Finally, after bankrupting a demolition contractor, the structure was pulled down using heavy machinery and logging chains.

Parkland Lutheran Children's Home was converted to apartments in the 1920s and serves in that capacity to this day. Its role as an apartment home was unique as the only multiple family dwelling available to the area's Norwegian American residents. As such it is an unusual property type in the local context. In addition, the structure is probably the only surviving structure which was dedicated to religious purposes from the early days of Parkland Norwegian Lutheran settlement, and as such supports the context of the Norwegian Settlement in Parkland, Washington Multiple Property National Register Nomination.

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Section number 9 Page 1 Name of Property PARKLAND LUTHERAN CHILDREN'S
HOME County and State PIERCE CO., WA

BIBLIOGRAPHY

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Pierce County Cultural Resource Inventory, Pierce County, (Caroline Gallacci, Surveyor) 1985.
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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.
Pacific Lutheran University Archives, Various References.
Centennial Celebration, Parkland Lutheran Church, 1893-1993.
Pierce County Assessor's Records, Various Resources
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Name of Property *Parkland Lutheran Children's Home*
County and State *Pierce County, Washington*

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

The Parkland Lutheran Children's Home site has 1 Acre of property with 150 feet of frontage on the east side of "A" Street (at approximately 123rd Street) and approximately 300 feet of depth to the east.

Located in Township 19, Range 03, Section 09SW

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

Information obtained from Pierce County Assessor's Records for Parcel Number 031909-4-036 and Pierce County Assessor's Maps.

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Name of Property *Parkland Lutheran Children's Home*
County and State *Pierce County, Washington*

Photographs, Sheet 1

Left:

Parkland Lutheran Children's Home
West elevation showing Porch, View from Northwest
J. Benjamin Dorris, June 15, 1995
Photograph Number 1

Right:

Parkland Lutheran Children's Home
East Elevation, View from East
J. Benjamin Dorris, June 15, 1995
Photograph Number 2



National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Name of Property Parkland Lutheran Children's Home
County and State Pierce County, Washington

Photographs, Sheet 2

Top:

Parkland Lutheran Children's Home

South and West elevations. Note Shed Dormer and Aluminum Window, View from Southwest

J. Benjamin Dorris, June 15, 1995

Photograph Number 3



Bottom:

Parkland Lutheran Children's Home

North Elevation. View from North

J. Benjamin Dorris, June 15, 1995

Photograph Number 4



National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Name of Property Parkland Lutheran Children's Home
County and State Pierce County, Washington

Photographs, Sheet 3

Historic View of Parkland Lutheran Children's Home

Source: From Wilderness to Suburbia



Figure 37. Parkland Lutheran Children's Home. Top row, left to right: Tobias Larsen, Miss Viland, Jacob Lunde, Mrs. Samuel Sinland, Mr. Viland, Samuel Sinland, Mr. Losness. Middle row: Mrs. Gunhilde Larsen, Eda Offerdal, Mrs. Lunde, Mrs. Viland, Miss Viland, Mrs. Losness. Bottom row: Henry Offerdal, and children of the home. Offerdal's were some of the first children at the home. Mr. Viland was caretaker, Mrs. Viland was house mother. (Courtesy Mrs. Malla (Sinland) Dahl.)