

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED MAY 23 1979

DATE ENTERED

JUL 10 1979

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS**1 NAME**

HISTORIC Sons of Norway Hall (AHRS PET-119)

AND/OR COMMON

Fedrelandet Lodge #23

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Indian Street

__ NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Petersburg

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

__ VICINITY OF

Alaska, at Large

STATE

Alaska

CODE

02

COUNTY

Wrangell-Petersburg Div.

CODE

280

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
			<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
			<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER: Lodge

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Sons of Norway, Inc. (907) 772-4575

Organization

STREET & NUMBER

Box 629

CITY, TOWN

Petersburg

__ VICINITY OF

STATE
Alaska 99833**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Petersburg Recording District (907) 772-4468

STREET & NUMBER

P.O. Box 1009

CITY, TOWN

Petersburg

STATE
Alaska 99833**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE Alaska Heritage Resources Survey (AHRS)

DATE

12/21/77

 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR

SURVEY RECORDS Alaska Division of Parks, 619 Warehouse Dr., Suite 210

CITY, TOWN

Anchorage

STATE
Alaska 99501

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 DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This functional, free-standing 55' x 105' two and one-half story structure is sturdily built on pilings over Hammer's Slough. The large but moderately-sloped gambrel roof surfaces are pleasantly broken by two hipped dormers on each side of the lower roof slope. Pastel-colored, Norwegian-motif fixed shutters which adorn all front and back windows add a spritely charm to what otherwise would be austere. The overall effect is a graciousness inherent in the community's Norwegian heritage; and in harmony with the surrounding oceanic and snow-capped mountain environment.

White-painted lateral wooden siding, two red-brick chimneys and a front mast flagpole temper the severity of the large roof surface. Because of heavy rainfall, the roof is metal covered; but a matte paint eliminates the metallic harshness.

The addition of a second story dormer-to-west-wall plank walkway fire escape, and removal of five of the seven original windows on the east wall, represent the only exterior alterations of consequence since the building was completed in 1912. Interior change has been even more modest. The first floor remains unchanged but is in much need of renovation. It is currently leased to the State Fish and Game Department for storage purposes until restoration begins. The top-floor Lodge room wall and ceilings have been refinished with attractive wood paneling and modern lighting fixtures. The hallway, kitchen and toilets, although well-maintained, are unaltered structurally.

There are three doors at front, off the planking of Indian Street. The left door leads to the west side cat-walk, the fire escape and rear first-floor exit. The second single door is the principally-used entrance. It leads directly past a ticket booth, the inner stairwell and a spacious cloak-room. From the cloak-room one enters the two-storied ballroom, designed to accommodate the community's first basketball court and to provide suitable acoustics for theatrical and musical performances. At the rear is an excellent small stage, dressing rooms, and narrower stairs leading to the next two levels.

The first flight of stairs reaches the card room, which over the years has also been popular for smaller meetings and social events. Above this the full top floor is occupied by the Lodge chambers, which in addition to the spacious meeting hall includes foyer, toilet area and kitchen.

The building has never had a central heating system. The large first floor and the card room each have a single oil-burning stove. The Lodge floor has a floor furnace, a heating stove and the large restaurant-type range in the kitchen. All are oil burning. Much of the plumbing dates from 1912 and is inadequate, as is the electrical wiring. Winter freeze-ups have been common.

Because of its singular place in the community, and to guarantee its survival for future generations, Fedrelandet Lodge and Sons of Norway, Inc., are developing restoration plans which will retain the original integrity while enhancing community utilization of Sons of Norway Hall.

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 type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

1912

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

Sons of Norway Lodge Members

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This is the first Sons of Norway Lodge built in Alaska. For the place called "little Norway", it is a symbolic monument to the Norwegian-American pioneers who built Petersburg. But most significant is the Hall's 68 year involvement in, and unexcelled contribution to, the general social life of the community. No other local structure has been as intimately associated with people and events in Petersburg during the last 68 years as has Sons of Norway Hall.

Historical Narrative

At the end of the first decade of the new salmon canning industry in Alaska Territory, a Norwegian emigrant, Peter Buschmann in 1897 selected a propitious site on Mitkof Island, sheltered by the Wrangell Narrows as it approaches Frederick Sound. Buschmann, his wife and eight children assisted by Peter Norberg, built a sawmill, cleared some of the encroaching forest and erected a cannery. A few fellow countrymen followed and the place was initially named "Peter's Burg". Troy Blatchford, in a published account states:

"It was in the center of the richest (salmon) fishing grounds in the world. . . there was plenty of good lumber for building. First these hard-working Scandinavians put up a saw mill. From the lumber obtained they erected a cannery, docks, warehouses, salteries, homes and a school. It was never a tent town. . . all buildings were sturdy. Fishing was in their blood, as in the old country. Boats and gear were their livelihood. The natural harbor and carefully-planned townsite made everything easier. With buildings and cannery finished, they went fishing and helped to make Petersburg one of the richest communities per capita in Alaska."

A post office was established in 1900 and the town incorporated in 1910. Plans were initiated for a street system, public power and water. But there was only one church, a small Presbyterian mission built in 1911--no gymnasium, no family recreation center nor an adequate public meeting place. Thus, the Sons of Norway channelled their desire to build the first S.O.N. Lodge building in Alaska into a much larger community purpose. The hall that they built with volunteer labor in 1912 was designed to be large enough to accommodate the community. It provided for public meetings, festivals, town dances, basketball games, bazaars, live theatrical and musical performances; and because of the sparcity of church facilities for many years--for non-denominational services, choir practices, and larger weddings and funerals.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Petersburg: Heritage of the Sea, Petersburg Public Library Board, Ballard Pub. Co., Seattle, 1976.

Interview: Jacob Olsen, charter member of Sons of Norway by Bojer Wikan. Alaska Magazine, June 1977, page 56.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY -1

QUADRANGLE NAME Petersburg D-3 QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:63,360

UTM REFERENCES 700 950

A	0, 8	6, 2, 4	1, 1, 6	6, 2, 9, 7	0, 6, 2	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING			
C									
E									
G									

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

All of LT-190, Tidelands Addition, ATS No. 9, revised December 30, 1963, City of Petersburg, Alaska; and Lot T-189 as recorded Deed Book 8, p. 125, Petersburg Recording District, 12/27/1976.

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 Sharon Burrell - Historian

Assisted by: Michael Kennedy, Historian

ORGANIZATION Sons of Norway, Inc.

State Div. of Parks 1/24/78
Anchorage, AK

STREET & NUMBER Box 629

TELEPHONE (907) 772-4575

CITY OR TOWN Petersburg

STATE Alaska 99833

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 National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

William Allen

TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE May 15, 1979

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST: *W. Ray Jones*
CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

DATE 7-10-79

DATE July 6, 1979

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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Sons of Norway Hall (AHRS PET-119)

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 1 of 1

Over the years Sons of Norway Hall has been established as the place for entertaining visiting dignitaries, politicians and public officials, and for large public banquets, and conventions. The Hall served as an armory during World War II, and as local National Guard headquarters during the 1960's. It has undoubtedly had more association with people and events significant in the history of Petersburg since 1912 than any other place. Until the first public library was created in 1931 and the museum built in 1967, the Hall also provided some services now relegated to them. The Lodge accumulated a large collection of historical photographs of general interest. Many of these have been shared with the museum and are now exhibited there, but a good collection remains in the Lodge archives.

In 1972, because of deteriorated first floor facilities, as well as need for revenue for other maintenance and renovation, this space was leased for storage purposes to the State Fish and Game department. Now, with plans for restoration and full utilization, an adjoining lot has been acquired for parking development. The building will be renovated and restored, to continue in its landmark status the role that it has so long played in community life.