

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

NATIONAL  
REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Noonan-Norblad House  
other names/site number Norblad, Albin W., House

2. Location

street & number 1625 Grand Avenue N/A not for publication  
city, town Astoria N/A vicinity  
state Oregon code OR county Clatsop code 007 zip code 97103

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number 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	1	_____ buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	_____	_____ sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	_____	1 structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	_____	_____ objects
		1	1 Total

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register N/A

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this  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  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  See continuation sheet.

*[Signature]* Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer  
February 2, 1988  
Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

State or Federal agency and bureau \_\_\_\_\_

5. 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:)

*[Signature: Albin Byers]* Entered in the National Register 3-31-88

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

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**6. Function or Use**

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Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic: single dwelling

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Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic: single dwelling

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**7. Description**

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Architectural Classification  
(enter categories from instructions)Colonial Revival

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Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation concrete  
walls wood: weatherboard, shingle

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roof asphalt (Composition shingle)other chimney: brick

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windows: glass

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Describe present and historic physical appearance.

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The Noonan/Norblad house, although atypical to residential architecture of Astoria, is a good example of the Dutch Colonial Revival style of the 1890-1915 period; some eccentricities and elements common to the Queen Anne style are also apparent.

The gambrel roof, classical entablature, rectangular form, a well organized facade with a prominent entrance portico, and wood frame construction all identify the Noonan/Norblad house with the Dutch Colonial and Colonial Revival styles.

The Noonan/Norblad house, approximately 28' x 53', consisting of basement, first and second floor, and attic, sits on fill brought to the site, apparently to raise the level of the house to a height equal to the adjacent houses to the east, the Griffin house, and the Ferguson house. This also made it sit higher than the adjacent house to the west, the Dieleman house. The Noonan/Norblad house, like the Dieleman house, was located close to Grand street, and some of the surviving residents of the area still remember that that was quite objectionable to other neighbors.

The house is oriented in a north-south direction overlooking the Columbia river. The roof appears to have originally been a gambrel cross with boxed eaves; the north-south ridge being dominant. The east-west gambrels are actually framed in the manner of dormers, but appear much more significant than the usually smaller gambrel dormer. The gambrel roof (called mansard by the British) has a twin sloped roof, the lower section having the steeper slope, which allowed the second floor of the Noonan/Norblad house to originally be almost equal in floor area to that of the first.

The original house had a formally organized facade on the north elevation, facing Grand street. The columns and entablature are typical of the Tuscan order. The entrance portico and porch have been enclosed, mainly by glazing.

The exterior siding is predominantly 1 x 6 rabbeted bevel siding, milled to appear as 1 x 3 bevel siding. The gable ends of the gambrel roof and an extension on the second floor have wood shingles with a 5" exposure.

The roof had been reshingled the same as the original house, in wood, but is now covered in addition by composition shingles.

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The second floor deck, over what was originally porch and portico, also appears to be original to the house, and is the only part of the house in need of repair. Above the deck and formally organized windows is a circular attic window very reminiscent of the well known Queen Anne house in Astoria, the Benjamin Young house. The window is repeated on the east and west attic elevations, and there is one additionally stored in the attic. That along with the rafter framing in the attic leads one to speculate that the south elevation also had a gambrel roof above.

The east and west elevations both have bay windows and stained glass reminiscent of the Queen Anne style, while the later enclosure of the porch and portico on the north contained windows with many panes in the upper sash, common to the Dutch Colonial Revival style. The stained glass windows with narrow vertical segments, bordered on top, and bottom, and sometimes interrupted in the middle, by diamond shapes, has the unusual feature of the individual sections undulating in and out from the vertical plane of the window frame.

The east elevation has another unusual feature. An entrance to the basement has been cut through the original fireplace foundation. In all likelihood this was done when the garage, adjacent to Grand street, was added, and provided an indirect link between garage and basement.

The rear area of the house has seen the most renovation; enclosure of the original rear porch, and first floor kitchen extension, with the creation of a master bedroom on the second floor. In all cases, materials like the original house were incorporated into the exterior of the renovations.

The accompanying floor plan shows the basic layout of the house.

The basement foundation walls were originally framed in wood. At some point a concrete stem wall with wood posts replaced it. A concrete slab has been poured for the floor. Interior columns support beams and 1 3/4" x 9" joists. Only one beam shows signs of deflection.

The original first and second floors of the house are finished similarly with hardwood floors, plaster walls and ceilings with picture mould at the wall top. First floor height is 9'-3", and second floor height is 8'-8". Door and window casing and

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fireplace mantel and trim are clear fir, and have a simple classical elegance. The stair to the second floor, similarly unpretentious in detail is quite wide and does have at the intermediate landing one of the two bay windows.

It is only in the area of the kitchen extension that materials and forms, such as, suspended ceiling, wedge casing, and recessed lights, detract from the historic quality of the house.

The attic displays original roof framing of full 2 x 6's, and 2 x 4 walls, and indicates the main structure of the house to be in excellent condition.

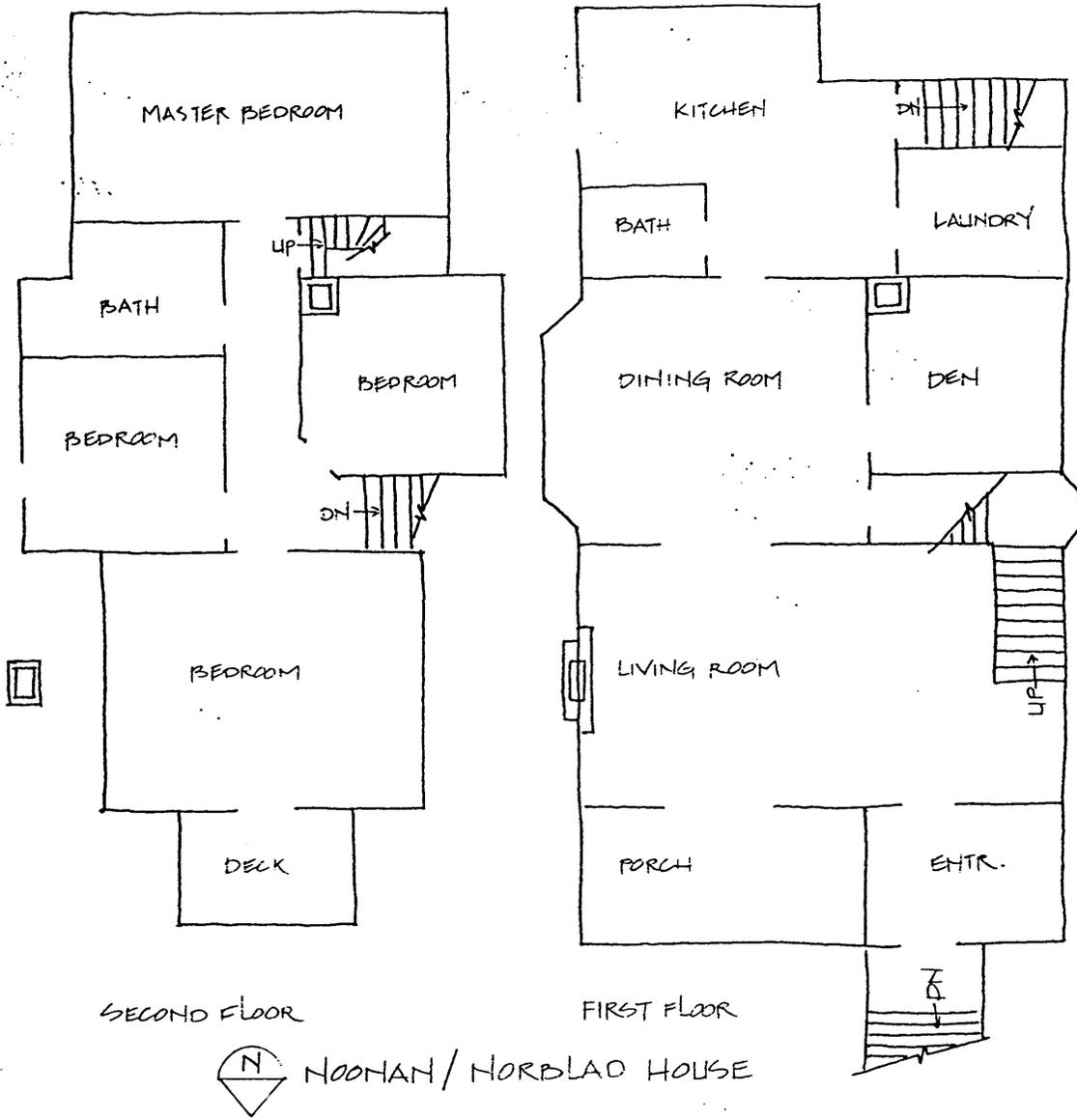
The most intriguing feature of the attic is the stair from the second floor. In a 3' square the attic stair winds 180 degrees up 9'. The stair was obviously well crafted and designed by someone used to fitting stairs in tight places, perhaps like the confines of late 19th century sailing ships.

A single-bay, flat-roofed garage is located on the street front, at the north-east corner of the lot, where it adjoins a garage of like kind on the neighboring property. It was erected by the time of the 1921 Sanborn fire insurance rating map. It is believed to have been built by Albin Norblad soon after he acquired the property in 1918. While it is thus a feature of the property's historic period of significance, it was not designed to complement the period style of the house and, therefore, is not counted as a separately contributing feature.

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**8. Statement of Significance**

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally     statewide     locally

Applicable National Register Criteria     A     B     C     D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)     A     B     C     D     E     F     G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Politics/Government

Architecture

Period of Significance

1904-1931

Significant Dates

1904/1905

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

Albin Walter Norblad

Architect/Builder

Unknown

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

See continuation sheet

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

Corning, Howard McKinley, ed., Dictionary of Oregon History (Portland: Binfords and Mort, 1956), 176.

Daily Morning Astorian, 1904-1945.

Astoria Daily Budget, 1904-1945.

Cumtux: Clatsop County Historical Society Quarterly, vol. 1, No. 1, Vol. 3, No. 4.

See continuation sheet

**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:**

Astoria Historic Landmarks Commission  
(Astoria Public Library)

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of property less than one

**UTM References**

A 

1	0
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4	3	6	4	2	0
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5	1	1	4	8	5	0
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Zone      Easting      Northing

B 

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Zone      Easting      Northing

C 

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D 

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See continuation sheet

**Verbal Boundary Description**

The nominated property is Lot 5, Block 22, Shively's Addition to Astoria, in Clatsop County, Oregon. It is otherwise described as Tax Lot 7100, Clatsop County Assessor's Map ref. no. 8N 9W 8DC.

See continuation sheet

**Boundary Justification**

The nominated property comprises the entire lot historically improved by E. P. Noonan commencing in 1904 and occupied by Albin W. Norblad from 1918 onward. The lot measures 50 x 100 feet.

See continuation sheet

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Roger T. Tetlow, historian; Robert Freeman, architect

organization contractors for City of Astoria date July, 1987

street & number c/o Astoria Public Library telephone (503) 325-7323

city or town Astoria state Oregon zip code 97103

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The house at 1625 Grand Avenue in Astoria, Oregon built for businessman E. P. Noonan in 1904-1905 is a well-preserved and locally distinctive example of Colonial Revival architecture in the so-called "Dutch", or gambrel-roofed vein. The architect has not been identified, though it is tempting to tentatively attribute the design to John E. Wicks (1878-1963), the city's foremost exponent of the Colonial Revival and Craftsman styles, whose own house, built in 1919, stands on the same block (Wicks opened his office in Astoria in 1904. He was a native of Finland professionally trained in Kansas.) No connection between Wicks and the nominated property has been documented to date.

The nominated property is chiefly significant, in any case, as the state's only building importantly associated with Albin W. Norblad, Governor of Oregon for slightly over one year, December 22, 1929 to January 12, 1931. It is thus considered to meet National Register Criteria B and C. Its historic period of significance is drawn to the end of Norblad's career in the statehouse.

The 2 1/2-story house of frame construction is situated longitudinally on its standard 50 x 100-foot lot. It displays intersecting gambrel roof forms, bull's-eye and modified Palladian window, hooded oriel and polygonal bay windows, shingle and narrow weatherboard siding, classical architraves, and Tuscan columned porch, all distinguishing characteristics of the Colonial Revival, which reached the height of fashion on the West Coast at about the time the house was constructed.

The interior is finished in the Arts and Crafts tradition, with light-painted finishes and "correct" classical detailing befitting the style. Windows flanking the classical living room chimney piece, and those lighting the stairhall and elsewhere, are fitted with beveled leaded glass in a diaper pattern. Both pocket sliding doors and French doors are used for separation of primary space of the ground story. The front porch was enclosed as a sun porch with multi-paned glazing at an early date. Only the kitchen has been substantially remodeled in recent years.

Edmond Power Noonan (1867-1945), a native of Ireland, arrived in Oregon in 1885, settling first at Olney in Clatsop County, and subsequently establishing himself in business in Astoria and on the Washington side of the Columbia. He returned to Astoria in 1905 and founded a career on real estate investments, manufacturing and packing, and insurance sales. The house on Grand Avenue is one of a number he built in Astoria for investment purposes. He occupied it from 1905 to 1918, at which time the property was sold to Albin Norblad.

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Albin Norblad (1881-1960), a native of Sweden, arrived in Astoria with his wife and son in 1908 and opened a law office. He became city attorney for Astoria, Seaside and Warrenton. In 1916 he was named circuit court judge of Clatsop County. In 1918 he was elected to his first term as State Senator. He was reelected in 1926 and held his position to December 22, 1929, at which time, as president of the Senate, he succeeded Governor I. L. Patterson, who died in office. Norblad's tenure as Governor ended at the next election. He left the Governor's office January 12, 1931. He continued to make his home in Astoria, in the house on Grand Avenue, until his death in 1960.

Chief among Albin Norblad's contributions to Astoria during the time he occupied the house was heading the citizens' committee to rebuild the city after the disastrous fire of 1922 which destroyed much of the downtown and harbor front. The committee, known as "The Committee of Ten," was an advisory body which assisted city government with the multitude of special problems that arose from the December conflagration. The Committee of Ten included Astoria's leading business and professional men, the mayor, newspaper publisher, and port commissioner. It handled all disaster funds received from the State and other communities. It distributed food and clothing to the needy, arranged for the cleanup of streets and sidewalks in the burned district, helped coordinate much of the rebuilding of electrical and telephone lines and restoration of other utilities. The committee was disbanded when the City departments were able to resume their regular work.

One of Norblad's major contributions while serving in the Oregon State Senate was promotion of the fishing industry, which was central to the economy of Astoria, a deep water port at the mouth of the Columbia River, and to the state as a whole. During his first term, he drafted and pushed through a bill which eliminated purse seiners from the Columbia, legislation decidedly to the benefit of local gillnetters and salmon packers. Norblad favored building of hatcheries, which did much to insure the continuation of salmon runs on the Columbia. Norblad continued his support of the fishing industry during his one-year term as Governor of Oregon.

Norblad's son, Albin Walter Norblad, Jr. (1908-1964), lived in the nominated house from the age of 8 to his college years. He compiled an equally distinguished record in politics. He served in the Oregon House of Representatives before being elected to the Congress of the United States, where he served from 1946 to his death in 1964. Both father and son were lifelong Republicans.

A more detailed account of these several careers follows.

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The Noonan-Norblad House is significant to the history of Astoria because of its association with E.P. Noonan, early-day businessman, and with Albin Walter Norblad, former governor of Oregon, and of his son Albin Walter Norblad Jr., eight times elected representative from the State of Oregon to the United States House of Representatives.

Edmond Power Noonan was born in Strough, Tipperary, Ireland in 1867, one of the seven children of Michael and Ann Power Noonan. and arrived in the Pacific Northwest in 1885. He had been preceded by a sister Joanna who had married John Leahy of Olney, and by Ann who had married Michael Leahy, also of Olney, as well as by two other brothers Daniel and Patrick, both of whom settled in Connecticut.

Edmond joined his sisters' families at Olney and built a cabin on the Leahy homestead. However, he soon found a job driving one of the horse-drawn trolleys at Astoria, and by 1890 was in business for himself at Astoria, operating a grocery store. By 1891 he had sold out to C. Gramms and had moved across the river to McGowan, Washington, where he became the postmaster.

He married Laura Kingston there in 1898 and their first child, Chester, was born at McGowan in 1902. Other children born to the couple included Roderick, Dorothy Eleanor, and Corla.

The Noonan family moved back to the Astoria area and in 1905, Noonan was one of the incorporators of the City Lumber & Box Co. He became the secretary of the Alaska Fishermen's Packing Co., and in 1913 formed a co-partnership with W.F. McGregor in the insurance business.

E.P. Noonan had always been interested in real estate and built many houses in Astoria during his career. In 1905, he built two residences near the corner of 14th and Lexington. He built the Noonan-Norblad house on Grand avenue in 1904 and lived there with his family until he sold the house to Albin Norblad in May, 1918. He then moved into a house on Jerome which he had built just across from the Astoria high school and lived there for the rest of his life. Noonan died in Astoria in 1945 at the age of 78.

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In addition to his business activities, E.P. Noonan was active in the Knights of Columbus. He was installed as the Grand Knight in 1911, elected state treasurer in 1913, and elected to the National Council in 1921.

In 1918, E.P. Noonan sold the house on Grand avenue to Albin Walter Norblad, a rising young politician of Astoria who, with his family, lived in the house until his death in 1960 at the age of 79.

Al, as his friends called him, was born in Malmo, Sweden in 1881 and came to the United States with his parents when he was a small boy. The Peter Norblad family settled in Grand Rapids, Michigan where two more children, Clara and George were born.

Albin Norblad left school at the age of twelve to help with the family finances but later attended the Chicago Law School and graduated in 1901. He went to Escanaba, Michigan, to practice law and was named district attorney there. It was also in Escanaba that he met and married Edna Lyle Cates, daughter of the editor and publisher of the town newspaper.

In 1909, the Norblad family which now included Albin Walter Norblad, Jr. who was born in 1908 moved to Astoria, Oregon where they rented a house on 7th street. Later, they moved to another rented house on 16th before buying the E.P. Noonan residence in 1918.

Norblad opened a law office in Astoria and was named district attorney a few months later. He also became city attorney for the small communities of Seaside and Warrenton as well as of Astoria. J.T. Jeffries joined his law firm in 1912.

In 1914, the Norblad's second child, Eleanor, was born. And in that same year, Norblad was chairman of the local Scandinavian Festival and opened the Astoria Insurance and Service Co. with Frank Hesse as a partner.

In 1916, he was named circuit court judge of Clatsop county and in 1918 was elected a state senator from Clatsop county. He held the office during four regular sessions and two special legislative sessions between 1919 and 1929. He was the president of the Oregon senate at the time of the death of Governor Patterson and was named governor as the next in succession. He lost his bid for re-election to that office. He was a Republican.

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Albin Norblad held many important positions in Astoria during the years he lived there. He served on the Astoria school board for many years and was elected president of the Oregon State Association of School Boards in 1924. In 1922, he headed a committee named to rebuild Astoria after the disastrous fire of 1922. He was the chairman of the Astoria Library Board and president of the Dad's Club of the University of Oregon.

Albin Walter Norblad died in the Noonan/Norblad house on Easter Sunday of 1960 at the age of 79.

His son Albin Walter Norblad was nine years old when the Norblads moved into the Noonan/Norblad house on Grand avenue. Walter, as he was called, grew up in Astoria and was graduated from Astoria high school. He attended the University of Oregon law school and upon graduation joined his father in the law firm of Norblad and Norblad.

In 1935, Walter was elected to the Oregon House of Representatives. He married Elizabeth Bendstrup of Astoria in 1936 and served with the U.S. Air Corps during World War II. Their son Albin Walter Norblad III was born in Astoria in 1939.

He was elected United State Representative from Oregon upon the death of James Mott. He was re-elected eight times to Congress and served there from 1946 until his death in 1964.

