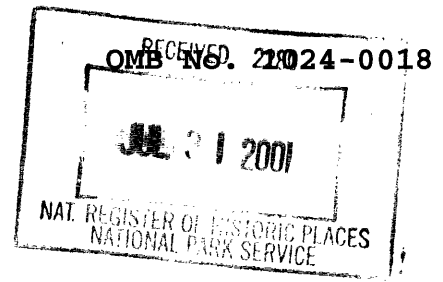


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM



*File*

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.

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1. Name of Property

=====

historic name Illinois Street Historic District

other names/site number AHRS Site No. FAI-00349  
F.E. Company Administrative Center

=====

2. Location

=====

street & number 300-700 Illinois Street

not for publication N/A

city or town Fairbanks vicinity N/A

state Alaska code AK county Fairbanks North Star code 090

zip code 99701

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.)

Judith E. Bittner  
Signature of certifying official

July 26, 2001  
Date

Alaska  
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): \_\_\_\_\_

Entered in the  
National Register

9-14-01

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Keeper

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date  
of Action

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**5. Classification**

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

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

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

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

**Number of Resources within Property**

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>13</u>	<u>2</u> buildings
<u>1</u>	<u>      </u> sites
<u>      </u>	<u>      </u> structures
<u>      </u>	<u>      </u> objects
<u>14</u>	<u>2</u> Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 7

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

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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**6. Function or Use**  
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**Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)**

<b>Cat:</b> <u>Industry/processing</u>	<b>Sub:</b> <u>industrial storage</u>
<u>Domestic</u>	<u>institutional housing</u>
<u>Commerce/trade</u>	<u>business</u>

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

<b>Cat:</b> <u>Domestic</u>	<b>Sub:</b> <u>hotel</u>
<u>Domestic</u>	<u>single dwelling</u>
<u>Funerary</u>	<u>mortuary</u>
<u>Vacant/not in use</u>	

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

Late 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> Century Revivals: Colonial Revival, Tudor Revival  
Late 19<sup>th</sup> & Early 20<sup>th</sup> Century American Movements: Bungalow

**Materials (Enter categories from instructions)**

foundation \_\_\_\_\_  
roof \_\_\_\_\_  
walls \_\_\_\_\_  
other \_\_\_\_\_

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

The Illinois Street Historic District served as the primary industrial, administrative and residential complex for the Fairbanks Exploration Company, a subsidiary of the U.S. Smelting, Refining and Mining Company, beginning in 1925. The F.E. Company built its industrial complex and administrative offices, housing complex for its staff, and home for the company manager along Illinois Street. It also purchased and renovated the home of Fred Noyes, a prominent local pioneer businessman for whom Noyes Slough is named. The district retains a mixture of industrial, commercial and residential buildings. The district has the first reinforced concrete building in interior Alaska, the first steel-framed buildings in interior Alaska, one of the best examples of Colonial Revival architecture in Alaska, two good examples of Tudor Revival architecture, and a complex of four houses that are good examples of Bungalow architecture.

The F.E. Company was known for its "attention to detail, the application of exactitude in engineering to all aspects of its operation" (Spence, 1996: 96, 117). It also emphasized the need for self-sufficiency and had its own electrical generating system, machine shop with manufacturing capabilities, spare parts and building materials, and provided its managers with housing. The layout of the streetscape along Illinois Street reflects this business and management style.

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The F.E. Company housing along Illinois Street consisted of at least eleven houses, eight of which still stand. They are along the east side of Illinois Street, between the intersection of Slater and Illinois streets and Noyes Slough. They are organized into discreet components. Two houses south of Minnie Street were not owned by the company, but were built by company employees. The company owned the rest of the houses: the Noyes house constructed in 1911 at the corner of Minnie and Illinois streets, a compound of four bungalows at the 500 block, and isolated from the other housing by trees, the large house constructed for the company manager.

The Hayr and Sexton houses (303 and 315 Illinois) were constructed in the early 1930s and reflect Tudor Revival influences. Two others houses in the grouping have been removed. The Hayr house was originally the home of F.E. Company master carpenter Victor Johnson, who built it. The Sexton house was the home of F.E. Company engineer Frank Mapleton. North of these two houses, and separated from them today by a gas station, sits the Noyes house. After the company purchased it in 1925, the house was used for visiting officials, engineers, and staff members of the parent company. After 1928, the house was remodeled providing two apartments for F.E. Company staff. One of the most notable residents was dog musher Leonhard Seppala, one of the heroes of the 1925 diphtheria serum run to Nome and an F.E. Company employee during the 1930s. The house remained as an apartment for F.E. Company staff until 1959 when it was sold to Lester Hodges and Edmund Jackson for use as a funeral home, a role it continues to play. A fire damaged the building in 1961, resulting in the removal of the third floor, but the building has enough historic integrity. A technician's shop for the funeral home has been added on the lot. It is a noncontributing building, but does not destroy the historic and physical integrity of the district.

North of the Noyes House, the F.E. Company constructed a unified housing complex in 1927 (505, 507, 523, and 421 Illinois) consisting of four bungalows, a common garage, and individual greenhouses. They were related to and focused on the industrial and administrative complex across the street. All four houses, the garage, and two of the original four greenhouses reflect their original plan and setting. They were listed in the National Register of Historic Places as a historic district on May 19, 1997. The owners have rehabilitated the houses for a bed and breakfast business. Isolated from the other houses in style and by a stand of trees, is the F.E. Company Manager's house constructed in 1935-1936 (757 Illinois). It reflects the importance of the F.E. Company in the Fairbanks community and is an exceptional example of the Colonial Revival style. Located towards the present-day corner of Illinois and College streets, the Catholic Bishop of Northern Alaska later purchased the "white house," as locals refer to the manager's house, and used it as a convent. It was sold to private owners in 1995. It was listed in the National Register of Historic Places on December 16, 1996.

The F.E. administrative and industrial complex is on the west side of Illinois Street. It had an office building, power plant, several warehouses, machine shop, and assay office amongst its eventual thirty

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buildings. A spur line of the Alaska Railroad served the complex. Most of the buildings in this complex have been demolished or relocated. Only the reinforced concrete administrative office building and the machine shop remain at the site. The machine shop was listed in the National Register on October 12, 1995.

The thirteen buildings connected by Illinois Street form an integral whole. They illustrate the importance of the Fairbanks Exploration Company in Fairbanks history between 1925 and 1942. A section of Illinois Street, between Slater Street and Noyes Slough, is included in the district.

**Contributing buildings and structure:**

**Building 1: Johnson-Hayr House**

**Address: 303 Illinois Street**

**Construction date: c. 1930**

**Architectural style: Tudor Revival**

**Builder: Victor Johnson, F.E. Company**

Victor Johnson, F.E. Company master carpenter, constructed this house for his residence and his craftsmanship is reflected in the attention to detail. The house is a wood frame building on a concrete foundation with a full basement. The original exterior was wood. An asbestos shingle covering was added in 1952. The hipped gable roof is metal. The west entry, facing Illinois Street, is typical of the Tudor architectural style. The house has an asymmetrical sloped roof. The two story house includes a living room, bedroom, bathroom, dining room, kitchen, and enclosed rear entry from the east on the main floor, and three bedrooms on the second floor. The house has a fireplace on the main floor and numerous wood cabinets and drawers built into the walls on both floors. The yard is landscaped with a hedge nearly twenty feet tall shielding the house from Illinois Street. Birch and spruce trees stand in the yard. A detached garage on the east side of the property has a southern access off Slater Street. The house has been well maintained over the years.

**Building 2: Mapleton-Seton House**

**Address: 315 Illinois Street**

**Construction date: c. 1930**

**Architectural Style: Tudor Revival**

**Builder: F.E. Company**

The Mapleton-Seton house was constructed in the same period as the Johnson-Hayr House and also is of the Tudor Revival style. It is a wood frame building on a concrete foundation with a full basement. The house has an asymmetrical sloped roof covered with metal, and a west facing Tudor style entry. The house has a large bay window on the north and an attached sun room on the south. Most of the exterior and interior design details are intact. The yard is landscaped with birth trees and a high hedge isolating it from Illinois Street. A detached garage with access from the street was added in the back. It has wood siding, a gable roof, and metal doors.

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**Building 3: Noyes House-Chapel of Chimes Funeral Home**  
**Address: 407 Illinois Street Architectural Style: no style**  
**Construction dates: c. 1911, 1928, 1961 Builder: Fred Noyes, F.E. Company**

This house, which Fred Noyes built around 1911, was one of the first three story houses constructed in Fairbanks and was one of the most substantial houses built during the town's pioneer era. A gable roofed, wood frame house with wrought wood siding exterior, it featured a large wrap-around colonnaded porch in the Classic Revival tradition. A smaller side porch appears to be a later addition. The dining room had paneled mahogany walls and a coffered ceiling. The F.E. Company purchased the house in 1925 for visiting employees of the parent company. The interior was remodeled slightly following the purchase. It had a living room, dining room, kitchen, and library on the main floor, and bedrooms and bathrooms on the upper floors. A separate exterior staircase rose to a cache near the roof off the side porch. In 1928, the house was remodeled into two apartments for F.E. Company employees. On the main floor, two small bedrooms and a bathroom were added at the northeast corner of the house. The library became a third bedroom. Two of the four bedrooms on the second floor were transformed into a living room and kitchen with continued access to the bedrooms on the third floor. The company sold the house to local businessmen for a funeral chapel in 1959 and the interior was adapted to this purpose. A fire in 1961 badly damaged all three floors and the house was radically remodeled including removal of the entire third floor. The interior details were lost in the fire. A new gable roof was added but much of the original exterior of the two lower stories was salvaged, including original door and window locations as well as the original wrap-around porch and side porch. The Noyes House continues to be an impressive building in Fairbanks and contributes to understanding the district.

**Buildings 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10: F.E. Company Housing Complex**  
**Address: 505, 507, 521, 523 Architectural style: American**  
**Illinois St. Movements, Bungalow**  
**Construction date: 1927-1928 Builder: F.E. Company**

These seven buildings, consisting of four houses, a five unit garage, and two greenhouses (of four originally) are a unit. They reflect a similar design and architectural style, although they are not identical, and are landscaped effectively to offer coordination and privacy simultaneously. Three of the houses are 1,600 square feet and the fourth somewhat larger at 1,800 square feet. The houses and garage are wood frame construction covered with wood drop siding. They stand on concrete and concrete post foundations. Each house has a metal, hip-roofed main section with projecting hip-roofed wings. They all have screened porches that serve as entries, and fireplaces with stone chimneys. All of the houses have a least one large transom window with matching, double hung sidelights. The houses have corner trim, frieze boards, and boxed cornice. The greenhouses are 10 by 14 feet and have wood panel walls three feet high and glazed walls and ceilings although some of the glass is missing. Originally the houses and greenhouses were heated with steam piped from the company power

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plant across the street. Today they have oil-fired hot water baseboard heat. The buildings are landscaped as a rectangular complex with two houses on the west near Illinois Street and two houses to the east. A driveway with access to Illinois Street enters the complex eastward along the northern edge then turns south and bisects the eastern and western houses. The garage is wood frame covered with wood siding and has a hipped roof. It is located between the two eastern houses. It has five double leafed garage doors facing west. The area between the houses is a large park-like area with mature spruce and birch trees.

**Building 11: F.E. Company Manager's House**

**Address: 757 Illinois Street**  
**Construction date: 1935**

**Architectural style: Colonial Revival**  
**Builder: F.E. Company**

This two and one half story, 3,746 square foot house was built for the F.E. Company manager in 1935. It is an excellent example of the Colonial Revival architectural style. The gable roof is covered with composite shingles and some of the original wood gutters remain. The exterior of the house has wood clapboard siding with wood shutters on double-hung multi-paned windows. The entry is accented by a fan shaped leaded glass light panel at the top of the door. An exterior brick chimney is attached to the house on the northeast side. The interior of the house has a large foyer, built in cabinetry, a pantry adjoining the kitchen and dining area, wide and narrow plank hardwood floors, and glass knobs on the doors of the second story. Most plumbing and lighting fixtures in the house are original. The house was originally heated by steam, later converted to electric, and then to oil-fired hot water baseboard heat. Originally on eleven acres of land, the house was isolated from other properties in the district by a stand of trees. The property was sold to the Catholic Bishop of Northern Alaska in 1964. The house was the Sister's convent while other parts of the property were used for Monroe Catholic School. In 1994, a 1.038 parcel that included the house was sold. The house is still set off from the other properties giving the feel of country living in the heart of the city.

**Building 12: F.E. Company Administrative Office**

**Address: 700 block Illinois Street**  
**Construction date: c. 1927**

**Architectural style: no style**  
**Builder: F.E. Company**

The two-story administrative office was one of the first buildings constructed by the F.E. Company at its administrative and industrial complex on the west side of Illinois Street. The first floor was built in 1925, and the second in 1926. It was the first reinforced concrete building in Fairbanks. It used concrete blocks as infill and has been confused by some as a concrete block structure. The exterior was made to look like stone with a rough outer surface. The building is rectangular with a flat roof. It has a formed concrete cornice and entrance of poured concrete with a double leaf door and a multipaned window above the door. Transom windows with lugsills abound in the building, spaced symmetrically on all sides, and provided excellent natural light. Today the building is not in use.



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**Building 13: F.E. Company Machine Shop**

**Location: 612 Illinois Street**

**Architectural style: no style**

**Construction date: 1927, addition 1941**

**Builder: F.E. Company**

The machine shop was one of the central components of the F.E. Company industrial complex. It is the oldest known steel-framed building in interior Alaska. Built in 1927, it originally measured 64 x 136 feet with an east-west orientation. A 40 x 80 foot extension was added to the south side in 1941 making the building approximately 104 x 136 feet. It is a one story flat roof building with a 16 foot high roof in the eastern section, rising to 20 feet in the western section to accommodate belt driven equipment and overhead cranes. The principal entry is from the eastern side where 6 x 6 foot double hung sash windows provide light. A double leaf door with windows in each leaf is centrally placed for entry. Windows are spread throughout the other walls of the building with those in the original structure reflecting similar 6 x 6 foot double hung sash design and those in the 1941 addition single sash windows. The 1941 addition also has windows along the entire upper section of the 80 foot length forming a glazed wall. The south wall contains three overhead 40 panel garage doors with the second highest row of panels glazed. A similar 40 panel garage door is on the western side of the 1941 addition. The original machine shop was divided into three sections from east to west (lengthwise). The front third contained a small office and several belt driven lathes. The center third contained the welding shop, washroom, and tool room. In this area, the shop contained drill presses, metal milling machinery, and horizontal presses. The floor in the first and second third consists of tar-treated Douglas fir. The west third of the building housed the blacksmith shop. It is isolated from the other sections of the shop by a large wall and has a dirt floor. The 1941 addition housed an automotive and electrical shop. A large sectional overhead door separates this part of the shop from the original building. The 1941 addition has a concrete floor. Within the shop, most of the original equipment remains intact and operational.

**Structure 1: Illinois Street between Slater Street and Noyes Slough**

Originally a dirt trail to the gold mining areas north of town, Illinois Street is now a city thoroughfare. The trail was a factor in selection of the area by the F.E. Company for its headquarters site. The trail has been widened and paved, but retains its original course and divides the F.E. Company's residential properties from the administrative and industrial buildings. All company buildings but the manager's house are visible from the street.

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**Non-contributing buildings:**

**Building 14: Chevron Gas Station**  
**Address: 333 Illinois Street**  
**Construction date: 1972**

**Architectural style: no style**

This gas and repair service station at the corner of Illinois and Minnie streets was constructed in the 1970s.

**Building 14: Chapel of the Chimes Funeral Home Technician's Shop**  
**Address: 415 Illinois Street**  
**Construction date: 1966**

**Architectural style: no style**

This rectangular building is a technician's shop and funeral parlor. It was constructed after the historic district's period of significance.

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8. Statement of Significance  
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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.) n/a

- 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)

Industry  
Architecture  
Community planning and development

Period of Significance 1925-1942

Significant Dates 1925  
1935  
\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)  
N/A

Cultural Affiliation N/A

Architect/Builder F.E. Company  
\_\_\_\_\_

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

The Illinois Street Historic District represents the residential, administrative, and industrial operations of the Fairbanks Exploration Company (F.E. Company) that was the principal gold mining operation in interior Alaska during the second quarter of the twentieth century. This company was a very important economic engine and the largest employer in the Fairbanks area from 1925 until World War II. The remaining buildings at the company's core include the most important residential buildings, the main administrative building, and one of the most important industrial buildings. Although the buildings are of several architectural styles, they form a cohesive and distinct group typical of a big business administrative and industrial center of the time. The company purchased one of the remaining building, employees built two of them, and the company constructed the others beginning in 1925 and culminating with construction of the manager's house in 1935.

**F.E. Company development along Illinois Street**

Resource extraction companies came to dominate Alaska's economy in the 1900s. One was the U.S. Smelting, Refining and Mining Company that moved dredges to the Seward Peninsula, Fortymile, and Fairbanks mining districts. It organized a subsidiary, the Fairbanks Exploration Company, to conduct its operations in interior Alaska. By 1925, the F.E. Company had consolidated a number of placer gold claims in the Fairbanks district and made preparations for industrial dredging operations. The company then proceeded to build an industrial, administrative, and residential compound from which to conduct its operations. The F.E. Company chose the Illinois Street district as the heart of its operations for practical reasons. First, the district was along the early trail to the gold mining districts north of Fairbanks in the Goldstream and Chatanika valleys. Second, a spur line of the Alaska Railroad already ran through the district serving the existing sawmill on the banks of Noyes Slough. Finally, the 74 acre site of Fred Noyes' Tanana Mill Company provided abundant open land for new construction in 1925. The district contained only the three story Noyes house and a sawmill, where much of the local lumber used to build the homes, businesses, and sluice boxes was manufactured and which became a primary source of lumber for the F.E. Company. The Noyes house was easily adapted to house the USSR&M staff who came to Fairbanks to oversee the construction process.

In the first construction phase, beginning in 1925, the F.E. Company started construction of its administrative office building. It quickly added a machine shop, warehouses, assay office, and the largest power plant in Alaska on the west side the trail that later was named Illinois Street. Although vacant pioneer cabins abounded in the Fairbanks area, the company sought to create a modern landscape for its managerial staff, and on the east side of Illinois Street it built a four bungalow housing complex for its officers, complete with garages and greenhouses. A 1927 photograph of the district shows how the F.E. Company was beginning to shape the local

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streetscape. The picture shows the F.E. Company administrative offices, the industrial district under construction, the beginnings of the institutional housing complex, and Noyes house surrounded by the open land of the former Tanana Mill Company site. By 1928, the F.E. Company had completed the most significant elements in the industrial and administrative complex, and completed the four-bungalow housing compound. It also completed renovations of the Noyes house to make it an apartment complex for company workers. In 1935, the company constructed a residence for its corporate manager, the last building in the complex. By 1930, employees of the company began to build houses in the area near the workplace, providing an integrating force to the neighborhood. Two of these houses are within the district.

**Importance of the F.E. Company to Fairbanks**

In 1923, Fairbanks was a town in decline. Its boom time growth had peaked in 1910 when nearly 11,000 people were in the district. Subsequently, the population declined dramatically to as few as 1,000 people. The construction of the Alaska Agricultural College and School of Mines (today the University of Alaska Fairbanks) in 1922 and the arrival of the Alaska Railroad in 1923 set the stage for renewed growth. The completion of the Alaska Railroad made transportation of industrial goods and coal for fuel and power development affordable in the Fairbanks district--"it was an elixir of youth" (Cooley, 1954: 6). The growth which followed these events was primarily the result of the decision by the USSR&M Company, through its subsidiary the F.E. Company, to introduce industrial gold mining to the Fairbanks district in 1925. Historian Clark Spence remarks that "Although not the largest one-corporation dredging enterprise it was to be the most extensive in Alaska and would dominate the dredge scene there for more than a quarter century" (Spence, 1996: 77).

From 1925 until 1942, the F.E. Company was the most important element in the Fairbanks economy. It reaffirmed Fairbanks' role in the interior gold mining industry and, through its Boston-based parent corporation, served as an important connection between Fairbanks and the larger international community of industry and finance. The company employed nearly 1,000 people, or approximately a quarter of the local population during the 1930s. Wages paid by the F.E. Company were relatively good. The payroll has been estimated at one million dollars in 1926, and nearly two million dollars in 1935. The U.S. Government's 1933 decision to set the price of gold at \$35/ounce ensured that the operation maintained its profitability. Gold production increased throughout the 1930s reaching a peak in 1940. Though many places in America suffered during the Depression, Fairbanks grew and prospered. By 1938, the local Chamber of Commerce received as many as fifty letters a day from Americans searching for work (D. Cole, 1999: 92).

The F.E. Company contributed greatly to the local community. It fostered linkages with the growing Alaska Agricultural College and School of Mines, supporting activities and research. Company officers were members of

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various local clubs, and the payroll in the community made it possible to build new sporting venues, recreation facilities, and a theater. It is not a coincidence that one year after the F.E. Company began construction of its industrial, administrative and residential complex, including its substantial reinforced concrete administrative building, prominent local businessman Cap Lathrop opened the Empress Theater, another reinforced concrete building in the town. The F.E. Company continued to construct residences for its staff, and its status and prestige is reflected in the decision in 1935 to build a new manager's house. This impressive structure in the Colonial Revival tradition, was the largest and most elegant house in Fairbanks. In 1935 Ernest Gruening, later territorial governor and U.S. Senator from Alaska, remarked that the F.E. Company together with the Northern Commercial Company "practically control the economic life of Fairbanks and the entire surrounding country, plus the fact that they practically dominate the legislative delegation from the Fourth Division" (D. Cole, 1999: 92).

At the peak of its operations, the F.E. Company maintained and operated eight gold dredges in the creeks surrounding Fairbanks. The dredges and the infrastructure they required transformed the local landscape. The dredges were remarkable machinery. Mobile gold producing factories, they required large amounts of electricity and water to operate. They floated in their own small ponds eating their way into thousands of cubic yards of gold bearing gravel every day. The gravel tailing piles left by these dredges are still visible in the valleys surrounding Fairbanks today. The muck and sand which covered the gold bearing material was washed away with jets of water and the F.E. Company pioneered new techniques for cold water thawing. The dredges required huge amounts of water, and the F.E. Company constructed both the Davidson Ditch and Chena Pumphouse to facilitate their operations. The F.E. Company also constructed bunkhouses, warehouses, and other buildings near the dredges and small gold mining "towns" developed with as many as 125 people at the largest dredges. The heart of this dredging operation was the industrial, administrative and housing complex along Illinois Street. In the administrative offices, the managers did the day-to-day administration of the company and supervised exploration activity. The central office building stands. In the industrial complex, engineers, machinists, millrights, mechanics, and other skilled employees assembled, repaired, and manufactured parts for the dredges and Davidson Ditch and generated the electricity needed to keep the dredges in operation. The machine shop, constructed in 1927 and expanded in 1941, remains intact on its original site with much of its original machinery.

**The Second World War and the end of the period of significance**

F.E. Company operations slowed in 1941 as war production meant shortages of labor, fuel, and parts and increased costs. Then in October 1942, the U.S. Government's War Production Board declared gold mining a non-essential industry and ordered all placer mines closed. The F.E. Company properties along Illinois Street did not sit vacant, however. The Northwest Service Command leased the machine shop, used company housing, and took over

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significant sections of the administrative office. The Northwest Service Command also purchased heavy equipment from the F.E. Company and drew upon the company's electrical generating capacity. The Noyes house, one of the primary residences of the F.E. Company, housed Russian pilots sent to Fairbanks to fly lend-lease aircraft to Russia during the war.

Gold production resumed following the war, but the F.E. Company never returned to its dominant stature in Fairbanks. The construction of the Alaska Highway and the building of military facilities added new engines to the local economy. The F.E. Company continued its gold dredging operations until 1965. It maintained its properties for a number of years. In 1974, the power plant was destroyed. Over the last two decades, the company properties along Illinois Street have been sold. Many of the industrial buildings have been moved or destroyed. Much of the residential and industrial complex the F.E. Company constructed, however, remains. The thirteen buildings in the district provide an important visual reminder of Fairbanks' history during the second quarter of the twentieth century.

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

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----- . *Historic Districts of the City of Fairbanks*. Fairbanks: City of Fairbanks, 1985.

Naske, Claus-M. and L.J. Rowinski. *Fairbanks: A Pictorial History*. Norfolk, Virginia: The Donning Company, 1981.

Reckard, M.K. *The F.E. Company Industrial Site: Historic Resources and Preservation*. Master's Theses, University of Oregon. 1993.

Spence, Clark. *The Northern Gold Fleet: Twentieth Century Gold Dredging in Alaska*. Champagne-Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 1996.



=====

**Previous documentation on file (NPS)**

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register F.E. Company Machine Shop, Manager's House, and Housing complex
- 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

Name of repository: \_\_\_\_\_

=====  
**10. Geographical Data**  
=====

**Acreage of Property** 27 acres

**UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)**

	<b>Zone</b>	<b>Easting</b>	<b>Northing</b>		<b>Zone</b>	<b>Easting</b>	<b>Northing</b>	
<b>1</b>	<u>06</u>	<u>466158</u>	<u>7192144</u>	<b>5</b>	<u>06</u>	<u>465806</u>	<u>7192045</u>	
<b>2</b>	<u>06</u>	<u>465986</u>	<u>7191617</u>	<b>6</b>	<u>06</u>	<u>466055</u>	<u>7192188</u>	
<b>3</b>	<u>06</u>	<u>465931</u>	<u>7191631</u>	<b>7</b>	<u>06</u>	<u>466136</u>	<u>7192184</u>	
<b>4</b>	<u>06</u>	<u>465799</u>	<u>7191994</u>	<b>8</b>	<u>    </u>	<u>    </u>	<u>    </u>	
	<u>    </u>	<b>See continuation sheet.</b>						<u>    </u>

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

The Illinois Street Historic District follows property lines, and uses the natural boundary of Noyes Slough to define the northern extent of the district. The southern boundary of the district begins with the Hayr house at the corner of Slater and Illinois streets and runs east to the western edge of Erceg Street. Then it proceeds north along the eastern property line of this house and the Sexton House. It continues north along the eastern property line of the Chevron gas station to the Noyes House at the corner of Minnie and Illinois. It follows the eastern property line of the Noyes property to the eastern boundary of the F.E. Company housing project. It then follows the northern property line of the F.E. Company housing project to the eastern edge of Illinois Street. It follows Illinois Street northward to the southern property line of the house at 757 Illinois Street and follows this property line eastward and northward until it reaches Noyes Slough as a northern boundary. It follows the slough westward to Illinois Street. The western boundary of the district is the western edge of Illinois Street until it reaches the 700 block where the district includes the property associated with the F.E. industrial complex. It follows the property line between Golden Valley Electric Association and the industrial complex to the west until it reaches its westernmost point. It then follows this property line south to the southern edge of the property and returns eastward to Illinois Street. The boundary then follows the western margin of Illinois Street southward to the corner of Slater and Illinois streets.

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

The boundary for the Illinois Street Historic District includes all remaining buildings along the street associated with the F.E. Company during the years 1926 to 1942. Illinois Street, initially the principal trail to mines north of Fairbanks, is included in the district because it figured prominently in the selection of the location for the F.E. Company headquarters.

=====  
**11. Form Prepared By**  
=====

**name/title** Robert Irwin, Assistant Professor of History

**organization** University of Alaska Fairbanks

**date** May 17, 2001

**street & number** P.O. Box 756280

**telephone** (907) 474-6556

**city or town** Fairbanks **state** AK **zip code** 99775-6280

=====  
**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 the SHPO or FPO.)

name See below

street & number \_\_\_\_\_

telephone \_\_\_\_\_

city or town \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_ zip code \_\_\_\_\_  
=====

Monroe Catholic 1, Lot B  
John C. and Ann T. Ringstad  
757 Illinois St.  
Fairbanks, AK 99701-2995

Tanana Millsite Lot E  
Alaskan Memorial Parks, Inc.  
P.O. Box 130548  
Houston, TX 77219-0548

US Survey 806, Lot M2  
John and Ramona Reeves  
P.O. Box 81941  
Fairbanks, AK 99708

North Addn., Block 8, Lots 1 & 2  
Robert and Gayle Violet  
1500 Buttercup St.  
Fairbanks, AK 99701-5807

US Survey 806, Lots 1, 2, M2  
Golden Valley Electric Assn. Inc.  
P.O. Box 71249  
Fairbanks, AK 99707-1249

North Addition, Block 8, Lot 3  
Beverly Ann Sexton Trust  
315 Illinois St.  
Fairbanks, AK 99701-2910

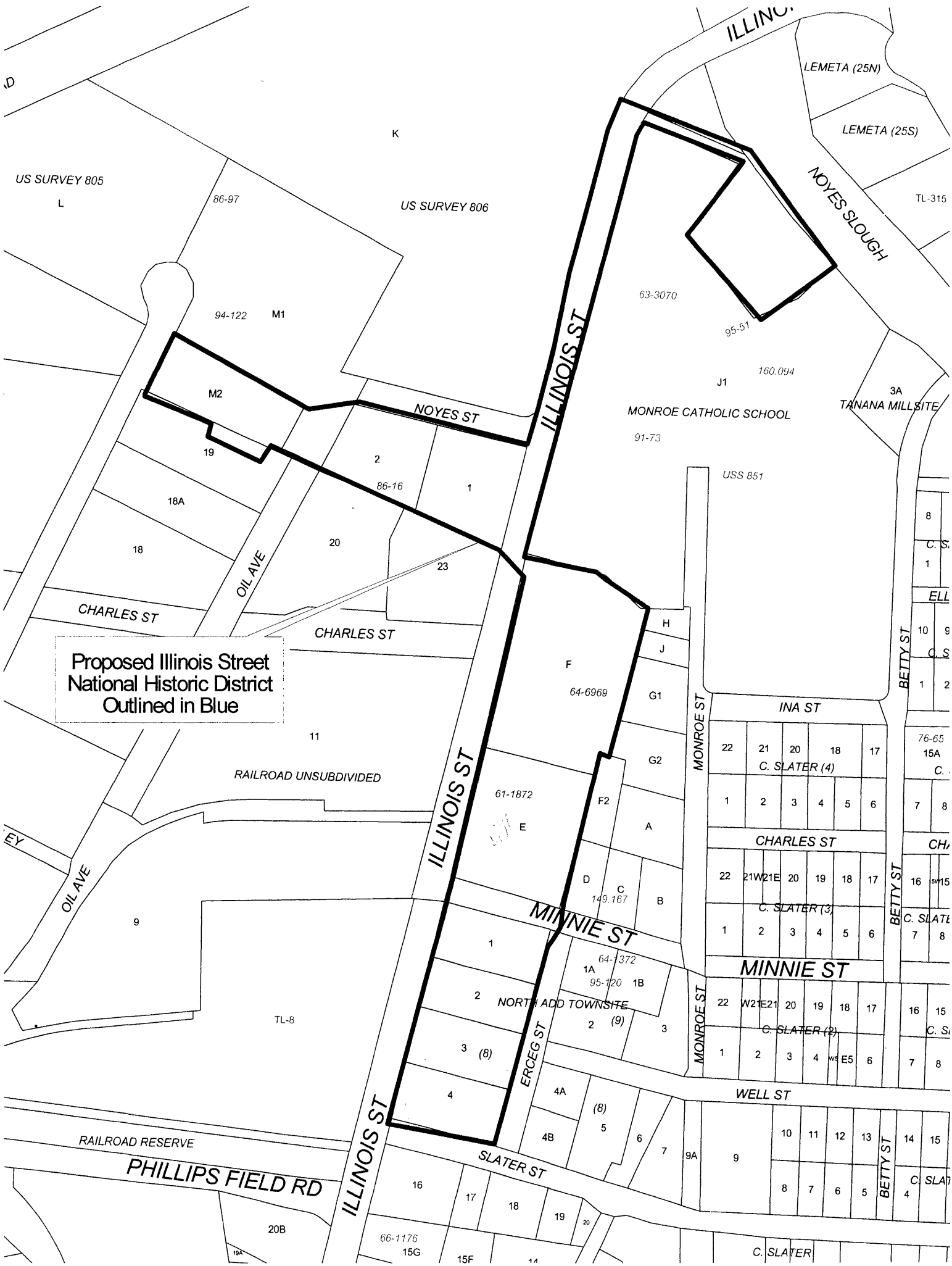
Tanana Millsite Lot F  
Tanana Mill Company, Inc.  
505 Illinois St.  
Fairbanks, AK 99701

North Addition, Block 8, Lot 4  
Noreen L. Hayr  
303 Illinois St.  
Fairbanks, AK 99701-2910

**Photograph identification**

1. Illinois Street Historic District  
Fairbanks North Star, Alaska  
Bernardo Hernandez  
March 9, 2001  
Planning Department, Fairbanks North Star Borough, P.O. Box 71267,  
Fairbanks, Alaska 99707-1267  
looking southeast at the F.E. Company Manager's House (#11)
2. Illinois Street Historic District  
Fairbanks North Star, Alaska  
Bernardo Hernandez  
March 9, 2001  
Planning Department, Fairbanks North Star Borough, P.O. Box 71267,  
Fairbanks, Alaska 99707-1267  
looking west at the F.E. Company Machine Shop (#13)
3. Illinois Street Historic District  
Fairbanks North Star, Alaska  
Bernardo Hernandez  
March 9, 2001  
Planning Department, Fairbanks North Star Borough, P.O. Box 71267,  
Fairbanks, Alaska 99707-1267  
looking west at the F.E. Company Administrative Office (#12) and F.E.  
Company Machine Shop (#13)
4. Illinois Street Historic District  
Fairbanks North Star, Alaska  
Bernardo Hernandez  
March 9, 2001  
Planning Department, Fairbanks North Star Borough, P.O. Box 71267,  
Fairbanks, Alaska 99707-1267  
looking southeast at the F.E. Company Housing Complex (#4-10)
5. Illinois Street Historic District  
Fairbanks North Star, Alaska  
Bernardo Hernandez  
March 9, 2001  
Planning Department, Fairbanks North Star Borough, P.O. Box 71267,  
Fairbanks, Alaska 99707-1267  
looking northwest at the F.E. Company Housing Complex (#4-10) and F.E.  
Company Administrative Office (#12)
6. Illinois Street Historic District  
Fairbanks North Star, Alaska  
Bernardo Hernandez  
March 9, 2001  
Planning Department, Fairbanks North Star Borough, P.O. Box 71267,  
Fairbanks, Alaska 99707-1267  
looking northeast at the Noyes House-Chapel of Chime Funeral Home (#3)  
and F.E. Company Housing Complex (#4-10)


7. Illinois Street Historic District  
Fairbanks North Star, Alaska  
Bernardo Hernandez  
March 9, 2001  
Planning Department, Fairbanks North Star Borough, P.O. Box 71267,  
Fairbanks, Alaska 99707-1267  
looking southeast at the Chevron Gas Station (#14), Mapleton-Sexton  
House (#2), and Johnson-Hayr House (#1)
  
8. Illinois Street Historic District  
Fairbanks North Star, Alaska  
Bernardo Hernandez  
March 9, 2001  
Planning Department, Fairbanks North Star Borough, P.O. Box 71267,  
Fairbanks, Alaska 99707-1267  
looking northeast at the Johnson-Hayr House (#1) and Mapleton-Sexton  
House (#2)

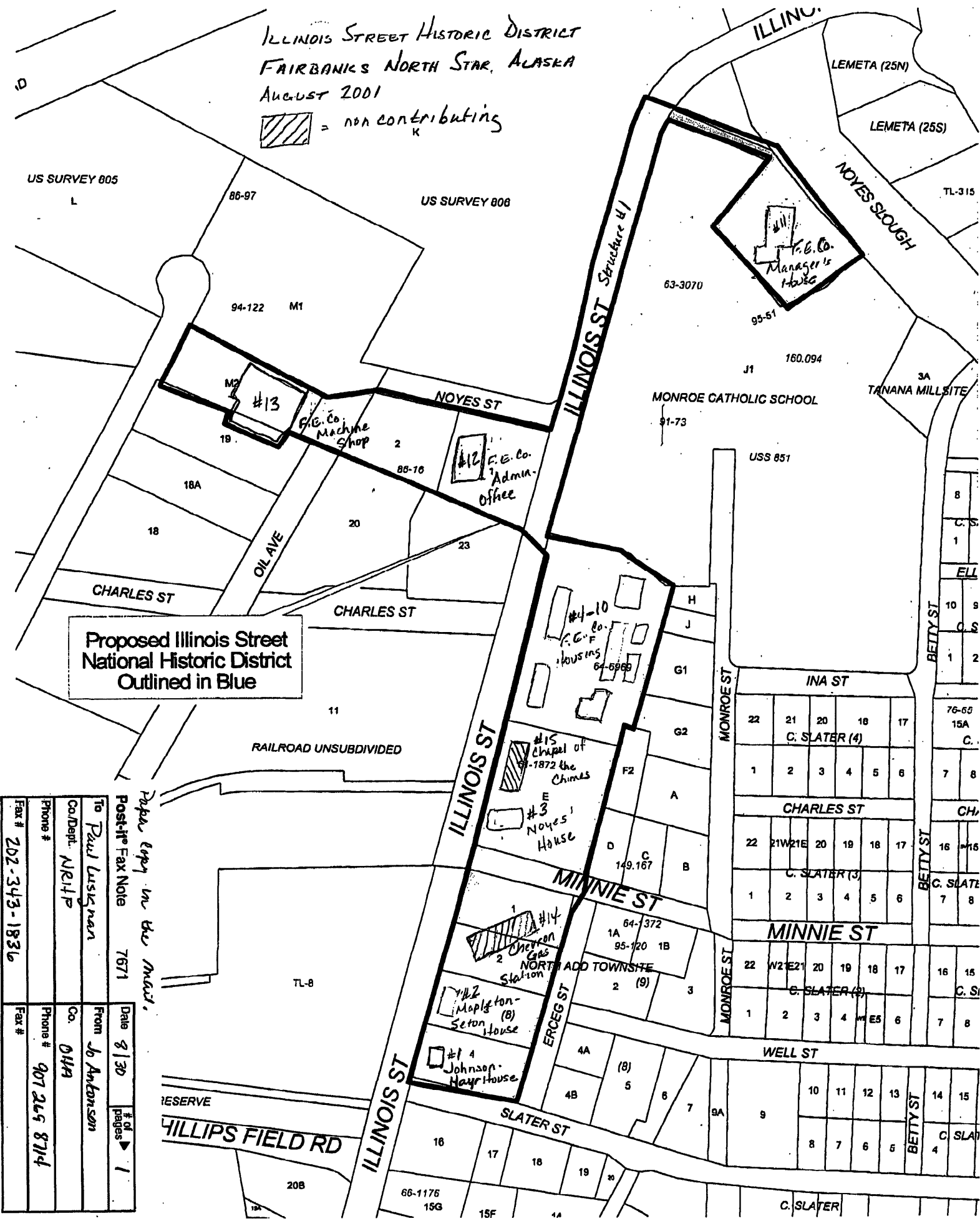


Proposed Illinois Street  
National Historic District  
Outlined in Blue

USS 851					8	
INA ST					1	C. S.
CHARLES ST					1	ELL
C. SLATER (4)					10	9
CHARLES ST					1	C. S.
C. SLATER (3)					1	2
MINNIE ST					76-65	
C. SLATER (2)					15A	C.
WELL ST					7	8
C. SLATER (2)					16	15
MINNIE ST					16	15
C. SLATER (2)					7	8
WELL ST					16	15
C. SLATER (2)					7	8
SLATER ST					16	15
C. SLATER					4	

ILLINOIS STREET HISTORIC DISTRICT  
 FAIRBANKS NORTH STAR, ALASKA  
 AUGUST 2001

 = non contributing  
 K



Proposed Illinois Street National Historic District Outlined in Blue

Pages copy in the main.

Positive Fax Note	7671
To: Paul Lusignea	
Co./Dept.: NR/JP	
Phone #	
Fax #	202-343-1836
Date	8/30
From: Jo Anderson	
Co.	0149
Phone #	907 269 8714
Fax #	