

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 National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. 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 certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).**

### 1. Name of Property

historic name Fir Lodge  
other names/site number Alki Homestead Restaurant

### 2. Location

street & number 2717 61<sup>st</sup> Avenue SW  not for publication  
city or town Seattle  vicinity  
state Washington code WA county King code 033 zip code 98121

### 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:  
\_\_\_ national \_\_\_ statewide \_\_\_ local  
Applicable National Register Criteria  
\_\_\_ A \_\_\_ B \_\_\_ C \_\_\_ D

Signature of certifying official/Title \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
WASHINGTON SHPO  
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property \_\_\_ meets \_\_\_ does not meet the National Register criteria.  
Signature of commenting official \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Title \_\_\_\_\_ State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

### 4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:  
\_\_\_ entered in the National Register \_\_\_ determined eligible for the National Register  
\_\_\_ determined not eligible for the National Register \_\_\_ removed from the National Register  
\_\_\_ other (explain:) \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of the Keeper \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Action \_\_\_\_\_

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**5. Classification**

**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**  
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
		district
		site
		structure
		object
1	0	<b>Total</b>

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

N/A

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

N/A

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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

VACANT/NOT IN USE  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**7. Description**

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

LATE 19<sup>TH</sup> & EARLY 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY  
AMERICAN MOVEMENTS: Bungalow/  
Craftsman  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: STONE, CONCRETE  
walls: WOOD/Logs  
roof: ASPHALT COMPOSITION/Shingles  
other: \_\_\_\_\_

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### Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance of the property. Explain contributing and noncontributing resources if necessary. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, setting, size, and significant features.)

Fir Lodge occupies a lot along the west side of 61st Avenue SW in the Alki portion of the West Seattle neighborhood, Seattle, Washington. With its stone chimneys, horizontal log walls, and wood shingle cladding, the Fir Lodge is a fine example of Bungalow/Craftsman architecture. The original square footprint has minor, removable additions to the side and rear elevations. Built as a residence, this one-and-a-half story building is a listed City of Seattle landmark.

### Setting

Fir Lodge is located at 2717 61<sup>st</sup> Avenue SW in Seattle, just south of Alki Beach and Alki Avenue SW. The building is in close proximity to Alki Point and Duwamish Head, geographic landmarks on the Duwamish Peninsula. The site is relatively flat and slightly elevated from the sidewalk on the east. The one-and-a-half story, Bungalow/Craftsman style building occupies an irregular footprint due to additions over time; the original square footprint measured 51 feet, 6 inches on all sides.<sup>1</sup> Small (approximately 14 feet by 18 to 20 feet, per King County Assessor records), single story additions project from the rear (west) and side (south) elevations. The primary facade faces east (fronting 61<sup>st</sup> Avenue SW). The rear (west) elevation fronts the north-south running alley. The side (north and south) elevations face surface parking lots. On the east side, a landscaped yard fills the set back between the building and the city sidewalk. A paved walkway connects the sidewalk with the east entry porch of Fir Lodge. Grass, several trees and numerous types of shrubs and low-growing plants comprise the vegetation in the east yard. A small flowering tree sprouts from the foundation line along the north facade, along with a large evergreen tree at the northeast corner which overhangs the north roof slope and dormer. Shrubs and climbing vines line the west fenced area (patio).

### Exterior

The building exhibits the Bungalow/Craftsman style with its simple massing, porch (both enclosed and open portions), and natural building materials. Horizontal, saddle-notched logs form the first story, with wood shingle cladding on the upper story's dormers and in select locations on the first story. The structure stands on a stone foundation reinforced and parged with concrete. Log posts along the north and part of the east and west elevations originally served as supports for the wraparound recessed porch. In the early 1960s, casement windows inserted between the log posts enclosed most of that porch, leaving a small open section on the east facade. All of the exterior log surfaces are peeled and stained a deep brown color, with the natural features (e.g., protruding knots) intact. Log diameters and lengths are fairly consistent, with the slightly larger diameter logs placed higher in the walls or as corner posts at the northeast and northwest corners of the former porch. An added metal "Alki Homestead" sign tops the roof.

#### *East Elevation*

The east (front) facade contains the main entrances (see *Entrances*). An uncoursed, rubble stone external chimney in the southern half of this facade is flanked by original window openings. Originally, this was a side facade. The reorientation of the house presumably occurred by 1912, with new development to the north along

<sup>1</sup> Original design description, photo and floorplan, in *Artistic Homes, Spanish Colonial Designs* (Seattle, WA: Fred L. Fehren Co., Architects, 1905).

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Alki Avenue SW. The enclosure of the northernmost bay on the east facade occurred after the period of significance, as part of adapting the wraparound recessed porch to dining space for the Alki Homestead Restaurant. Casement windows, the French door and sidelights comprise the porch enclosure materials between the original vertical log porch uprights. The large amount of glazing provides ample daylighting to the former porch (interior) and maintains high transparency between the former porch and the exterior. Wood shingles clad the limited exterior wall surface below the casement windows and sidelights. Contemporary wrought iron decorative railings line both sets of stairs (at the sidewalk and the porch), along with contemporary metal lamp posts.

#### *North Elevation*

Originally, this was the main (front) facade of Fir Lodge. The concrete and stone porch approach steps are no longer visible, although their former location is discernible where the log sill plate is missing. The foundation is visible along this elevation, directly above a recent concrete masonry unit (CMU) retaining wall; the adjacent parking lot is slightly below grade, necessitating the retaining wall. One of the building's four chimneys rises from the north dormer (see *Roof*). Similar to the east elevation, the original horizontal log cladding and vertical log post porch supports are the prominent features, along with the hipped dormers and the added casement windows enclosing the former wraparound porch.

#### *West Elevation*

This is also known as the rear facade. Historic photographs indicate the wraparound porch extended approximately halfway along the west elevation from the north, a mirror image of the east elevation. In 1961, a shed roofed, wood frame kitchen addition extended the southern part of the west elevation. In 1980, an outdoor patio added to the footprint of the northern part of this side of the building. A metal fire escape connects the alley grade with the upper story (see *Entrances*). A wooden privacy fence encloses the west patio, further shrouded with vegetation. A retractable awning attached to the west facade may be extended to shelter the patio.

#### *South Elevation*

The original log structure is exposed on the eastern half of the south (side) elevation. A small shed roofed, wood framed kitchen addition projects from the western half of the south (side) elevation. Painted wood lattice currently obscures the addition's cladding. The east yard extends almost halfway along the south elevation, ending at the kitchen addition. Concrete curbing separates the property from the adjacent surfacing parking lot.

#### *Entrances*

The two primary entrances to the building are located on the east facade, via the recessed porch. Historically, the main entrance was in the north elevation, with the present southeast entrance serving as a secondary entrance. Today, on the east side of the building, concrete steps lead up from the sidewalk along 61<sup>st</sup> Avenue SW to a paved east - west approach walkway, with additional concrete steps up to a recessed wood floor porch at the central bays of the building. A period appropriate five-panel, rail and stile type wood door in an original entryway opening accesses the interior from the south end of the porch. A more recent single French door flanked by multi-lite sidelights accesses the interior from the north end of the porch.

Secondary entrances in the west and south facades access the first floor, with the exception of one single door atop the metal fire escape at the upper story. The upper story emergency exit door is a historic rail and

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stile, Craftsman single leaf type with a rectangular panel over three vertical wood panels. Most of the other secondary entrances are single leaf, contemporary faux panel solid doors.

### *Windows*

Historically, Fir Lodge utilized a variety of window types. Historic photographs indicate the building had wood framed, fixed multi-lite windows in the walls fronting the porch, along the east, north, and west elevations. The east elevation featured paired single lite, wood framed casement windows flanking the stone chimney. Historic photos of the dormer windows show nine-over-one, wood framed sashes in pairs or ribbons of four.

The eastern multi-lite windows have been replaced with contemporary multi-lite casement windows in the same locations as the historic windows. Replacement casement windows occupy the original casement window openings on either side of the stone chimney base. All extant dormer windows are original, although the 2009 fire damaged several of them. One of the west (rear) elevation dormer windows was removed historically in lieu of an emergency exit door at the fire escape. In the early 1960s, tall casement windows set between the wraparound porch's log posts enclosed the former recessed porch.

### *Roof*

A hipped roof with overhanging eaves shelters the building. Hipped dormers are centered in each side of the roof. Asphalt composition shingles clad the roof and dormers. The dormers echo the main roof by also featuring overhanging eaves. On the original front (north) elevation, the dormer has three conjoined hipped roof segments over a contiguous base; each roof segment corresponds to a pair of windows. On the south elevation, a similar arrangement but featuring only two conjoined roof segments over three pairs of windows comprises the south roof dormer. On the west and east elevations, a single roof dormer contains a ribbon of four windows (see *Windows*). Contemporary gutters and downspouts direct water away from the eaves along the north facade, as well as portions of the south and west elevations.

The building features four chimneys. The most prominent and significant is on the east elevation. That rubble chimney below the roofline originally featured a river rock continuation above the roof. The original river rock portion has been replaced with contemporary brick. A second chimney, located near the main roof's apex, consists of a short river rock base topped with a few courses of brick. A third chimney, high in the south roof's slope, features a poured concrete base topped with a narrow brick tower. The fourth chimney is an added, exterior, contemporary brick tower perforating the north dormer's front wall and roof. The building's electric "Alki Homestead" vertical steel sign projects from the roof's apex and has neon-lit letters facing east and west. There are multiple small contemporary roof perforations, including minor vents. Shed roofs cap the south and west kitchen additions. The south addition's roof supports mechanical systems and ventilation units.

### **Interior**

The building contains two floors, with no attic or basement. A published original floor plan indicates a dining room and fireplace in the southeast corner of the main floor; historic photos from the period of significance reveal a brick fireplace in the dining room. A large living room claimed the entire north end of the main floor, surrounded on three (east, north and west) sides by a wraparound porch and dominated by an open-hearth log and cobblestone fireplace in the south wall. The main floor's southwest corner contained a kitchen and support spaces. The upstairs held several bedrooms which opened onto a gallery or mezzanine.

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The mezzanine was open to the living room below. A stained glass skylight occupied the peak of the main roof, illuminating the living room.

### Alterations

Various internal renovations are attributed to the shifting ownership and new uses following the Bernards' residency. In 1907, the Seattle Auto Club converted the house to their members' clubhouse, with multiple dining areas. The club used the exterior wraparound porch as informal dining space, with tables and chairs set up like an outdoor café. The former living and dining rooms both became dining areas, with the upstairs bedrooms converted to private dining spaces. After the Seattle Auto and Driving Club left, subsequent owners returned the upstairs rooms to living quarters.

According to the building's Seattle City Landmark nomination prepared by Flo Lentz in 1995, shifting of the main facade from the north to the east elevation is presumed to have occurred by around 1912, concurrent with development along Alki Avenue SW to the north. In 1936, the living room's log and stone fireplace was reconfigured from the mantel down, hence featuring an arched stone hearth.<sup>2</sup> In 1950, the Alki Homestead Restaurant opened on the main floor, with two apartments on the second. The rooftop sign installation and removal of the skylight dates to that same year, and the upstairs mezzanine had been framed in by that time.<sup>3</sup> By the time Doris and Elmer Nelson took over ownership and management of the Alki Homestead Restaurant in 1962, the upstairs had an apartment. By 1987, the upstairs contained the owner's apartment, utility space, and a banquet room.<sup>4</sup> The building's upstairs most recently contained only storage space. The kitchen expanded with a south side addition in 1953, followed by a west side addition in 1961. The recessed wraparound porch was partially enclosed in the 1950s at the west end, then completely enclosed with multi-lite casement windows in the early 1960s. In 1980, a rear outdoor patio again reconfigured the west elevation. There is no known date for the addition of the west fire escape; the materials and style suggest it was done after the period of significance but more than 50 years ago.

A 2009 fire damaged the interior, the roof and select windows. Roof holes have been temporarily patched with sheets of plywood and rolled composition roofing. Damaged and missing window lites have been backfilled with plywood. Affected windows are primarily located on the south and west elevations, including the dormers.

<sup>2</sup> The original brick fireplace in the dining room has also been redone, with new brick, at an unknown time.

<sup>3</sup> Flo Lentz, *Seattle City Landmark Nomination for Fir Lodge*, 1995, 4-5.

<sup>4</sup> Historic real property cards, King County Assessor, Puget Sound Regional Archives.

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**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.

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

ARCHITECTURE  
COMMUNITY PLANNING &  
DEVELOPMENT

**Period of Significance**

1904-1906

**Significant Dates**

1904 - completion of house  
1906 - Bernards sold to Seattle Auto Club

**Significant Person**

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

\_\_\_\_\_

**Cultural Affiliation**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Architect/Builder**

Fred L. Fehren Company (Architect & Builder)  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Criteria Considerations**

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

Property is:

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

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### Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph

(Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance and applicable criteria.)

Constructed between 1903 and early 1904 for the William J. Bernard family, Fir Lodge is eligible for individual listing in the National Register of Historic Places at the local level of significance under Criteria A and C. The building is eligible under Criterion A for its association with the development of West Seattle and particularly the Alki portion of the neighborhood, under the Community Planning and Development area of significance. Fir Lodge marks a turning point in Alki's history, when its days as a rustic summer vacation locale for Seattle's upper class yielded to the beginning of a year-round community and a widely visited tourist destination for the masses. The building is also eligible under Criterion C as a striking representative of Bungalow/Craftsman style architecture in the Puget Sound region at the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The period of significance begins in 1904 with the occupancy of Fir Lodge by the Bernard family and ends in 1906 with the sale of the house to the Seattle Auto and Driving Club. With the change in ownership, the building's function shifted from residential to social/clubhouse. The function continually transformed over time but principally served domestic and commercial restaurant occupancy. The building is most commonly remembered today as the Alki Homestead Restaurant (1950-2009). Fir Lodge remains a sentinel of greater Seattle's early history.

### Development of West Seattle and Alki

Fir Lodge is located in the Alki neighborhood of West Seattle, half a block south of Alki Beach and the main thoroughfare of Alki Avenue SW. Today, West Seattle is the conglomeration of several historic communities on the Duwamish Peninsula, west of downtown Seattle. Originally, "West Seattle" referred only to the settlement along the northeast portion of the Duwamish Peninsula. The Alki neighborhood is located in the northwest portion of the peninsula, approximately between Duwamish Head to the north and Alki Point to the west. Elliott Bay separates downtown Seattle from the head of the Duwamish Peninsula. Despite the nearby development of the original West Seattle, Alki remained a remote, private summer recreation area centered along the beach through the first years of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

In 1851, the Alki neighborhood was the landing place and initial settlement of the first Euro-Americans to homestead the Seattle area, but they quickly moved to Seattle proper and the east side of the Duwamish Peninsula with deeper port facilities. According to the Southwest Seattle Historical Society, the Williamson, Phillips, and Plummer sawmill opened in 1864 along present day Harbor Avenue SW, southeast of Duwamish Head. A community sprang up around the mill. Initially named Freeport, the settlement took the name Milton by 1877 and then West Seattle in 1888. The development of the north end of the peninsula initially spread along what is now Harbor Avenue SW, close to the waterfront and the ferry terminal in particular. Over time, street grids and streetcar lines reached further west and to the interior of the peninsula. The West Seattle Land Improvement Company (WSLIC) established the West Seattle Cable Railway in 1890, operating until 1897. The cable railway operated in conjunction with the West Seattle ferry to carry passengers to and from the ferry landing along the fairly steep Grand (now Ferry) Avenue.<sup>5</sup>

In the 1880s and 1890s, the original West Seattle (southeast of Duwamish Head) settlement, a couple miles to the east of Alki and Fir Lodge, established itself as an industrial and residential outgrowth of downtown Seattle, while Alki continued to be an isolated vacation area. The present Harbor Avenue SW corridor, along the original West Seattle community's waterfront (west side of Elliott Bay), enjoyed direct access to Seattle's port and downtown via early transportation links. Beginning in 1888, ferries crossed Elliott Bay, connecting downtown Seattle and West Seattle. The West Seattle terminal was located southeast of Duwamish Head. Ferry service continues to operate from that approximate location today. Small steamships, collectively known

<sup>5</sup> Clay Eals, ed., *West Side Story* (Seattle: Robinson Newspapers, 1987), 28-30.

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as the Mosquito Fleet, also transported passengers to docks at Alki Beach and other points on the Duwamish Peninsula from at least the late 19<sup>th</sup> century through the 1920s but no regular service schedules are known. In 1890, the Seattle Terminal Railway and Elevator Co. built a trestle to the peninsula from the present Port of Seattle, bridging the south end of Elliott Bay's tideflats. This steam railroad line was an extension of the Northern Pacific Railroad (NPRR), connecting the NPRR's downtown depot with a large new grain elevator just southeast of the West Seattle ferry terminal.<sup>6</sup> By at least 1893, the northeast corner of the peninsula also boasted a flour mill (Novelty Mill, demolished). In 1893, a public school was under construction.<sup>7</sup> Founded in 1899, the King and Winge Shipyard, one of the most prolific shipbuilding operations in Seattle's history, further filled in the area southeast of Duwamish Head.<sup>8</sup>

In contrast with the burgeoning growth a few miles away, the Alki neighborhood remained quiet and sparsely visited until the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. Shallower waters precluded industrial wharves but were sufficiently deep for small vessel docks, such as those used by the Mosquito Fleet. The sandy beach at Alki beckoned to swimmers and beachcombers. By about the mid-1890s, the beaches at Alki and Duwamish Head became popular summer vacation spots for city dwellers seeking adventure and rustic living.<sup>9</sup> According to the Southwest Seattle Historical Society, the privately run Coney Island Baths opened in 1899 west of Duwamish Head. The baths allowed Alki Beach swimmers to rinse off sand and saltwater after playing in the waves.<sup>10</sup> In 1901, Albert A. Smith built the Stockade Hotel near the present intersection of 63<sup>rd</sup> Avenue SW and Alki Avenue SW, two blocks from where the Bernards purchased property and constructed Fir Lodge.<sup>11</sup> Alki Point had at least one other known beachfront resort, named Rose Lodge. Historic photos of Rose Lodge at Alki Point in about 1905 show canvas tents on platforms along the beach as well as a Rustic style main lodge.<sup>12</sup> Private cabins and vacation homes like the Maurer House/Sea View Hall (1904, extant) also dotted the landscape.<sup>13</sup> Historian Flo Lentz asserts, "Summer cabins at Alki Beach flourished after the turn of the century. In July 1905, the local newspaper... listed more than 75 beach cottages along Alki Avenue from the ferry landing to the natatorium."<sup>14</sup> Despite the summer visitors, there were few, if any, year-round residents. At the time of its construction, Fir Lodge was one of Alki's first permanent, year-round residences.<sup>15</sup>

By about 1905, growing interest in Alki shifted the character of the landscape. In 1902, West Seattle officially incorporated as a municipality. However, other peninsula communities, including Alki, remained separate and independent until Seattle annexed them all as a group in 1907 under the name West Seattle. Although the residents of Alki voted against annexation, the larger peninsula communities (e.g., Spring Hill and West Seattle) voted for it and the measure passed.<sup>16</sup> Lentz writes that the Alki neighborhood quickly evolved around 1905 "with permanent residences, commercial structures, a public school, a play field with golf links, and a church."<sup>17</sup> Previously, Alki's mostly seasonal visitors arrived by small Mosquito Fleet vessels or horse-drawn transportation connections from the larger ferry terminal southeast of Duwamish Head. By 1905, there were competing applications to establish electric streetcar service to West Seattle. Both of the interested companies cited a demand for better transportation connections to a fast-growing area and a profit to be made for whoever won the right to build the system.<sup>18</sup> Also in 1905, a private natatorium opened on Alki Beach, four

<sup>6</sup> Eals, 30.

<sup>7</sup> Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps for Seattle, 1893, Volume 1, sheet 41.

<sup>8</sup> Southwest Seattle Historical Society, *West Seattle* (Charleston, SC: Arcadia Publishing, 2010), 13 & 31.

<sup>9</sup> Eals, 31, 34.

<sup>10</sup> *Ibid.*, 27.

<sup>11</sup> Robin Shannon, *Seattle's Historic Hotels* (Charleston, SC: Arcadia Publishing, 2010), 79.

<sup>12</sup> Southwest Seattle Historical Society, *West Seattle* (Charleston, SC: Arcadia Publishing, 2010), 51.

<sup>13</sup> Sally Woodbridge, *A Guide to Architecture in Washington State* (Seattle: University of Washington Press, 1980), 194.

<sup>14</sup> Lentz, 11.

<sup>15</sup> The 1850s settlers' cabins at Alki were quickly constructed to meet an immediate need for shelter and did not survive the years.

<sup>16</sup> Eals, 34, 48.

<sup>17</sup> Lentz, 11.

<sup>18</sup> "May Build To West Seattle," *The Seattle Star* (night edition), 28 March 1905, 7.

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years before the public bathing beach was created.<sup>19</sup> In 1907, electric streetcar service began from Seattle to West Seattle, with a line along the north end of the peninsula, passing Duwamish Head en route to Alki Point.<sup>20</sup> This new transportation link brought a flood of visitors to Alki and transformed the beach to a busy resort area in the summers. An amusement park, named Luna Park, opened in 1907 at Duwamish Head. According to an account from the Southwest Seattle Historical Society, "Luna Park's crowds and loud nightlife added to the congestion and to the lack of privacy and tranquility that the once out-of-the-way beach community [at Alki] prized."<sup>21</sup>

After the arrival of streetcar service, Alki continued to develop as a tourist destination and a year-round community. Public recreational and civic facilities anchored the neighborhood. In 1910, the City of Seattle purchased land along Alki Beach to erect the Alki Bathing Pavilion (opened 1911, demolished), which served as a community gathering place and sports venue. A bandstand completed in 1912 along the Alki Beach Park promenade presented concerts to visitors. In 1912, more than 100,000 people attended those concerts.<sup>22</sup> Early that year, the Alki Beach Hotel Company filed incorporation papers, with \$5,000 capital stock.<sup>23</sup> Commerce and new residences blossomed along present day Alki Avenue SW. Today, the Alki neighborhood is defined by the continued recreational use of the waterfront, the mixed residential and commercial properties which have filled the once forested landscape inland, and scenic Alki Avenue SW which divides the beach from the developed street grid.

### **William and Gladys Bernard**

Two of the early settlers during this initial period of growth were William and Gladys Bernard, well-known members of Seattle society in the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. Recognized for many years as a prominent manufacturer, William Bernard served as president of his Seattle Soap Company as well as a president of the Manufacturers' Association. His wife Gladys worked tirelessly for children's charities. They hired Fred L. Fehren c. 1903 to construct Fir Lodge as their primary residence, fronting Alki Beach.

Born in circa 1861 in San Francisco, California, William J. Bernard came to Seattle in 1889. He met his future wife Gladys Barnet, marrying her in 1892. Their wedding occurred at the governor's residence in Olympia.<sup>24</sup> William Bernard established the city's first soap factory soon after he arrived in Seattle. Initially called the W. J. Bernard Company, his soap manufacturing business appears as the Seattle Soap Company in local newspaper advertising sections by at least 1894.<sup>25</sup> The factory was located on the tideflats, near the present intersection of Airport Way and Lander Street. The product line offered multiple cleaning products, such as vegetable oils and soaps, soda ash, grease and tallow. William Bernard passed away at age 63 on March 23, 1924. His obituary states he "had been long prominent in civic affairs."<sup>26</sup> Family sources claim the soap company was sold to a competitor.<sup>27</sup>

Gladys Bernard, *née* Barnet (alternately Barnett, Barnette), actively worked for the benefit of children in the greater Seattle community, especially orphans and children of immigrant workers. She founded the Bernard

<sup>19</sup> Walt Crowley, *National Trust Guide: Seattle* (New York: John Wiley & Sons, 1998), 232-233.

<sup>20</sup> Streetcar service also reached Fauntleroy and The Junction around that time. Information courtesy of the Log House Museum permanent exhibits, Southwest Seattle Historical Society, West Seattle, 2013.

<sup>21</sup> Log House Museum History, Southwest Seattle Historical Society, <http://www.loghousemuseum.info/history/log-house-museum/>.

<sup>22</sup> Southwest Seattle Historical Society, *West Seattle* (Charleston, SC: Arcadia Publishing, 2010), 37-38.

<sup>23</sup> "Coupeville Gravel Company Organized," *Morning Olympian* (Olympia, WA), 19 April 1912, 1.

<sup>24</sup> "Brief City News," *Morning Olympian* (Olympia, WA), 24 March 1892, 4.

<sup>25</sup> Ads for the Seattle Soap Company appear in the *Morning Olympian* newspaper by the December 12, 1894 issue.

<sup>26</sup> "Manufacturer Passes," *Seattle Daily Times*, 24 March 1924, 7.

<sup>27</sup> Lentz, 7.

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Sunday School Mission, which operated from a packing house in pioneer days. She also supported the Washington Children's Home. Originally from Cedar Rapids, Iowa, she came to Washington in 1890. Mrs. Bernard passed away at age 83 in February, 1949. At the time of her death, she was lauded for her philanthropy and advocacy work for children.<sup>28</sup> She and William adopted their two daughters, Marie and Billie. Marie came to the Bernards before the construction of the family's home at Alki. When the Bernards sold the house in December, 1906, the family moved to Seattle proper.

### Construction of Fir Lodge

As the primary residence and country mansion for the wealthy Bernard family, Fir Lodge is a rare remnant of Alki's early days as a remote getaway for Seattle socialites. Fir Lodge also documents the emergence of the Bungalow/Craftsman style in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century around Puget Sound. Much of the information regarding Fir Lodge's construction and early years are taken from the Seattle landmark nomination for the building, researched and written by Flo Lentz in 1995.

Before the Bernards purchased land for their future home near Alki Beach, they spent summers vacationing at beachfront camping resorts in that area. Given the small size of the Alki community and the limited facilities at the time, the Bernards would have been familiar with the Stockade Hotel even if they didn't stay there. Built in 1901 and billed as one of the region's best resorts, the Stockade Hotel (demolished 1936) attracted Seattle's wealthy citizens and served as a social hub for the Alki area.<sup>29</sup> The Stockade Hotel was located two blocks from where the Bernards bought land and constructed Fir Lodge.

According to the Seattle City Landmark nomination for Fir Lodge, the *Seattle Post-Intelligencer* newspaper announced in December, 1902 the Bernards' intention to build a log house. Local nomination author Flo Lentz found that Gladys Bernard purchased the "eastern one-half block of Block 13, Plat of Alki Point, along with a strip of beach front access across [the present] Alki Avenue, for the sum of \$2,500." The narrow, undeveloped lot stretched from the waterfront south to present day Admiral Way. According to Lentz, the Bernards' elder daughter remembers her family continued their summer camping tradition at Alki while Fir Lodge was under construction.<sup>30</sup> The Bernards moved into their new home by at least the spring of 1904; they appear in the city directory for that year as residing at Alki Point. Lentz describes the design as "combining the attributes of a summer cottage with those of a thoroughly modern home."<sup>31</sup> Historic photos of both Fir Lodge and the Stockade Hotel reveal dirt roads and a forested landscape, with the buildings nestled among tall trees.

The first page of a 1905 residential design pattern book published by Fir Lodge's builder, the Fred L. Fehren Company, exhibits a photo, floor plan, and architectural description of the house. Fehren's self-titled architectural company offered the design, Number 563, at an advertised cost of \$5,000. According to the description, the house had a kitchen, dining room and living room as the principal main floor spaces and four bedrooms on the second floor. The house had two bathrooms, indicating the wealth of the owners. Indoor plumbing and bathing facilities were unusual for that time, especially in a rural setting. The description further notes that, "Logs for the construction of this were peeled and oiled. There is no plastering in the house, both interior and exterior being left in the smooth log finish. The large fireplace of cobblestones in the living room and the big [brick] chimney in the dining room, built on the outside, are some of the most attractive features of this cabin."<sup>32</sup>

<sup>28</sup> "Mrs. Bernard Taken By Death," *Seattle Times*, 1 February 1949, 10.

<sup>29</sup> Shannon, 79.

<sup>30</sup> Lentz, 8. Lentz notes that some sources claim the Bernards resided at the Stockade Hotel in the summer of 1903.

<sup>31</sup> Lentz, 7.

<sup>32</sup> *Artistic Homes Spanish Colonial Designs* (Seattle: Fred L. Fehren Co. Architects, 1905), 1.

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In December of 1906, Gladys Bernard sold the house and land for \$16,000. Later in life, she explained the move in an interview, citing the inconveniences of living so remotely from the city. Servants did not stay long, and limited transportation between Alki and Seattle hampered city outings.<sup>33</sup> Special steamer service was occasionally arranged to bring guests to and from social gatherings held by the Bernards at Fir Lodge.<sup>34</sup>

Despite their short time in the home, Gladys and her husband entertained frequently in the house. Numerous reports in the society section of the *Seattle Daily Times* (1904-06) note a variety of parties, luncheons dances and receptions at the house. One summer party in August of 1906 was reported as the largest out-of-doors entertainment of the summer with the house and grounds decorated with ferns, cuts flowers and Japanese lanterns. The event, in which a special steamer ship was chartered to bring guests to the house, was attended by Governor Alfred Mead.

In addition to housing the Bernard family from 1904 through 1906, over the years Fir Lodge has housed a private clubhouse, several other families, and the Alki Homestead Restaurant (1950-2009). In 1907, the Seattle Auto and Driving Club took ownership and converted the residence to their clubhouse. The conversion added dining tables and a private restaurant function in the former living room and on the porch, private dining rooms in the upstairs bedrooms, and an informal café setup in the former dining room.<sup>35</sup> The club sold the property to an unknown party in 1911. Teney W. Griffith is the next known owner, in 1918, but he rented the house to tenants via one-year leases in at least 1919-1920.<sup>36</sup> An ad for the "Fir Lodge Inn" in 1927 offered rooms with "home cooked meals... affording bathing, boating, dancing, and beautiful play grounds for children."<sup>37</sup> The Glenn M. Timblens family, the next known owners, used the house as their residence for several years. Then in 1950, Svend and Margaret Nielsen purchased the property and opened the Alki Homestead Restaurant, selling to Walter Foote in 1956. In 1959, Elva Bondra purchased the restaurant, selling to Elmer H. and Doris Nelson in 1962.<sup>38</sup> Mr. and Mrs. Nelson jointly operated the restaurant and resided upstairs. Mrs. Nelson continued with the restaurant until her death in November, 2004, at the age of 80. Sometime after 1997, one of her employees, Manoj Bhandari, resided upstairs.<sup>39</sup> Thomas Lin purchased the property from Nelson's estate in 2006 and still owns the building through the Alki Homestead LLC.

The chain of ownership, as known, is as follows:

- 1904 - 1906, William and Gladys Bernard
- 1907 - 1911, Seattle Auto and Driving Club
- 1918 - ca. 1945, Teney W. Griffith<sup>40</sup>
- By at least 1946, Mr. and Mrs. Glenn M. Timblens owned the house and used it as a residence<sup>41</sup>
- Ca. 1950 - 1956, Svend Nielsen
- 1956 - 1959, Walter Foote
- 1959 - 1962, Elva M. Bondra
- 1962 - 1968, Elmer H. Nelson (owner of record) with his wife Doris
- 1968 - 2004, Doris Nelson continued to own the building and operate the restaurant on her own from 1968 until her death in November, 2004
- 2006, Doris Nelson's estate sold the building to Thomas Lin

<sup>33</sup> "Alki Point District, Seattle's Birthplace," *Seattle Sunday Times*, 14 July 1946, 41.

<sup>34</sup> Local news mentions, *Seattle Daily Times*, 1904-1906.

<sup>35</sup> Reprint of *Seattle Times* article, "The New Auto Club," from 21 July 1907, included in Eals, 107.

<sup>36</sup> Classifieds, *Seattle Sunday Times*, 1919-1920.

<sup>37</sup> Classifieds, *Seattle Daily Times*, 20 March 1927, 55.

<sup>38</sup> Unless otherwise stated, ownership information is from historic real property cards, King County Assessor, Puget Sound Regional Archives.

<sup>39</sup> Obituary for Doris Nelson, *Seattle Post-Intelligencer*, 29 November 2004, B1.

<sup>40</sup> According to King County Assessor records, Griffith purchased the house in 1918; his end of ownership date is from Lentz, 11.

<sup>41</sup> "Alki Point District, Seattle's Birthplace," *Seattle Sunday Times*, 14 July 1946, 41.

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- 2011, Thomas Lin transferred ownership to his Alki Homestead LLC

### Fred L. Fehren – Developer & Real Estate Agent

The credit for Fir Lodge's design has often been given to Fred L. Fehren. In truth, Fehren himself was not an architect or designer. As a real estate developer, he employed one or more architects and/or builders. Newspaper reports indicate that in 1900, Fehren's in-house architect was Frederick A. Sexton. Fehren's self-titled architecture and construction company, the Fred L. Fehren Company, designed and built Fir Lodge. Known for most of his life as a real estate developer, Fehren left his imprint on Seattle with the many pattern-book based residences designed by his company. Not much is known about Fehren's early life or background. Newspaper accounts later in his life reveal his wide-ranging interests and ambition.

Fehren arrived in Seattle in 1892 after having with a background in banking. Initially he served as cashier for Seattle Savings Bank, and rose to the level of manager. During his total time in Seattle, he spent 12 more years in investment and real estate services. He is credited with forming eight subdivisions in the city as well as planning, building and financing over 600 buildings.<sup>42</sup> He partnered briefly with Charles Martin, from 1900 to 1902, as a design-build duo. In those two years, the Fehren-Marvin Company designed and built numerous single-family residences, at least one duplex residence, several apartment buildings, and more. In early 1901, the Fehren-Marvin Company erected a hotel/commercial building, known as the Felt Block, in Ballard.<sup>43</sup> Later that year, the company had also built two 6-flat apartment complexes (9<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Olive Street) and at least two more single-family residences, all in Seattle. The *Seattle Daily Times* mentioned the Fehren-Marvin Company, based in the Pioneer Building, in connection with several other buildings, but only insofar as drawings being prepared, as opposed to completion of construction. The planned buildings referenced included additional single-family residences, apartment four-plexes, and a commercial (office and retail) brick building.

When Fehren and Marvin officially parted ways in April 1902, Marvin drew on his experience as a building contractor and started Charles E. Marvin and Sons Company, Architects (1902-1905).<sup>44</sup> A few weeks after the dissolution of Fehren-Marvin, Fehren had already formed the self-titled development and investment group, the Fred L. Fehren Company, and was busy with several construction projects underway – mostly residences but also grading and street improvements.<sup>45</sup> A 1903 Polk directory for Seattle contains a full-page ad for the Fehren Company, offering mortgage loans as well as investment, real estate and architectural services.<sup>46</sup> In 1905, he published a book of residential pattern-book designs through this company.<sup>47</sup> Fehren himself had the role of real estate developer, but he employed architects.<sup>48</sup> In 1907, for reasons unknown, he and his family moved from Seattle to San Jose, California.

In 1910, Fred L. Fehren formed a new real estate and banking investment firm in California with L. J. Beckett and C. F. Crothers. "The principal business of this firm will be the handling, developing and subdividing of large tracts of their own land, as also the handling of all kinds of interest-bearing securities."<sup>49</sup> By about 1914, Fehren operated a company under his own name. Based on advertisements and articles in the San Jose area newspapers, Fehren continued to work as a real estate developer and realtor; there is no known

<sup>42</sup> "C. F. Crothers In Investment Firm," *San Jose Mercury News* (San Jose, CA), 18 September 1910, 8.

<sup>43</sup> *Seattle Daily Times*, 13 July 1901, 3.

<sup>44</sup> Pacific Coast Architecture Database, Fehren-Marvin Company, <https://digital.lib.washington.edu/architect/partners/2899/> (updated 2005-2013 by Alan Michelson, University of Washington). Also, advertisement, *Seattle Daily Times*, 1 April 1902, 13.

<sup>45</sup> *Seattle Sunday Times*, 20 April 1902, 41.

<sup>46</sup> 1903 Polk's Seattle Directory, 164.

<sup>47</sup> *Artistic Homes Spanish Colonial Designs* (Seattle: Fred L. Fehren Co. Architects, 1905).

<sup>48</sup> "Confidence in the Future, Real Estate Men Gratified at the Demand for Seattle Property," *Catholic Northwest Progress*, 4 July 1902.

<sup>49</sup> "C. F. Crothers In Investment Firm," *San Jose Mercury News* (San Jose, CA), 18 September 1910, 8.

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mention of him employing architects or managing construction projects in California. Mr. Fehren still resided in San Jose at the time of his wife's death in 1935. He passed away in Santa Clara on October 5, 1948, at the age of 83.<sup>50</sup>

Fir Lodge is unique among the residences constructed by the Fred L. Fehren Company.<sup>51</sup> There are no known instances of anyone building another house from the company's published design for Fir Lodge. Additionally Fir Lodge is the only known design by the Fehren Company to utilize log and stone construction. With the exception of Fir Lodge, the company's designs demonstrate the typical wood frame construction of the time, with milled cladding and mainstream architectural styles applied to bungalow and four-square forms.

### Architectural Style – Bungalow/Craftsman

The architectural design of Fir Lodge exhibits characteristics and design elements of the Bungalow/Craftsman style. The building's use of natural local materials, along with its form and high degree of workmanship, epitomize the Bungalow/Craftsman aesthetic. Moreover, the date of its construction places Fir Lodge at the forefront of this movement towards simple, functional design.

The term bungalow is derived from a vernacular housing type from India. That housing type featured wide overhanging eaves and surrounding porches. A bungalow in the Western sense is generally a small, single story house. The Bungalow style is more specific, often exhibiting the use of natural building materials, overhanging eaves on a low roof, exposed rafters, a full-width or wrapped porch, and a lack of ornamentation. Famed furniture maker, designer and leader in the American Arts & Crafts movement, Gustav Stickley believed a Bungalow home should blend with its surroundings, utilize local materials, have broad proportions anchored low to the ground, and have a beautiful simplicity.<sup>52</sup> His ideas about Bungalow homes generally also apply to Craftsman homes, except the latter may be much larger, in terms of plan and/or floors. The Bungalow/Craftsman style shunned the overt use of decoration, such as the intricate porch brackets or spindlework on Queen Anne Cottages of the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

Perhaps as a reaction to the fussy ornateness and formality of Victorian buildings, the Bungalow/Craftsman style answered to function and simplicity first. The parallel Arts and Crafts movement produced high-quality, handmade furniture and other home goods. In the architectural realm, the emphasis on simple, direct design yielded square or rectangular footprints, single or one-and-a-half story volumes, and typically a hipped or gable roof form with a full-width or wrapped porch under the main roof line. On the interior, the Bungalow/Craftsman style favored large living spaces with little to no division among the remaining rooms. According to architectural historian Alan Gowans, one of the four essential Bungalow characteristics is "interpenetration of inner and outer space. This is most often achieved by the sweeping roof and verandah... [and] by living and dining rooms constituting a flowing space and both carried outward by porches or bay windows."<sup>53</sup> Even with interior renovations, Fir Lodge meets these criteria along with another of Gowans' four criteria – having no basement.<sup>54</sup> The lack of interior doors allows for smooth movement

<sup>50</sup> File on Fred L. Fehren, compiled by Michael Houser, State Architectural Historian, Washington Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation.

<sup>51</sup> The status of the various known buildings by the Fehren-Marvin partnership is not known. Historic newspaper accounts list the address of the Palmer house as 1823 14<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Seattle.

<sup>52</sup> John C. Poppeliers, S. Allen Chambers Jr., and Nancy B. Schwartz, *What Style Is It? A Guide to American Architecture* (Washington, DC: The Preservation Press, 1983), 76.

<sup>53</sup> Alan Gowans, *The Comfortable House: North American Suburban Architecture, 1890-1930* (Cambridge, MA: The MIT Press, 1989), 77.

<sup>54</sup> The other two Bungalow criteria, according to Gowans, is 1) a low roof covering a porch or veranda and 2) having only 1 or 1.5 stories. Gowans, 77.

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through open doorways, notably between the dining and living rooms. The massive barn-like front doors, once centered in the north elevation, opened directly into the primary space, the living room, with no transitional entryway or vestibule. The living and dining rooms also opened onto and overlooked the wraparound porch through multiple windows.

Fir Lodge also exemplifies the Bungalow/Craftsman style's preference for raw or minimally processed, local building materials. Many Bungalows feature cobblestone chimneys and foundations. The fieldstone and cobblestone fireplace in Fir Lodge's living room, as well as the exterior stone chimneys, are fine examples of this trend. The use of natural logs in the structure and leaving the log surfaces exposed on the interior of Fir Lodge is fairly rare but in keeping with the Bungalow/Craftsman style. Most Bungalows used milled lumber for their framing and cladding. Regular, dimensional lumber would have been easier to use, whereas Fir Lodge's log walls and posts required a higher level of craftsmanship. Fir Lodge, therefore, represents a higher expression of the style than a typical Bungalow/Craftsman house.

The fact that simple Bungalow/Craftsman homes translated easily into the pre-cut, mail-order house industry is part of the reason these homes became so prevalent. The simplicity of their floor plans and modest sizes meant they were affordable and relatively easy to assemble. Many ready-cut, mail-order house catalog companies offered Bungalow/Craftsman style homes. A study of mail-order house catalogs from the period 1900 to 1940 shows that Bungalow and Craftsman were two of the most popular American architectural styles of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Architectural historians Robert Schweitzer and Michael W. R. Davis assert that the bungalow form was introduced from India to British Columbia, just north of Washington State, in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, from there spreading down the West Coast.<sup>55</sup> When it reached California, the form blossomed into a full-blown style. Schweitzer and Davis found that mail-order house catalogs began offering Craftsman homes in 1901, with Bungalow designs following in 1904 and continuing to appear in mail-order catalogs through 1940, a testament to their popularity.<sup>56</sup> Fir Lodge's completion in 1904 places it at the forefront of the style.

Fir Lodge has also been classified under the Rustic style, an early 20<sup>th</sup> century expression of Nature's simple elegance. The Rustic and Bungalow/Craftsman styles share many of the same ideals and identifiers, such as the use of local, natural building materials and blending with their surroundings. However, Rustic style buildings come in a larger variety of types, shapes and sizes. Rustic style hotels and homes incorporated vernacular building technologies into comfortable, sometimes lavish buildings, as opposed to the simplicity of Bungalow/Craftsman homes. The refinement of the Rustic style and resulting peak expression in the 1920s and 1930s coincided with its predominant use by federal lands agencies, such as the Forest Service and the National Park Service. At its peak, the Rustic style found expression on a wide range of structures and building types, from bridges to kitchen shelters, drinking fountains to train depots.

### Architectural Comparisons

Pioneer homesteads and rural settlements commonly utilized vernacular log construction at the turn of the century, but the pronounced use of logs on architect-designed houses and hotels was much rarer. The groundbreaking design of Fir Lodge is a significant example of the emerging Bungalow/Craftsman architectural style in Seattle. In order to place the architectural character of Fir Lodge in context, three other buildings designed in the same or similar styles at about the same time will be discussed for comparison purposes. The first two are examples of owner constructed buildings with lesser craftsmanship and skill than Fir Lodge. The third is a former outbuilding of Fir Lodge, today known as the Log House Museum. The comparison examples are drawn from Seattle, but the Bungalow/Craftsman and Rustic styles would soon appear throughout the region and the country at large.

<sup>55</sup> Robert Schweitzer and Michael W. R. Davis, *America's Favorite Homes* (Detroit: Wayne State University Press, 1990), 119.

<sup>56</sup> *Ibid.*, 120.

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- The once nearby Stockade Hotel, built in 1901 and demolished in 1936, preceded Fir Lodge by a couple years and may well have influenced the latter's design. Similarities between the two buildings included log construction, peeled log cladding, and vertical log posts as porch supports. The Stockade Hotel, like Fir Lodge, featured a hip roof with large central dormers on at least three facades. The Stockade Hotel, while reputedly comfortable on the interior, had a slight ramshackle charm on the exterior.
- The Maurer House/Sea View Hall, built in 1904 as a summer vacation house near Alki Point (present address is 4004 59<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Seattle, historically 4004 or 4010 Chilberg Avenue SW).<sup>57</sup> John Maurer constructed the house himself for his wife and family. Executed in the Rustic style, Maurer's 2.5 story summer home exhibits vertical log walls on most of the exterior with decorative shingles in the gable ends. The dormers displayed plain wood shingles, previously replaced with decorative versions. The Maurer House/Sea View Hall is not as finely executed as Fir Lodge, more resembling a large vernacular beach cottage made from the materials at hand than a stylish residence.
- The Log House Museum, built in circa 1904, originally belonged to the Bernard family. The Log House Museum's builder is unknown, but the building appears in the background of a circa 1905 photo of Fir Lodge. Local tradition holds that the Log House Museum was a carriage house or servants' quarters for Fir Lodge. The Log House Museum exhibits almost identical style, massing, construction and materials as the lodge. A nearly square footprint is smaller but proportional to Fir Lodge. The horizontal log walls support a hipped roof. Hipped roof dormers are centered on every elevation, but the multiple pairs of dormer windows on the north and south roof slopes are physically separated instead of being conjoined or continuous under one roof like those of Fir Lodge. Vertical log posts support the main roof where it overhangs the wrapped porch. Unlike Fir Lodge, the Log House Museum's porch is not enclosed. The Southwest Seattle Historical Society purchased the Log House in 1995 and began restoring it for use as their museum, which opened to the public a few years later.

Any architectural style reflects the identity and values of the owner and/or designer. Some styles interact to a greater degree than others with the physical surroundings. The Bungalow/Craftsman and Rustic styles both valued harmony with the natural world, allowing for buildings to become part of the landscape, to blend with their settings via massing and materials. For all of these examples, the buildings' log construction mimicked the forest that initially surrounded them. The wood shingles and stonework also reflect local character. For Fir Lodge and the Log House Museum in particular, their modest massing and lack of ornamentation fused these buildings with their backdrop, so as to not distract visitors from enjoying the scenic beauty of the forests and panoramic views of Puget Sound along Alki Beach.

## Summary

Fir Lodge is a rare and early example of the Bungalow/Craftsman style. The Lodge's design harmonized with its surroundings and reflected the tranquil, isolated nature of Alki Beach at the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. In contrast with the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century industrial and commercial growth a few miles to the east, Fir Lodge exemplifies the serene recreational and residential roots of the Alki neighborhood. The building retains a high degree of integrity and is significant for its association with the early residential development of Alki.

<sup>57</sup> Woodbridge, 194. Also, King County Assessor records for parcel 1563100805.

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**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 # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State Historic Preservation Office
  - Other State agency
  - Federal agency
  - Local government
  - University
  - Other
- Name of repository: Southwest Seattle Historical Society

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): \_\_\_\_\_

**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreage of Property** Less than 1 acre  
(Do not include previously listed resource acreage.)

**UTM References**  NAD 1927 or  NAD 1983

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	<u>10</u>	<u>0544286</u>	<u>5269622</u>	3	<u>                    </u>	<u>                    </u>	<u>                    </u>
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**Or Latitude/Longitude Coordinates**

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

1	<u>                    </u>	<u>                    </u>	3	<u>                    </u>	<u>                    </u>
	Latitude	Longitude		Latitude	Longitude
2	<u>                    </u>	<u>                    </u>	4	<u>                    </u>	<u>                    </u>
	Latitude	Longitude		Latitude	Longitude

Fir Lodge  
Name of Property

King County, WA  
County and State

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

The nominated property occupies 0.34 acres, the full extent of tax parcel 762120-0006. This lot is located within Section 10, Township 24 North, Range 3 East of the Willamette Meridian. The tax parcel is situated on lots 5-8 of plat block A, Sea Shore Addition to Alki Point. The lot is bounded to the east by 61<sup>st</sup> Avenue Southwest, to the south and north by neighboring private property (separate tax parcels), and to the west by an alley. Tax parcel information is courtesy of the King County Assessor's Office.

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

The nominated property comprises the full extent of King County tax parcel 762120-0006.

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Susan Johnson, Associate (edited DAHP Staff)  
organization Artifacts Consulting, Inc. date September 2013  
street & number 201 N Yakima Avenue telephone (253) 572-4599  
city or town Tacoma state WA zip code 98403  
e-mail sjohnson@artifacts-inc.com

**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **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. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Continuation Sheets**
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

**Photographs:**

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map.

**Name of Property:** Fir Lodge  
**City or Vicinity:** West Seattle  
**County:** King **State:** Washington  
**Photographer:** Spencer Howard, Artifacts Consulting, Inc. unless otherwise specified  
**Date Photographed:** August 29, 2013 unless otherwise specified

**Description of Photograph(s) and number:**

- 1 of 15:** View of east facade.  
**2 of 15:** View of northeast corner.  
**3 of 15:** View of northwest corner.

Fir Lodge  
Name of Property

King County, WA  
County and State

- 4 of 15:** View of northwest corner, detail.
- 5 of 15:** View of west facade.
- 6 of 15:** View of southwest corner.
- 7 of 15:** View of roof, looking northeast.
- 8 of 15:** View of southeast corner.
- 9 of 15:** View of southeast entrance from east porch.
- 10 of 15:** View of northeast entrance from east porch.
- 11 of 15:** View of fire escape, west facade.
- 12 of 15:** 2013 interior view of former living room, looking southeast. Taken by David Rosen, courtesy of West Seattle Herald.
- 13 of 15:** 2012 interior view of main fireplace, looking south with stairs to second floor at right. Taken by Michael Houser, State Architectural Historian.
- 14 of 15:** 2012 interior view of former dining room and secondary (brick) fireplace, looking southeast. Taken by Michael Houser, State Architectural Historian.
- 15 of 15:** 2013 interior view showing stone chimney and upstairs fire damage. Taken by David Rosen, courtesy of West Seattle Herald.

---

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

---

name Alki Homestead LLC (contact Tom Lin)

street & number 2626 58<sup>th</sup> Avenue SW telephone (425) 864-1906

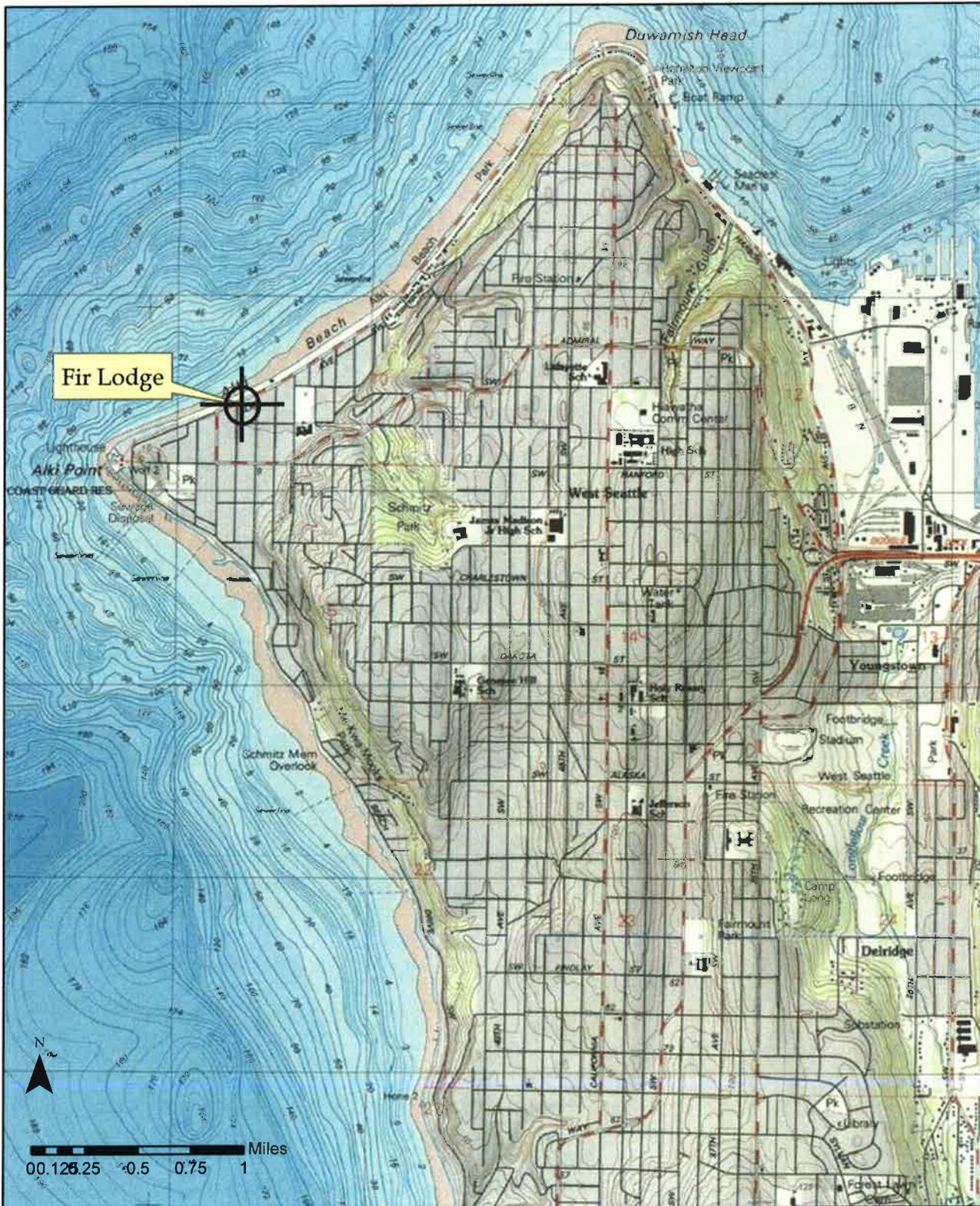
city or town Seattle state WA zip code 98116

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

National Register Nomination  
Fir Lodge  
2717 61st Avenue SW, Seattle  
King County, Washington State

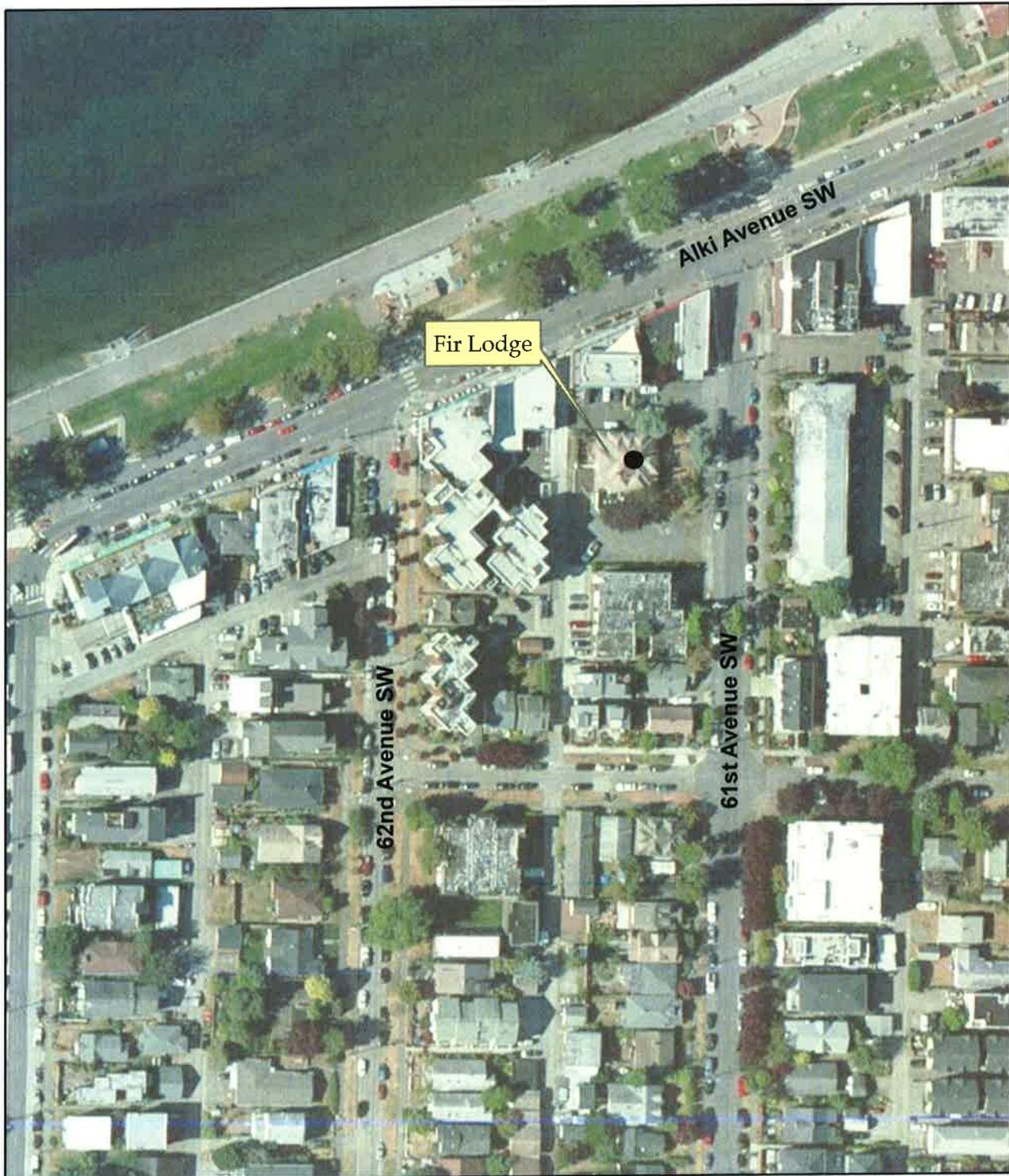
Maps



USGS topographic map detail showing the location of the nominated property.

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King County, Washington State

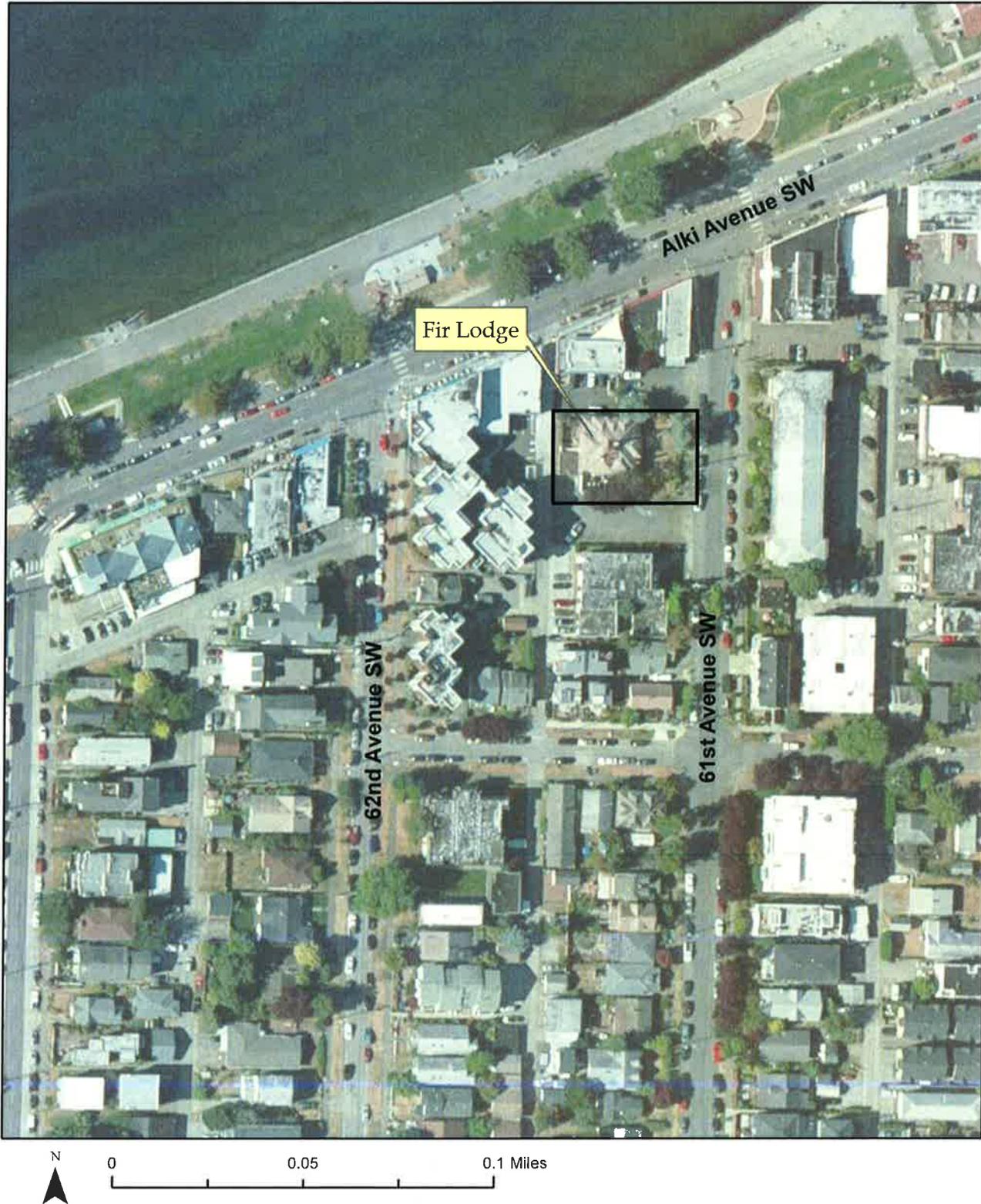
Maps



Site map showing the UTM reference for the building. 10 0544286 E 5269622 N  
Base map courtesy of ESRI Bing maps, 2012.

National Register Nomination  
Fir Lodge  
2717 61st Avenue SW, Seattle  
King County, Washington State

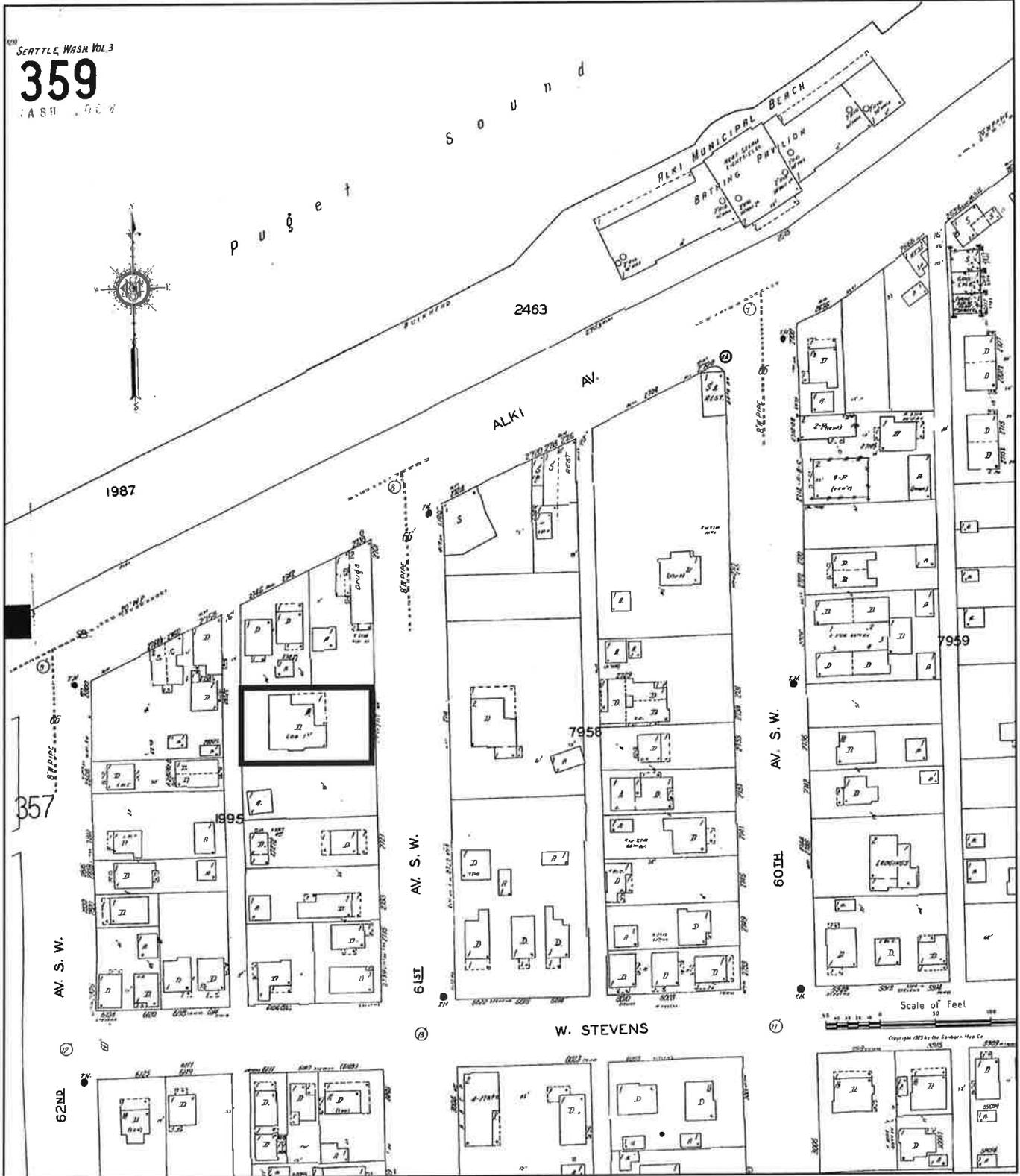
*Maps*



Site map showing the location of the nominated property, outlined in black. Outline corresponds with property parcel boundaries. Base map courtesy of ESRI Bing maps, 2012.

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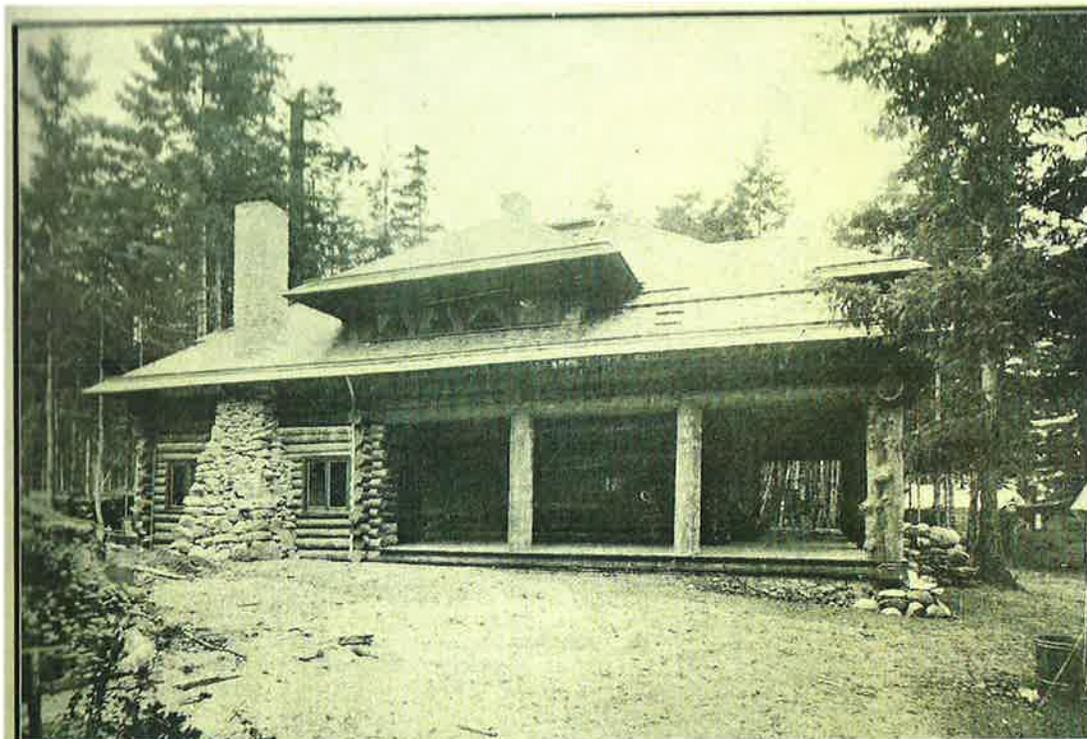
Maps



Fir Lodge outlined in black on a historic Sanborn Fire Insurance Map (created 1905, updated through 1915, sheet 359 of volume 3). Source: Seattle Public Library.

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*Photographs*



Circa 1904 view of Fir Lodge, east facade. Source: Artistic Homes Spanish Colonial Designs (Seattle: Fred L. Fehren Co. Architects), 1905.



Circa 1905 view of northeast corner. Source: Southwest Seattle Historical Society.

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Circa 1905 view of northwest corner. Note building at far right, now the Log House Museum. Source: Southwest Seattle Historical Society.



Circa 1905 view of porch. Source: Southwest Seattle Historical Society.

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Fir Lodge  
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*Photographs*



Circa 1905 view of northwest corner, with horse-drawn wagon of the Seattle Transfer Company in foreground. Photograph taken from approximate location of present Alki Avenue SW. Source: Southwest Seattle Historical Society.



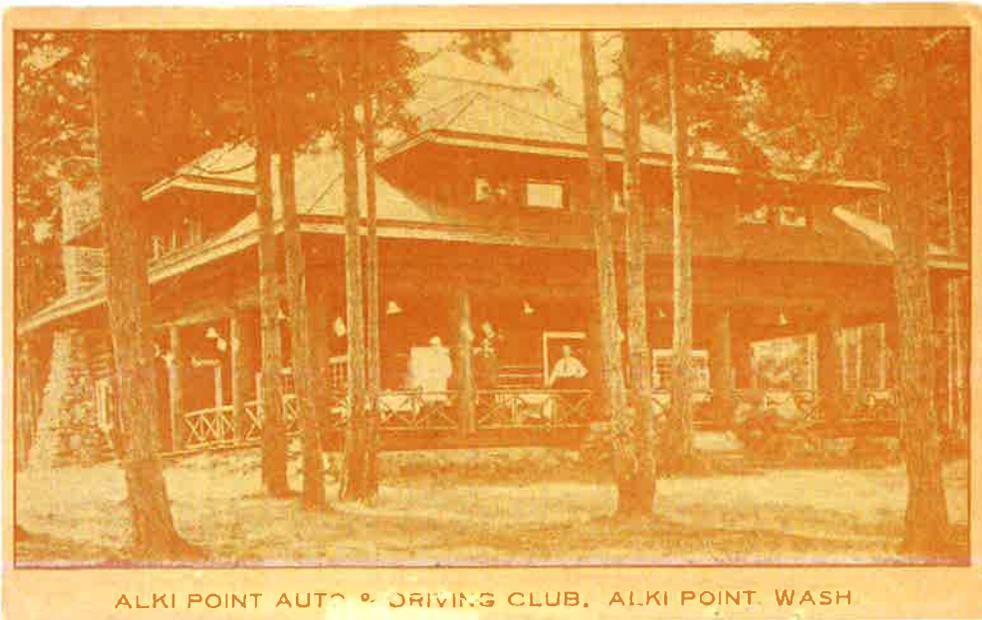
Circa 1905 interior view of living room, with dining room visible through open doorway. Note original log mantel on living room fireplace. Source: Bernard Family, Southwest Seattle Historical Society.

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Circa 1905 interior view of living room, with stairs to second floor at center. Looking southwest. Note original log mantel on living room fireplace. Source: Southwest Seattle Historical Society.



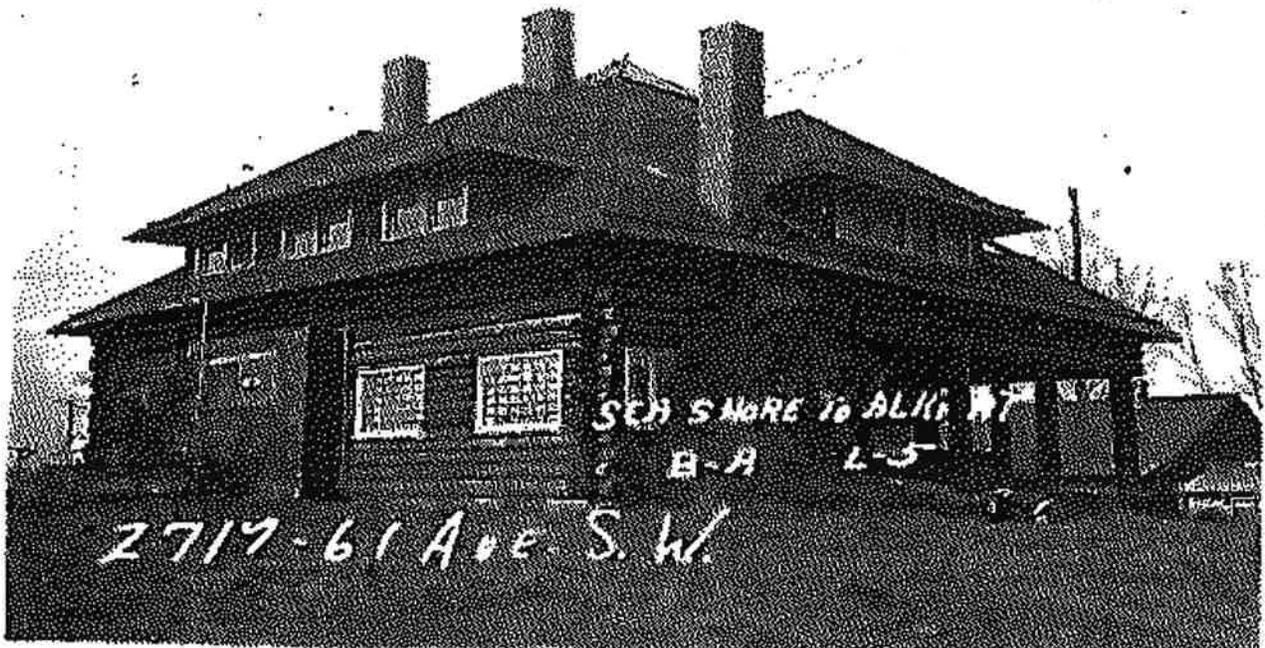
Postcard view of Fir Lodge when it was the clubhouse for the Seattle Auto and Driving Club, between 1907 - 1911. Source: Southwest Seattle Historical Society.

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Circa 1920 view of east porch and entry; large stone chimney is just out of the frame to the left. Source: Southwest Seattle Historical Society.



Ca. 1937 view of southeast corner. Source: King County Assessor, courtesy of the Puget Sound Regional Archives.

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King County, Washington State

*Photographs*



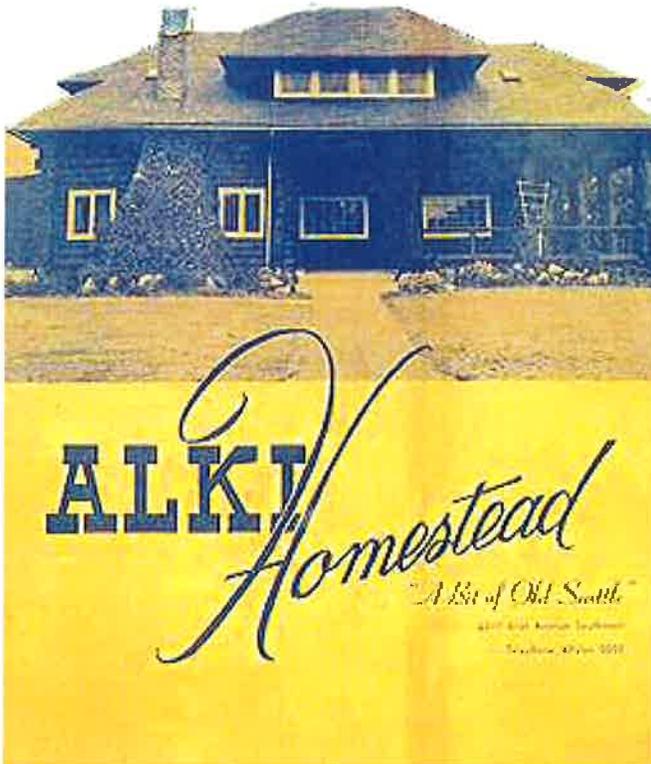
Interior view of Alki Homestead Restaurant, taken between 1950 and 1970. Note altered fireplace at right. Source: Southwest Seattle Historical Society.

An advertisement for the Alki Homestead Restaurant. The ad is framed by a decorative, repeating pattern border. At the top right, the text "A BIT OF OLD SEATTLE" is written in a stylized, slightly tilted font. Below this, there are two photographs of the restaurant's interior. The left photograph shows a dining table with a white lace tablecloth and a large, ornate stone fireplace in the background. The right photograph shows a dining table with a white tablecloth and a red upholstered chair. At the bottom left, the restaurant's name "Alki Homestead" is written in a cursive font, followed by "RESTAURANT" in a bold, sans-serif font. Below that, the address and phone number are listed: "2717 61ST AVE. S.W. SEATTLE, WA. 98116 (206) WE 5-0583".

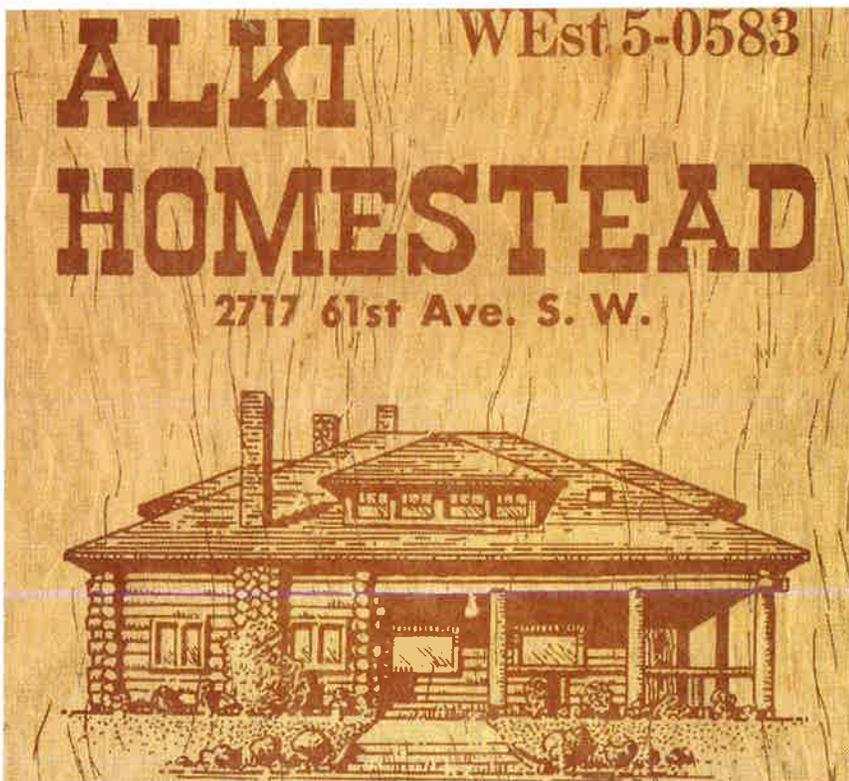
Advertisement for Alki Homestead Restaurant, undated. Source: Southwest Seattle Historical Society.

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*Photographs*



Undated menu cover from Alki Homestead Restaurant. Source: Michael Houser, State Architectural Historian.



Detail from an undated menu cover from Alki Homestead Restaurant. Source: Southwest Seattle Historical Society.

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*Photographs*



Undated historic view of the Stockade Hotel (built 1901, demolished 1936) along Alki Beach. Courtesy of [pauldorpat.com/seattle-now-and-then/seattle-now-then-antique-alki-swimwear/](http://pauldorpat.com/seattle-now-and-then/seattle-now-then-antique-alki-swimwear/)



Contemporary view of historic Maurer House/Sea View Hall (built 1901), near Alki Point. Courtesy of King County Assessor.

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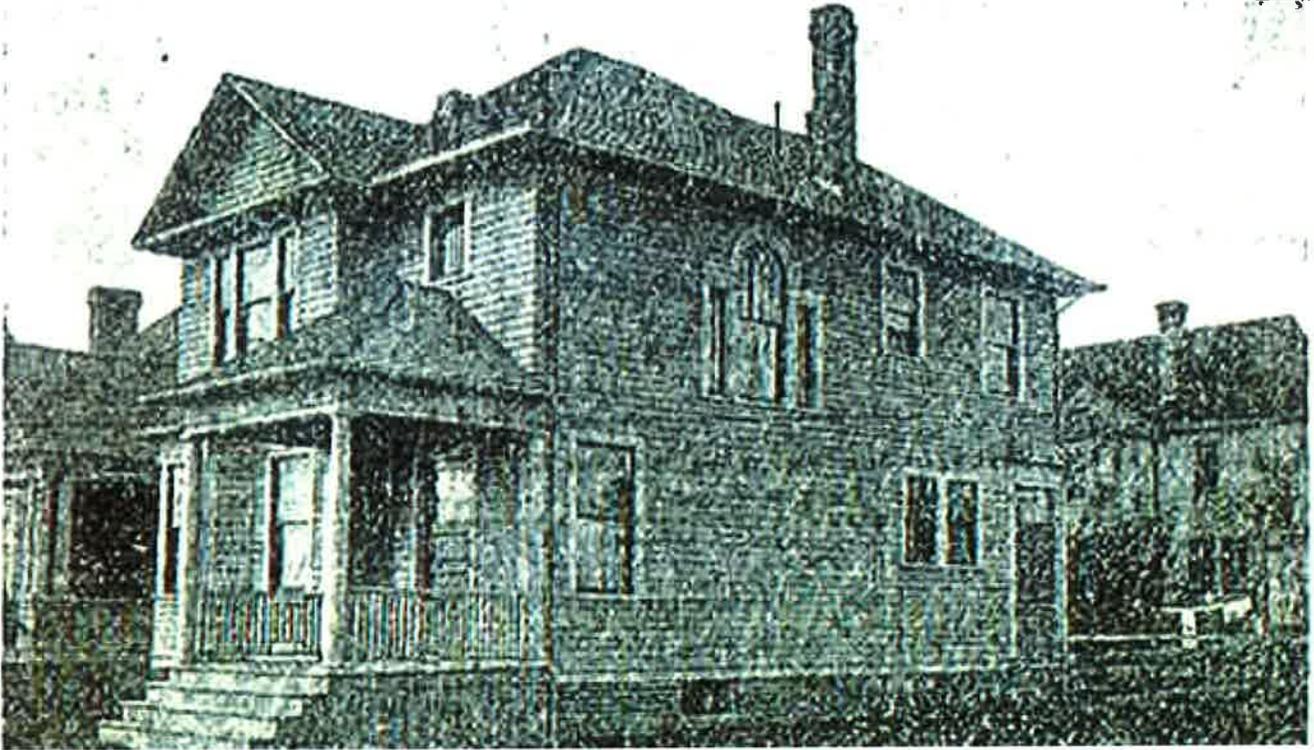
2013 view of Log House Museum (3003 61st Avenue SW, Seattle), 1/2 block from Fir Lodge (built circa 1904). North elevation. Photo by and courtesy of Clay Eals, Southwest Seattle Historical Society.



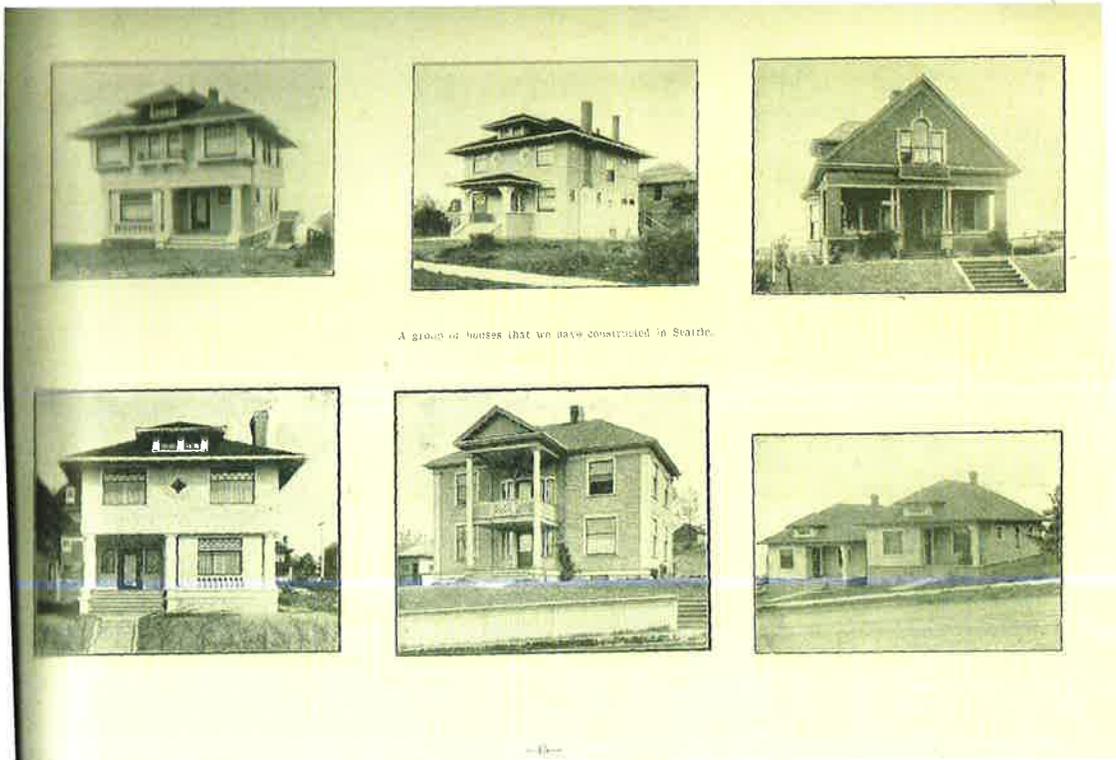
Residence constructed by Fehren-Marvin Company for Mrs. J. F. T. Mitchell, 414 Boylston Avenue North, Seattle. Source: Seattle Daily Times, November 16, 1901, page 7.

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Residence constructed by Fehren-Marvin Company for J. E. Chick, Olive St. near Broadway, Seattle. Source: Seattle Daily Times, December 14, 1901, page 5.



A group of houses that we have constructed in Seattle.

Page 15 of Fehren's 1905 pattern book, exhibiting houses his company had constructed already in Seattle. Source: Artistic Homes Spanish Colonial Designs (Seattle: Fred L. Fehren Co. Architects, 1905).

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Fir Lodge  
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*Photographs*

164

1903

POLK'S SEATTLE DIRECTORY CO.'S

Write for **“FACTS  
About Seattle Investments”**



We planned and built this 6-room and basement Cottage for \$1600—with best of plumbing. Send for “Artistic Designs,” a book of 30 original designs, ranging in price from \$1000 to \$5000

**We Can Invest Your Funds to Net 10 Per Cent to 15 Per Cent Per Annum  
Monthly Income, Besides the Increase in Value  
6 Per Cent. to 7 Per Cent. First Mortgage Loans. 40 Per Cent. Actual  
Value of Property**

**FRED L. CO.**  
**FEHREN**

**Real Estate  
Investment Brokers  
Architects**

**230-231 Pioneer Building**

**SEATTLE, WASHINGTON**

Page 164 of Polk's 1903 Seattle City Directory, showing full page advertisement of Fred L. Fehren Co., 230-231 Pioneer Building. Courtesy of the files of Michael Houser, State Architectural Historian, Washington Department of Archaeology & Historic Preservation.

**National Register Nomination**  
Fir Lodge  
2717 61st Avenue SW, Seattle  
King County, Washington State

Photographs

Name of Property: Fir Lodge  
City or Vicinity: West Seattle  
County: King County  
State: WA

Name of Photographer: Spencer Howard, Artifacts Consulting, Inc.  
Date of Photographs: August 29, 2013  
Location of Original Digital Files: 201 N. Yakima Ave, Tacoma, WA 98403

Description of Photograph(s) & Number:

Photograph 1 of 15: View of east facade.

Photograph 2 of 15: View of northeast corner.

Photograph 3 of 15: View of northwest corner.

Photograph 4 of 15: View of northwest corner, detail.

Photograph 5 of 15: View of west facade.

Photograph 6 of 15: View of southwest corner.

Photograph 7 of 15: View of roof, looking northeast.

Photograph 8 of 15: View of southeast corner.

Photograph 9 of 15: View of southeast entrance from east porch.

Photograph 10 of 15: View of northeast entrance from east porch.

Photograph 11 of 15: View of fire escape, west facade.

Photograph 12 of 15: 2013 interior view of former living room, looking southeast. Taken by David Rosen, courtesy of West Seattle Herald.

Photograph 13 of 15: 2012 interior view of main fireplace, looking south with stairs to second floor at right. Taken by Michael Houser, State Architectural Historian.

Photograph 14 of 15: 2012 interior view of former dining room and secondary (brick) fireplace, looking southeast. Taken by Michael Houser, State Architectural Historian.

Photograph 15 of 15: 2013 interior view showing stone chimney and upstairs fire damage. Taken by David Rosen, courtesy of West Seattle Herald.

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Photographs



Photograph 1 of 15: View of east facade.



Photograph 2 of 15: View of northeast corner.

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Photograph 3 of 15: View of northwest corner.



Photograph 4 of 15: View of northwest corner, detail.

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Photograph 5 of 15: View of west facade.



Photograph 6 of 15: View of southwest corner.

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Photograph 7 of 15: View of roof, looking northeast.



Photograph 8 of 15: View of southeast corner.

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Photograph 9 of 15: View of southeast entrance from east porch.



Photograph 10 of 15: View of northeast entrance from east porch.

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*Photographs*



Photograph 11 of 15: View of fire escape, west facade.



Photograph 12 of 15: 2013 interior view of former living room, looking southeast. Taken by David Rosen, courtesy of West Seattle Herald.

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Photographs



Photograph 13 of 15: 2012 interior view of main fireplace, looking south with stairs to second floor at right. Taken by Michael Houser, State Architectural Historian.



Photograph 14 of 15: 2012 interior view of former dining room and secondary (brick) fireplace, looking southeast. Taken by Michael Houser, State Architectural Historian.

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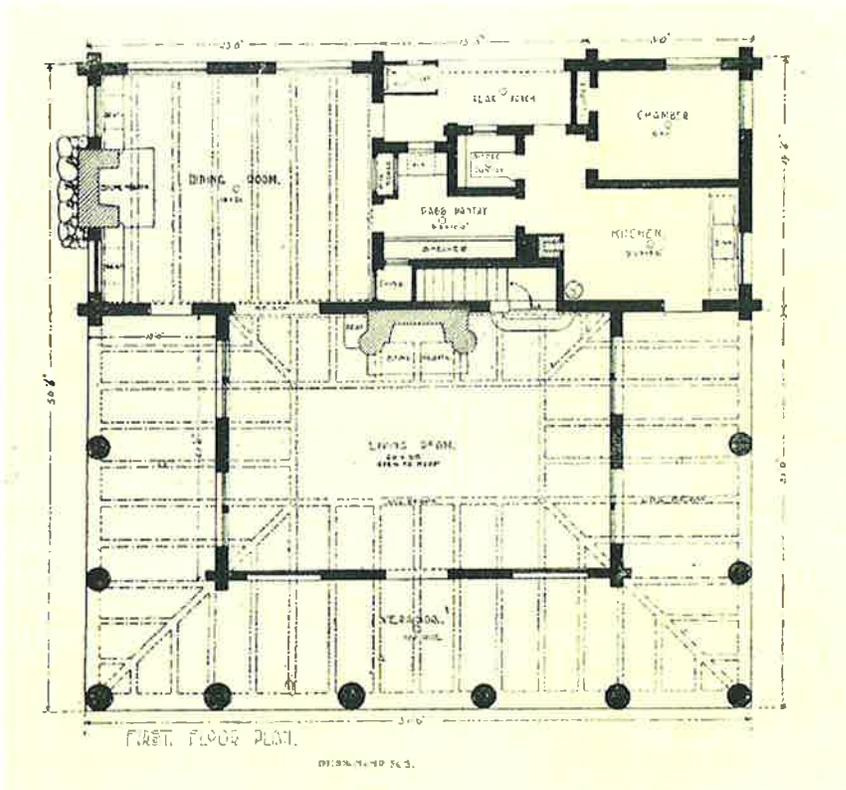
Photographs



Photograph 15 of 15: 2013 interior view showing stone chimney and upstairs fire damage. Taken by David Rosen, courtesy of West Seattle Herald.

National Register Nomination  
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2717 61st Avenue SW, Seattle  
King County, Washington State

*Drawings*



First Floor Plan, circa 1905, by Fred L. Fehren, Architects. Source: Artistic Homes Spanish Colonial Designs (Seattle: Fred L. Fehren Co. Architects, 1905).