

The Prime Minister's Summer Residence at Thingvellir

The Thingvallabær is the official summer residence of the Prime Minister. It is, moreover, used for receptions held by the Minister. The building, which was designed by Guðjón Samúelsson, state architect, and built for the Alþingi millennium celebration in 1930, initially had three gables and a turf roof. It was for the most part used as the residence of the national park warden and the local priest. In 1974, two gables were added on the south end. These became the official summer residence of the Prime Minister until the Prime Minister's Office acquired the entire building.



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The Prime Minister's Reception House at Tjarnargata

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The Prime Minister's Reception house at Tjarnargata was originally built at Sólbakki in Öfundarfjörður (in the Westfjords) in 1892, by the Norwegian whaler Hans Ellefsen. In the beginning of the 20th century, he sold the house to Hannes Hafstein, the first Icelandic Minister, for a token amount, some say ISK 1, while others say ISK 5. The house was then taken apart, transported to Reykjavík and rebuilt in its present form in 1906. The Prime Ministers lived in the house until 1943. Since then, it has been used for various meetings and official receptions.





The Prime Minister's Reception House at Tjarnargata

The house at Sólbakki was originally a cellar, main floor and an attic with one dormer window on each of the longer sides. However, when the house was rebuilt as the Prime Minister's Residence at Tjarnargata, an additional floor was added and three dormer windows were constructed on the front.

1. The Prime Minister's Reception house was originally built in Önundarfjörður near the whaling station of Hans Ellefsen.
2. The stairway leading up to the second floor. The bust next to it is of Hannes Hafstein, the first Icelandic Minister.
3. The main sitting room of the Prime Minister's Reception House at Tjarnargata, where guests are usually greeted.



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Originally, the Thingvallabær had three gables. Before the 1100th anniversary celebrations in 1974, two more gables were added as the summer residence of the Prime Minister.

4. The Icelandic coats of arms: the cod emblem, the falcon emblem and the guardian spirits emblem.
5. The sitting room at Thingvallabær, where guests are usually greeted.
6. The old Thingvallabær when it had three gables.