

STERLING CONSTRUCTION CO INC

Form S-3/A

December 14, 2007

As filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on December 14, 2007

Registration No. 333-147593

**UNITED STATES  
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
Washington, D.C. 20549**

**Amendment No. 2  
to  
FORM S-3  
REGISTRATION STATEMENT UNDER THE SECURITIES ACT OF 1933**

**Sterling Construction Company, Inc.**  
(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

**Delaware**  
(State or other jurisdiction  
of incorporation or organization)

**1600**  
(Primary standard industrial  
classification code number)

**25-1655321**  
(I.R.S. employer  
identification number)

**20810 Fernbush Lane  
Houston, Texas 77073  
(281) 821-9091**  
(Address, including zip code, and telephone number, including area code, of registrant's principal executive offices)

**Patrick T. Manning  
Chief Executive Officer  
20810 Fernbush Lane  
Houston, Texas 77073  
(281) 821-9091**  
(Name, address, including zip code, and telephone number, including area code, of agent for service)

**With a copy to:**

**Geoffrey K. Walker**  
**Scott L. Olson**  
**Andrews Kurth LLP**  
**600 Travis, Suite 4200**  
**Houston, Texas 77002**  
**Telephone: (713) 220-4757**  
**Facsimile: (713) 238-7433**

**Christopher J. Voss**  
**Stoel Rives LLP**  
**600 University St., Suite 3600**  
**Seattle, Washington 98101**  
**Telephone: (206) 624-0900**  
**Facsimile: (206) 386-7500**

**Approximate date of commencement of proposed sale to the public:** As soon as practicable after the effective date of this Registration Statement.

If the only securities being registered on this Form are being offered pursuant to dividend or interest reinvestment plans, please check the following box.

If any of the securities being registered on this Form are to be offered on a delayed or continuous basis pursuant to Rule 415 under the Securities Act of 1933, check the following box.

If this Form is filed to register additional securities for an offering pursuant to Rule 462(b) under the Securities Act, please check the following box and list the Securities Act registration statement number of the earlier effective registration statement for the same offering.

If this Form is a post-effective amendment filed pursuant to Rule 462(c) under the Securities Act, check the following box and list the Securities Act registration statement number of the earlier effective registration statement for the same offering.

If this Form is a registration statement pursuant to General Instruction I.D. or a post-effective amendment thereto that shall become effective upon filing with the Commission pursuant to Rule 462(e) under the Securities Act, check the following box.

If this Form is a post-effective amendment to a registration statement filed pursuant to General Instruction I.D. filed to register additional securities or additional classes of securities pursuant to Rule 413(b) under the Securities Act, check the following box.

**The registrant hereby amends this Registration Statement on such date or dates as may be necessary to delay its effective date until the registrant shall file a further amendment which specifically states that this Registration Statement shall thereafter become effective in accordance with section 8(a) of the Securities Act of 1933 or until the Registration Statement shall become effective on such date as the Commission, acting pursuant to said section 8(a), may determine.**

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**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

This Amendment No. 2 to the Registration Statement on Form S-3 of Sterling Construction Company, Inc. ( Amendment No. 2 ) does not relate to the contents of the preliminary prospectus contained in our Registration Statement on Form S-3, which is not amended hereby. Accordingly, this Amendment No. 2 does not include a copy of our preliminary prospectus. This Amendment No. 2 is being filed solely for the purpose of filing certain exhibits, as indicated on the exhibit index.

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**PART II****INFORMATION NOT REQUIRED IN PROSPECTUS****Item 14. Other Expenses of Issuance and Distribution**

The following table sets forth the various costs and expenses to be paid by us in connection with the sale and distribution of the shares of common stock being registered hereby, other than the estimated underwriting discounts and commissions. All amounts shown are estimates except for the SEC registration fee.

|  |                |
|--|----------------|
| SEC registration fee                           | \$ 1,377       |
| Nasdaq listing fee                             | 18,400         |
| Transfer agent and registrar fees and expenses | 10,000         |
| Accounting fees and expenses                   | 200,000        |
| Legal fees and expenses                        | 250,000        |
| Unallocated underwriters' expenses             | 100,000        |
| Printing and engraving expenses                | 95,000         |
| Miscellaneous                                  | 100,223        |
| <br>Total                                      | <br>\$ 775,000 |

**Item 15. Indemnification of Directors and Officers**

We are a Delaware corporation. Section 145 of the Delaware General Corporation Law, or the DGCL, authorizes a court to award, or a corporation's board of directors to grant, indemnity under certain circumstances to directors, officers, employees or agents in connection with actions, suits or proceedings, by reason of the fact that the person is or was a director, officer, employee or agent, against expenses and liabilities incurred in such actions, suits or proceedings so long as they acted in good faith and in a manner the person reasonably believed to be in, or not opposed to, the best interests of the company, and with respect to any criminal action if they had no reasonable cause to believe their conduct was unlawful. With respect to suits by or in the right of such corporation, however, indemnification is generally limited to attorneys' fees and other expenses actually and reasonably incurred and is not available if such person is adjudged to be liable to such corporation unless the court determines that indemnification is appropriate.

As permitted by the DGCL, our restated and amended certificate of incorporation, as amended, includes a provision that eliminates the personal liability of our directors to us or our stockholders for monetary damages for breach of fiduciary duty as a director, except for liability:

- for any breach of the director's duty of loyalty to us or our stockholders;
- for acts or omissions not in good faith or that involve intentional misconduct or a knowing violation of law;
- under section 174 of the DGCL regarding unlawful dividends and stock purchases; or
- for any transaction for which the director derived an improper personal benefit.

As permitted by the DGCL, our restated and amended certificate of incorporation, as amended, provides that:

we are required to indemnify our directors and officers to the fullest extent permitted by Delaware law, subject to very limited exceptions;

we may indemnify our other employees and agents to the fullest extent permitted by Delaware law, subject to very limited exceptions;

we are required to advance expenses, as incurred, to our directors and officers in connection with a legal proceeding to the fullest extent permitted by the DGCL, subject to very limited exceptions;

we may advance expenses, as incurred, to our employees and agents in connection with a legal proceeding; and

the rights conferred in our certificate of incorporation are not exclusive.

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The indemnification provisions in our restated and amended certificate of incorporation, as amended, may be sufficiently broad to permit indemnification of our directors and officers for liabilities arising under the Securities Act.

Under Delaware law, corporations also have the power to purchase and maintain insurance for directors, officers, employees and agents. Sterling Construction Company, Inc. and its subsidiaries are covered by liability insurance policies which indemnify our directors and officers against loss arising from claims by reason of their legal liability for acts as such directors, officers or trustees, subject to limitations and conditions as set forth in the policies.

The foregoing discussion of our restated and amended certificate of incorporation, as amended, and Delaware law is not intended to be exhaustive and is qualified in its entirety by such certificate of incorporation or law.

#### **Item 16. Exhibits**

The exhibits listed on the Exhibit Index to this Registration Statement are hereby incorporated by reference.

#### **Item 17. Undertakings**

a. The undersigned registrant hereby undertakes:

1. To file, during any period in which offers or sales are being made, a post-effective amendment to this registration statement:

i. To include any prospectus required by section 10(a)(3) of the Securities Act of 1933;

- ii. To reflect in the prospectus any facts or events arising after the effective date of the registration statement (or the most recent post-effective amendment thereof) which, individually or in the aggregate, represent a fundamental change in the information set forth in the registration statement. Notwithstanding the foregoing, any increase or decrease in volume of securities offered (if the total dollar value of securities offered would not exceed that which was registered) and any deviation from the low or high end of the estimated maximum offering range may be reflected in the form of prospectus filed with the Commission pursuant to Rule 424(b) if, in the aggregate, the changes in volume and price represent no more than 20% change in the maximum aggregate offering price set forth in the Calculation of Registration Fee table in the effective registration statement.

- iii. To include any material information with respect to the plan of distribution not previously disclosed in the registration statement or any material change to such information in the registration statement;

*provided however*, that paragraphs (a)(1)(i), (a)(1)(ii) and (a)(1)(iii) of this section do not apply if the registration statement is on Form S-3 and the information required to be included in a post-effective amendment by those paragraphs is contained in reports filed with or furnished to the Commission by the registrant pursuant to section 13 or section 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 that are incorporated by reference in the registration statement, or is contained in a form of prospectus filed pursuant to Rule 424(b) that is part of the registration statement.

2. That, for the purpose of determining any liability under the Securities Act of 1933, each such post-effective amendment shall be deemed to be a new registration statement relating to the securities offered therein, and the offering of such securities at that time shall be deemed to be the initial bona fide offering thereof.

3. To remove from registration by means of a post-effective amendment any of the securities being registered which remain unsold at the termination of the offering.

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4. That, for the purpose of determining liability under the Securities Act of 1933 to any purchaser:
  - i. Each prospectus filed by the registrant pursuant to Rule 424(b)(3) shall be deemed to be part of the registration statement as of the date the filed prospectus was deemed part of and included in the registration statement; and
  - ii. Each prospectus required to be filed pursuant to Rule 424(b)(2), (b)(5), or (b)(7) as part of a registration statement in reliance on Rule 430B relating to an offering made pursuant to Rule 415(a)(1)(i), (vii) or (x) for the purpose of providing the information required by section 10(a) of the Securities Act of 1933 shall be deemed to be part of and included in the registration statement as of the earlier of the date such form of prospectus is first used after effectiveness or the date of the first contract of sale of securities in the offering described in the prospectus. As provided in Rule 430B, for liability purposes of the issuer and any person that is at that date an underwriter, such date shall be deemed to be a new effective date of the registration statement relating to the securities in the registration statement to which that prospectus relates, and the offering of such securities at that time shall be deemed to be the initial bona fide offering thereof. *Provided, however*, that no statement made in a registration statement or prospectus that is part of the registration statement or made in a document incorporated or deemed incorporated by reference into the registration statement or prospectus that is part of the registration statement will, as to a purchaser with a time of contract of sale prior to such effective date, supersede or modify any statement that was made in the registration statement or prospectus that was part of the registration statement or made in any such document immediately prior to such effective date.
5. That, for the purpose of determining liability of the registrant under the Securities Act of 1933 to any purchaser in the initial distribution of the securities:

The undersigned registrant undertakes that in a primary offering of securities of the undersigned registrant pursuant to this registration statement, regardless of the underwriting method used to sell the securities to the purchaser, if the securities are offered or sold to such purchaser by means of any of the following communications, the undersigned registrant will be a seller to the purchaser and will be considered to offer or sell such securities to such purchaser:

- i. Any preliminary prospectus or prospectus of the undersigned registrant relating to the offering required to be filed pursuant to Rule 424;
  - ii. Any free writing prospectus relating to the offering prepared by or on behalf of the undersigned registrant or used or referred to by the undersigned registrant;
  - iii. The portion of any other free writing prospectus relating to the offering containing material information about the undersigned registrant or its securities provided by or on behalf of the undersigned registrant; and
  - iv. Any other communication that is an offer in the offering made by the undersigned registrant to the purchaser.
- b. The undersigned registrant hereby undertakes that, for purposes of determining any liability under the Securities Act of 1933, each filing of the registrant's annual report pursuant to section 13(a) or section 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (and, where applicable, each filing of an employee benefit plan's annual report pursuant to section 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934) that is incorporated by

reference in the registration statement shall be deemed to be a new registration statement relating to the securities offered therein, and the offering of such securities at that time shall be deemed to be the initial bona fide offering thereof.

- c. The undersigned registrant hereby undertakes to deliver or cause to be delivered with the prospectus, to each person to whom the prospectus is sent or given, the latest annual report to security holders that is incorporated by reference in the prospectus and furnished pursuant to and meeting the requirements of Rule 14a-3 or Rule 14c-3 under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934; and, where

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interim financial information required to be presented by Article 3 of Regulation S-X are not set forth in the prospectus, to deliver, or cause to be delivered to each person to whom the prospectus is sent or given, the latest quarterly report that is specifically incorporated by reference in the prospectus to provide such interim financial information.

- d. Insofar as indemnification for liabilities arising under the Securities Act of 1933 may be permitted to directors, officers and controlling persons of the registrant pursuant to the foregoing provisions, or otherwise, the registrant has been advised that in the opinion of the Securities and Exchange Commission such indemnification is against public policy as expressed in the Act and is, therefore, unenforceable. In the event that a claim for indemnification against such liabilities (other than the payment by the registrant of expenses incurred or paid by a director, officer or controlling person of the registrant in the successful defense of any action, suit or proceeding) is asserted by such director, officer or controlling person in connection with the securities being registered, the registrant will, unless in the opinion of its counsel the matter has been settled by controlling precedent, submit to a court of appropriate jurisdiction the question whether such indemnification by it is against public policy as expressed in the Act and will be governed by the final adjudication of such issue.
- e. The undersigned registrant hereby undertakes that:
1. For purposes of determining any liability under the Securities Act of 1933, the information omitted from the form of prospectus filed as part of this registration statement in reliance upon Rule 430A and contained in a form of prospectus filed by the registrant pursuant to Rule 424(b) (1) or (4) or 497(h) under the Securities Act shall be deemed to be part of this registration statement as of the time it was declared effective.
  2. For the purpose of determining any liability under the Securities Act of 1933, each post-effective amendment that contains a form of prospectus shall be deemed to be a new registration statement relating to the securities offered therein, and the offering of such securities at that time shall be deemed to be the initial bona fide offering thereof.

**SIGNATURES**

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act of 1933, the Registrant certifies that it has reasonable grounds to believe that it meets all of the requirements for filing on Form S-3 and has duly caused this registration statement to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized, in Houston, Texas, on this 14th day of December, 2007.

**STERLING CONSTRUCTION COMPANY, INC.**

By:

/s/ Patrick T. Manning

Name: Patrick T. Manning

Title: Chief Executive Officer

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act of 1933, this Registration Statement has been signed by the following persons in the capacities held on the dates indicated.

| <b>Signature</b>                                   | <b>Title</b>  | <b>Date</b>       |
|--|---|-------------------|
| /s/ Patrick T. Manning<br>Patrick T. Manning       | Chairman of the Board of Directors; Chief Executive Officer<br>(Principal Executive Officer)      | December 14, 2007 |
| /s/ Joseph P. Harper, Sr.<br>Joseph P. Harper, Sr. | President, Chief Operating Officer & Treasurer; Director  | December 14, 2007 |
| /s/ James H. Allen, Jr.<br>James H. Allen, Jr.     | Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer<br>(Principal Financial and Accounting Officer) | December 14, 2007 |
| *<br>John D. Abernathy                             | Director  | December 14, 2007 |
| *<br>Robert W. Frickel                             | Director  | December 14, 2007 |
| *<br>Donald P. Fusilli, Jr.                        | Director  | December 14, 2007 |
| *<br>Maarten D. Hemsley                            | Director  | December 14, 2007 |
| *<br>Christopher H.B. Mills                        | Director  | December 14, 2007 |

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Milton L. Scott

Director

December 14, 2007

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**Signature**

**Title**

**Date**

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David R.A. Steadman

Director

December 14, 2007

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/s/ Joseph P. Harper, Sr.

Joseph P. Harper, Sr. Attorney-in-Fact

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**EXHIBIT LIST**

| <b>Number</b> | <b>Exhibit Title</b>   |
|---------------|--|
| 1.1           | Form of Underwriting Agreement between Sterling Construction Company, Inc. and the underwriter named therein.  |
| 4.1           | Restated and Amended Certificate of Incorporation of Oakhurst Company, Inc., dated as of September 25, 1995 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3.1 to Sterling Construction Company, Inc. s Registration Statement on Form S-1, filed on November 17, 2005 (SEC File number 333-129780)).   |
| 4.2           | Certificate of Amendment of the Certificate of Incorporation of Oakhurst Company, Inc., dated as of November 12, 2001 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3.2 to Sterling Construction Company, Inc. s Registration Statement on Form S-1, filed on November 17, 2005 (SEC File number 333-129780)).   |
| 4.3           | Bylaws of Oakhurst Company, Inc. (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3.2 to its Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended February 28, 1998, filed on May 29, 1998 (SEC File No. 000-19450)).   |
| 4.4           | Amendment to Bylaws of Oakhurst Company, Inc. (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3.1 to its Current Report on Form 8-K, filed on November 13, 2007 (SEC File No. 001-31993)).   |
| 4.5           | Certificate of Designations of Oakhurst Company, Inc. s Series A Junior Participating Preferred Stock, dated as of February 10, 1998 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.2 to its Annual Report on Form 10-K, filed on May 29, 1998 (SEC File No. 000-19450)).   |
| 4.6           | Rights Agreement, dated as of December 29, 1998, by and between Oakhurst Company, Inc. and American Stock Transfer & Trust Company, including the form of Series A Certificate of Designation, the form of Rights Certificate and the Summary of Rights attached thereto as Exhibits A, B and C, respectively (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 99.1 to Oakhurst Company, Inc. s Registration Statement on Form 8-A, filed on January 5, 1999 (SEC File No. 000-19450)). |
| 4.7           | Form of Common Stock Certificate of Sterling Construction Company, Inc. (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.5 to its Form 8-A, filed on January 11, 2006 (SEC File No. 011-31993)).  |
| 5.1           | Opinion of Andrews Kurth LLP.  |
| 23.1+         | Consent of Grant Thornton LLP, independent registered public accounting firm.  |
| 23.2+         | Consent of McGladrey & Pullen LLP, independent auditors.   |
| 23.3          | Consent of Andrews Kurth LLP (included in Exhibit 5.1).  |
| 24.1+         | Power of Attorney (included on the signature page and the page following the signature page).  |

+ Previously filed.