

RECEIVED

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

OCT 8 1987

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

NATIONAL  
REGISTER

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

1. Name of Property

historic name Marine Supply and Hardware Complex  
other names/site number Anacortes Junk Co., A. Alson Building, The Anchorage

2. Location

street & number 202-218 Commercial Avenue, 1009 2nd Street  not for publication  
city, town Anacortes  vicinity  
state Washington code 053 county Skagit code 057 zip code 98221

3. Classification

|   |   |                                     |                  |
|---|---|-------------------------------------|------------------|
| Ownership of Property                       | Category of Property                            | Number of Resources within Property |                  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s) | Contributing                        | Noncontributing  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> public-local       | <input type="checkbox"/> district               | <u>4</u>                            | _____ buildings  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> public-State       | <input type="checkbox"/> site                   | _____                               | _____ sites      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal     | <input type="checkbox"/> structure              | _____                               | _____ structures |
|   | <input type="checkbox"/> object                 | <u>4</u>                            | _____ objects    |
|   |   |                                     | _____ Total      |

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this  nomination  request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  See continuation sheet.

Signature of certifying official *Carol E. Johnson* Date 9/29/87  
Washington State Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation  
 State or Federal agency and bureau

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

Signature of commenting or other official \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
 State or Federal agency and bureau \_\_\_\_\_

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register.  
 See continuation sheet.

determined eligible for the National Register.  See continuation sheet.

determined not eligible for the National Register.

removed from the National Register.

other, (explain:) \_\_\_\_\_

*Alvord Byrum* National Register 11-5-87  
 Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

## 6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Commerce/Trade - Specialty Store

Commerce/Trade - Restaurant

Domestic - Hotel

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Commerce/Trade - Specialty Store

## 7. Description

Architectural Classification  
(enter categories from instructions)

Late Victorian

Other: Commercial Vernacular

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Concrete  
walls Wood

roof Asphalt  
other Brick  
Glass  
Stone

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Marine Supply and Hardware Complex consists of four turn-of-the century commercial buildings, three of which are of wood construction and one of brick and concrete block construction. All of the buildings are vernacular in design although the brick building has a variety of eclectic decorative elements reflecting Victorian-era architectural styles. The buildings all pre-date 1907 with the exception of the shed addition occupying the alley and part of the wood building on the corner of Second and Commercial, both of which were filled in some time between 1925 and 1935. The architect and/or builder is not known for any of the buildings. All are in good condition and appear structurally sound, with the exception of the wood false front building which fronts on Second Street. It does not have a foundation and settlement has occurred. The son and grandson of longtime owner, Mike Demopoulos, continue to use the buildings as storage and retail space associated with the Marine Supply and Hardware business established by Demopoulos in 1913.

The buildings are located on Block 31, Lots 1 through 7 and 19 and 20, in the Original Plat of the City of Anacortes, Skagit County, Washington. They are two blocks south of the waterfront. Three of the four buildings front on Commercial Avenue while the fourth is mid-block on Second Street between Commercial Avenue to the east and "O" Avenue to the west. The buildings on Commercial Avenue share side walls while the building on Second Street is connected to the northernmost building on Commercial Avenue by virtue of a rather makeshift shed.

The complex lies two blocks south of the waterfront at the northern end of the downtown commercial core. The large warehouses of the Port of Anacortes' Ocean Dock lie to the north. Across Commercial to the east is a shipyard operated by Dakota Creek Industries. To the southeast is the showroom and associated facilities of a car dealership constructed c. 1930. Directly south of the complex, across Third Street, is an oil distributor occupying the building of the former Abbott Motors, a late 1920's Art Deco-inspired structure. West of this property lies a vernacular style commercial building constructed in 1920, used as a boat lumber supply store. Directly west of Building 4 lie three vacant lots beyond which are two single-family residences dating to c. 1925. The property west of Building 1 is vacant and overgrown with blackberry bushes. It is partially used as temporary storage. Diagonally across the intersection of Second and "O" from this lot is the dock and associated buildings of the highly significant Curtis Wharf, the oldest surviving dock in the city.

The buildings on Commercial Avenue consist of a large, two story brick and concrete block building (Building 4 on the map) which takes up the entire south half of the Commercial Avenue frontage, and two one-story wood buildings (Buildings 2 and 3 on the map) to the north. An alley running east-west once bisected the center of the block, separating the brick building from the wood buildings. It was filled in with a small frame addition

See continuation sheet

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 2

---

(included as part of Building 3 on the map) sometime between 1925 and 1935, thus linking the buildings and forming a continuous frontage along Commercial Avenue. Approximately 30 feet west of the corner frame building, fronting on Second Street, is a one and one-half story wooden false front building (Building 1 on the map), which at some time prior to 1907 had a two-story gabled addition attached on the south (rear) elevation. The building is surrounded on the south, east, and west elevations by an encircling, one-story shed addition composed primarily of corrugated metal sheeting, with the exception of the north elevation which is partially sheathed in horizontal wood siding. The shed addition was added some time between 1925 and 1935.

Building 1: Both sections of Building 1 are of frame construction and have gabled roofs which are covered with tar. The roof of the northernmost section is partially concealed from view by a false front. This section is approximately 30 by 50 feet and is sheathed in eight foot drop siding which has been patched in a number of places with six foot drop siding. The addition is approximately 30 by 40 feet and is sheathed in six foot drop siding. Neither section has a foundation.

The north elevation, fronting on Second Street, has a centrally placed wooden door on overhead rollers which is eight feet by seven feet ten inches. Flanking the door on the east side is a small sliding window which was added sometime after 1935. Above the door at the second story are two six-over-six double-hung sash windows. A faded painted sign across the top of the building reads: "Anacortes Junk Co. Dealers in all kinds of Junk, Metal, Machinery, Pipe, Scrap, Iron, Rubber, Barrels, Manila, Rope, Fittings, Sacks, Hides, Furs, Wool, And, Etc." The shed addition to the east of the main facade has a separate access consisting of a large door, also on overhead rollers, with a smaller inset door on hinges. The northern section of the building can also be accessed through a single, five panel door on the east elevation. The south elevation of the building, adjacent to the alley, has a large loading door which has been boarded over. Windows on the addition are multi-light fixed pane. There are three windows on the west elevation and three on the east.

Floors on the first floor of the building are constructed of 11 inch rough planks; on the second floor are three inch to five inch boards. Interior walls are unfinished boards. Both sections have second stories which are accessed by a staircase located between the two sections. It too consists of rough boards. Interior walls and partitions throughout the two sections are generally temporary in nature, constructed to allow for storage as required.

Building 2: Building 2, located at the corner of Second and Commercial Avenue, is a large, square structure, 50 by 50 feet, of frame construction with a small shed addition on the rear. The building has a post and beam foundation and there is no basement. The flat roof slopes to the rear of the building and is covered with tar. The building is sheathed in drop siding with the exception of the facade which is sheathed in lap siding.

The facade is divided into four bays typical of early commercial storefronts, with an entrance on Commercial Avenue flanked by large plate glass windows. The bays are separated by decorative paneled pilasters. The bay furthest south was boarded over some time prior to 1935. The adjacent bay to the north now acts as the main entrance. The original entrance, no longer in use, is at the corner of Second and Commercial. It is fitted with

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 3

---

glass-paned double doors which are flanked by paneled pilasters. It also has a transom. Above the entry projecting over the sidewalk is a large neon sign which reads: "Marine Supply and Hardware Co." Of undetermined age, it nonetheless appears to be pre-1960 at least.

Adorning the building on the north and east elevations are two life-size murals painted by local artist and historian Bill Mitchell. Both murals depict scenes from historic photographs which were taken in the vicinity of the building. The mural on the north elevation shows Mike Demopoulos and two other men on a flatbed truck loaded with newspapers with "Anacortes Junk Co." painted on the side. The second mural is of two woman astride a tandem bicycle with a man assisting them.

Building 3: Building 3 is also a large, square building, 50 by 50 feet, of frame construction with a small addition on the south elevation. The addition fills in a former alley 16 feet wide. There is also a shed addition on the west (rear) elevation of the building. A false front with wooden cornice and decorative brackets conceals a double gable roof which is covered with composition shingles. The foundation is post and beam and there is no basement.

The building is sheathed in drop siding. The facade is broken into three bays, each fitted with large plate glass windows and multi-light transom. The bay to the south has a recessed entry fitted with glass-paneled double doors and transom. It appears as if the bays to the north at one time shared a recessed entrance similar to the existing one; however, if they did, it was removed very early. A recently painted sign on the false front reads: "Marine Supply & Hardware Co. Established 1913."

The small addition, adjacent to the south of the building, has a flat roof covered with tar paper and a modest false front. The exterior wall is covered with drop siding. It has a small paneled door with modest architrave molding flanked by a plate glass window with the same molding. Flanking the door to the north is a mural depicting a woman with an infant in her arms.

Buildings 2 and 3 share the same type of interior finishes. Floors consist of three inch fir boards throughout. Walls are lathe and plaster over which many layers of wallpaper have been applied. Beaded wainscoting is found throughout Building 3. The interiors were joined some time prior to 1935 when a large opening was cut between the walls. The two buildings together act as the primary retail space for the business.

In general the interior arrangement of the buildings appears to be intact as built. Building 2 is divided in half, east-west, to form two large rooms with two small rooms at the rear of the northernmost room for use as offices. Building 3 consists of three large rooms divided along the same axis.

Building 4 is a two-story building, rectangular in plan, approximately 55 by 100 feet. It appears as if it were built in two phases although there is no direct evidence to substantiate this. The southern two-thirds of the building, as well as the east facade, is primarily of brick construction; however, the west (rear) elevation is partially filled in with concrete block. This portion of the building has a stone foundation and cellar. The northern third is constructed of a mix of concrete block and brick. This section of the

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**Section number 7 Page 4

building has a poured concrete foundation with full basement which extends out below the sidewalk forming a vault. Small, square, amethyst colored lights in the sidewalk provide light.

The flat roof, covered with tar, has several small skylights which have been covered over. It is concealed by a brick parapet with prominent bracketed cornice on the south and east elevations. A prominent round arched entrance on the southeast corner of the building has been partially bricked in with the remainder boarded over. A panel above this entrance once had the name "A. Olson" (the original owner) in relief. It has since been removed although the outline of the letters is still detectable.

The east elevation of the building, fronting on Commercial Avenue, is broken into four bays typical of early commercial storefronts, each with recessed entry flanked by large plate glass windows. Each bay also has a transom, above which is located a steel beam with decorative rosettes. However, the beam on the southernmost bay appears to have been retrofitted (and lacks the rosettes), although this appears to have been done early on. The plate glass windows in this bay have been boarded over and sport two murals depicting a man and a woman each on a bicycle. The entrances are fitted with glass paneled double doors.

Windows are primarily one-over-one, double-hung sash with segmental heads. There are seven sets of paired windows on the second story of the east elevation. The south elevation has four single windows at the second story and two large window openings on the first floor which have been boarded over. There are 14 windows on the west elevation, four of which are two-over-two, double-hung sash. The north elevation has four one-over-one double-hung sash windows.

There are six doors on the west (rear) elevation and one on the south. Those at the rear include two sets of multi-paneled double doors each with transom at the first floor and four single, paneled and glazed doors each with transom: one accessing the basement; one at the first floor; and two at the second floor. The northern door at the second story is accessed by a wood staircase; the other is missing its staircase. The door on the south elevation is a single, multi-paneled wood door with a large transom. The door is not currently in use. It has a mural of a man accompanied by a small dog next to a fire hydrant. Double doors, accessing the second story of the building, are located on the east elevation between the northernmost bays. Focus is drawn to these doors by elaborate brick and stonework in a checkerboard pattern on the wall above and by two large brackets on the cornice further above.

Decorative features are elaborate compared to most commercial structures in Anacortes. Brick and rusticated stone blocks are juxtaposed, creating a variety of decorative patterns at entrances, corners, and window heads. Two beltcourses of stone and brick wrap around the south and east elevations at the second story floor line and below the parapet, which is adorned with a large cornice and ribbed brackets of varied sizes. Window and door openings have brick relieving arches anchored by large stone blocks.

The interior floor plan of both the first and second floors of the building appear intact as built. The first floor consists of four large rooms of the same approximate size, with the axis running east-west, constructed for use as retail space. The second floor,

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number   7   Page   5  

---

originally used for lodging, consists of a double loaded corridor off of which there are 25 sleeping rooms and two bathrooms. The second floor is accessed by a staircase, noted above, which is five feet in width and has an elaborately turned hand rail and newel post. Flooring throughout the building consist of three inch boards. Portions of the flooring on the first story have been covered with linoleum. Walls are lath and plaster, some of which have been covered with vinyl paneling. Door and window trim on the second floor is simple, capped with architrave moldings. Trim on the first floor is fluted and has bull's-eye moldings.

**8. Statement of Significance**

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

nationally  statewide  locally

Applicable National Register Criteria  A  B  C  D

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

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)  
Architecture  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Period of Significance  
c. 1902-1907  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Dates  
c. 1902-1907  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Cultural Affiliation  
N/A  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Person  
N.A.  
\_\_\_\_\_

Architect/Builder  
Not Known  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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

The Marine Supply and Hardware complex is a significant group of well preserved turn-of-the-century commercial buildings which reflect the vernacular building types of the period and illustrate the growth of the Anacortes waterfront commercial district. Physically contiguous, the buildings chart the evolution of commercial building types in the city, ranging from frame "boomtown" structures with false fronts to substantial brick buildings which incorporate the fashionable Renaissance motifs of the day. No other group of structures in the city so clearly reflects the changing character and scale of commercial structures from the period. The complex is also associated with longtime owner Efthimios "Mike" Demopoulos, a Greek immigrant whose rags to riches story is reflected in the buildings, and who made important contributions to the community.

Historical Background: In the years before Washington statehood (1889), the area that is today Anacortes consisted of isolated settlements scattered along the waterfront. By the mid-1880's, however, enormous enthusiasm was generated throughout Washington Territory for a transcontinental railway terminus in the region. A number of promoters, land speculators and others believed that the natural deep water harbor at Anacortes was an ideal location for the terminus. Fueled by the speculation, the area grew almost overnight from a collection of small settlements to an incipient city of broad streets, brick buildings and substantial homes. The speculation was short-lived, however; the boom collapsed in 1892 when the Northern Pacific Railroad selected Tacoma as its terminus.

By the late 1890's, the community had begun to recover from the collapse and to awake to the potential for exploitation of the rich natural resources lying at its doorstep, particularly timber and fisheries. Between 1900 and 1910, the city once again experienced a tremendous boom, though not nearly as spectacular as the first. During this time the population increased more than four-fold as people moved to the area to work in the rapidly growing new industries.

The opportunity to make a living from the sea drew a number of different ethnic groups to Anacortes, many of whom came from the northern Adriatic where fishing had been a way of life for thousands of years. During the late 19th and early 20th centuries, the Austrian Empire was collapsing and the upheaval caused by the Balkan wars led many people to leave their native land and emigrate to the United States.

See continuation sheet

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

Anacortes American, May 24, 1956; July 1, 1981.  
Demopoulos, Steve. Interview, June 17, 1987, Anacortes, Washington.  
Land Title Company Records, Mt. Vernon, Washington.  
McKee, Mr. and Mrs. Don. Interview, June 17, 1987, Anacortes, Washington.  
Sanborn Insurance Maps, 1907, 1914, 1925, 1935.  
Willis, Margaret. Skagit Settlers - Trials and Triumphs, 1890-1920, Skagit County Historical Society, Mt. Vernon, 1975.

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 # \_\_\_\_\_

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository: \_\_\_\_\_

**10. Geographical Data**

Acresage of property less than one

UTM References

A 

|   |   |
|---|---|
| 1 | 0 |
|---|---|

|   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 5 | 2 | 8 | 6 | 7 | 0 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 5 | 3 | 7 | 4 | 0 | 2 | 0 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|

Zone      Easting      Northing

B 

|  |  |
|--|--|
|  |  |
|--|--|

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|--|--|--|
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|--|--|--|

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|

Zone      Easting      Northing

C 

|  |  |
|--|--|
|  |  |
|--|--|

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|--|--|--|
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|--|--|--|

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|

D 

|  |  |
|--|--|
|  |  |
|--|--|

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|--|--|--|
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|--|--|--|

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

Lots 1 through 7 and Lots 19 through 20, Block 31 Original Plat of Anacortes. Within the Northwest quarter of the Southwest quarter of Section 18, Township 35 North, Range 2 East, Willamette Meridian.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes the entire city lots that have historically been associated with the property.

See continuation sheet

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Julie Koler  
organization Koler/Morrison Consultants date 06/30/87  
street & number 3121 NE 35th Place telephone (503) 249-1949  
city or town Portland state Oregon zip code 97212

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 2

Croatians, Slovenians, Bosnians, and other Slavic groups, as well as Greeks, Italians, and Bulgarians, made their way to the United States. News of the excellent fishing in the Puget Sound region began reaching the eastern United States around the turn of the century. Times were hard and the newly-arrived immigrants were not accustomed to the jobs of a rapidly industrializing nation. Many came west searching for a way of life with which they were familiar and, of those, many arrived in Anacortes. Names of Croatian, Slavic, Italian, and Greek origin are still found in significant numbers in the community today.

Mike Demopoulos: Among the immigrants in the early 20th century was Mike Demopoulos, who through hard work and frugal living built a fortune and left an indelible imprint on the community. Born in Brallos, Greece, on July 24, 1889, Demopoulos emigrated to the United States in 1907 at the age of 17. He traveled west soon after landing at Ellis Island. His daughter, Mrs. Don (Billie) McKee, relates that at that time he spoke little English and had no money. He was given a meal by a Greek family who operated a restaurant in Anacortes. He left shortly afterward traveling and working throughout the Northwest including Portland and Seattle, where he worked for a time in the shipyard of Robert Moran. He returned to Anacortes in 1913.

Some time after arriving in Anacortes, Demopoulos reportedly took up residence in the second-story apartment of the California Fruit Store Building, near the heart of the busy Anacortes business district on Commercial Avenue. The building that was his early residence is now located one-half block from the Marine Supply and Hardware Complex on Third Street.

At some point during this period he reportedly borrowed \$13 to purchase a metal chain which he subsequently re-sold thereby launching the "Anacortes Junk Co." He later changed the name of the business to the "Marine Supply and Hardware Co." At the time of his death in 1981, it was reported to be the "longest established business by any one person in Skagit County" (Anacortes American, July 1, 1981, p. 5).

In 1916, Demopoulos bought the small wooden building at 1009 Second Street, formerly a livery stable, to house his growing business. Informants indicate that in the early days of his business Demopoulos gathered junk and scrap in a wheelbarrow, later graduating to a horse and wagon, and from that to a flatbed truck. The business prospered. During the World Wars, Demopoulos found his scrap metal in great demand and made healthy profits. In 1924, he purchased the wood frame building at the corner of Second and Commercial, expanding to accommodate his growing business. It was about this time that he changed the name of the business to Marine Supply and Hardware.

During the early years of his business Demopoulos reportedly took in many newly arrived immigrants, many of whom could speak little if any English, and gave them work in return for a roof over their heads. They lived in the second floor of the old livery stable until moving on.

He also prospered during the Depression. During this period he acquired numerous pieces of property throughout the city through tax foreclosures and other distress sales. In 1956 he donated ten square city blocks of waterfront property to the Port of Anacortes, enabling them to establish the Cap Sante Marina. This was one of the largest contributions by a

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 3

private individual in the history of the city and it had important implications for the future growth and diversification of the Port's activities.

In addition to his business enterprises, Demopoulos was active in civic affairs. He was a charter member of the Anacortes Kiwanis Club, and a life member of the Elks Lodge and Anacortes Chamber of Commerce. He also was a member of the Order of AHEPA, the Anacortes Park Board, and the Board of American Red Cross. He was a member of the Orthodox Churches of the Assumption, Saint Demetrios of Seattle, and the Greek Orthodox Church of Saint Sophia of Bellingham.

Architectural Significance: The Marine Supply and Hardware buildings are significant by virtue of being the only remaining contiguous group of historic commercial buildings in the city which retain physical integrity. While perhaps of lesser importance individually, collectively they contribute to the visual character and strong sense of place within the area. The buildings are also of interest for representing several different building types common to the late 19th and early 20th century.

The development of Anacortes' commercial core followed the same pattern as many western Washington towns. The early buildings were small wooden structures, generally with a gabled roof and false front with cornice. Often constructed in a slapdash fashion, they were usually without a foundation. Building 1 in the ensemble, the former Mortenson livery, is typical of the earliest frame commercial structures of the period. Except for a false front which rises above the gabled roof, the building is strictly utilitarian in character. Today, it is in fair to poor condition because of severe settlement resulting from the lack of a foundation. It remains, nonetheless, an excellent example of a building type of which only a few remain.

The building appears on the 1907 Sanborn Insurance Map as a livery and transfer shop and title records indicate the property was purchased from the Seattle and Northern Railroad by Anton Mortenson in 1902. Mortenson owned the property until 1907 when it was sold to R.T. Fluke who in turn sold to Demopoulos in 1916.

The high attrition of other early frame structures is due primarily to the rapid growth of the community during the boom years and the corresponding replacement of the early frame buildings with larger and more substantial structures. Buildings 2, 3, and 4 in the ensemble represent the transition. Buildings 2 and 3 are of wood frame, false-fronted "boomtown" style buildings with a minimum of decorative detail but ample storefront bays and (in Building 3) a bracketed cornice. They were constructed to provide retail space in the thriving waterfront area, which during the early 20th century was bustling with fishermen, lumbermen, newly arrived immigrants, and others anxious to partake of the booming economy. The 1907 Sanborn Insurance Map indicates that Building 2 was in use at that time as a grocery and shooting gallery while Building 3 contained a meat shop and cigar and fruit store.

It appears likely that the original owner of Building 2 was W.E. Harbert who purchased the property from M.E. and Clara Thompson in 1902 and owned it until 1924 when Demopoulos bought it. There are no photographs or other documentation establishing the date of construction, nor is there any documentation establishing the date of construction for Building 3. The property was purchased at a sheriff's sale in 1901 by Louis and Minnie

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 4

---

Foss. In 1910 the Foss Investment Company sold the building to Clara Hilton who sold to Demopoulos in 1930. The building was probably constructed during the time the Foss Investment Company owned the property.

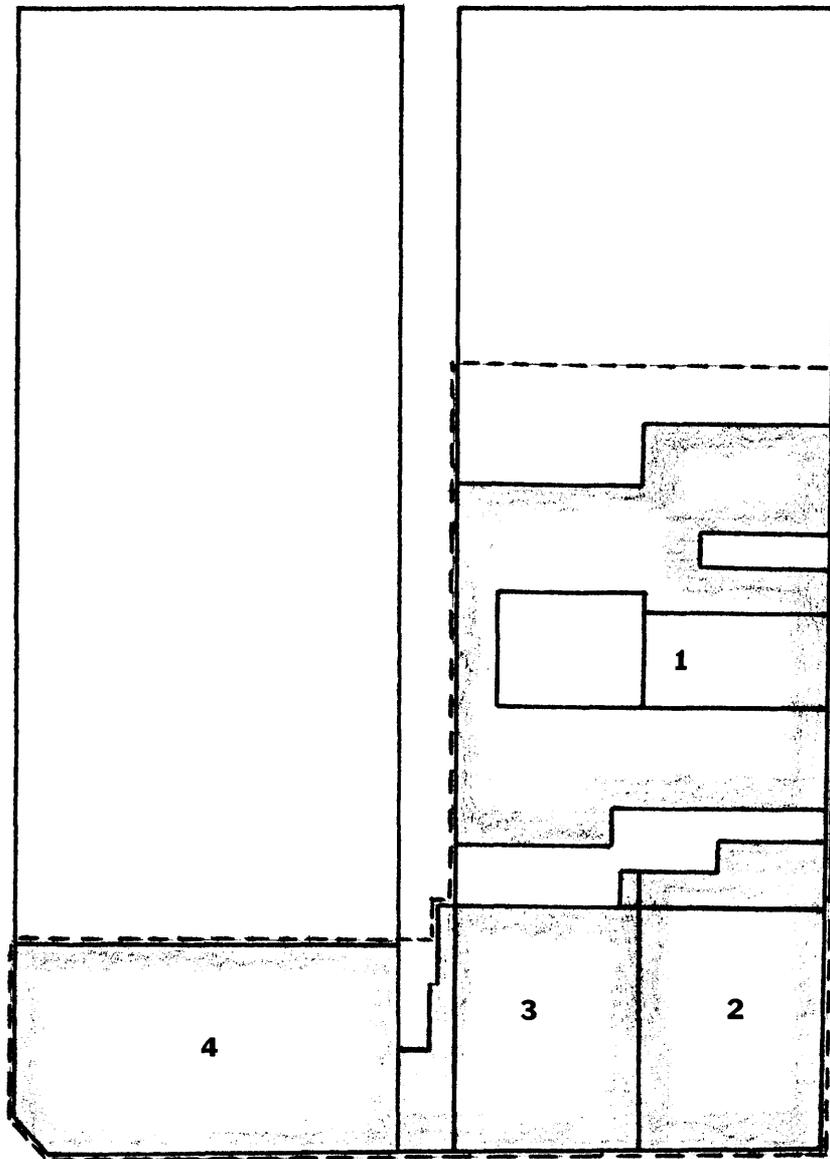
Building 4 in the ensemble is of masonry construction and is the most substantial and ornate of all the buildings. Here, time and money was taken to build an exceptionally handsome structure for use as a cafe and saloon with lodging on the second floor. The scale of the structure and the use of stylish motifs from the popular architectural idioms of the day indicate the advanced sophistication of the builder. The original owner was Alfred Olson who bought the property in two phases. The south half was purchased in 1900 from D.L. Ruffin. The south half of the north half was purchased in 1906 from J.F. Liggett. According to title company records, Olson never received title to the north 25 feet of the lots on which the building was built. It is not known just what the arrangements were for construction of the building although it would appear that the ownership of the lots had something to do with the unusual construction of the building (see description section). Olson, however, is credited with having built the building. Construction undoubtedly took place some time between 1900 and 1907 at which time it appears on the Sanborn Map.

Olson operated a saloon and later a cafe for a number of years in the south half of the building. His wife, Anna Marie Olson, sold the property to Demopoulos in 1937. At this point Demopoulos had title to all of the properties included in this nomination with the exception of the north 25 feet of the Olson Building which he was not able to purchase until 1976. Today the first floor of the building is used for storage for the Marine Supply and Hardware Co. The second floor is vacant with the exception of several rooms which are rented as an apartment.

Today the Marine Supply and Hardware Complex stands as a true landmark of the community, serving as a critical visual link between the downtown commercial core and the Anacortes waterfront and an important reflection of the early commercial building types of the city. Through their association with Mike Demopoulos, the buildings symbolize the classic American story of an immigrant's success and his contributions to the community which fostered it. It should also be noted that the Marine Supply and Hardware store is a de facto museum containing a tremendous variety of marine paraphernalia and is a widely known visitor attraction in Anacortes.

3rd St.

2nd St.



Commercial Ave.

1" : 50'



**MARINE SUPPLY & HARDWARE COMPLEX**  
Anacortes, Skagit County, WA