

# DATA SHEET

Form 10-300  
(Rev. 6-72)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Washington
COUNTY: King
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE FEB 24 1975

### 1. NAME

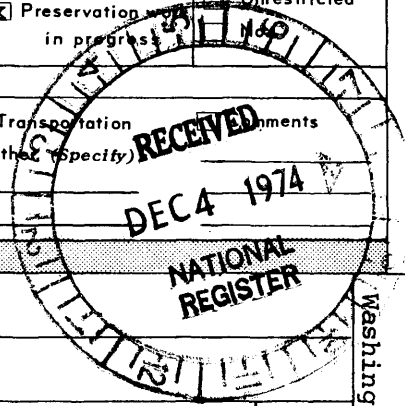
COMMON: Barnes Building
AND/OR HISTORIC: Ionic Masonic Hall No. 7

### 2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: 2320-2322 First Avenue			
CITY OR TOWN: Seattle		CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: #1 - Honorable Joel Pritchard	
STATE Washington	CODE 53	COUNTY: King	CODE 033

### 3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Preservation in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Educational <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)



### 4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: Brooke A. Barnes		
STREET AND NUMBER: 12207 86th Avenue N.E.		
CITY OR TOWN: Kirkland	STATE: Washington	CODE: 53

### 5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: King County Administration Bldg.		
STREET AND NUMBER: 4th & James		
CITY OR TOWN: Seattle	STATE: Washington	CODE: 53

### 6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: None			
DATE OF SURVEY: <input type="checkbox"/> Federal <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local			
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
CITY OR TOWN:	STATE:	CODE:	

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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**7. DESCRIPTION**

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Barnes Building is located in mid-block on the east side of First Avenue in Seattle's Belltown area, slightly north of the central business district facing Elliott Bay. It is a four story brick bearing wall commercial structure adjoining the Austin A. Bell building to the north and a vacant lot to the south. The Bell Building, also four stories, is somewhat taller by virtue of a high, decorative parapet. Both of these are the works of Elmer H. Fisher, principal architect of Seattle's reconstruction period following the great fire of 1889.

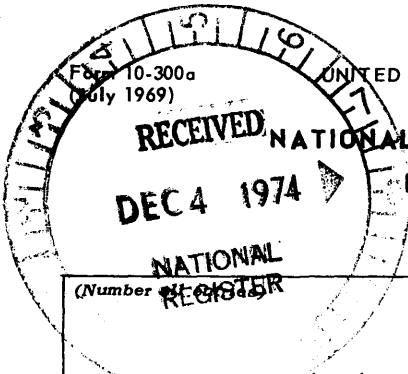
The ground floor of the Barnes Building consists of a wide storefront on the left with a formal entrance to the upper stories on the right. The shop space is entered through a recessed doorway centered and set back between display windows. Also recessed, the formal entry is behind an archway consisting of a false parapet gable end with decorative coping and corbeling resting on piers flanking the opening. This assembly projects several inches from the facade and the double doors behind it are up two steps from the sidewalk.

The display windows are large areas of plate glass each divided in the center by a vertical mullion. Above these are large transom windows vertically divided into five lights with a horizontal muntin running across these toward the top. The panes above this are each divided in two, resulting in three horizontal bands of lights that increase in size from top down, all maintaining the same ratio of height to width.

Spanning over the storefront between the formal entrance and a pier joined to the Bell Building is a continuous brick faced lintel with mouldings along the top and bottom. This carries the upper stories above it.

The second, third and fourth stories are divided into four bays by piers running up the facade. The second and fourth bays (left to right) are somewhat narrower than the other two. The fourth bay is positioned over the arched entrance with pilasters directly behind and above the flanking piers. This bay is intended to be read as if it were a compositionally separate tower attached generally flush with the remaining building, an effect achieved by continuing both pilasters uninterrupted to their capstones while the remaining intermediate pilasters are perceptibly shorter and their line is broken at the base of the parapet by a continuous horizontal moulding (corresponding to the lintel plumb below it and also the same width as the storefront). The tower effect is further emphasized by a different fenestration: the defining pilasters are offset slightly forward and are corbelled out farther near the top, and the parapet

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Form 10-300a  
July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES**  
**INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

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(Number of REGISTER)

#7 - Description  
Barnes Building (1)

between is extended upward into a false gable and corresponding to the one directly below crowning the arched entrance. This entrance also becomes a discrete base for the "tower".

The windows on the upper floors in the three bays over the storefront are symmetrically arranged in vertical and horizontal alignment within a rectangle defined by the pilaster next to the Bell Building, the pilaster at the edge of the "tower", the horizontal moulding above and the brick faced lintel below. The two intermediate pilasters are positioned just above either side of the recessed entrance to the shop space, with the bay in between them somewhat narrower than the pair flanking it. Windows are double hung with an arched transom light above on the second and third floors which consists of a central glazed area surrounded by a narrow band of small decorative panes. The window openings are in shallow panel recesses with two double hung sashes to each recess in the outside bays. On the second and third floors, both windows are included under a single arch, while fourth floor windows have a separate arch for each sash separated by a brick mullion. The second and fourth floors have segmental arches and those on the the third floor are semi-circular. These window groups become increasingly taller from the top floor down. The spandrels include decorative brickwork different for each floor.

In the tower portion, the windows are not in line horizontally with the others. Pairs of very narrow double hung sashes are used on second and third floors, while a single sash is used on the fourth floor, although this is a recent replacement. The types of arches employed on the third and fourth floors are the reverse of the types used on those floors over the storefront, the semicircular arch being on top in this case.

On the south side of the building facing the parking lot is a sheer brick wall without windows or decoration, apparently anticipating the construction of neighboring buildings. This wall is now occupied by a billboard and a recently painted wall graphics advertisement.

The interior has been altered in several places, and a fire stair and freight elevator have been added although many of the interesting features are basically intact. Notable among these is the front stairwell with decorative newel posts, balustrade and wainscoting on a cantilevered stair rising along the walls of an open shaft with a skylight centered overhead. There is also a grand ballroom/assembly hall

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#7 - Description  
Barnes Building (2)

with a high cove ceiling two stories above the floor, and throughout the upper levels the window enframements are ornamentally detailed.

The Barnes Building gives the impression of having once provided the most elegant facilities that could be obtained with the limited funds that were available.



**4. SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |                                       |  |                                       |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century            | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century  | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century |                                       |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) **1889**

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |   |   |  |
|--|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal              | <input type="checkbox"/> Education              | <input type="checkbox"/> Political                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric             | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering            | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy            | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic                | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry               | <input type="checkbox"/> Science                        | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture             | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention              | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture                      | _____                                    |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature             | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater                        | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce                | <input type="checkbox"/> Military               | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation                 | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                  |   | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation            |   |   | _____                                    |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The building at 2320 First Avenue was built in 1888 as an Odd Fellows Hall in Belltown, then a separate community north of Seattle. It was located on Front Street, as First Avenue was then called, on a bluff near the crest of Belltown overlooking Elliott Bay.

Austin A. Bell, promoter and developer of Belltown, was planning the construction of a new four story brick building on the lot next door. He commissioned architect Elmer H. Fisher to design the building, Fisher also having drawn plans for Odd Fellows Hall. Work continued on both structures, but meanwhile Bell committed suicide for reasons of imagined ill health. The Bell Building was completed by his widow.

Born in Scotland in 1840, Elmer Fisher immigrated to the United States at the age of seventeen. He studied architecture for five years in Massachusetts and then moved progressively westward, practicing in Minnesota, Colorado, Victoria, B.C. and then Seattle. Fisher submitted designs for the Seattle Armory in 1888 which was completed that year after his first visit to the area.

In June, 1889, a disastrous fire destroyed nearly all of the frame buildings in Seattle's downtown business district. The city was rebuilt in a flurry of activity. Wood structures were replaced with masonry construction of brick and stone. In two years following the fire more than 3,500 building permits were issued, enough to support forty-two architects in Seattle.

In that same two year period Elmer Fisher designed and supervised construction of fifty-one of those buildings involving an expenditure of two and a half million dollars. Some considered him the dean of Pacific Northwest architects and he was certainly the most prolific designer during the brisk reconstruction period. His work and his influence produced a continuity and harmony of architectural style which is still observable today in Seattle's historic buildings, though fewer than a dozen of his own structures remain. Each project was designed individually with a distinct character of its own.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Hill, Robert C., For The Glory Of God - The Story of the Masonic Movement in Seattle. Seattle Masonic Temple Inc., 1966.

Wheeler, Labbin H., History of St. John's Lodge No. 9 F. & A.M. of Seattle, Washington. St. John's Lodge, 1943.

**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

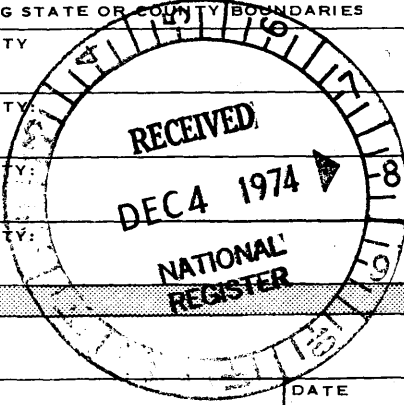
LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		47° 36' 53"	122° 20' 49"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

10/549070  
5273466  
CD

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **Less than one**

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



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**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE: **Brooke A. Barnes**

ORGANIZATION: **Owner** DATE: **January, 1974**

STREET AND NUMBER: **12207 86th Avenue N.E.**

CITY OR TOWN: **Kirkland** STATE: **Washington** CODE: **53**

**12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National  State  Local

Name: Charles H. Odegaard  
**Charles H. Odegaard**

Title: Director - Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission

Date: Nov. 26, 1974

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Arthur H. Hays  
Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 2/24/75

ATTEST:

Anthony J. Emery  
Keeper of the National Register

Date: Feb 21, 1975

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

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#8 - Significance  
Barnes Building

The early history and ownership of the Odd Fellows building is confused by apparently contradictory information; however, its design is credited to Elmer Fisher and it is known that in 1901 Seattle Commandery No. 2, Knights Templar purchased the property "at 2320 First Avenue, known as the Odd Fellows Hall. This was a brick building of good proportions with a hall on the second floor of satisfactory size". It then became the offices and lodge hall for St. John's Lodge No. 9, Free and Accepted Masons, in which service it remained until 1916.

Around 1946, the Masonic Lodge building was condemned by the fire marshal because it lacked a legitimate fire stair, and Benton Sterling bought the structure for use as a sleeping bag factory for which it subsequently served for 27 years. Currently the Barnes Building is occupied by an electronics store and a classical dance company. It is being renovated to sound, presentable condition with care and consideration for retaining the original work wherever it can be salvaged.

The Barnes Building is significant as one of the few surviving examples of Elmer Fisher's work in Seattle. Fisher's numerous late Victorian eclectic commercial buildings set the style and quality that characterized Seattle's first period of development in permanent masonry structures.

Sharing a common wall, the Barnes Building and the Bell Building (listed in the National Register) stand side by side as complimentary works of this influential architect; the former structure was built on a restricted budget in contrast to the latter of more opulent design. Both buildings are also physically and historically pivotal structures in the Belltown district where they remain taller and somewhat out of scale with other facades in the area, evidencing the nucleus of a development effort that never materialized to expectations.

