

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:	Washington
COUNTY:	King
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY DATE	JUN 19 1973

**1. NAME**

COMMON:  
Old Public Safety Building

AND/OR HISTORIC:

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Fourth Avenue and Terrace, and Fifth Avenue & Yesler Way

CITY OR TOWN: Seattle

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: #1 - Hon. 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	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PUBLIC ACQUISITION: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered			
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input 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:  
Yesler Corporation

STREET AND NUMBER:  
715 John Street

CITY OR TOWN: Seattle

STATE: Washington

CODE: 53

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
King County Auditor's Office

STREET AND NUMBER:  
County Courthouse

CITY OR TOWN: Seattle

STATE: Washington

CODE: 53

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
None

DATE OF SURVEY:  Federal  State  County

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

STATE:

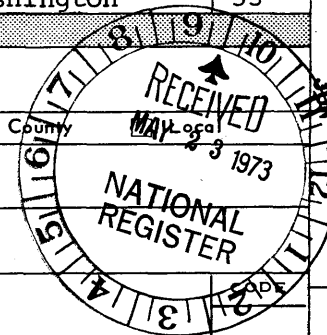
SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Washington

COUNTY: King

ENTRY NUMBER: 53

DATE:



FOR NPS USE ONLY

7 DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Flatiron in shape, the Old Public Safety Building stands five stories high and has two and a half basements. The walls are comprised of steel beams and posts encased in concrete; whereas, the floors are poured concrete, reinforced with steel mesh.

The exterior is combination brick and stone, and the windows are wood casements. The curved facade at roofline is sheet metal with decorative framed zinc joints. The top shell of the building is concrete and metal flashed, with a mopped tar cover.

Most of the building's 90,000 square feet of space remain unused, and the unoccupied rooms stand with rubbish strewn floors and broken windows. There is, however, an eighty car garage and an auto body shop in one section of the building.

The Old Public Safety Building is structurally sound, but in disrepair. Renovation is being considered to develop the building into condominium offices. If this is done, the exterior will be restored to its original appearance.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**SIGNIFICANCE**

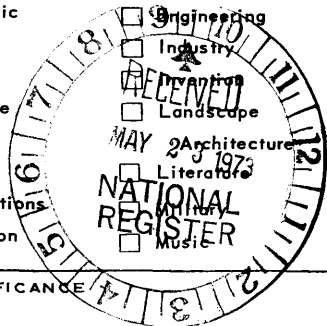
PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian |  16th Century |  18th Century |  20th Century  
 15th Century |  17th Century |  19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1909

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic                | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry               | <input type="checkbox"/> Science                        | <u>city govt. history</u>                           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture             | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape              | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture                      | _____   |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature             | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater                        | _____   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce                |   | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation                 | _____   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications          |   |   | _____   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation            |   |   | _____   |



STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Public Safety Building was designed by Architect Clayton D. Wilson, and completed in 1909 at an approximate cost of \$330,000. The building was intended to house the city's jail, emergency hospital, and municipal court.

Upon completion, however, all the municipal offices moved in, and the building was overcrowded until the County-City Building was erected six years later. After that time, the Old Public Safety Building reverted to its intended use and housed the jail, the city hospital, the municipal court, and the health clinics. The court was reportedly the only one in the country that rung up fines on a cash register.

By 1918, the building was again cramped and unclean; and the hospital was often in danger of losing its "Grade A" rating. Annual admissions into the hospital and health clinics were 2,000 and 40,000 patients respectively.

Between 1920 and 1936, several mayors attempted to remodel the building and reorganize its departments. Despite the spending of over \$128,000, the building remained congested and inadequate.

In 1951, the structure was abandoned when a new Public Safety Building was constructed. Owners of the Old Public Safety Building have since continuously pondered a use to prevent its being razed.

Patterned after New York City's Flatiron Building, the Old Public Safety Building was Seattle's first serious attempt at municipal construction. For many years, the structure's large mass embraced all the city's social and humanitarian functions. Eventually it housed only the jail and Police Department.

Today, the dark triangular form sits adjacent to other nearby municipal and county buildings. Furthermore, it stands as a transitional link between the city's newer buildings and the Victorian area (Pioneer Square Historic District) to the immediate southwest.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Kurfiss, Lawrence. Seattle's Old Public Safety Building, A Brief History, 1972. Two-page report researched for City of Seattle.

**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

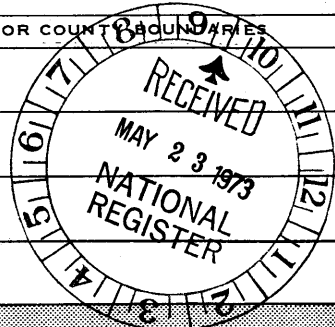
LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "		47 36 08	122 19 38	
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

10/550620  
5272100  
CD

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: One acre

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE: Margaret A. Corley, King County Liaison

ORGANIZATION: Seattle Historical Society DATE: Jan. 3, 1973

STREET AND NUMBER: 2161 East Hamlin Street

CITY OR TOWN: Seattle STATE: Washington CODE: 53

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

<p>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:</p> <p>National <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> Local <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Name <u>Charles H. Odegaard</u> Charles H. Odegaard</p> <p>Title <u>Director - Washington State Parks &amp; Recreation Commission</u></p> <p>Date <u>May 10, 1973</u></p>	<p>I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.</p> <p><u>Robert W. Utley</u> Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation</p> <p>Date <u>6/19/73</u></p> <p>ATTEST:</p> <p><u>[Signature]</u> Keeper of the National Register</p> <p>Date <u>6 14 73</u></p>
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