

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

AUG 12 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 U.S. Immigration Building
other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number 84 Union Street not for publication
city, town Seattle vicinity
state Washington code 053 (WA) county King code 033 zip code 98102

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>1</u>	<u> </u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u> </u>	<u> </u> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<u> </u>	<u> </u> structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> 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] Date 7/30/87
Signature of certifying official
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): _____

William B. Bushong 9/14/87

Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Government: other: immigration stationCommerce/Trade: organizational

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Work in progress

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Late 19th and early 20th centuryAmerican Movements: commercial vernacular

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation concretewalls brick

roof other: tarother terra cotta

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The U. S. Immigration Building, located at 84 Union Street in downtown Seattle, is a four story plus basement, wood framed masonry structure. The building is rectangular in plan and is clad in red brick with cream-colored terra cotta decorative trim. The building was designed by the architectural firm of Charles Herbert Bebb and Carl Gould, and developed by Sound Investment Co. In the years since its construction in 1915, the building has played an important role in the history of the city and is associated with the federal immigration service and the Cannery Workers and Farm Laborers Union. Utilitarian in design, the building retains its exterior character despite serious interior modifications. The building is in generally good condition and maintains its essential integrity.

Setting: The U.S. Immigration Building occupies a 60' x 120' parcel at the northeast corner of Union and Western streets. The building is located south of historic Pike Place Market and is surrounded by both new construction and historic warehouses. The building is located two blocks east of Seattle's waterfront along the Puget Sound.

Original appearance and subsequent changes: The building's front elevation faces west along Western Avenue. This four story elevation is composed of three bays, with a wide central bay flanked by two narrower side bays. The facade is clad in stretcher bond brick. The ground floor is composed of brick pilasters which separate three storefront bays. The storefronts retain original double rows of metal casement transom windows. However, much of the storefront systems have been lost or covered with plywood. Above the ground story, corbelled brickwork supports a thin cast stone belt course separating the first and second stories. The central bays of the upper floors feature four contiguous double hung, one-over-one wood sash windows. The side bays each have one double hung sash window. The cornice is ornamented with decorative terra cotta, including cartouches and diamond shaped panels. Herringbone pattern brick is employed at the corners. Two wrought iron fire escapes also appear on the facade.

The building's south side elevation, facing Union Street, is divided into ten equal-sized bays. This elevation is distinct from the primary (west) facade in several regards. Due to the upward slope heading east, the building is only three stories (corresponding to floors two through four) at the eastern edge of the south face. Consequently, the ground floor of the south elevation is irregular. There is one storefront bay toward the west edge of the elevation, which features metal casement transom windows (although the rest of the storefront is missing). The ground floor also features irregularly spaced doors and windows. The easternmost bay of the second floor features a principal building entry framed by fluted Doric pilasters and capped by a terra cotta architrave and decorative cast stone lintel. Other features of the south facade include the stretcher bond brick facing, terra cotta cartouches and panels at the cornice, herringbone brick at the corners and a cast stone lintel at the second floor.

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The building's two non-street elevations are more mundane in character and detail. The east (rear) elevation is three stories in height and faces an alley. It features an irregular configuration of openings which have been altered over the years, due in part to extensive weather damage. A wood bridge connects the top of this facade to Union Street above. The north side elevation is also very plain in character with only four openings with one over one double hung wood sash windows. This elevation was altered in 1946 when an 18' x 47' light well was filled in to create additional space. The tie bar ends are visible where the infill occurred.

Interior: The interior of the building has been significantly altered due to major remodeling which occurred over the years, and due more recently to the condemning and gutting of the building in the 1970s. The original ground floor interior consisted of three long, narrow store spaces which fronted on Western Avenue. The second floor (identified as the first floor in the original plans) featured an entry vestibule and application room in the southeast corner; dining, kitchen and bathroom spaces at the lowest level of the light court; and unfinished space in the western portion of the building. The third floor featured several large sleeping rooms connected by a central east-west corridor. The fourth floor was divided into a number of small, individual offices.

The building's interior was remodeled in 1938 and again in 1946, both times to accommodate new tenants. The scope of each remodel consisted primarily of the rearrangement of partition walls, although the 1946 remodel also included filling in the light well along the northern edge of the building. Due to the gutting of the building in the 1970s, very little of the original interior fabric remains with the exception of the entry stair on the south elevation.

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)

Politics/government

Period of Significance

1916-1931

Significant Dates

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Charles Herbert Bebb

Carl F. Gould

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

The U. S. Immigration Building in downtown Seattle was constructed in 1915, designed by Seattle architects Bebb and Gould, and significantly associated with the history of immigration in the Pacific Northwest. From 1916 until 1931, the building was the regional headquarters of the federal immigration service and a port of entry for thousands of aliens arriving in the United States. From the late 1930s until 1943, the building served as the headquarters of the Filipino-dominated Cannery Workers and Farm Laborers Union and was a hiring hall for the great Alaska salmon canneries.

U.S. Immigration Service: The federal Office of the Superintendent of Immigration was established in 1891 as a permanent agency within the U.S. Treasury Department. Four years later, the office was superseded by the Bureau of Immigration. In 1903, the bureau was transferred to the Department of Commerce and Labor and in 1913 to the newly formed Department of Labor where it remained until 1940.

As the immigration service grew at the turn of the century, the need for adequate facilities increased. In addition to enforcing immigration laws, the immigration service was required to examine aliens and detain those who had arrived without proper documentation or in poor health. As a result, the federal government began to acquire buildings to house aliens in sanitary facilities away from the general population but accessible to the immigration offices. Among the early immigrant stations constructed by the federal government at the time were those at Ellis Island, N.Y (1892); Honolulu (1905); and Angel Island, CA (1906).

The original immigration station and headquarters in the Puget Sound district was located at Port Townsend. By 1907, however, the volume of business had increased and the headquarters was moved to a wood frame building at Seattle's Smith Cove (although Port Townsend remained a port of entry). In 1916, a new Seattle headquarters and immigration station (especially suited to handle the requirements of the Chinese Exclusion Act) was approved and the service was relocated to the newly completed four story brick building at 84 Union Street near the city's public market.

The new location provided ample room for both administrative duties and for examining and housing aliens. Immigration bureau offices occupied the fourth floor, while the lower floors housed aliens, doctor's offices, kitchens, and general office space. In the early years, besides Commissioner Henry White and his assistant, there were 68 employees,

See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

See Continuation Sheet

See continuation sheet

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 # _____

- Primary location of additional data:
- State historic preservation office
 - Other State agency
 - Federal agency
 - Local government
 - University
 - Other
- Specify repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property less than one

USGS quad: Seattle South, WA (7.5) Scale: 1: 24,000

UTM References

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Zone Easting Northing

B

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Zone Easting Northing

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D

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See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

Lot 12, Block F of the A.A. Denny Addition in the City of Seattle, Washington.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The nominated property includes the parcel historically associated with the U.S. Immigration Station.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title John Tess (edited by Leonard Garfield, OAHP)

organization Heritage Investment Corporation date February 4, 1987 (May 1987)

street & number 123 N.W. Second Avenue telephone (503) 228-0272

city or town Portland state Oregon zip code 97209

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including 17 guards, 20 stenographers, 4 matrons, 16 inspectors, 5 interpreters, and 6 others. Duties of the employees included examining aliens applying for admission, investigating aliens for possible deportation, and prosecuting those who violated immigration laws.

The immigration service quarters was Seattle's "Little Ellis Island" through which thousands first sought entrance to the United States. An interview with Commissioner Luther Weedon in 1928 indicated that many thousands of aliens applied for entrance in Seattle each year of which 25% were Japanese and 25% were Chinese. In addition, Weedon estimated that 97,000 seamen were examined annually and that between 3000 and 4000 deportation cases were investigated each year.

As many as 750 aliens were detained in the building at one time, including persons held for violating immigration laws, others awaiting deportation, and still others awaiting a final decision on their admission. Under the provisions of the Chinese Exclusion Act, all Chinese aliens were taken immediately to the immigration station. Aliens were segregated according to sex, given baths, assigned uniforms and kept away from the general population.

By 1929, the federal government began designing a new Seattle facility with larger dormitories, recreation areas, and an infirmary. The new station, located on Airport Way South (and entered in the National Register in 1979), was occupied by the service in 1931.

Background history: The property at 84 Union Street was initially purchased from the Denny estate in 1904 by the Sound Investment Corporation. In 1912., the corporation merged with the firm of Duggan, Hastie, Cawsey and Lohse and was renamed the Sound Investment Company. The new firm constructed the building in 1915.

The principals of Sound Investment included president J.M. Duggan of Tacoma; vice president John Hastie, Sr., of Ontario, Canada; secretary Charles Cawsey, also of Ontario; and treasurer Henry Lohse, Jr., of Seattle. According to contemporary accounts, Lohse was a contractor who supervised construction of such structures as the Northern Life Tower and Washington Athletic Club in Seattle and buildings on the Capitol campus in Olympia.

Bebb and Gould: The designers of the structure were Charles Herbert Bebb and Carl F. Gould. English-born Bebb received his first architectural experience with the Chicago firm of Adler and Sullivan. Temporarily sent to Seattle in 1890 to oversee construction of the first fireproof structure in the city, he returned permanently two years later. In Seattle, Bebb was originally associated with Leonard Mendel but his most significant work was accomplished during his partnership with Carl Gould, who joined Bebb as a junior partner in 1914.

Born in New York City, and educated at Harvard and in Paris, Gould worked with several distinguished New York firms before relocating to Seattle in 1908. In Seattle, he practiced independently for six years prior to joining Bebb's firm. In the same year, Gould established the Department of Architecture at the University of Washington, which he headed until 1928. A member of the original Civic Planning Commission (1925-1930), Gould

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led the fight to establish zoning in Seattle. Individually, together, or in conjunction with others, Bebb and Gould were responsible for the Hoge Building, the Frye Hotel, the Olympic Hotel, the Times Square Building, the U.S. Marine Hospital, buildings at the Chittenden Locks, the Seattle Art Museum and many buildings on the University of Washington campus (all in Seattle), as well as several Pacific Telephone and Telegraph Buildings throughout the state.

Cannery Workers and Farm Laborers Union: In July, 1937, the Cannery Workers and Farm Laborers Union leased portions of the building. The lease lasted until 1943 when the union moved into its own building at Second and Main Streets in Seattle.

The history of the Cannery Workers closely parallels immigration activity in the Northwest. During the 1880s, the Alaska cannery industry was born. Initially, Chinese workers dominated, but after their official exclusion from American shores in 1882, Japanese workers became the primary labor pool. But they encountered a fate similar to the Chinese in 1912.

Thereafter and until the passage of the 1921 quota act, Mexicans filled the majority of positions in the cannery industry. As a result, the Mexican population in the Puget Sound region increased by 7000 in these years. Because Mexican workers had a greater difficulty adjusting to the poor working conditions, however, they were gradually replaced by a Filipino work force.

Filipinos had long been encouraged to study in the United States and the cannery trade provided convenient summer employment. In 1920, 950 Filipinos were employed in the cannery business, but by 1930 the number had grown to 4200. Since then, Filipinos have continued to dominate the industry. By the mid-1930s, spurred by New Deal legislation, Filipinos began to contest many of the deplorable conditions in the industry. By 1937, they had succeeded in forming a union and, for the first time in the history of the industry, all Alaska cannery workers were signed through a union hiring hall located in the 84 Union building.

In 1939, Catherine Lohse, widow of Henry Jr., acquired the building from Sound Construction. A month later, she sold the property to Poy Set Chin. In 1943, the building, which had stood vacant during the intervening years, was taken by decree by the Federal Public Housing Authority. Just prior to this transaction, the Seattle Times reported that the building would provide temporary housing for immigrant war workers who were allowed to stay in the building's dormitories until they found more permanent accommodations.

Until at least 1944, the Union Street Center for Men was the sole occupant of the building. In 1946, the International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union purchased the property. The turbulent history of the Longshoremen in Seattle is varied and colorful. In 1886, the first longshoremen's alliance was established as the Stevedore, Longshoremen, and Riggers Union of Seattle. By the turn of the century, longshoremen had broken free of this combine and formed into a variety of splinter groups eventually forming the Longshoremen's and

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Warehousemen's Union-CIO. Perhaps the union's most colorful period was between the mid-1930s and 1950, which witnessed the great shootouts between AFL advocate Dave Beck and CIO leader Harry Bridges. The Immigration Building was used after 1948 and until 1986 as hiring and meeting hall, recreational facility and social center for active and retired ILWU members. The building is currently being converted to a youth hostel with retail establishments on the lower level.

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Annual Report of the Commissioner-General of Immigration for the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 1907. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1907.

"As a matter of fact: the immigration station facts." The Seattle Times, May 19, 1928, p. 5.

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Orosa, Jose Rizalino, "An Investigation of the Non-Residential Personnel Management Problems and Practices in the Alaska Canned Salmon Industry," unpublished manuscript, University of Washington, 1948.