

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

PH0685186

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED SEP 26 1978
DATE ENTERED DEC 14 1978

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC Lottie Roth/Block

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

1106 West Holly Street

CITY, TOWN

Bellingham

STATE

Washington

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

VICINITY OF 2nd & Lloyd Meeds

CODE

53

COUNTY

Whatcom

CODE

073

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH
- PUBLIC ACQUISITION**
- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE**
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

PRESENT USE

- AGRICULTURE
- MUSEUM
- COMMERCIAL
- PARK
- EDUCATIONAL
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- ENTERTAINMENT
- RELIGIOUS
- GOVERNMENT
- SCIENTIFIC
- INDUSTRIAL
- TRANSPORTATION
- OTHER Apartment

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

ABG Apartments c/o Dan Gordon

STREET & NUMBER

P. O. Box 611

CITY, TOWN

Bellingham

VICINITY OF

Washington

STATE

98225

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Whatcom County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Bellingham

Washington

STATE

98225

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

An Illustrated Inventory of Historic Bellingham Buildings

DATE

1977

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Bellingham Municipal Arts Commission

CITY, TOWN

Bellingham

Washington

STATE

98225

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

EXCELLENT
 GOOD
 FAIR

DETERIORATED
 RUINS
 UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

UNALTERED
 ALTERED

CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE
 MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Lottie Roth Block in Whatcom, Washington (now part of the City of Bellingham) was built in 1890 by C. I. Roth, owner of the Chuckanut Sandstone Quarry. It was named for Roth's wife Lottie. The building has an exterior facing of Chuckanut Sandstone on its Holly and "G" Street elevations, and walls of brick masonry construction on its off-street facades. Patterns of alternating rock-face and smooth-dressed sandstone characterize the street elevations and give the building a great deal of textural variation.

Originally the ground floor consisted of heavy sandstone piers dividing each facade into four shopfronts with wood-framed plate glass display windows. Banks and small businesses were the street front occupants. By the 1920's these spaces had been partially converted to first floor apartments, with the resulting infill of sandstone wall surfaces and double hung windows.

Centrally located on the Holly Street elevation, below the stone panels identifying the Lottie Roth building, is a round arch, Romanesque entryway leading to the upper stories. The two upper floors originally served as office space but are now used as apartments. An inner courtyard rises from second floor level to the building's roofline. The interior's most distinctive features include varnished, turned stair balusters and third floor balcony railings. Much of the original fir panelling remains in place.

Situated on the edge of Bellingham's present day business district, the Roth Block is a handsome remnant of the once flourishing commercial center of old Whatcom.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES 1890

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Roth Block is one of the few remaining Chuckanut sandstone buildings in Bellingham and is the largest and most impressive of its kind. It is a major symbol of an early and important local industry.

The Chuckanut Sandstone Quarry was one of the institutions that helped to make Bellingham famous. It was located just outside the city limits, on the line of the Great Northern Railroad and on Chuckanut Bay, which location afforded both rail and water transportation. These quarries were discovered in the early 1850's by Captain Henry Roeder, first permanent white settler in the Bellingham Bay and Whatcom County area. Opened in the early seventies, the quarries were first worked in a small way. Roeder's son-in-law Charles I. Roth bought an interest in the business in 1888, and by the middle 1890's the quarries, equipped with modern steam derricks, a saw mill and other appliances, constituted one of the most up-to-date stone working plants in the country.

Chuckanut sandstone was extensively used in first class buildings on the Sound and also in San Francisco, Portland, Vancouver, B.C., New Westminster, B.C., and other places where high-grade stone was required. The federal government, at the time, was using it exclusively for all its building operations in the Northwest, at Bremerton Navy Yard, Fort Lewis, Casey, and post office buildings in Portland and Seattle. It was a favorite stone for business blocks and residences, schoolhouses, courthouses, etc., throughout the Sound. It was used locally in the erection of the now demolished Whatcom County Courthouse and for the foundation of the New Whatcom City Hall, now the Whatcom Museum of History and Art.

Chuckanut was an unusually fine sandstone, ranking, it was said, with the best sandstone in the United States. It was of good, even color, unusual strength and durability, and exhibited fine weathering qualities. It was awarded the gold medal at the Portland Exposition and a silver medal at the St. Louis Exposition.

It was during the boom days on Bellingham Bay in 1889-90 that the idea was conceived of erecting a building which would be a monument to the builders as well as a permanent testimony to the value of Chuckanut stone. The Roth Block, first permanent fire-proof building of any size in old Whatcom, was the result of this enterprise. The fine arched doorway proudly bears the words "Lottie Roth Block." At first this building was fully occupied with a bank, stores and professional offices, but the tide of business drifted eastward towards old Sehome. The Roth Block was remodeled, first into the Chuckanut Hotel and then into what was at the time a modern apartment building.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

The Coast, Vol. 14, No. 3. "The Chuckanut Stone Quarries".

History of Whatcom County, Vol. II. Lottie Roeder Roth, supervising editor.

Pioneer Historical Publishing Company (Chicago, Illinois and Seattle, Washington, 1926)

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one

UTM REFERENCES

A

1	0
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5	3	7	7	0	0
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5	4	0	0	2	4	0
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D

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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The nominated property occupies the northeast corner of Holly and "G" Streets in Bellingham, Washington.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Richard Vanderway, Education Coordinator

ORGANIZATION

Whatcom Museum of History and Art

STREET & NUMBER

121 Prospect Street

CITY OR TOWN

Bellingham

Edited by: Florence K. Lentz, Historical Preservation Specialist
Office of Archeology & Historic Preservation Olympia, Washington

DATE (206) 753-1707

July, 1975

TELEPHONE

(206) 676-6981

STATE

Washington 98225

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE X

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

Jeanne M. Welch

TITLE Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE September 18, 1978

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Charles A. ...

DATE 12-12-78

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST: *W. Ray ...*

DATE 12/11/78

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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CONTINUATION SHEET

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The Roths were community leaders in both business and society. Charles Roth, a lawyer, was also a city council member and state legislator. He was instrumental in the passage of the state seven year statute which served to clear title to a large portion of the Whatcom townsite, as well as other locations in the state. Much of this land in Whatcom had been bought during the 1858 Fraser River gold rush boom, and although the owners had long since abandoned their land and stopped paying taxes, the titles were still cloudy. Roth was also greatly involved in the Donahue Road Bill, which is the foundation of Washington's modern road system. Charles I. Roth married Charlotte T. (Lottie) Roeder, daughter of Bellingham's first permanent white settler, in 1885. Mrs. Roeder Roth was later supervisory editor of the 1926 two-volume historical publication History of Whatcom County.

The Roth Block is significant in its associations with the Roths, important local and state figures of their time, and for its demonstrative use of Chuckanut sandstone. The sandstone quarry was a leading regional industry, of crucial importance in the development of Bellingham. Architecturally the building is a handsome and distinctly regional contribution to the city's commercial streetscape.