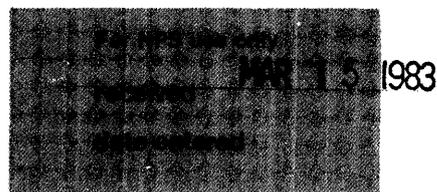


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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 Old Georgetown City Hall

and/or common Georgetown Police Station

2. Location

street & number 6202 13th Avenue South _____ not for publication

city, town Seattle _____ vicinity of ~~Congressional district~~

state Washington code 053 county King code 033

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	n/a	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name City of Seattle

street & number Municipal Building, 4th and James

city, town Seattle _____ vicinity of _____ state Washington 98104

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. King County Administration Building

street & number 500 4th Avenue

city, town Seattle _____ state Washington 98104

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Inventory of Historic Resources has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1979 _____ federal _____ state _____ county local

depository for survey records Seattle Office of Urban Conservation, 400 Yesler Building

city, town Seattle _____ state Washington 98104

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 Georgetown City Hall is a modestly scaled two story brick building located in the south end of Seattle in that city's Georgetown neighborhood. At the present, it is a police precinct station, although as the name suggests, it originally served as the seat of community government before the town was annexed in Seattle's rapid growth.

The building is an irregular polygon in plan, and adapts to its triangular site. It is bounded by Stanley Avenue to the east, 13th Avenue to the west, and Albro Place at the south. Extending northward along 13th are a variety of small shops and rooming houses that are part of the Georgetown neighborhood; about one half mile to the south over open ground lies the King County International Airport, and close by to the east are main north-south rail lines and freeway.

The city hall also incorporated a fire station, and a masonry bearing wall divided the two functions along an east-west axis. The exterior walls are of clinker brick except for the south and west walls of the fire station which are red common brick. Entry is through the north facade, and quoins of buff colored brick mark the corners and modest portico of this primary elevation. The same quoin detail marks the division between the city hall and fire station, with the wall plane of the fire station slightly recessed behind the quoins. Windows are rectangular with double-hung sash. Above the second floor windows is an unusual entablature composed of a flat band, a row of dentils, a protruding box-shaped cornice with a fretwork design, and extending above, a short parapet with capstone.

The interior contained a police court; jail; offices for the mayor, city engineer, attorney, and treasurer; and the council chambers. Interior access to the fire department was through a single doorway on the ground floor and a wider open passage on the second floor. The building was heated by steam and was the first in Georgetown to have hot and cold running water. The front door opened onto a main hall dominated by a wide central stairway leading up to the council chambers. On both sides of the building, along the hall surrounding the stairs, were the offices. Appointments and detail were modest.

Probably the most impressive feature of the city hall was the clock tower. Positioned originally above the north entry and continuing upward the lines formed by the portico, the two-story tower repeated the brick work and quoins of the main structure as well as echoing variations of the entablature. A clock face, bracketed by pilasters, appeared on each side of the tower's upper story, and above that rose a pyramidal steeple clad with tile. The steeple was blown off in the 1920's as a result of storm damage. By 1943, the remaining portion of the tower was threatened by vibration from the low flying aircraft from the adjacent airfield; it was dismantled.

Other exterior changes in the building have been few. In 1915, a single story brick garage was added to the east side. At some other early point in the building's use, the south doorway of the fire department was bricked up and the floor level raised to that of the city hall portion. The north bay remains intact and is presently used to house a police bus. At one time, a substantial pavilion was located on the roof above the fire station, but it was removed early and does not appear in photos taken of the building in the 1930's.

Interior changes are greater. The original stairway and arrangement of rooms has been lost in a number of reworkings to accommodate the building to police needs. Perhaps the last interior remnant of the building's beginning is the former treasurer's safe, now located upstairs; its door is marked "City of Georgetown."

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 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 type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates 1909 **Builder/Architect** V.W. Voorhees

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Old Georgetown City Hall is significant as a representative of the independent communities that were absorbed in the expansive growth of Seattle. Two of these communities, Ballard and Columbia City, have been listed in the National Register as historic districts, but it is only in Georgetown that a former city hall remains to indicate the full scale of services provided in the small satellite towns.

Georgetown began in 1850 as a small cluster of settlers occupying a portion of the excellent farm land in the flood plain of the Duwamish; the river flowed north into Elliott Bay, around which the city of Seattle would soon grow and prosper. The settlement, too, was called Duwamish. One of its most prominent citizens was Julius Horton, the brother of Dexter Horton, a luminary in the successful of founding of Seattle. Julius settled in the area in 1869. He believed that Seattle was going to be a large city, large enough to attract the terminus of a transcontinental railroad. He speculated that the vicinity of Duwamish occupied a strategic position, and he platted the property outside of the original farms and encouraged settlement in the area. In 1890, the Hortons named their newly platted town "Georgetown" in honor of their son George, who completed medical school in New York that year. The name of the Duwamish precinct was formally changed to Georgetown in May of 1901 following a petition by the residents to the Postal Service. By this time the flourishing village could boast 2,500 people.

Incorporation came to Georgetown as a result of a bitter fight over drinking laws. The Rainier Brewery, located in Georgetown, ran right into the 1903 prohibition movement, or the "war against saloonacy." With prohibition gaining influence in the county, Georgetown ran the risk of becoming a "dry" village. The brewery and saloonkeepers were in favor of incorporation in order to avoid prohibition restrictions. Owners of other businesses in town feared higher taxes with incorporation. On January 8, 1904, voting took place on the issue with the opinions of the brewery and saloonkeepers prevailing. On January 18, 1904, the Georgetown city government was established. City hall was located on Horton Street behind, appropriately enough, J.A. Ward's Exchange Saloon. The building housed the jail as well as the city offices and the fire department. The building was owned by the Rainier Volunteer Fire Brigade, which became the Georgetown Volunteer Fire Department. For the first five and one half years, Georgetown city business was transacted out of this building.

Municipal pride, a desire to demonstrate the permanence of Georgetown, and a land swap with the Oregon and Washington Railroad lead to the building of the permanent city hall. The land swap meant the relocation of city hall to its present site. In 1909, plans for the new city hall were accepted by the city council. The cost, \$10,000, was deemed too high; the council rejected all bids and decided to use day labor. The new building would contain a police court, jail, engineer's, treasurer's, and mayor's offices, the council chambers and the fire department. It would have steam heat and would be the first building in Georgetown to contain hot and cold running water. A clock tower, not

9. Major Bibliographical References

June Peterson, The Georgetown Story: That Was a Town, 1904-1910, 1979
Seattle 'Times,' November 9, 1909; January 9, 1909; November 3, 1909; March 31, 1910.

10. Geographical Data

Acree of nominated property less than one

Quadrangle name Seattle South

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UMT References

A

1	0	5	5	1	5	7	0	5	2	6	6	0	4	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

B

Zone		Easting				Northing								

C

Zone		Easting				Northing								

D

Zone		Easting				Northing								

E

Zone		Easting				Northing								

F

Zone		Easting				Northing								

G

Zone		Easting				Northing								

H

Zone		Easting				Northing								

Verbal boundary description and justification

Lots 29 through 32, Block 6, Queen Addition to Seattle

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state n/a code county code

state n/a code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Based on information supplied by Mel Smith, Community Planner

organization Environmental Works

date

street & number 402 15th Avenue East

telephone (206) 329-8300

city or town Seattle

state Washington 98112

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state 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.

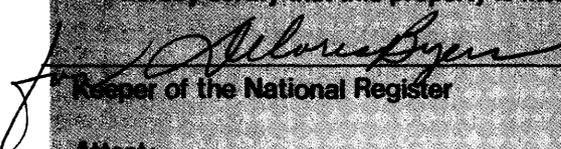
State Historic Preservation Officer signature 

title Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

date 3.10.83

For NPS use only

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


Keeper of the National Register

Entered in the
National Register

date 4/14/83

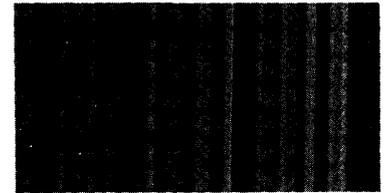
Attest:

Chief of Registration

date

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

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Continuation sheet

Item number

8

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included in the original plans, was constructed with funds raised by general subscription. The rear of the building was used by the fire department with storage inside for equipment and pump truck. Upstairs quarters, which were for the paid employees and for volunteers, opened out to a hall dominated by a shiny brass fire pole. Mayor Mueller, demonstrating the use of the pole, fell and broke his leg. Councilman Bertoldi, chairman that year, served as acting mayor during the time of the mayor's convelescence.

A brouhaha erupted in November of 1910 when it was discovered that the city did not own the property on which city hall stood. The property was owned by the fire department. Reputedly, this was all part of the "dirt" turned up by the city of Seattle in its struggle to absorb the community. In any case, the problem was resolved by the annexation of Georgetown to Seattle in the spring of 1910. The fire department's employees and equipment became part of the Seattle Fire Department. The Seattle Superintendent of Buildings, Francis W. Grant, inspected the city hall and pronounced it "the only real building that had ever come into Seattle by annexation." It would be used for the police, health, and fire departments. A long-sought library was projected for the upstairs area, although it was not funded for several years after the annexation.

With the industrialization of the Duwamish area after World War II, the face of the Georgetown community began to change. The first community service to depart the former city hall was the library, closing in 1948. Later, the fire station moved to larger and more modern quarters on the periphery of Georgetown. The police department has been the only continuous occupant since Seattle took the building over in 1910.

Little is known about the building's architect, Victor W. Voorhees, despite his long years of practice in Seattle. He first opened his architectural firm in 1905 in Ballard, but shortly thereafter moved his office to downtown Seattle where it remained until 1941. He seems to have specialized in designing conventional and modest homes, although two of his commissions were quite substantial: the Maxmillian Apartments and the Joseph Vance Building, both in Seattle.