

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

received JUL 2 1986
date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Chinese Baptist Church
and/or common same

2. Location

street & number 925 S. King Street not for publication
city, town Seattle vicinity of
state Washington code 053 county King code 033

3. Classification

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

4. Owner of Property

name Louis E. Tice
street & number 100 West Harrison, North Tower, Suite 500
city, town Seattle vicinity of state Washington

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. King County Administration Building
street & number 500 Fourth Avenue
city, town Seattle state Washington

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

City of Seattle survey for International
title Special Review District has this property been determined eligible? yes no
date 1979, 1982-83 federal state county local
depository for survey records City of Seattle Department of Community Development
city, town Seattle state Washington

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Chinese Baptist Church, which combines an auditorium/social hall and a classroom wing, was completed in 1924. It was designed by the Seattle firm of Schack, Young, and Myers in a 20th century Gothic Revival style. Constructed in red brick on a concrete foundation, the building is two stories in height with basement. Essentially unaltered, the building retains a high degree of interior and exterior integrity.

Oriented to the east, the building occupies an irregularly shaped corner parcel known as Lot 1 of block 5, McNaught's Addition to Seattle, King County, Washington. The building is also located in the International District design zone in the City of Seattle and is several blocks east of the proposed King Street Historic District.

The lot originally measured 56' x 120' but has been reduced in size on the western and southern edges by a freeway easement. Thus the dimension of the south line of Lot 1 to the highway right of way is 33 feet. A one story, 48' long portable classroom building, erected in 1971, is located 10' from the southern edge of the building and does not contribute to the significance of the property.

Exterior:

The L-shaped church building is composed of an auditorium/social hall oriented east-west, and a classroom/administrative wing, oriented north-south. The 13" concrete foundation supports the bearing brick walls and wooden floor structure. The roof is constructed of steel trusses on 16" centers. Four buttresses, 21" in width, protrude from the northern wall plane on 10'9" centers. The auditorium portion of the building measures 53" x 18'5".

Above the concrete foundation, red brick walls are 13" thick. Face brick, laid in Dutch bond, appears on the east and north elevations and wraps around the corners where it meets common brick laid in common bond. Exposed foundations on the east and north elevations have been finished in cement plaster and scored to resemble stone. Concrete foundations on the south and west elevations are unfinished.

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The intersecting gable roof is covered with shingles and has a moderate pitch with closed eaves. Three chimneys are located on the west elevation. Two are small and capped with cast stone; a third chimney, located at the intersection of the two masses, was altered in 1947.

The auditorium/social hall presents a simple but dignified profile. On the east elevation, the auditorium is dominated by the large tripartite, semi-elliptical arched window, ornamented with tracery in a modern version of the English Perpendicular style. Glass in this window, and all other windows, is clear, held in place by zinc muntins. Mullions, quoined surrounds, sills, and label moldings are made of cast stone as are the coping and skew corbels of the gabled parapets. Centered below the large arched window are three rectangular, fixed single pane windows which add light to the narthex, below which appear three single pane lights which illuminate the basement.

Original plans called for an extension to the parapet to include an arched opening for a bell and a large cross at the apex. It is unclear if the feature was ever constructed. A large cross, however, was located at the parapet level. It has been removed.

The main entrance to the church is on the north elevation. The shape of the double paneled doors is determined by the elliptically-arched cast stone frame. The door frame is crowned by an label molding with carved label stops. The label frames a carved spandrel panel which features decorative shields. A Greek cross is placed over the entrance.

Three identical paired, traceried multi-paned windows, with cast stone lug sills and mullions and segmental brick arches, appear between the brick and cast stone buttresses. At the basement level, which slopes approximately three feet to the west, the windows are paired 2 over 4 sliding sash, with the exception of the window in the northwest bay. These windows appear to have storm casings set into a segmentally arched frame. The west elevation of the auditorium is not punctuated with fenestration.

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The east elevation of the classroom wing is set back 13" from the auditorium. The central entrance is less elaborate than the church entrance and is composed of a single wooden door with inset glass panels. The cast stone frame is segmentally arched and the label molding is unadorned. Windows are formally arranged on either side of the entrance in a bilateral symmetrical manner. The windows are uniform in size and are paired, two over four sash in wooden frames with both wooden and cast stone sills. The windows are set into the walls beneath single brick segmental arches. Variations on this style are repeated, sometimes with brick sills, on the south and east elevations. Again, the window arrangement is formal on the south elevation while a combination of formal and asymmetrical placement characterizes the east elevation. The west elevation also displays variously shaped windows and several secondary entrances.

Interior

The recessed entry on the north elevation of the auditorium opens to the narthex. At the far end of the space is a dog-leg stair leading to the gallery on the second floor. The stair, similar in design, to the one in the classroom wing, is composed of a simple paneled newel post, molded rail, and flat, pierced jig-sawn balusters. A pair of double paneled doors, centered on the three exterior rectangular windows, leads to the large open auditorium. There are no pews or structural columns in this space.

The auditorium rises to an angled plaster ceiling divided into coffers by molded wooden elements. Suspended light fixtures, with missing globes, are centered along the east/west axis. Along the southern wall are two doors. One, abutting the narthex, leads to the classroom wing and down to the social hall beneath the auditorium. The other door, located toward the west, leads to the exterior of the building.

On the western most side of the auditorium, approximately 13' from the western wall, is an elevated, paneled platform approximately two feet from the floor. Access to the choir platform is gained through two stairs which visually divide the area into three parts. On the direct axis with the stairs are panelled single doors in elliptically arched frames. The southwestern most opens on a stair which leads to a social hall. The other provides access to what was originally a cloakroom.

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Facing the auditorium, the paneled screen presents two elliptically arched plastered panels. In the center, the panel is replaced by a recessed opening indicated as the baptistry in the original plans. The baptistry appear to be intact but covered with boards. A wooden chair rail is the only other decoration found on the interior walls. All wooden surfaces are stained and varnished.

The gallery is located approximately nine feet from the auditorium floor on the eastern side of the space. Thirteen feet in width, its closed face is unadorned except for a wooden rail. The floor of the gallery is stepped four times. A door, located on the south wall, leads to the classroom wing.

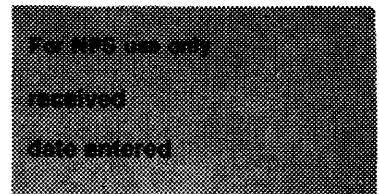
The social hall beneath the auditorium is an open basement space uninterrupted by structural columns. To the east is a dog leg stair and a kitchen. To the west are men's and women's locker rooms, including showers, with access provided by the concealed stairs in the auditorium. Natural light is provided by three sets of paired windows on the north elevation. The basement of the classroom building includes the furnace and auxiliary equipment.

On the first floor of the classroom wing, the recessed entry on the east elevation leads to a vestibule and stairs. These stairs lead to a hall with another set of stairs which lead to the second floor. This circulation space effectively bisects the building. On either side are large rooms which originally served as the day nursery, the women's work room, the men's club room and library, a small office and a clinic. Wooden floors are currently covered in linoleum tile and all wood trim, with the exception of the stair to the second floor, has been painted.

On the second floor, there is also a generous stair hall, five smaller rooms originally used as classrooms, two assembly rooms of intermediate size, and one larger assembly room which connects to the gallery above the auditorium. All wall surfaces are plastered and decorated with chair and picture rails. Sliding pocket doors allow the day nursery and men's club at the southern end to be combined when necessary. Panelled doors with transoms connect the rooms. The original room plan remains but the walls on the upper floor have been painted or wallpapered and the floors have been covered in part with carpeting or linoleum.

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Contributing structures:

Church Total: 1

Noncontributing structures:

Classroom building Total:1

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 type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage

Specific dates 1922: period of significance
 1922-1936 **Builder/Architect** Schack, Young and Myers, Architects

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Chinese Baptist Church, constructed in 1924, is historically significant for its association with the growth of the Chinese community in Seattle. The church provided an important social and cultural center for one of the city's largest ethnic groups as well a force for acculturation for fifty years. Designed by the noted architectural firm of Schack, Young, and Myers, the church is a good example of the restrained twentieth century Gothic Revival idiom.

Chinese in Seattle

Chinese workers began arriving in Seattle in significant numbers as early as the 1860s, and settled along the city's waterfront, close to port activities. At the time, Seattle was a center for Chinese merchants who provided contract laborers and supplies for railroad construction, road building, coal mining, lumber mills, fish canneries, hop picking and other large and labor intensive projects in the Northwest.

The Chinese sojourners who arrived in Seattle provided much of the cheap human labor for those projects. The laborers arrived in America (many from the southeast China coast) on a temporary basis, and sent money back to the homeland. Because most of the workers had no families and worked on projects outside the city, the community developed, not as a neighborhood of homes, but as a compact, densely populated district which provided both housing and commercial services for the hundreds of temporary workers who lived there. By 1876, about 250 people lived in the district on a permanent basis; another 300 transient laborers made the district a short term home as well.

The number of Chinese in Seattle increased in the early 1880s, as workers were laid off from railroad projects elsewhere or sought refuge from anti-Chinese hostility evidenced in Washington and other western states. The Chinese sought group identity as a protection from society's racism and Seattles's Chinatown provided the sense of community that many Chinese workers needed.

Anti-Chinese racism, however, was institutionalized when the first of the "exclusion laws" was passed by Congress in 1882.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See Continuation Sheets

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than 1

Quadrangle name Seattle, South (WA)

Quadrangle scale 1: 24,000

UTM References

A

1	0	5	5	1	2	2	0	5	2	1	7	6	7	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

Lot 1 of Block 5, McNaughts Addition to the City of Seattle, King County, Washington

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 John M. Tess, President, Heritage Investment Corporation

organization Heritage Investment Corporation date April, 1986

street & number 123 NW Second Avenue telephone (503) 228-0272

city or town Portland state Oregon

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 Jacob E. Johnson

Director, Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation

title Department of Community Development date 6-24-86 (Date of letter)

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

Entered in the National Register

date 7-31-86

for Alvin Byers
Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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The law suspended the immigration of Chinese laborers to the U.S. The law also provided for the deportation of Chinese who entered the country temporarily after the passage of the law. Another clause denied American citizenship to Chinese residents. The "exclusion law" was renewed in 1892, 1902, and again in 1904 when it was made permanent. The laws were not repealed until 1943.

Anti-Chinese sentiment reached an early peak in February, 1886, when 500 Chinese workers were expelled from Seattle by boat. At that time, the original Chinese quarter was abandoned. With the expulsion of so many temporary workers, the Chinese community in the city assumed a different character. The Chinese who remained were immigrants seeking permanent homes. Therefore, from 1890 to 1925 a noticeable shift in occupations occurred among the city's Chinese residents. Fewer and fewer Chinese were employed as contractual laborers and more were employed in permanent urban occupations, including service jobs. With increased permanence came an increased social and political awareness among the Chinese community. And, because Chinese were excluded from participating in American politics, many Chinese focused attention on the politics of their homeland.

After the fire of 1889, the Chinese community in Seattle rebuilt their homes and businesses away from the destroyed waterfront. Brick buildings of several stories replaced earlier frame structures. The population grew as well. Interestingly, however, the Chinese community remained a largely "bachelor society". Only 16 families were counted among the 925 people in the Chinese district at the turn of the century.

From 1925 to 1936, the Chinese population in Seattle declined except during periods of illegal immigration. By the mid-thirties, however, the population had stabilized and even grown as a new American-born generation matured. Nevertheless, the period was a time of hardship and disappointment for the community. Involvement with Chinese politics drained the community of money, enthusiasm, and confidence. Political and labor struggles inside the community underscored the traditional rivalries which had arisen. The great Depression exacerbated the situation.

The war years proved to be a turning point, however. In 1943, the exclusion laws were repealed and Chinese were

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allowed to enter the country . Chinese were granted citizenship. In addition, the number of American-born Chinese increased, and Chinese-Americans were graduating from public schools and universities. Some members of the community were climbing economically and accepting important roles within the larger community. As wartime allies, Chinese were looked upon more favorably by non-Chinese although a deep seated prejudice against Asians remained a part of the larger fabric of American life.

The years after World War II were characterized by greater assimilation and individual movement into a wider economic world. This economic and social movement was reflected in the physical dispersion of Chinese citizens who moved to many Seattle neighborhoods . By the 1960s, freeway construction bisected the traditional Chinatown and claimed a large number of houses and apartments. As a result, although Seattle had the nations's fourth largest Chinese community on the west coast, the Chinese district itself had declined in population.

The Chinese Baptist Church

The Chinese Baptist Church was one of several ethnic mission churches which grew from the efforts of the Seattle First Baptist Church congregation in the late 19th century . Mission work was a key feature of the First Baptist church, which sought to bring Christian ministry to the large numbers of immigrants who arrived in Seattle during the period . Mission churches established by First Baptist members included the Scandinavian Baptist Church formed in 1883 and the Japanese Baptist Church established in 1899.

The Chinese Baptist Church had its origins in the 1890s, a time during which most Chinese in Seattle were single male contract laborers . At that time, the Women's Missionary Union of Seattle started a missionary school for Seattle's Chinese population under the direction of the Committee on Chinese Work (CCW).

The CCW was formally called together on July 3, 1892. Dr. Hartwell, of San Francisco, who was appointed superintendent of Chinese mission work on the west coast by the Baptist Home Missionary Society of New York, was present and counselled the committee on organizing a Chinese mission in Seattle. Mr. Thomas Bubb, a member of First Baptist Church, was selected as superintendent of the Seattle mission. Mr. Bubb

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was to receive a salary of \$400 or \$500. The Home Missionary Society pledged \$200 and an equal amount was donated by the Missionary Union of Seattle.

Missionary work appears to have begun immediately, as evidenced by a March, 1893 letter to the Women's Missionary Union in Seattle, in which it was reported that mission attendance was regular and growing. The pupils were "apt, full of interest, eager to learn, and ready to adapt themselves to modern conditions." The report also noted that the main secular effort of the mission was teaching English reading and writing. Time was also spent in Bible study and every Saturday evening was devoted to singing and religious exercises.

In its first years, the mission was located in a house on 5th and Yesler. But as the church grew, it moved to larger quarters on Washington Street in the Chinese district. The new building was owned by Wa Chong, a long time resident of the district. Classes were conducted four nights a week and Thursday was reserved for prayer services.

The history of the church in the early years of the 20th century is unclear but it is believed that the congregation had a temporary split. With the departure of the pastor, and with funds running low, some parishioners returned to the First Baptist Church where they continued to hold classes. But with the continued support of the mother church, a building fund was started in 1902 and later that year enough funds were collected to construct a new structure on Washington and Maynard Streets.

The building of the new church signalled a maturity for the congregation. In the early twentieth century, the Church was admitted to the Western Washington Baptist Convention and the Reverend Chi Shie was appointed pastor. From that date, the church had Chinese pastors, although American superintendents and teachers continued to play an important role in the church activities.

As the church grew in the first decades of the new century, the building no longer met the needs of the congregation. By the early 1920s, plans were drawn for a new structure. To realize the goal, a lot was purchased with voluntary funds of members and money to build a new church was supplied by national and regional Baptist church groups. The new building was dedicated on October 12, 1922.

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Church archives indicate that membership in the 1920s and 30s numbered about 250 persons, about half of whom were children. The church placed great emphasis on youth work, and established a kindergarten, nursery division, Sunday School, Bible School, Boy and Girl Scout troops, and other special youth organizations. At the same time, the church offered language classes for Chinese immigrants throughout the period. Through both its social opportunities and its classes, the church became an important center of community life and a principal force for the acculturation of its members.

By the 1960s, a growing membership and a nearby freeway project forced the congregation to consider the acquisition of a new space. In 1974, a ground breaking ceremony was held for a new Chinese Baptist Church, located in Seattle's Beacon Hill neighborhood. The new facility was dedicated in 1977.

Following the move to the new building, the old Baptist church was occupied by the Chinese Service Center until 1980 and from 1980 until 1984 by the Liberty Refugee Center. After that year, the building served as a warehouse for Pacific Institute Inc. Today, the building stands empty while the Chinese Baptist Church, operating from a new location, continues to grow and play an important role in Seattle's Chinese community.

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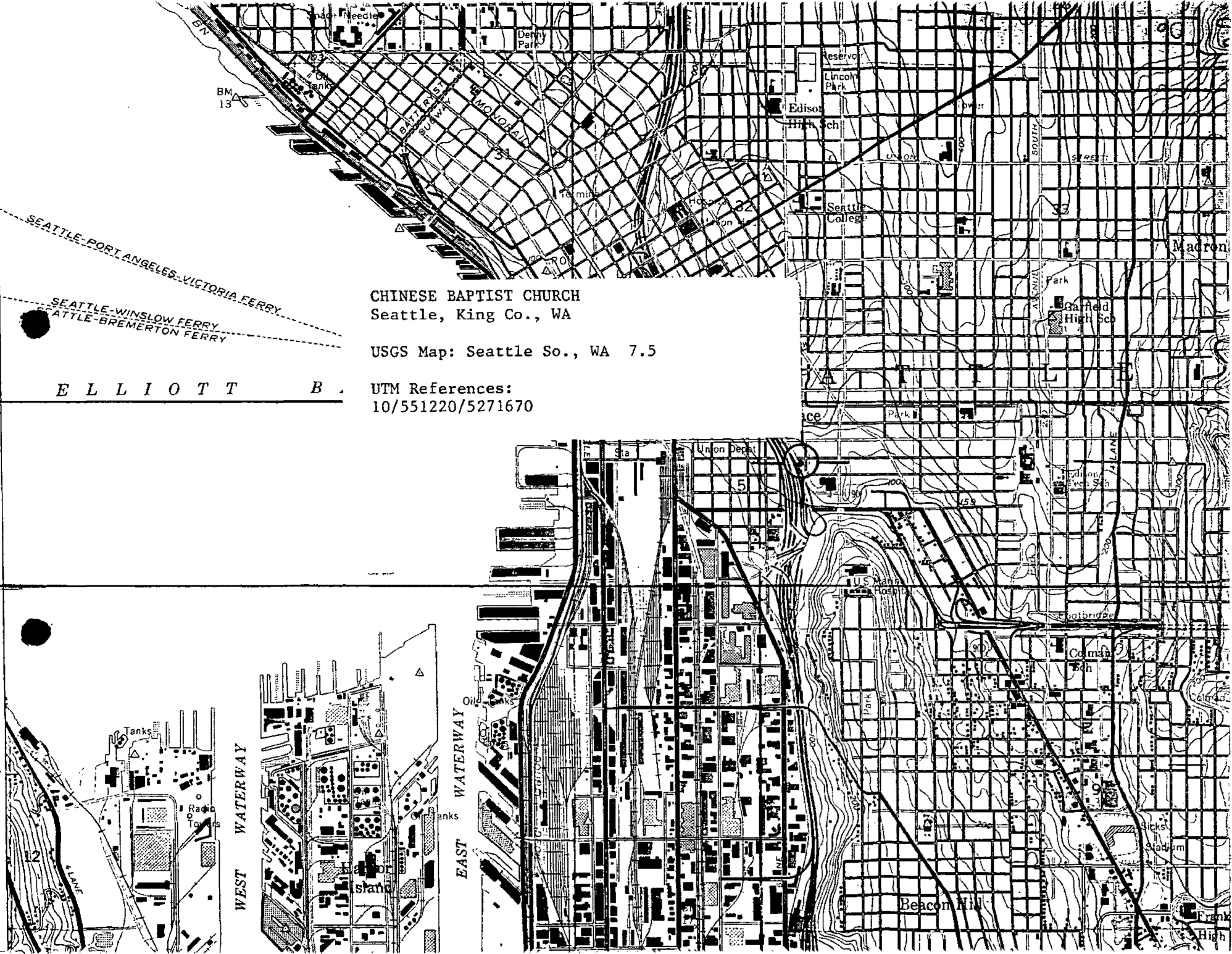
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King Street Historic District Nomination.

City Directories for City of Seattle, Washington.

Working drawings from Department of Construction and Land Use.



CHINESE BAPTIST CHURCH
 Seattle, King Co., WA

USGS Map: Seattle So., WA 7.5

UTM References:
 10/551220/5271670

E L L I O T T B

WEST WATERWAY

EAST WATERWAY

SEATTLE-PORT ANGELES-VICTORIA FERRY
 SEATTLE-WINSLOW FERRY
 SEATTLE-BREMERTON FERRY

BM 13

Madron

Garfield High Sch

Edison High Sch

Seattle College

Beacon Hill

Frank High

Denny Park

Lincoln Park

Reservoir

UNION

SOLVAY STREET

ALVIA PARK

Park

Edison High Sch

Commander

Stadium

Stadium

Sta

Union Depot

US Post

Park

Stadium

Stadium

Stadium

