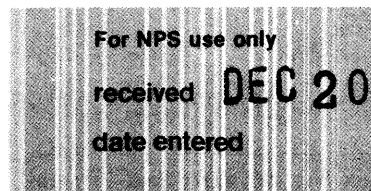


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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 HULL BUILDING

and/or common A-1 Laundry Building

2. Location

street & number ²⁴⁰¹⁻²⁴⁰⁵ ~~2401-5~~ First Avenue ___ not for publication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 type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied (lower fl)	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied(upper)	<input checked="" 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
	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 type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Albert K. Eng

street & number 2401 First Avenue

city, town Seattle ___ vicinity of state Washington 98121

5. Location of Legal Description

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

street & number Fourth and James

city, town Seattle state Washington

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title City of Seattle Landmarks has this property been determined eligible? ___ yes no

date September 26, 1979 ___ federal ___ state ___ county local

depository for survey records Office of Urban Conservation

city, town Seattle state Washington

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 Hull Building is located on the northwest corner of the intersection of First Avenue and Battery Street in the Belltown neighborhood of Seattle. Now considered part of the Denny Regrade District, Belltown consists primarily of low scale structures housing light manufacturing, retail businesses and apartment/hotels. The 60' x 111' lot slopes steeply westward toward Elliott Bay. A 16' wide alley separates an undeveloped portion of the lot from an adjacent parking lot to the west. The north wall of the Hull Building abuts the south wall of an adjacent one story structure. The A.A. Bell Building and the Barnes Building which are similar in scale and detail to the Hull Building, are located on the opposite corner of the intersection.

The Hull Building was constructed in 1889 and is a 60' x 70' three story brick masonry structure with a stone foundation, full basement and areaway under First Avenue. The architectural style of the building is late Victorian Commercial, incorporating Romanesque Revival elements typical of numerous business blocks designed by its architect Elmer H. Fisher. The 17-inch thick red brick exterior walls are laid up in a running bond pattern and the stone walls appear to be sandstone laid in broken courses. The east and south elevations, which are oriented toward a major thoroughfare, are richly ornamented and decoratively fenestrated. The east entry facade is divided into three recessed bays separated by masonry piers. Detailed brickwork ornaments the spandrels above and below the recessed third floor windows. Sheet metal capitals ornament piers between recessed double-hung windows at the second floor level. The third floor windows at the central bay are ornamented with sheet metal sunrise panels. An elaborate, although very deteriorated, sheet metal cornice wraps around the east and south elevations below the brick parapet. The central portion of the east elevation parapet typically contains a sheet metal entablature panel stating the building's name. An original ornate sheet metal extension to this central parapet bay is no longer in place. The storefront and mezzanine level windows and entrances have been altered to accommodate the current retail and commercial uses. Windows at the mezzanine level of the south elevation are awning type with segmental arched stone head trim. The west elevation, oriented toward Puget Sound, has double-hung windows with segmented arched brickwork above. A small metal structure has been added at the basement level of this elevation.

The entire first floor and basement level of the Hull Building are currently occupied by a commercial laundry and its retail outlet. Although several large pieces of equipment are located in these areas, portions of original wood trim and interior finishes are still in place. The mezzanine level and second floor are ascended to by a long interior stair adjacent to the north wall. The unoccupied upper two floors, originally used as offices and hotel rooms, are essentially unaltered although deteriorated. The central corridor areas are distinguished by ornate shouldered arches supported by plaster cast acanthus leaf brackets. Original fir trim is in place throughout the second and third floors. This fir trim includes high baseboards, corner and plinth blocks, door and window moldings, stair balusters, picture rail and beaded board paneling. Much of the original locking hardware has been removed from the numerous ornate panel doors which are still in place. The most dramatic interior element is the large skylight over the stair and central corridor area on the third floor. A light well, which would have originally been open between the second and third floors, appears to have been closed off to meet fire code requirements. The floors are fir and the walls are lath and plaster covered with multiple layers of deteriorated wallpaper.

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Continuation sheet

Item number 7

Page 2

There have been few alterations made to the Hull Building since its construction 93 years ago. The most major of the alterations are at the storefront level at is has been remodeled to accommodate retail and commercial uses. The original cast iron columns and plate glass windows have been covered or replaced and the entrances moved. Portions of original sheet metal cornice and coping have been removed or are very deteriorated. Areas of ornamental masonry and sheet metal on the east facade are no longer in place. Water damage has occurred in interior spaces and weather exposed windows have been boarded up. Despite these areas of alteration and deterioration, the Hull Building remains an intact example of late 19th Century commercial construction, clearly retaining its original character and reflecting the history and continuity of the Belltown neighborhood.

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 type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
	<input type="checkbox"/> invention			

Specific dates 1889 **Builder/Architect** Elmer H. Fisher

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Hull Building, built on property originally claimed by one of Seattle's earliest settlers, William A. Bell, was designed by Elmer H. Fisher, an architect who had a profound influence on the built environment of Seattle. Situated in the Belltown neighborhood, it is one of the oldest extant masonry buildings constructed during the initial effort to develop the area into a commercial district. The Hull Building, individually and in relation to the neighboring structures built contemporarily with it, reflects the history and character of a unique Seattle neighborhood.

On May 22, 1889, the Seattle Post Intelligencer announced that Architect Elmer Fisher had completed plans for the Hull Building at Front and Battery Streets and that a contract was about to be let. The new brick commercial block, which would house retail shops, offices and hotel rooms, was being built by Alonzo Hull. The neighborhood of Belltown was at that time a small community situated within Wm. A. Bell's original claim. Denny Hill limited the eastward growth of Belltown and Front Street was the only negotiable street connecting the central town with it. Due to the steep grades and the substantial distance separating it from the main settlement of Seattle, Belltown grew into a district with a rather separate identity. The Hull Building was one of the earliest brick structures constructed in Belltown as early entrepreneurs, primarily William Bell's son, Austin A. Bell, attempted to expand the business district northward. Despite their efforts, the business district was very slow in expanding up First Avenue. Pressure generated primarily by the Alaska Gold Rush brought about further attempts to expand the business district and eventually the Denny Hill Regrade was undertaken. Although the Denny Hill neighborhood was dramatically regraded for redevelopment, the economic depression which coincided with its completion further prevented the envisioned northward expansion of the business district.

The construction of the building was financed by Alonzo Hull, the "eastern capitalist" whose name decorates the facade. Mr. Hull moved to Seattle in early 1889 after having lived in Arkansas, St. Louis and his native Pennsylvania. He had been formerly involved in the slate roofing business and real estate investments. Upon arrival he immediately became involved in the development of Belltown and by May of 1889 architect Elmer Fisher had completed plans for the Hull Building. The construction contract was awarded very shortly before the great fire which destroyed a large area of the main settlement of Seattle. The fire did not involve Belltown but apparently as a result of it the contractor could not complete the construction of the building, and Mr. Hull personally undertook the completion of the work with the assistance of workmen. Because the construction was begun before the fire occurred and the work completed more rapidly than those projects started immediately after it, the Hull Building was occupied soon after completion. Mr. Hull was also involved in the purchase, remodeling and resale of several other Seattle buildings during the reconstruction period. He was active in public affairs and served on the City Council for a short while in 1890. Hull was influential in the effort to overrule a scheme by Northern Pacific Railroad to have important streets on the waterfront vacated for terminal use and played a prominent part in the fight to keep the water system under the control of the City.

9. Major Bibliographical References

An Inventory of Building and Urban Design Resources, Historic Seattle Preservation and Development Authority, 1975.

A Volume of Memoirs and Genealogy of Representative Citizens of City of Seattle, 1903, pp. 403-406.

Corley, Peggy, Landmark Preservation Board, Seattle Historic Building Data Sheet, 1976.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than one

Quadrangle name Seattle South

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UMT References

A

1	0	5	4	9	0	8	0	5	2	7	3	4	2	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 3, Block 8, Bell and Denny's Addition to the City of Seattle, County of King.

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 Katheryn H. Krafft, Preservation Specialist

organization Tonkin/Greissinger/Architects date April 23, 1982

street & number 801 First Avenue South telephone (206) 624-7880

city or town Seattle state Washington 98134

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. Thom Dec. 10, 1982

title _____ date _____

For NPS use only

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

J. Almy 1/27/83
Keeper of the National Register date

Attach: _____ date _____

Chief of Registration

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Continuation sheet

Item number

8

Page

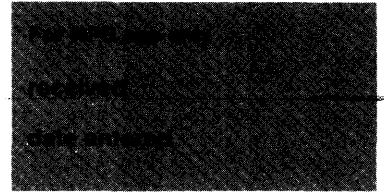
2

Elmer H. Fisher, the architect responsible for the design of the Hull Building, was one of the most influential architects to have practiced in Seattle. Born in Edinburgh and having apprenticed in Worcester, Massachusetts, he arrived in Seattle in October 1888, via British Columbia. At the time of the great fire Fisher had at least eight buildings designed, under construction, or completed. Included in this group are the now extant Hull Building, A.A. Bell Building, Korn Building, and the Pioneer Building. Fisher is credited with the design of some 54 buildings during the period of reconstruction, which occurred after the fire. Many of these business blocks were designed in the stylistic inspiration of the Romanesque Revival as it came west with settlers. The Hull Building is a modest, although architecturally strong, example of this genre and E.H. Fisher's prolific Seattle career.

Alonzo Hull owned the Hull Building until 1906. By 1908 the hotel portion was known as the New Hudson Hotel and continued as such until the mid 1970's when it was vacated due to the passage of a new fire code ordinance. The lower floors have continuously been used for commercial and retail purposes to the present day.

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Continuation sheet

Item number 9

Page 2

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Seattle Illustrated, Seattle Chamber of Commerce, 1890, p. 71, Special Collections UW.
Seattle Post Intelligencer, May 22, 1899, p. 5, col. 1.
Seattle Public Library, clipping files.
Woodridge, Sally B. and Montgomery, Roger, A Guide to Architecture in Washington State,
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