

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Washington	
COUNTY: King	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
71.5.53.0005	5/6/71

1. NAME

COMMON Alaska Trade Building

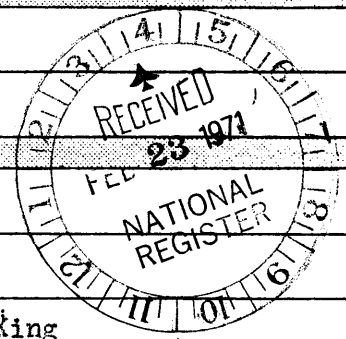
AND/OR HISTORIC: Union Record Building

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: 1915-19 First Avenue

CITY OR TOWN: Seattle, 98101

STATE: Washington CODE: 53 COUNTY: King CODE: 033



3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input type="checkbox"/>	Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Both <input type="checkbox"/>	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered <input type="checkbox"/>	Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress <input type="checkbox"/>
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No: <input type="checkbox"/>
Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment <input type="checkbox"/>	Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <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 (Specify) <input type="checkbox"/>

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNERS NAME: Eleanor and Lloyd Graves

STREET AND NUMBER: 2122 E. Hamlin Street

CITY OR TOWN: Seattle, 98102 STATE: Washington CODE: 53

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC: King County Auditor's Office

STREET AND NUMBER: County Courthouse

CITY OR TOWN: Seattle, 98104 STATE: Washington CODE: 53

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: .3

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: part of Pike Place district - Municipal Art Comm. list of Hist. Buildings

DATE OF SURVEY: 1968 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Municipal Art Commission

STREET AND NUMBER: Seattle Municipal Building

CITY OR TOWN: Seattle, 98104 STATE: Washington CODE: 53

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Washington
COUNTY: King
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DATE: 5/6/71
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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	Excellent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Good <input type="checkbox"/>	Fair <input type="checkbox"/>	Deteriorated <input type="checkbox"/>	Ruins <input type="checkbox"/>	Unexposed <input type="checkbox"/>
INTEGRITY	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	Altered <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Unaltered <input type="checkbox"/>		Moved <input type="checkbox"/>	Original Site <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	

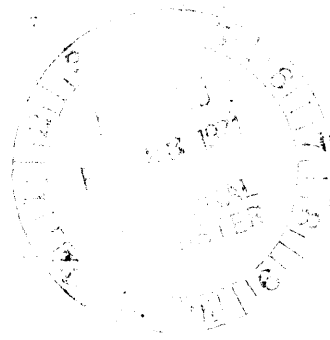
DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Alaska Trade Building, designed by J. O. Taft, Seattle architect, was built for James H. Steele, a building contractor, in 1909.

The building is five stories on the alley, and at least three on the First Avenue side. The approved building specifications, now preserved by its owner, are an interesting and enlightening documentary of the quantity, quality of materials, techniques and procedures employed in the construction of this building. It is one of the first reinforced steel, concrete, and brick commercial buildings in the vicinity of the Pike Place Public Market.

In recent years glass or plastic squares have been faced over the lower floors of the facade. However, the present owners plan to remove these and restore the building to its fine brick appearance.

Because of its historic significance, the Seattle Central Labor Council of ~~Seattle~~ is in the process of preparing a commemorative plaque to be placed on the facade near the entranceway.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

6. SIGNIFICANCE

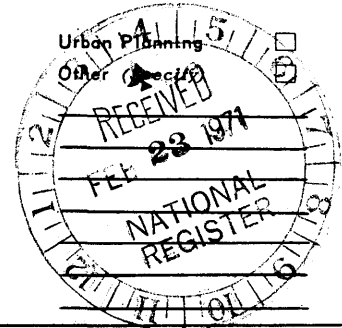
PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Pre-Columbian 16th Century 18th Century 20th Century
 15th Century 17th Century 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1910 to 1928 1909

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Aboriginal <input type="checkbox"/>	Education <input type="checkbox"/>	Political <input type="checkbox"/>
Prehistoric <input type="checkbox"/>	Engineering <input type="checkbox"/>	Religion/Philosophy <input type="checkbox"/>
Historic <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Industry <input type="checkbox"/>	Science <input type="checkbox"/>
Agriculture <input type="checkbox"/>	Invention <input type="checkbox"/>	Sculpture <input type="checkbox"/>
Art <input type="checkbox"/>	Landscape <input type="checkbox"/>	Social/Humanitarian <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Commerce <input type="checkbox"/>	Architecture <input type="checkbox"/>	Theater <input type="checkbox"/>
Communications <input type="checkbox"/>	Literature <input type="checkbox"/>	Transportation <input type="checkbox"/>
Conservation <input type="checkbox"/>	Military <input type="checkbox"/>	
	Music <input type="checkbox"/>	



STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (Include Personages, Dates, Events, Etc.)

The importance of this building is in its association with the personalities and activities and history of the "Seattle Union Record", unique in the annals of American labor as the only labor-owned daily newspaper.

The "Record" began as a weekly, 1910; in 1912 Harry E. B. Ault, secretary of the Central Labor Council became editor; 1918, April 22, the first labor owned daily newspaper appeared on the streets of Seattle. Under Ault's leadership, circulation climbed from 3,000 to 50,000 to the high of 112,000 in January of 1919.

By 1921 the "Record" had outgrown the quarters in the Labor Temple. The Central Labor Council and the Local Trade Unions had bought the building at 1915 First Avenue, remodeled, bought new equipment, and had a responsibility of \$290,000 gross. It was a difficult and ambitious undertaking in those turbulent years of general unrest, economic instability, and violence.

The importance of the "Record" cannot be underestimated. It was a powerful voice in the community and played an important role in labor activities by (1) providing means of communication and creating a feeling of unity in labor, (2) by giving laboring men a sense of place in the community at the same time notifying Seattle of labor's aspirations. The businessmen and other papers were viewing with alarm the success of the daily paper.

Despite financial problems, internal dissention and dwindling advertising, the "Record" survived but the end was near. It came with the rise to power of Dave Beck whose theories and philosophies of labor relations differed sharply from his predecessors. Under Beck's leadership, the Central Labor Council sold the paper to Harry Ault in 1924. The paper expired in 1928.

Who were the vocal young radicals associated with the "Union Record" in its heyday? Among the many, some just faded away, others went on to civic leadership in the area, others to world wide recognition. To note a few: Harvey O'Connor, author; James A. Duncan, member of the Seattle School Board; Professor Theresa McMahon, University of Washington; Rev. Sidney Strong, minister-scholar; Anna Louise Strong, author of "I Change Worlds" and currently living in China; Robert Hesketh and Robert Harlan, Seattle City Council; Harry Ault, U.S. Deputy; R. W. Chaplin, World War I poet and author who spent his last days on the staff of the Washington State Historical Society, Tacoma.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Seattle General Strike
 Revolution in Seattle
 I Change Worlds
 Pacific N.W. Quarterly
 The American West
 Microfilm Library
 Private papers of Harry E.B. Ault (family)

Robert L. Freidheim, Purdue
 Harvey O'Connor
 Anna Louise Strong
 July 1968
 Jan. 1968
 University of Wash.

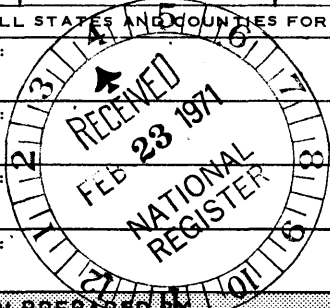
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN ONE ACRE		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	° ' "	° ' "		N47°	36'	39"
NE	° ' "	° ' "		W122°	20'	28"
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

NO
 ATM
 CD

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
 Lloyd Graves

ORGANIZATION: Seattle Historical Society

DATE: July 1, 1969

STREET AND NUMBER:
 2161 East Hamlin Street

CITY OR TOWN: Seattle, 98102

STATE: Washington

CODE: 53 48

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name: Charles H. Odegaard
 Charles H. Odegaard

Title: Director
 Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission

Date: 2/11/71

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

Ernest Allen Connelly
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

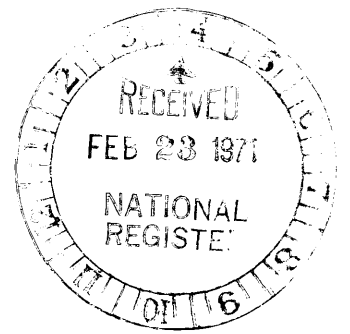
MAY 6 1971

Date _____

ATTEST:

William H. ...
 Keeper of The National Register

Date: APR 23 1971



ALASKA TRADE BUILDING

Formerly the Union Record Building

The Alaska Trade Building 1915-17-19 First Avenue A.A. Denny's 6 Lot 6 Bl. 37, before World War II was the old Union Record Building, designed for James H. Steel, owner, by J.O. Taft, Seattle Architect 1909-10.

The approved building specifications now preserved by the owners are an enlightening documentary of the materials, techniques, and procedures employed in the construction of one of the first re-enforced steel-concrete brick buildings in the vicinity of the Pike Place Public Market.

Historically, the importance of the building is not in structural or architectural merit, but by association with the Seattle Union Record, its history and the colorful personalities that made it unique in the annals of American labor, the only daily labor-owned news paper in America.

Few people in Seattle today remember the controversial colorful Union Record or ever heard the name until 1964 when the U of W Press published the first, generally accepted definitive account and analysis of those turbulent early post War I years in Seattle's labor history, a time of national economic instability, general unrest and violence, a time in history coinciding with the life span of the Union Record.

Robert L. Friedheim, Professor of Political Science Purdue University, "The Seattle General Strike", U of W Press, 1964, has this to say, "No analysis of Seattle labor in the early post-war years would be complete without a word on the important role played by the Seattle Union Record".

Actually, the Union Record, the official organ of the Seattle Central Labor Council made its first appearance in the news paper world as a small weekly-1910. Two years later Harry E.B. Ault, Secretary of the Central Labor Council was appointed editor.

The new editor was an experienced news paper veteran. At fourteen he had migrated from the East Coast with his family to join the Equality Colony at Edison, Skagit County. At 17 he edited "Industrial Freedom" the official organ of Equality Colony, one of a number of socialist experiments in cooperative communal living scattered around the Puget Sound country at the turn of the century. Under Ault's leadership the circulation climbed from 2,000-2,500-50,000.

1918 encouraged by the startling success of the weekly and "at the insistent demand of labor for a fair and adequate presentation of its case". April 1918 saw the first labor owned daily news paper in America, on the streets of Seattle, a complete daily news paper by all major journal standards, owned and controlled by the Seattle Central Labor Council.

Through their own daily working men found (1) new lines of communication, (2) a new sense of identity in the community, (3) a renewed feeling of unity in labor, but more important, an instrument to inform Seattle of labor's aims and aspirations.

Business men and the three Seattle newspapers viewed the soaring circulation 112,000 paid subscriptions January 1919, with wild alarm. The war was on.

Nov. 13, 1919 the Government seized the Union Record plant, arresting the editor and two board members, charge - Sedition.

Nov. 20, 1919 U.S. Commissioner ordered the plant and records returned - on grounds - Faulty Warrant.

Dec. 2, 1919 Judge Jeremiah Neterer dismissed the case for lack of evidence.

Undaunted, three years later, having completely outgrown the quarters in the Central Labor Temple, plagued by internal dissention, the Central Labor Council, Local and Trade Councils, bought the Steele Building, 1915-17-19, First Ave. remodeled extensively, purchased new equipment, in all an obligation of \$290,000 gross investment, an ambitious difficult undertaking in times not unlike our own.

Despite financial problems, "publishing for principle not for profit" proved costly; internal dissentions, "radical Against conservative", dwindling advertising, the Union Record struggled on and managed to survive, but the end was inevitable. It came with the rise to power of Dave Beck, whose theory and philosophy of labor relations differed sharply from those of his predecessors. Under his leadership the Central Council saw no need for a daily paper. 1928 the Seattle Union Record expired.

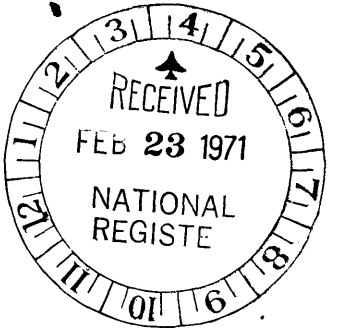
The importance of the Union Record, in labor history, is not based on longevity, neither is it diminished by failure to survive the changing times. Its very existence and participation in the struggles and aspirations of those critical decades in America's social history entitle it to fair and reasonable recognition.

No consideration of the Record's history during the height of its power and prestige, would be complete without mention of some of the young radicals who served it honestly and faithfully. Many just faded away, but there were some who remained in Seattle to make their contributions to the social, political, economic life of the city for decades after the Union Record disappeared from the Seattle scene. Among them, James A. Duncan, Seattle School Board; Theresa McMahon, U of W Faculty; Robert B. Hesketh, City Council; Robert Harlan, City Council; Frank McCaffrey, Dog Wood Press; H.E.B. Ault, United States Deputy; Sidney Strong, Minister Congregational Church; Ralph Chaplin, I.W.W. author-poet, who spent his last days on the staff of the Washington State Historical Museum - Tacoma.

Bibliography

R.L. Friedheim - The Seattle General Strike, U of W Press
Harvey O'Connor Revolution in Seattle
Anna Louise Strong - I Change Worlds
Pacific North West Quarterly July 1968
The American West Jan. 1968
Microfilm Library U of W
Private papers of Harry E.B. Ault (In the family)

The Seattle Central Labor Council-Typographical Union prepared a commemorative plaque to be placed on the Alaska Trade Building. Owing to the death of the sponsor the plans have been interrupted.



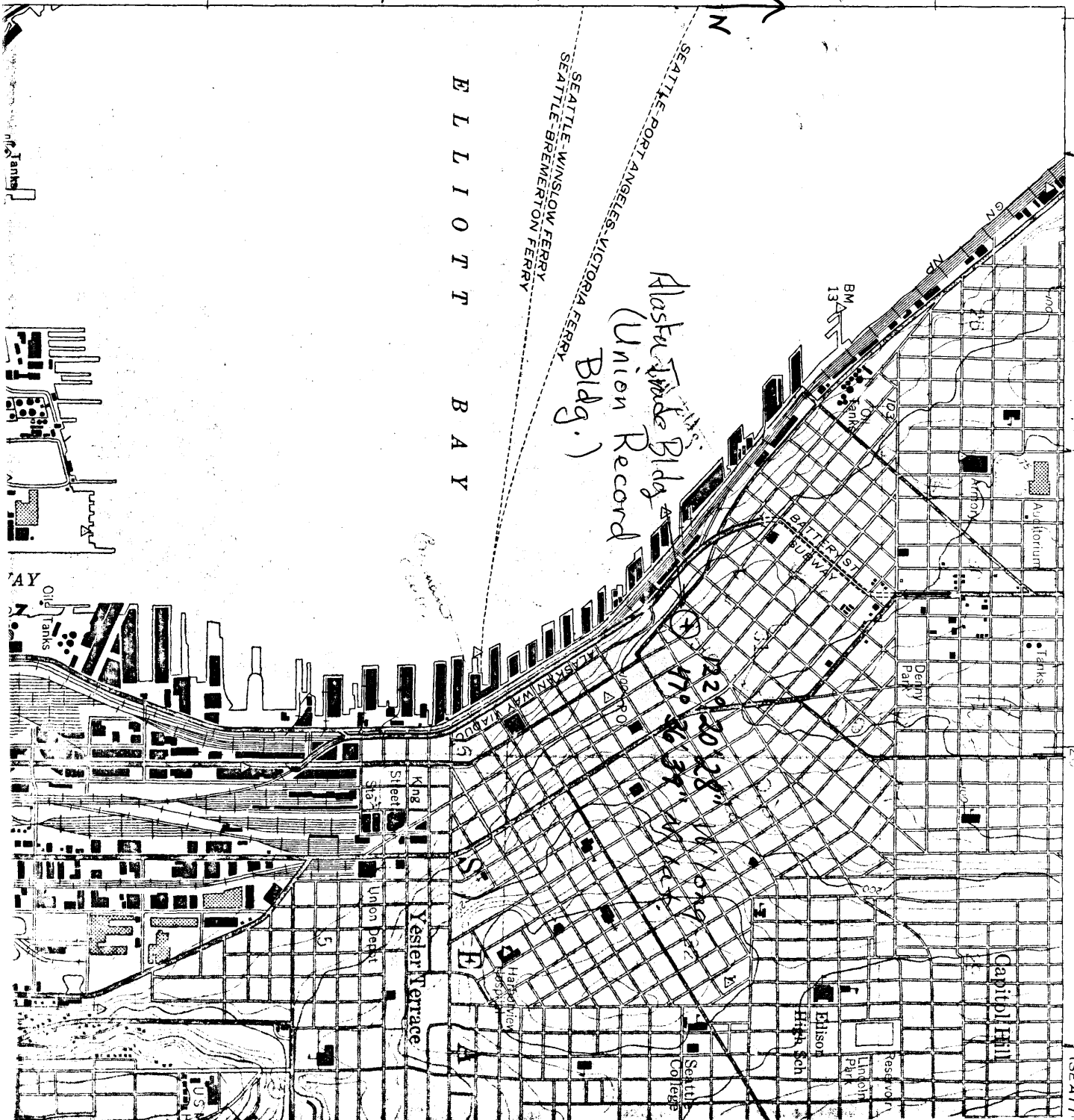
(SHILSHOLE BAY)

47°37'30"

122°22'30"

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

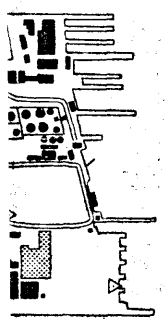
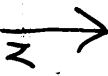
UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
CORPS OF



E L L I O T T B A Y

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

1.25 N
1.24 N



Oil Tanks

(SEATTLE)