

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number _____ Page _____

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 02000247

Date Listed: 3/20/2002

Albers Brothers Mill
Property Name

Pierce
County

WA
State

N/A
Multiple Name

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

[Handwritten Signature]
+ _____
Signature of the Keeper

3/20/02
Date of Action

Amended Items in Nomination:

Significance:

Architecture is added as an area of significance under NR Criterion C. [This reflects the building's significance as a rare surviving example of early 20th century industrial mill construction and is consistent with the narrative text.]

Period of Significance:

The period of significance is revised to read: **1905-1929** [This reflects the period of the building's continued use and significance as a milling operation under the ownership of the Albers Brothers Milling Company. (See page 8.9)]

Verbal Boundary Justification:

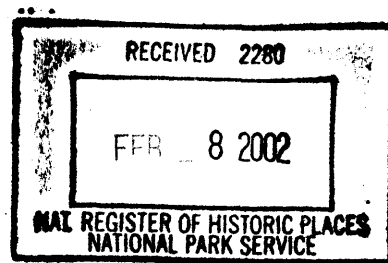
The verbal boundary justification should read: ***The boundary includes the full extent of the historic waterfront mill site that still retains integrity.***

These revisions were confirmed with the WA SHPO staff.

DISTRIBUTION:

- National Register property file
- Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

USDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form
Albers Brothers Mill
Pierce County, Washington
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM**

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a).

2AM
ok

1. Name of Property

historic name Albers Brothers Mill

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 1821 Dock Street not for publication
city or town Tacoma vicinity _____
state Washington code 053 county Pierce zip code 98402

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination ___ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets ___ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant ___ nationally statewide ___ locally. (___ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Allyson N 2-7-02
Signature of certifying official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria. (___ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register *[Signature]* 3/20/02
See continuation sheet.
 determined eligible for the
National Register
See continuation sheet.
 determined not eligible for the
National Register
 removed from the National Register _____

other (explain): _____

[Signature] Signature of Keeper Date
of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)

private
 public-local
 public-State
 public-Federal

Category of Property (Check only one box)

building(s)
 district
 site
 structure
 object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>1</u>	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

USDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form

Albers Brothers Mill

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Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: Industry/Processing/Extraction Sub: Manufacturing Facility, Industrial Storage

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: Work in Progress Sub: Work in Progress

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Other: Industrial

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation concrete

roof timber frame

walls unreinforced brick

other _____

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

- a owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- b removed from its original location.
- c a birthplace or a grave.
- d a cemetery.
- e a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- f a commemorative property.
- g less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

Industry

Commerce

Period of Significance 1905-1924 Significant Dates 1905

Significant Person
(Complete if Criterion B is marked above) _____

Cultural Affiliation _____

Architect/Builder J. J. Donnellan (Architect) John Huntington (Builder)

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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Albers Brothers Mill
Pierce County, Washington

9. Major Bibliographical References

Previous documentation on file (NPS)

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # HAER Inventory/Tacoma Union Depot Warehouse District, 1979

Primary Location of Additional Data

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository: Tacoma Public Library, City of Tacoma Public Records

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property less than 1 acre

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	10	542920	5232400	3	_____	_____
2	_____	_____	_____	4	_____	_____

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Sondra Purcell

organization Save Albers Mill date October 25, 2001

street & number 711 Commerce Street, Suite 200 telephone 253. 627.8101

city or town Tacoma state WA zip code 98403

USDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form
Albers Brothers Mill
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Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage
or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name Thea Foss Waterway Public Development Authority. contact:: Don Meyer

street & number 535 Dock Street telephone 253.597.8122

city or town Tacoma state WA zip code 98402

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 1 Narrative Description

name of property Albers Brothers Mill Building

county and state Pierce, Washington

The Albers Brothers Mill Building, completed in 1905, is a sturdy five-story un-reinforced masonry structure located adjacent to the National Register listed Union Depot/Warehouse Historic District. The strict geometric industrial building was originally the central building of a wheat and grain milling operation. The area, once a sprawling waterfront complex, received, processed and shipped food products around the world. Age, neglect and fire have stripped the site of attendant buildings and structures, but the centerpiece mill building, the Albers Brothers Mill, survives as both the largest and most important component in an operation that once handled 250 tons of grain and flour a day.

The rectangular building sits on a 60-foot by 90-foot footprint with a 12-foot square brick silo attached to the southern edge of the east elevation. A one-story concrete block structure was attached to the southern wall in the late 1940's or 50's. At various times in the past, the building has been attached to other structures that were constructed on the north and east sides. None of these structures exist today.

The central massing of the mill rests on a massive concrete slab supported by a perimeter bell footing that spreads the weight broadly on a fill site with a shallow water table. The building sits on a north/south axis with the 130-foot high elevations facing east toward the waterway and west toward Dock Street. The exterior masonry bearing walls are constructed of two layers of common bond brick with a cavity between. The interior posts, beams and floors are heavy Douglas fir timber construction.

The ground floor of the structure employs the foundation slab as a floor with two rows of inset timber posts running north and south through the open space. The posts are approximately 12" square on the ground floor and taper to 8" at the top level. The tops of the posts are connected to the beams with cast iron capitals that tie the columns to the beams. There is a timber frame grain bag elevator located just north of the center of the space that climbs to the fifth floor. The elevator shaft is open walled with pulleys and machinery mounted above the frame on the top floor. There is a single

Section 7 Page 2 Narrative Description

name of property Albers Brothers Mill Building

county and state Pierce, Washington

wood stair in the northeast corner of the building up to the third floor. The wood stair to the fourth and fifth floors is in the center of the building just south of the elevator. The interior of the building is unadorned and functionally raw with exposed timber structural elements and un-plastered brick. White wash has been applied to the timber posts and brick walls in some places. There are remnants of surface mounted electrical boxes for the elevator and lighting in select areas.

Surrounding three sides of the building is a concrete loading dock runs along the north, east and west facades. Here large sliding doors allow access to the interior spaces. The doors are constructed of diagonal laid planks. Covering the dock is a projecting flat metal awning that is tied back to the building by support cables. At the second floor level on the east, west and north facades, the pattern of loading doors is repeated from the ground floor with openings filled with window panels in the upper section and wood frame, vertical siding in the lower portion.

The primary west façade of the building faces Dock Street. On the west facade are four symmetrically placed loading doors opening onto the concrete loading dock. The east façade has three loading doors. On the upper three floors there are uniformly placed double-hung three-over-three wood windows set into low arched openings with sandstone sills. A flat wood panel fills the area above the upper sash and the crown of the masonry arch. There are eight windows on each floor. The flat plane of the wall is ornamented with the ghosts of old signage. Across the top of the parapet is a distinct sign that reads "ALBERS BROTHER MILLING CO." Barely legible between the third and fourth floors is a sign that reads "Dairy Feeds--Poultry Feeds".

The north elevation of the building reflects a similar symmetry, with a central set of four stacked loading doors that were designed to open into an exterior elevator. In a later configuration, conveyors ran into the building on the second and third floors through a sky bridge from an adjacent two-story warehouse. The loading doors are flanked on each of the lower four floors by a pair of double-hung three-over-three windows set into arched openings with sandstone sills.

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

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name of property Albers Brothers Mill Building
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On the top floor a double-hung window replaces the loading door in the middle of the wall and a wall sign ghost bands the parapet.

The east elevation, which faces the waterfront and old wharf, has undergone the most variations in appearance. In its current configuration, a three-story, 12' square grain silo climbs up the wall on the far south edge with a protruding brick chimney vent that rises to the parapet height. On the ground floor there are three evenly spaced loading doors that open onto a low curb dock just above grade. The second floor fenestration repeats the ground floor with three loading door openings above the ground floor twins. The upper three floors have uniform rows of double-hung three-over-three windows. The window pattern repeats the front west elevation. The windows are set into the standard low arched opening with sandstone sills. The wall sign ghosts are most faded on the east elevation with the remnants of the parapet band sign most evident.

The south elevation of the building displays the most-lively fenestration with uniform rows of double-hung three-over-one windows marching across each of the upper four floors and two polite casement windows stacked on the silo wall. There are five windows grouped in wide pairs on each floor with the eastern pair substituting a door on the eastern edge. The doors were cut down through the old window openings to accommodate a steel fire escape that climbs up the wall to the roof on the left side of the facade. Balancing the fire escape on the western edge of the wall is a scupper and drainpipe that penetrates the parapet at the roof level and extends to the ground. Attached to this façade is a flat roof concrete block 50' x 50' addition. The common band sign ghost, found on the other elevations, wraps the parapet wall.

The roof of the building is a tapered flat deck approximately 30" below the parapet wall edge. In the center of this roof is a gabled monitored style skylight that runs in a north-south direction. This structure is slightly raised with a row of double-hung windows on the east and west sides. The roof support framing creates a very low ceiling height

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name of property Albers Brothers Mill Building
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on the top floor but the central monitor provides relief and light to the interior space. A single, capped brick chimney sits just inside the parapet at the center of the west wall.

The Albers Mill building has been the subject of several recent condition studies and engineering assessments. The structural condition of the building is solid and safe and in 1999 the windows were sealed and a temporary roof was installed to preserve the structure. The wood frame windows are in mixed condition, most with broken glass and wood damage primarily on the south and west walls.

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name of property		Albers Brothers Mill Building
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The Albers Brothers Mill Building, located at 1821 Dock Street, is historically significant under Criterion A as the only remaining remnant of the busy working waterfront that once lined the western shore of the Thea Foss Waterway at the edge of downtown Tacoma. Today, the mill serves as Tacoma's last hold on the memory of city's grain exporting past. In the late 19th and early 20th centuries, a shift occurred in the primary export point for bread basket grain to Asia and Pacific Rim ports. This move from the Columbia River to the Puget Sound area also marked a turning point in American trade and commerce. As the railroads increasingly began to affect the trade routes and settlement patterns in the Pacific Northwest, growing investment in developing ports on Puget Sound redirected population growth and economic development into Washington State away from Portland, Oregon and the shipping centers at the mouth of the Columbia. The Albers Mill Building is the best physical reminder of the Albers Brothers Milling Company and reflects and records the change in the company's history. The firm started in Portland but developed to its powerful position in the grain industry through mills in Tacoma, Seattle and Bellingham on Puget Sound, and its main building in Tacoma and documents the legacy of the firm and its influence in the state of Washington.

The mill building, constructed in 1905, was a significant and integral part of the busy Tacoma export industry that defined and dominated the waterfront landscape from Tacoma's earliest days. It was because of Tacoma's dominance in the milling industry, the availability of deep portage, and the ease of access to the Northern Pacific Railroad, that the Albers Brothers, then based in Portland, Oregon, chose Tacoma to build their first cereal manufacturing plant from scratch. The subsequent construction of various other plants by the firm along the west coast was patterned after this facility. The success of the Albers Brothers is recognized today by the Nestle Corporation, which obtained the Albers trademark in 1984, and actively markets today Albers brand grits and corn meal on store shelves all along the west coast. Eva Albers, George Albers widow, left Washington State with a lasting tribute to the Albers' legacy through an endowment to Seattle University. This endowment made the Albers School of Business and Accounting a vital part of the school's curriculum.

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Pierce County, Washington

NPS Form 10-900-a
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OMB No. 1024-0018

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Albers Brothers Milling Company began with the immigration of Bernhard Albers to the Pacific Northwest. Bernard was born in Lingen, Germany, in the province of Hanover, on March 6, 1864. His father Johann H. was a grain merchant and young Bernard grew up and apprenticed in the grain marketing business. In 1887 at the age of 23, Bernard immigrated to New York. After spending two years in Terre Haute, Indiana he migrated to Portland, Oregon where he worked for four years for the firm of Rogge & Storp, feed merchants.

In 1893, Albers left the Rogge & Storp and established his own grain business under the name of Albers & Tuke. He replaced his partner in 1895 and changed the company name to Albers & Schneider. About the same time, Bernard's brothers, Henry and William, emigrated from Germany. Shortly thereafter his two other brothers, George and Frank, joined them.

With all four brothers working for Bernard the business increased steadily, necessitating the construction of a large mill in 1898 along the banks of the Willamette River in Portland. With subsequent purchases, the company eventually controlled approximately 600 feet of waterfront warehouse and shipping docks on the Willamette River. The complex handled shipping, bagging and milling for grain as well as feed, hay and silage that was imported and exported on both rail and maritime shipping routes. Significant contracts for providing feed and hay to the American military in the Philippines during the Spanish American War buoyed the financial condition of the company and helped underwrite future expansion. The company also benefited greatly by supplying flour, sacked grain and pancake mix to gold seekers headed to the Klondike in 1897 and 1898. For decades a familiar pictorial label used by Albers was a miner bent over his gold pan placer mining a creek.

In 1901 the business was incorporated as the Albers Brothers Milling Company, with all five brothers listed in executive positions. Within a year a massive expansion period began and continued through the First World War.

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In December of 1903, Frank Albers announced that his family was planning to expand their grain and cereal manufacturing company with the construction of a new mill located on Tacoma's waterfront. To facilitate the move, the Albers Brothers bought out the Cascade Cereal Company that had operated a mill on the waterfront since 1889. The Albers' Portland, Oregon mill site was not conducive to expansion. Once dredging of Albert Foss Waterway was completed, the Tacoma location had the advantages of being expandable for the company's purposes and provided a more accessible open port for trans-Pacific shipping. The Albers Brother's criterion for locating the new plant was based upon the availability of vacant land, a wharf, and ease of access to the Northern Pacific Railroad. The Cascade Cereal site, which had been home to a wood-framed mill and warehouse that had burned to the ground in 1902, was ideal.

The new Albers Tacoma facility was located just below Tacoma's warehouse district and across the Northern Pacific rail yards. Frank Albers estimated the cost of the new warehouse would exceed \$25,000. To design the complex, the Albers Brothers hired Tacoma Architect J. J. Donnellan. Donnellan's other work includes the remodel of Tacoma's Visitation Academy located at Eighteenth and Yakima in 1903, the Tacoma's Grand Theater (1905) and the Donnellan & McKenzie Buildings (1905). Today the Albers Brothers Mill Building is the only remaining example of Donnellan's work in Tacoma.

The old Cascade Cereal property, purchased from the Northern Pacific Railroad Company, was roughly 325 feet long and had 250 feet of frontage on the waterway and Dock Street. Frank Albers told reporters that the footprint of the sprawling complex of structures would be 90' by 250'; but the central portion of the building would be 90' by 130' and five-stories tall. Also on site would be a three-story, stick-framed warehouse and a 90-foot long wharf. A Northern Pacific railroad spur ran between the mill and the warehouse and would accommodate both structures simultaneously.

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The Knowles Brothers Construction Company received the contract for the warehouse building and master Tacoma contractor John Huntington received the bid to build the five story brick mill building. Work on the huge plant began in August of 1904 and was completed in the early winter of 1905. John Huntington worked on many other buildings in Tacoma including the Washington School (1906), Roger School (1907), Point Defiance School (1912). He might best be know however for his partnership with Mr. Litle. Together under the name Huntington & Litle, the firm constructed a large amount of buildings in Tacoma between 1885 and 1889. Their work includes the Gross Bros Store (1889), the John S. Baker Building (1889), the Davie Block (1888), the Weeks Building (1887) and the Union Block (1888).

Upon completion of the mill, Frank Albers and P. C. Deming were named to operational managers. The purpose of the new mill facility was to combine several operations and to distribute bulk cereal and fodder commodities for export. On August 28, 1904 the Tacoma Daily Ledger reported, "The plant will be equipped for the manufacture of flour, rolled oats and other cereals and later will be increased by the addition of a brick warehouse containing a plant for compressing hay for shipment to the Orient." By the fall of 1905, several smaller warehouses adjacent to the mill were in operation and the plant was in full operation. One of their main products was to compress bales of hay for shipping. Compressing bales of hay reduced the bale to about 2/3rd size, making them easier to stow in the holds of ships.

Success soon followed the expansion of the Tacoma mill and the workforce grew to more than 75 men. Quickly the Albers Brothers developed a successful core product line using wheat, barley and oats to produce finished retail products such as "violet bread," rolled oats and pancake flour "which was good enough for the most delicate stomach." Quickly Albers breads won critical acclaim. Their firm won Gold Medal competitions at the Saint Louis Exposition (1904) in St. Louis and at the Lewis and Clark World's Fair (1906) in Portland. Always searching for a way to promote their product, the brothers opened a restaurant on the pay-streak promenade during the 1909 Alaska, Yukon, Pacific Exposition in Seattle. The restaurant showcased the goodness of foods prepared and baked with Albers Brothers grains and flour.

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By 1907, even with the massive grain shipping operation of the Northern Pacific Railroad in Tacoma, Albers Mill became the largest grain and mill enterprise in the southern Puget Sound region. In 1909 the Albers brothers constructed a brand new milling plant in Portland, Oregon, and they began a major reconstruction of the mill in Tacoma. By 1912, Albers Mill complex in Tacoma had expanded to include the old main building, an adjoining boiler house, a workshop, a dry room, and oil house, and several one, two and three story warehouses.

During the flurry of construction projects, the Company continued to expand. In 1914 they purchased the Pacific Cereal Association and acquired the rights to produce the Carnation line of feeds. E. A. Stuart, owner of Carnation Evaporated Milk, had specially prepared a line of feeds to produce higher yielding dairy cows. Stuart's feeds were so superior that Carnation cows held the world record for milk production in 32 consecutive years. Together the Albers Brothers and Carnation dominated the industry by working in partnership until 1929.

In 1916 the Albers expanded the Tacoma Mill by replacing the small three-story stick-framed warehouse with a new massive, two-story brick warehouse building. The cost of the new warehouse was estimated at \$10,000. This new building would be more commonly referred to in later years as the J. H. Galbraith Building. It was believed that the new warehouse facility would help the Albers brothers reach a goal of doubling the Tacoma plant's output. To insure this goal was met, the Albers Brothers announced they would also construct a new wharf. The 250 long wharf necessitated the need to purchase a steam freighter with 18,000-ton capacity. Its homeport would be Tacoma. A steamer was refitted in Los Angeles and, while there, renamed *The Rainier*. The vessel embarked on her maiden voyage from Los Angeles to Tacoma on September 29, 1917. It was during this time that the Albers Brothers also expanded their business south to include mills in Los Angeles, Oakland, and San Francisco.

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In 1917 the main mill building was reconfigured and repaired and a lower section on the east-side of the building was removed. During this time the wooden floors had to be straightened out due to weight of thousands of bags of feed and grain on the floors and central elevator. In 1918, the Albers brothers expanded the complex gain, this time adding grain storage tanks on the east side of the main brick building. The tank had a capacity of holding over 200,000 bushels of grain. Total cost of the upgrades was estimated at \$80,000. With these upgrades the Tacoma mill averaged 250 barrels of cereal products and 250 tons of feed grains per day.

According to an article in the Oregonian on 4 April, 1937, the Albers' Brothers success was not without a dose of scandal. "While the family is significant collectively, the history of Henry Albers, who became president of the company upon the death of Bernard in 1908 [Henry's role in the development of the company is seminal]. Henry shepherded the phenomenal growth of the company and oversaw the erection of the Portland building. Of plain and unassuming character, Henry eventually became embroiled in what has been described as the case that "rocked Portland, OR, and the whole Northwest."

The initiation of hostilities between the United States and Germany during WWI eliminated the supportive environment that had sheltered the German population in the United States. Suspicion and hysteria dominated everyday life and even the most stable and respected citizens became subjected to humiliation and harsh treatment because of their heritage. All Germans not naturalized were considered aliens and, by Presidential Proclamation, forbidden near one-half mile of any Federal or State fort or naval vessel. In Portland, Oregon it was necessary that permits be obtained before any person of German origin could get close to the waterfront. This situation, naturally, provided some difficulties to those businesses on the waterfront which were German-owned and the Albers Brothers operation came under tight scrutiny.

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In order to sell Liberty Bonds, "five minute men" went into every business in town. "You bought a bond, or else your name was turned in to a committee as one who would bear watching". Textbooks were censored, Germanic street names in were changed, and food items such as sauerkraut, hamburger and frankfurters [sic] became "liberty cabbage," "liberty steak," and the now ubiquitous "hot dog." Pacifism was not tolerated for religious or moral reasons, and the general feeling was that the conduct of citizens, even if they felt differently, should come into accord with the "wishes and designs" of the United States government.

Although the Albers' company, by then one of the largest companies owned by German Immigrant in the Pacific Northwest was watched, its loyalty had not yet been questioned. The family had previously purchased \$300,000 worth of Liberty Bonds and had encouraged their employees to enlist from the beginning of the hostilities. However, an incident on April 6, 1917, threatened the stability of the business and changed Henry Albers' life permanently."

On the date in question, Henry Albers' was returning to Portland from a business trip in San Francisco where, according to his friend, Jack O'Neill, he had spent ten days drinking brandy and not eating. In 1914, Oregon had passed a prohibition law and Albers took advantage of the California portion of his return trip to become quite intoxicated. He continued his behavior after he entered Oregon which, unfortunately, came to the attention of Deputy U. S. Marshall Frank B. Tichener. Tichener, a former state representative from Coos and Curry Counties, was, at the time, employed in the arrest and harassment of both suspected German spies and violators of the state liquor prohibition. Mr. Albers, in his drunken state, allegedly loudly proclaimed pro-German statements and Henry was arrested.

The news had some nationalists demanding a boycott of Albers products. Speaking of the accounts of Albers arrest, a rightwing extremist tabloid, The Forum was quoted:

"He has become rich and powerful, and his money has given him a false impression of his importance. We earnestly hope he will be speedily tried and his property confiscated and be put on a ship and sent back to

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Berlin, where he may wallow with the rest of the swine that guzzle beer and sing "hoch der kaiser!" No part of his fortune, however, should be left him."

Later, there were accusations of entrapment by Marshall Tichener, which seem substantiated by the facts, but this has not been proven. Albers was arrested after his indictment on November 2nd, 1917. The trial did not begin until the January 25th, 1919. Upon his arrest, Albers immediately resigned as president of the company and sold his 10 percent interest of the stock. Accused of violating the Federal Espionage Act, he was defended by Portland Judge Henry S. McGinn and John McCourt. The federal prosecutors were U. S. Attorney Bert Haney and Assistant U. S. Attorney B. H. Goldstein, himself a naturalized citizen.

After significant difficulties in selecting a jury, the trial began. The prosecutors' case, built on the testimony of Frank Tichener and four witnesses, sought to prove that Albers intended "to undermine the morale of our young men who were being called to the colors." Oregonians' paranoia and hatred, engendered by the war, seemed focused totally on Henry Albers, as if he represented the entire German cause. Local and regional newspapers recorded in detail every aspect of the trial. The fact that Albers made the alleged statements, or some facsimile thereof, was never disputed by the defense. They attempted to disprove the allegations by contending that his drunken, irrational state was responsible for the statements.

Henry was found guilty on two of the seven counts, that his words were said to incite, provoke, and encourage resistance to the United States or to promote the cause of the enemy. The guilty verdict noted that he supported and favored the cause of Germany and opposed the cause of the United States. The fact that an armistice was in effect by the end of the trial did not diminish the sentence of three years in prison with a \$10,000 fine. While awaiting a Supreme Court appeal of the verdict, U. S. Attorney General H. M. Daugherty intervened, confessing that there had been "error in the case." Stating that "incompetent" evidence, "highly prejudicial and erroneously admitted," had been

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introduced at the trial, and he sought to remand the judgement in favor of a new trial. Efforts to free Albers were eventually successful but were in vain because he died of a stroke on July 27, 1927.

Whatever setback the arrest may have had on Henry Albers, the company continued to flourish. By 1920, the Albers Brothers had added cereal mills in Bellingham, La Conner, and Spokane, Washington; San Jose and El Centro, California; Ogden, Utah; Lewiston, Idaho; New York City, New York; Kobe, Japan; Darien, Manchuria; and Valparaiso, Chili. Company exports had also grown by this time.

Many Washington farmers were proud that their crops were being turned into fine oatmeal, "flapjack" mix, wheat flakes, grits, corn meal, and dried split peas, at the Albers Brothers Mill. Egg producers enthusiastically purchased Albers Brothers chicken mash that consistently produced high quality eggs. Under the Albers, Carnation, Peacock, Del Monte, and Sunripe trademarks, the company produced flour, oats, cereal, meal, stock and poultry feed, and numerous other items, which created the largest manufacturing corporation of its type in the Pacific Coast.

By the late 1920s the company grew to over 2500 employees with 120 shareholders. The company eventually owned a variety of mills across the Pacific Northwest. Combined, the floor space of mills exceeded one million, three hundred and twenty five thousand square feet, and annual sales grew to twenty million dollars. In 1929, the Carnation Company, who had worked in close association with the Albers for fifteen years, finally purchased the Albers Brothers Milling Company. The timing of the transaction could not have been better for the brothers as the Carnation Company, dubiously, purchased the Albers Brothers Milling Company just ten days before the stock market crash that triggered the Great Depression.

After the stock market crash, Carnation began to streamline their operations and sell of pieces of the business. One of the mills effected was the Tacoma mill. In 1937, Totem Foods purchased the warehouse for a wholesale grocery concern. Interestingly the mill itself continued to operate under the Albers Brothers name through 1944.

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As the post war era began, Albers Mill and its parent company, the Carnation Company, relinquished the old mill building. As their last hold on the waterway property, the J H Galbraith Freight and Shipping Company took over occupancy of the warehouse and grounds. The mix of tenants included Intercity Auto Freight, Republic Carloading, Acme Fast Freight, and National Carloading, all engaged in the business of moving goods from rail to truck with no particular interest in the wharf and waterfront location. During this period a basic one-story concrete block addition was added on the north wall of the mill.

From the 1950's through the early 1980's the Albers Brothers Mill complex was put to land based uses and the once vibrant wharf and waterfront on the eastern edge of the property eroded into the waterway. Harmon Leonard, owner of Acme Intercity Freight, purchased the mill site from J. H. Galbraith in 1978. In the late 1980's the waterway was declared a superfund site by the federal Environmental Protection Agency and a major effort was launched to demolish and clean up the aging and neglected industrial sites along the shoreline. By 1982 all of the buildings on the Albers Brothers site were unoccupied. The building was utilized as a warehouse and storage space from 1982 to 1990.

On July 28, 1993, a major fire destroyed the two-story brick and timber warehouse that was built on the site in 1916. At the time of the fire a sky-bridge and conveyor crossed over between the warehouse and old mill above the railroad spur and for a time it appeared the conflagration would spread to the five-story landmark. Fortunately, the warehouse structure collapsed before the fire could reach the old mill. During the clean up, the site was cleared to dirt grade except for the original five-story mill and a section of the wharf deck that is partially on pilings over water. The cause of the blaze was determined as arson.

By the time of the fire, all of the parcels along the west shore of Thea Foss Waterway between 15th and 21st Street was purchased. It was held in public trust from Burlington Resources Company, a real estate wing of the Burlington

USDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form

Albers Brothers Mill

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Northern railroad, successor to the Northern Pacific. The City of Tacoma was in the process of purchasing the mill site from Harmon Leonard at the time the fire broke out in the Galbraith warehouse building.

Today, Albers Brothers Mill Building is an industrial silhouette against a blank shoreline landscape that once bustled with dense collection of warehouses, factories and steam plants. As such the building is historically significant under Criterion C as the last remaining example of the industrial architecture on Tacoma's waterfront. The surrounding waterfront property both North and South along the Thea Foss Waterway is being dramatically changed by new construction including a museum, mixed use commercial buildings and urban housing projects. As a new wave of urban development is assembled along the waterway, Albers Mill offers a singular architectural remark from the past and offers a welcome reminder of how the waterfront was once used.

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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Section 9 Page 1 of 2 Major Bibliographical References
name of property Albers Brothers Mill Building
county and State Pierce, Washington

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----- "Work Begun On Albers Mill." (1904, August 28) p. 8.
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USDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form
Albers Brothers Mill
Pierce County, Washington
NPS Form 10-900-a
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name of property Albers Brothers Mill Building
county and State Pierce, Washington

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- "Enlarges Wharf, Adds Warehouse." (1917, September 23) p. 15.
- "Tacoma Plant Doing Large Business." (1920, February 23) p. 2.
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USDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form
Albers Brothers Mill
Pierce County, Washington

NPS Form 10-900-a
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Section 10 Page 1 of 1 **Geographical Data**
name of property Albers Brothers Mill Building
county and State Pierce, Washington

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Parcel D of boundary line adjustment number 9707280319 all of lots 9 through 13 inclusive, block 58, according to the official MAP OF TACOMA TIDELANDS filed in the office of the Commissioner of Public Lands at Olympia, WASHINGTON, 3 September, 1895. Except the easterly 150 feet of said lots 9 through 13. Tax account number R8950001852

Also known as site 2 (40,651 sq ft or .93 acres) 1821 Dock Street in Tacoma, Pierce County, Washington 98402 Albers Mill—Vacant warehouse building.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

USDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form
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Pierce County, Washington

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Section 12 Page 1

Name of property Albers Brothers Mill Building
County and State Pierce County, Washington

Photographic Continuation Sheet

Photo #1

Name of Building: Albers Brothers Mill

County and State: Pierce County, Washington

Photographer: Russell Holter

Date of Photo: October 2001

Original Negative located at: Artifacts Consulting, 1109 A Street, Suite 1, Tacoma WA

View: Northwest angle.

Photo # 1 of 12

Photo #2

Name of Building: Albers Brothers Mill

County and State: Pierce County, Washington

Photographer: Russell Holter

Date of Photo: October 2001

Original Negative located at: Artifacts Consulting, 1109 A Street, Suite 1, Tacoma WA

View: Southwest angle.

Photo # 2 of 12

Photo #3

Name of Building: Albers Brothers Mill

County and State: Pierce County, Washington

Photographer: Russell Holter

Date of Photo: October 2001

Original Negative located at: Artifacts Consulting, 1109 A Street, Suite 1, Tacoma WA

View: South elevation.

Photo # 3 of 12

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Albers Brothers Mill
Pierce County, Washington
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CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 12 Page 2

Name of property Albers Brothers Mill Building
County and State Pierce County, Washington

Photo

#4

Name of Building: Albers Brothers Mill
County and State: Pierce County, Washington
Photographer: Russell Holter
Date of Photo: October 2001
Original Negative located at: Artifacts Consulting, 1109 A Street, Suite 1, Tacoma WA
View: Southeast Angle.
Photo # 4 of 12

Photo #5

Name of Building: Albers Brothers Mill
County and State: Pierce County, Washington
Photographer: Russell Holter
Date of Photo: October 2001
Original Negative located at: Artifacts Consulting, 1109 A Street, Suite 1, Tacoma WA
View: East elevation.
Photo # 5 of 12

Photo #6

Name of Building: Albers Brothers Mill
County and State: Pierce County, Washington
Photographer: Russell Holter
Date of Photo: October 2001
Original Negative located at: Artifacts Consulting, 1109 A Street, Suite 1, Tacoma WA
View: Detail of upper south elevation signage and fire escape.
Photo # 6 of 12

Photo #7

Name of Building: Albers Brothers Mill
County and State: Pierce County, Washington
Photographer: Russell Holter
Date of Photo: October 2001
Original Negative located at: Artifacts Consulting, 1109 A Street, Suite 1, Tacoma WA
View: Detail of upper west elevation fenestration.
Photo # 7 of 12

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Section 12 Page 3

Name of property Albers Brothers Mill Building
County and State Pierce County, Washington

Photo

#8

Name of Building: Albers Brothers Mill
County and State: Pierce County, Washington
Photographer: Russell Holter
Date of Photo: October 2001
Original Negative located at: Artifacts Consulting, 1109 A Street, Suite 1, Tacoma WA
View: Detail of fenestration above covered loading dock.
Photo # 8 of 12

Photo #9

Name of Building: Albers Brothers Mill
County and State: Pierce County, Washington
Photographer: Russell Holter
Date of Photo: October 2001
Original Negative located at: Artifacts Consulting, 1109 A Street, Suite 1, Tacoma WA
View: Detail of windows and brick on west façade.
Photo # 9 of 12

Photo #10

Name of Building: Albers Brothers Mill
County and State: Pierce County, Washington
Photographer: Russell Holter
Date of Photo: October 2001
Original Negative located at: Artifacts Consulting, 1109 A Street, Suite 1, Tacoma WA
View: Detail of loading dock bay door.
Photo # 10 of 12

Photo #11

Name of Building: Albers Brothers Mill
County and State: Pierce County, Washington
Photographer: Russell Holter
Date of Photo: October 2001
Original Negative located at: Artifacts Consulting, 1109 A Street, Suite 1, Tacoma WA
View: Detail of exterior brick façade.
Photo # 11 of 12

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Name of property Albers Brothers Mill Building
County and State Pierce County, Washington

Photo

#12

Name of Building: Albers Brothers Mill

County and State: Pierce County, Washington

Photographer: Russell Holter

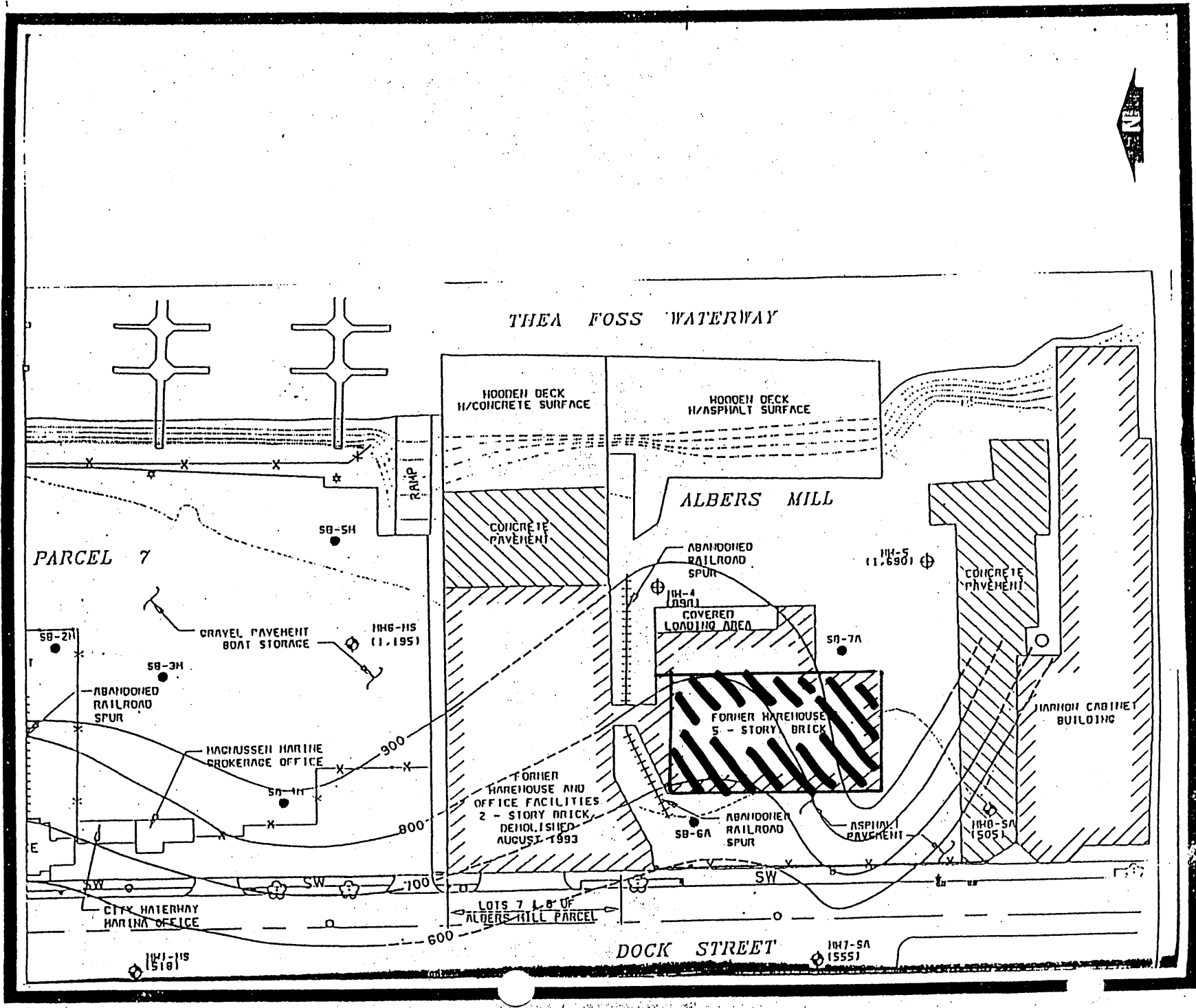
Date of Photo: October 2001

Original Negative located at: Artifacts Consulting, 1109 A Street, Suite 1, Tacoma WA

View: Detail of loading dock and large bay door.

Photo # 12 of 12

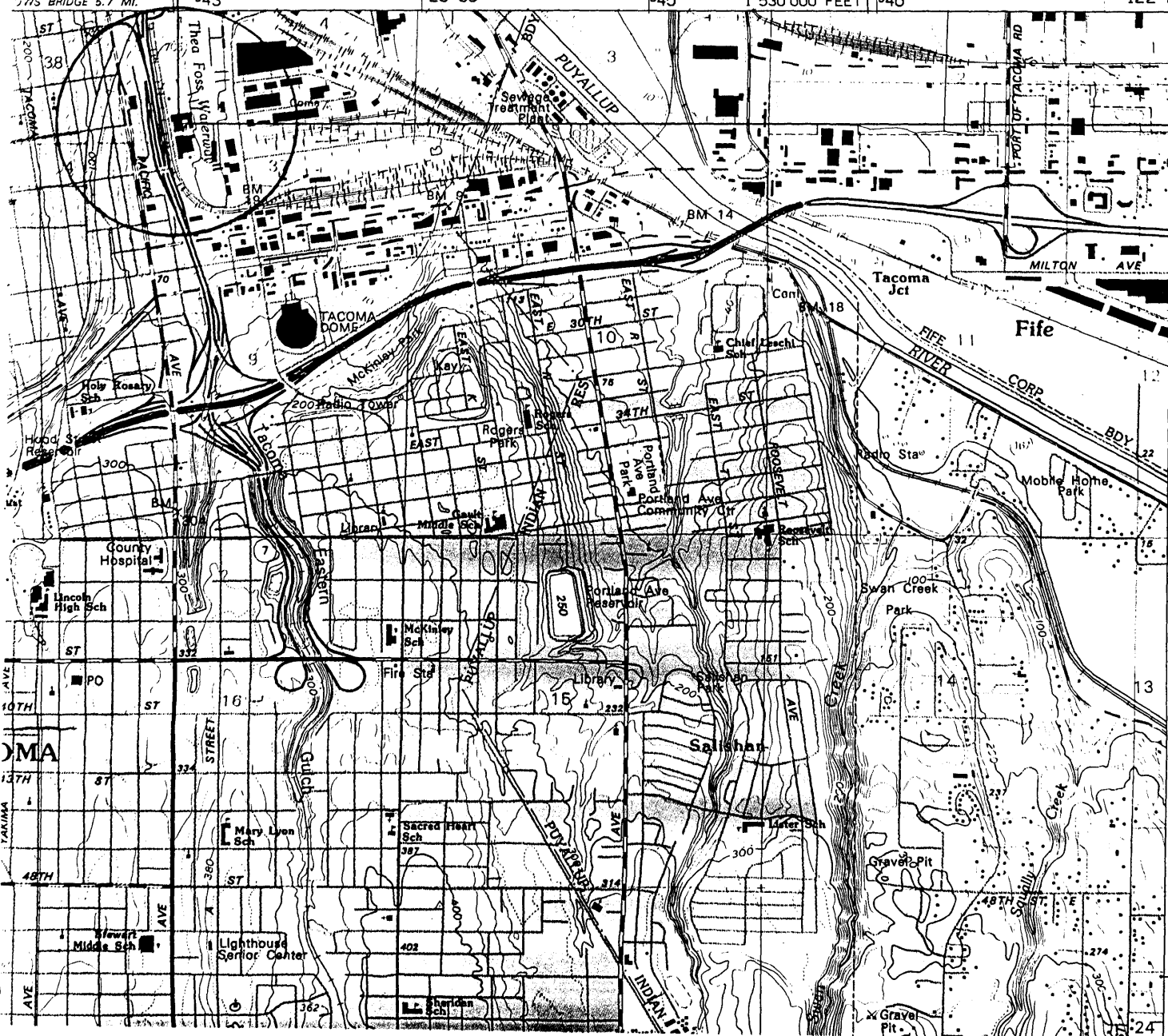
ALBERS BROTHERS MILL BUILDING
1821 Dock Street, Tacoma, WA., Pierce County
NOMINATION TO THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
SITE MAP



542920
EASTING

TACOMA SOUTH QUADRANGLE
WASHINGTON-PIERCE CO.
7.5-MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

RT ORCHARD 25 MI. | 543 | 25' 00" | 545 | 1 530 000 FEET | 546 | 122°22'30" | 47°15' 00"



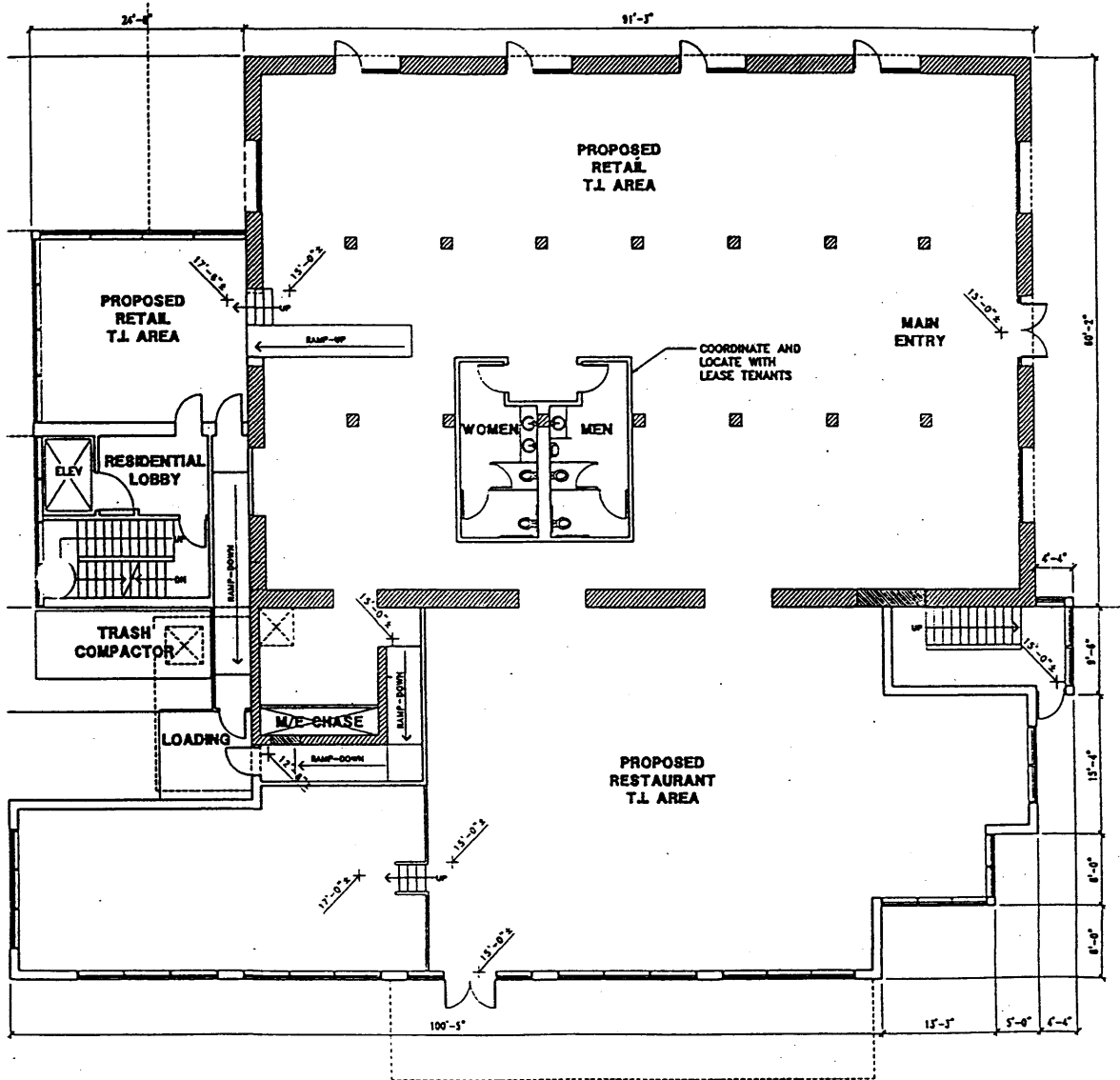
5232400
NORTHING

ALBERS BROTHERS
MILL
1821 DOCK ST.
TACOMA, WA.


5231
5230
5229
5224

12' 30"

ALBERS BROTHERS MILL BUILDING
 1821 Dock Street, Tacoma, WA., Pierce County
 NOMINATION TO THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
 Floor Plan, typical all floors
 From 2001 rehab measured drawings



FIRST FLOOR

SCALE: 1/8" = 1'-0" 

FLOOR PLANS

ALBERS MILL PROJECT
 Tacoma, Washington

DEVELOPER: ALBERS MILL LLC
 P.O. BOX 190171-99519
 ANCHORAGE, AK 99519

ALBERS BROTHERS MILL BUILDING
1821 Dock Street, Tacoma, WA.
Nomination to the National Register of Historic Places



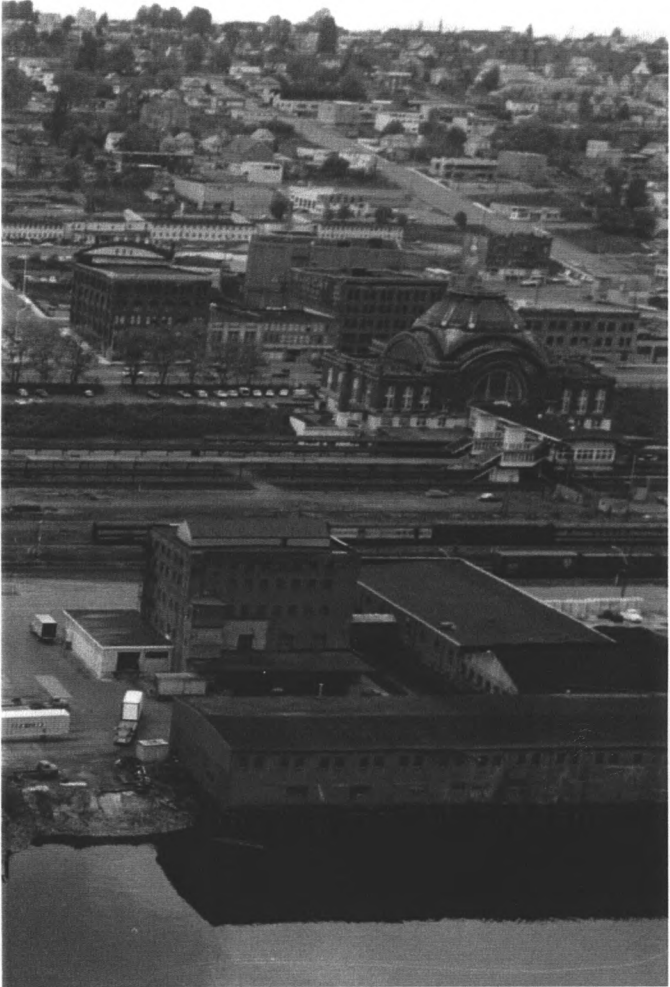
Albers Brothers Milling Company circa 1917.
Washington State Historical Society, Tacoma

ALBERS BROTHERS MILL BUILDING
1821 Dock Street, Tacoma, WA.
Nomination to the National Register of Historic Places



Albers Brothers Milling Company Restaurant at the Alaska, Yukon, Pacific Exposition
Seattle, 1909. University of Washington Suzzallo Library Special Collections.

ALBERS BROTHERS MILL BUILDING
1821 Dock Street, Tacoma, WA.
Nomination to the National Register of Historic Places



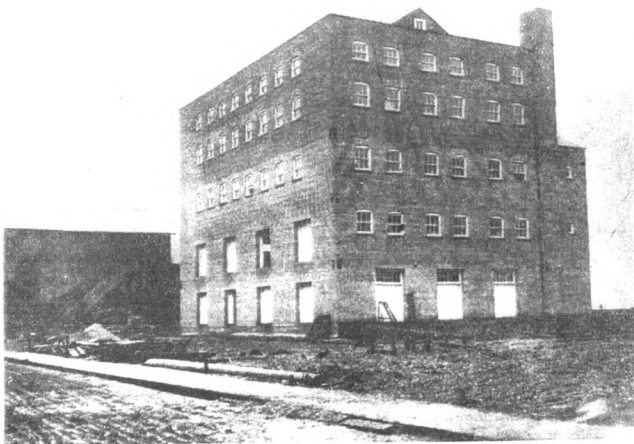
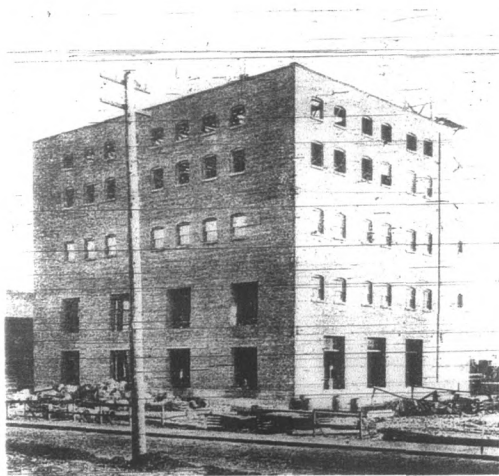
Albers Brothers Milling Company Aerial Photo circa 1972.
File photo, Artifacts Consulting Inc.

ALBERS BROTHERS MILL BUILDING
1821 Dock Street, Tacoma, WA.
Nomination to the National Register of Historic Places



Albers Brothers Milling Company circa 1940.
Tacoma Public Library, Northwest Room, Special Collections

ALBERS BROTHERS MILL BUILDING
1821 Dock Street, Tacoma, WA.
Nomination to the National Register of Historic Places



Albers Brothers Milling Company construction progress photos circa 1904.
Tacoma Public Library, Northwest Room, Special Collections

ALBERS BROTHERS MILL BUILDING

1821 Dock Street, Tacoma, WA., Pierce County

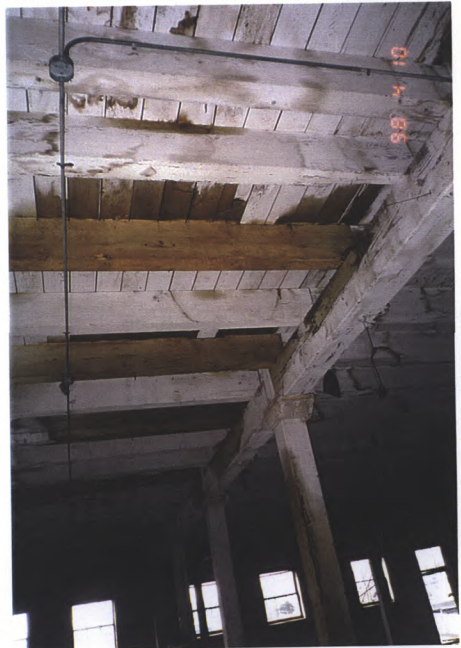
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Interior photographs



Above: Post and beam detail—fifth floor

Below: Post and beam detail all other floors



Photographs by Tim McDonald,
April 10, 1998

ALBERS BROTHERS MILL BUILDING

1821 Dock Street, Tacoma, WA., Pierce County

NOMINATION TO THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

Interior photographs



Above: Post and beam detail—fifth floor

Below: Post and beam detail all other floors



Photographs by Tim McDonald,
April 10, 1998