

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

PH0685143

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED **SEP 26 1978**

DATE ENTERED **NOV 28 1978**

**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 Arctic Building  
AND/OR COMMON

**LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER  
306 Cherry Street — NOT FOR PUBLICATION  
CITY, TOWN Seattle CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT  
VICINITY OF 1st Joel Pritchard  
STATE Washington CODE 53 COUNTY King CODE 033

**CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

**OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME CHG City Center Investors # 6 ✓  
STREET & NUMBER 1906 One Washington Plaza  
CITY, TOWN Tacoma VICINITY OF Washington STATE 98402

**LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Assessors Office, King County Administration Building  
STREET & NUMBER  
CITY, TOWN Seattle STATE Washington

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE Washington State Inventory of Historic Places  
DATE February 1978 — FEDERAL  STATE — COUNTY — LOCAL  
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation  
CITY, TOWN Olympia 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

## DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Arctic Building, occupying a site at the corner of Third Avenue and Cherry Street in Seattle, rises eight stories above a ground level of retail shops to an ornate terra cotta roof cornice. The building also has a penthouse office which is not original. When the building opened, this was the location of a roof garden enjoyed by members of the Arctic Club.

Before the design for this office building was fully determined, the developer, Mr. James Moses of New York City, entered into a lease with the Arctic Club, agreeing to provide suitable quarters for their organization. The decorative theme of the new building became indicative of the name of the organization, particularly the adoption of walrus heads to adorn the piers at the third story level and also, as symbolic of the Arctic region, the polar bear placed over the Third Avenue entrance (no longer visible due to modernization).

The Arctic Building, like the Smith Tower, Dexter Horton, and Frederick and Nelson Buildings, pioneered the use of light glazed terra cotta panels over a reinforced concrete or structural steel frame. Terra cotta facades were extremely popular and widely used in downtown Seattle for many years because their bright, reflective quality and ease of maintenance countered the grayness of Northwest winters. However, the designers of the Arctic Building went a step further than the designers of other terra cotta buildings by adding a significant amount of color to the facade. They created one of the finest examples of multi-colored matte glaze terra cotta work in the city and, quite probably, in the Northwest.

The major portion of the facade is a cream white terra cotta with submarine blue and orange-brown accents (now faded). The colored portions are particularly noticeable along the richly adorned top story and main cornice. The club's entrance walls and ceiling on Cherry Street are also richly ornamented in cream-colored terra cotta.

The main corridors of the floors which house office space are finished in selected Alaska marble. The former club lobby is finished in imitation Caen stone, and decorative plaster work adorns the columns on the main floor. Beautiful hardwood finishes on these columns, as well as panelling and wainscoting in the former library and lounge, create a harmonious effect throughout the club rooms. The fireplace in the lounge has a mantel faced in "faience tile" depicting Lake Washington and Mount Rainier.

The formal dining room was the focal point of the club. It is a room about sixty feet square surmounted by a tinted glass dome. The walls and ceiling were originally highly ornamented with stucco which had been artistically frescoed. The cornices, appropriately enough, depict fruits and vegetables. Beautiful crystal chandeliers were especially designed for the room, and concealed lighting combined with them to provide pleasing effects in the evening. The dining room, although converted into offices by the Seattle Department of Community Development, still contains its stained glass panels and chandeliers and remains a unique and ambiance-filled feature of Seattle's gracious past. The Arctic Club also originally boasted a ladies' tea room, private dining rooms, billiard and card rooms, bowling alley, barber shop, and roof garden - - all made into office space in recent years.

# 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 checked="" 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			

SPECIFIC DATES 1917

BUILDER/ARCHITECT A. Warren Gould, architect

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

In addition to its considerable architectural merit, the Arctic Building represents one of Seattle's more colorful early twentieth century social institutions. Its site has hosted a variety of public uses and its architect was one of the foremost designers in the region.

The site was originally the property of Judge Joseph R. Lewis, Chief Justice of Washington Territory and a direct descendant of Betty Washington, sister of George Washington. The Lewis house, built there shortly after his arrival in Seattle in 1875, was considered one of the finest in the city. It was torn down in 1892 for the erection of the Seattle Theatre. This 1300 seat house was built from designs by Saunders and Lawton adjacent to the recently completed Rainier Club. It became a gala gathering spot for Seattle's elite, presenting the best in American and foreign theatre. The Rainier Club's first home was also the focus of social life for Seattle's foremost businessmen. Both buildings were torn down in 1916 for the new Arctic Club.

The Arctic club, originally located in the Morrison Hotel, provided an exclusive social community for those Seattlites who had returned from the Alaska Gold Rush with money in their pockets and a repertoire of stories to tell about their adventures in the Yukon. In its dining rooms and lounges many of Seattle's wealthy and socially prominent citizens planned strategies and dreamed projects which turned the city into a major west coast metropolis. In recent years, a number of city departments, including the Department of Community Development, have been housed in the Arctic Building.

A. Warren Gould, architect, was responsible for many of the finest commercial buildings in downtown Seattle. Among them are the County-City Building, the American Savings Bank and adjoining Empire Building (2nd Avenue and Madison), the YWCA, and the Standard Furniture Company (2nd and Pine). In addition, he designed buildings in Vancouver B.C., Aberdeen, and Tacoma, Washington. He also was responsible for many private residences throughout the Northwest. Gould was born in Nova Scotia in 1872. He studied architecture at MIT and was designer of numerous residential and commercial projects in the Boston area prior to coming to Seattle in 1904. In addition to his architectural work, Gould originated the municipal plans amendment to the city charter, and was responsible for the creation of the Municipal Plans Commission. In 1917, he was elected the president of the Washington State Society of Architects and was appointed in 1919 a member of the state architect's examining board.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

"Arctic Building has New Owner," The Seattle Times. April 30, 1978

"Arctic Building, New Home Arctic Club, Seattle". Pacific Builder and Engineer. Vol 23, no. 8 February 23, 1917.

A. Warren Gould (File N 979.743 N2145) Special Collections, Suzzallo Library, University of Washington

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one

QUADRANGLE NAME Seattle South, Washington

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24,000

UTM REFERENCES 320

A 1,0 | 55,028,0 | 5,217,228,0

B      |      |     

C      |      |     

D      |      |     

E      |      |     

F      |      |     

G      |      |     

H      |      |     

### VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The nominated property occupies Lots 5 and 8, Block 27, C.D. Boren's Addition to the city of Seattle, Washington.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Lawrence Kreisman, Research Assistant

ORGANIZATION

Office of Urban Conservation

STREET & NUMBER

400 Yesler Way

CITY OR TOWN

Seattle

Edited by: Florence K. Lentz, Historic Preservation  
(206) 753-1707 Specialist  
Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation.

DATE

June 1978

TELEPHONE

(206) 625-5401

STATE

Washington 98104

# 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL X

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

*Jeanne M. Welch*

TITLE Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE September 18, 1978

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

*John A. ...*  
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE 11.28.78

ATTEST: *W. ...*  
CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

DATE 11.22.78