

**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation 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 De La Mar Apartments

and/or common

**2. Location**

street & number 115 West Olympic Place not for publication

city, town Seattle vicinity of congressional district 3rd - Don Bonker

state Washington code 053 county King code 033

**3. Classification**

<b>Category</b>	<b>Ownership</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Present Use</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: <u>Apt. Bldg.</u>

**4. Owner of Property**

name Mrs. Frances Ash

street & number 1109 - 17th Avenue East

city, town Seattle vicinity of state Washington, 98112

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. King County Assessor

street & number King County Administration Building, Fourth & James Street

city, town Seattle state Washington, 98104

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title Seattle's 1979 Inventory of Historic Resources has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date June, 1979  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Office of Urban Conservation, 400 Yesler Way

city, town Seattle state Washington, 98104

---

## 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 De La Mar is a handsome U-shaped apartment block of yellow brick executed in a neo-classic mode and possessing some of the most ornate terra cotta ornament of any building in Seattle. It is situated on the lower slope of Queen Anne Hill with a partial view of Elliot Bay to the south. West Olympic Place, the boulevard on which it stands, is characterized by a range of apartment house architectural styles dating from 1907 to the late 1970's. The immediate neighborhood has always been a wealthy residential district, but a number of once-grand single-family homes and apartment hotels have been replaced by modern apartments and condominiums. In contrast to some of its newer, often larger neighbors, the De La Mar demonstrates elegance and quality of design at a more comfortable human scale.

The De La Mar's facades are loosely modelled after a Renaissance palazzo. Its foundation and ground floor are of cast terra cotta simulating rusticated stonework. From this rusticated base, ivory terra cotta pilasters rise three stories. These are crowned by fluted capitals with egg and dart mouldings. Between these pilasters are deeply recessed windows of varying sizes delineated with terra cotta. All are capped with terra cotta keystones. The larger windows feature moulded surrounds, bracketed sills, and additional ornamental quoins. The main story windows are topped by projecting triangular pediments. The building is crowned by a loosely-derived Doric entablature of terra cotta consisting of a simple architrave, a wreath-decorated frieze, and a cornice with bold mutules, guttae and paterae. A balustrade surmounts the cornice along both street facades.

One of the De La Mar's distinctive features is the courtyard created by the U-plan. This charming retreat is enclosed by a wrought iron fence and a graceful gate that is flanked by brick gate posts with terra cotta caps. A sunken Roman pond trimmed with terra cotta features a late Victorian cast iron lamp post in the form of a maiden. The lamp base is similar in shape and ornament to those of the lighting standards at the Pioneer Square pergola, which date from the same period and were designed by Julian Everett. It is possible that they were cast by the same firm.

The recessed entrance with its bevelled glass transom and sidelights is framed by a pair of Ionic columns that support a frieze with incised lettering "De La Mar." Major piers on either side of this entry and a garland decorated pediment, all in terra cotta, further embellish the facade.

The lobby elaborates upon the ornateness of the exterior. Its ochre-colored marble columns and wainscoting, cast plaster ceiling, and tile floor incorporating a coat of arms create the regal sort of space required for its national and international guests during the Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition of 1909. The De La Mar's 39 apartments contain much of the original woodwork and oak flooring. The basement bachelor units are built over a ballroom floor with the original bandstand and table areas still intact.

## 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/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1909 Builder/Architect Unknown

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Built by pioneer developer George Kinnear in 1909, the De La Mar is a fine example of early apartment house architecture on Seattle's Queen Anne Hill. Multiple family dwellings have continually changed the face of this upper-income district since the construction of the Chelsea Hotel (National Register, 1978) in 1907, but the De La Mar stands today as an elegant tribute to the original concept of the "luxury apartment." The building functions as an important element of the streetscape along West Olympic Place by providing human scale and visual richness. Additionally, the De La Mar is one of several remaining apartment hotels in Seattle built to accommodate the expected influx of guests and visitors to the Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition of 1909. Now a designated City of Seattle landmark, the De La Mar demonstrates the positive impact which the AYP had upon the city's physical development.

George Kinnear, a native of Ohio, visited the Northwest in 1874 and purchased what is known today as the George Kinnear Addition on the south slope of Queen Anne Hill. Four years later, in 1878, he settled in Seattle and in addition to his own real estate interests he invested in much of the city's major commercial development and promoted the region's growth in a number of significant ways. Kinnear led an effective public relations campaign involving the printing and distribution throughout the country of pamphlets describing the Northwest and Seattle, including paid advertisements in major urban newspapers. He also promoted the building of a wagon road over Snoqualmie Pass in 1878-1879 to improve access to the coast from east of the Cascade Mountains. In 1887, Kinnear gave the City of Seattle fourteen acres of land overlooking Puget Sound on the southwest side of Queen Anne Hill. The land with many improvements now constitutes Kinnear Park.

To date, the names of the architects of Kinnear's De La Mar have not come to light. Several local architects, however, were capable of working successfully in the style. Of particular interest are U. Grant Fay and the firm of Russell and Babcock who, in 1909, designed the Masonic Building at the Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition in nearly identical form and detail. Because the De La Mar was built to accommodate AYP guests, it might be assumed that owner George Kinnear wished to emulate the formal nature of that exposition building in his palatial guest house. U. Grant Fay, in partnership with Arthur Loveless, was also responsible for the Public Safety Building on Yesler Way of the same period. It is built of a similar color brick and possesses rusticated stonework, pilasters, and corncing similar in styling to that of the De La Mar.

Among Seattle's preparations for the Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition was the construction of a number of multi-family hotels or apartment buildings. The south slope of Queen Anne Hill was one neighborhood which embraced this new dwelling type, beginning with the completion of the Chelsea in 1907. When the De La Mar was built two years later, its character was very much in keeping with the architectural quality and prestige of the developing Kinnear Addition. Although it was not originally the grandest apartment

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Bagley, Clarence. History of Seattle. Chicago, 1916. "George Kinnear", pp. 714-22  
 "De La Mar Apartments." City of Seattle Landmark Nomination. Office of Urban Conservation.  
Pacific Builder & Engineer. July 24, 1909. p. 289.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than one **UTM NOT VERIFIED**  
 Quadrangle name Seattle North Quad **ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED** Quadrangle scale 1:24000

### UMT References

A	1 0	5 4 8 2 6 0	5 2 7 4 7 9 0	B			
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
C				D			
E				F			
G				H			

### Verbal boundary description and justification

The nominated property comprises Lots 11 and 12 of Block 11 of the George Kinnear Addition to the City of Seattle. The property measures 100 feet by 128 feet in its dimension.

### List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
state	code	county	code

## 11. Form Prepared By

Edited by Flo Lentz, OAHF, 4/7/80

name/title	Lawrence Kreisman, Site Surveyor
organization	Office of Urban Conservation
street & number	400 Yesler Way
city or town	Seattle
date	December 6, 1979
telephone	(206) 625-4501
state	Washington, 98104

## 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

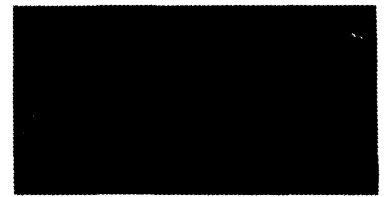
The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Jeanne M. Welch 5/30/80

title	date
For HCRS use only I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register	
<u>W. Ray Luce</u> Keeper of the National Register	date 8/18/80
Attest: <u>J. Honey</u> Chief of Registration	date 8-6-80

**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service****National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

Continuation sheet

Item number

8

Page

1

hotel in the area, it remains today as a virtually unaltered example of its time, and still a desirable address. A trolley line known as the "Kinnear run" connected the De La Mar and other plush hostelryes along the city's most scenic route to the Exposition grounds (now the University of Washington campus). The present-day overhead electric trolley wires at the corner of Second Avenue West and West Olympic Place trace that original route, and are another reminder of the kind of urban growth that was inspired by the AYP.