

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

WH 713

**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). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name

BARLOW BUILDING

other names/site number

Philip Baum Grocery, Morgan & Matthes Grocery, Crown Bar

2. Location

street & number

211 West Holly Street

not for publication

N/A

city or town

Bellingham

vicinity

N/A

state Washington

code WA

county Whatcom

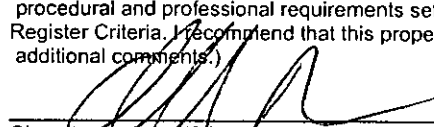
code 073

zip code

98225

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.)


Signature of certifying official

10/27/04
Date

WASHINGTON STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE

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

☐ 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 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

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>1</u>	buildings
<u>0</u>	sites
<u>0</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	objects
<u>1</u>	Total

Name of related multiple property listing

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

Commercial Buildings of the
Central Business District of
Bellingham, Washington, 1882-
1915

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National RegisterNone

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: Commerce/TradeSub: Specialty Store**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: Work in Progress

Sub:

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)Late 19th and Early 20th Century Revivals**Materials** (Enter categories from instructions)foundation Sandstone/Concreteroof Asphaltwalls Brick

other _____

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

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

See Continuation Sheets

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Commerce

Architecture

Period of Significance

1892-1925

Significant Dates

1892 date of construction

1925 visual character-defining front facade remodel by Clifford Barlow

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Macy, Jim (Builder, 1925 storefront remodel)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

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 # _____

Primary Location of Additional Data:

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

☒ Other

Name of repository:

Whatcom Museum of History & Art

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Less than one acre (0.06 acres)**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

1 10 538188 5399843
Zone Easting Northing
2 _____
Zone Easting Northing

3 _____
Zone Easting Northing
4 _____
Zone Easting Northing

____ See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description

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

SE 25 FT OF LOTS 1-2 BLK 19, BELLINGHAM, WHATCOM COUNTY, WASHINGTON**Boundary Justification**

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

The nominated property encompasses the portions of the urban tax lots occupied by the Barlow Building.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Michael Sullivan, Principal/Spencer Howard, Associateorganization Artifacts Consulting, Inc. date 28 May 2004street & number 201 North Yakima Avenue telephone 253.572.4599city or town Tacoma state WA zip code 98403

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 Windsor Hotel LLC/Robert K. Hall and David H. Johnston

street & number 115 Unity Street, Suite B telephone 360.734.6600

city or town Bellingham state WA zip code 98225

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503

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BARLOW BUILDING
WHATCOM COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Narrative Description:

Built in 1892 in downtown Bellingham, the Barlow Building stands at 211 West Holly Street in the central portion of Bellingham's Central Business District. The building remains as one of the few, intact single-story commercial buildings along the Central Business District's main thoroughfare of West Holly Street. The period of significance for the Barlow Building, 1892 to 1925, encompasses the building's date of construction (1892) and formative period of use as a grocery store, bar, and seminal function as a leather goods specialty store, culminating in a front facade remodel indicating the store's success and permanence within the community.

The Barlow Building draws its architectural significance from its prominent and stylistically distinctive front facade which was designed to maximize the visibility of the modest structure amongst the surrounding buildings. The compact, rectangular, single-story brick masonry building fills the southeast 25' of two lots with a total footprint dimension of 25' by 110'. The narrow, primary, front, northeast facade faces West Holly Street. Employing un-reinforced brick masonry walls, a broad storefront with plate glass and leaded windows, decorative front facade brickwork, a tall, articulated parapet, and a flat roof, the Barlow Building presents an intact, character-defining example of a single-storied commercial building within Bellingham's Central Business District.

Substantial historically significant alterations to the building occurred in:

- **ca 1915 to 1930s:** Southwest addition, approximately 18' by 20'.
- **1925:** Front facade conversion to existing form, adding brick and marble facing, decorative curved parapet form, I-beam spanning the storefront, leaded windows and display windows.

Today, the Barlow Building retains a substantial proportion of original structural and exterior building envelope fabric, and historically significant front facade storefront, brickwork and parapet, and interior spatial volumes and relationships.

Site

The 1883 plat of the *Town of New Whatcom* orients the street grid (and consequently the buildings in this area) to Bellingham Bay. This places east/west streets approximately parallel to the bay and the Barlow Building's facades approximately 22 degrees east of North. The building stands on a sloped site. Grade descends from West Holly Street towards the southwest. The slope leaves the basement exposed on the southwest end along the alley and below grade on the front northeast side. The east/west-running West Holly Street and associated concrete sidewalk bound the site's northeast side. A concrete surfaced, approximately 20' wide alley extends along the southeast side of the site. A multiple-story brick masonry building abuts the building's northwest (side) and southwest (rear) facades. The condition of the site in 2004 is fair to good with the sidewalk and areaways in good repair. The site retains the overall topography. Vegetative growth is evident along the alley at the joint between the concrete surfacing and the building wall.

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Foundation

With the exception of interior basement walls, the foundation is not visible for inspection. To date, no original or previous remodel drawings have been located to indicate below-grade footing and foundation assembly and composition type. Based on the building type and above-grade portions, spread footings likely carry the foundation walls. Board formed concrete and rubble sandstone basement walls carry the above grade walls. The condition of the foundation in 2004 is fair. There are no overt signs of eccentric settlement, soil failure, cracks or sagging in the walls to indicate foundation or bearing soil failure.

Exterior Walls

Exterior walls consist of load-bearing, reddish common brick. The front facade consists entirely of features and materials added in the 1925 remodel. No photographs were located detailing the original front facade. High-fired, tan face brick and marble detailing added in 1925 clads the upper portion of the building's front facade and east end of the southeast facade. The building's utilitarian southeast side features painted stucco over the common brick. Face brick on the front facade's upper portion is laid in a basket weave pattern. This pattern, with the exception of the fields between the vertical marble bands, maintains a three brick width across the facade. In order to center the brick within the marble bands and maintain centering with the parapet crenellations, brickwork in these areas reduces to a two brick vertical width. On the southeast side facade, the brickwork transitions to a running bond. Head and bed mortar joints between the face brick average $\frac{1}{4}$ " in width with a reddish pointing mortar and nearly flush, struck tooling. On the primary facade, off-white marble bands, approximately 2" in width, articulate pilasters and a central ocular element. Slightly wider dark green marble bands form the capitals and bases for these pilasters. Gauged brick lines the ocular around a green marble center. A curved parapet with wood moldings completes the composition. See *Storefront* below for a description of the lower portion of the front facade and commercial entrance. A stepped brick parapet with metal cap and flashing extends along the side and rear facades and the outer face is clad in painted stucco. The outer face of the southwest parapet is exposed brick. The condition of the exterior walls in 2004 is fair. The walls and front facade cladding retain a substantial amount of character-defining fabric originating from the building's construction and historic 1925 front facade remodel. Front facade detailing conveys a form and design intent directly associated with the ownership of the building by the Barlow's, who originally installed decorative "B"s over the marquee anchor connections. The front facade exhibits efflorescence in the upper southeast corner and some mortar loss across the entire facade. Moldings along the parapet exhibit deterioration. The entire facade exhibits moderate soiling. The southeast facade exhibits moderate water damage to the brickwork and stucco. Water damage concentrates around the scuppers and downspouts, and along the parapet. The southwest and northwest party walls are not visible for inspection.

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Windows

Windows punctuate only the secondary southeast facade. They consist of four basement windows, and contemporary windows into both the basement and first story. The building features five rectangular basement and six arched first story window openings. Wood sash basement windows consist of multiple vertical panes. The two on the south end feature four panes each; the two on the east end feature three and four panes each. The fifth, middle window consists of a contemporary, metal, horizontal-slider type window. All feature painted wood sills and frames. The southernmost window openings feature horizontal metal security bars set into the wood frames within the openings. First-story windows consist of three arched, hopper type, two-pane windows on the east end. Sash chains control the opening widths. Three aluminum sash, horizontal-slider type windows with blind arches above punctuate the south end of the facade. Plywood in-fill within the window openings accommodates the smaller window size. All feature painted wood frames. Windows on the south end feature painted stucco-clad row-lock brick sills. Windows on the east end feature painted stucco-clad sills. The condition of the windows in 2004 is poor. As of 1913 prior to the southwest addition, two windows punctuated the southeast facade with a single window on the southwest facade. Following the southwest addition, only the southeast facade featured windows. By 1930, the number of windows on the southeast facade increased to four. Basement level windows exhibit extensive paint and moderate material deterioration.

Roof & Drainage

A flat roof with built up bituminous roofing covers the building. Low parapets bound the roof perimeter. Scuppers and downspouts off the southeast side provide drainage for the building. A skylight penetrates the roof, providing day lighting for the interior commercial space. Metal flashing caps the parapet along the southeast and southwest sides. The condition of the roof and drainage in 2004 is fair to poor. The roof and drainage retain their overall form and function. Roof repairs were undertaken in 1929 to reinforce and repair the roof.¹ The roof was re-covered with composition roofing in 1939.² In 1977, the roof was repaired again. The flashing along the southeast and southwest sides exhibits moderate deterioration and corrosion.

Entrances

Two entrances provide access to the building, the utilitarian southeast basement entrance and the main storefront entrance. The southeast facade retains evidence of former entrances closed in by previous owners on the south end. By 1930, two internal doorways were added to provide access to the southwest addition.

Basement Entrance

The basement entrance consists of a tall contemporary wood door. The door is set in a contemporary wood frame with contemporary hardware. The condition of the new contemporary door and framing in 2004 is excellent.

¹ Building permit No. 2734.

² Building permit No. 483.

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Storefront

The storefront consists of two broad display windows flanking a recessed, arched central entrance. A broad transom spans the entire storefront. This configuration of display window and transom wraps onto the east end of the southeast facade. Poured concrete piers clad in contemporary finishes flank the storefront. These piers carry the upper facade and broad lintel spanning the storefront. Small consoles with pedimented caps accent the corners above the storefront. Display windows set in wood frames feature a low, wood bulkhead and display counter on the interior. The transom above the display windows is divided into three principal bays. Each bay consists of multiple small leaded panes. The panes in the central bay taper above the recessed entrance to accommodate the arch spanning the entrance. A marble-surfaced ramp leads into the building from the sidewalk. A metal frame marquee spans the storefront and shelters the sidewalk and display windows. The condition of the storefront in 2004 is good. The storefront retains its character-defining form, function and detailing. Deteriorated framing and trim elements were repaired in-kind. Existing fabric supplemented by 1926 photographs guided the restoration of the storefront.

Interior

The building interior consists of the main first floor with a basement below. A central beam carried on wood posts supports the main floor. Floor joists run southeast to northeast, spanning the central beam and sidewall foundations.

First Floor

The first floor features a main commercial retail space within the ca 1900 building envelope. Non-original exposed brick surfaces line the space. The southwest addition (added between 1915 and 1930) features a partitioned volume with a stairway leading to the basement. Both the original and southwest addition spaces feature wood flooring. A skylight in the southwest end of the original building envelope provides day lighting. The wood stairway to the basement features utilitarian finishes. An exposed bulb illuminates the stairwell. The condition of the first floor interior is fair. The first floor interior retains the overall original character-defining volume. Historic 1926 photographs show the first floor interior during the building's function as a leather goods store. A retail counter lined the southeast wall. The front portion of the first floor functioned as the main retail space for the building. A suspended balcony level ran along the southeast and southwest walls above the retail counter.

Basement

The basement features two main volumes. Exposed concrete walls line the perimeter. Wood posts along a central axis carry floor joists. Sheet rock covers the ceiling. The basement features a concrete slab at grade. Contemporary wood frame partitions subdivide the southwest end. Built-in, contemporary kitchen cabinets stem from the space's recent function as a rental unit. The condition of the basement in 2004 is fair to poor. The basement historically provided utilitarian storage space for the leather goods store. The basement retains its overall form.

Hardware & Fixtures

Doorways feature contemporary hardware. Contemporary lighting fixtures illuminate the first floor and basement.

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Narrative Statement of Significance:

Built in 1892, just before Bellingham's building boom (1900 through 1915), the Barlow Building is located at 211 West Holly Street. The Barlow Building is significant as one of Bellingham's well-preserved examples of the Single-Storeyed Commercial Building property type as set forth in the requirements of the *Commercial Buildings of the Central Business District of Bellingham, Washington, 1882-1915, Multiple Property Listing* (MPD). The Barlow Building is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A, as the former location of one of Bellingham's oldest, continually operating leather goods businesses and as a representative property from a period of vigorous commercial development in Bellingham's Central Business District (CBD) at the beginning of the 20th Century. The Barlow Building is also eligible under Criterion C, for its distinctive architectural character as an intact, late 1800s single-storyed commercial building. The Barlow Building retains substantial intact, original exterior fabric and character-defining location, setting, site, orientation, exterior design elements, basic interior spatial volumes, layout and relationships, functions and materials.

Relation to Thematic Nomination

The following broad discussion of contextual and stylistic development associated with Bellingham's Central Business District, of which the Barlow Building plays an integral, contributing role, is provided from the following:

"Consolidation and Growth, 1900-1915," and "[Central Business District] CBD Commercial Architecture, 1900-1915," within the *Multiple Property Listing of Commercial Buildings of the Central Business District of Bellingham, Washington, 1882-1915*, prepared by Kathryn Franks, Development/Historic Preservation Specialist, Planning and Community Development Department, City of Bellingham.

Historic Context: Consolidation and Growth, 1900 - 1915

By 1900, the nation-wide Depression had ended, East Coast capital was once more invested in local industries, and resources from the region were in demand throughout the United States.¹ As a result, during the first decade of the 20th century, the bay shore towns of New Whatcom and Fairhaven experienced a period of unprecedented growth.

¹ "Bellingham," n.p.

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The county population in 1900 was recorded at 25,000, according to the Polk City Directory, which also boasted that Fairhaven had the world's largest shingle mill, the Puget Sound Saw Mill and Shingle Company, and the world's largest salmon cannery, the Pacific American Fisheries. New Whatcom was home to the Bellingham Bay Improvement Company's expansive sawmill operations. Industries in the Whatcom County area were also prospering—in 1900 there were 55 shingle mills, 17 saw mills, 10 salmon canneries, three fertilizer and fish oil factories and the only sheet metal or can factory in Washington. Fairhaven and New Whatcom were connected by miles of trolley system, and the State Normal School on Sehome Hill was experiencing the largest enrollment of any normal school in the state.

Duplication of basic services and competition over limited capital finally moved citizens of New Whatcom and Fairhaven to vote for consolidation in 1903. To satisfy both parties of the new "City of the First Class"—the fourth largest city in the state at the time—the neutral name of "Bellingham," after the bay, was chosen. By 1904, when consolidated Bellingham's new charter was adopted, its population had reached 22,632, providing for substantially increased investment in the [Central Business District] CBD.²

The city of Bellingham continued to experience astronomical growth over the next few years. According to the 1906 Bellingham City Directory, the 1890 census had recorded the population of the four bay shore towns at 8,135; by 1900 population had grown to 11,062 (a 36% increase from 1890); in 1904 growth had surged to 22,632 (a 104% increase within four years); and by 1906 the population was 31,000, a 37% increase since 1904 and a total increase of 180% since 1900.³

During the first part of the 20th century, the commercial activity in the city's CBD revolved around the waterfront activity based in the original town of Sehome - Dock Street (renamed Cornwall Avenue) area, and the railroad-related passenger and freight movement along Railroad Avenue. Industrial and commercial development along the waterfront had been hastened by the completion of the Bellingham Bay & British Columbia (BB&BC) in 1891, and railroad expansion had continued since this time, with lines completed through town and connecting to outlying areas. The Fairhaven and Southern, later absorbed into the Great Northern, had run its track on a long trestle across the tide flats between Squalicum Creek and Sehome Wharf. In 1902, the Great Northern built its present line on a trestle (paralleling the earlier one) along Roeder Avenue, across Whatcom Creek, and along the shore to Fairhaven. The Bellingham Bay & Eastern (BB&E) was purchased by Northern Pacific in 1902, thereby completing its line through the town. The third line, the Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul, picked up the BB&BC, and joined the other two to create a major rail corridor along the shoreline from the southernmost end of the city all the way to the northern end and beyond.⁴

The consolidation of the Bellingham streetcar lines during the 1893 depression had also contributed to the

² *At Home on the Hill*, p. 9.

³ Carhart, Edith Beebe. *A Historic of Bellingham, Washington*. (1926, 1968). Compiled from Newspaper Articles City Directories and Books of local History by The Bellingham Public Libraries. Bellingham: Argonaut Press, p. 6.

⁴ Woodbridge, Sally B. and Roger Montgomery. *A Guide to Architecture in Washington State: An Environmental Perspective*. Seattle: University of Washington Press, p. 322.

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commercial growth of the area, and acquisition of the Fairhaven and New Whatcom Railway in 1902 by a Boston-based firm greatly facilitated their expansion. The newly renamed Whatcom County Railway & Light Company (WCR&L) -- the direct ancestor of today's Puget Power Company -- expanded Bellingham's street railway system to its maximum length of almost 14 miles by 1913.⁵

The construction of infrastructure, services, and transportation systems facilitated the growth of businesses in the CBD area. In 1906, the WCR&L invested in major expansions to its existing lines and constructed new ones all over town. The Main Line, which had connected Fairhaven with New Whatcom between Harris and Eldridge Avenues, passed along Elk Street. For sheer accessibility, proximity to a streetcar line created a prime business location and commercial development followed.⁶ Major investment was made along the streetcar arterials of Holly Street, Elk Street, and Cornwall Avenue. Other streets within the heart of Bellingham's commercial center also profited and grew through their proximity to the public transportation lines.

By 1906, Whatcom County had 162 miles of rail and a good road system within its borders, and major investment was being made in the CBD as theaters, hotels, restaurants, specialty shops, and the like were constructed -- many in the height of style and sparing no expense.⁷ According to the *Whatcom County Souvenir* circa 1906, Bellingham was home to people of culture and refinement and had in its midst "thirty-eight churches, two public libraries, 52 secret society lodges, two men's social clubs owning the finest specially constructed club houses in the state, two public hospitals, a fair grounds, a race track and a baseball park, a \$30,000 Y.M.C.A. building, a yacht club and club house, a \$50,000 city hall, a \$200,000 sewer system, a well-equipped fire department, a \$300,000 city water system, and numerous associations, splendid public and office buildings and residences."⁸

⁵ Scott and Turbeville, III. *Whatcom County in Maps: 1832-1937*, p. 46.

⁶ Jewell, Jeffrey. "Early Trolley Service Right on Track." *The Bellingham Business Journal*. (December 1998), pp. 64-65.

⁷ *Whatcom County Souvenir: the Land of Opportunity, Bellingham, Washington*. (ca 1906). Bellingham: Parker Printing Company, p. 10.

⁸ *Ibid*, p. 1.

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Downtown businesses listed in the 1906 *Whatcom Souvenir* spanned a broad range of specialized services reflecting the affluent life styles and related accoutrements available to Bellingham citizens and visitors. Those commercial enterprises listed included business offices housing banks, brokerage firms, real estate brokers, investment counselors, insurance companies and other professionals such as dentists, doctors and lawyers; recreation related enterprises such as theaters, cafes, bars, liquor stores, saloons, restaurants, and hotels; meat and produce businesses, groceries, city markets, bakeries, candy companies, and catering businesses; men's and women's clothing stores, tailors, jewelry stores, shoemakers, emporiums and department stores; furniture, home furnishings, paint and wall paper companies; plumbing, hardware, and implement supply companies; artist's studios; laundries; pharmacies; and transportation-related businesses such as harness companies, livery and feed stables, hay and feed stores, blacksmiths and horseshoeing, as well as auto garages.⁹ Many of the buildings housing these businesses were multi-storied, with upper floors rented as professional offices, as housing in the form of high-end or single room occupancy hotels and rooming houses, as well as meeting and/or dance halls. Although some businesses were still housed in early frame buildings, many existed in increasingly specialized, distinctive buildings of style and substance.

By 1909, rail activity had become so congested in the CBD that Magnolia Street was double-tracked between Dock and Elk Streets to reroute some of the streetcar traffic off Holly Street. During this same year the WCR&L made another major investment and constructed over 50 blocks of new trolley lines to reach the city's outlying areas, providing access to the central business core from the new "streetcar suburbs" that grew along their lines. During that same year, tracks were laid south down the long pier to Sehome Wharf and the enormous Bellingham Bay Lumber Company mill. Although it was the shortest streetcar route, the "Dock Line" was a vital link between the waterfront and downtown, as it allowed trolleys to meet the "mosquito fleet" of Puget Sound passenger steamers, and to deliver mill employees to and from work.¹⁰

Bellingham's importance as a major railroad center for northwestern Washington prompted many wholesale firms to locate there early in the 20th century. Because of its direct proximity to the rail, Railroad Avenue became an ideal location for retail and wholesale businesses. For example, in 1909, the Northern Grocery Company, one of the largest of its kind in the area, constructed a two-story reinforced concrete building as the company headquarters on Railroad Avenue near the corner of Chestnut Street. This was a prime location as the BB&BC tracks ran past the front of the building and the Northern Pacific spur ran behind the building down the alley.¹¹

⁹ *Ibid*, pp. 10-15.

¹⁰ Jewell, Jeffrey. "Early Trolley Service Right on Track," pp. 64-65.

¹¹ Turbeville, Daniel E. III. (November 1977). *An Illustrated Inventory of Historic Bellingham Buildings, 1852-1915*. Bellingham: Bellingham Municipal Arts Commission, p. 222.

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The considerable growth that occurred between 1900 and 1915 in Bellingham's CBD is evidenced by the substantial commercial and public buildings that still exist today. By the time World War I began in 1914, several physical elements endorsed the arrival of Bellingham's downtown as an urban center, including a major railroad terminal, federal building, and streetcar system. Prior to August 1914, the local economy had been rapidly expanding in anticipation of the opening of the long-awaited Panama Canal, which would drastically decrease shipping time to markets on the East and Gulf Coasts. This expansion continued until around 1915, when the first signs of World War I became evident in Whatcom County and resulted in the overnight disappearance of investment capital and the subsequent collapse of many projected railroad, shipping, industrial and building schemes. By 1915, ocean shipping was becoming scarce, as was railroad rolling stock. It was not until the United States finally entered the war in April of 1917 that the sudden increase in demand for Northwest raw materials, together with a number of major government construction contracts, led to a turn-around in Whatcom County's economy.¹²

[Central Business District] CBD Commercial Architecture, 1900-1915

With transportation systems connecting the new city with outlying and national commerce, Bellingham's development grew in the familiar pattern of many late-19th and early 20th century American cities, where commerce, social interaction, government, and capital investment gravitated to a central downtown. Fortified by the forces of the railroad and streetcar, during the first years of the 20th century Bellingham's economy was strong and its main streets had become a densely packed intermingling of buildings, buggies, trolleys and people.

The character of the main streets in the CBD evolved and solidified during this period. The landscape of Bellingham's CBD, which had originally consisted of a mass of sandstone hills (some over one and one-half stories high) was being leveled at an increasing rate to make way for new construction. Existing one and two-story frame buildings were being demolished and replaced by substantial, multi-storied high-style buildings designed to house increasingly specific commercial enterprises.

A transformation in commercial architecture in the United States was occurring by the end of the 19th century. Design was moving away from the ornate, agitated Victorian styles as a result of the influence of the French academic practice fostered by the École des Beaux Arts in Paris and newly created American architecture schools. This tendency emerged during the 1880s and early 1890s, and became dominant from the turn of the century until the late 1920s.¹³

¹² Scott and Turbeville, III. *Whatcom County in Maps: 1832-1937*, p. 61.

¹³ Longstreth, p. 35.

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BARLOW BUILDING
WHATCOM COUNTY, WASHINGTON

While Victorian buildings were characterized by additive compositions, the new academic work tended to emphasize unity, order and balance. These qualities reflected the basis for principles of design which applied not only to individual buildings but also to groups of buildings. Based on this premise, it was thought that commercial buildings should contribute to a coherent urban landscape, and that while each facade might possess its own identity and perhaps stand out as a landmark, most building design should be restrained and relatively unobtrusive. These basic changes did not occur all at once -- a number of buildings constructed between the late 1880s and the early 1900s were transitional and possessed some of the qualities of High Victorian design. Generally, however, ornament was more restrained and elements were more closely related to one another.¹⁴

A preponderance of buildings dating to the 1900-1915 boom period of Bellingham's history remains in the CBD. Multistoried commercial buildings were increasingly being constructed in sandstone, brick, and reinforced concrete. Single-story masonry buildings were also being built, although most were multi-storied, constructed to take advantage of the rising cost of land in the CBD.

The area where the two original towns of Whatcom and Sehome met was undergoing development during this time. To the east of the iron bolt marker, Holly Street intersected the core of Sehome's commercial activity, crossing Champion, Bay, and Prospect Streets, up to Canoe (Commercial), Dock (Cornwall), Railroad Avenue and Elk Streets, all of which were being developed with single- and multi-storied masonry buildings constructed in period fashion. A few of the many remaining buildings in this area that retain high integrity include the two-story brick Holly-Bay-Prospect Building, built in 1912 at 1302-1304 Bay Street/2-8 Prospect Street; the two-story brick Red Front Building, built in 1900 at 200 W. Holly Street; the two-story brick Clover Block, built in 1902 at 201 W. Holly Street; the single-story brick "Leader" Building, constructed in 1901 at 204 W. Holly Street; and the two-story Spokane Block, built in 1902 at 1322 - 1334 Railroad Avenue.

On Elk Street (currently [North] State Street) at the eastern edge of the CBD, businesses were expanding and frame structures were being replaced with high-style masonry buildings that housed commercial services such as groceries, liveries, professional offices, and general merchandisers. Typically, buildings along Elk Street were multi-storied and offered residential rooms, dance and meeting halls, and professional offices on their upper floors. Multi-storied examples that retain good integrity include (but are not limited to) the Morse Hardware Building, built in 1902 at 1025 North State Street; the three-story Laube Hotel, built in 1903 at 1226 North State Street; the three-story Windsor Hotel, built in 1904 at 1222 North State Street; the two-story Daylight Building, built in 1904 at 1201 - 1213 North State Street; and the three-story Dahlquist Building, built in 1906. Other extant examples on State Street that retain high integrity include the two-story brick Maple Block built in 1903 at 1051-1055 N. State Street and the three-story Exchange Building (currently the YMCA) built in 1906-1907 at 1256 North State Street.

¹⁴ *Ibid.*

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BARLOW BUILDING
WHATCOM COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Development in the area west of the iron bolt—the original business district of Whatcom—had been somewhat thwarted due to land claim disputes. By the 1900s, Whatcom had acquired the sobriquet of "Old Town," and over the next two decades would continue to support commercial development of a nature different than that of the Sehome district. Examination of the Polk City Directories for the first decade of the century suggests that this area was relatively prosperous and economically viable. For example, in 1907, roughly 20% of the restaurants in the Bellingham area, 20% of the saloons, 25% of the clothing stores, 30% of the barbers, and 30% of the cigar stores existed along W. Holly Street near the creek. However, the area had practically none of the professional offices of lawyers, insurance agents, physicians, or notaries.¹⁵ Several buildings built between 1900 and 1915 in this area remain and hold varying degrees of integrity. The two-story brick U.S. Hotel built c. 1911 at 700 W. Holly Street is a good masonry example. Other examples with varying degrees of integrity include the two-story frame building (formerly Wilson College) built in 1905 at 401 Holly Street and the one-story frame "Waterfront Tavern" built on piers in 1904 at 521 Holly Street. Although this building's original facade has been somewhat compromised by the addition of modern materials, its general commercial street level configuration remains legible, as do the parapet articulation and small-scale features.

Barlow Building (211 West Holly Street)

The history of the Barlow Building began with the building's entry into commercial service in 1892 as a local retail grocery store. The building was part of the first succession of brick buildings constructed on the block fronting West Holly Street. A brief period of operation as a saloon followed the grocery store before the arrival in 1910 of Prohibition in Bellingham forced its closure. Clifford Barlow then moved into the building, remodeled the storefront, extended the southwest end of the store, and began over forty years of continuous operation of the pre-eminent leather goods store in Bellingham before closing in 1959. The Barlow Building, though relatively compact in stature comparative to the surrounding commercial buildings, stands apart due to its unique functional history and primary facade configuration fronting the Central Business District's main thoroughfare of Holly Street.

Philip Baum built the building in 1892 and operated his grocery store from the premises. By 1900 Morgan & Matthes Grocery moved into the building. This retail grocery store remained through 1904 and served local area residents. Storeowners Jenkin Morgan and Otto L. Matthes started their operation ca 1899, approximately fourteen blocks away at 1661 Holly Street before moving to the 211 location. The new space at 211 afforded a more central placement within the business district.

During the grocery store's period of operation at 211 West Holly, Morgan & Matthes also operated a second grocery store in Fairhaven on the northwest corner of Harris Avenue and Twelfth Street. The store owner, Jenkin Morgan, resided with his wife, Mary, at 1323 Franklin Street. Mr. Morgan died on July 29, 1938. Otto Matthes was

¹⁵ Vandermeer, p. 109.

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BARLOW BUILDING
WHATCOM COUNTY, WASHINGTON

married to Emma, and he died in November of 1907 at the age of forty, shortly after the company closed in 1904.¹⁶ With the death of Otto Matthes in 1907, the grocery store was closed and the Crown Bar soon opened at 211 West Holly Street. The space remained in use as a saloon and bar from ca 1905 until its closure due to prohibition in 1910. Eddie Anderson was the bar's first owner, from 1905 through 1906. Anderson resided during this time at 908 Chestnut Street.

Anderson started in the local restaurant and saloon industry ca 1901 as a barkeeper with the Scandinavian Saloon at 1249 Elk (now State) Street. By 1902, Anderson had entered into part ownership of the Great Northern Hotel, located at the corner of Dock (now Cornwall) and Chestnut Streets. Oscar Holmes formed the other half of the partnership of Anderson & Holmes.

By 1907, ownership of the Crown Bar transferred to Michael Schneider. Schneider lived at 1801 Eldridge Avenue. Shortly before prohibition took effect in Bellingham, ownership of the bar transferred again, this time to Walter K. Martin for the brief period between 1909 and 1910. Martin resided at 1310 Elk (now State) Street.

The building remained vacant for about three years until it was purchased by Clifford Barlow ca 1913.¹⁷ Barlow operated his leather goods company from this space from 1913 through 1959, during two World Wars and the Great Depression. The Barlow Building's prominent, central location within Bellingham's Central Business District contributed to the long-standing use of this commercial space by the leather goods store.

Prior to 1913, Barlow operated his business just down the street at 307 West Holly. Leather goods were a family business for the Barlow's. Clifford and Martin Barlow started work as stitchers for Frank J. Barlow. In 1891, Frank Barlow operated a harness shop at 1010½ Harris Avenue and a shoe shop on McKenzie Avenue in Fairhaven.

During the period of operation in the 211 West Holly space, the business underwent several name changes as the need for and types of leather goods changed. Known initially as the Bellingham Harness Company, the store sold saddlery, harnesses, trunks, suitcases, bags, sample cases, sole leather, and shoe findings. By 1920, the store was the only harness and saddlery company in Bellingham. By 1950, the company's name had changed to Barlow's Incorporated, followed by Barlow's Luggage ca 1953. Clifford Barlow resided with his wife, Carrie A., and their son, Frank Barlow Junior, at 1200 High Street before moving to 1322 Forest Street ca 1914.

The store was held in high regard for quality and service by local residents. Travelers departing on vacations and adventures, as well as students leaving for college, all came to Barlow's for their luggage needs.¹⁸

Following closure of Barlow's Luggage ca 1959, the commercial space remained vacant through 1961 until the Bellingham Hardware Company moved into the space ca 1962. Allen W. McNeil managed this used appliance

¹⁶ Post 1904 Polk City Directories for Bellingham do not list any subsequent grocery or retail store operations by Morgan & Matthes or Morgan individually.

¹⁷ Polk City Directories for Bellingham, 1910-1914.

¹⁸ Interview with David Morse, 14 May 2004.

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**BARLOW BUILDING
WHATCOM COUNTY, WASHINGTON**

center and it remained through ca 1964. The Polk City Directory did not list the address the following two years. In 1968, the Bellingham Beauty School opened in the space, operated by William and Marlene Brassfield. By 1990 through 2001, the Mike Kennard Agency, a public relations firm, shared the space.

Today, the Barlow building presents a distinctive, historically significant front facade configuration added by the Barlow's. This unique frontage contributes to the architectural variety and visual character of West Holly Street. The building's functional history mirrors the trends and growth within the Central Business District. The building's function provided a lasting and singular service to Bellingham residents.

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WHATCOM COUNTY, WASHINGTON

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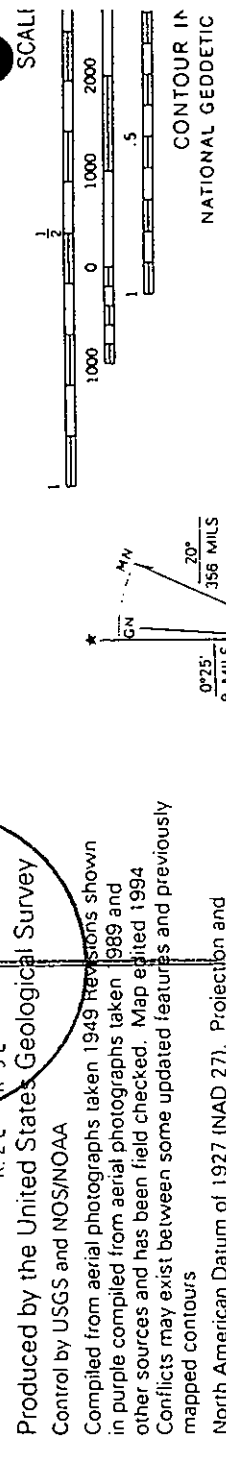
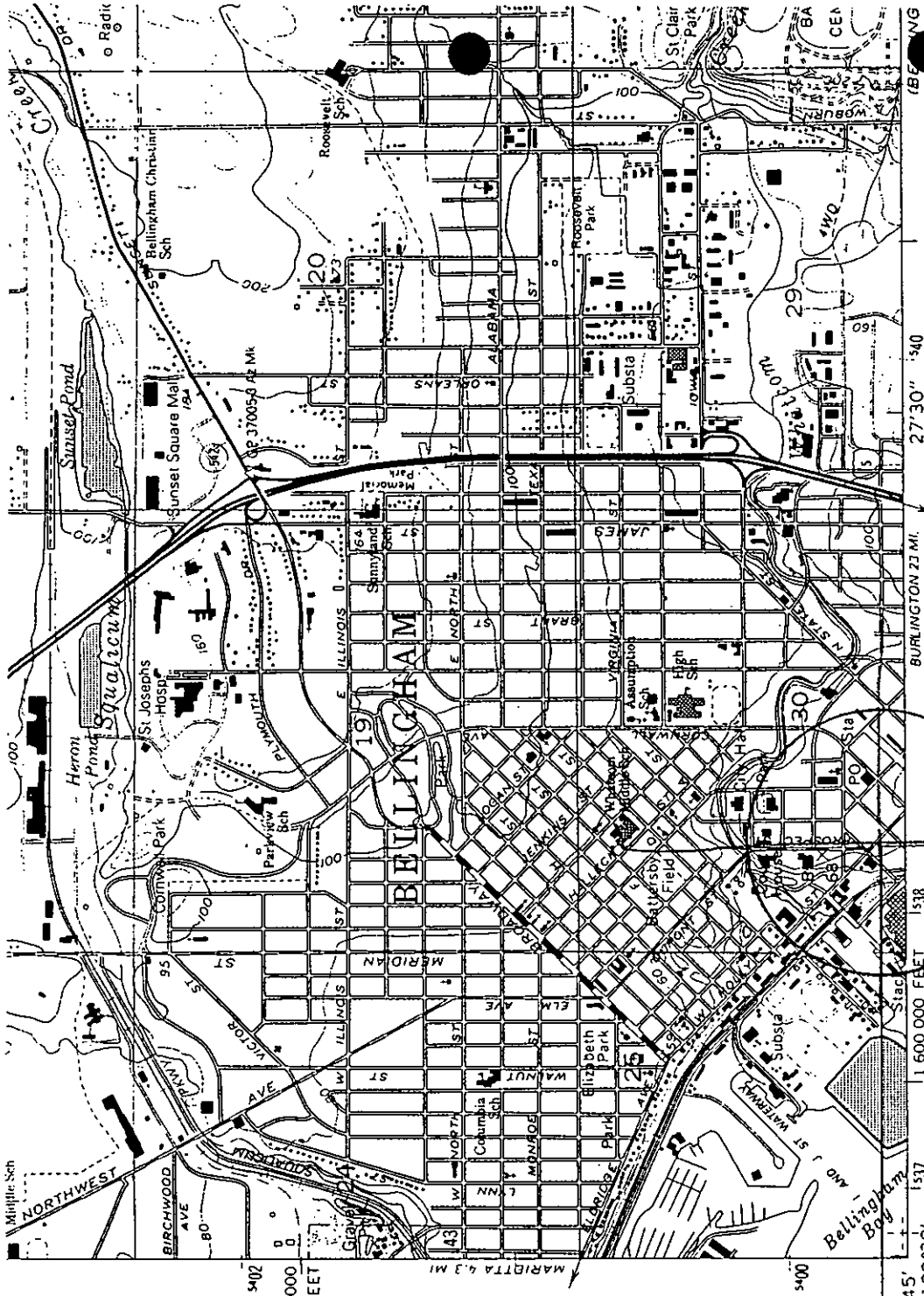
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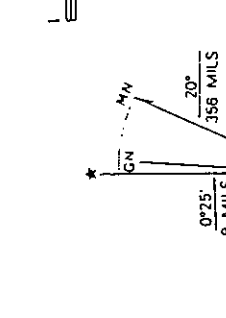
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BARLOW CEMETERY, 211 WEST HOLY STREET
 (10) from COUNTY
 FILES (1) 601A1
 WASHINGTON



SHORELINE SHOWN REPRESENTS THE
 THE AVERAGE RANGE OF T
 COMPLIES WITH U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
 FOR SALE BY U.S.
 DENVER, COLORADO 80225
 A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAP



Produced by the United States Geological Survey
 Control by USGS and NOS/NOAA
 Compiled from aerial photographs taken 1949. Revisions shown
 in purple compiled from aerial photographs taken 1989 and
 other sources and has been field checked. Map edited 1994
 Conflicts may exist between some updated features and previously
 mapped contours
 North American Datum of 1927 (NAD 27). Projection and
 10,000-foot ticks: Washington Coordinate System north zone
 (Lambert Conformal Conic)
 Blue 1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator ticks, zone 10
 North American Datum of 1983 (NAD 83) is shown by dashed
 corner ticks. The values of the shift between NAD 27 and NAD 83
 for 7.5-minute intersections are obtainable from National Geodetic
 Survey NADCON software

5399843 N

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NATIONAL REGISTER NOMINATION

BARLOW BUILDING, 211 WEST HOLLY STREET, BELLINGHAM, WA 98225

HISTORIC PHOTOGRAPHS

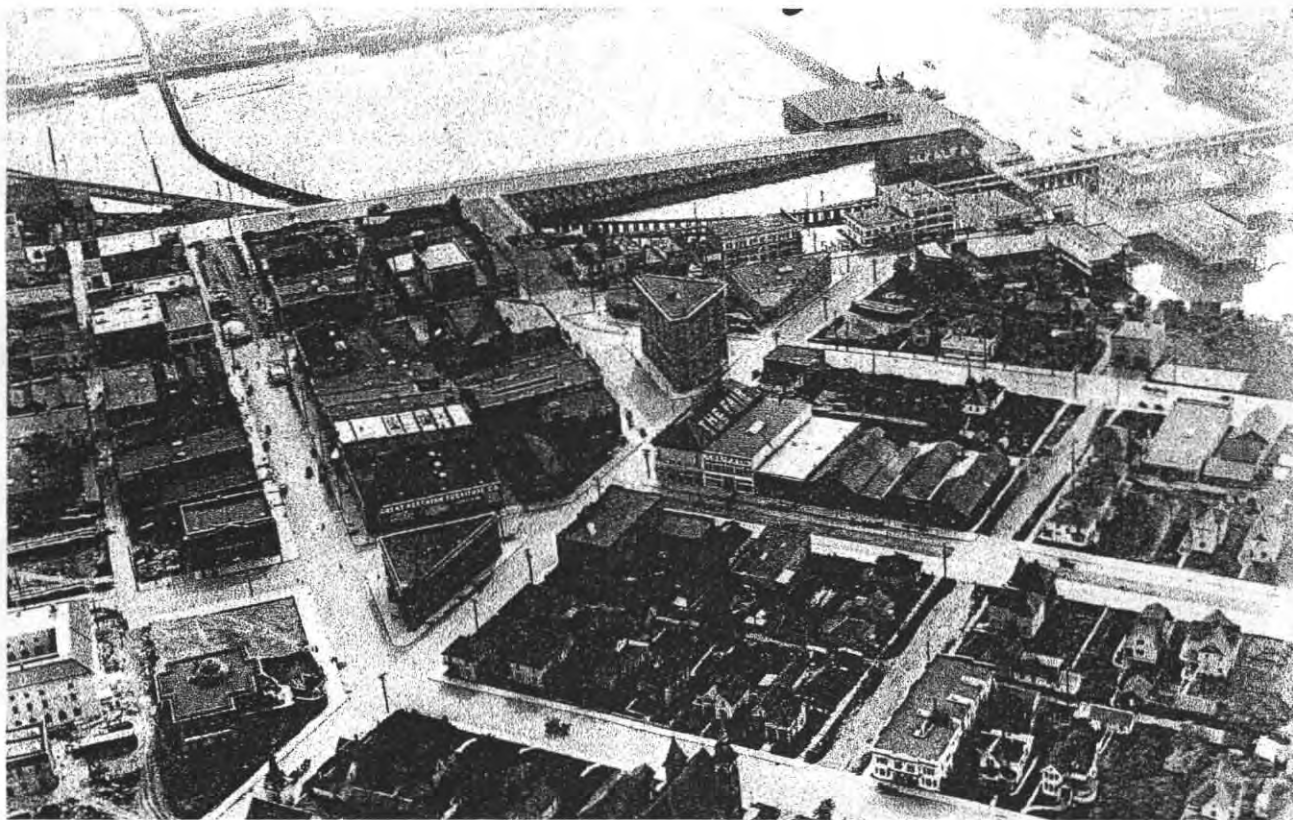


PHOTO No. 1—CA 1910 TO 1920 AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH OF BELLINGHAM, LOOKING SOUTH. SOURCE: GALEN BIERY COLLECTION, No. 1456, WESTERN WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY, BELLINGHAM, WASHINGTON.

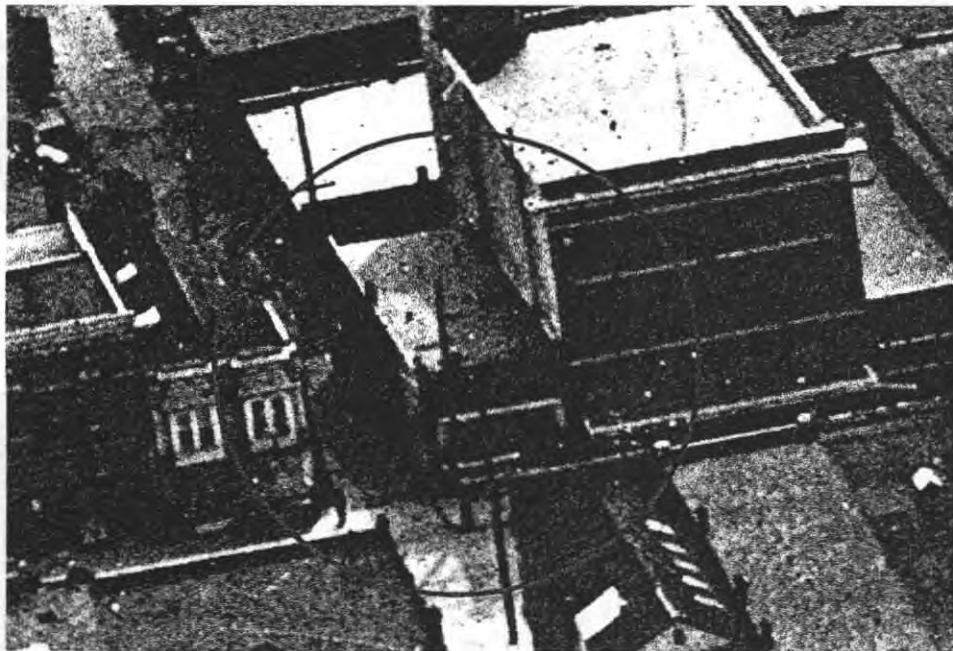


PHOTO No. 2—ENLARGED DETAIL OF THE CA 1910 TO 1920 AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH OF BELLINGHAM SHOWING THE BARLOW BUILDING ADJACENT TO THE TALLER HARDWARE STORE. THE PHOTOGRAPH SHOWS THE BARLOW BUILDING'S FRONT FACADE CONFIGURATION PRIOR TO THE CA 1926 REMODEL. SOURCE: GALEN BIERY COLLECTION, No. 1456, WESTERN WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY, BELLINGHAM, WASHINGTON.

NATIONAL REGISTER NOMINATION

BARLOW BUILDING, 211 WEST HOLLY STREET, BELLINGHAM, WA 98225

HISTORIC PHOTOGRAPHS

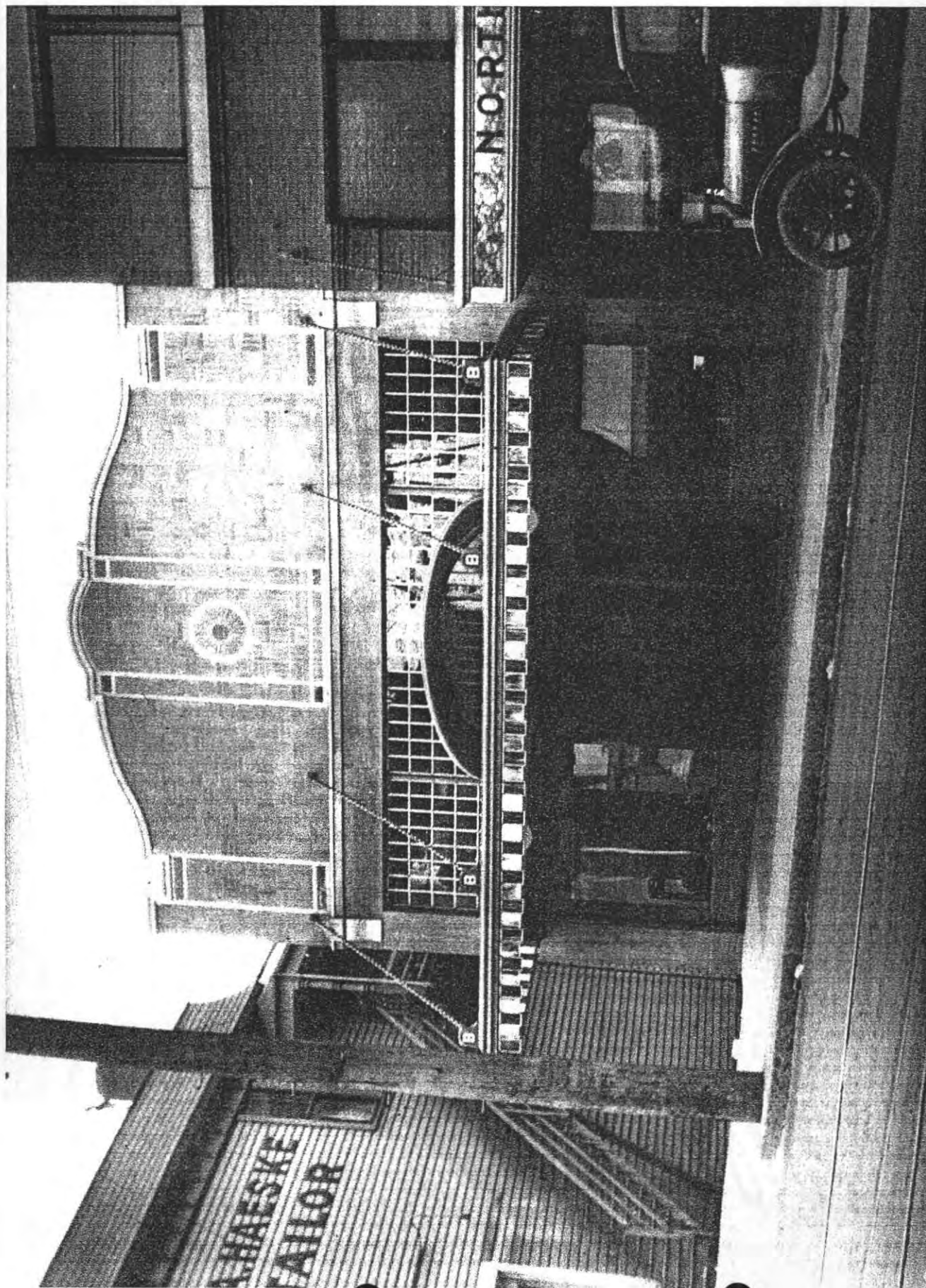


PHOTO No. 3—Ca 1926 PHOTOGRAPH OF THE BARLOW BUILDING'S FRONT FACADE ALONG WEST HOLLY STREET. SOURCE: WHATCOM MUSEUM OF HISTORY AND ART. PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF DONNA SAND. PHOTOGRAPH BY JIM MACY.

NATIONAL REGISTER NOMINATION

BARLOW BUILDING, 211 WEST HOLLY STREET, BELLINGHAM, WA 98225

HISTORIC PHOTOGRAPHS

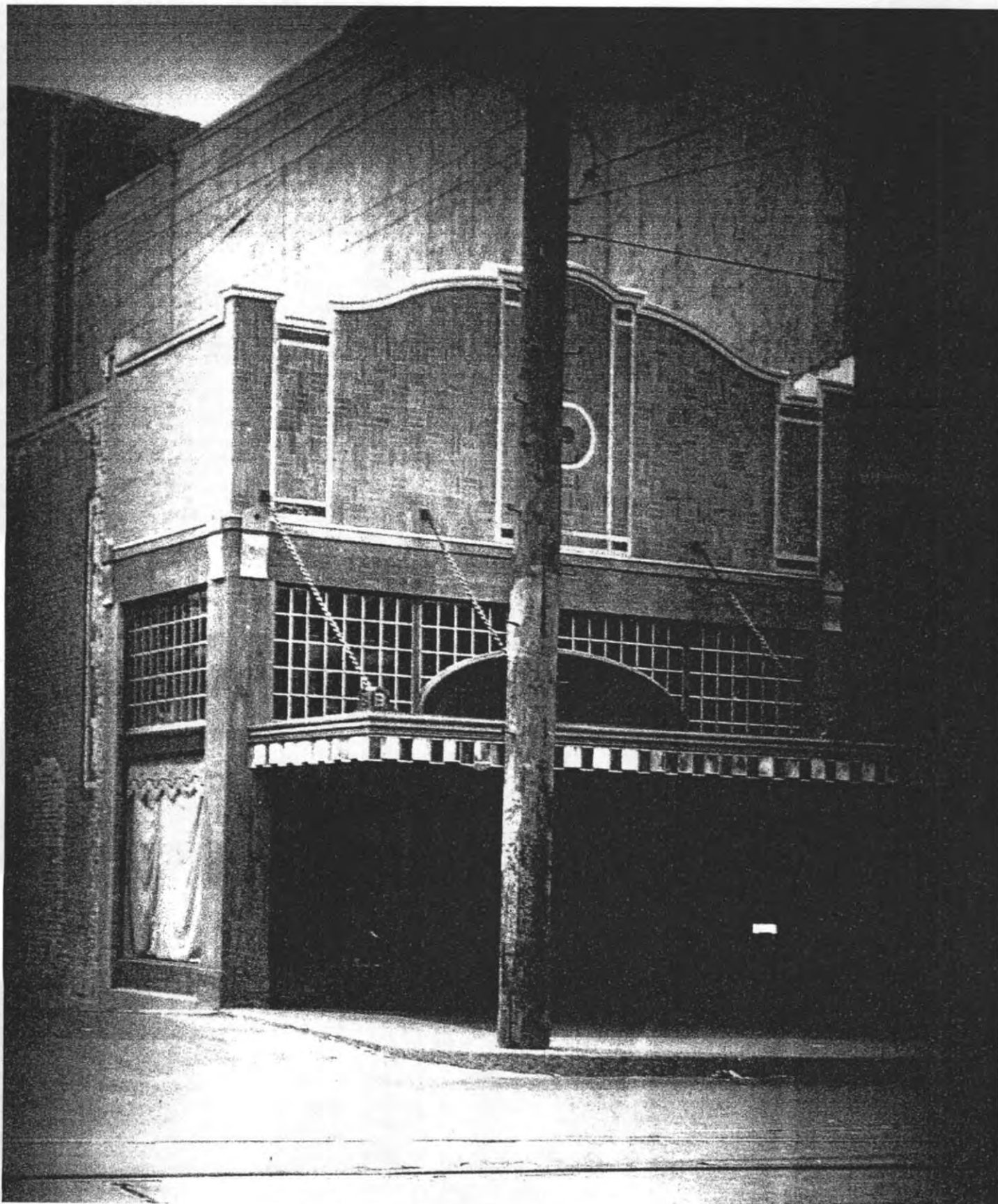


PHOTO No. 4—Ca 1926 PHOTOGRAPH OF THE BARLOW BUILDING'S FRONT FACADE ALONG WEST HOLLY STREET AND PARTIAL SOUTHEAST SIDE FACADE ALONG THE ALLEY.
SOURCE: WHATCOM MUSEUM OF HISTORY AND ART. PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF DONNA SAND. PHOTOGRAPH BY JIM MACY.

NATIONAL REGISTER NOMINATION

BARLOW BUILDING, 211 WEST HOLLY STREET, BELLINGHAM, WA 98225

HISTORIC PHOTOGRAPHS

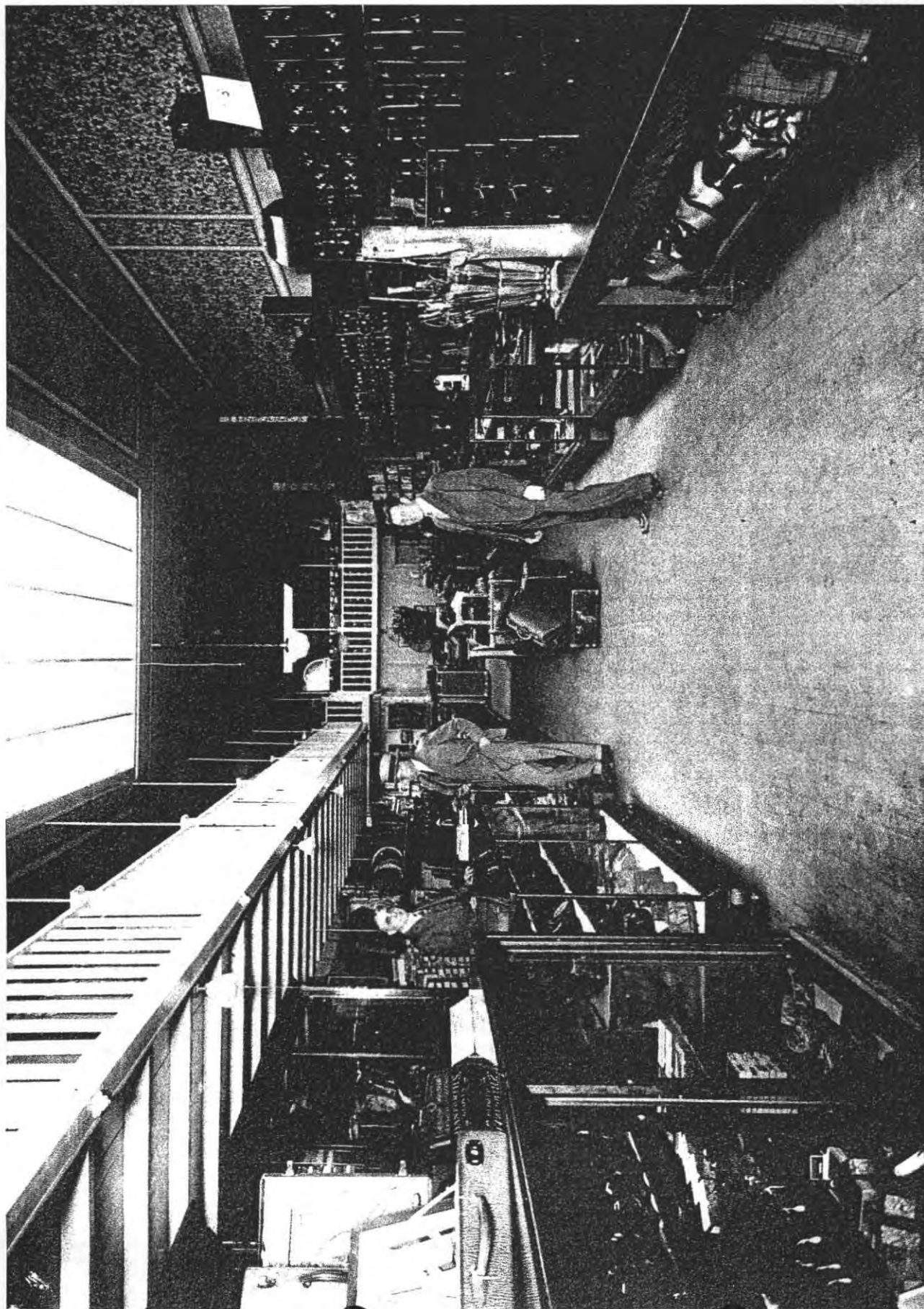
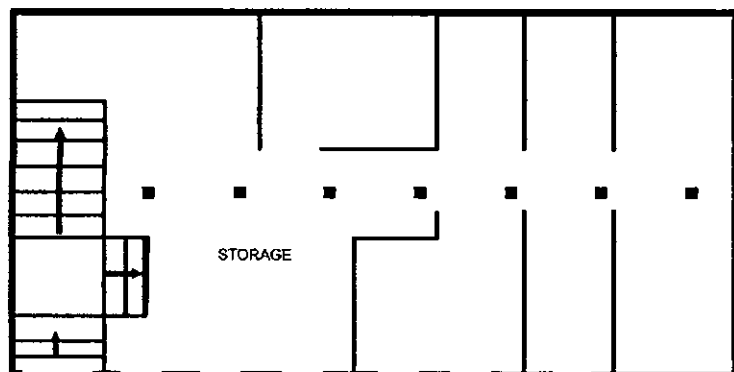


PHOTO No. 5—CA 1926 PHOTOGRAPH OF THE BARLOW BUILDING'S INTERIOR. CLIFFORD BARLOW IS PICTURED AT LEFT BEHIND THE COUNTER. WHILE IN OPERATION, CLIFFORD BARLOW'S STORE WAS THE PRE-EMINENT LEATHER GOODS STORE FOR BELLINGHAM. SOURCE: WHATCOM MUSEUM OF HISTORY AND ART, 201.62.43.

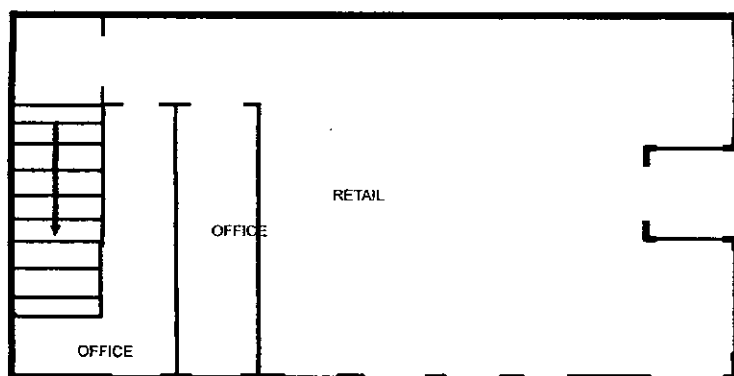
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BARLOW BUILDING, 211 WEST HOLLY STREET, BELLINGHAM, WA 98225

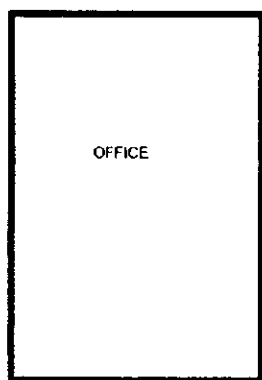
DRAWINGS



BASEMENT FLOOR PLAN SKETCH NOT TO SCALE



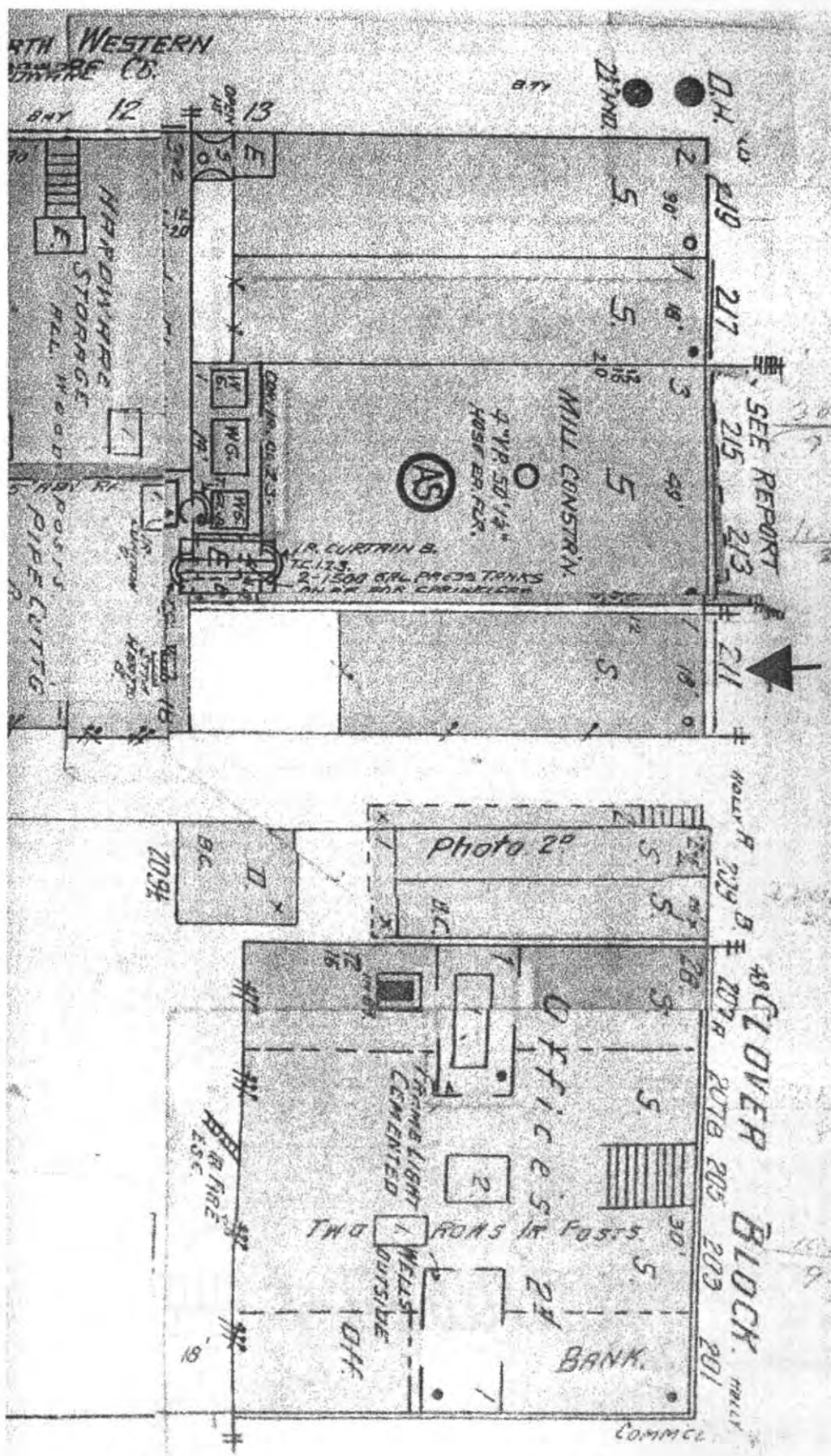
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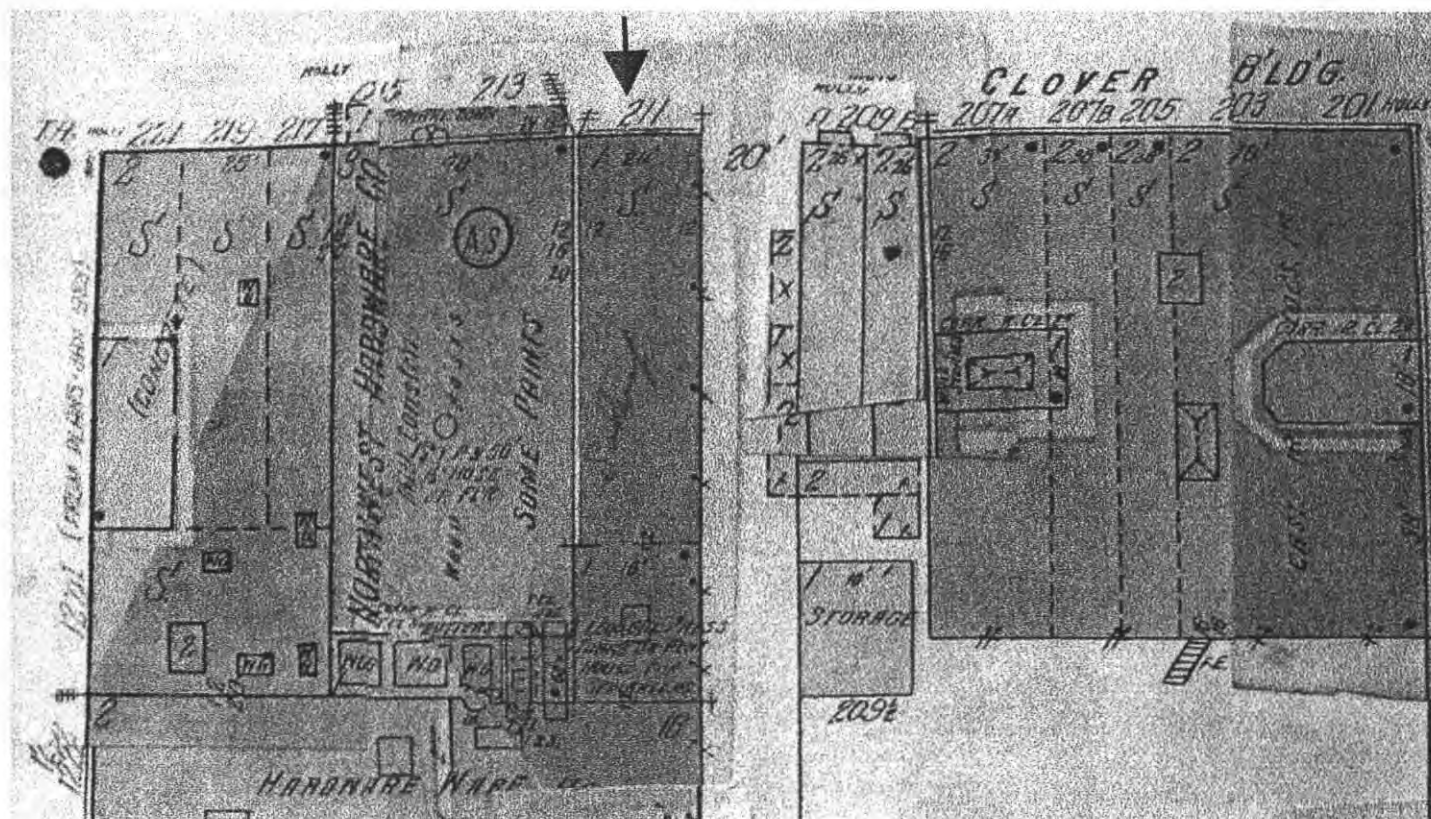
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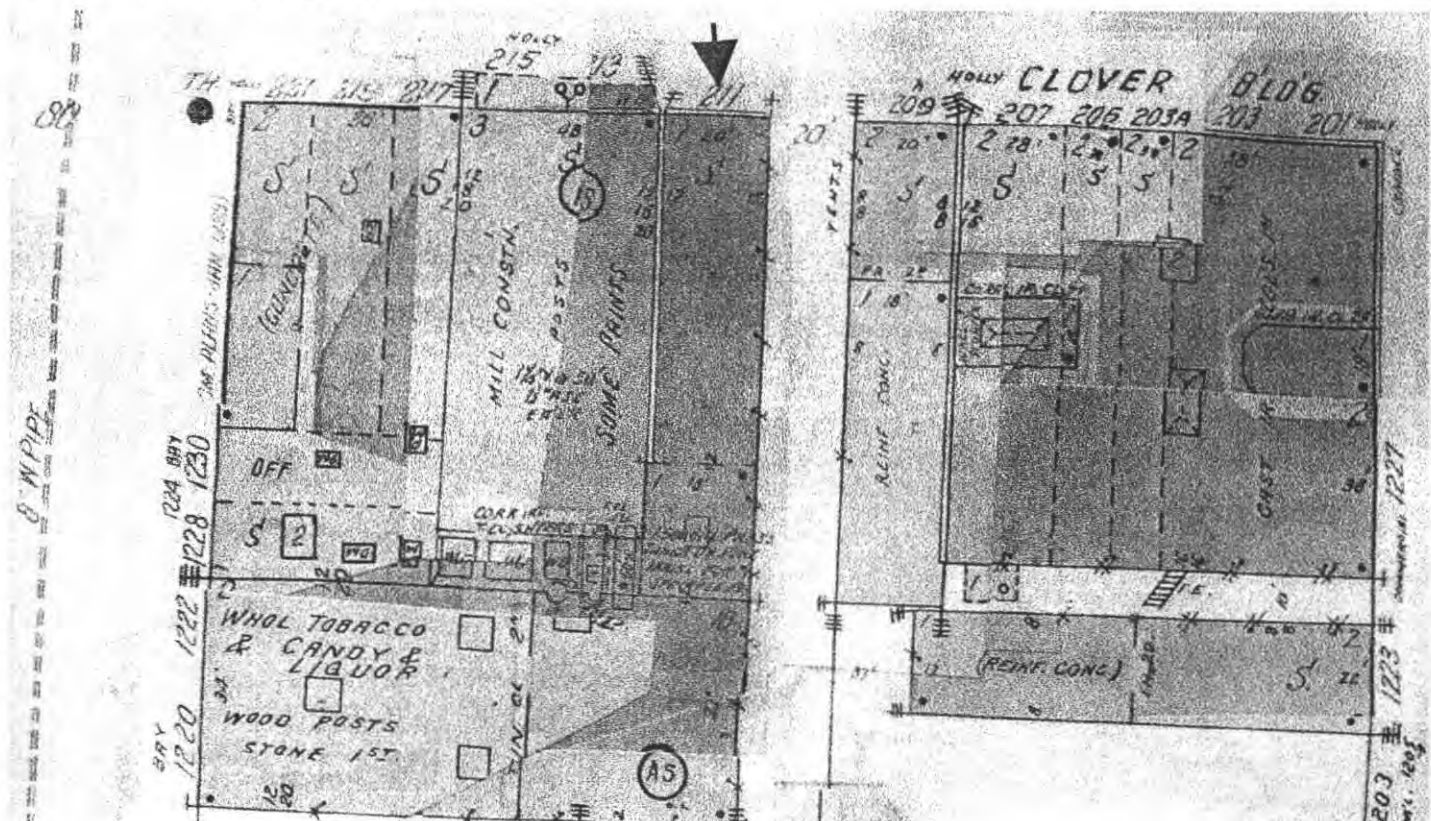




Map No. 1—Sanborn map showing the layers of alterations to the Barlow Building and surroundings from 1907 through 1913. Source: Western Washington University, Center for Pacific Northwest Studies.



MAP No. 2—SANBORN MAP SHOWING THE LAYERS OF ALTERATIONS TO THE BARLOW BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS FROM 1915 THROUGH 1930. SOURCE: WESTERN WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY, CENTER FOR PACIFIC NORTHWEST STUDIES.

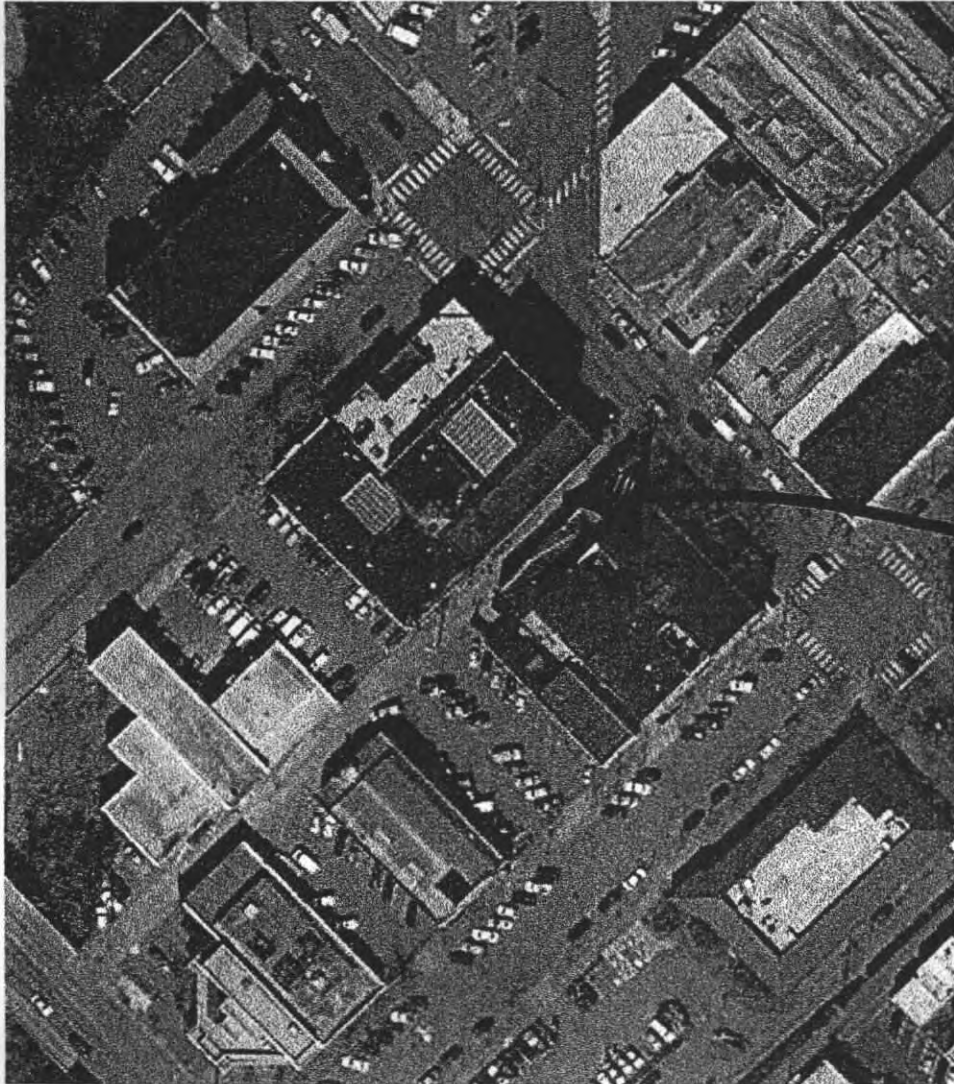


MAP No. 3—SANBORN MAP SHOWING THE LAYERS OF ALTERATIONS TO THE BARLOW BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS FROM 1948 THROUGH 1963. SOURCE: WESTERN WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY, CENTER FOR PACIFIC NORTHWEST STUDIES.

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BARLOW BUILDING, 211 WEST HOLLY STREET, BELLINGHAM, WA 98225

MAPS

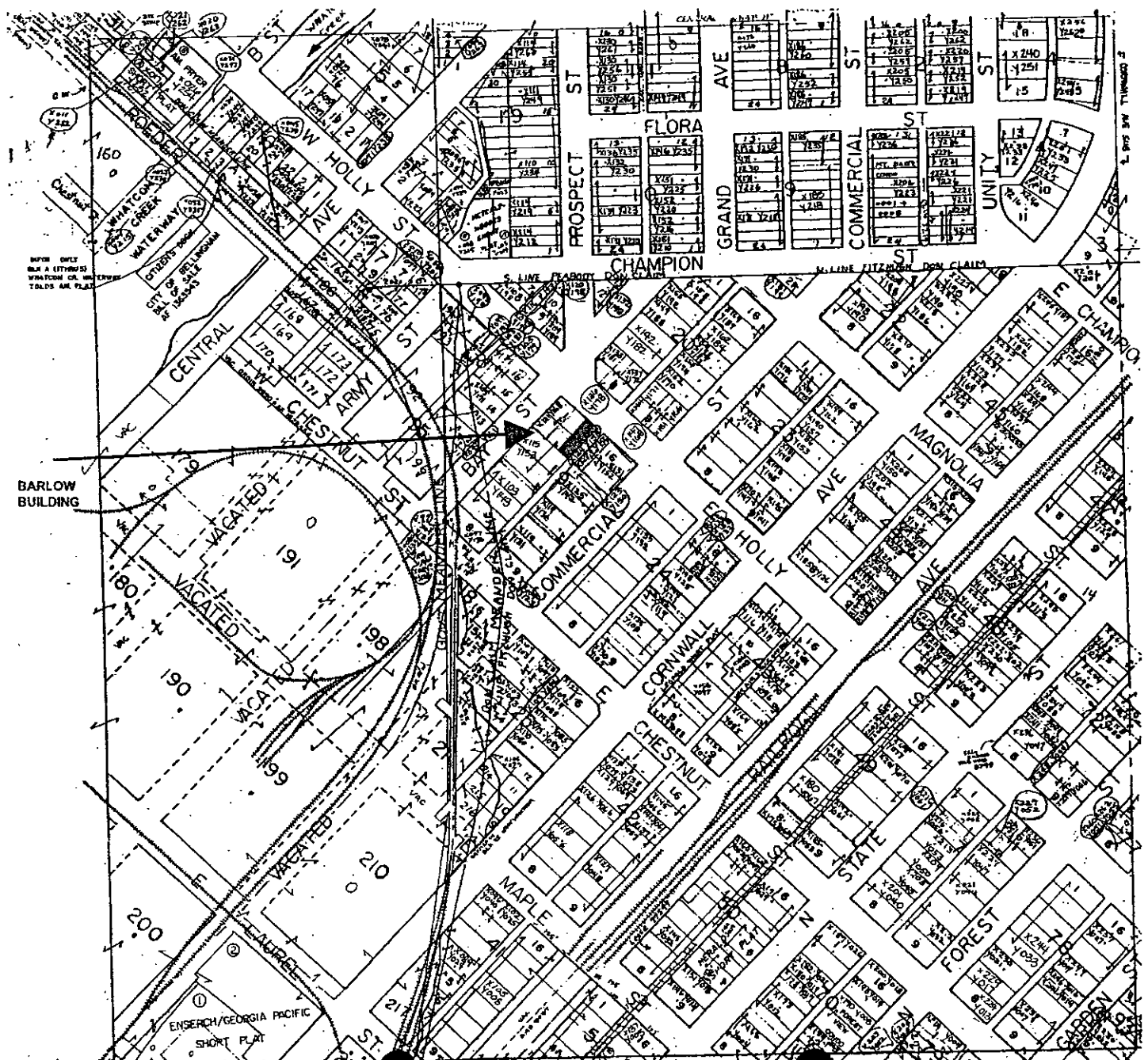


MAP No. 6—DETAIL OF THE SITE PLAN SHOWING THE
BARLOW BUILDING HIGHLIGHTED IN RED.

NATIONAL REGISTER NOMINATION

BARLOW BUILDING, 211 WEST HOLLY STREET, BELLINGHAM, WA 98225

MAPS



Ord. # 8519 and filed # 1233220 14/25 76 beginning W by corner lot 8 BL 87 - then S. 45° E 145 ft. to NW corner lot 9 BL 87 then S 45° W 80° to corner lot 1 BL 86, thence N 45° E 80 ft. to pt. of beginning

C/SP Lb 21911 BK 18 920206071 V. 234 P. 456
 C/SP Lb 114 BK 78 920302017 V. 238 P. 478
 C/SP Lb 4814 Lb 114 B 78 920702012 V. 240 P. 490
 C/SP Lb 2-7 818 920602030 4269 P. 1053

Ordinance

MAP OF THE TOWN OF NEW WHATCOM

WHATCOM CO. WASH. TERR.
 1883

Variation 22 deg. 45 min East.

SCALE 400 FEET TO ONE INCH.

E.C. Praeger Engr.

J.A. Lefevre Del.

For section of the section of Bear Avenue from the intersection of the West line of the same with the city of the line of the city, thence N 45° E 80 ft. to pt. of beginning
 Ordinance # 1011354 filed 10/1/66

For section of 7' of Alley in Block Bounded by High, Oak, Garden & Pine see ordinance file # 1011354 filed 10/1/66

For section of 25' on each side of Laurel St. between Garden & High St. see Ordinance file # 1015567 Oct 14, 1966

For section of 4' on E. Pine between High & Garden Sts. see file # 1015771- 10/19/66

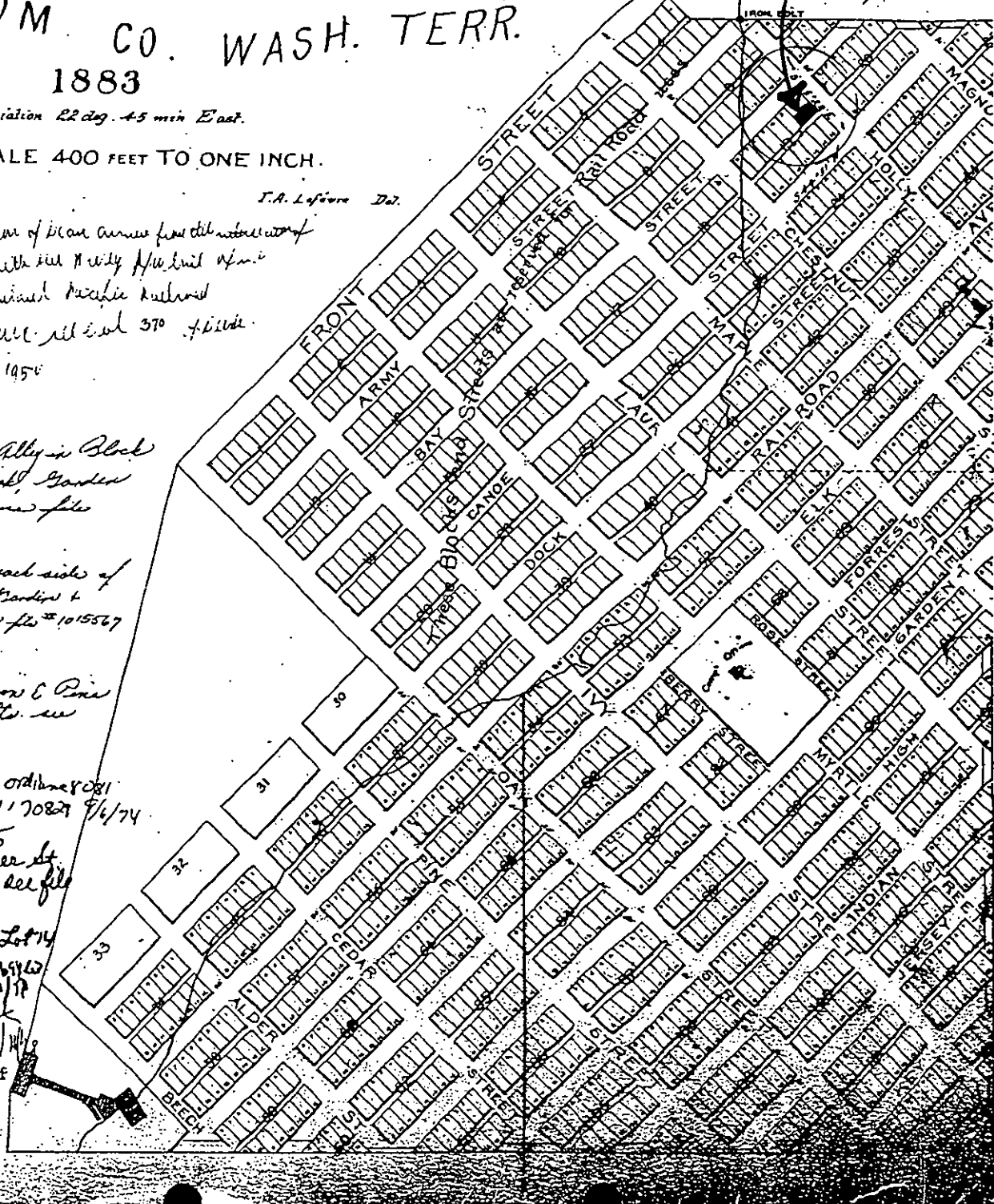
For Vacat. on Repealing Ordinance 881 see Ord # 8154 AF 11/70827 9/6/74

Ord. # 8448 Filed 11-24-75 creating portion of alley St. west to lot 8 block 57 see file # 1202581

Ord. # 8604 Filed 12/6/72 creating E. Oak lot 16 block 69 see Vol 421 Page 271 8/1/74

Ord. # 8710 Vacating E. Oak lot 16 block 69 see Vol 421 Page 271 8/1/74
 Ord. # 8710 Vacating E. Oak lot 16 block 69 see Vol 421 Page 271 8/1/74
 Ord. # 8710 Vacating E. Oak lot 16 block 69 see Vol 421 Page 271 8/1/74

BARLOW BLDG





BARLOW BUILDING
211 W HOLLY ST
BELLINGHAM, WHATCOM, WA
DAVID JOHNSTON
MAY 2004
WEST HOLLY ST, LOOKING SOUTHEAST
NO. 1 of 2 (SET 1)



BARLOW BUILDING
211 W HOLLY ST
BELLINGHAM, WHATCOM, WA
DAVID JOHNSTON
MAY 2004
NORTHEAST FRONT FACADE
NO. 2 of 2 (SET 1)



BARLOW BUILDING
211 W HOLLY ST
BELLINGHAM, WHATCOM, WA
DAVID JOHNSTON
JUNE 2004
SOUTHEAST SIDE FACADE
NO. 1 OF 5 (SET 2)



BARLOW BUILDING
211 W HOLLY ST
BELLINGHAM, WHATCOM, WA
DAVID JOHNSTON
JUNE 2004
FRONT FACADE INTERIOR
NO. 2 of 5 (SET 2)



BARLOW BUILDING
211 W HOLLY ST
BELLINGHAM, WHATCOM, WA
DAVID JOHNSTON
JUNE 2004
FIRST FLOOR VOLUME, LOOKING NORTHEAST
NO. 3 of 5 (SET 2)



BARLOW BUILDING
211 W HOLLY ST
BELLINGHAM, WHATCOM, WA
DAVID JOHNSTON
JUNE 2004
INTERIOR VOLUME, LOOKING SOUTH
NO. 6 of 7 (SET 2)



BARLOW BUILDING
211 W HOLLY ST
BELLINGHAM, WHATCOM, WA
DAVID JOHNSTON
JUNE 2004
BASEMENT, LOOKING NORTH
NO. 7 of 7 (SET 2)