

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

WH 691

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 \_\_\_\_\_ Immanuel School of Industries/Department of Public Welfare \_\_\_\_\_  
other names/site number \_ I Street Relief Depot, Akers Taxidermy \_\_\_\_\_

2. Location

street & number \_\_\_ 1303 Astor Street (also 1315 I Street, 1305 Astor Street) not for publication N/A  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

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	
1	0	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
1	0	Total

**Name of related multiple property listing**

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

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

0

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

CAT/sub:

EDUCATION/ School

GOVERNMENT/Government Office

SOCIAL/Civic

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

CAT/sub:

WORK IN PROGRESS

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification** (Enter categories from instructions)

OTHER:

**Materials** (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation concrete and brick

roof asphalt

walls wood shingle, wood weatherboard

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)

- X 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.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

- Education
Social History

Period of Significance

1906-1947

Significant Dates

- 1936-1945 Department of Public Welfare
1906-1910 School of Industries
1922-1932 Federal-City Free Employment Office
1919-1935 City Mission Community House

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.

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

See Continuation Sheets

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

**Bibliography**

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

See 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:  
**Bellingham Public Library**

**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreage of Property .11**

**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

1 10 5375950 5400400  
 Zone Easting Northing

2 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Zone Easting Northing

3 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Zone Easting Northing

4 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Zone Easting Northing

\_\_\_\_ See continuation sheet.

**Verbal Boundary Description**

SUPPLEMENTAL MAP OF WHATCOM LOT 1 BLK 58

**Boundary Justification**

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

The nominated property encompasses the entire urban tax lot that is occupied by the School of Industries/Department of Public Welfare building.

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Michael Sullivan/Principal; Spencer Howard/Associate  
 organization Artifacts Consulting, Inc. date April 3, 2003  
 street & number 1109 A Street Suite 1 telephone 253.572.4599  
 city or town Tacoma state WA zip code 98402

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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)

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**Property Owner**

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

name **Mary E. Bisese**

street & number **1315 Girard Street** telephone **360.676.7130**

city or town **Bellingham** state **WA** zip code **98225**

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**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 Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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**IMMANUEL SCHOOL OF INDUSTRIES/DEPT OF PUBLIC WELFARE  
WHATCOM COUNTY, WASHINGTON**

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**Narrative Description:**

Built in 1906 for the Immanuel School of Industries at a cost of approximately \$6,000, the two-story school building was constructed to consolidate activities previously spread between three separate locations. Ready for occupancy by December of 1906, the school building provided space for manual training and cooking departments, an auditorium and kindergarten.

By then the courses were held in the building until 1910 when public schools incorporated manual training into their curricula. The Immanuel School of Industries had achieved its purpose of bringing attention to this need and its fulfillment and integration into the school system. The Immanuel Church closed the school and the building subsequently turned to philanthropic purposes.

The building's later uses included space during the early 1930s for the Federal-City Free Employment Office and the City Mission Community House. By 1935, the Bellingham Family Welfare Association was housed in the building until 1939, after which the State Welfare Department occupied the building through 1940. The Whatcom County Welfare Department occupied the building from 1941 to 1945, followed by the Church of God from ca 1948 to 1969. Carl Akers, one of the few taxidermists in the state qualified to handle endangered species, prepare hides and provide ceremonial regalia for local Native American Tribes, purchased the building and moved his taxidermy shop into the building in 1970 from the former Richards and Hyatt Co. store (known as the former Whatcom County Courthouse) on E Street. The current owner purchased the building in 2000 and is rehabilitating it for use as a pediatric dental hospital.

The Immanuel School of Industries building stands on the corner of Astor and I Streets in Bellingham, Washington. This prominent 40'x70' two-story building with a full daylight basement features a rectangular plan with a two-story projection centrally located on the building's northeast side. A low-pitched hipped roof with broad overhanging eaves and enclosed soffit and gable roofed side projection accent the building's bold massing. The wood frame building stands on a composite foundation consisting of load bearing brick above grade with concrete below grade. Window placement defines the building's facades into structural bays; the end walls are two units in width, with three units comprising the sidewalls. Entries to the first and second floors on the building's end walls integrate into this overall division. The two additional entries occupy either side of the central two-story projection.

The building's primary southeast and northeast facades front I and Astor Streets and are set back from the sidewalks. The building's southwest side faces an adjacent building with approximately 5' between the two buildings.

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The composite foundation consists of concrete footings and a below-grade foundation wall. The top of the concrete walls project approximately 8" above grade on the building's southeast end. A load bearing common bond brick foundation comprises the above-grade portion of the building's foundation. The use of brick facilitated the incremental nature of the school building's construction due to ongoing fund raising, and accommodated the multiple window openings necessary for adequate day lighting of the basement for school activities. The bricks are water struck with sand patches. They feature a notable slightly concave vertical depression on the central portion of the headers. Head and bed joints between the brick average 1/2" in width. On the building's northwest end, added concrete retaining walls reinforce the below-grade concrete foundation walls.

The superstructure's wood frame walls consist of rough sawn lumber clad with diagonal sheathing. Cladding the lower portion of the walls is a slightly flared band of shingles around the lower portion of the exterior walls between the brick foundation and the first story windows. This band forms a water table above the foundation wall. The molding capping this section runs below the windows providing a sill. A molding below this section covers the joint between the brick foundation and the superstructure. The upper portions of the building are clad with horizontal wood siding with corner boards. The painted exterior walls are a brick red.

Interior partition walls on the first and second floors consist of wood studs. Partition walls in the basement are three wythe load bearing brick walls.

The building features three window types. One is a 1:1 double hung window having a short rectangular hopper window above. These occur in pairs, separated by a slender mullion and grouped with another set within a single bay. They feature painted wood casings with a crown molding on the first floor windows. The second floor windows feature lug sills. The window heads die into the frieze that runs below the eaves. The second type is a nearly square 1:1 window with painted wood casings and sills. These provide day lighting into the basement and the first and second floor bathrooms on the building's southwest side. The third type consists of a single fixed lite with metal bars. This type is found below the northwest stairs.

The placement of the windows on the building's facades conveys the underlying structural bays. Framing the bays are the broad corners of the building with a solid middle section between. These solid sections provide a visual and structural load transfer down through the upper walls and the brick portion of the foundation. The building's end walls feature two bays on each floor and the sidewalls feature three bays on each floor. Each bay has a set of windows.

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Chimneys consist of an interior chimney at one end of the building, one exterior metal chimney at the other end of the building, and one brick chimney. The metal chimney on the southeast end was originally brick. The interior brick chimney extends up through the roofline on the west end of the southwest facade. Metal roof ties provide additional stability for the upper portion. This chimney services the furnace and boiler for the heating system. The exterior metal chimney on the building's northwest end wall runs from the second floor extending through the soffit above the roofline. The interior metal chimney formerly extended from the east end of the building through the roof above the roofline. Both of the metal chimneys are disconnected.

The building's hipped roof features wide overhanging boxed eaves with a tongue-and-groove bead board soffit. These eaves and soffit extend across the gable end of the two-story side projection. Single approximately 1"x4" boards cover the corner joints of the soffit. A fascia wraps around the building below the soffit with moldings above and below the fascia. Low gabled roof vents on the southeast and northeast ends provide cross ventilation for the attic. Modern metal hanging gutters with metal downspouts provide drainage. The downspouts are located on the inner roof corners and run against the building.

The building features three entries to the first floor, a single second floor entry and two basement entries. Two entries are located on either side of the two-story projection on the building's northeast side. These lead to the first floor and the basement. A third entry was originally on the southwest end of the southeast facade, although it was later moved one bay northeast.

The entry on the northwest side of the projection provides access to the first floor. From the concrete walkway off the sidewalk, a direct flight of wood frame stairs with a wood handrail lead up to a covered wood floored stoop. Two wood posts along the outer northeast side of the stoop carry a wood frame shed roof attached at the opposite side to the building just above the window heads. The roof features open eaves and enclosed rafters with knee braces between the posts to provide lateral bracing. A flat tongue-and-groove bead board ceiling extends out from the top of the windows and then slopes to follow the incline of the roof. Asphalt shingles cover the roof. A double-door entry comprised of three panel doors leads to the building interior. The lower two wood panels of each door are recessed with textured opaque glass in the upper panel. The doors feature painted wood casings.

On the southeast side of the two-story projection, an entry at grade leads to the basement stairs. Painted wood casings with a crown-molding frame the five-panel door. The first floor entry on the southeast facade consists of a wood frame stoop with wood posts carrying a hipped roof. The stairs are no longer extant. The stoop features wood flooring with a wood railing and a tongue-and-groove bead board ceiling. Asphalt shingles cover the roof. A paneled door leads to the building interior.

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On the northeast end of the building's northwest facade, a direct flight of wood frame stairs parallel to the building with open risers leads to a stoop. Horizontal boards on the exterior wall behind this stoop suggest a previously larger stoop. A wood railing continues up along the outer edge of the stairs and around the stoop. A five-panel door framed with painted wood casings and a crown molding leads to the first floor.

The second floor entry is located on the southwest end of the building's northwest wall. A direct flight of open metal stairs with a metal stair head and railings leads to a five-panel door with painted wood casings and a crown molding. The lower end of the stairs is supported on wood posts and begins well above grade. The stairs connecting this end with grade are either missing or this stair served another purpose.

The only exterior stairs to the basement descend from grade on the northwest facade to a double-door entry below grade. Concrete retaining walls flank these concrete steps.

Little historical documentation exists as to the original configuration of the building interior. Newspaper accounts relate the first floor originally contained seven classrooms, with an auditorium and kindergarten on the second floor and the manual training department in the basement. Over the years, subsequent building uses have altered this layout considerably on the first floor, though with minimal modifications to the second floor's layout.

The first floor consists of a large approximately 28'x38' open volume in the east corner. This volume contains a stage on the southeast end flanked by two approximately 6'x6' support spaces. Additional rooms extend along the southwest side of the first floor. Bathrooms are located in the central portion of the floor's southwest side. Two relatively large approximately 8'x21' and 15'x21' rooms and the stairway to the second floor occupy the northwest end of the first floor. Separating these two rooms from the main volume at the building's southeast end is the central kitchen area. Immediately northeast of the kitchen is the first floor portion of the northeast facade's central two-story projection containing an entry vestibule and the basement stairs. Originally the main stairway to the second floor led up from the north corner of what is currently the main volume. With the exception of the bathrooms, all other partitions are later additions. The ceiling height in the main room is approximately 10'-10".

The second floor contains an approximately 7' wide central hallway extending two-thirds of the building's length from the stairway at the floor's northwest end. Northeast of this hallway is a long approximately 18'x39' rectangular volume. A second large approximately 19'x19' volume at the end of the hallway occupies the south corner of the floor. Smaller volumes are situated along the building's southwest and northwest walls. The second floor ceiling height is approximately 11'-8". With the exception of two central partitions on the southwest side and the north stairway, all other partitions are original.

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The basement features a large open area along the southeast end of the building. A former kitchen occupies the central portion. A large open room along the northwest end of the building provides additional space. Access to this floor is from the interior stairway in the central two-story projection and the below grade entry on the building's northwest end. During the 1970s, the basement served as a tanning and cleaning area for a taxidermy shop.

Three interior stairways provide access between floors. The original stairway between the first and second floors consists of a quarter-turn wood stair with winders located in the two-story central projection on the building's northeast facade. The stair is the full width of the central projection, approximately 5'-6". Though retained, this stairway was closed off as a result of interior modifications.

Today, a stairway in the north end of the first floor provides access between the first and second floors. This 47" wide wood frame quarter-turn stair with a 6":12½" pitch passes across the windows on the building's northeast side. The lower flight is enclosed. The upper flight features an open stairwell. Portions of the original floor joists were removed to accommodate this stair. This stairway is a later addition.

A wood frame dog-leg stair leading to the basement occupies the southeast end of the central projection.

Flooring on the first floor consists of ¾" wood flooring over a diagonal shiplap wood sub floor. The main room features an added ¾" wood flooring over this floor. The room in the south corner of the floor features carpet over the wood flooring. Rooms along the building's southwest side, central portion, and northwest end feature a contemporary composite sheet flooring over the wood floor.

The second floor features 3" tongue-and-groove wood flooring over 7½" diagonal shiplap sheathing. The hallway and spaces on the southwest side of the building feature a contemporary composite sheet flooring over the wood. The basement features a concrete slab with floor drains.

Wall and ceiling finishes on the first and second floors originally consisted of painted horizontal tongue-and-groove sheathing averaging 36" in length. This sheathing had a flush face set against the wall studs with V-groove joints on the painted interior face. Covering the vertical joints between these boards were 2½"x¼" wood strips. These strips were also used to trim the wall corners. This sheathing remains on many of the original walls. This wood sheathing was later papered over on the first and second floors. The wallpaper used consisted of a finish layer over a thicker backer layer. Decorative bands wrapped the upper portions of the walls. The sheets averaged 29½" between the seams and ran continuously from floor to ceiling. A more recent paper application is evident in the north corner of the second floor. Plaster was added in the new stairwell and throughout much of the first floor, particularly in the spaces flanking the stage. Later additions on both floors consist of plywood and particleboard sheathing over wood studs, and more contemporary sheet rock over wood studs on the second floor. Wall finishes in the basement consist of plaster over brick.

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Decorative features employed in the building interior consist of 12"x12" plywood faced columns in the main room on the first floor. Arched buttresses extend off either side of the columns with a shallow arch extending across the room between them. A second similar shallow arch repeats over the stage. The columns and arches are later additions. The approximately 16' wide stage, also a later addition, is elevated 16¼" above the finish floor and projects out into the room. A wood panel covers the original window openings behind the stage. The framing for the side rooms divides the original windows. The same decorative baseboard from the main room continues around these rooms and the stage.

Decorative trim in the building originally consisted of a painted wood baseboard with base molding evident in the north end of the second floor. Later, a 43½" vertical tongue-and-groove bead board wainscot with quarter round base and plain 2¾" cap was installed throughout much of the building's southeast portion. In areas, the wainscot was since removed and replaced with plywood, leaving only the cap.

Windows on the first floor originally featured wood casings having a 5½" face and apron with a 1" wide lug sill. The head casing extended beyond the jamb casings. These remain in the northwest end of the building. Exceptions to these include the window casings in the east corner of the first floor. These feature painted wood casings and apron with a 5½" face, though with the addition of a 3" crown molding and a ¼" molding between the header and jamb casings as well as moldings beneath the sill and the apron. The head and jamb casings also align on either side. In the south corner of the first floor are similar casings, although these lack the moldings below the sill and apron. Windows in the main room feature yet another later addition that corresponds with the woodwork on the stage. These consist of thin stained wood casings and apron.

On the second floor, the original casings feature a similar configuration to those in the northwest end of the first floor, although the face is only 4½" wide.

Interior doorways between rooms feature painted wood casings. Door types include four panel doors found on the first and second floors having two lower short panels and two upper tall panels. Five-panel horizontal recessed panel doors are employed on the exterior entries and first floor bathrooms. Rooms on the first floor's southwest side feature single-panel doors with three-panel doors to the spaces on either side of the stage. On the second floor a large three-panel door leads to the central side projection space and the former stairway down to the first floor. Stall doors in the bathrooms hang on spring hinges with a space below the door and long decorative stiles.

Interior relites consist of a single painted wood sash with four fixed lites. They are located exclusively on the second floor with two between the new stairwell and the north room, three along the partition wall between the hallway and the long rectangular room on the building's northeast side, and two in the northeast wall into the central projection.

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Door hardware throughout the building consists of three primary types. One consists of round knobs with rosettes hardware used on the exterior doors. These are deteriorated beyond recognition of the original pattern, if any, on the knobs. The second type consists of round knobs with a circular indentation and a rosette. The third type, added at the same time as the stage, consists of glass knobs with a decorative escutcheon. These are found on the doors to the spaces on either side of the stage.

Window hardware throughout the building consists of sash clasps, sash pulleys, sash cords, and weights on the double-hung windows. The hopper windows feature fasteners and stay chains.

Fixtures consist of glass globes hanging from chains used throughout the building. These are largely all intact with only a few missing fixtures and globes. Later additions consist of a florescent light and recessed light over the stage area, and some new floodlights mounted on the building interior.

A cooler in the basement was formerly used for the kitchen and later for taxidermy purposes. Radiators are located throughout the building.

The building fabric overall appears to be in good condition with deterioration primarily on the building envelope. The concrete foundation exhibits loss of binder from the surface to a depth of 1/8"-plus, although the aggregate does not easily detach. The brick foundation, particularly at the northwest end, exhibits severe deterioration and delamination with mortar loss exceeding 1" in depth in places. Windows exhibit extensive paint loss primarily on the interior, but the hardware remains largely intact and the windows operable. Many of the basement windows and lower portions of some of the southwest facade's windows are boarded over. Fixtures and door hardware remain largely intact, although exterior pieces exhibit surface deterioration. The roof is intact, but it leaks with several areas of extreme deterioration of the soffit and material loss with signs of moisture accumulation in the exterior walls below these areas. Entries exhibit moisture accumulation in their framing.

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**Narrative Statement of Significance:**

The School of Industries building is a simple, sturdy, well-crafted large wood frame school building reminiscent of the plain Quaker meeting halls built during the 19<sup>th</sup> century in Pennsylvania and the upper Midwest. Built in 1906, its important associations with the history of the Pacific Northwest fall into three distinct chapters connected by the common themes of social service and the development of institutions of collective welfare.

While there is a generous variety of designated historic buildings and structures illustrating the prosperity and patriciate class of the region, there are relatively few reflecting the meaningful endeavors of society in providing for the economically disadvantaged and underclass. The historical role of the School of Industries building placed it centrally in the launch of depression era relief programs by the Federal Government, including old age assistance (OAA), aid to dependent children (ADA), Public Works Administration (PWA) and Works Progress Administration (WPA) that included writers and artists working in the region north of Seattle. The building also served as the first northwest regional offices for the 1933 State legislation creating the Emergency Relief Commission, followed in 1935 by the creation of the Washington State Department of Public Welfare.

Today, the School of Industries building stands just blocks away from Bellingham's Old Town, a physical testament to its previous function as a central educational and public welfare resource.

The concept of a school to teach life skills and industrial training to young people was a significant social innovation when it was launched in Bellingham in 1895. In an era when few public schools in America offered any instruction beyond basic academic studies, the Immanuel School of Industries offered practical training to primarily working class young people. Public schools during the 1890s were geared to classical courses of study, apparently assuming that those young persons not skilled in Latin, Greek, German, or rhetoric would soon be married or channeled into wage-earner jobs. The depression of 1893 had a severe effect on single wage earner families in the Pacific Northwest, in many cases making it difficult for families to keep children of working age in school. With no child labor laws, many families survived on the combined meager incomes of both the father and the older children that in Bellingham found work in the sawmills, farms, timber camps and coal mines.

The School of Industries was organized in January 1896, by a Baptist pastor, Rev. Morris Carlos Cole, who realized that young people, particularly working and lower class, needed vocational skills as well as academic learning. Opening with 18 girls in attendance learning basic sewing and homemaking, demand grew before the close of the first year for the school to open its doors to boys as well. Classes were formed for young men in drawing and woodcarving, and by the first anniversary, enrollment reached 149 students. A broad range of practical classes were offered in sewing, drawing, carpentry and wood carving, kindergarten work, and nurses training. The school was initially called the Baptist School of Industries and operated under the auspices of the Baptist Church.

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The First Baptist Church in Whatcom began in 1892 and went through a series of pastors as the congregation worked to build their first church building in the nearby town of Sehome. Cole began as pastor for the congregation in September 1895 at the age of 60 and soon after launched the School of Industries.

When the church in Sehome was completed (ca 1899), Cole felt ties to the Whatcom neighborhood where the school operated and saw a need for a Baptist church in that area as well. Joined by 28 members, they formed a new congregation (the Immanuel Baptist Church) in the Broadway district, organized in 1899, and erected a church at the corner of Lynn and Jefferson streets. They also undertook management of the Industrial School, hence the name change to Immanuel School of Industries.

Rev. Cole served as pastor until his death in the summer of 1908. The Immanuel Baptist Church closed in 1936 after a dwindling congregation found it impossible to pay their expenses. A small number of the congregation founded an independent church which they called the Immanuel Bible Church, and which still operates at a different location in Bellingham.

Morris Carlos Cole was born in Utica, New York on March 14, 1834, and began his career as a minister at the age of 17, receiving his education in Fallery Seminary, Fulton, New York. He later began the study of medicine and engaged in the drug business in Rochester, NY. After a few years, he moved to New Orleans, LA, where he followed the same business. When Civil War broke out, he left the South and joined the Union Army serving in two commands; the first in the marine artillery, Third Volunteers, where he held the office of acting assistant of command. The second term of service was with the Light Battery D at New Jersey artillery, and in January 1864, he was detailed by the Secretary of War for duty in the Assistant-General's office, where he remained until at his own request he was relieved from duty to join his battery in the army of the James. After the fall of Richmond, he was ordered with the artillery brigade of the Twenty-fifth army corps to Brazas and Santiago, Mexico. In 1860, prior to his army career, he met Miss Julia B. Leas and they were married in Chicago. Mustered out of service in New Orleans at the close of the war, the family took up residence there, and from 1869 to 1876, Cole served as Secretary of the Louisiana State Board of Education. In 1877, he took up pastorate of the First Baptist church of New Orleans, where he served until 1891, when he accepted a call to the First Baptist church of Walla Walla, WA. In September 1895, he came to the First Baptist Church in Bellingham. Cole died 9 Aug 1908, at 74 years of age.

Cole himself taught some classes at the School of Industries, and as the institution prospered, Miss Carrie E. Kalloch was hired to be the Superintendent. Fees for pupils were small; many people from the community volunteered their services as occasional teachers. The success of the school was beyond anyone's expectations and while attendance was not compulsory, the average daily attendance by the end of the second year was over two hundred, and the total enrollment reached 451.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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CONTINUATION SHEET

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IMMANUEL SCHOOL OF INDUSTRIES/DEPT OF PUBLIC WELFARE  
WHATCOM COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Soon there was a demand for something similar for younger children of the community, and shortly after the school was organized, a kindergarten program (later called Immanuel Free Kindergarten) was started. The innovative kindergarten program accepted children as young as three, placing them in the hands of young women who were in turn learning homemaking and nursing at the school. By 1905, the Industrial School grew so large that the caretakers bought land next to the old I Street building they were using and constructed the two-story school building.

On February 28, 1905, the Immanuel School of Industries secured a building permit for the erection of a frame school building costing \$7000. The 40'x70' two-story building with a full daylight basement was to be located at 1301 and 1305 Astor Street. The basement was to be used for manual training, the first floor was to be divided into classrooms and cooking departments, and the second floor was to contain the kindergarten. Initial expectations placed completion of the building by Autumn of 1906.

Accounts in the *Bellingham Herald* described the work products from the school in the May 10, 1906 issue on a fundraising exhibit. It reported on an Exhibit of work (fund raiser for new building) in Knights of Pythias hall on Holly Street. Work ranged from beginner's grades to the more finished products, books with specimens of hemming, felting, running stitch, tucking, etc., with type written directions on the opposite leaf, beautifully dressed dolls whose underwear was separate and well made without one raw or careless seam, sold shortly after exhibit. Aprons were evenly stitched and strong. Embroidery and lace exhibits sold quickly. Basket and wicker work and leather bags were shown. The cooking department featured dainty confections. Porcelain jars from the cannery were wrapped with raffia woven around them and potted with rock ferns. It was also reported that the school planned to house all the industries (kindergarten, industrial, cooking) under one roof the next Autumn. The article concluded by stating that the institution had done a great deal for Bellingham, more so that most of the tuition had been contributed by competent people anxious to see the school placed on a permanent footing when it would be possible to engage assistance, as would be done next season in the shops and dressmaking department.

By November 24, 1906, the paper was reporting that the new home for the manual training was completed and equipped and would be ready for opening in a few weeks, that the plumbing equipment had been installed several weeks ago, and that the walls dividing the rooms on the first floor were being put in rapidly. In its opening configuration, the basement was used for manual and industrial arts shops while the ground floor was divided into classrooms. The upper level housed an assembly hall and apartments.

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In 1908, the Bellingham School Board instituted its own program of manual training and domestic science in the high school, influenced directly by the pioneering success of the School of Industries. In an April 28, 1908 item in the *Bellingham Herald*, it was noted that the following Wednesday would be the 12<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Immanuel School of Industries and there would be entertainment by the children with the work of pupils on exhibit so that visitors and parents would have an opportunity to see what has been accomplished by the school. The article went on to say that the children would assist in explaining their work. Mrs. George E. Brand was to have charge of the evening's entertainment, for which no admission was to be charged, and the public was invited to attend. The Bellingham Polk Directories show the School of Industries continuing in the building through 1910 and it is likely that in some reduced manner the building was still used for instruction as the First World War loomed.

In the period following the war, the Federal City-Free Employment Office began operating out of the building at 1315 I Street. The agency was started in 1916 as the U.S. Employment Service, then became the United States Government and City Free Employment Office operating out of the Federal Building in downtown Bellingham. In 1919, another social service agency, the Bellingham City Mission, moved into the old school building, and soon after the Employment Office joined them. During this period, the building was sold by the church to the City mission whose Superintendent was Mr. Isaac Newton Cone. The new owners were described as "organized as a charitable corporation" and the *Bellingham Herald* noted that the Baptist congregation assisted the transaction by "donating a large part of the purchase price."

To a very precise degree, the history of the building at Astor and I Streets began to parallel the development of social service agencies in Washington State and its counties. Beginning with the Pauper Act of 1854, Washington State had placed into law a structure for providing assistance to the poor, indigent and abandoned, directing each county to make provisions for its own residents. Through this network, the State Government passed occasional emergency funds and public welfare assistance. In 1921, the Washington State legislature departmentalized its state government with passage of the Administrative Code. One resulting department was the Department of Business Control (DBC) under which the responsibilities of superintending public welfare (along with others) were placed.

During the 1920's, the large wood frame building at Astor and I Streets became a center for newly developed agencies that provided social services to the poor, unemployed, homeless and needy. Notably, in late 1922, the remarkable Grace B. Cone founded and operated the City Mission Day Nursery in the building, a parenting and day care facility for unwed women and the few working mothers in the community at that time. Ms. Cone was a singular pioneer woman in the field of social work, serving as a founding officer and leader for the Whatcom County Federation of Social Welfare Workers in the era of social reform prior to the great Depression. She lived and worked in Bellingham until her death in 1970 at the age of 103.

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WHATCOM COUNTY, WASHINGTON**

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The Bellingham City Mission occupied 1315 I Street from 1919 through 1935. The Bellingham City Mission changed to the City Mission Community House in 1923. This roughly coincided with the beginning of the Federal-City Free Employment office in the building, an agency that placed about 150 men and women in jobs each month according to a 1922 newspaper story. In 1930, with the Depression setting in, the Cone's were joined by Wm. J. McIlwain, who became superintendent of the City Mission Community House and resided in the building with the Cones until they moved out in 1932.

With the election of President Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1932, the federal government launched an array of social and economic programs aimed at softening the devastating effects of the Depression. Most of the relief and employment programs operated through State governments that in turn authorized and funded agencies and offices at the County level. In cases where welfare agencies and services already existed, Federal programs absorbed experienced staff and offices creating a National network of relief efforts such as the Works Progress Administration (WPA), Department of Public Welfare (DPW) and other relief programs.

In 1933, State legislation created the State Emergency Relief Commission (SERA), which operated through county welfare boards and made state money available directly to counties. This was the first statewide relief organization in Washington. As the Federal programs aimed at the effects of the great Depression began to blend with State bureaucracies, the Washington State legislature created the State Department of Public Welfare (SDPW). This department took over from the Washington Emergency Relief Administration (WERA) on May 1, 1935 and lasted through March 31, 1937, at which point it was superceded by the more comprehensive State Department of Social Security (SDSS).

The evolving City Mission began to expand its role to meet the increasing needs of the northwestern most county in the United States. Its formal name was changed to the Bellingham Welfare Association in 1932 with Wm. J. McIlwain as Superintendent of the Bellingham Family Welfare Association and Amy J. McIlwain as the Matron. The Bellingham Welfare Association occupied the building from 1932 through 1935 until the Department of Public Welfare took over, at which time the McIlwain's retired.

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WHATCOM COUNTY, WASHINGTON**

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The Department of Public Welfare assimilated the Bellingham Welfare Association that was completely overburdened by the deepening condition of the Depression. The DPW widened its service area to include all of Whatcom County and sections of the San Juan Islands and Skagit County. The school building at 1315 I Street became the county home for federal and state relief programs including the DPW, WPA, PWA and others from 1936 through 1945. With the arrival of the Department of Public Welfare office came yet another notable figure in the building's history. Mrs. Margaret Bermejo was the local administrator for DPW and she was the first to merge Federal and State programs with Whatcom County's relief contributions. From 1937 to 1940, Bermejo shaped and then streamlined the multilayered agency. She managed the distribution of financial and relief program assistance in an equitable system that was under review from Federal and state overseers as well as the Whatcom County elected commissioners. It was during this period that the stage and theater were built on the ground floor, probably in part for use by the WPA which locally created public lectures, programs and theatrical productions.

At the start of the Second World War, both the State and Federal programs for social assistance were overshadowed by issues of defense and external affairs. Donald J. Brunson had replaced Mrs. Bermejo in 1940 and in 1942 the welfare agency became a Whatcom County government department. In 1945, Elby E. Ames took over agency and in 1947, the Welfare Department moved out of the building to 114 W. Magnolia with Elwood L. Johnson taking over administration.

The building shifted occupancy back to a religious organization when the Church of God purchased the building in 1947 or 1948. They used the sturdy wood frame building until 1962 when it became vacant. In 1969, the building was sold to Carl Akers, a well-known taxidermist and one of the few taxidermists in the state permitted to handle endangered species and qualified to prepare hides and ceremonial regalia for local Native American Tribes. As told by the Lummi drummer, Tom Edwards, the I Street building where Carl made ceremonial drums, eagle staffs and repaired ceremonial regalia for members of the Lummi Nation, Nooksack and Tulalip Tribes is considered sacred space to these tribes. "As he worked with his hands, we sang songs," Edwards related. "Songs to help Carl in his work, which he did for the tribes free of charge". For decades it was a magical, somewhat mysterious private natural history museum that was open to sportsmen and school children alike. Akers Taxidermy was based in the building until the late 1990's when Carl Akers retired. The building is currently owned by Mary Elizabeth Bisese, D.D.S. and is being rehabilitated as a pediatric dental hospital with an apartment once again occupying the upper floor.

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WHATCOM COUNTY, WASHINGTON

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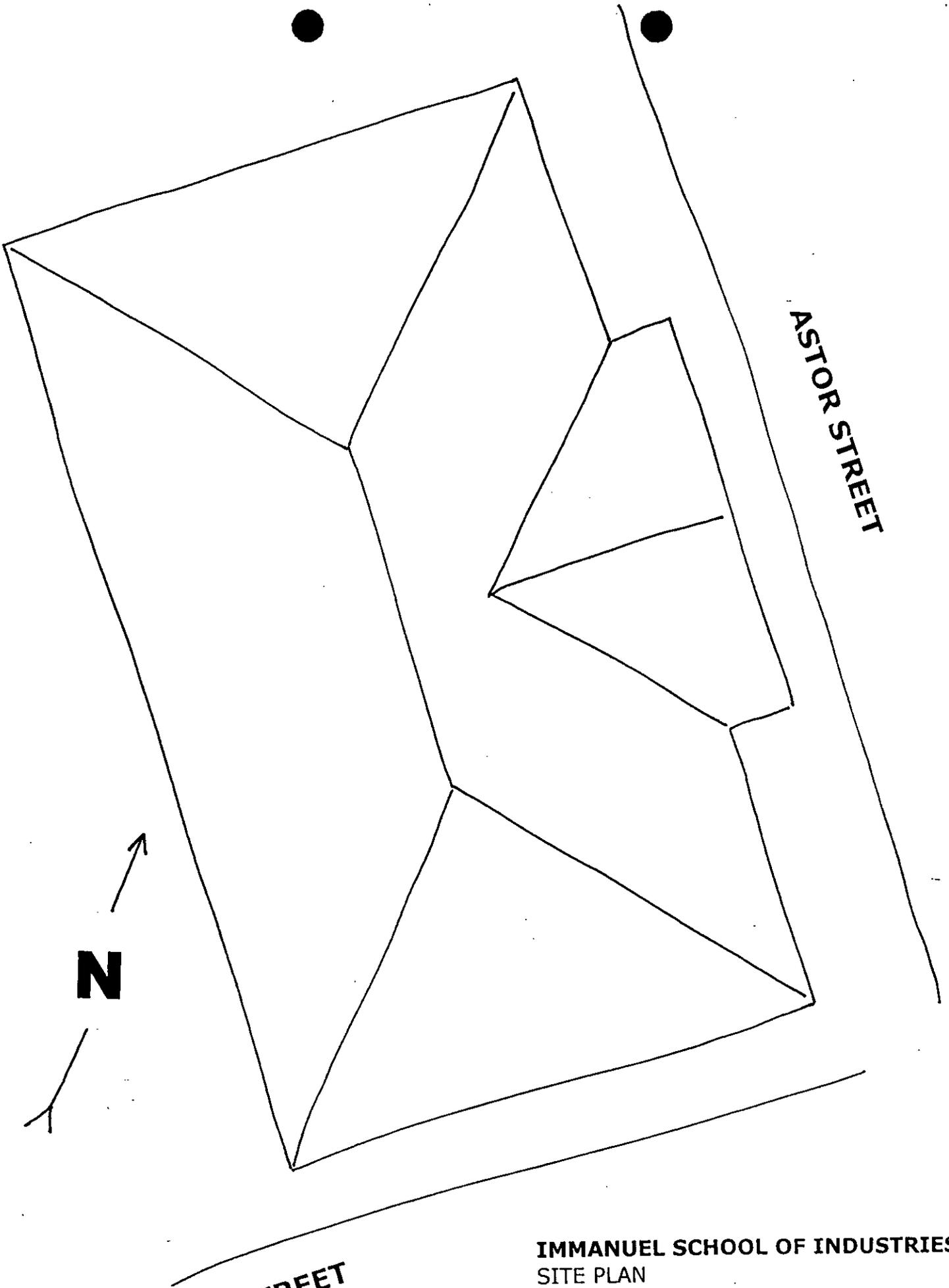
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SCHOOL OF INDUSTRIES / DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WELFARE  
 WEST CORNER OF I AND ASTOR STREETS  
 BELLINGHAM, WHATCOM, WA.

ZONE 10  
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 E 6325450

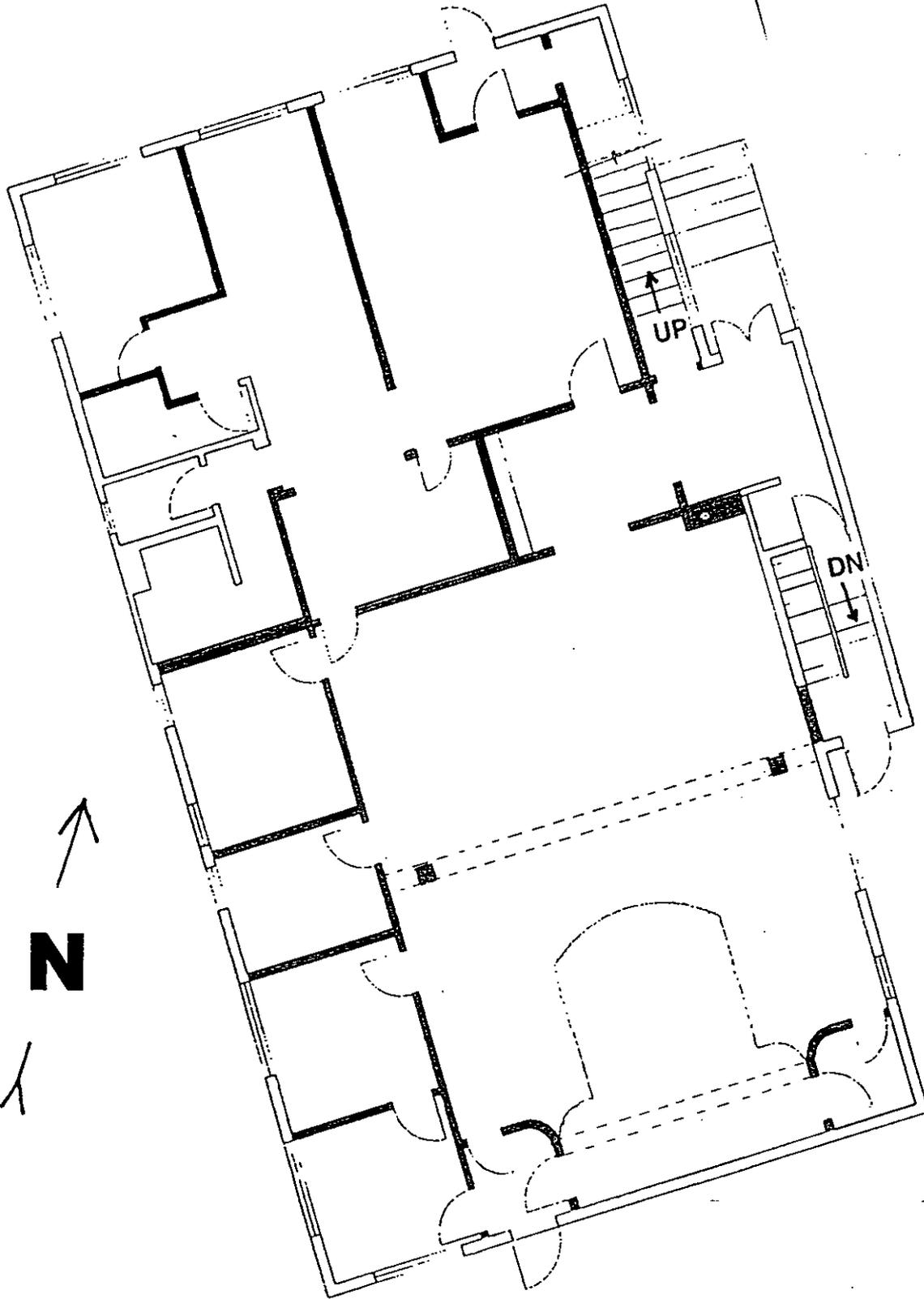


ASTOR STREET

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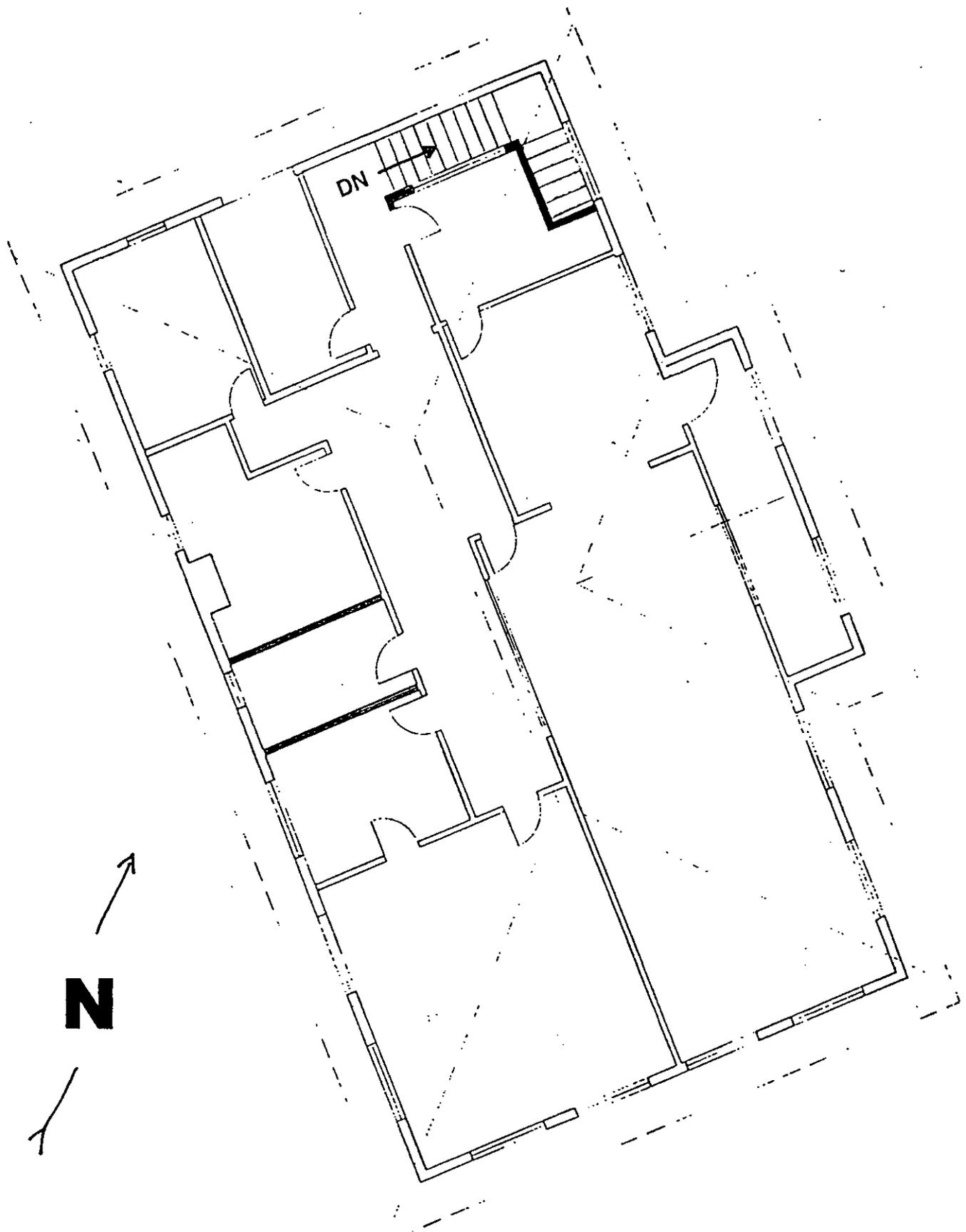
I STREET

IMMANUEL SCHOOL OF INDUSTRIES  
SITE PLAN  
NOT TO SCALE

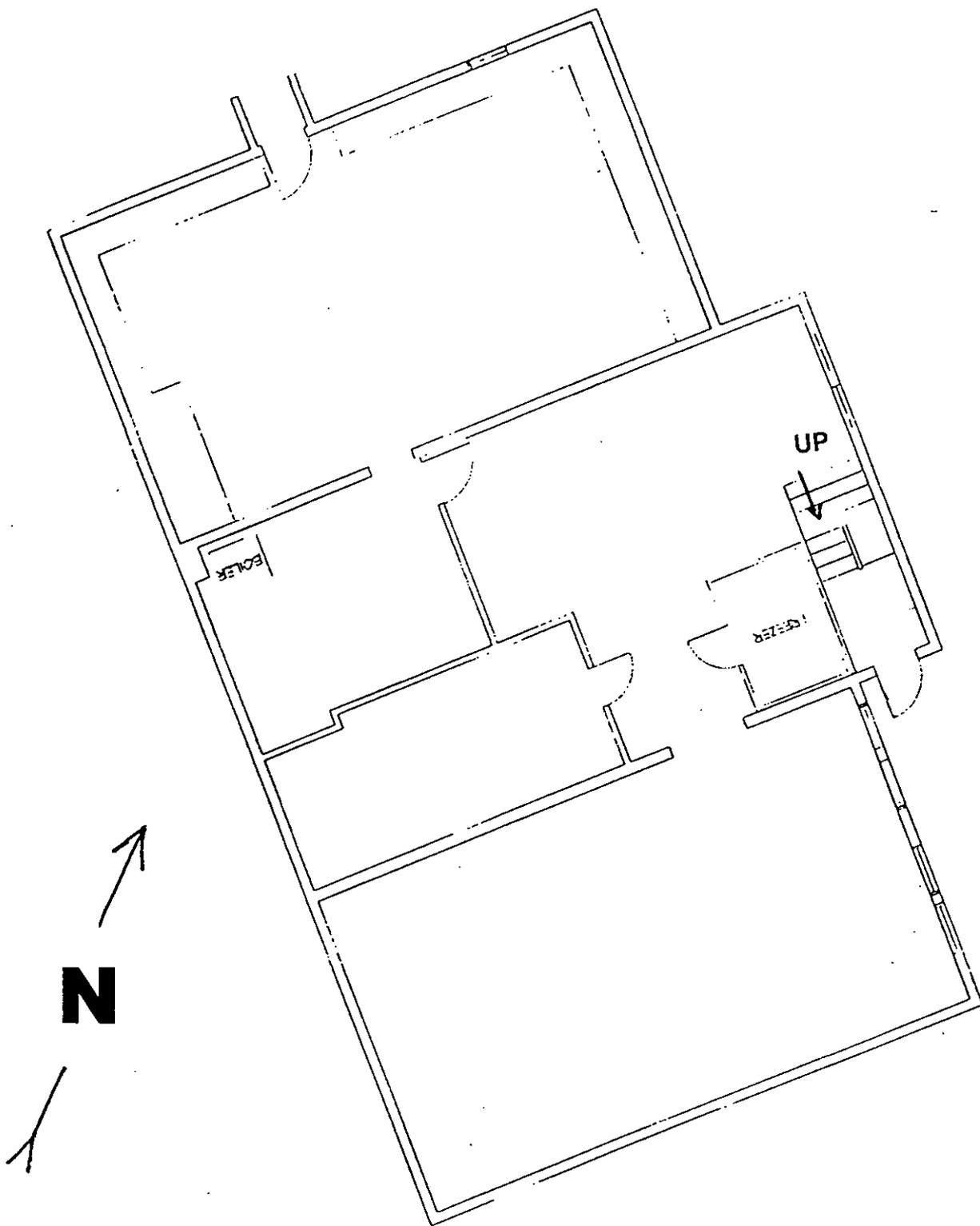


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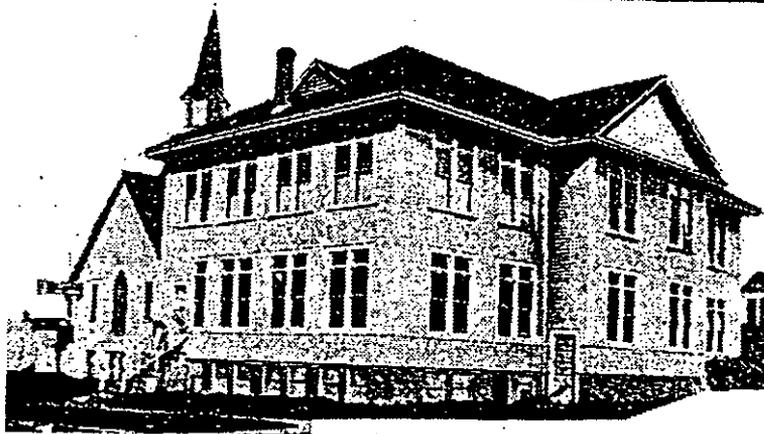
**IMMANUEL SCHOOL OF INDUSTRIES**  
 1<sup>ST</sup> FLOOR PLAN  
 NOT TO SCALE



**IMMANUEL SCHOOL OF INDUSTRIES**  
2<sup>ND</sup> FLOOR PLAN  
NOT TO SCALE



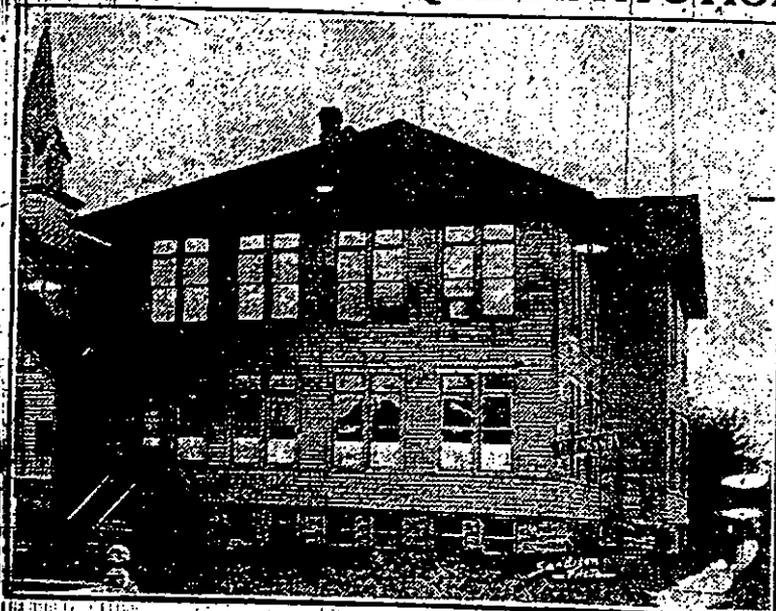
**IMMANUEL SCHOOL OF INDUSTRIES**  
**BASEMENT PLAN**  
**NOT TO SCALE**



Circa early 1900s view taken while functioned as a school building/View of southeast and northeast facades  
Center for Pacific Northwest Studies

# BELLINGHAM CITY MISSION IS DECLARED UNIQUE INSTITUTION

9/14/22  
p. 10



The City Mission is Bellingham's most unique institution in the opinion of its president, Dan F. North, apropos of its "heart test" campaign.

"I consider it so," he continued, "not only because of the work it accomplishes, but also from the way in which it has developed in this community.

"Nine years ago Mr. J. D. Clark undertook to do something to help the unemployed and unfortunate in Bellingham that winter. Others, appreciative of his efforts, came to his assistance, until he and the push cart in which he collected the donations for this cause became well known on the streets of Bellingham. Mr. Clark's enthusiasm for his work and the whole-hearted, unselfish way in which he threw himself into it gained such standing in the community that within three or four years a board of directors was appointed from among our citizens to assist Mr. Clark in the general supervision of the work. With experience came a better understanding of the work, and the adoption of a better and more comprehensive sys-

tem for handling it.

"Ill health overtaking Mr. Clark, it became necessary for him to give up the work and go to California. At this time, Mr. I. N. Cone, who had assisted Mr. Clark in the latter years of the work, took charge. In order that the work might be put on a more permanent basis, that a definite home for the work might be secured, and held, the following persons organized the mission as a charitable corporation: John Trezise, D. P. Day, James Bever, Dan F. North and I. N. Cone. Immediately following the incorporation the present building, situated at the corner of I and Astor streets, was purchased from the Emmanuel Baptist church, the church donating a large part of the purchase price. This splendid gift on the part of this church has been of inestimable benefit to the mission's work.

"With the work thus on a solid foundation, the assistance of practically all our large manufacturing concerns, business, social and fraternal organizations has been secured; many of these organi-

zations making monthly or annual contributions to the work, this form of contribution being most helpful to the mission, as it permits them to prepare an annual budget based upon their estimated receipts.

"Of great assistance also to the mission's work is the contributions secured from the proceeds of their annual tag day, to be held this year on next Saturday, September 16.

"In addition to these contributions of money, the mission annually distributes large quantities of provisions, furniture and clothing of all kinds, which are donated for the mission's work from time to time by thoughtful citizens from all parts of the city and county.

"As a result of the association with this work and the information gained by it, we have become and now stand practically in the position of what is known in other communities as "associated charities," having information concerning those in need of assistance which can be gotten at in a moment's notice, and serving as a clearing house of information with respect to the work in Bellingham, thus preventing duplication of effort, as well as offering an agency for distributing the gifts if those desiring to aid in this work.

Among the other features of interest and of help to the community is the day nursery presided over by Mrs. Cone, where mothers working during the lay can leave their children under Mrs. Cone's supervision while they are at their work. Another very important feature is the employment bureau for both men and women, which is monthly placing out work about one hundred and fifty people. Of great assistance in times of unemployment will be the industrial farm of forty acres recently donated to the mission by the Klwanis club. The value to the community of the services rendered by both these branches of the mission's work is incalculable.

"The directors of the mission appreciate very deeply the assistance rendered this week by the Women of Rotary and the Professional and Business Women's club, the former organization having undertaken the full management of tag day, and the latter organization conducting a soliciting campaign throughout the week.

"I am satisfied that no city of the size of Bellingham in the United States has an institution that is rendering the service to the community that this one is, with so little overhead expense. It deserves the support of the community."

Dr. Morrison, surgery and X-ray.

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Article on and photograph of the building from the Bellingham Herald, September 14, 1922, p10.



**MAKERS**  
**TAXIDERMIST**

School of Industries/Department of Public Welfare  
W corner of Astor and I Streets  
Bellingham, Whatcom, Washington  
February 2003  
Northwest facade facing Astor Street  
Artifacts Consulting, Inc.  
Photo No. 1 of 15

TAXIDERMIST

KEEP OUT



School of Industries/Department of Public Welfare  
W corner of Astor and I Streets  
Bellingham, Whatcom, Washington  
February 2003  
Southeast facade facing I Street  
Artifacts Consulting, Inc.  
Photo No. 2 of 15



School of Industries/Department of Public Welfare  
W corner of Astor and I Streets  
Bellingham, Whatcom, Washington  
February 2003  
First floor main volume looking Southeast  
Artifacts Consulting, Inc.  
Photo No. 3 of 15



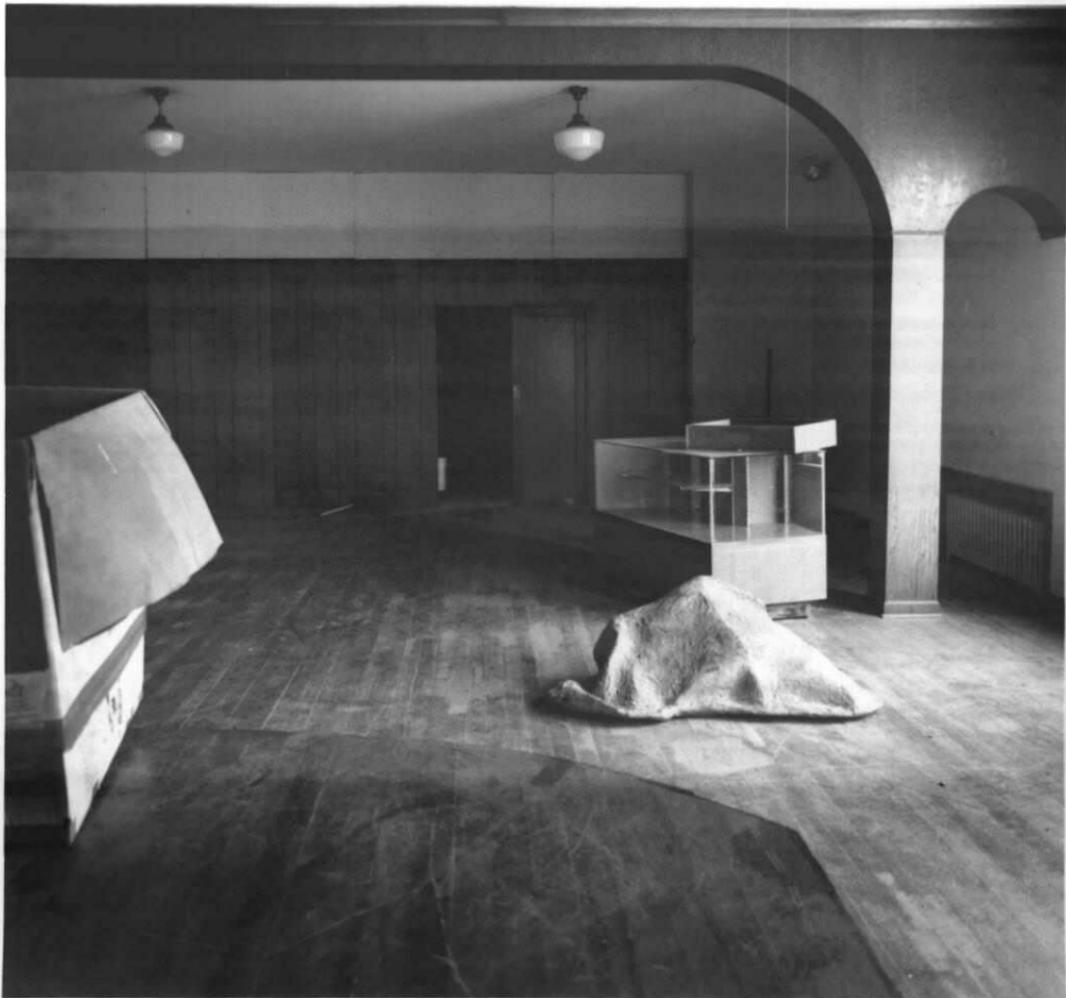
School of Industries/Department of Public Welfare  
W corner of Astor and I Streets  
Bellingham, Whatcom, Washington

February 2003

First floor main volume looking Southeast at stage

Artifacts Consulting, Inc.

Photo No. 4 of 15



School of Industries/Department of Public Welfare  
W corner of Astor and I Streets  
Bellingham, Whatcom, Washington  
February 2003  
First floor main volume looking Northwest  
Artifacts Consulting, Inc.  
Photo No. 5 of 15



School of Industries/Department of Public Welfare  
W corner of Astor and I Streets  
Bellingham, Whatcom, Washington  
February 2003

North stairwell looking down from second floor  
Artifacts Consulting, Inc.  
Photo No. 6 of 15



School of Industries / Department of Public Welfare  
W corner of Astor and I Streets  
Bellingham, Whatcom, Washington  
February 2003  
Second floor east volume looking east  
Artifacts Consulting, Inc.  
Photo No. 7 of 15



School of Industries/Department of Public Welfare  
W corner of Astor and I Streets  
Bellingham, Whatcom, Washington

February 2003

Second floor East volume looking South along central partition wall

Artifacts Consulting, Inc.

Photo No. 8 of 15



School of Industries/Department of Public Welfare  
W corner of Astor and I Streets  
Bellingham, Whatcom, Washington  
February 2003  
Second floor East volume looking Northwest  
Artifacts Consulting, Inc.  
Photo No. 9 of 15



School of Industries/Department of Public Welfare  
W corner of Astor and I Streets  
Bellingham, Whatcom, Washington  
February 2003  
Second floor of central projection looking Southeast  
Artifacts Consulting, Inc.  
Photo No. 10 of 15

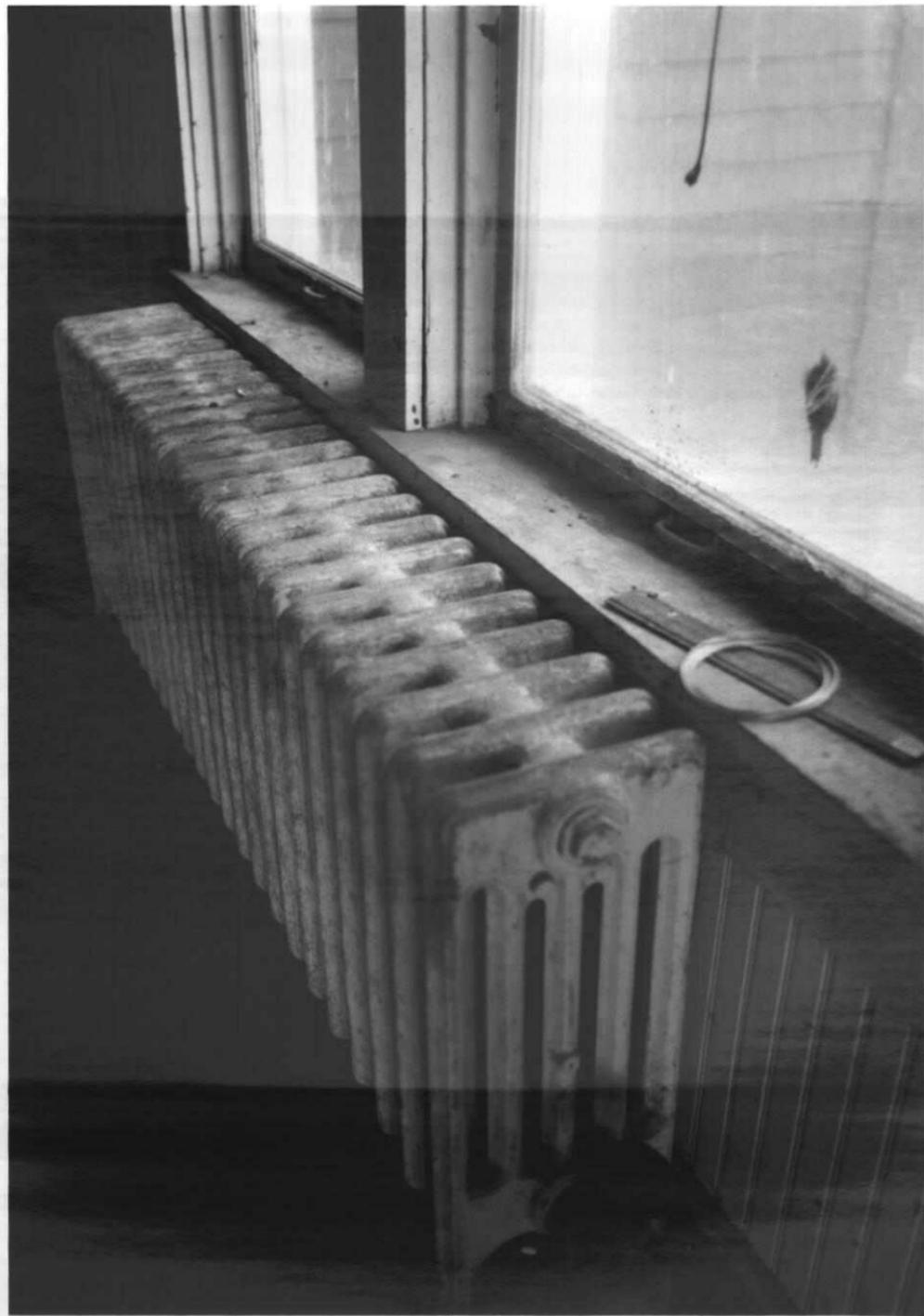


School of Industries/Department of Public Welfare  
W corner of Astor and I Streets  
Bellingham, Whatcom, Washington  
February 2003

Second floor of central projection looking Northwest,  
particle board in immediate foreground  
Covers former stairway

Artifacts Consulting, Inc.

Photo No. 11 of 15



School of Industries/Department of Public Welfare  
W corner of Astor and I Streets  
Bellingham, Whatcom, Washington

February 2003

Radiator detail

Artifacts Consulting, Inc.

Photo No. 12 of 15



School of Industries/Department of Public Welfare  
W corner of Astor and I Streets  
Bellingham, Whatcom, Washington  
February 2003

Detail of Southwest Foundation wall  
Artifacts Consulting, Inc.  
Photo No. 15 of 15



School of Industries / Department of Public Welfare

W corner of Astor and I Streets

Bellingham, Whatcom, Washington

February 2003

Three-quarter view of partial Southwest and full Southeast facades

Artifacts Consulting, Inc.

Photo No. 14 of 15



School of Industries/Department of Public Welfare  
W corner of Astor and I Streets  
Bellingham, Whatcom, Washington

February 2003

Three-quarter view of Southeast and Northeast facades

Artifacts Consulting, Inc.

Photo No. 13 of 15