

25N 4E 31

2-17-71

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

K1 243

STATE: Washington	
COUNTY: King	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

1. NAME

COMMON Alaska Trade Building

AND/OR HISTORIC: Union Record Building

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: 1915-19 First Avenue

CITY OR TOWN: Seattle, 98101

STATE: Washington CODE: 53 COUNTY: King CODE: 033

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Both <input type="checkbox"/>	Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes: Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No: <input type="checkbox"/>
Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input type="checkbox"/>	Public Acquisition: In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered <input type="checkbox"/>		

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/>	Government <input type="checkbox"/>	Park <input type="checkbox"/>	Transportation <input type="checkbox"/>	Comments <input type="checkbox"/>
Commercial <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Industrial <input type="checkbox"/>	Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/>	Other (Specify) <input type="checkbox"/>	
Educational <input type="checkbox"/>	Military <input type="checkbox"/>	Religious <input type="checkbox"/>		
Entertainment <input type="checkbox"/>	Museum <input type="checkbox"/>	Scientific <input type="checkbox"/>		

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNERS NAME: Eleanor and Lloyd Gravel

STREET AND NUMBER: 2122 E. Hamlin Street

CITY OR TOWN: Seattle, 98102 STATE: Washington CODE: 53

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: King County Auditor's Office

STREET AND NUMBER: County Courthouse

CITY OR TOWN: Seattle, 98104 STATE: Washington CODE: 53

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: .2

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: part of Pike Place district - Municipal Art Comm. list of Hist. Buildings

DATE OF SURVEY: 1968 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Municipal Art Commission

STREET AND NUMBER: Seattle Municipal Building

CITY OR TOWN: Seattle, 98104 STATE: Washington CODE: 53

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Washington
COUNTY: King
ENTRY NUMBER
DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	Excellent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Good <input type="checkbox"/>	Fair <input type="checkbox"/>	Deteriorated <input type="checkbox"/>	Ruins <input type="checkbox"/>	Unexposed <input type="checkbox"/>
INTEGRITY	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	Altered <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		Unaltered <input type="checkbox"/>	Moved <input type="checkbox"/>	Original Site <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Alaska Trade Building, designed by J. C. Taft, Seattle architect, was built for James H. Steele, a building contractor, in 1909.

The building is five stories on the alley, and at least three on the First Avenue side. The approved building specifications, now preserved by its owner, are an interesting and enlightening documentary of the quantity, quality of materials, techniques and procedures employed in the construction of this building. It is one of the first reinforced steel, concrete, and brick commercial buildings in the vicinity of the Pike Place Public Market.

In recent years glass or plastic squares have been faced over the lower floors of the facade. However, the present owners plan to remove these and restore the building to its fine brick appearance.

Because of its historic significance, the Seattle Central Labor Council ~~of Seattle~~ is in the process of preparing a commemorative plaque to be placed on the facade near the entranceway.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Pre-Columbian 16th Century 18th Century 20th Century
 15th Century 17th Century 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1910 to 1928

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Aboriginal <input type="checkbox"/>	Education <input type="checkbox"/>	Political <input type="checkbox"/>	Urban Planning <input type="checkbox"/>
Prehistoric <input type="checkbox"/>	Engineering <input type="checkbox"/>	Religion/Philosophy <input type="checkbox"/>	Other (Specify) <input type="checkbox"/>
Historic <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Industry <input type="checkbox"/>	Science <input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Agriculture <input type="checkbox"/>	Invention <input type="checkbox"/>	Sculpture <input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Art <input type="checkbox"/>	Landscape <input type="checkbox"/>	Social/Humanitarian <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	_____
Commerce <input type="checkbox"/>	Architecture <input type="checkbox"/>	Theater <input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Communications <input type="checkbox"/>	Literature <input type="checkbox"/>	Transportation <input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Conservation <input type="checkbox"/>	Military <input type="checkbox"/>		
	Music <input type="checkbox"/>		

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (Include Personages, Dates, Events, Etc.)

The importance of this building is in its association with the personalities and activities and history of the "Seattle Union Record", unique in the annals of American labor as the only labor-owned daily newspaper.

The "Record" began as a weekly, 1910; in 1912 Harry E. B. Ault, secretary of the Central Labor Council became editor; 1918, April 22, the first labor owned daily newspaper appeared on the streets of Seattle. Under Ault's leadership, circulation climbed from 3,000 to 50,000 to the high of 112,000 in January of 1919.

By 1921 the "Record" had outgrown the quarters in the Labor Temple. The Central Labor Council and the local Trade Unions had bought the building at 1915 First Avenue, resodeled, bought new equipment, and had a responsibility of 3290,000 gross. It was a difficult and ambitious undertaking in those turbulent years of general unrest, economic instability, and violence.

The importance of the "Record" cannot be underestimated. It was a powerful voice in the community and played an important role in labor activities by (1) providing means of communication and creating a feeling of unity in labor, (2) by giving laboring men a sense of place in the community at the same time notifying Seattle of labor's aspirations. The businessmen and other papers were viewing with alarm the success of the daily paper.

Despite financial problems, internal dissention and dwindling advertising, the "Record" survived but the end was near. It came with the rise to power of Dave Beck whose theories and philosophies of labor relations differed sharply from his predecessors. Under Beck's leadership, the Central Labor Council sold the paper to Harry Ault in 1924. The paper expired in 1928.

Who were the vocal young radicals associated with the "Union Record" in its heyday? Among the many, some just faded away, others went on to civic leadership in the area, others to world wide recognition. To note a few: Harvey O'Connor, author; James A. Duncan, member of the Seattle School Board; Professor Theresa McMahon, University of Washington; Rev. Sidney Strong, minister-scholar; Anna Louise Strong, author of "I Change Worlds" and currently living in China; Robert Hesketh and Robert Harlan, Seattle City Council; Harry Ault, U.S. Deputy; R. W. Chaplin, World War I poet and author who spent his last days on the staff of the Washington State Historical Society, Tacoma.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Seattle General Strike	Robert L. Freidheim, Purdue
Revolution in Seattle	Harvey O'Connor
I Change Worlds	Anna Louise Strong
Pacific N.W. Quarterly	July 1968
The American West	Jan. 1968
Microfilm Library	University of Wash.
Private papers of Harry E.B. Ault (family)	

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R		LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN ONE ACRE													
CORNER	LATITUDE		LONGITUDE		LATITUDE		LONGITUDE											
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds									
NW	°	'	"	°	'	"	N47	°	36	'	39	"	W122	°	20	'	28	"
NE	°	'	"	°	'	"												
SE	°	'	"	°	'	"												
SW	°	'	"	°	'	"												

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Lloyd Graves	
ORGANIZATION: Seattle Historical Society	DATE: July 1, 1969
STREET AND NUMBER: 2161 East Hamlin Street	
CITY OR TOWN: Seattle, 98102	STATE: Washington 53 48

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name Charles H. Odegaard
Charles H. Odegaard

Title Director
Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission

Date 2/11/71

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date _____

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

Form 10-301
(Dec. 1968)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY MAP FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

STATE Washington	
COUNTY King	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME			
COMMON: Alaska Trade Building			
AND/OR HISTORIC: Union Record Building			
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER: 1915-19 First Avenue			
CITY OR TOWN: Seattle, 98101			
STATE: Washington	CODE 53	COUNTY: King	CODE 033
3. MAP REFERENCE			
SOURCE: USGS 7.5 Seattle South quadrangle			
SCALE: 1:24000			
DATE: 1979			
4. REQUIREMENTS			
TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS			
1. Property boundaries where required.			
2. North arrow.			
3. Latitude and longitude reference.			

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
CORPS OF ENGINEERS

122°22'30"
47°7'30"

(SE 477)



Seattle South
7.5 min
1949

E L L I O T T B A Y

ALASKA TRADE BUILDING

Formerly the Union Record Building

The Alaska Trade Building 1915-17-19 First Avenue A.A. Denny's 6 Lot 6 Bl. 37, before World War II was the old Union Record Building, designed for James H. Steel, owner, by J.O. Taft, Seattle Architect 1909-10.

The approved building specifications now preserved by the owners are an enlightening documentary of the materials, techniques, and procedures employed in the construction of one of the first re-enforced steel-concrete brick buildings in the vicinity of the Pike Place Public Market.

Historically, the importance of the building is not in structural or architectural merit, but by association with the Seattle Union Record, its history and the colorful personalities that made it unique in the annals of American labor, the only daily labor-owned news paper in America.

Few people in Seattle today remember the controversial colorful Union Record or ever heard the name until 1964 when the U of W Press published the first, generally accepted definitive account and analysis of those turbulent early post War I years in Seattle's labor history, a time of national economic instability, general unrest and violence, a time in history coinciding with the life span of the Union Record.

Robert L. Friedheim, Professor of Political Science Purdue University, "The Seattle General Strike", U of W Press, 1964, has this to say, "No analysis of Seattle labor in the early post-war years would be complete without a word on the important role played by the Seattle Union Record".

Actually, the Union Record, the official organ of the Seattle Central Labor Council made its first appearance in the news paper world as a small weekly-1910. Two years later Harry E.B. Ault, Secretary of the Central Labor Council was appointed editor.

The new editor was an experienced news paper veteran. At fourteen he had migrated from the East Coast with his family to join the Equality Colony at Edison, Skagit County. At 17 he edited "Industrial Freedom" the official organ of Equality Colony, one of a number of socialist experiments in co-operative communal living scattered around the Puget Sound country at the turn of the century. Under Ault's leadership the circulation climbed from 2,000-2,500-50,000.

1918 encouraged by the startling success of the weekly and "at the insistent demand of labor for a fair and adequate presentation of its case". April 1918 saw the first labor owned daily news paper in America, on the streets of Seattle, a complete daily news paper by all major journal standards, owned and controlled by the Seattle Central Labor Council.

Through their own daily working men found (1) new lines of communication, (2) a new sense of identity in the community, (3) a renewed feeling of unity in labor, but more important, an instrument to inform Seattle of labor's aims and aspirations.

Business men and the three Seattle newspapers viewed the soaring circulation 112,000 paid subscriptions January 1919, with wild alarm. The war was on.

Nov. 13, 1919 the Government seized the Union Record plant, arresting the editor and two board members, charge - Sedition.

Nov. 20, 1919 U.S. Commissioner ordered the plant and records returned - on grounds - Faulty Warrant.

Dec. 2, 1919 Judge Jeremiah Neterer dismissed the case for lack of evidence.

Undaunted, three years later, having completely outgrown the quarters in the Central Labor Temple, plagued by internal dissention, the Central Labor Council, Local and Trade Councils, bought the Steele Building, 1915-17-19, First Ave. remodeled extensively, purchased new equipment, in all an obligation of \$290,000 gross investment, an ambitious difficult undertaking in times not unlike our own.

Despite financial problems, "publishing for principle not for profit" proved costly; internal dissentions, "radical Against conservative", dwindling advertising, the Union Record struggled on and managed to survive, but the end was inevitable. It came with the rise to power of Dave Beck, whose theory and philosophy of labor relations differed sharply from those of his predecessors. Under his leadership the Central Council saw no need for a daily paper. 1928 the Seattle Union Record expired.

The importance of the Union Record, in labor history, is not based on longevity, neither is it diminished by failure to survive the changing times. Its very existence and participation in the struggles and aspirations of those critical decades in America's social history entitle it to fair and reasonable recognition.

No consideration of the Record's history during the height of its power and prestige, would be complete without mention of some of the young radicals who served it honestly and faithfully. Many just faded away, but there were some who remained in Seattle to make their contributions to the social, political, economic life of the city for decades after the Union Record disappeared from the Seattle scene. Among them, James A. Duncan, Seattle School Board; Theresa McMahon, U of W Faculty; Robert B. Hisketh, City Council; Robert Harlan, City Council; Frank McCaffrey, Dog Wood Press; H.E.B. Ault, United States Deputy; Sidney Strong, Minister Congregational Church; Ralph Chaplin, I.W.W. author-poet, who spent his last days on the staff of the Washington State Historical Museum - Tacoma.

Bibliography

R.L. Friedheim - The Seattle General Strike, U of W Press
Harvey O'Connor Revolution in Seattle
Anna Louise Strong - I Change Worlds
Pacific North West Quarterly July 1968
The American West Jan. 1968
Microfilm Library U of W
Private papers of Harry E.B. Ault (In the family)

The Seattle Central Labor Council-Typographical Union prepared a commemorative plaque to be placed on the Alaska Trade Building. Owing to the death of the sponsor the plans have been interrupted.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

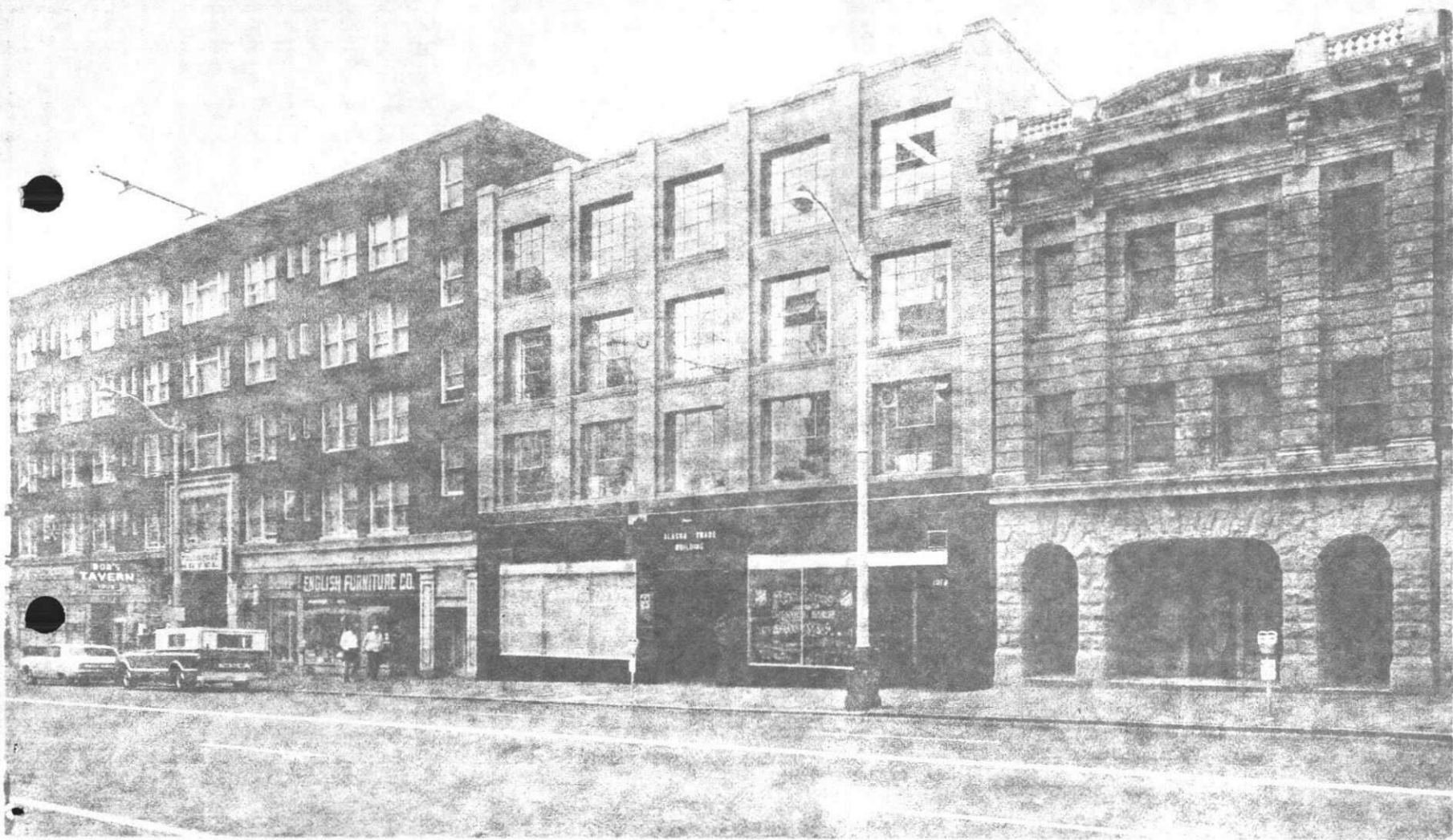
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

STATE Washington	
COUNTY King	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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AND/OR HISTORIC: Union Record Building			
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STREET AND NUMBER: 1915-19 First Avenue			
CITY OR TOWN: Seattle, 98101			
STATE: Washington	CODE 53	COUNTY: King	CODE 033
3. PHOTO REFERENCE			
PHOTO CREDIT: Grady - Jentoft			
DATE OF PHOTO: 1967			
NEGATIVE FILED AT: Grady-Jentoft, 1212 4th Avenue, Seattle			
4. IDENTIFICATION			
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. view of front of building from across street, view west.			



ALASKA TRADE BUILDING

1915 FIRST AVENUE
SEATTLE 1, WASHINGTON

Sept. 22, 1971

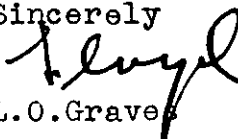
Ralph Rudeen, Chief
Interperetive Service
State Parks Comm.
Olympia Wn.

Dear Ralph;

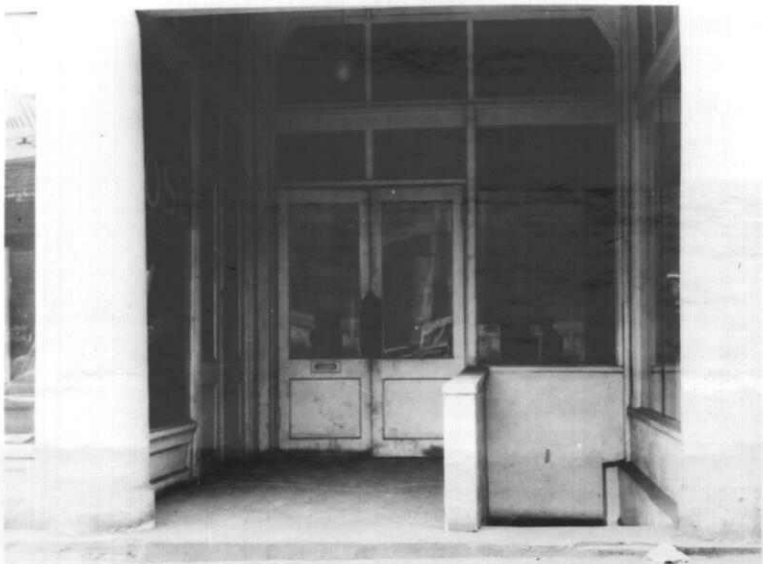
Inclosed are the original prints of
the Alaska Trade Bldg., before any
alterations started.

Sorry they are not clear but they do
tell a story.

Sincerely



L.O. Graves



MAIN ENTRANCE

















Alaska Trade Bldg Name # 8-King

Nation's Only Labor Daily News

Union Record Home Named Historical Site

The Alaska Trade Building, 1915-17 First Avenue, once the home of the nation's only daily labor newspaper, has been accepted by the keeper of records of the Historical Sites Commission for entry in the Historical Sites Register.

(Continued Below)

MOVING?

Please Correct Your Address

MAIL TO: THE SCANNER 2800 - 1st Ave. Seattle 98121
LEAVE COMPLETE LABEL ATTACHED

of the Daily Record, it had outgrown its quarters at 604 Union St. The Central Labor Council and the Local Trade Unions bought the building at 1915-17-19 First Ave., remodeled it and bought new equipment, a responsibility of \$290,000 gross. It was a difficult, ambitious undertaking in those turbulent years of general unrest, economic instability and violence.

"The importance of The Record cannot be underestimated. It was a powerful voice in the community and played an important role in labor activities by (1) providing means of communication and creating a feeling of unity in labor and (2) by giving laboring men a sense of place in the community at the same time notifying Seattle of labor's aspirations. The businessmen and other papers were viewing with alarm the success of the daily paper.

"Despite financial problems, internal dissension and dwindling advertising, The Record survived, but the end was near. It came with the rise of power of Dave Beck, whose theories and philosophies of labor relations differed sharply from his predecessors.



COVERING THE STORY of The Union Record for which he once served as newspaper boy and later as office boy is Johnny Reddin (left), now a columnist for The Seattle Times. Supplying information following the dedication of the plaque were (from left) Secretary James Bender of the King County Labor Council; Harrison Kramer who is a building tenant and also a former newsboy for The Record, and George Manos, secretary of the Washington State Council of Pressmen.

To mark the event and the spot where the Seattle Labor Council's paper made its mark on labor history after the first World War, a group of labor officials, interested antiquarians and plain old timers got together June 3 to dedicate a plaque on the building's entrance.

"Former Headquarters and Printing Plant of The Seattle Union Record (1918-1928) Harry E. B. Ault, Editor and Manager. The only Daily Labor Newspaper in the U.S., with peak Circulation of 112,000 Copies. Owned by the Seattle Central Labor Council, Affiliated Unions and Trade Councils."

Lloyd Graves, who purchased the building in 1939, was a moving force behind the effort to recognize the building's historical significance. He attended the brief ceremony on the unveiling and intends to install a display inside the entrance with pictures and other mementos from the heyday of The Union Record.

The following history of the building was offered by Graves after careful research on the part of his wife some months ago:

"The Alaska Trade Building, 1915-17-19 First Avenue in A.A. Denny's 6th Addition, Lot 6, Block 37, was designed by J.O. Taft, Seattle architect, for James H. Steele the owner, a well-known building contractor, in 1909. The approved building specifications, now preserved by its owner are an interesting, enlightening documentary of the quantity and quality of materials, techniques and procedures employed in the construction of one of the first re-enforced steel, concrete and brick commercial buildings in the vicinity of the Pike Place Market.

"Historically, the importance of the building is not in its structural or architectural excellence, but in its association with the personalities and activities and history of the "Seattle Union Record—unique in the annals of American Labor as the only labor-owned daily newspaper. No analysis of Seattle labor following the end of World War I would be complete without noting the important role played by The Seattle Union Record.

"Briefly, the "Record" began as a weekly in 1910. In 1912 Harry E. B. Ault, secretary of the Central Labor Council, became editor and in 1918, April 22, the first labor-owned daily newspaper appeared on the streets of Seattle.

"Under Editor Ault's leadership, circulation climbed from 3,000 to 50,000, to the high of 112,000 in January 1919.

"Three years after the first appearance



Published by the King County Labor Council, AFL-CIO for its 73,000 Working Families

VOLUME 3, NUMBER 11

sors. Under Beck's leadership, the paper was sold in 1924.

"The Central Labor Council saw little or no need for a daily paper. It was sold to Harry Ault, but the odds were against it. The Seattle Union Record expired in 1928.

"Who were some of the vocal young radicals associated with the Union Record in its hey day? The days when it enjoyed power, prestige, the luxury of ownership of building and plant? Some just faded away, but others went on to civic leadership in the community or to worldwide recognition.

"To note a few: Harvey O'Connor, author of Revolution in Seattle; James A. Duncan, Seattle School Board; Professor Theresa McMahon, U of W; Rev. Sidney Strong, minister; Scholar Anna Louise Strong, author of I Change Worlds and currently living in China; Robert Hesketh and Robert Harlan, Seattle city councilman; Harry Ault, United States deputy; R. W. Chapler, I.W.W. Port, author who spent his last days on the staff of the Washington State Historical Society in Tacoma."

Others at the unveiling and the small party hosted by Graves included: Reinhold Lowe, former president of the Labor Council and an original stockholder in The Union Record; Secretary James K. Bender of the King County Labor Council; George Manos, secretary of the Washington State Council of Pressmen; Harrison Kramer, a building tenant and former delivery boy for The Record, and Johnny Reddin, Seattle Times columnist who served The Union Record both as paper boy and as office boy.

Kramer, who has a consulting engineering firm in the building, was a tenant 27 years before he learned that it was the former home of The Union Record.



A sentimental journey to the Union Record Building

By JOHN J. REDDIN

File - Alaska Trade Bldg



James Bender, left; Harrison Kramer, center, and George Manos witnessed plaque unveiling

You can consider yourself a young old-timer if you remember The Seattle Union Record.

The long-defunct daily newspaper seems to be the most commonly used yardstick for Seattleites to measure seniority or longevity, especially in barroom discussion when one of the most frequently asked questions is:

"Do you remember the old Union Record?" Or, for Johnny-come-lately, "Did you ever deliver the old Seattle Star?"

BOTH NEWSPAPERS have long since disappeared from the Seattle scene, but both are fondly remembered by many old-time Seattleites, judging from the frequency with which we hear their names mentioned.

Consequently, it was somewhat of a sentimental journey when I was invited recently to attend the unveiling of a plaque in the foyer at the entrance to the old Union Record Building at 1915 First Av., now renovated and called the Alaska Trade Building.

As a 12-year-old-youngster, I delivered the old Union Record, and later served briefly as an office boy before the once-proud but now financially-insolvent newspaper went bankrupt in 1928.

Although unique in the annals of American labor — the only labor-owned daily newspaper in the United States — the old Union Record Building and adjoining Butterworth Building at 1921 First Ave., were a colorful segment of Seattle history.

Alas, however, both had fallen into disrepair until imaginative owners restored both buildings during recent years. They now have been preserved for posterity by being included in the National Registry of Historical Sites in Washington, D. C.

Ralph D. Anderson, the architect who has done so much to restore Pioneer Square and the surrounding area, gave the old Union Record Building a fresh new facade. And the King County Labor Council has installed a bronze plaque that reads:

"Former headquarters and printing plant of The Seattle Union Record (1918-1928) Harry E. B. Ault, editor and manager. The only daily labor newspaper in the U. S., with a peak circulation of 112,000 copies. Owned by the Seattle Central Labor Council, affiliated unions and trade councils."

ACCORDING TO OLD newspaper files, the Union Record was established as a weekly publication in August, 1900. It started under a private company, but it was soon bought out by the Central Labor Council which published it until

April 24, 1918, when it became a daily.

At that time, a company was formed, the Central Labor Council taking a controlling interest, and it was operated in this manner until January 1, 1925, when it was taken over by the American Free Press, a corporation in which Harry Ault and Saul Haas, the Union Record's managing editor, owned most of the stock.

During the First World War, when Seattle shipyards were running full blast, the paper enjoyed a huge circulation and wielded considerable influence.

Even when I delivered the paper in 1926, it still was colorful, controversial and a stormy voice of militant unionism in Seattle and the Pacific Northwest. And, although it was the training ground for many Seattle newspapermen, my most vivid memory of the green-colored daily was its sparse and crudely drawn comics, especially an adventure strip entitled "Minute Movies."

James Bender, executive secretary of the King County Labor Council; George Manos, secretary of the Washington State Council of Printing Pressmen, and Harrison Kramer, longtime tenant of the Alaska Trade Building and, like myself, a former Union Record newsboy, presided at the plaque dedication.

Later, we toured the adjacent Butterworth building which was designed by the late John Graham, Sr., and was his first architectural job in Seattle after his graduation from Harvard University in 1902.

The three-story building, plus two floors below ground, was built for Edgar R. Butterworth, founder of Butterworth's Family Mortuary, and was the first modern funeral home in the city. He is generally credited with introducing the words "mortuary" and "mortician" in connection with the undertaking business, also with owning the first horse-drawn hearse north of the Columbia River.

EVEN TODAY, traces of the old wooden horse stalls can be seen in the building's sub-basement.

After 20 years in this location, the Butterworth mortuary moved to its present location at Melrose Avenue and East Pine Street. The building subsequently was sold to the Volunteers of America who operated a thrift shop there until the building was sold to the present owners in 1967.

With rehabilitation of the two fine, old buildings, both are fully occupied by quality-type tenants.

Also, many delightful old artifacts have been rediscovered — superb examples of craftsmanship in brick, stone, woodwork, art glass (both clear and colored), pressed tin, ornamental plaster and custom-designed brass and bronze hardware.

FORMER HEADQUARTERS AND PRINTING
PLANT OF THE
SEATTLE UNION RECORD (1918-1928)
HARRY E.B. AULT, EDITOR AND MANAGER



THE ONLY DAILY LABOR NEWSPAPER IN THE
U.S. WITH A PEAK CIRCULATION OF 112,000
COPIES. OWNED BY THE SEATTLE
CENTRAL LABOR COUNCIL, AFFILIATED UNIONS
AND TRADE COUNCILS.

File with Alaska Trade Bldg. Now

PHOTOGRAPH BY
WARNER LENGGENHARDT
SEATTLE, WASHINGTON

JUN 5 1971

Seattle - ALASKA TRADE BLDG.
1915-1917 FIRST AVE.

NEW MARKER AT ENTRANCE
THERE IS ALSO ORIGINAL
LIGHT FIXTURE AT ENTRANCE







