

Bob Hall and David Johnson of Daylight Properties for the Herald Building



Built in 1926 for the Bellingham Publishing Company, the Herald Building was designed by Bellingham architect Frederick Stanley Piper and Seattle architects Morrison & Stimson. The building's floorplan included 140 offices, accessed by twin elevators, with the newspaper to be housed on the first floor and rented offices on the upper floors. The Herald Building is still home to The Bellingham Herald.



Photo by J.W. Sandison, Whatcom Museum #4507

Downtown Bellingham's long-time historic building benefactor Bob Hall, together with business partner David Johnston and Daylight Properties, purchased the iconic Herald Building in 2009, with the goal of restoring the original street level storefronts, filling the upper five stories with businesses, and bringing life back to the State Street sidewalk.

Their dream has become a reality. All storefronts have been leased, many to new local startup businesses. Even the alley behind the Herald Building has come to life with restaurants opening up directly into the alleyway with Rock and Rye's upper-story deck and Culture Café's roll-up bay door.

Another accomplishment was in attracting Western Washington University Alumni as a tenant, who now occupies the ground-level corner office that serves as a "Welcome-to-Western Center," open to students, alumni, and the general public.

The Herald Building is honored for its rehabilitation of and improvements to interior, restoration of original storefronts, leasing to new business start-ups as tenants, and for bringing new vitality and activity to the sidewalk and street.

