



## Alexander Hall

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October 29, 2014, marks the 123rd anniversary of Alexander Hall's 1891 groundbreaking.

- In June 1891, the Oregon and Washington Conference of the Free Methodist Church approved the founding of a school in Seattle — originally named Seattle Seminary — where students would receive an outstanding Christian education and be prepared for lives of service to others. Architects broke ground in a cow pasture studded with blackened stumps to erect a new school building designed by Seattle architect John Parkinson in the Romanesque Revival style. Originally named the “Red Brick Building,” it opened for classes on April 4, 1893.
- On opening day, 12 students were in attendance; tuition, room, and board cost \$150 for the first full year; and the building included a dining room, a kitchen, a pantry, a creamery, a lavatory, a chapel, school rooms, and dormitories. From 1900 to 1965, more than 700 students called Alexander home — at times for men and women, men only, and women only. It transitioned from dormitory to academic center in 1966–67 after its most recent and significant remodel.
- The chapel in Alexander served as the college church until 1906. It became Alexander chapel during the 1960s remodel, with stained glass windows and seating for up to 50 people. Glass was provided by Willet Stained Glass Studios, which was founded by William Willet, an artist and leader in the American Gothic Revival Movement.
- Alexander Hall, one of the oldest buildings on Queen Anne Hill, was placed on the Washington State Register of Historic Places in 1972. The City of Seattle designated Alexander a historic landmark in 2014.
- As of Autumn Quarter 2014, Alexander is home to SPU's School of Theology, Seattle Pacific Seminary, and the departments of History and Sociology.

*As a result of the City of Seattle's concerns about the structural integrity of brick-and-mortar facilities of this era, Alexander Hall underwent an exhaustive restoration. The \$6.2 million campaign to restore Alexander Hall is well on its way to being funded. SPU is grateful for a \$2.5 million gift from Board of Trustees member Becky Gilliam '80, whose family ties with SPU span more than a century, and for other gifts from board members, alumni and friends.*

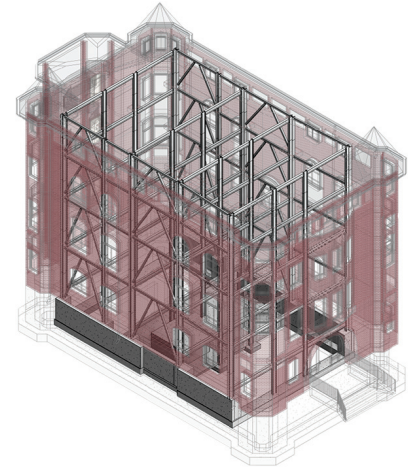
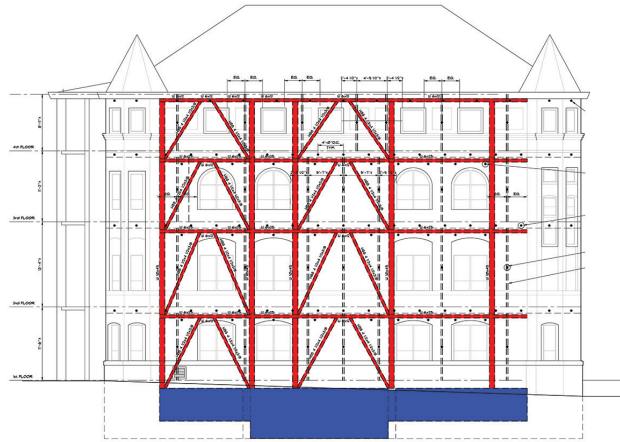
# Alexander Hall

The restoration and seismic retrofit of Alexander Hall, completed October 2014, added 115,000 pounds of structural steel to the building, and brought about many improvements, including:

- ADA (Americans With Disabilities Act) accessibility enhancements, including an elevator
- HVAC (Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning) installation
- A fire and emergency notification system
- A sprinkler system
- New restrooms
- Electrical, data, and telecommunications upgrades
- Historic finishes on main-floor interior woodwork
- Dedicated space for a memorial honoring SPU students and alumni who have died in service to our country
- Office, common area, and chapel furnishings

## Seismic Retrofit

A new steel-braced frame (red) and concrete foundation (blue) have been retrofitted to Alexander Hall's east and west walls. Black dots represent all locations where the steel frame has been secured to the existing masonry. The new frame provides both gravity and lateral support for the existing floor systems and exterior masonry.



## Interior Improvements

The four floors of the restored Alexander Hall include 35 faculty offices, two conference rooms, a dean's office and department suite, and a chapel. The stairwell, first-floor hallway, and conference rooms have been renovated in a period theme with new flooring, trim, and period light fixtures.



## Alexander Chapel

Alexander Chapel has undergone alterations to accommodate the building's new steel frame, but the stained glass windows remain, and where feasible, existing masonry is exposed. Period updates have been included.

