



Seattle City Council approves 10 new landmarks

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SEATTLE - The Seattle City Council has approved landmark designation ordinances for 10 new City of Seattle landmarks. They include the Kobe Bell, the Horiuchi Mural, and the Center House. That last one came as a surprise to some.

At first glance, the Center House may not seem architecturally significant, but if you look a little closer there's a fascinating history to the building.

The Center House is home to a food court, the Children's Museum and is the center of community events. So what makes it a landmark?

"My hunch is that being a Seattlelite, it's a really important part of the community, people gather here," said Kerry Schimmelbusch of Seattle.

"I just think it's a gathering place, food, festival and fun," said Christine Showalter, also of Seattle.

Some people who frequent the Center House were surprised to learn about the building's history. The City of Seattle Landmarks Preservation Board says the Center House was originally built as an armory in 1939, which explains the thick floors and concrete walls. In the basement is a former firing range.

And if you walk down some of the hallways, you take a step back in time.

The best way to see some of the 1930s architecture is on the north side of the building.

"I don't think that's something the public necessarily knows. It's interesting factoid to learn about Seattle's history," said Schimmelbusch.

The 10 landmarks:

- (Former)First United Methodist Church, 811 5th Ave. (Downtown)
- MGM Building, 2331 Second Ave. (Belltown)
- Sorrento Hotel, 900 Madison Street (First Hill)
- (Former) Sixth Church of Christ, Scientist, 2656 42nd Ave. SW (West Seattle)
- Egan House, 1500 Lakeview Boulevard E. (Capitol Hill)
- Coca Cola Bottling Plant, 1313 E. Columbia St. (First Hill)
- Fire Station # 13, 3601 Beacon Ave. S. (Beacon Hill)
- Seattle Center House (Seattle Center)
- Kobe Bell (Seattle Center)
- Horiuchi Mural (Seattle Center)

The Horiuchi Mural is a candidate for restoration funding through the Partners in Preservation Program. Commissioned for the 1962 World's Fair and designed by Paul Horiuchi, the Venetian glass mosaic mural stands under the Space Needle at the heart of the Seattle Center campus.

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