Landmarks Preservation Board

Name: Inouye-Aquino House / 1010 E Spruce Street  
Year Built: 1900
(Common, present or historic)

Street and Number: 1010 E Spruce Street

Assessor’s File No.: 2197600476

Legal Description: (see below)

Plat Name: Eastern Add E 1/2  
Block: 11  
Lot: 1

THE EAST HALF OF LOT 1, BLOCK 11, EASTERN ADDITION TO THE CITY OF SEATTLE ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF, RECORDED IN VOLUME 1 OF PLATS, PAGE 43, RECORDS OF KING COUNTY WASHINGTON.

Present Owner: Anthony Talevich  
Present Use: Residence

Address: 7253 South Taft Street, Seattle, WA 98178

Original Owner: Conway Thomson

Original Use: Single-family residence

Architect: Unknown

Builder: John J. Power
1010 East Spruce Street

City of Seattle Landmark Nomination Report
1010 East Spruce Street
May 2019

Prepared by:
The Johnson Partnership
1212 NE 65th Street
Seattle, WA 98115-6724
206-523-1618, www.tjp.us
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1010 E SPRUCE STREET
LANDMARK NOMINATION REPORT
MAY 2019

1. Introduction

This report provides information regarding the architectural design and historical significance of a building located at 1010 E Spruce Street in the Yesler Terrace neighborhood in Seattle, Washington. The building was not documented on the Seattle Historical Site survey. The Johnson Partnership prepared this report at the request of Emerald Bay Equity.

1.1 Background

The City of Seattle’s Department of Construction and Development (SDCI)—formerly the Department of Planning and Development—through a 1995 agreement with the Department of Neighborhoods, requires a review of “potentially eligible landmarks” for commercial projects over 4,000 square feet in area. As any proposed alterations or demolition of the subject building described within this report will require a permit from DCI.

To be eligible for nomination as a City of Seattle Landmark, a building, object, or structure must be at least 25 years old, have significant character, interest, or value, the integrity or ability to convey its significance, and it must meet one or more of the following six criteria (SMC 25.12.350):

A. It is the location of or is associated in a significant way with an historic event with a significant effect upon the community, city, state, or nation.
B. It is associated in a significant way with the life of a person important in the history of the city, state, or nation.
C. It is associated in a significant way with a significant aspect of the cultural, political, or economic heritage of the community, city, state, or nation.
D. It embodies the distinctive visible characteristics of an architectural style, period, or method of construction.
E. It is an outstanding work of a designer or builder.
F. Because of its prominence of spatial location, contrast of siting, age, or scale, it is an easily identifiable feature of its neighborhood or the city and contributes to the distinctive quality or identity of such neighborhood or city.

1.2 Methodology

Larry E. Johnson, AIA, The Johnson Partnership, 1212 NE 65th Street, Seattle, WA, completed research on this report between February and May 2019. Research was undertaken at the Puget Sound Regional Archives and the Seattle Department of Construction and Inspection. Research also included review of internet resources, including the Seattle Times digital archive, available through the Seattle Public Library, and Ancestry.com. The building and site were inspected and photographed on February 13, 2019 and on May 22, 2019 to document the existing conditions.
2. Property Data

**Historic/Current Building Names:** Thomson house, 1002 E Spruce Street/1010 E Spruce Street

**Address:** 1010 E Spruce Street

**Location:** Yesler Terrace Neighborhood

**Assessor's File Number:** 2197600476

**Legal Description:** THE EAST HALF OF LOT 1, BLOCK 11, EASTERN ADDITION TO THE CITY OF SEATTLE ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF, RECORDED IN VOLUME 1 OF PLATS, PAGE 43, RECORDS OF KING COUNTY WASHINGTON.

**Date of Construction:** 1900-1901

**Original/Present Use:** Residence

**Original/Present Owner:** Conway Thomson/Anthony Talevich

**Original Designer:** Unknown

**Original Builder:** John J. Power

**Zoning:** MR

**Property Size:** 3,600 sq. ft.

**Building Size:** 1,810 sq. ft.
3. **ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION: 1010 E SPRUCE STREET**

3.1 **Location & Neighborhood Character**

The subject property is located on a city block bordered by Tenth Avenue to the east, Eleventh Avenue to the west, E Alder Street to the north, and E Spruce Street to the south. The general area is made up largely of multi-story apartment houses, although eight older single-family properties on Tenth and Eleventh Avenues and on E Spruce Street are near or adjacent to the subject property. The major arterial Boren Avenue cuts diagonally through the immediate neighborhood and is located approximately one block to the southwest. There are a number of mature trees within the block and all rights-of-ways have sidewalks. Horiuchi Park is located approximately one and a half blocks to the southwest. The King County Juvenile Detention Facility is located approximately two blocks to the east from the subject site. Nearby City of Seattle Landmarks include Washington Hall (1907, 153 14th Avenue) and Victorian House (1900, 1414 S Washington Street) to the southeast of the subject site, and Old Fire Station #3 (1903, 310 Terry Avenue), Yesler Terrace Steam Plant (1941, 120 Eighth Avenue), and Harborview Medical Center (1931, 325 Ninth Avenue). See figures 1-2.

3.2 **Site**

The subject site is located mid-block along E Spruce Street and is adjacent to an unimproved alley on the east. The lot is approximately 60'-0" feet square. The single-family residence that occupies the site is located on the eastern edge of the lot adjacent to the alley and a concrete driveway is located on the western side of the lot. Three mature trees are located along the western property line and two other mature trees are located at the lot's southeastern corner. The site slopes approximately ten feet down from the northwestern lot corner to the southeastern lot corner. There is a paved sidewalk and parking strip along E Spruce Street, three mature trees located along the western property line, and two other mature trees located at the lot's southeastern corner. See figures 3-10.

3.3 **Architectural Description: Structure & Exterior**

The subject building measures approximately 38'-6" north-south along the alley and 24'-6" inches east-west where it fronts E Spruce Street. The building itself is a simple wood-framed two-story rectangular box with a hip roof and a gable dormer on the western façade and a small hip roof dormer on the southern, primary façade. The building roof has a two-foot overhang, with a non-original vinyl soffit. Many of the downspouts are disconnected. The house originally was sheathed with bevel siding that was covered with asbestos siding in the 1930s. The house is presently sheathed with vinyl siding, and has vinyl cladding at the window trim. The exterior of the house has had all of its original wood-sash double-hung windows replaced with vinyl sash windows. There are brick chimneys located at the center of both the western and eastern sides of the house.

The southern façade faces E Spruce Street. There is a partially recessed entry porch on the building’s southeastern corner with a hip roof porch roof supported a pair of original Tuscan wood columns. A stairway leads down to grade to the west. The porch has non-original baluster guardrails, and the southern side of the porch is sheathed with artificial stone. Fenestration at
this façade consists of the following: a large, vinyl-sash picture window north of the entry porch at the main floor level; the non-original single-light steel entry door and, under that to the south, a vinyl-sash single-hung window under the entry porch; a pair of double-hung, vinyl-sash windows at the northern end of the second-floor level; a single double-hung vinyl-sash window at the southern end of the second-floor level; and a single square wood-sash nine-light window at the hipped attic dormer.

The western façade fronts an overgrown side yard. It contains a slight angled bay at the main floor level with a hipped roof and a gable dormer centered above it. The angled bay at the main floor level contains three double-hung vinyl sash windows, one on each side of the bay. Centered above the bay and hipped roof is a pair of double-hung vinyl-sash windows at the upper floor level, and centered above that at the attic level is a single, square, vinyl-sash, single-light window. One vinyl-sash double-hung window is located at each floor level on the southern end of the façade, and one vinyl-sash double-hung window located at the main floor level at the northern end of the façade.

The northern (rear) façade is almost inaccessible due to thick overgrown vegetation and fencing. This façade contains a steel entry door at the eastern side of the main floor level, two additional vinyl-sash double-hung windows spaced across the façade at the main floor level, and two vinyl-sash double-hung windows symmetrically placed at the upper floor level.

The eastern (alley) façade contains a pair of double-hung vinyl-sash windows to the east of the center of the façade at the first floor level. These windows light the kitchen. Another vinyl sash window is located midlevel at the center of the façade, lighting the stair landing. Directly above the kitchen window is a single smaller double-hung vinyl-sash window, which lights the bathroom. Vegetation obscures the basement level and eastern end of this façade.  

3.4 Architectural Description: Interior Plan & Finishes

The plan of the house reflects a typical four-square organization, with an entry hall in the southwestern corner, a former parlor or sitting room in the southeastern corner, a dining area on the northwestern corner and a kitchen and powder room on the northeastern corner. The former parlor now functions as a bedchamber, and opens to the dining room and entry hall via wide pocket doors, typical of the era of original construction. The kitchen is accessed by a low hallway under the L-shaped stair in the entry hall. A window-sized pass-through connects the kitchen to the dining area. The dining area has a slight three-window bay and a small alcove located on the eastern end. The alcove is now used for storage, but may originally have functioned as a breakfast room or study. Much of the millwork appears original at the entry, former parlor, and dining area. The flooring in the entry hall is painted cement board that has been installed sometime in the last 20 years. The ceiling in the entry hall is a non-original acoustical tile treatment. There is fir flooring in the dining area and former parlor. A now non-functioning direct-vent gas fireplace was added to the northeastern corner of the parlor within the last 20 years.

At the upper floor, there is a bedchamber in each of the four corners of the house connected by a north-south hallway. The chamber on the northwestern corner is the largest, as the bathroom and stair occupy the central portion of the plan on the eastern side. Finishes at the upper floor include fir flooring, plaster walls and ceilings, and probably original millwork. A steep stair to the
attic is located on the northern side of the hall. The attic room is finished and functions as a bedchamber. Finishes in the attic include gypsum drywall at the walls and sloped ceilings and wall-to-wall carpet on the floor. See figures 19-33.

3.5 Documented Building Alterations and Physical Integrity

A basement foundation was constructed in 1909.¹ At the completion of this report in 2019, the basement was inaccessible. A photograph from February 2019 indicates that the basement has a dirt floor and is used for storage. The property owner indicated that the interior was remodeled in 2001 after a fire.²

The building retains its original form and massing, although it is missing many of its original character-defining elements such as the entry porch balusters, soffits, and its original siding. The original wood-sash double-hung windows have been replaced with vinyl-sash windows. The 1937 photograph indicates the southern attic dormer window is not original, as the 1937 window had a single light, not the nine lights of the present-day window. The photograph also indicates that originally the western bay windows had continuous head trim, and that the exterior trim profiles of all the window trim has been altered.

The upper portion of the western chimney has been removed. See figure 34.

Recorded Permits

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<tr>
<td>12/12/1900</td>
<td>5902</td>
<td>John J. Powers</td>
<td>Build 2-Story Frame House</td>
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<tr>
<td>9/12/1902</td>
<td></td>
<td>S. Okada</td>
<td>Cut window in wall of residence</td>
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<tr>
<td>4/12/1909</td>
<td>74963</td>
<td>C. J. Post</td>
<td>Put in 8&quot; concrete wall basement</td>
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<tr>
<td>1959</td>
<td>475693</td>
<td></td>
<td>Re-side existing residence</td>
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¹ Seattle Department of Construction & Inspections, Building Permit #74963.
² Personal communication Anthony Talevich to Ellen Mirro, May 22, 2019.
4. Significance

4.1 Historic Neighborhood Context: Nihonmachi & Yesler Terrace

The subject property is located within and near the eastern edge of the Yesler Terrace neighborhood, adjacent to First Hill, although the immediate area was traditionally associated with the Nihonmachi (or Japantown) commercial district, the northern portion of Seattle’s International District before Yesler Terrace was developed during and after World War II and further separated by the construction of Interstate 5.

The Yesler Terrace neighborhood sits between First Hill to the north and the International District to the south, with the second Avenue S extension of the Pioneer Square neighborhood also adjacent to the west. Historically there would have been no hard neighborhood boundaries between these neighborhoods. The "Racial Map" of Seattle overlaid on a 1936 Kroll map on display at the 2019 Wing Luke Museum exhibit "Excluded, Inside the Lines" shows the present-day Yesler Terrace neighborhood as the confluence of the "Oriental," "Jewish," and "Italian" races. The practice of "redlining" became popular in the 1930s as part of the Federal Housing Authority’s home loan guarantee program. The FHA guaranteed loans for private homes in areas that were not considered "hazardous." An area's hazard rating increased if the it contained any minority or non-white populations, along with other environmental factors such as propensity for landslides. The effect was that banks would not grant mortgages to people of color. On the Seattle redline map, area D5—comprising the entire eastern side of Seattle's Downtown and areas of the Central District, Squire Park and the International District—is described as "composed of various mixed nationalities. Homes are occupied by tenants in a vast majority. Homes generally old and obsolete in need of extensive repairs." See figure 35-39.

"Profanity Hill"

First Hill, also known as Yesler, had a third name: "Profanity Hill." Originally known as “The Hill,” by 1883 "the crest of the hill entered a new era as the first retreat of its ‘first families,’ including mayors, judges, industrialists, timber barons, and art collectors.” However, by the 1890s the name “Profanity Hill” had solidified in reference to the hill's southern edge. This was a “folk creation […] and appreciation for the naughty words heard from lawyers and litigants climbing the hill to reach the courthouse – and for the muffled cussing heard in the halls.”

As the city’s affluent families moved to more fashionable neighborhoods farther from downtown and the area became more populous with working class people, the meaning of “Profanity Hill” evolved as well. “With its mansions falling into disrepair, and an unusual patchwork of small businesses and wood-frame homes cropping up in between them, the neighborhood increasingly accommodated a diverse collection of low-income residents and ethnic businesses. The nickname Profanity Hill […] also came to refer to the underworld economy of drugs, crime, and 18 houses of prostitution that flourished there by the 1930s.”

See figures 40-41.

Nihonmachi & the Japanese Community

Nihonmachi extended from the eastern side of Chinatown, around Fourth Avenue all the way east to around 15th Avenue between Jackson and Yesler, with significant Japanese populations

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4 Ibid. p. 112-113.
living south of Jackson between Sixth and Twelfth avenues. The northern portions of Nihonmachi, especially by the 1920s, occupied the southern portion of Profanity Hill.

From the 1880s to the early 1900s first-generation Japanese immigrants (Issei) were mainly single men, often second or third sons, seeking to accumulate sums of money before returning to Japan. Japanese immigration in the 1880s was stimulated by the Chinese Exclusion Act in 1882 that established an absolute ten-year moratorium on Chinese labor immigration. During this period most Japanese men found work in the surrounding canneries, railroad, and the logging industry in the Puget Sound area. These labor-intensive jobs, however failed to provide the rapid economic advancement they had planned on for their short three-to-five-year stays. Since most of the early Japanese immigrants had only planned to stay temporarily, the early community was unstable, with a ratio of five men to every woman, and lacked social and religious support. As with the Chinese, Japanese immigrants also suffered racial discrimination often associated with labor disputes pitting them against white Americans. Racial covenants also excluded Asians from owning or renting in many Seattle neighborhoods.

In the early 1900s, Japanese businesses were concentrated north of what was known as Chinatown. Real estate covenants and employment discrimination led to the creation of the overlapping ghettos of 1936 Chinatown and Nihonmachi, east of Fourth Avenue between Yesler Way and Dearborn Street. To support the burgeoning Japanese population, Nihonmachi contained hotels, laundries, bathhouses, restaurants and clubs catering to Japanese people that included gambling and prostitution. This commercial district became the heart of the Japanese community. The 1909 completion of the Jackson Street regrade and the 1911 construction of the Union Depot at Fifth Avenue and King Street opened up new opportunities for Asian entrepreneurs in Seattle’s International District. However, real estate development by Issei was hampered at that time by the Washington State constitution that prohibited alien land ownership. As a result, construction was often facilitated by bicultural umbrella companies. The Panama Hotel (Sabro Ozasa, 605 S Main Street) was constructed in this manner in 1910, with a Japanese bathhouse in the basement. The Northern Pacific Hotel (308 Fourth Avenue S) followed in 1914, and under the management of Niroku Frank Shitamae quickly became one of the social anchors in the community.

In the 1910s, the Japanese population reached 6,127, and was recognized as Seattle’s largest non-white population. The population grew primarily as Issei bachelors began to think of themselves as permanent settlers and started putting down roots in the community. Unlike their Chinese counterparts these bachelors were allowed by the United States to marry eligible Japanese women, “picture brides” in arranged marriages, allowing the women to obtain passports necessary to immigrate to the United States. The subsequent rise in the number of Japanese births fostered an attitude of eijū dochaku—to live permanently on the soil. Women were charged with the responsibility of establishing a family that would create the foundations of a permanent

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community life. Their children, second generation Japanese Americans, or Nisei, were expected to integrate into the community while retaining a sense of Japanese culture. Examples of small businesses within Nihonmachi ranged widely to include Aiko Photo Studio, the Tazuma Ten-Cent Store, the Home Brew Supply Store, Pacific Market, and the Cherry Land Florist, many of which were located on Jackson Street. See figures 42-49.

The Kokugo Gakko (a.k.a. the Japanese Language School) was established in Seattle in 1902. By around 1913 the school was located at 1414 S Weller Street (Suekichi Shimizu, City of Seattle Landmark). By 1907 there were a total of 37 students, and by 1917 the student body had grown to 175. This included many students also attending public school (South School, later Bailey Gatzert) in the mornings who then spent two hours at the language school in the afternoon. See figure 50.

The Seattle Japanese Baptist Church was established in 1899. With the coming of women from Japan and the establishment of family life, the church began a Sunday School, which served an enrollment of 270 in 1908. In 1922 the church completed a large building with a gymnasium on the corner of Broadway and E Spruce Street. In these years most of the Japanese American community resided near the church, which became one of the centers of community activity with various associated clubs and organizations. The gymnasium was in constant use with athletic events for all ages. Located at 160 Broadway, before World War II and the development of Yesler Terrace, the Japanese Baptist Church was adjacent to the northwestern edge of Nihonmachi. See figure 51.

The first Jodo Shinshu Buddhist service in the Pacific Northwest was performed in 1901. By 1905, the Seattle Buddhist Church, also known as the Seattle Betsuin Buddhist Temple, was renting a small two-story house at 624 Main Street, Nihonmachi, west of present-day Interstate 5. By 1914, the Seattle Buddhist Church relocated to 1020 South Main Street, also in the Nihonmachi area. This building was destroyed as part of the demolition making way for the construction of Yesler Terrace. The current Seattle Betsuin Buddhist Temple (Kichio Allen Arai and Pierce A. Horrocks, 1427 S Main Street) was dedicated on November 15, 1941. See figures 52-55.

Jackson Street Jazz Scene

Jackson Street borders Yesler Terrace on the south, the International Special Review District on the east, and is significant for the jazz scene that flourished there between 1937 and 1951. Jackson Street was home to 34 nightclubs during those years. Geographically, Jackson Street connected King Street Station to the International District and the Central District, areas where residency was not restricted on the basis of race, and which therefore had diversity in racial and cultural populations. The city had two musicians' unions that until 1958 were racially segregated: the whites-only American Federation of Musicians (AFM) Local 76 and the largely black AFM

10 Ibid., pp. 2.
16 Ibid.
Local 493. The Negro Musicians Union Local 493 shared space with the Blue Note jazz club north of Yesler Terrace, on Jefferson Street near the corner of 13th Avenue. A northern axis of the jazz scene would have been formed with the Mesob and No Way Café located next door to the Blue Note, and the Rocking Chair on the Corner of Yesler and 14th Avenue. Quoting Amy Rolf of the Seattle Post-Intelligencer:

The Jackson Street jazz scene may sound romantic today, but it's important to remember that racial attitudes of the time influenced the public's perception of the music then. Like rock 'n roll in the 1950's, jazz was considered by many to be immoral. The abundance of vice and questionable activities in and around the clubs of Jackson Street caused many Seattleites consider the area unsafe.

The other cultural factor enabling the rise of the jazz scene and the Jackson Street nightclubs was the entrenched police corruption in Seattle at the time, so that the police would look the other way when nightclubs served alcohol before Prohibition ended in 1933.

The corner of 12th Avenue and Jackson Street was famous for E. Russell "Noodles" Smith's nightclubs, including Seattle's longest-running jazz club, the Entertainer's Club, and the Alhambra, which was eventually renamed the Black & Tan. The term "Black and Tan" was shorthand for a location serving all races. The Black & Tan may have been Seattle's most well-known jazz nightclub, being instrumental in the early career of Ray Charles (who originally played at the Back & Tan under the name R. C. Robinson), and hosting jazz greats like Duke Ellington, Charlie Parker, Quincy Jones, and Patti Brown. See figures 56-59.

Yesler Terrace & the Seattle Housing Authority

The formation of the Seattle Housing Authority (SHA) was initiated in 1937 by the efforts of local attorney Jesse Epstein, and formalized in 1939. The first development of the SHA, Yesler Terrace, built as a low-income housing project, was completed by the spring of 1942. The motivations for the construction of Yesler Terrace were two-pronged: to provide housing for the poor, and to clear out the area's slums. Yesler Terrace was located on a swath of land located between Jackson Street and Yesler Way in what would have been recognized as part of Nihonmachi.

The legacy of this type of public housing project, so-called "slum clearance," associated with population displacement and the redesign of whole neighborhoods, has since been reevaluated in the context of its social benefit. Seattle Housing Authority archives have records of "359 families living in the south end of First Hill" and of these 137 were Japanese. Yesler Terrace's construction not only displaced these families, but also displaced a number of significant Japanese institutions: three churches, four grocery stores, and four hotels. The residents of the land used for Yesler Terrace had all been moved out by 1940, well before the beginning of World War II. See figures 60-69.

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20 Ibid.
23 Kreisman, p. 113.
The housing to the northeast of Yesler Terrace continued to be occupied by mostly Jewish populations; the housing to the southwest was still considered part of Nihonmachi. Both areas continued to exhibit questionable housing conditions. The residents displaced by the construction of Yesler Terrace were relocated to other areas of Seattle, although there was a shortage of decent homes at modest rental prices. The SHA included language for social justice and racial integration in its formation and as a policy feature of each of its housing projects. However, SHA required that applicants who lived in Yesler Terrace be two-parent families and United States citizens. These policies excluded many immigrant families, single-parent households, and unmarried poor people living on First Hill. Many resorted to moving back down the hill, to Skid Row.  

The designers of Yesler Terrace included some of the early practitioners of the Modern movement in the Pacific Northwest: William Aitken, William J. Bain, John T. Jacobsen, J. Lister Holmes, and George W. Stoddard. The design of Yesler Terrace reflected the European Modernist design ethos, but with American materials such as platform framing and wooden siding. Yesler Terrace, along with other Seattle Housing Authority projects such as Holly Park (1942, Paul Thiry, now NewHolly) in Rainier Valley, had flat or low-slope roofs with corner windows, reflecting the influence of Modernist design ideas. By 1944, the Seattle Housing Authority had transformed from an agency providing housing to the poor during the Great Depression to one serving mostly veterans, military families and defense workers. See figures 70-73.

Nihonmachi during World War II

Prosperity in the International District declined in the 1930s due the Great Depression, but picked up again by the beginning of the 1940s. After the Japanese bombing of Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, Franklin D. Roosevelt issued Executive Order 9066 on February 19, 1942, which led to the incarceration of Japanese and Japanese Americans after the United States entered World War II. Japanese families, numbering more than 7,000 individuals from the Seattle area, were forced to leave businesses and property behind during incarceration, causing many of them to lose all their acquired wealth. Between April 18, 1942 and September 23, 1942, many Seattle families were sent to the Puyallup Assembly Center, also known as “Camp Harmony.” For the most part, these families were sent on to the Minidoka concentration camp in Idaho. Those from Bainbridge Island took a special ferry to Seattle, where they were then transferred to a train bound for the Manzanar concentration camp in California. Nihonmachi lost its identity as a neighborhood, and the last remnants of Japanese culture in Seattle were held at places like the Panama Hotel, where Japanese families stored their possessions during incarceration, most of them never to be recovered. See figures 74-83.

Aftermath of World War II

After the war, many Japanese people returned to Seattle’s International District, although some families relocated to the suburbs, particularly to the eastern side of Lake Washington. Japanese

24 Ibid. p. 112.
families essentially had to start over economically, and faced open hostility in the Northwest. The War Relocation Authority (WRA) had begun a campaign to show how good life was for Japanese Americans outside of the camps. “Beginning in summer 1942, WRA began to release incarcerees [but] encouraged them to resettle in areas of the United States other than the West Coast. […] Incarcerees did not depart in large numbers until 1944.” \(\text{The Issei, the older generation of sixty years or more, had a particularly difficulty time starting over after losing businesses and farms.}\) By the mid-1950s, second generation Japanese Americans were seeing employment opportunities open up, and many enrolled in college, earning professional degrees. The 1952 McCarran-Walter Immigration Act lifted the restriction against first-generation Japanese immigrants becoming naturalized citizens, and the Immigration Act of 1965 eliminated national origin quotas. \textbf{See figure 84.}

The Seattle chapter of the Japanese American Citizens League (JACL), a national organization based in San Francisco, successfully fought for and eventually saw the repeal of Washington State’s racist Alien Land Law in 1966.\(30\) The 1960s also saw the elimination of ethnically based real estate covenants via the federal Housing Rights Act of 1966, which allowed Asian Americans greater flexibility in purchasing homes in formerly restricted neighborhoods. In 1966 the Wing Luke Asian Museum was established in a storefront on Eighth Avenue S. The museum was named for the first Chinese American to be elected to the city council of a major American city.\(31\)

\textbf{4.2 Building History: 1010 E Spruce Street}

The original building permit, issued on December 12, 1900, granted Conway Thomson 90 days to construct a two-story residence on the subject property, originally addressed 1002 E Spruce Street.\(32\) Conway Thomson (1851-1932) was born in India, of Scottish/English parentage.\(33\) Thomson arrived in Seattle around 1899, and by 1902 was working as an inspector for the City of Seattle Street Department.\(34\) In 1903 he took a job as an inspector for the United States Customs Department, and in 1907 transferred to the United States Immigration Service in 1907.\(35\) Thomson and his wife Retta lived in the residence on the subject property from 1901 until at least 1918.\(36\) In 1930 Thompson, then widowed, was living in Los Angeles.\(37\) He passed away there in 1932.\(38\)

The subject building was occupied and then owned by the Tsuyoshi Inouye (1887-1968) and his family from 1922 to 1942.\(39\) Inouye and his wife Yayoi (nee Iseka, 1900-1989) were both Issei, or


\(32\) Seattle Department of Construction & Inspections, Building Permit no. 5902.


\(34\) R. L. Polk & Co., Polk’s Seattle Directory 1899, p. 956; Polk’s Seattle Directory 1902, p. 1283.


\(38\) California Death Index, 1905-1939.

first generation Japanese immigrants. When the family purchased the house in 1925 the title of the house was put in their oldest daughter’s (Bessie K. Inouye) name since neither Tsuyoshi nor Yayoi were American citizens, and were therefore prohibited by the Washington State constitution from owning property. Tsuyoshi owned the State Café on First Avenue and Madison Street, where his wife and later his children assisted him in its operation. The couple had six children, five girls and one boy. The second girl, Ruby, would become Seattle’s first Japanese American woman physician, a staunch supporter and advocate for Japanese facilities for the elderly, and an icon in Seattle’s Japanese community. See Section 4.3.1 of this report for more information.

The Inouyes lived in the house until 1942, whereupon when the family was deported, first to Camp Harmony on the Puyallup Fair Grounds, and in August 1942 to the Minidoka Internment Camp in Idaho. The house was rented during the family’s internment, which lasted until early 1946. The family had stored what they couldn’t carry in boxes and trunks in the house’s basement. Other Japanese families also used the basement to store personal effects. Aside from being a generous act, sharing their basement may not have been uncommon for Japanese homeowners, who took in what they could. Other places, such as the Panama Hotel and the Baptist church, also offered storage.

The family returned to the house in 1946 but found it and the contents of the basement ransacked. After returning to Seattle the family allowed other former internees to stay with them in the house until they could find housing. See figures 85-88.

The Inouye family left the house around 1948, moving to 1909 Minor Avenue. Subsequent tenants included James Gochis (1943), G.S. Hatsukano (1948-1949), and George R. and Ella Aquino (1955-1979). Recent tenants include members of Seattle band Tacocat. See Section 4.3.2 of this report for more information.

4.3 Associated Individuals

4.3.1 Dr. Ruby Inouye Shu (1920-2012)

Dr. Ruby Inouye Shu was born on November 17, 1920, at her family’s home at 1010 E Spruce Street in Seattle. She was the second daughter Tsuyoshi and Yayoi Inouye. Tsuyoshi Inouye immigrated to the United States from Japan in 1905 and owned the State Café on First Avenue and Madison Street. Ruby’s mother was a Japanese “picture bride” who married Tsuyoshi through an arranged marriage in Japan, arriving in Seattle in 1918.

Growing up in the house on Spruce Street, Dr. Ruby remembers that besides her parents and their six children (five girls and one boy) a couple of rooms were always occupied by Japanese bachelors. She also remembers that Japanese was always spoken at home, while outside of the home—at school and at her father’s restaurant, where the children were expected to chip in—

44 R. L. Polk & Co., Polk’s Seattle Directory, multiple years.
45 Unless otherwise noted, this biographical text is derived from the following source: Densho Digital Archive, "Ruby Inouye Interview," April 3-4, 2003, https://ddr.densho.org/media/ddr-densho-1000/ddr-densho-1000-143-transcript-3938628f06.htm (accessed May 2019), pp. 1-76
English was spoken. She attended Pacific Grammar School, and after school the Japanese Language School on Weller Avenue and 14th Street, where she learned to read and write in Japanese.

Although a self-admitted bookish stay-at-home girl, any social life she had while growing up revolved around the Japanese Baptist Church, located a few blocks from her home. Her family also attended kenjinkai (mutual aid society) events. She had numerous friends in the neighborhood, mainly other Nisei children whose families lived nearby. During her childhood she remembered that her house did not have central heating, so the whole family and roomers would congregate in the kitchen, where there was a coal stove.

Ruby attended Broadway High School and graduated in 1939 with a straight-A average and was named the class salutatorian. Her parents expected all their children, including the girls, to attend college, and she entered the University of Washington in the fall of 1939 planning to major in home economics. She switched to pre-med with her father’s permission in her sophomore year, following her desire to contribute more to her community.

She was forced to drop out of college in her junior year due to President Franklin D. Roosevelt order detaining Japanese people in America. As with most Japanese Americans affected, the Inouye family peaceably obeyed the order to evacuate. The family sold their restaurant, storing restaurant equipment and dishes in their basement. Personal belongings that they couldn’t bring with them were also packed away and stored in the basement of their home. The family accepted and packed away other belongings of other Japanese, and in the weeks before internment, they accepted a number of other families into their home.

Ruby and her family spent from May to August 1942 at Camp Harmony in the Puyallup Fairgrounds, where her older sister Bessie received her college degree. In August, the family was transferred by train with other Japanese families to the Minidoka Internment Camp in Idaho. At Minidoka Ruby applied and was accepted into a pre-med program at the University of Texas and received permission to leave the camp to continue her education. Her ability to apply to a college outside what was known as the West Coast Exclusion Zone was facilitated by a group of concerned educators worked to see that more than 2,500 Nisei college students were allowed to continue their education. These educators included Lee Paul Sieg, president of the University of Washington, Robert Gordon Sproul, president of the University California at Berkeley, and Remsen Bird, president of Occidental College.46

She arrived in Texas in January 1943, where she entered spring semester at the University. A local family, Mr. and Mrs. A. Moffitt, offered her room and board in exchange for assisting the family with household work and childcare. She graduated with honors and a bachelor's degree after three semesters.

After graduation Ruby was accepted at the Women’s Medical College of Philadelphia along with Kazuko Uno, another Japanese American and former internee. After receiving their medical degrees, the two women were the only two graduates not initially accepted at any hospital for internships. The dean of the medical college was able to place her at St. Francis Hospital in Pittsburgh, where she worked from 1948 until 1949.

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46 Henry.
The Inouye family was released from Minidoka in early 1946. Returning to their home on E Spruce Street they found the house in poor condition and the basement storage ransacked. Again, the family allowed other Japanese families and individuals to stay at their house until they could find permanent housing.

After her internship, Ruby returned to Seattle and applied for residency at Providence and Harborview hospitals but was denied. Undeterred, Dr. Inouye opened her general practice office on the second floor above the Higo Variety Store at 602-608 Jackson Street in Seattle's International District. Her first patient was a young bakuujin (European American) boy with a minor injury but she recalls giving him a complete examination since she was eager to do a good job. Dr. Inouye’s practice prospered and many of her patients were Issei who spoke little or no English and found her proficiency in the Japanese language comforting. Many of them were obstetrical patients who were so-called war brides. From them she learned the Japanese names of various organs and other body parts that she had not learned in medical school. She eventually received medical privileges at Seattle General Hospital, Providence Hospital, Swedish Hospital, Virginia Mason, and Maynard Hospital.

At Seattle General Hospital, Dr. Inouye met her future husband, Evan Shu, a Chinese national who was interning at the hospital. The couple married in 1951 and in 1953 they began a joint practice in Seattle and later built a new clinic at 202 16th Avenue S (1961, also addressed at 1601 S Washington Street, Blaine McCool). The clinic building was shared with the Planned Parenthood Center of Seattle. See figure 89.

Drs. Inouye and Shu had three children, Evan Jr., an architect in Boston; Geraldine, a University of Washington scientist; and Karen, an Auburn school administrator. Her children thought of her as a big personality in a little body. She taught them to be unafraid of the world and gave them a strong work ethic. See figure 90.

Dr. Inouye and her husband shared a desire to assist elderly Issei Japanese who felt out of place at various nursing homes in the Seattle area. They were culturally isolated since they didn’t understand the English language and the food served was unfamiliar. What these patients needed was a place where they could be comfortable in their surroundings with other Japanese-speaking people and with traditional Japanese food. See figure 91.

In 1972 Dr. Inouye and her husband attempted to open a 100-bed nursing home that would cater to these patients, but their plan failed to meet administrative hurdles and was abandoned. Nevertheless, the couple were not alone in wanting to help elderly Japanese. The Shus joined the newly formed Issei Concerns Committee in late 1972. The group worked diligently and on September 19, 1976, Seattle Keiro, a nursing facility located in the old and refurbished Mount Baker Convalescent Center on Massachusetts Avenue, was opened. In 1980, the Issei Concerns Board voted to change the corporations name to Nikkei Concerns. The organization was committed now to including all generations of Japanese descendants. Additionally, in 1987, a new Seattle Keiro was opened on E Yesler Avenue with 150 beds and built on some of the property owned by the Shus. In 1988, Dr. Inouye became the first female president of Nikkei Concerns and exerted a strong influence in fundraising.49

48 Henry.
49 Henry.
Drs. Inouye and Shu retired in 1995, and the couple donated their clinic at 202 16th S to Seattle Keiro. Dr. Ruby Inouye passed away on September 2012. She was considered by many to be an enormous force in the Japanese community. See figure 92.

4.3.2 Associated Individual: Ella Aquino

From 1955 until at least 1979, the house was owned by George and Ella Aquino. Ella Aquino was an activist and political organizer known as "the matriarch of Seattle's Native American community." She was a co-founder of the American Indian Women's Service League, and was part of the 1970-1971 occupation at Fort Lawton that led to the creation of the Daybreak Star Center at Discovery Park.50

She was born in 1902 in Puyallup, and was a descendent of the Lummi and Yakima tribes. As a child she was sent to a school run by the Bureau of Indian Affairs on the Tulalip reservation, then to a Catholic school in Federal Way. She moved to Seattle in 1944. In 1958, after performing a door-to-door "census" of Native Americans in Seattle, she and several friends founded the American Indian Women's Service League (AIWSL). This led to the formation of at least four more social and community service organizations for Native American people in the region.51

As part of her work with the AIWSL, Aquino founded the Indian Center News, which operated from 1960 to 1970.

On March 8, 1970 Aquino, at age 67, was part of a group of activists associated with the United Indian People's Council52 who scaled the fence at the decommissioned military base Fort Lawton in the Magnolia neighborhood. The group laid claim to the land, citing an 1865 treaty between the United States government and Native American tribes, under which surplus military land would be returned to the land's original owners. After a 15-month-long occupation of the site—accompanied by much political maneuvering, national attention, and a military standoff—the City and the Native American groups agreed to negotiate. The city agreed to lease 20 acres of the former Fort Lawton to the United Indians of All Tribes. That land became the Daybreak Star Cultural Center, which opened in 1977.53

Aquino wrote a column called "Teepee Talk" for Northwest Indian News, and went on to become the editor of the newspaper, which operated from 1970 to 1980. In the late 1970s she produced a weekly radio program focusing on Native American issues for KRAB-FM.54

In 1984 the local chapter of the United Nations Foundation honored her for her work and activism. When she was 86, she was the subject of the 1987 documentary film Princess of the Powwow.55 Her years of activism earned her the nickname "Give 'Em Hella Ella."

She passed away in 1988, at age 86, and was mourned by the Native American community at large.

51 Moore.
52 The name was later changed to the United Indians of All Tribes.
55 Susan Applegate Krouse and Heather A. Howard, Keeping the Campfires Going: Native Women's Activism in Urban Communities (Lincoln, NE: University of Nebraska Press, 2009), n.p.
4.4 Architectural Style: Seattle Foursquare Houses

The subject building is a modest vernacular variant of a Georgian Revival-style Foursquare house, constructed in 1900.

In Folke Nyberg's and Victor Steinbrueck’s 1975 pamphlet *Queen Anne: An Inventory of Building and Urban Design Resources*, a companion booklet illustrates 32 common Seattle building styles, including the “Classic Box” from circa 1900-1918. In addition to being called “Foursquare,” this style also went by the names “Seattle Box,” “Box House,” “Denver Square,” “Double Decker,” and “Double Cube.” This fairly utilitarian style was important to the growth of middle-class suburbs, as these boxy houses were inexpensive and simple to build. They were so popular that Sears Roebuck & Company featured fifteen Foursquare pre-cut kit homes.

Foursquare homes are typically square in plan and elevation and have a hip roof with centered dormer, and a one-story porch across the front elevation. The two second-story windows are on either side of a decorative feature. The foursquare houses are generally symmetrical and incorporate simple neoclassical decorative elements. The interior typically has four squares, or rooms, per floor. This was an efficient use of space as a short corridor could connect the rooms. The first floor tends to have an entry foyer, a living room, a dining room, and a kitchen. The second floor tends to have a bedroom in three corners and bathroom in the fourth.

According to *Shaping Seattle Architecture*, Seattle grew from 80,000 people in 1900 to nearly 240,000 by 1910, and the residential neighborhoods had to keep up with the rapid expansion. At the time of this growth spurt, the design of middle-class housing was largely drawn from plan books and other similar publications. National and local architects and builders sold pre-drawn plans and provided limited customization of plans. The Radford Architectural Company in Chicago and the Aladdin Company in Bay City, Michigan, regularly published house plans, including the “Standard”—a Foursquare house popular among builders and homeowners from the 1890s to the 1920s. See figure 93.

Locally, Seattle newspapers frequently published schematic plans for homes with accompanying paid advertising by local architects and plan book companies. Two of the most successful local architects to publish plans were Victor W. Voorhees and Elmer E. Green. Together they were responsible for the design of literally hundreds of houses in Seattle neighborhoods between the early 1900s and early 1930s. Jud Yoho, a promoter of the Craftsman bungalow style, went even further, publishing a national magazine, *Bungalow Magazine*, selling both house plans and completed homes (the latter on installment purchase plans). See figure 94.

There are dozens of examples of the Foursquare house type in the established Queen Anne Hill single-family neighborhood, and hundreds in the city as a whole. This house form is readily recognized by architectural laymen and appreciated by their owners. Although all have been adapted to changes in technology and family lifestyle, most of these homes retain a fair degree of historical integrity. See figures 95-97.

Although more modest in design and ornamentation than those built on Queen Anne Hill, many
foursquare style homes were built on First Hill, contemporary with the subject building, and still exist today. Examples include: 919 13th Avenue (1900), 907 14th Avenue (1902), 815 13th Avenue (1903), and 903 14th Avenue (1906). See figures 98-101.

4.5 Building Designer: Unknown

The original designer of the subject building is unknown, although the design is probably derived from a residential plan book from the turn of the twentieth century.

4.6 Building Contractor: John J. Power

John Joseph Power (1865-?) was born in Prince Edward Island, Canada, on July 29, 1865, of Irish/Scottish parentage. He arrived in Seattle around 1898. By occupation he was a carpenter and house contractor. Power had moved to San Diego by 1910.

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59 Seattle Daily Times, "Permits," August 21, 1900, p. 3.
60 Prince Edward Island, Baptism Index, 1788-1943.
61 United States Naturalization Records, 1840-1957.
5. Bibliography


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*Seattle Daily Times*. "Permits.” August 21, 1900, p. 3.


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Seattle Department of Construction & Inspections. Building Permit no. 5902.


United States Naturalization Records, 1840-1957.
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