

# Landmarks Preservation Board

Mailing Address: PO Box 94649 Seattle WA 98124-4649 Street Address: 700 5th Ave Suite 1700

Name Rainier Beac (Common, present of		Year Built 1960		
Street and Number	8815 Seward Park Avenue S, Seatt	le, WA 98118		
Assessor's File No.	352404-9149			
Legal Description _s	ee attached			
Plat Name:	Block	Lot		
Present Owner: See	attle Public Schools	Present Use: school		
Address: Mail Stop 22-336 PO Box 34165 Seattle WA 98124-1165				
Original Owner: Sea	attle Public Schools			
Original Use: _Junior-Senior High School				
Architect: _John W. Maloney				
Builder: _Johnson-N	Morrison-Knudsen			

### Legal Description:

That portion of Government Lots 2 and 3 in Section 35, Township 24N, R 4 E.W.M.; situate in King County Washington. Beginning at a point on the South line of said Government Lot 2, which is S 89° 54' 13" E 208.75 feet from the Southwest corner thereof; thence N 0° 07' 22" W parallel with the West line of Government Lot 2, a distance of 163.75 feet; thence 89° 54' 13" W 31.75 feet; thence N 0° 07' 22" W 276.50 feet; thence S 89° 54' 13" E 63.00 feet; thence N 0° 07' 22" W 459.47 feet to the southerly margin of Cloverdale Street as established by Ordinance No. 35610. Thence N 47° 54' 48" E along the margin of Cloverdale Street 232.49 feet to the westerly line of Block 9 C. D. Hillman's Atlantic City Addition. Thence S 33° 05' 12" E 462.20 feet to the southwesterly corner of said Block 9; thence N 89° 54' 00" E 189.98 feet along the south line of Block 9 to the West line of 53rd Avenue South; thence S 0° 06' 00" E along said Avenue line 69.66 feet to the line of Government Lots 2 and 3; thence S 89° 54' 13" E along the North line of Government Lot 3 to the westerly line of Seward Park Avenue, as established by Ordinance No. 65076; thence S 2° 40' 40" E 202.94 feet along said westerly line; thence N 89° 50' 52" W 100.00 feet; thence S 2°40' 40" E 100.00 feet to a point on the North line of Henderson Street as established by Ordinance No. 39385; thence N 89° 50' 52" W along the North line of Henderson Street 1044.93 feet to a point 125.00 feet from the east line of Rainier Avenue as established by Ordinance No. 29364; thence N 0° 09' 08" E 301.47 feet to the north line of Government Lot 3; thence S 89° 54' 13" E 43.75 feet along the line of Government Lots 2 and 3 to the point of beginning. Also Lots 1 to 5 inclusive Block 10 and Lots 21 to 34 inclusive Block 11, C.D. Hillman's Atlantic City Addition as recorded in Volume 12 of Plats, page 45, Records of King County, Washington. Together with vacated Gibbs Place and vacated 53rd Avenue South, South of Hamlet Avenue as vacated by ordinance no. 87920. Together with portion of Government Lot 2, if any, Section 35, Township 24 North, Range 4 E.W.M., lying South of south line of C.D. Hillman's Atlantic City Addition and between 53rd Avenue South and 54th Avenue South (Seward Park Avenue).

# Photographs See attached pages

Submitted by: Rebecca Asencio		
Address: Mail Stop 22-336 PO Box 34165 Seattle WA 98124-1165		
Phone: 206-252-0551	_ Date _	11/26/19
Reviewed:	Date	
Historic Preservation Officer		

# Rainer Beach High School

City of Seattle Landmark Nomination Report 8815 Seward Park Avenue S, Seattle, WA 98118 December 2019

> Prepared by: The Johnson Partnership 1212 NE 65th Street Seattle, WA 98115-6724 206-523-1618, www.tjp.us



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# Rainier Beach High School Landmark Nomination Report

## DECEMBER 2019

#### 1. INTRODUCTION

This Landmark nomination report provides information regarding the architectural design and history of Rainier Beach High School, located at 8815 Seward Park Avenue S in the Rainier Beach neighborhood of Seattle, Washington. The building was designed by John W. Maloney and constructed by Johnson-Morrison-Knudsen in 1960. The building was not documented in the Seattle Historic Resources survey. The Johnson Partnership prepared this report at the request of Seattle Public Schools (SPS).

#### 1.1 Background

The City of Seattle's Department of Construction and Inspections (SDCI), through a 1995 agreement with the Department of Neighborhoods (DON) and pursuant to SEPA authority, requires a review of "potentially eligible landmarks" for commercial projects over 4,000 square feet in area. Pursuant to the authorization in the Building Excellence (BEX) V levy, SPS wishes to demolish the building and construct a new school. Rainier Beach High School was selected to be replaced to ensure educational equity, safety, capacity, condition, and educational adequacy. Rainier Beach was included in the BEX V levy due in part to advocacy of the students at the school to get a new, modern building that addresses educational needs in a safe environment. As such, the owner is providing the following report to the staff of the Seattle Landmarks Preservation Board (LPB) to resolve the property's status.

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

Ellen F. C. Mirro, AIA, Principal; Larry Johnson, AIA, Principal Emeritus; Katherine V. Jaeger, MFA; and Audrey N. Reda of the Johnson Partnership, 1212 NE 65th Street, Seattle, WA, completed research on this report between March and August 2019. Research was undertaken at the Puget Sound Regional Archives, Seattle Department of Construction and Inspections, Seattle Public Library, the Museum of History and Industry, and the University of Washington Special Collections Library. Research also included review of Internet resources, including HistoryLink.com, and the

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Seattle Times digital archive, available through the Seattle Public Library. Special thanks to Meaghan Kahlo at the Seattle Public Schools archives. Some context statements in this report are based on research developed by Larry E. Johnson and the Johnson Partnership for previous reports. The building and site were inspected and photographed on April 8, 2019 to document the existing conditions.

The report was edited by Seattle Public Schools Capital Projects & Planning Department staff and their agents.

# 2. PROPERTY DATA

Historic Building Names: Rainier Beach Junior-Senior High School

Current Building Name: Rainier Beach High School

Address: 8815 Seward Park Avenue S Location: Rainier Beach Neighborhood Assessor's File Number: 352404-9149

Legal Description: That portion of Government Lots 2 and 3 in Section 35, Township 24N, R 4 E.W.M.; situate in King County Washington. Beginning at a point on the South line of said Government Lot 2, which is S 89° 54' 13" E 208.75 feet from the Southwest corner thereof; thence N 0° 07' 22" W parallel with the West line of Government Lot 2, a distance of 163.75 feet; thence 89° 54' 13" W 31.75 feet; thence N 0° 07' 22" W 276.50 feet; thence S 89° 54' 13" E 63.00 feet; thence N 0° 07' 22" W 459.47 feet to the southerly margin of Cloverdale Street as established by Ordinance No. 35610. Thence N 47° 54′ 48" E along the margin of Cloverdale Street 232.49 feet to the westerly line of Block 9 C. D. Hillman's Atlantic City Addition. Thence S 33° 05' 12" E 462.20 feet to the southwesterly corner of said Block 9; thence N 89° 54' 00" E 189.98 feet along the south line of Block 9 to the West line of 53<sup>rd</sup> Avenue South; thence S 0° 06' 00" E along said Avenue line 69.66 feet to the line of Government Lots 2 and 3; thence S 89° 54′ 13" E along the North line of Government Lot 3 to the westerly line of Seward Park Avenue, as established by Ordinance No. 65076; thence S 2° 40′ 40″ E 202.94 feet along said westerly line; thence N 89° 50′ 52" W 100.00 feet; thence S 2°40′ 40" E 100.00 feet to a point on the North line of Henderson Street as established by Ordinance No. 39385; thence N 89° 50' 52" W along the North line of Henderson Street 1044.93 feet to a point 125.00 feet from the east line of Rainier Avenue as established by Ordinance No. 29364; thence N 0° 09' 08" E 301.47 feet to the north line of Government Lot 3; thence S 89° 54' 13" E 43.75 feet along the line of Government Lots 2 and 3 to the point of beginning. Also Lots 1 to 5 inclusive Block 10 and Lots 21 to 34 inclusive Block 11, C.D. Hillman's Atlantic City Addition as recorded in Volume 12 of Plats, page 45, Records of King County, Washington. Together with vacated Gibbs Place and vacated 53<sup>rd</sup> Avenue South, South of Hamlet Avenue as vacated by ordinance no. 87920. Together with portion of Government Lot 2, if any, Section 35, Township 24 North, Range 4 E.W.M., lying South of south line of C.D. Hillman's Atlantic City Addition and between 53<sup>rd</sup> Avenue South and 54<sup>th</sup> Avenue South (Seward Park Avenue).

Date of Construction: 1960 Original/Present Use: School

Original/Present Owner: Seattle Public Schools

Original Designer: Architect: John W. Maloney. Engineer: Worthington, Skilling, Helle &

Jackson.

Original Builder: Johnson-Morrison-Knudsen

**Zoning:** LR3

**Property Size:** 175,111 sq. ft. **Building Size:** 102,424 sq. ft.

# 3. ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

### 3.1 Location & Neighborhood Character

The subject building is located in the southern portion of the Rainier Valley, in the Dunlap neighborhood, across the street from Beer Sheva Park and Lake Washington on the corner of Seward Park Avenue S and S Henderson Street. Located to the west of the subject site, on the opposite of Rainier Ave S, is the complex containing the Rainier Beach Community Center and Pool, South Shore K-8 School, South Lake High School, and the Rainier Beach Playfield. The Rainier Beach Branch Library is located approximately 1.5 blocks to the southwest. There are five designated City of Seattle Landmarks in southeast Seattle. These are: Original Van Asselt School (1909 building), Dunlap Elementary School, Kubota Gardens, Emerson Elementary School, and Old Fire Station #33. *See figures 1-11.* 

#### 3.2 Site

#### Site Description

The subject site is irregularly shaped, occupying most of a city block bounded by S Henderson Street to the south, Rainier Avenue S to the west, South Cloverdale Street and Grattan Place S to the north,  $53^{rd}$  Avenue S and Hamlet Avenue S to the northeast, and Seward Park Avenue S to the east. The lots between the property line and Rainier Avenue S contain commercial developments and multifamily apartment buildings. Residential lots buffer the subject site along Grattan Place S and Hamlet Avenue S. The widest dimension of the site is over 1000' in the east-west direction along S Henderson Street. The site measures over 1,200' long in the north south direction at the mid-point of the block. The school complex is situated on the eastern side of the site, oriented north-south at the square classroom building and angled to the northwest along the northeastern property lines. The site is mostly level.

The athletic fields are located on the western side of the site, with the main parking areas between the school and the track. In 2000 the athletic fields were upgraded with synthetic turf, grandstands, restroom and concessions facilities, storage, and maintenance buildings. A wetland buffer area occupies the northern tip of the athletic field complex along Grattan Place S with the softball field's outfield bordering the wetland buffer. A maintenance building is located south of the wetland buffer, north of a parking area, east of the softball field. A baseball field and throwing and jumping field event area occupies the central area, bordered on the east by a row of parking. The grandstands separate the field event area from the combination football/soccer field, which is encircled by the track, with a scoreboard located on the western end. The restroom-and-concession building is located east of the grandstand, and a storage building is west of the grandstand. A chain link fence encircles the entire athletic field facility.

A small organic garden occupies a pocket of green space between school complex Units B, C, and D (described below) and the angled eastern property line behind the residences along Hamlet Avenue S. School complex Unit A is set back approximately 100' from Seward Park Avenue S, forming a "front lawn" area planted with flowering ornamental trees. Two portable classroom buildings are located to the northeast of the building in a paved area around Unit D, the vocational/shop building. *See figures 12-19.* 

#### **Documented Site Alterations**

Beyond the addition and removal of portable buildings, the most significant site changes include

renovations to the athletic field in 2001, which added grandstand bleachers, a turf field, field event facilities, and renovated baseball and softball fields, along with the support buildings described above.

# **Recorded Permits:**

Date	Description		Permit #
			Grading
1958	Move 47,000 cu. yds. & fill approx. 50,000 cu. yds. earth		#61
1959	Construct pump house		480753
1959	Install one 4,000-gal. tank		481004
1961	Alter exist school playfield development		489295
1962	Construct & locate 9 portables		496827
1963	Relocated portable school building		502969
1964	Const. post & pier found. Relocate 3 portable school bldg.		507997
1966	Relocate 5 single portable units from SW Thistle		518766
1967	Relocate 2 portable classrooms from E 75th		523705
1967	Alter portable classrooms relocated		524288
1968	Const. bldg. (auto shop).	SPS	525894
1969	Relocate school portable from Delridge Way SW		
1970	Relocate 2 portables		536240
1970	Relocate existing portables & alter		537147
1970	Const. a residence (to be relocated at a future date)		538100
1971	Relocate portable from 26th Ave NW		539819
1971	Const. Add, Alt, relocate portables		541261
1971	Relocate sc. Portable		541892
1977	Demo and removal of school portable		569002
1978	Demo portable/fire damage		578279
1980	Locate 330 recreational vehicles for temp period of 6 days beginning June 23 to June 28, 1981.		X93087
2001	Athletic fields updates incl. restrooms, maintenance bldg., & Storage	Waldron Akira	
2007	Land Use Application to install a 7 ft. by 7.5 ft. double-faced, electronic, changing-image sign (Rainier Beach High School		3007490- SD
2009	Installing new D/F changing image sign, electronic message center, on D/F sign cabinet for Rainier Beach HS. Authorized by School departure per Master Use Permit 3007490. Condition per the departure are the sign shall only project static text messages, no flashing, streaming or scrolling text is allowed.  Construct alterations to add ADA ramp to existing		6202799- SB
2011	bleachers, accessory to existing educational facility (Rainier Beach HS), per plot plan and subject to field inspection.		6289129- CN

#### 3.3 Building Description

The school complex is spread out north-south on the eastern portion of the site with the classroom building (Unit A) abutting the sidewalk on S Henderson Street. Educationally, the campus is organized departmentally. The original 1960 building was planned to have four units: Unit A (Classrooms), Unit B (Performing Arts), Unit C (Gymnasiums), and Unit D (Shops and Vocational Training).

Unit B, Performing Arts, was not completed as originally designed in 1960; the auditorium portion was removed from the scope of work, and in 2000 was redesigned and constructed by Streeter & Associates. Unit A, Classrooms, is located on the southeastern corner of the site along S Henderson Street, about 100' from Seward Park Avenue S, and is oriented directly to the ordinal directions. The main entry of the building is located in Unit A, in the center of the eastern façade, although another entry is located on the western façade at the connection between Unit A and Unit B and serves as the entry to the Performing Arts center. The entries to the building have been remodeled, the main entry in 2009, and the Performing Arts entry in 2000. Units B and C are located north of Unit A and angle to the northwest. Unit D is not connected to the other three building units by any interior hallway, and consists of a separate rectangle located north of the other three building units, but oriented on the same grid approximately 60 degrees from the ordinal directions. Covered walkways connect unit C and D, and two portable classroom buildings are located directly south of the walkway along the southern façade of Unit D. An automotive service laboratory building was added on the northern end of the building complex in 1968. This is also known as Unit E.

#### 3.3.1 Unit A, Classrooms

Unit A was constructed in 1960. Unit A is rectangular, measuring approximately 256'-6" north-south by 226'-6" east-west, with a completely enclosed courtyard. The building is organized on 15-foot-wide bay structural units, with 30-foot-wide classrooms organized around a 15-foot-wide double-loaded corridor, creating 75-foot-wide wings around the courtyard on the east, west, and north. The southern wing is wider by one bay, making it 90'-0" wide. The main entry is on the eastern façade, and four stairwells are located within the central corridor bays.

Exterior walls consist of poured-in-place concrete with brick veneer. Interior walls consist of concrete masonry units (CMU). The foundations are poured-in-place concrete, and the first floor is slab-on-grade. The second floor and roof structural systems consist of poured-in-place concrete joist pan construction. The flat roof is covered in membrane roofing. *See figures 20-28* 

#### **Exterior features**

Exterior walls are clad in painted brick veneer. Windows are configured in a ribbon style across the façades, with a combination of original and replacement aluminum sash. Original windows were designed with four mulled units per bay, each unit containing a square fixed-pane window with an operable transom and operable lower sash. The original windows floated in front of the concrete columns of the structural bays, visible behind the aluminum mullions. At the exterior wall, where each of the four stairwells are located, are 24 inset glass blocks arranged in a staggered pattern within the brick veneer.

The eastern façade is the primary façade, as it contains the main entry. This façade has been altered over time. Originally the ribbon windows stretched across the façade at the upper level. In 2009, a library addition above the main entry added a curved, parapeted wall clad in painted

corrugated metal siding. The entry is now sheltered by a new oblong balcony/canopy with wave pattern and bright metal siding. At this time most of the ribbon windows were replaced with a single-hung configuration, and aluminum panels were installed to clad the concrete structural bays. At the ground floor levels the ribbon window is interrupted by the new main entry, which consists of three pairs of painted metal double doors, each with three square lights, and a transom above. The entry canopy was added as part of a 2009 library renovation. The original entry was recessed, consisting of three pairs of doors with transom windows and a simple precast surround. The canopy is now supported on two round, orange-painted, cast-in-place concrete columns resting on round concrete plinths. The balcony railing consists of panels of welded wire mesh with wave patterns.

The southern façade is largely symmetrical, with blank brick veneer walls for two bays on either end, a stairwell bay with a pair of exterior doors at the ground floor level and inset glass blocks at the second floor level, and a strip of ribbon window at the upper floor level across the center of the façade. At the ground-floor level are three bays of windows inside of the stairwell bays, then a blank wall of brick veneer with two access doors.

The western façade contains the standard configuration of ribbon windows and brick spandrels stretching across the southern 14 bays. The northern two bays contain the standard configuration of ribbon window at the ground floor, and a blank brick veneer wall at the upper floor. The third bay from the north contains the exterior of the stairwell, with an exterior pair of exit doors and inset glass blocks at the second-floor level.

Unit A connects to Units B and C at the western end of the ground floor on the northern façade of Unit A. The connecting section is five bays wide. At the upper floor above the connector is the standard ribbon window and brick spandrels, which stretch across the façade for 12 bays. At the ground floor level, east of the connector, is a blank brick veneer wall with two inset louvered panels for two bays, then five bays of ribbon window. The third bay from the east contains the exterior of the stairwell, with an exterior pair of exit doors and inset glass blocks at the second floor level. The two easternmost bays are blank brick veneer.

Regarding the courtyard façades, there are two entries to the courtyard: one on the south and one on the east. Each entry consists of a pair of painted metal double doors with three square lights each. This three-square pattern continues in three raised brick panels to one side of the recessed entries. The recessed entries and brick to the side are covered by a flat metal canopy. The brick veneer at the courtyard is unpainted. The ribbon windows are uninterrupted at the upper level, and at the ground floor level are only interrupted by the courtyard entries. At every other bay, rectangular metal louvers are inset into the brick spandrels under the windows at both the ground- and second-floor level.

#### Plan

The ground floor of the eastern wing contains the main entry, as well as administration areas on the eastern side of the hall. Stairwells are located at the northern and southern ends of the hall. Classrooms are located on the western side of the hall, and the toilets are located on the inside northeastern corner. The library was originally located west of the hall, adjacent to the courtyard; the 2009 renovation expanded the library, removing four classrooms and the workroom and changing the hallway from a four-sided, circular hall to a U-shape. As a result, the expanded library now occupies the entire upper floor of the eastern wing, meaning it is no longer a double-loaded corridor, as originally designed.

The southern wing contains the lunch room at the main floor and classrooms at the upper floor.

The upper-floor classrooms consist of six rooms along the southern side of the double-loaded corridor, two classrooms adjacent to the courtyard, and a computer lab at the interior southeastern corner.

The ground floor of the western wing contains the food laboratory, located at the southern end of the double-loaded corridor, and four typical classrooms on the northern end of the western side of the corridor. The stairwell is oriented north-south on the southern end of the corridor. Originally the eastern side of the corridor contained a large study hall adjacent to the courtyard, however, since the original plans were drawn, the study hall has been divided into two typical classrooms. The restrooms are located inside the southwestern corner of the plan. The upper floor contains five classrooms on the western side of the hall, two on the courtyard side and a restroom at the interior southwestern corner.

The northern wing contains an east-west-oriented stairwell at the western end of the double-loaded corridor. At the main floor, on the western end of the northern side of the corridor is an audio-visual room or small practice theater; a typical classroom in the northwestern corner; and a windowless book room on the inside northwestern corner adjacent to the elevator. Three additional typical classrooms are at the ground floor of this wing, as are the teachers' rooms. At the upper floor on the northern side of the double-loaded corridor are five classrooms and a work room. The second-floor restrooms are stacked above the first-floor restrooms on the inside northeastern corner.

#### **Interior features**

Interior features include vinyl composition flooring, painted CMU and gypsum wall board walls, and acoustical ceilings with fluorescent lighting. Painted steel lockers line the halls. Typical classrooms have commercial carpeting on the floors. *See figures 29-43.* 

#### 3.3.2 Unit B, Performing Arts

Unit B was constructed in three sections: the music classroom section that connects to Unit A, constructed in 1959; the auditorium, constructed in 2000; and the mechanical wing, constructed in 1959. *See figures 44-48.* 

#### Auditorium

The auditorium was constructed in 2000. It measures approximately 180'-0" by 137'-0". It was designed to fit the same location as the original designed but unbuilt auditorium. When the auditorium was constructed, a second entry and entry plaza was also added to the building. The entry is located on the southwest corner, across from the tertiary entry to the music classroom section. The plaza is sheltered with a canopy. that includes signage spelling out "Paul Robeson Performing Arts Center." The canopy is supported on three orange painted steel and concrete pylons. The auditorium structure has poured-in-place concrete foundations, slab-on-grade ground floor, poured-in-place concrete knee walls supporting steel framing and light metal framed walls with Exterior Insulation Finish System (EIFS) cladding, and a roof structure of long span steel trusses topped with composite structure of concrete on metal decking with membrane roofing. Painted corrugated metal clads the upper part of the auditorium, on a curved southern elevation wall.

Because this section of the building is less than 25 years old, the interior of the auditorium is not described.

#### Music Classroom Wing

The music classroom section was constructed in 1960. It is one story tall and contains a choral room, band room, instrument storage and practice rooms, restrooms, one classroom, and a janitorial room. The structure of this section of the building consists of poured-in-place concrete slab-on-grade floor, poured-in-place exterior and structural walls with CMU partition walls, and poured-in-place concrete joist pan construction for the roof system. The shift in the structural grid occurs at the janitor's room and at the practice rooms and instrument storage room. This means that the structural grid of the band and choral rooms is shifted 60 degrees from that of the restrooms and toilets, which are aligned in a connecting section to Unit A. A double entry door leads to the connector hallway. This double entry door serves as a tertiary entrance to the building. The exterior materials of this wing match those of Unit A in all portions that are aligned on the same grid as Unit A, with exterior brick cladding and typical aluminum classroom windows, a flat roof, and metal parapet coping. On the portions of the grid shifted 60 degrees, the exterior materials are painted, poured-in-place exterior walls with incised control joints on a 4' by 8' foot grid. Two brown painted steel access doors are located on the southern facade, sheltered by a typical cantilevered concrete canopy capped with metal roofing. The southern facade also contains metal louvers at the center of the upper portion of the wall. The roof height is approximately 8'-0" higher than the connector from Unit A at this portion of the building. Interior finishes include those typical of Unit A, with composite vinyl flooring, painted concrete and gypsum wall board, acoustical tile ceilings, and fluorescent lighting. See figure 49.

#### **Mechanical Wing**

The mechanical wing of Unit B was constructed in 1960. It contains the boiler room, custodial spaces, janitorial spaces, and one classroom. This section is one story tall and is constructed similarly to the music classroom section, with poured-in-place concrete slab-on-grade floor, poured-in-place exterior and structural walls with CMU partition walls, and poured-in-place concrete joist pan construction for the roof system. The exterior walls were formed with control joints in a pattern of 4' by 8' rectangles. The main exterior façade of this portion of Unit B is the northern façade. The exterior materials are painted concrete with a typical aluminum ribbon window at the classroom; another, smaller, typical window at the custodial office; a series of both single and double blue-painted steel doors, covered with a concrete canopy flashed with metal. The boiler room volume has a higher roof elevation than that of the custodial and janitorial spaces, and an exhaust chimney extends above the level of the auditorium roof.

#### 3.3.3 Unit C, Gymnasiums

The gymnasium complex, Unit C, was constructed in 1960. It is a two-story, flat-roofed, rectangular structure measuring approximately 195'-0" by 131'-0". The structure of the gymnasium complex is poured-in-place concrete walls and columns sitting on concrete foundations; a hybrid roof framing structure consisting of steel-truss, top-bearing, long-span joists over the main gymnasium; concrete integral joists formed with 30" pans at the intermediate service areas such as the locker rooms; and concrete beams over the smaller "girls" and "boys" gyms, now used as weight and training rooms. The exterior walls are formed with control joints in a rectangle pattern. A low-slope, thin-shell concrete roof tops the roof structure. The main gymnasium volume is two stories tall at the interior, and is located on the southern end of the Unit C complex. *See figures 50-54.* 

Exterior finishes include painted concrete walls and glass-block windows with concrete sills. The flat roof has a parapet capped with metal flashing. The entry to Unit B, the Performing Arts

complex, is located on the southern end of Unit C. Most of the southern facade is blank, except for three glass-block windows on the upper eastern portion of the southern wall, and the Performing Arts entry doors and entry canopy. The western façade contains a painted mural reading "Rainier Beach International Baccalaureate High School," "Vikings," and "Jamal Crawford<sup>1</sup> Court." Four glass-block windows, each with a center structural support, are located at upper portion of the façade on the southern end. Three former glass-block windows, now infilled with fiberglass, are located at the upper part of the wall on the northern end of the façade. A blue painted steel double door is located in the center of the façade and is covered by a simple metal canopy. The northern façade contains one large, six-light, aluminum sash window at the western end, and three more aluminum sash windows at the eastern end, one four-light window, one twelve-light window, and one eight-light window. Three entry doors, one at the western end and two located side by side at the center, are linked by an exterior covered walkway. Two openings for metal louvers are located on this façade, one at the western end of the facade, just to the east and above the window, and one at the eastern end. The eastern facade connects to Unit B, the Performing Arts center. The covered walkway wraps the corner at this facade, and leads to a door to the mechanical wing of Unit B. The facade is mostly blank, with three glass-block windows and one set of metal louvers at the upper portion of the wall.

Interior finishes and features of the gymnasium include a maple gymnasium floor, a folding metal recessed divider, wooden bleachers, painted concrete walls, and exposed steel trusses at the ceiling with exposed acoustical treatment above the trusses. At the locker rooms, painted concrete floors, tile and painted CMU walls, metal lockers, painted wooden benches, fluorescent lighting, acoustical ceiling treatments, and painted concrete columns and beams are typical of the spaces. A concrete stair in the northwestern corner of Unit C links the locker rooms to the upper gym spaces. Finishes in the stair are polished concrete at the floor and stair treads, painted concrete at the walls, a metal lift chair, and fluorescent wall sconce. The upper gyms' spaces have rubber gym mat flooring, painted concrete and CMU walls, fluorescent lighting and acoustical treatments at the ceiling. *See figures 55-60.* 

#### 3.3.4 Unit D, Vocational and Shops

Unit D was constructed in 1960. It is a one-story, rectangular, flat-roofed structure measuring approximately 120'-0" by 95'-0", with 9' by 11' structural bays. The foundation is poured-in-place concrete, and floors are slab-on-grade. The roof structure consists of 24-foot-deep glue-lam beams with 3" tongue-and-groove decking supported on steel W-section columns. The walls are brick veneer with CMU infill between the steel columns, with typical nine-light aluminum sash windows in the upper sections. Each typical aluminum window is configured in rows of three lights, with a single operable sash in the center bottom row. *See figures 61-66.* 

On the northern façade only one center bay lacks a window in the upper part of the wall, and in this bay are located two typical blue-painted single steel doors. A covered outdoor walk connects these doors to the walk along the western façade of the building. At the western façade, all bays have the typical configuration, the covered exterior walk runs along the entire length of the façade, and one single blue-painted steel door is located at the center of the façade. The two portable classrooms on the site are located south of this façade. At the southern façade only one bay lacks the typical window at the upper part of the wall. One single door and one double door are located in two separate bays at the center of the façade. These doors are covered by the canopy of the outdoor walk. At the eastern façade, the four middle bays do not have windows at

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> For more on Jamal Crawford, see page 27.

the upper part of the wall. Two typical double doors and two single doors are located at this façade, all in separate bays.

The interior of the building is divided into four larger shop/classrooms with smaller storage, office, and supplementary shop spaces in the center between the two northern shop/classrooms. Walls of 4' x 4' dimensional lumber frames divide the supplementary shop spaces from the larger shop spaces, and subdivide the larger southern shop into instructional and shop space. Interior finishes are utilitarian with painted concrete floors, painted CMU walls, exposed painted beams, acoustical tiles ceilings, the exposed wood frames of the divider walls, and hanging fluorescent lighting. *See figures 67-70.* 

# 3.3.5 Unit E, 1967 Auto Shop

The Auto Shop, Unit E, was constructed in 1967. It was originally constructed with an extension of the covered walk, which has since been removed. The building was remodeled in 1974.

The auto shop building is a one-story-tall rectangular flat-roof structure measuring approximately 74'-4" north-south by 53'-4" east-west, with seven structural bays north-south and five structural bays east-west. The building is approximately 14'-3" tall. Foundations are of poured-in-place concrete and the floor structure is concrete slab-on-grade. Walls are brick masonry spanning between exposed 6' x 8' steel tube columns and laminated fireproof plastic panels in an aluminum frame system. Windows are set in the aluminum frames of the panel system. The original plastic panels and windows have been painted. The plastic panels now appear yellow in color, and the material was determined from the 1967 architectural drawings. Typical nine-light aluminum sash windows are also located at the upper part of the wall, similar to the windows in Unit D. The roof structure is supported on the exposed rectangular 6' x 8' steel tube columns at the exterior walls. The roof structure consists of free spanning glulaminated beams with tongue-and-groove decking and membrane roofing. *See figures 71-74.* 

The southern elevation contains the main entry door to the unit in the center bay. The entry door is a single three-light painted steel door. The outer two bays of the southern elevation contain a system of tripartite aluminum frames with laminated fireproof plastic panels at the upper and lower portions, and windows with operable sash above and below a fixed pane at the center. The middle bay on the eastern end of the southern elevation contains two openings inset with metal louvers. The eastern elevation contains overhead garage doors in the middle three bays and a single painted steel man-door is located one bay to the north of the garage doors. The northern elevation is composed of the five structural bays with exposed steel tube columns and painted brick veneer between them. The western elevation contains one overhead garage door at the center bay and typical nine-light windows in the bays on either side of the garage door.

Interior finishes consist of polished concrete flooring, exposed brick and CMU walls, painted CMU and stained wood frame glazed divider walls, exposed wood roof decking, exposed stained glu-laminated beams, and hanging fluorescent lighting. *See figures 75-78.* 

# 3.4 Documented Building Alterations

# As described above. Recorded Permits and construction drawings. See figure 79.

Date	Description	Architect	Contractor	Permit #
	Construct buildings (Junior-Senior			
1959	High School)	John Maloney		477553
1959	Install incinerator			480394

		SPS	
		Maintenance	
		& Operations	
		John	
	Construct Auto Shop and Covered	McDonald	
1967	Walk	Engineer	
1977	Alterations to portions of school		571149
	Modify 6 toilet rooms for the		
1980	handicapped (sic.)		590586
1980	Seismic upgrades		
	1.5	The	
		Chervenak	
1983	Re-roofing	Architects PS	
1983	Install greasehood & related equip.	111011111111111111111111111111111111111	X07855
1703	moun greateriood & related equip.	Streeter	201033
1984	Capital levy 83-84 phase 2	Dermanis	
1707	Suprem iery 05 01 piimse 2	Dawson	
		Hoshide	
1988	Capital levy 87-88 (locker rooms)	Williams	
1991	Computer Center room 144	Williams	187286
	1	CM Characa	18/280
1992	Re-roofing	S.M. Stemper	
1000	D. C A. C	Streeter &	
1999	Performing Arts Center	Associates	
		Anas Design	
2000	Lunch room renovations	Associates	
		HEI Hargis	
2001	Accelerated technology	Engineers	
	Construct alterations to existing high		
	school classrooms for art class/art		
	labs per subject to field inspection		
2007	permit.		6136530-CN
	Construct deck addition, alterations		
	to 1st floor, library, computer lab,		
	science lab, culinary arts classroom &		
2007-	toilet rooms to existing High School	Rolluda	
2009	(Rainier Beach) per plan.	Architects	6142690-CN
	Construct alterations to science		
	classrooms at second floor of		
	existing high school (Rainier Beach),		
	per Plans. Mechanical included in		
2012	this permit.		6363692-CN
	Alterations to existing health clinic in	King County	
	Rainier Beach high school, per	Facilities	
2014	subject to field inspection	Management	6421430-CN
	Alterations in Rainier Beach High		
2017	School in classroom 189, per plan.		6608926-CN

# 4. SIGNIFICANCE

# 4.1 Historic Neighborhood Context: Rainier Beach

The neighborhood commonly known as Rainier Beach lies at the southern end of the Rainier Valley, on the southwestern shore of Lake Washington. According to the Seattle City Clerk Neighborhood Atlas, the subject building lies within the boundaries of the Dunlap neighborhood, two blocks north of the east-west portion of Rainier Avenue S. This neighborhood context will focus on two contiguous neighborhoods in the south Rainier Valley: Dunlap and Rainier Beach.

# Early History

Before white settlers colonized the area, a band of the Duwamish people known as *hah-chu-absch* "Lake People" had enclaves in the region. A small, oblong island these people called *tleelh-chus* ("Little Island" later called Pritchard Island), was home to a cedar longhouse village.<sup>2</sup> Additional settlements by the *hah-chu-absch* in the area were *hah-HAO-hlch* ("forbidden place"), a winter camp of cedar longhouses located just south of what is now known as the Bailey Peninsula (Seward Park), and *sukh-TEE-chib* ("wading place") located farther south at what is now called Bryn Mawr. The Duwamish used a foot trail that cut northwest through the valley towards Elliott Bay. This foot trail later was used by white settlers to drive livestock up to Seattle, then graded and turned into the trolley line.<sup>3</sup>

# **European Settlement**

Some of the first white settlers in the south Rainier Valley were Edward A. Clark and John Harvey, who filed neighboring claims at the base of the Bailey Peninsula in 1853; Joseph Dunlap, a homesteader from Iowa who arrived with his family in 1869; and Charles Waters, who claimed various parcels of land in 1869, and in 1891 platted his two southernmost portions and named them Rainier Beach. The Dunlap family claim lay across the slough from the oblong island, and the water between shore and island came to be called Dunlap Slough. In 1883, A. B. Young bought the island, and the island became known as Young's Island. In 1900 Alfred J. Pritchard bought the island from Young and the name changed again, to Pritchard Island.

The area was slow to develop due to the dense forest that covered the region. In 1889 John Taylor established a sawmill at the southeastern corner of the new Rainier Beach neighborhood, where Deadhorse Creek entered Lake Washington (now the north end of Lakeridge Park).<sup>7</sup> Much of the lumber processed by the sawmill went to build homes in the area, and much went north to rebuild downtown Seattle after the great fire of 1889.

In 1891 the Rainier Valley Electric Railway, soon to be known as the Seattle & Rainier Beach Railway, arrived in Rainier Beach.<sup>8</sup> Rainier Beach Station was located at what is today the

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> David Wilma, "Pritchard Island," HistoryLink.org essay 3119, March 20, 2001, https://www.historylink.org/File/3119 (accessed May 2019).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> David Wilma, "Seattle Neighborhoods: Rainier Beach—Thumbnail History," HistoryLink.org essay 3116, March 21, 2001, https://www.historylink.org/File/3116 (accessed May 2019).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Wilma, "Seattle Neighborhoods: Brighton Beach—Thumbnail History," HistoryLink.org essay 3001, March 18, 2001, https://www.historylink.org/File/3110 (accessed May 2019).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Richard W. Blumenthal, *How Many Islands? A History Around Lake Washington* (Bellevue, WA: Inland Waters Publishing, 2017), p. 188.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> Wilma, "Pritchard Island."

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> Blumenthal, 187.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> Blumenthal.

intersection of 57<sup>th</sup> Avenue S and Rainier Avenue S, just south of Dunlap Slough. As was often the case, once the railway arrived residential development picked up briskly. The Dunlap family subdivided their claim, named the streets, and donated a site for a school. See figures 80-81.

#### Early 20th Century

In 1905 developer Clarence Hillman platted the land to the east of the Dunlap family's land, which he named C. D. Hillman's Atlantic City Addition, after the city in New Jersey. Hillman was a well-established real estate developer, having subdivided plats at Green Lake, Woodland Park, Mountlake Terrace, the neighborhood south of Columbia City that he named Hillman City, and the Kennydale neighborhood of Renton. Hillman's subdivisions tended to be popular with buyers and sell quickly, drawn in by Hillman's claims such as farmland that would yield wheat "twelve feet high" and "strawberries as big as teacups." The Hillman Investment Co. established Atlantic City Park at the southern portion of the Dunlap Slough, and built a bathhouse, pier, boathouse, and amenities for picnics and play. However, when Hillman filed the plats with the city, the park, which had been touted as a fine amenity for the new subdivision, had been deleted from the plat. Residents sued Hillman, and the park remained. See figure 82.

In 1906 most of southeast Seattle incorporated as a municipality for the express purpose of future incorporation into the city of Seattle.<sup>13</sup> The area was incorporated into Seattle in 1907.

In 1917 the Lake Washington Ship Canal was completed, connecting Lake Washington and Lake Union to Elliott Bay, with the result that the water level of Lake Washington dropped nine feet. This resulted in the draining of Dunlap Slough, thereby connecting Pritchard Island to the mainland. The bathing and boating facilities of Atlantic City Park were promptly rendered defunct. The beaches at Pritchard Island and Atlantic City were eventually developed as swimming beaches by the WPA in 1934, but prior to that the beaches were un-swimmable due to nearby sewage outfall. *See figure 83.* 

The first library in the area was a deposit station opened in 1912 in the Montera Pharmacy building at Rainier Avenue S and S 57<sup>th</sup> Street, but both the pharmacy and the library (along with all the books) were destroyed by fire in 1917.<sup>15</sup> In 1928 a new library opened in a storefront space near the interurban rail station. By 1930, in the first year of the Great Depression, the library branch was only open two days a week, and closed entirely in January 1932.<sup>16</sup>

### **Kubota Gardens**

Located approximately one mile south of Rainier Beach High School is Kubota Gardens (City of Seattle Landmark), the life work of self-taught gardener Fujitaro Kubota. In 1927 Kubota

<sup>9</sup> Wilma, "Seattle Neighborhoods: Rainier Beach—Thumbnail History."

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> In 1911 Hillman was convicted of defrauding buyers and was sentenced to 2.5 years in prison. Although Hillman appealed his sentence as far at the US Supreme Court, his conviction was upheld. David Wilma, "Hillman, Clarence Dayton (1870-1935)," HistoryLink.org essay 3080, March 10, 2001, https://www.historylink.org/File/3080 (accessed May 2019).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>11</sup> Seattle Department of Neighborhoods, "Summary for 8650 55th AVE/Parcel ID 3336002455," Seattle Historical Sites Survey, https://web6.seattle.gov/DPD/HistoricalSite/QueryResult.aspx?ID=-1113764484 (accessed May 2019).
<sup>12</sup> Ibid.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>13</sup> Mikala Woodward, "Timeline of Southeast Seattle History," Southeast Seattle History Project, Seattle Department of Neighborhoods, accessed January 2020.

<sup>14</sup> Wilma, "Pritchard Island."

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>15</sup> Seattle Public Library, "Rainier Beach Branch History," https://www.spl.org/hours-and-locations/rainier-beach-branch/rainier-beach-branch-history (accessed January 2020).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>16</sup> David Wilma, "Rainier Beach Branch, The Seattle Public Library," HistoryLink essay 4038, December 6, 2002, https://www.historylink.org/File/4038 (accessed January 2020).

purchased five acres of cleared swamp in the Rainier Beach neighborhood.<sup>17</sup> At the time, Japanese immigrants were barred by the Washington State Alien Land Law from purchasing land; Kubota skirted this law using the name of a white friend. By 1940 the Kubota family was living on the acreage, which had increased to 20 acres. The Kubotas were held at Minidoka detention camp during the forced Japanese incarceration of 1942-1945. After the war the family returned to their land and continued developing the garden.<sup>18</sup> The garden combines plants native to the Pacific Northwest with Japanese gardening techniques, including bridges, waterfalls, reflecting pools, and rock formations. In 1961, in advance of the World's Fair in Seattle, Kubota created "Mountainside," a 65-foot-high structure built from more than 400 tons of stone. Kubota passed away in 1973 at age 94. In the late 1970s the garden was a target of real estate developers, and community support helped make central 4.5 acres of the garden a City of Seattle Landmark. Seattle Parks acquired the garden from the Kubota family in 1987, and the city had purchased the surrounding 28 acres of land to protect natural space in Rainier Beach.<sup>19</sup> *See figure 84.* 

### Rainier Beach in the Mid-Century

Trolley service ended in 1937, largely due to poor management and rider complaints, and the track was widened and paved to become Rainier Avenue S, which connected to the highway heading over Snoqualmie Pass and on to Eastern Washington. A three-day festival was held to celebrate the removal of the tracks.<sup>20</sup>

Despite the early adoption of rubber tires, Rainier Avenue, unlike Aurora Avenue, was not known in particular for its car culture, beyond having a few drive-ins and gas stations. There were intermittent industrial uses along Rainier Avenue and Empire Way stretching to the south.<sup>21</sup> (Empire Way was originally constructed beginning in 1913.<sup>22</sup>) In 1961, however, the name Empire Way was briefly changed to "R. H. Thompson Parkway" until plans for the R. H. Thompson Expressway were scuttled.<sup>23</sup> The street was renamed Martin Luther King Jr. Way in 1981.<sup>24</sup> *See figures 85-86.* 

In 1927, the Florence Crittenton Center was constructed at 9236 Renton Avenue S, approximately three blocks west-southwest from the subject site. The Florence Crittenton Mission was a nationwide organization formed for the express purpose of reforming prostitutes and unwed mothers. The center on Renton Avenue functioned as a halfway house for unmarried mothers and pregnant women to live and acquire vocational and domestic skills, and which required the women to give up their children for adoption. In 1975 the building became an alcohol treatment facility called the Pioneer Center. Today the Seattle Indian Health Board operates the building as the Thunderbird Treatment Center.

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

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>17</sup> At the time, Japanese immigrants were barred from purchasing land; Kubota skirted this law using the name of a white friend.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>18</sup> David Wilma, "Kubota Garden (Seattle)," HistoryLink.org essay 3077, March 1, 2001, https://www.historylink.org/File/3077 (accessed May 2019).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>19</sup> Kubota Garden Foundation, "About Us: a Short History of the Kubota Garden," http://www.kubotagarden.org/about-us/history/ (accessed May 2019).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>20</sup> Woodward.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>21</sup> What is now known as Martin Luther King Jr. Way S was called Empire Way between 1852 and 1982.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>22</sup> Woodward.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>23</sup> Feliks Banel, "Seattle's long-ago battle to honor Dr. Martin Luther King Jr," MyNorthwest.com, January 21, 2019, https://mynorthwest.com/946066/battle-honor-martin-luther-king-jr/ (accessed April 2019).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>24</sup> Mikala Woodward, "Timeline of Southeast Seattle History," Southeast Seattle Community History Project, 2011.

considered "hazardous." The hazard rating of an area increased if the area 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. *See figure 87.* 

Most of what is the Dunlap neighborhood was classified as either "good" or "definitely declining." The "good" portion was located on the northern end near the lakeshore, what was then the southern tip of the Seward Park neighborhood.<sup>25</sup> The western side of Dunlap was categorized as "definitely declining" although not hazardous. The map notes describe the area thus:

Very spotted residential district composed of people of various nationalities. No typical price range for residential improvements. No typical price range for residential improvements - shacks to modern dwellings in this area. There is a mixture of old and new houses in this area. There is generally an excessive annual assessment burden in this area. Also has a transportation problem."<sup>26</sup>

The practice of redlining went hand in hand with the proliferation of racial restrictive covenants that were attached to specific plats. Such covenants specifically barred people of color or of specific non-white races and ethnicities from owning and/or living in a given plat. In southeast Seattle, restrictive covenants were attached to C. D. Hillman's City Addition<sup>27</sup>, and near Columbian Way south of Jefferson Park in Beacon Hill.<sup>28</sup> Every plat of the Lakeridge neighborhood, south of the Tamill and Dunlap neighborhoods and just east of Rainier View, had a racial restrictive covenant from 1928, covering 880 properties.<sup>29 30</sup>

In 1946, a multiracial group called Christian Friends for Racial Equality (CFRE) succeeded in quashing the attempts of white residents to impose racial restrictive covenants in what was then known as the Rainier District. The attempted covenants were in response to a single African American family attempting to purchase a home in the area.<sup>31</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>25</sup> "This is the 'Seward Park' district. The property lies well and is close to Lake Washington on a gentle slope to the lake. The homes are in the \$5000 to \$30,000 price class and all well maintained. Numerous properties are spacious in area. Residents are of the well-to-do professional type." Robert K. Nelson, LaDale Winling, Richard Marciano, Nathan Connolly, et al., "Mapping Inequality," American Panorama, ed. Robert K. Nelson and Edward L. Ayers (accessed June 6, 2019) https://dsl.richmond.edu/panorama/redlining/#loc=12/47.5935/-122.3415&opacity=0.8&area=C13&city=seattle-wa.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>27</sup> The language of this covenant reads thus: "Other than Caucasian Race, any of the land or property, the description of which appears after their respective signatures hereto." Seattle Civil Rights & Labor History Project, "Racial Restrictive Covenants," http://depts.washington.edu/civilr/covenants.htm (accessed January 2020).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>28</sup> The language of this covenant reads thus: "Said property shall not be conveyed to or occupancy thereof given to any person other than of the Caucasian Race." Seattle Civil Rights & Labor History Project, "Racial Restrictive Covenants," http://depts.washington.edu/civilr/covenants.htm (accessed January 2020).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>29</sup> The language of this covenant reads thus: "Said lot or lots shall not be sold, conveyed, or rented nor leased, in whole or in part, to any person not of the White race; nor shall any person not of the White race be permitted to occupy any portion of said lot or lots or of any building thereon, except a domestic servant actually employed by a white occupant of such building." Seattle Civil Rights & Labor History Project, "Racial Restrictive Covenants," http://depts.washington.edu/civilr/covenants.htm (accessed January 2020).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>30</sup> NB: This is not an exhaustive accounting of racial restrictive covenants in southeast Seattle. The primary source for this portion of text is the Seattle Civil Rights & Labor History Project, which has examined approximately 40 percent of the microfilm property records during the years when such covenants were commonly instituted. The project database represents "a sample of the restrictions that shaped the housing options for King County residents in the past and in subtler ways may still affect neighborhoods today." There may be more racial restrictive covenants throughout southeast Seattle than have been described here.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>31</sup> Catherine Silva, "Racial Restrictive Covenants History," Seattle Civil Rights & Labor history Project," University of Washington, http://depts.washington.edu/civilr/covenants\_report.htm (accessed January 2020).

Those areas with fewer racial restrictive covenants, including much of southeast Seattle, became the available areas for minority populations and people of color to live. One result of redlining is that the population of southeast Seattle, including Beacon Hill, the Rainier Valley, and Rainier Beach, has historically had more racial and ethnic diversity than nearly any other Seattle neighborhood, a diversity which has persisted through the 20<sup>th</sup> century and up to the present day.

The Washington State Alien Land Law was repealed in 1966.<sup>32</sup> In 1968, the Seattle City Council passed an open housing ordinance, which was made effective immediately by means of an emergency clause.<sup>33</sup> By 1970, Japanese Americans made up 6.2 percent of the population of the Rainier Beach neighborhood, and the Rainier Valley as a whole had the largest concentration of Asian Americans in the city.<sup>34</sup>

In 1966, a library—the first in the neighborhood since the storefront branch closed in 1932—opened at 9250 57<sup>th</sup> Avenue S, less than a half-mile southeast of Rainier Beach High School. The library remained in that space until 1974, when it moved to a former bank building at 9021 Rainier Avenue S, one third of a mile west of Rainier Beach High School. The neighborhood's first purpose-built branch library, designed Skip Fresn of the firm Hennington, Durham, Richardson Architects, opened in 1981.<sup>35</sup>

Atlantic City Park was renamed Beer Sheva Park in 1977, commemorating Seattle's sister city in Israel. The neighborhood is home to a large population of Orthodox Jewish families.

# The Villa Plaza Fire & the Late 20th Century

On September 21, 1991, the neighborhood was rocked by a huge, five-alarm fire at the fourstory, 98-unit Rainier Beach Villa Plaza apartment complex for low-income residents, approximately two blocks southwest of Rainier Beach High School. There were no immediate fatalities, but at least six people were injured and approximately 220 were left homeless. The blaze was so fierce that it required more than 125 firefighters from the Seattle Fire Department as well as additional support from the fire departments of Bellevue, Federal Way, and South King County. Residents were evacuated to a temporary Red Cross emergency shelter in the gymnasium of Rainier Beach High School. Since the early 1980s, the apartment complex had a reputation for housing gang members and being a locus of gang- and drug-related activity. 36 The shelter occupied the school gymnasium for nearly two weeks, while the Red Cross and city services sought replacement housing for the victims of the fire.<sup>37</sup> Five days before the fire, the Seattle Housing Authority, which subsidized rent for 47 tenants of Villa Plaza, had sent a letter to owner Robert Nordby, rebuking him for the condition of the complex and demanding he improve the conditions. A month before the blaze, the city's Department of Construction & Land Use had notified Nordby of 38 violations of "housekeeping" items. 38 The Villa Plaza, built in the 1960s, had been grandfathered out of the stringent fire code passed in Seattle in the early

<sup>32</sup> Woodward.

<sup>33</sup> Anne Frantilla, "The Seattle Open Housing Campaign, 1959-1968," Seattle Municipal Archives, https://www.seattle.gov/cityarchives/exhibits-and-education/digital-document-libraries/the-seattle-open-housing-campaign/open-housing-narrative (accessed January 2020).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>34</sup> Groups represented in this statistic were those of Japanese, Chinese, and Filipino descent. Mikala Woodward, "Timeline of Southeast Seattle History," Southeast Seattle History Project, Seattle Department of Neighborhoods, accessed January 2020.

<sup>35</sup> David Wilma, "Rainier Beach Branch, The Seattle Public Library."

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>36</sup> Eloise Schumacher and Charles Aweeka, "100 Lose Homes in Fire—Blaze Guts 97-Unit Rainier Beach Apartment Complex," Seattle Times, September 22, 1991, p. 23.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>37</sup> Carlton Smith, "Villa Plaza Victims Find No Room in the Inn," Seattle Times, October 4, 1991, p. C2.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>38</sup> Carlton Smith, et al., "Villa Plaza Deterioration Had Drawn Agency's Attention—Letter Sent to Landlord Just Before Fire," Seattle Times, September 24, 1991, p. A6.

1970s as a result of the fatal Ozark Hotel fire, which meant the Villa Plaza did not have a sprinkler system. A Seattle Times editorial stated, "Low-income tenants in older buildings should be entitled to the same fire-code protection as others." <sup>39</sup>

The Red Cross service center occupied the school gym for more than two weeks, moving from the gym to Red Cross headquarters on October 7.40

Though investigators initially considered the blaze to have been caused by arson, it was ultimately determined an accident. The fire caused an estimated \$3.9 million in damage to the buildings, \$124,000 to motor vehicles, and \$320,000 to tenants' personal effects.<sup>41</sup>

Six weeks after the fire, one third of the displaced tenants were still trying to find permanent housing. These tenants contended that negative media coverage of the fire and the complex itself as a crime- and gang-ridden "haven for drug dealers and prostitutes" resulted in discrimination by landlords. As a result, many tenants wound up moving farther south, out of Seattle, to Kent, Federal Way, and Tacoma.<sup>42</sup>

While the early 1990s saw an increase of new businesses and offices in the neighborhood, termed the "Rainier Renaissance," in the fall of 1994, more than three years after the fire, the charred remains of the Villa Plaza still stood. One year later, the Seattle Housing Authority announced development of a 43-home complex for low-income tenants to be built on the site of Villa Plaza, to be known as the Villa Park Townhomes.<sup>43</sup>

#### The Early 2000s

By 2000, Sound Transit was making plans for the Rainier Valley portion of the light rail line from Sea-Tac Airport to Northgate, and deliberating whether to dig a tunnel or build a street-level rail line. A community group called Save Our Valley strongly opposed the street-level plan and filed a federal lawsuit, on the basis that it would mean razing homes and businesses and have a disproportionately adverse effect on communities of color and low-income families. <sup>44</sup> The Sound Transit board decided to move ahead with the street-level plan. In 2002, the City of Seattle and King County established a \$50 million Community Development Fund for Rainier Valley to offset the impact of light rail construction. <sup>45</sup>

In 2004, the 1981 library branch was renovated and expanded, by architects Streeter & Associates. The new branch opened with 15,000 square feet and capacity for approximately 67,700 books, making it the city's largest at the time. Library administrators said that the branch is an ongoing important resource for students from RBHS, Aki Kurose Middle School, and South Lake Alternative school—South End schools with insufficient school libraries.<sup>46</sup>

The Rainier Beach Urban Farm & Wetlands, located in the greenbelt between the former Pritchard Island and Atlantic City, was established in 2009 as a not-for-profit farm serving the neighborhood. The largest urban farm in Seattle, the farm provides educational programs in

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>39</sup> Seattle Times, "Villa Plaza Fire—A Need to Balance Safety with Affordable Housing," September 24, 1991, p. A14. <sup>40</sup> Smith.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>41</sup> Carlton Smith, "Apartment Blaze Ruled Accidental—Delay in Phoning for Help Let Fire Spread, Says Chief," *Seattle Times*, September 27, 1991, p. C1.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>42</sup> Barbara A. Serrano, "Tenants Still Seek Homes After Fire—Ex-Residents of Villa Plaza Complain of Bias," *Seattle Times*, November 5, 1991, p. B3.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>43</sup> Tyrone Beason, "Push is on for \$59.2 Million Levy for Low-Cost Housing," Seattle Times, November 1, 1995, p. B2.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>44</sup> Andrew Garber, "Neighbors dig in, ask rail board for tunnel," Seattle Times, July 11, 2000, p. B1.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>45</sup> Woodward.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>46</sup> Tan Vinh, "Library in Rainier Beach reopens after renovation," Seattle Times, January 18, 2004, p. B1.

farming, gardening, and nutrition, wetland restoration, and supplies produce to group and individuals in the community.<sup>47</sup> Also in 2009, the Rainier Beach light rail station opened, offering service as far south as SeaTac International Airport and as far north as downtown Seattle; construction of the station had begun in late 2006 and was completed in 2008. *See figures 88-89.* 

A new Rainier Beach Community Center and Pool opened in September 2013 on the site of the former community center and pool. At a cost of \$25 million, the new center includes a gym, kitchen, computer lab, two pools plus a wading pool, and an arts and crafts room.<sup>48</sup> Rainier Avenue S underwent safety improvements in 2018, however, over the preceding decade there had been approximately 3,600 collisions on that street.<sup>49</sup>

Rainier Beach has been known as a diverse community with a high population of people of color. In 2010, demographics of the neighborhood were as follows: 31.1% African American, 28.7% Asian American, 10.6% white, 4.2% Hawaiian/Pacific Islander, 2.9% Native American, 15.7% multiracial. In 2010, 18.8 percent of the residents of Rainier Valley lived below the federal poverty line, versus 11.5 percent of the residents of the City of Seattle as a whole. The property values were also lower than that of the median property values of the city as a whole, with the average single family home selling for almost \$180,000 less than the median price of a detached home in Seattle. Social and community services in Rainier Beach include the Ethiopian Community Center at 8323 Rainier Avenue S, the Somali Community Services of Seattle at 8810 Renton Avenue S, Empowering Youth and Families Outreach at 8172 Rainier Avenue S, The Atlantic Street Family Resource Center at 5150 S Cloverdale Place, Northwest Refugee, 9265 57th Avenue S, Care Plus International at 9422 49th Avenue S, the Kline Galland Home at 7500 Seward Park Avenue S, and the Thunderbird Treatment Center at 9236 Renton Avenue S. *See figure 90.* 

#### 4.2 School Development in Rainier Beach and Southeast Seattle<sup>53</sup>

The earliest school in the greater Rainier Beach area was a one-room schoolhouse on the Dunlap family claim, opened around 1898. There were plans to expand the school, but these did not proceed. Instead, the Dunlap family donated a piece of land for a new and larger school located on S Trenton Street between 48<sup>th</sup> and 50<sup>th</sup> avenues S. The new four-room school, named the Dunlap School, was designed by James Stephen and opened in 1904.

Other early schools in the area were Rainier Beach School, a 2-room wooden building located at S Pilgrim Street and 60<sup>th</sup> Ave S in 1903, and the Brighton School, a one-room, two-story school

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>47</sup> Tilth Alliance, "Rainier Beach Urban Farm & Wetlands," http://www.tilthalliance.org/about/rainier-beach-urban-farmwetlands (accessed May 2019).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>48</sup> Daily Journal of Commerce, "Rainier Beach Community Center and Pool," March 3, 2014, https://www.djc.com/news/co/pow.html?id=12062783 (accessed May 2019).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>49</sup> Leija Farr, "Rainier Avenue Undergoes Safety Improvements; Some Residents Say it Took Too Long," *South Seattle Emerald*, August 22, 2018, https://southseattleemerald.com/2018/08/22/rainier-avenue-undergoes-safety-improvements-some-residents-say-it-took-too-long/ (accessed May 2019).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>50</sup> Ray Martinez, "Building on a Proud Past," Seattle Times, February 28, 2010, p. E1.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>51</sup> City Data, "Rainier Valley neighborhood in Seattle, Washington (WA), http://www.city-data.com/neighborhood/Rainier-Valley-Seattle-WA.html (accessed May 2019).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>52</sup> City Data.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>53</sup> Unless otherwise noted, all research for this section is from *Building For Learning: Seattle Public School Histories, 1862-2000* by Nile Thompson & Carolyn Marr.

designed by James Stephen at 4425 S Holly Street, in 1904. Both were owned and operated by the Columbia School District.

When Seattle annexed much of southeast Seattle in 1907, the area's schools became part of the Seattle School District. By the 1908-1909 school year, the Rainier Beach School served grades one through seven, requiring the addition of two more classrooms. Eighth graders went to Brighton at that time.

In 1909 James Stephen designed a nine-room brick school on the site of the original Rainier Beach School, called Emerson (9709 60<sup>th</sup> Ave S). The original wooden structure was moved slightly to the west, and served as an annex to Brighton, then Dunlap, then operated as a kindergarten until being demolished in 1930. Stephen's 1909 Jacobean-style building was designated a City of Seattle Landmark in 1998. Also in 1909, the Seattle school district opened Van Asselt School at Beacon Avenue S and S Othello Street. Edgar Blair designed the two-story wooden building, now a City of Seattle Landmark.

After the flurry of new school building construction in the first decade of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century, only three schools were constructed in the Rainier Beach area between 1909 and 1951. In 1921 Girls' Parental School opened at 6612 57<sup>th</sup> Ave S, several blocks south of Seward Park and on a lakeside site. Floyd Naramore designed the two-story, Georgian-style building, which was renamed Martha Washington in 1931. This was a residential/boarding-style school, and upwards of three hours per day were spent doing "industrial work"—sewing, laundry, gardening, cooking, and more. Martha Washington ceased to be a Seattle public school in 1957, and was demolished in 1989. The site is now Martha Washington Park. In 1922 a new 7-room, one-story, brick Brighton School (4425 S Holly Street) opened, next to the 1903 wooden building. The new building served grades one through eight, and had an enrollment of 440 students. In 1924 a new Dunlap school opened, less than one-half mile west of the future site of RBHS. James Stephen designed the school in a 20<sup>th</sup> Century Georgian style. The school got an addition by John Graham & Co. in 1954. Dunlap was designated a City of Seattle landmark in 1998.

In 1946, 65 percent of Brighton School was destroyed by arson, and nearly 300 students were suddenly without classrooms. Neighboring schools took in the displaced students while Brighton was refurbished, reopening in 1949.

Sharples Middle School (3928 S Graham St, William Mallis, now Aki Kurose) opened in 1952, the first junior high in the area. The school took in students from several south end neighborhoods, including students from Van Asselt and Beacon Hill schools. Enrollment surged throughout the district, and by the 1959-60 school year Sharples had, in addition to its permanent building, seventeen portable buildings.

In 1953, the all-portables Southeast Beacon Hill School opened at 11230 S Luther Street. The school was established at the urging of the Rainier Valley Community Club, who wanted the Parks Department to build a playfield in the area and were told that any new playfields would first require a school. The school was later renamed Rainier View Elementary, and the present-day address of the school is 11650 Beacon Avenue S.

Three new school buildings were constructed in the area between 1960 and 1961. Rainier Beach Junior-Senior High School (the subject building of this report) opened in September 1960. In 1961 Southeast Beacon Hill School, now named Rainier View, moved out of portables and into a new building by Durham, Anderson & Freed, housing kindergarten through sixth grade.

Enrollment leaped from 116 to 317.<sup>54</sup> Also in 1961, Graham Hill Elementary opened, a two-story, 14-room brick building by Theo Damm.<sup>55</sup>

In 1967, Rainier Beach Junior-Senior High had 2,159 students in a space designed for 1,500. The School Board made plans for a "Southeast Educational Center" that would include Rainier Beach, Dunlap, Emerson, Wing Luke, Rainier View, and a to-be-built middle school that would embody new ideals of open-plan education and interdisciplinary study. <sup>56</sup> The working name was "Model Middle School," reflecting the district's intention that the new school be a model for future programs. After significant delays, the new school, now known as South Shore School (Naramore, Bain, Brady & Johanson) opened in 1973. It was touted as "possibly the most significant new school ever opened in the Seattle School District," and was the first school building designed specifically to house a middle school. <sup>57</sup> South Shore was the last school built in Rainier Beach in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century.

Since the year 2000, four schools have been built in the area. The African American Academy (Streeter & Associates) opened in 2000, operated until 2009, and now houses the Van Asselt Elementary program. Martin Luther King Jr. Elementary was built in 2004 on the site of the former Brighton School. In 2008, South Lake Alternative High and South Shore K-8 opened in new buildings immediately west of Rainier Beach High School, as part of the complex that includes the Rainier Beach Pool & Community Center.

Current schools operating in Rainier Beach and South Rainier Valley are as follows: Dunlap Elementary; Emerson Elementary; Graham Hill Elementary; Martin Luther King Jr. Elementary; Rainier View Elementary; Wing Luke elementary program (housed in the 1950 building at Original Van Asselt); Van Asselt elementary program (housed in the former African American Academy); South Shore K-8; Aki Kurose Middle; South Lake Alternative High; and Rainier Beach High School.

#### Rainier Beach and Southeast Seattle Schools:

School	Year	Address	Designer	Notes
Rainier Beach School (Demolished 1930)	1903	Pilgrim & 60th Ave S	N/A	Opened 1903 as part of Columbia School District, annexed into SPS 1907. Annex to Brighton 1907-08, annex to Dunlap 1908-1908.
Brighton (Demolished)  See figures 91 & 96.	1904	4425 S Holly Street		1909 Addition (Stephen), brick addition 1949 (Young & Richardson), 1953 addition (Holmes, McClure, Adkinson & MacDonald)
Dunlap (demolished after 1924) See figure 92.	1904	Trenton Street btw 48th & 50th S	(1904) James Stephen, (1924) Floyd A. Naramore, (1954) John Graham & Co.	(1924) Floyd A. Naramore building is a City of Seattle Landmark

<sup>54</sup> Thompson & Marr, "Rainier View," Building for Learning.

<sup>55</sup> Thompson & Marr, "Graham Hill," Building for Learning.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>56</sup> Thompson & Marr, "South Shore," Building for Learning.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>57</sup> Ibid.

Whitworth (demolished 1987)  See figure 93.	1908	5215 46th Ave S	James Stephen (1908), Edgar Blair (1918), Carlson Eley Grevstad (1958)	
Emerson See figure 94.	1909	9709 60th Ave S	James Stephen, 1930 addition by Naramore	Designated a City of Seattle Landmark in 1998. 2000: 1909 portion renovated, 1930 portion demolished
Original Van Asselt See figures 95 & 101.	1909	Beacon Ave S & S Othello Street	Edgar Blair (1909). 1950 addition by Jones & Bindon.	Designated a City of Seattle Landmark in 2019.
Martin Luther King Jr. (formerly Harrison) See figures 97 & 106.	1913	6725 45 <sup>th</sup> Ave S	Edgar Blair (1913), Addition 1958 by Bindon & Wright	1970: became Harrison Early Childhood Education Center. 1989: became Martin Luther King Elementary.
Martha Washington (demolished 1989) See figure 98.	1921	6612 57th Ave S	Floyd A. Naramore	Opened as Girls' Parental School, changed to Martha Washington in 1931.
Dunlap See figure 99.	1924	8621 46th Ave S	Floyd A. Naramore	Designated a City of Seattle Landmark in 1998.
Brighton (demolished)  See figure 100.	1949	4425 S Holly Street	Young & Richardson	
Southeast Beacon Hill School (closed 1961)	1953	11230 Luther Ave	N/A (all portables)	Named Rainier View in 1954. Closed 1961.
Rainier Beach High	1960	8815 Seward Park Ave S	John W Maloney (1960). Performing Arts Center 1998 by Streeter & Assoc.	
Graham Hill See figure 102.	1961	5149 S Graham Street	Theo Damm	
Rainier View See figure 103.	1961	11650 Beacon Ave S	Durham, Anderson & Freed	
South Shore See figure 104 & 108.	1973	8825 Rainier Ave S	Naramore, Bain, Brady & Johanson	Rebuilt 2008 as part of Rainier Beach Pool & Community Center complex. Houses South Shore K-8.
African American	2000	8311 Beacon Ave	Streeter &	AAA closed in 2009. The Building now houses the Van

Academy		S	Associates	Asselt Elementary program
See figure 105.				
Brighton/MLK Jr	2004	6725 45th Ave S		
See figure 106.				
South Lake High	2008	8601 Rainier Ave		Service school within rebuilt
See figure 107.		S		South Shore complex.

4.3 Building History: Rainier Beach High School

#### **Building and School History**

In 1957 the school district started planning a combined junior and senior high school in southeast Seattle. Early site development plans show that the site chosen for the new school was undeveloped. Early site development plans by Maloney's office were titled "Southeast High School." By 1959, plans for site development were labeled "for Southeast Junior Senior High School." The building functioned as a combined junior and senior high school from its opening in 1960 until 1970. *See figure 109.* 

Several controversies surrounded the construction of the school. Most controversial was the elimination of the auditorium from the school construction. Because of an irregularity in the passage of the bond measure in 1958, a citizens' advisory committee recommended postponing the construction of the auditorium as a cost-cutting measure. The Speaker of the State House of Representatives, John O'Brian, representing the 33<sup>rd</sup> District, wrote a letter to the School Board declaring the removal of the auditorium from the building program "discriminatory." Debates about combining Junior and Senior High Schools were profiled in the *Seattle Times*. 61

In 1959 the general contract for construction was awarded to Johnson-Morrison-Knudsen for \$1,848,170. The name "Southeast High School" was dropped in the course of the planning stages, and by 1960 the SPS Maintenance Department was referring to the school as "Rainier Beach High School" on their drawings and planning documents. Rainier Beach Junior-Senior High School opened in the fall of 1960, with an enrollment of 845 junior high students and 412 high school students in the ninth, ten, and eleventh grades. The first principal was Don Means, former vice principal at Franklin and former quarterback for the University of Washington football team. *See figures 110-115.* 

By 1967 the school faced serious overcrowding, with a total student body of ca. 2,159 in six grades, with 19 portable buildings erected on the site.<sup>64</sup>

In September 1968, responding to reports that African American students were being bullied and abused by the majority white students, approximately 12 members of the Black Panther

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>58</sup> Seattle Public Schools, archives file no. 021-0002.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>59</sup> Seattle Public Schools, archives file no. 021-0008

<sup>60</sup> Seattle Times, "O'Brian Maps Action On New School," June 4, 1959, p. 16.

<sup>61</sup> Seattle Times, "Problems of Junior-Senior-High "Togetherness," May 17, 1960, p. 8.

<sup>62</sup> Seattle Public Schools, archives file no. 021-0092.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>63</sup> Nile Thompson & Carolyn J Marr, "Rainier Beach," from Building for Learning: Seattle's Public School Histories, 1862-2000 (Seattle, WA: Seattle School District, 2002).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>64</sup> Constantine Angelos, "Middle School Possible in Scaled-Down Center," Seattle Times, September 10, 1967, p. 44.

Party arrived at the school, half of whom were carrying unloaded rifles. *For more on this incident, see section 4.4.* 

In 1968 the school was recommended as a site for a "continuous-progress education center," an idea developed by then-superintendent Forbes Bottomly to address racial imbalance in Seattle's schools. This plan foreshadowed both the Seattle busing program of the late 1970s and 1980s, and the more recent magnet school programs. Under this plan, the district would build a new middle school in the area, and convert Rainier Beach into a four-year high school.<sup>65</sup>

The education center program would be known as the Southeast Education Center, and comprise RB, Dunlap School, and a to-be-built middle school. Also, students would be bused in from Mann and Colman as "voluntary transfers." The center was slated to include 500 students from kindergarten to fourth grade at the Dunlap School, 1,500 students at the new middle school, and 1,500 students from ninth through twelfth grades in Rainier Beach. 66 See figure 116.

In 1970, when the building was ten years old, a planning report by Seattle Public Schools gave Rainier Beach the highest ranking of all Seattle high schools. The study analyzed "educational adequacy," "building adequacy," "site adequacy," and "community factors." Other high-ranking schools in the study were those built in the 1950s, namely Ingraham, Nathan Hale, Lincoln, and Chief Sealth. <sup>67</sup> *See figures 117-120.* 

In the fall of 1970 a provisional junior high, known as Model Middle School, opened in portable buildings on the Rainier Beach Junior-Senior High site, housing 300 seventh graders. The following year, the Model Middle School added an eighth grade, <sup>68</sup> and Rainier Beach became a four-year high school (the name changed accordingly), with 1,327 students. The permanent middle school building opened in December 1973, across Rainier Ave S to the west of Rainier Beach, and in a complex that also included the new Rainier Beach Community Center and Pool. <sup>69,70</sup> 70 homes were demolished to make way for the school-community center complex. <sup>71</sup>

The Indian Heritage School was located in portable buildings on the site from 1974 to 1978. *See figures 121. For more on the Indian Heritage School, see Appendix 4.* 

On August 9, 1978, a "pod" of four portable buildings were destroyed by fire. The portables had been used by the Indian Heritage School, which had moved to Marshall school before the fire. Estimated damages were \$38,000. *See figure 122.* 

In fall 1989, a teaching academy opened at RBHS, with the goal of attracting students interested in going into education. The program opened with 19 students, but in January 1990 the program was granted nearly \$1 million by the University of Washington, Boeing, and Apple, which allowed the program to expand to 200 students. Boeing's contribution also included 10 annual college scholarships for three years. In 1991 the Rainier Beach Academy for the Teaching Profession was commended by the Seattle-King County Economic Development Council for

<sup>65</sup> Angelos, "Continuous-Progress Education Center at Rainier Beach Urged." Seattle Times, February 8, 1968, p. 1.

<sup>66</sup> Seattle Times, "Education-Center Planners Named," March 10, 1968, p. 33.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>67</sup> Mary Elayne Dunphy, "Report ranks Rainier Beach highest," Seattle Times, August 16, 1970, p. H10.

<sup>68</sup> Thompson & Marr, "South Lake."

<sup>69</sup> Ibid.

<sup>70</sup> Ibid.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>71</sup> Mary Elayne Dunphy, "Education Center to Be More Than 'Just a School," Seattle Times, August 19, 1968, p. 24.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>72</sup> Seattle Times, "Teaching Academy Receiving Donations," January 30, 1990, p. B3.

innovation in education.<sup>73</sup> In 1995 the program won a Golden Apple Award for educational excellence from KCTS-TV.<sup>74</sup> *See figure 123.* 

In 1988 a student health clinic opened at Rainier Beach. The clinic, the first of its kind in the state, offered sports physicals, primary care, first aid, and drug- and mental health counseling. Controversy preceded the opening of the clinic, which was originally meant to dispense birth control and information about obtaining abortions. Some parents balked at the prospect of their children having access to contraception and abortions without their knowledge or consent. The school board allowed the clinic to open, though without the ability to dispense contraceptives or offer referrals for abortions. By October 1992, the resident nurse practitioner had performed more than 427 physicals, and two thirds of the student body were enrolled at the clinic. Of those numbers, 37 percent had no regular doctor outside the school. The clinic was widely hailed as a success, by 1992 the school district had opened three more teen health clinics in high schools, with two more planned. The school of the student body were enrolled at the clinic was widely hailed as a success, by 1992 the school district had opened three more teen health clinics in high schools, with two more planned.

In winter 1992, when a sudden districtwide declining enrollment meant a lack of cash, Principal Bobbie Barnhart cut the school's music education stipend, which came to \$3,000.<sup>78</sup> Later that year, parents and teachers again asked the school board to build a cultural and performing arts center at the school, as part of a proposed \$795 million construction and renovation budget. Teacher Michelle Jacobsen said "We have the most diverse population, and yet they have no multicultural or performing-arts center."<sup>79</sup>

In summer 1997, work began on a 600-seat performing arts center and lobby art gallery. \$5.5 million funding came from the 1995 school building program.

In 1998 Rainier Beach was slated for a federal three-year magnet school grant of \$300,000 annually to build up the drama and music programs, so as to take full advantage of the performing arts center. <sup>80</sup> With this funding, a new music teacher was hired, who purchased nearly \$20,000 worth of new instruments. The first major school performance in the new auditorium was a band and choir concert in December 1998. The school also hired a new drama teacher, and offered classes in stage tech, photography, filmmaking, and dance. <sup>81</sup> *See figures* 124-127.

By 2006, the school's enrollment was only 530 students. The performing arts center went unused by the students, due to a lack of money for funding teachers and programs.<sup>82</sup>

Starting in 2015, Rainier Beach has held a six-week summer program for ninth and tenth graders called Children's Defense Fund Freedom School. While ostensibly aimed at improving reading skills and avoiding the "summer slide," the enrichment program focuses on restorative justice, racial equity, and civil rights. The program culminates in a "Bloc Party," a day of speeches, hiphop and spoken word performances, and workshops on subjects including colonialism,

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>73</sup> Seattle Times, "School Programs Win Three Awards," January 10, 1991, p. C3.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>74</sup> Seattle Times, "5 Teachers, 5 Projects Win Honors," October 18, 1995, p. B2.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>75</sup> Angelos, "Clinic Foes Let School Board Know How They Feel," Seattle Times, December 10, 1987, p. C3.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>76</sup> Charles E. Brown, "Rainier Beach Clinic Approved—No Contraceptives," Seattle Times, January 7, 1988, p. B3.

<sup>77</sup> Paula Bock, "Help for the Student Body—Clinics Pop up in School Corridors," Seattle Times, October 12, 1992, p. D5.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>78</sup> Paula Bock, "Seattle Schools Are Mystified by Enrollment Dip," Seattle Times, February 15, 1992, p. A16.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>79</sup> Shandra Martinez, "School Building Plan Gets Support," Seattle Times, June 23, 1992, p. B3.

<sup>80</sup> Lilly, "District Won't List..."

<sup>81</sup> Tamra Fitzpatrick, "'A School is Not a School Without Music'—Arts, Hope Return to Rainier Beach," Seattle Times, December 14, 1998, p. B3.

<sup>82</sup> Sanjay Bhatt, "Will closing doors open others?" Seattle Times, January 21, 2006, p. B1.

intersectionality, and racial justice led by community members, teachers, and the students themselves.<sup>83</sup>

In 2013, Rainier Beach adopted International Baccalaureate (IB) curriculum, a move that had great success. Between 2011 and 2015 the overall graduation rate increased by 25 percent, and the number of seniors graduating with the IB diploma jumped from eight to 74 between 2015 and 2017.<sup>84</sup> In June 2015 the school was featured in a segment of PBS's "News Hour," focusing on how the IB program turned the school around.<sup>85</sup> Funding for the IB program has remained unstable.<sup>86</sup>

## School Demographics and Busing

The demographic history of Rainier Beach High School mirrors that of the neighborhood. In 1970, 83.6 percent of the student body at Rainier Beach was white.<sup>87</sup> By 1976 that percentage had dropped by basically half, to 42.2 percent. One year later, the number was 38.4 percent.<sup>88</sup>

The school district's 1977 racial distribution survey commented on the ongoing shift of racial minority students into southeast Seattle; the study's authors speculated that the change was caused by either more students of a racial minority moving to the area, more white students moving away or attending private schools, or a combination of both. At the time, state guidelines considered a school racially segregated if any one minority makes up 40 percent or more of the total enrollment. Federal guidelines, however, considered a school segregated if combined non-white minority students make up 50 percent or more of its student body. Rainier Beach was thus a segregated school according to federal rules. The school district's desegregation planning office recommended Rainier Beach, along with 14 other segregated schools, for a magnet-school program to attract voluntary "racial transfer" students. Rainier Beach was proposed to be a magnet school for a gifted program called Horizon, offering college-placement classes. By May 1977, 40 students had applied to the Rainier Beach Horizon program for the following school year, the most of any high school magnet program.

By 1977 Seattle Public Schools was charged with racially integrating its schools, either by a voluntary system or by federal court order. To avoid the latter, SPS instituted sweeping desegregation regulations, and in 1978 established a citywide busing program, known as the "Seattle Plan," wherein students from neighborhoods north of the Lake Washington Ship Canal and West Seattle were bused to the Central District and south end, and vice versa. <sup>91</sup> There was an immediate public outcry over this change. To avoid busing, many families in Seattle's north

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>83</sup> Marcus Harrison Green, "Rainier Beach 'Bloc Party' Celebrates Student Resistance," *South Seattle Emerald*, March 28, 2017, https://southseattleemerald.com/2017/03/28/rainier-beach-bloc-party-celebrates-student-resistance/ (accessed May 2019).

<sup>84</sup> Claudia Rowe, "Stunning surge in graduation rate as Rainier Beach gamble pays off," *Seattle Times*, March 16, 2015, https://www.seattletimes.com/education-lab/stunning-surge-in-graduation-rate-as-rainier-beach-gamble-pays-off/ (accessed May 2019).

<sup>85</sup> Marcus Harrison Green, "PBS to Feature Rainier Beach High School during 'Newshour," South Seattle Emerald, May 16, 2015, https://southseattleemerald.com/2015/05/26/pbs-to-feature-rainier-beach-high-school-during-news-hour/ (accessed May 2019).

<sup>86</sup> Claudia Rowe, "Deal saves IB program," Seattle Times, May 4, 2016, p. B1.

<sup>87</sup> Seattle Times, "A Day's Work: Routine and Crises," March 22, 1970, p. 45.

<sup>88</sup> Angelos, "Seattle minority students shifting southeast," Seattle Times, March 5, 1977, p. 25.89 Ibid.

<sup>90</sup> Angelos, "15 of 27 'segregated' schools recommended for magnet program," Seattle Times, March 3, 1977, p. 18.

<sup>91</sup> Schools were paired or tripled up as "Desegregation Partners." The desegregation partners for Rainier Beach area schools were as follows: Emerson: Greenwood, Loyal Heights; Rainier View: Whittier; Dunlap: Roxhill, Fauntleroy, Lafayette; Graham Hill: Northgate; Van Asselt: Arbor Heights, Greenwood; Wing Luke: Highland Park. Angelos, "School-closure proposals mean major changes," Seattle Times, October 12, 1980, A18.

end moved out of the school district boundary, and many others enrolled their children in private schools. One immediate result of the involuntary transfer program was that enrollment dropped sharply at Rainier Beach.

By October of the 1977-1978 school year, the total percentage of white students at Rainier Beach came to 43.9 per cent. In January 1978 white enrollment was 42.3 per cent. In fall 1978, Rainier Beach had an enrollment of 1,098 students, but on average only 864 were actually attending school. (At the same time, Ballard, Roosevelt, and Chief Sealth high schools were all experiencing over-enrollment.)<sup>93</sup>

In 1987, a school was considered segregated if its total minority enrollment came to 70 percent or greater. Rainier Beach was close to becoming the only middle or high school out of balance, with a minority enrollment of 69.4 percent. <sup>94</sup> By spring 1989, Rainier Beach had 74.6 percent minority students. That percentage rose to 78.5 by August 1989. That year the school had room for 1,273 students, but only 718 were assigned there. The school focused student, teacher, and administrator energy into a campaign to woo students to Rainier Beach. By the summer before the 1990-1991 school year, Rainier Beach had 100 more students enrolled than it had the previous year. <sup>95</sup>

Mandatory busing ended in 1989 and was replaced with a plan called "controlled choice." That year, 16 out of 86 schools were considered racially imbalanced, meaning that "white- or minority-student enrollment is 20 percentage points above or below the districtwide profile, or if it enrolls 70 percent of combined minority students or 50 percent of any single minority group." Of the 16 "racially imbalanced" schools, nine were located in south end neighborhoods, and five of those in the vicinity of Rainier Beach: Rainier Beach (78.5% racial minority), Brighton (72.9%), Dunlap (80.9%), Emerson (73.2%), and Rainier View (72.5%). Once again, many parents in the north end and West Seattle opted to put their children in private schools or move out of the district.

### "Beleaguered," "Embattled," and "Struggling"

A 1993 survey of RBHS students revealed that 80 percent felt "very unsafe" or "quite unsafe" at school. This extended to feeling unsafe going outside the school building at lunch time and at school dances. 99 On September 23, 1994, two boys were shot, one fatally, while waiting to go into an all-school dance at the school's gymnasium. 100

A 1999 profile of the RBHS in the Seattle Times described the school thus:

Despite many improvements, from a strong technology program and revamped computer lab to a state-of-the-art performing arts center, Rainier Beach continues to be crippled by a bad reputation. That [...] has many shying away from the school.<sup>101</sup>

In 1999, president of the Urban League of Metropolitan Seattle, James Kelly, expressed skepticism as to whether the school district was committed to improving RBHS, and offered

<sup>92</sup> Angelos, "Magnet schools have cut down racial imbalance," Seattle Times, October 6, 1977, p. 17.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>93</sup> Seattle Times, "Whites Missing the Bus," December 10, 1978, p. L6.

<sup>94</sup> Anne Christensen, "School-Desegregation Plan Needs Overhaul, Say District Officials," Seattle Times, October 9, 1987, p. E3.

<sup>95</sup> Michelle Matassa Flores, "'Controlled Choice': Is It Now Out of Control?," Seattle Times, July 10, 1990, p. A5.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>96</sup> Joe Haberstroh, "New Desegregation Plan Maintains Last Year's Racial Mix, Figures Show," Seattle Times, Aug 30, 1989, p. A1.
<sup>97</sup> Ibid.

<sup>98</sup> Ibid.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>99</sup> Diedtra Henderson, "Kids Talk About What Worries Them," Seattle Times, April 4, 1993, p. B1.

<sup>100</sup> Peyton Whitely, "Teen's Life So Troubled, Family Had Burial Plan," Seattle Times, September 25, 1994, p. B1.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>101</sup> Lynne K. Varner, "A School in Crisis," Seattle Times, November 22, 1999, p. A1.

various South End schools resources from the Urban League including tutoring and scholarship opportunities.<sup>102</sup>

In the 2007-2008 school year, the school's enrollment dipped to its lowest, with 361 students.

In 2019, the HBO program *Problem Areas* featured Rainier Beach in an episode. <sup>103, 104</sup> In response to the imbalances exposed by the show, Rainier Beach students and teachers held a demonstration on Wednesday, May 8, 2019 demanding equal funding for South End schools. <sup>105</sup>

#### **History of Activism**

Long before the demonstration following the *Problem Areas* episode, Rainier Beach High School students and teachers have had a history of activism. The activism has been focused on social justice issues at the local and national levels, as well as advocating for their own facilities and programs.

On March 20, 1970, a group of approximately 100 youths, a mix of RBHS students and non-students, staged a rally in Atlantic City Park for the purpose of protesting "racism and repression" at the school, organized by the Seattle Liberation Front (SLF), a short-lived radical organization group that existed from 1970 to 1971. <sup>106</sup> In August 1972 a delegation of students delivered to the school board a petition with ca. 1,200 signatures requesting the board build the auditorium that had been promised six years before, in the 1966 bond issue. <sup>107</sup>

In November 1989, more than 250 Rainier Beach students held a 2.5-hour sit-in to protest the transfer of a well-liked security monitor, and the district-wide rule limiting minority enrollment in individual schools in the name of school integration. The students were successful in retaining the security staff, and were granted a meeting with school superintendent William Kendrick as a result of their demonstration. The students were successful in the security staff, and were granted a meeting with school superintendent William Kendrick as a result of their demonstration.

In May 2002 approximately 200 Rainier Beach High School students, along with contingents from South Lake High, Dunlap Elementary, and Franklin High walked out of classes to protest their school's limited resources, particularly the lack of textbooks, up-to-date computers, and a performing arts program commensurate with their facilities. The protestors, who totaled approximately 300, were protesting a widely-held belief that South End schools got short shrift in favor of North End schools. Principal Donna Marshall was quoted in the *Seattle Times* as saving "We need more. We need more of everything."

In 2015, during the first year of the Children's Defense Fund Freedom School, Rainier Beach students demonstrated for "transit justice." This advocacy led the City Council to approve a

<sup>102</sup> Ibid.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>103</sup> The episode, titled "Inequality Problems," aired May 3, 2019.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>104</sup> Isolde Rafferty, "HBO takes hard look at inequality in Seattle schools," KUOW, https://www.kuow.org/stories/hbo-takes-hard-look-at-inequality-in-seattle-schools

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>105</sup> Chris Daniels, "HBO show prompts walkout over funding at Seattle's Rainier Beach High School," KING 5, May 8, 2019, https://www.king5.com/article/news/hbo-show-prompts-walkout-over-funding-at-seattles-rainier-beach-high-school/281-fafdafaf-a751-49b9-8711-a36a3e5c62fc (accessed May 2019).

<sup>106</sup> Seattle Times, "Rainier Beach Ousts S. L. F. Protesters," March 21, 1970, p. 4.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>107</sup> Angelos, "Woman appointed to replace Tidwell on Seattle School Board," Seattle Times, April 6, 1972, p. 11.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>108</sup> The effect this rule had on Rainier Beach is that enrollment was down overall, which resulted in a reduction of teachers, resources, and programs.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>109</sup> Joe Haberstroh, "Rainier Beach Students Protest—Sit-In Gains Audience with City Schools Chief," Seattle Times, November 9, 1989, p. H1.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>110</sup> Kevin Ervin, "Frustrated South End students take to the street," Seattle Times, May 30, 2002, p. B1.

funding that would provide free ORCA passes to thousands of middle- and low-income students throughout the school district.<sup>111</sup>

In March 2017, nearly a dozen students attended a meeting of the Seattle Public Schools Board to advocate for improvements and upgrades to their school building and facilities. <sup>112</sup> In March 2017 Rainier Beach students joined a coalition of students from other schools to demonstrate at the Seattle School Board, advocating for ethnic studies programs in Seattle public schools, from kindergarten to 12<sup>th</sup> grade. <sup>113</sup> As a result of this activism, the BEX V levy proposed to replace Rainier Beach High School with a new facility. <sup>114</sup>

In November 2018 the school hosted a summit celebrating the Seattle Chapter of the Black Panthers' 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration, with workshops on activism, poetry, and the history of the organization.

### Sports at Rainier Beach High School

Rainier Beach High School has had a strong sports program since the 1980s, having been represented in state championship tournaments for various sports 21 times since 1982. The mascot of Rainier Beach is the Vikings, and the school colors are orange and blue.

The Rainier Beach boys' basketball program has been particularly successful, winning state championships nine times, in the following years: 1988, 1998, 2002, 2003, 2008, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2016. In 2002 the school's basketball team was ranked number one in the nation by *USA Today*. <sup>115</sup> In 2014, the Rainier Beach basketball team was ranked second in the nation. <sup>116</sup>

The most famous Rainier Beach basketball alumnus is Aaron Jamal Crawford (b. 1980), for whom the basketball court is named, and who is a donor to the basketball program. helping the Vikings win the 1998 State Championship, Crawford went on to play for the University of Michigan and is currently one of the oldest active NBA players. *See figure 128.* 

The second most successful sports program at Rainier Beach is their Track & Field program, also winning State Championships nine times in the following years: 1982, 1984, 1985, 1986, 1987, 1988, 2001, 2004, 2009.

In 2018 athletic director George Foster established a Rainier Beach Hall of Fame for the outstanding athlete alumni from Rainier Beach. The Hall of Fame includes:

• Cecil Bowie, class of 1987, set the Washington State all-time record in the 110 high hurdles (13.86) in the 1987 state meet.<sup>118</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>111</sup> James Akbar Williams, "Transit Fare Victory Highlights Power of Student-led Organizing," South Seattle Emerald, November 29, 2015, https://southseattleemerald.com/2015/11/29/transit-fare-victory-highlights-power-of-student-led-organizing/(accessed July 2019).

<sup>112</sup> Marcus Harrison Green, "Students Demand Long-Promised Renovations for Rainier Beach High," *South Seattle Emerald*, March 2, 2017 (accessed May 2019).

Reagan Jackson, "Students Tell Seattle School Board Ethnic Studies Needed," South Seattle Emerald, March 17, 2017, https://southseattleemerald.com/2017/03/17/students-tell-seattle-school-board-ethnic-studies-needed/ (accessed May 2019).
 Melissa Hellman, "Rainier Beach High School Students' Wish May Finally Come True," Seattle Weekly, Tuesday, February 5, 2019, https://www.seattleweekly.com/news/rainier-beach-high-school-students-wish-may-finally-come-true/ (accessed November 2019).

<sup>115</sup> Seattle Post-Intelligencer, "James' team supplants Rainier Beach atop rankings," January 7, 2003, https://www.seattlepi.com/news/article/James-team-supplants-Rainier-Beach-atop-rankings-1104820.php (accessed May 2019)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>116</sup> Joseph Swide, "On Rainier Beach," The Classical, February 20, 2014, http://theclassical.org/articles/on-rainier-beach (accessed May 2019).
<sup>117</sup> Ibid.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>118</sup> Sandy Ringer, "Williams Stays on Track," *Seattle Times*, August 28, 1992, n.p. http://community.seattletimes.nwsource.com/archive/?date=19920828&slug=1509899 (accessed May 2019).

- Doug Christie, class of 1988, lead the Vikings to a Basketball State Championship in 1988, and won the state high jump. He is now a retired NBA player. 119
- Trent Pollard, class of 1989, played lineman for the Vikings football team, and went on to play football at Eastern Washington University, then in the NFL for the Bengals and the Rams. 120 He has since retired.
- Tara Davis, class of 1990, played basketball and won four individual track and field titles for Rainier Beach, went on to play for the University of Washington and the Seattle Reign. 121 Davis has since retired from professional basketball and, as of October 2018, served as Assistant Director of Athletics for Seattle Public Schools. 122
- Katie Maloney, class of 1996. Olympic rower in 2000. 123
- Jamal Crawford, class of 1999, mentioned above. 124
- Nate Robinson, class of 2001, lead the Vikings to a Basketball State Championship in 2002, and won the state player of the year. First team all-conference running back for the Vikings football team. Played basketball for University of Washington, and went on to play in the NBA for at least eleven seasons, five of which were with the New York Knicks. Now retired from the NBA. 125
- Ginnie (Powell) Crawford, class of 2002, four time state champion sprinter and hurdler, won four NCAA championships while at USC, was on the USA world championship team in 2006 and 2007.126 127

#### Other notable athletic alumni include:

- Kenny Ellis, of the class of 1988, a middleweight boxer known as the "Emerald City Assassin," who won the IBC junior middleweight and NABA and NABO middleweight championship belts.128
- Phil Heath, class of 1997, played basketball at for the Vikings, and for the University of Denver. Went on to win the "Mr. Olympia" bodybuilding title seven times.
- Terrence Williams, class of 2005, helped the Vikings to a 2003 state championship in basketball, went on to play for University of Louisville, and was a first-round draft pick in the NBA.

<sup>119</sup> Seattle Public Schools Athletic Hall of Fame, "Doug Christie," http://spsathletichalloffame.org/doug-christie-bio.htm (accessed May 2019).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>120</sup> Michael McLaughlin, "Rainier Beach: The other program," Seattle Post-Intelligencer, October 9, 2003,

https://www.seattlepi.com/news/article/Rainier-Beach-The-other-program-1126659.php (accessed May 2019).

<sup>121</sup> Seattle Public Schools Athletic Hall of Fame, " "Tara Davis," http://spsathletichalloffame.org/tara-davis-bio.htm (accessed

<sup>122</sup> Aaron Allen, "Tara Davis—Trailblazer, Activist, Mentor and Mother," the Seattle Medium, October 17, 2018, https://seattlemedium.com/tara-davis-trailblazer-activist-mentor-mother (accessed July 2019).

<sup>123</sup> Williams College, "Kate Wachala," https://ephsports.williams.edu/sports/wcrew/coaches/Kate\_Maloney?view=bio (accessed May 2019).

<sup>124</sup> SPS Athletic Hall of Fame, "Jamal Crawford," http://spsathletichalloffame.org/jamal-crawford-bio.htm (accessed May 2019).

<sup>125</sup> SPS Athletic Hall of Fame, "Nate Robinson," http://spsathletichalloffame.org/nate-robinson-bio.htm (accessed May 2019). 126 SPS Athletic Hall of Fame, "Ginnie Crawford," http://spsathletichalloffame.org/ginnie-crawford-bio.htm (May 2019).

<sup>127</sup> Michael McLaughlin, "Prep Notebook: Rainier Beach honors 2002 grad Powell," Seattle Post-Intelligencer,

https://www.seattlepi.com/news/article/Prep-Notebook-Rainier-Beach-honors-2002-grad-1226369.php (accessed May 2019).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>128</sup> Jose Miguel Romero, "Kenny Ellis calls it quits after 17-year boxing career," Seattle Times, August 2, 2009,

https://www.seattletimes.com/sports/other-sports/kenny-ellis-calls-it-quits-after-17-year-boxing-career/ (accessed May 2019).

## 4.4 Associated Event: Rainier Beach High School & the Black Panther Party, 1968

In the first week of the 1968-1969 school year, Rainier Beach was the site of racially fraught incidents that culminated in a demonstration by the Seattle chapter of the Black Panther Party across the street from and then inside of Rainier Beach High School. The demonstration, in turn, resulted in a series of meetings and security measures within the school, a citywide gun control ordinance, and a bill at the state legislature. 129, 130, 131, 132, 133

On the first day of the school year, Wednesday, September 4, 1968, a 16-year-old white male beat up a 14-year-old African American male outside of Rainier Beach High. Both were students at Rainier Beach, and the incident was sparked by an altercation in a hallway at the school earlier that day. According to subsequent police reports, between 200 and 250 white students had gathered to watch the incident, which took place near the intersection of Rainier Avenue S and S Henderson Street.<sup>134</sup> At the time, Rainier Beach had approximately 2,000 students in grades 7 through 12, and of those only around 100 were African American.<sup>135</sup>

The following day, Thursday, September 5, the 16-year-old white student was suspended. Five young African American men, dressed in the signature jackets and berets of the Black Panther Party, arrived at the school around lunch time and were asked to leave. <sup>136, 137</sup> In the day following the initial fight, the Seattle Rumor Center hotline fielded more than 100 phone calls. <sup>138</sup> Parents also called the school, the school district administrative offices, and the police and fire departments. <sup>139</sup> As rumors swirled, many parents drove to the school to pick up their children, which created a minor traffic jam in the neighborhood. <sup>140</sup>

On the morning of Friday, September 6, five young people who said they were students at Garfield High School entered Rainier Beach High School. They were asked to leave, and did so without incident. Around 3 p.m. that day, between 15 and 25 members of the Black Panther Party arrived at Rainier Beach High School, eight to ten of them carrying rifles and revolvers, unloaded and with the bolt action open. Lead by branch Captain Aaron Dixon, the group entered the school and was met at the door by Vice Principal John Pyles. Pyles asked them to leave and they requested a meeting with Principal Means. Means met with them in his office. 143

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>129</sup> Linda Holden Givens, "Seattle Black Panther Party protests gun-control bill in Olympia on February 28, 1969," HistoryLink.org essay 20649, October 16, 2018, https://www.historylink.org/File/20649 (accessed November 2019).

<sup>130</sup> Seattle Times, "Council To Act on Strict Gun-Control Ordinance," September 17, 1968, p. 7.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>131</sup> Seattle Post-Intelligencer, "Mayor Warns Black Panthers," September 13, 1968, p. 1.

<sup>132</sup> Douglas Willix, "Ramon Asks Stronger Law on Carrying Guns," Seattle Times, September 11, 1968, p. 84.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>133</sup> Aaron Floyd Dixon, My People Are Rising: Memoir of a Black Panther Party Captain (Chicago, IL: Haymarket Books, 2012), p. 109-111, 147.

<sup>134</sup> Seattle Times, "Youth, 16, Suspended From School After Fight," September 25, 1968, p. 25.

<sup>135</sup> Seattle Times, "Parents Stress 'Law and Order," September 8, 1968, p. 21.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>136</sup> David Wilma, "Rumors prompt armed Black Panthers to visit Rainier Beach High School on September 6, 1968," HistoryLink.org essay 2293, April 1, 2000, https://www.historylink.org/File/2293 (accessed May 2019).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>137</sup> Constantine Angelos, "Dangerous Stories Swept School, City After Disturbance," Seattle Times, September 6, 1968, n.p.
<sup>138</sup> The Seattle Rumor Center was a hotline established earlier in the year, as a riot-control measure in response to race riots throughout the country following the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The Rumor Center was a private venture with collaboration from the Seattle Police and other public agencies. Ann Dornfeld, "Before Nextdoor and Facebook, there was the Seattle Rumor Center," KUOW, January 10, 2018, https://www.kuow.org/stories/nextdoor-and-facebook-there-was-seattle-rumor-center (accessed May 2019).

<sup>139</sup> Constantine Angelos, "Dangerous Stories Swept School, City After Disturbance," Seattle Times, September 6, 1968, n.p.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>140</sup> Seattle Times, "Steps Planned to Ease School Tension," September 7, 1968, p. 15.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>141</sup> John de Yonge, "Tension Slackens at Rainier Beach," *Seattle Post-Intelligencer*," September 7, 1968, p. 1. <sup>142</sup> De Yonge.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>143</sup> Seattle Post-Intelligencer, "Police To Patrol Rainier Beach," September 8, 1968, n.p.

The contingent demanded assurances that the black youth at the school were not being mistreated, and told Means they would return if they heard of more bullying and violence against black students. According to some sources, Means asked them to leave the school and they did, gathering at a nearby parking lot. The group had dispersed when the police went to the parking lot soon after. There are various reports outlining when the police arrived at the school, but all reports make clear that the members of the Black Panther Party left the school and then the area without further incident. *See figures 129-130*.

#### **Aftermath**

On the evening of September 7, a meeting of the Southeast Education Citizens Committee was transformed into a postmortem of the incident, with between 350 and 400 primarily white parents showing up to discuss the incident. An additional meeting on September 8, between community members, school administrators, the Central Area Motivation Program (CAMP) and the Seattle Human Rights Commission resulted in a hastily-assembled "mobile security task force." See figure 131.

When school resumed on Monday, September 9, the halls were patrolled by the task force, which included Seattle police and private security officers. In spite of these measures, 25 percent of the total student body was absent. That evening, more than 1,000 people met in the school gym, during which police chief Frank Ramon declared that future "invasions" would result in arrests, and that they would seek stricter gun control regulations from the City Council. During the meeting, four African American men in Black Panther gear walked into the gym and for half an hour observed the meeting from the top of the bleachers. 149

By Tuesday, September 10 attendance was back to normal, and the uniformed police officers were no longer patrolling the halls, although the remainder of the security task force was on hand.

On Friday September 13, a week after the confrontation between the Black Panthers and Means, Mayor Dorm Braman spoke out against the Black Panthers, citing the Rainier Beach incident and asserting that the police would arrest anyone attempting to take the law into their own hands. <sup>150</sup> Braman also announced that he had requested that the city council enact gun control measures.

By September 17, a firearms control ordinance had been presented to the Seattle City Council, having been requested by Braman and Police Chief Ramon. The ordinance would make it "unlawful to carry or display any weapon in a manner intended to intimidate of annoy another person, whether the weapon is loaded or not."<sup>151</sup>

On September 23, the City Council unanimously passed an emergency gun control measure, prohibiting "display of a 'dangerous weapon' for the purpose of intimidation." <sup>152,153</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>144</sup> De Yonge.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>145</sup> Dixon, p. 110.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>146</sup> Seattle Times, "Parents Stress 'Law and Order," September 8, 1968, p. 21.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>147</sup> Angelos, "Situation Calm at Rainier Beach School," Seattle Times, September 9, 1968, p. 1.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>148</sup> Ibid.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>149</sup> Angelos, "City Police Withdrawn, Rainier Beach Attendance Normal," Seattle Times, September 10, 1968, p. 1, 17.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>150</sup> Seattle Post-Intelligencer, "Braman Warns Panthers," September 14, 1968, n.p.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>151</sup> Seattle Times, "Council to Act on Strict Gun-Control Ordinance," September 17, 1968, p. 7.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>152</sup> Alan Stein, "This Week Then: Looking Back on Seattle's Black Panther Party," Seattle Magazine, February 28, 2019, https://www.seattlemag.com/news-and-features/week-then-looking-back-seattles-black-panther-party (accessed May 2019).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>153</sup> Douglas Willix, "'Dangerous Weapon' Ban Passes," Seattle Times, September 24, 1968, p. 33.

By February 1969, the Washington State legislature was poised to pass a gun-control measure in the same vein and with nearly the same language as the one passed in Seattle, making it a gross misdemeanor to display a weapon "in a threatening or intimidating manner." When the Seattle Black Panthers heard about the proposed legislation, they began making plans to demonstrate at the Capitol Building in Olympia. The legislature, in turn, caught wind that the Black Panthers would be protesting the legislation, and decided to "ram through" the measure. The deputy governor mobilized the state patrol, and the following day approximately 45 state troopers carrying nightsticks were positioned at every entrance and exit of the capitol building, and a machine gun was mounted on top of the capitol building. That same day, the Washington State House and Senate both passed the gun measure, significantly faster than such legislation usually takes. <sup>154</sup> *See figure 132.* 

The *Seattle Times* illustrated the link between the statewide measure and the Rainier Beach incident thus:

On a 92 to 0 vote, the House sent to the governor a bill which would make it a crime to display weapons in a manner which intimidates others. The measure was aimed at a situation which arose in Seattle when a group of black militants visited Rainier Beach High School.<sup>155</sup>

The following day, February 28, 1969, the Black Panthers protested the measure on the steps of the capitol building. Dixon delivered a five-minute speech to the state legislature, before the group departed the capitol building. Then-Governor Dan Evans signed the bill into law that same day.<sup>156</sup>

# 4.5 Historic Architectural Context: Modern & Mid-Century Modern Style School Typology (1945-1965)<sup>157</sup>

The design of the Rainier Beach High School building reflects many of the ideas of mid-century modernist architecture. Before World War II, only a few school designs were responding to Modernist ideas, striving for clean, rational, and functional spaces. These buildings set the stage for the boom in new Modernist schools built after the war.

Modernism, or the Modern Movement in design and architecture, had its origins in Europe after World War I, with an underlying belief that advances in science and technology would generate a new form of architecture, free from the pervasive eclecticism based on revival forms. The possibilities of curtain wall construction utilizing steel frames and the freeform massing using ferro-concrete were explored by Continental architects and American Modernist pioneers, including Frank Lloyd Wright. Although educational theories excoriated the traditional classroom structure as factory-like and welcomed the idea of new schools with more flexible learning environments, school designers in the United States were slow to adopt new styles of building, continuing to use traditional models during the Great Depression and into the 1940s.

In America, school design started to be influenced by the outward aesthetic of the Modern movement, while retaining traditional classroom sizing and daylighting standards. During the

<sup>154</sup> Givens.

<sup>155</sup> Seattle Times, "\$5.3 Million Bill For Welfare OK'd," February 28, 1969, p. 9.

<sup>156</sup> Stein.

<sup>157</sup> Larry E. Johnson, AIA, The Johnson Partnership, May 2013. Additional input was received from Susan Boyle, AIA, of BOLA Architecture + Planning.

<sup>158</sup> R. Furneaux Jordan, A Concise History of Western Architecture (Norwich, G.B.: Jarrold and Sons, 1969), p. 320.

1930s little funding was available for new schools outside of the Federal Public Works Administration (PWA) building projects.<sup>159, 160</sup>

Many of the plans for modern schools included classrooms that opened directly to the exterior and were air conditioned. One of the earliest schools to apply the principles of the International Style was William Lescaze's Ansonia High School in Connecticut in 1937. The Crow Island School in Winnetka, Illinois, designed in 1940 by Eliel Saarinen, was instrumental in influencing Modern school design, as was Richard Neutra's Corona Avenue School in California. The firm of Franklin & Kump designed the Acalanes Union High School (1939-40) in Lafayette, California, which applied these ideas in an economical way to an expandable high school, and included open-air walkways. See figures 133-136.

Modern construction, technologies, and ideas for the health, welfare, and educational ideals for children also impacted school design. The new designs focused on one-story flat-roof buildings, using modern lightweight building technologies with metal-frame windows. These schools were less expensive to build than their two-story Classical, Colonial, or Gothic predecessors. They also had a shorter life expectancy.

New research on tolerable levels of light, temperature, and ventilation, combined with technological advances in lighting and environmental controls, bolstered the success and proliferation of the new architectural forms. As designs relied more on artificial lighting and mechanical ventilation, architects during the latter part of the postwar era also began to focus on the acoustical design principles for school classrooms, affecting roof and ceiling forms. <sup>163</sup> An early example of this is illustrated at John Carl Warneke's Portola Junior High School in El Cerrito, California, constructed in 1951. The 1958 gymnasium by NBBJ at Lincoln High School reflects the same popular idea of natural lighting with monitor skylights facing alternately north and south. <sup>164</sup> *See figures 137-138*.

During this period, new school designs accommodated new functions and frequently had separate structures for auditoriums/lunchrooms, gymnasiums, and covered outdoor play areas, although this was less common for elementary schools than high schools. Some schools had specialized classrooms for music, art, and science, while portable buildings were also often retained for art and music. 165

### The Design of Seattle School Buildings after World War II

In the Pacific Northwest, a new generation of architects emerged from architectural schools, including the University of Washington, where early adopters of Modernism challenged traditionalist professors. These new practitioners—including Victor Steinbrueck (1911-1985), Paul Hayden Kirk (1914-1995), Omer Mithun (1918-1983), and Roland Terry (1917-2006)—emerged from their apprenticeships embracing a new Northwest Modernism.

<sup>159</sup> Washington State had at least three of these PWA-constructed schools: Bellingham High School (1938, Floyd Naramore), Meridian Elementary School in Kent (1939), and Panther Lake School in Federal Way (1938-1939).

<sup>160</sup> UC Berkeley, "The Living New Deal," http://livingnewdeal.berkeley.edu/us/wa, (accessed March 27, 2014).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>161</sup> R. Thomas Hille, Modern Schools: A Century of Design for Education (Hoboken, NJ: John Wiley & Sons, 2011) p. 78.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>162</sup> Architecture Week: Great Buildings, "Crow Island School,"

http://www.greatbuildings.com/buildings/Crow\_Island\_School.html, accessed February 18, 2012.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>164</sup> Charles Burress, "Workers Gearing Up for Tearing Down Portola Middle School," *El Cerrito Patch*, May 23, 2012 http://elcerrito.patch.com/groups/schools/p/portola-middle-school-replacement-moves-closer-to-reality.
<sup>165</sup> Baker, pp. 10-16.

By 1957, the formal principles of Modernism were accepted in school designs with the following characteristics: one story buildings, with classroom wings grouped around landscaped courts. In a 1957 article Seattle architect John Morse discussed new terminology that had arisen around these new modern schools:

The following terms became well known: single-loaded corridors, bilateral lighting, sky-lighting, radiant heating unit ventilation, the finger plan, the campus plan, multipurpose room, slab-on-grade, brightness ratios, color harmony; and still later: luminous ceilings, window walls, audio-visual techniques, resilient playground surfacing, flexible special-purpose rooms, student activity rooms. <sup>166</sup>

Morse also discussed the changes that had taken place in school design:

The principal changes in regular classrooms have been these: more floor area per pupil – minimum 30 sq. ft., square rooms, sinks in all primary classrooms, daylighting from above or from two sides, lower ceilings – down from 12 feet to 8 or 9 feet, mechanical ventilation, more tackboard – less chalkboard, more positive colors on walls and floors, higher illumination – 40 foot candles minimum, sun control outside the windows, all furniture movable. <sup>167</sup>

School design in Seattle followed the national pattern, with school districts struggling to accommodate rapid population growth resulting from the postwar Baby Boom. During this period, the Seattle School district chose separate architects for each school design, definitively moving away from the previous model of a school district architect producing unified designs. Most school architects between 1945 and 1965 designed one-story elementary schools with ribbon windows and a modern expression. Several schools replaced interior corridors with covered exterior walkways as circulation spaces. All were purposely residentially scaled to fit better within their neighborhoods, and perhaps to be less intimidating to younger children. Because of the booming student population, portable school units were used at all schools to ease overcrowding.

During the war years, the Seattle Parks Department and the Seattle Public Schools shared the administration of sports programs, and in 1948 the school district adopted interscholastic sports programs. This resulted in changes of both school design and school site planning. This effort reflected a national interest, advanced by the National Education Association and others, to meet the specific and distinct needs of teenagers. Thus, the postwar schools accommodated more sports and play, with a typical emphasis on indoor/outdoor connections, and additional paved outdoor recreation and equipment areas. While many schools were fenced, play areas were typically accessible for neighborhood use. School sites were expanded to create larger paved parking lots for teachers, staff, service vehicles, and visitors. Landscaped plant beds were typically placed along the primary façades and entries of classroom and administrative buildings and within courtyards.

The original design of the 1960 building at Rainier Beach High School is consistent with the mid-century modern design of Seattle Public Schools, with flat roofs, differentiated volumes for the gymnasium, ribbon windows, and modern construction methods. One of the character-defining features of Rainier Beach High School is the square plan of the classroom building with its interior courtyard, a feature which is shared by other schools in the District. However, the

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>166</sup> John M. Morse, "The Art of Building Has Changed," Washington Education, April 1957, p. 13-15.
<sup>167</sup> Ibid.

2000 Performing Arts Addition, and the 2009 addition to Unit A, Classrooms, including the alteration of the primary Entry could be classified as post-modern, and are addressed later in this section.

In contrast to the orthogonal layout of many mid-century modern schools, Rainier Beach High School's plan was influenced by unsuitable bearing soils. Building A, fronting the primary streets (Seward Park Avenue S and S Henderson Street), is laid out on the dominant street grid. Buildings C and D pivot roughly 30 degrees in response to the underlying bearing soils.

The gymnasium, or Unit C, was not built with any special character-defining feature for natural lighting, structural roof characteristics, or other innovative architectural approach such as those used at other schools in the district. Unit B, the auditorium, was never built as designed and was constructed in 2000, and thus cannot be compared with other mid-century designs for high school auditoriums.

Other mid-century era schools in the Seattle Public School district that have similar square plans with internal courtyards include:

- Broadview-Thomson Junior High School (Waldron & Dietz, 1963): This is also a twostory-tall modern-style classroom building, but the exterior features solar shading for the ribbon windows and a precast Lin Tee concrete structural system.
- George Washington Junior High School (John Graham & Co, 1963): This building has a folded thin-shell concrete roof.
- Nathan Hale High School (Mallis & DeHart, 1962): This building also has a two-story square classroom building with an internal courtyard. The roof structure features a precast Lin Tee roof.
- Worth McClure Middle School (Edward Mahlum, 1964): This two-story-tall flat-roofed rectangular building's small interior courtyard functions more like a light well than an open courtyard. The building structure consists of a heavy cast-in-place concrete frame with angled cast-in-place concrete brise-soleil shading the exterior glazing.

Seattle Public Schools' educational specifications for high schools have changed significantly since 1950, now requiring designs that prioritize student learning, personalization, community engagement, and flexibility in building design. Key components that have changed since the mid-century include accessibility for students of all abilities, increased school security concerns, increased emphasis on technology and communications, design for increased community use, energy conservation, and sustainability. For example, the educational specifications no longer recommend that a school be separated departmentally, as the layout of Rainier Beach High School makes necessary. (Additional information on educational specifications can be found in the School District's supplemental information submitted along with this nomination.)

### Postmodern School Design & the Design of Seattle School Buildings after 1980

The 2000 Performing Arts addition by Streeter & Associates and the 2009 library addition by Rolluda Architects are consistent with a postmodern approach to school design. Character-defining features of the school that could be considered postmodern include the curvilinear

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>168</sup> Seattle Public Schools, "Generic Elementary Education Specifications," May 31, 2016.

walls, round columns at both the interior and exterior, the corrugated metal cladding, and the use of a bright primary color scheme on painted elements.

Postmodernism evolved as a reaction against the International Modern movement and its lack of decoration, signs, and signifiers in architecture. In the mid 1960s, architects began to push back against the strictures of the Modern movement. In 1966 Robert Venturi wrote *Complexity and Contradiction in Architecture*, decrying the Modernist idea of purity in architecture, and in 1972 he and Denise Scott Brown wrote *Learning From Las Vegas*, in which they described architecture as either a "decorated shed" with applied ornament, or a "duck," in which the form of the building is itself a symbol. Architect and theorist Charles Jencks described the Postmodern style in a 1975 essay "The Rise of Postmodern Architecture," and a subsequent 1977 book, *The Language of Post-Modern Architecture*.

Robert Venturi is considered the father of the Postmodern style, and his designs for the Guild House (1963) and the Vanna Venturi house (1964), both in Philadelphia, defined the style from its inception. Charles Moore was also a proponent of the style, designing the 1978 Piazza d'Italia in New Orleans, in what would have been, at the time, a radical statement of traditional western iconography. By 1982, the style was entrenched in the architectural profession, and Philip Johnson designed the AT&T Building in New York—its broken pediment top a definitive statement that Postmodernism had overtaken International Modernism at every level of the architecture profession. Also in 1982, Michael Graves designed the Portland Building in Portland, OR. Using paint and applied ornamentation to suggest classical detailing, the Portland Building was one of the first buildings to apply a Postmodern style to a large civic building. The most famous Postmodern architects were Robert Venturi, Robert Stern, Charles Moore, Michael Graves, Leon Krier, and James Stirling. The term "starchitect" wasn't coined until 1986, but came to define Graves' career and his reliance on the Postmodern style. Graves' 2006 St. Coletta School in Washington D.C. is one of the best examples of the Postmodern style applied to an elementary school.

Most Postmodern architects use contemporary materials and detailing to signify traditional forms for economic reasons, such as using stone panels in curtain wall construction. Because the style has been indiscriminately applied to commercial architecture, the style has been maligned in recent years as a type of "sham architecture," with the signifiers more and more divorced from their meanings.

Seattle has several good examples of the Postmodern style, along with many examples of the style applied in a vernacular way. The Seattle Art Museum (1300 First Ave, 1991) by Venturi Scott Brown is one of the best examples of the style. On a large scale both the WaMu Tower (1201 Third Ave, Kohn Pedersen Fox, 1988) and the US Bank Center (1420 Fifth Ave, Callison, 1987) insert postmodern shaped tops into the Seattle skyline. On a smaller scale, several community centers in Seattle use the postmodern style effectively. These include the Ravenna-Eckstein Community Center (6535 Ravenna Ave NE, ARC, 1986), the Delridge Community Center (4501 Delridge Way SW, BOLA, 1992), and the Rainier Community Center (4600 38th Ave S, Michael Canatsey Associates, 1996).

Postmodern-style schools in Seattle are as follows: West Woodland (1991, Olson Sundberg Architects), Olympic View Elementary (1989, Eric Meng Associates), Whitworth Elementary (1989, WMFL Architects and Engineers), the African American Academy (1990, Streeter &

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>169</sup> Patrick Lynch, "Façade of Michael Graves' Postmodernist Portland Building Dismantled in Preparation for Recladding," ArchDaily, March 9, 2018, https://www.archdaily.com/890490/michael-graves-postmodernist-portland-building-facade-dismantled-in-preparation-for-recladding (accessed February 2019).

Associates), J. M. Colman Elementary/Thurgood Marshall Elementary (1991, Mahlum & Nordfors), the Frank B. Cooper School/Pathfinder (1999, Tsang Partnership), Ballard High School (1999, Mahlum & Nordfors McKinley Gordon), Highland Park Elementary (1999, Burr Lawrence Rising + Bates), Whittier Elementary (1999, DLR/John Graham & Associates). Schools with significant postmodern additions include Leschi (1988, Church/Suzuki) and John Muir Elementary (1991, Streeter/Dermanis Associates).

4.6 Seattle School District Number 1: History, General Historical & Building Context<sup>170</sup>

For a complete overview of the Seattle Public School District, see Appendix 3 to this report.

#### Post-World War II Seattle Schools, 1946 to 1965

After World War II, enrollment swelled to a peak in the 1960s of approximately 100,000 students. Between 1946 and 1958, six separate bond issues were approved for new school construction. Samuel Fleming, employed by the district since 1908, succeeded Worth McClure as superintendent in 1945. After Fleming retired in 1956, Ernest Campbell became superintendent.<sup>171</sup>

In 1945, the Seattle School District Board commissioned a study of population trends and future building needs. One proposal called for the modernization of all existing schools and the addition of classrooms, along with multi-use rooms for lunch and assembly purposes, covered and hard-surfaced play areas and play-courts, and expanded gymnasiums. Improvements in lighting, heating, plumbing systems, and acoustical treatments were sought as well. This survey occurred at a time when student enrollment in Seattle was stable, at around 50,000. By this time the school district was overseen by a five-member board of directors, and employed approximately 2,500 certified teachers, with an average annual salary of about \$2,880.<sup>172</sup>

The district completed a large stadium with reinforced concrete stands (1947, George W. Stoddard) in 1947, adjacent to the National Guard Armory at Harrison Street and Fourth Avenue N, at the former Civic Field. In 1951, a war memorial shrine bearing the names of 762 Seattle schools graduates killed in World War II was dedicated at Memorial Stadium.

In 1949, a 6.8 Richter-scale earthquake damaged several elementary schools, resulting in their subsequent replacement by temporary portables. As enrollment continued to swell throughout the 1950s, these temporary structures served as a quick, flexible response to overcrowding. In 1958 an estimated 20 percent of the total Seattle student body was taught in portable classrooms. Despite their popularity, however, the occupants of the portables suffered from inadequate heating, lack of plumbing, and distance from other school facilities. 173

Elementary schools included separate gymnasiums and auditorium-lunchrooms. Older high schools gained additions of gymnasiums and specialized classroom space. Despite all the construction, there were still extensive needs for portable classrooms to accommodate excess

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>170</sup> Prepared by Larry E. Johnson, AIA, principal of the Johnson Partnership, May 2013. Additional input was received from Susan Boyle, AIA, of BOLA Architecture + Planning. Note: This general historical survey does not provide a comprehensive list of every school built or operated by Seattle Public Schools from the district's founding in 1882 to the present day.
<sup>171</sup> Hoerlein, p. xii.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>172</sup> Robinson, p. 192-193. Aaron Purcell, School enrollment figures from Seattle Public Schools archives.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>173</sup> Hoerlein, p. xiii.

## enrollment.174

The earliest school buildings, put up as rapidly as possible, included the three schools constructed in 1949. Designs prepared by George W. Stoddard for these schools were essentially linked portables with a fixed administrative wing. Each of the district's thirty-five new school buildings was individually designed in the Modern style, with nearly all of the elementary schools constructed as one-story buildings, or on sloping sites. To conform to change in building code, each classroom had direct access to grade. During this period the quality of construction gradually improved from a relatively low standard to a fifty-year standard.

The twenty-two new elementary schools built by the district between 1948 and 1965 are as follows: *See figures 139-161.* 

School	Year	Address	Designer	Notes
View Ridge School	1948	7047 50 <sup>th</sup> Avenue NE	William Mallis	
Arbor Heights School	1949	3701 SW 104th Street	George W. Stoddard	Demolished, replacement opened 2016
Briarcliff School	1949	3901 W Dravus Street	George W. Stoddard	Demolished
Genesee Hill	1949	5012 SW Genesee Street	George W. Stoddard	Demolished, replacement opened 2016
Lafayette School	1950	2645 California Avenue SW	John Graham & Co.	
Van Asselt School	1950	7201 Beacon Avenue S	Jones & Biden	Temporary site for Wing Luke. (1909 structure adjacent to 1950 structure was designated a City of Seattle Landmark in 2019.)
Olympic Hills School	1954	13018 20 <sup>th</sup> Avenue NE	John Graham & Co.	Demolished, replacement opened 2017
Viewlands School	1954	10523 Third Avenue NW	Mallis & Dehart	
Wedgwood School	1955	2720 NE 85 <sup>th</sup> Street	John Graham & Co.	
Northgate School	1956	11725 First Avenue NE	Paul Thiry	
John Rogers School	1956	4030 NE 109th Street	Theo Damm	
North Beach	1958	9018 24 <sup>th</sup> Avenue	John	

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>174</sup> Ibid., pp. xii-xiii.

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School		NW	Graham & Co.	
Roxhill School	1958	9430 30 <sup>th</sup> Avenue SW	John Graham & Co.	Roxhill Elementary program has been moved to E. C. Hughes site. The Roxhill building currently houses classrooms and administrative offices of the special education BRIDGE program.
Sand Point School	1958	6208 60 <sup>th</sup> Avenue NE	G.W. Stoddard w/ F. Huggard	
Cedar Park School	1959	13224 37 <sup>th</sup> Avenue NE	Paul Thiry	Seattle Landmark
Sacajawea School	1959	9501 20 <sup>th</sup> Avenue NE	Waldron & Dietz	
Decatur School	1961	7711 43 <sup>rd</sup> Avenue NE	Edward Mahlum	Re-opened 2017
Graham Hill School	1961	5149 S Graham Street	Theo Damm	Altered
Rainier View School	1961	11650 Beacon Avenue S	Durham, Anderson & Freed	
Schmitz Park School	1962	5000 SW Spokane Street	Durham, Anderson & Freed	Vacant
Broadview- Thomson School	1963	13052 Greenwood Avenue N	Waldron & Dietz	
Fairmount Park School	1964	3800 SW Findlay Street	Carlson, Eley & Grevstad	Altered

One of the first priorities during this period was the building of new junior high schools. Between 1950 and 1964, nine new junior high schools were completed: *See figures 162-170.* 

School	Year	Address	Designer	Notes
Eckstein Jr. High School	1950	3003 NE 75 <sup>th</sup> St	William Mallis	Seattle Landmark
Blaine Jr. High School	1952	2550 34 <sup>th</sup> Ave W	J. Lister Holmes	
Sharples Jr. High School	1952	3928 S Graham Street	William Mallis	Now Aki Kurose Middle School

David Denny Jr. High School	1952	8402 30 <sup>th</sup> Avenue SW	Mallis & Dehart	Demolished
Asa Mercer Jr. High School	1957	1600 Columbian Way S	John W. Maloney	
Whitman Jr. High School	1959	9201 15 <sup>th</sup> Avenue NW	Mallis & Dehart	
Louisa Boren Jr. High School	1963	5950 Delridge Way SW	NBBJ	Now Boren K-8 STEM
George Washington Jr. High School	1963	2101 S Jackson Street	John Graham & Co.	
Worth McClure Jr. High School	1964	1915 First Avenue W	Edward Mahlum	

During this period the district also constructed four new high schools: See figures 171-174.

School	Year	Address	Designer	Notes
Chief Sealth High School	1957	2600 SW Thistle	NBBJ	Altered
Ingraham High School	1959	1819 N 135th Street	NBBJ	Altered, portions are City of Seattle Landmarks
Rainier Beach High School	1960	8815 Seward Park Avenue S	John W. Maloney	Altered
Nathan Hale High School	1963	10750 30 <sup>th</sup> Avenue NE	Mallis & Dehart	Altered

Between 1943 and 1954, voters in the rapidly growing unincorporated areas north of Seattle, feeling the burden of new special school levies, and believing that there were advantages to Seattle transportation services and police and fire protection, approved at least twelve annexations to the city of Seattle. This pushed the city limits northward from a line near N 85<sup>th</sup> street, to a uniform north border at N 145<sup>th</sup> Street. These annexations brought an additional ten schools into the district from the struggling Shoreline School District.<sup>175</sup>

## 4.7 Original Building Designer: John W. Maloney (1896-1978)

The Seattle architectural firm John W. Maloney Associates designed the subject building. **See** *figure 175.* 

John (Jack) W. Maloney was born in Sacramento, CA in 1896. In the early 1900s, his family relocated to Auburn, WA, where he attended Auburn High School. He later attended the

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>175</sup> Roberta Hawkins, ed., Shore to Shore and Line to Line: A History of the Shoreline School District (Shoreline, WA: Shoreline Historical Museum, 2007), p. 26.

University of Washington and Stanford University. He served in the military during World War L <sup>176</sup>

Maloney established an architectural practice in Yakima around 1922, and remained in Yakima until 1943, when he relocated to Seattle. In Yakima his best-known project is the 11-story A. E. Larson Building (NHR), an elaborate Art Deco skyscraper. He also designed the McConnell Auditorium (1934-1935) on the Central Washington College of Education (now Central Washington State University) campus in Ellensburg and designed the entire campus of buildings at the Perry Technical Institute (1940) in Yakima. He also designed Thorp Grade School (1936), in Thorp, Washington.<sup>177</sup> *See figures 176-177*.

After relocating to Seattle, Maloney continued working as a sole practitioner until 1963. In the late 1940s and 1950s his office had a staff of about fifty architects, who were managed for a time by Edward K. Mahlum.<sup>178</sup>

During this period Maloney designed the entire Perry Technical Institute in Yakima (1940); Holland Library (1950) and the Compton Union Building (1951), both at Washington State University in Pullman; two dorms and the Student Union Building at Seattle University (1952-53); Mary Bridge Children's Hospital in Tacoma (1954); and Bishop Blanchet High School in Seattle (1954). All of these large, institutional works were designed in the International style. Maloney's Lind Hall (1947), also on the Central Washington College of Education campus, was designed in the Neoclassical style. *See figures 178-179.* 

Maloney's buildings of this period were characterized by blocky, simplified rectangular forms with long, low horizontal massing emphasized by bands of windows, horizontal window hoods, brick courses, and long bands of unembellished wall surface and flat roofs. Maloney would sometimes utilize massive curving forms such as at the Perry Technical Institute (1940) and at Bishop Blanchet High School (1955). He generally avoided exterior ornamentation, although WSU's Holland Library (1950) includes a 30-foot-tall wall sculpture titled "The Reader," by prominent Seattle artist Dudley Pratt.<sup>179</sup>

As a devout Catholic, Maloney developed close connections to the archdiocese, earning several church commissions including Holy Family Church (1956) in West Seattle, St. Benedict Church (1958) in Wallingford, Sacred Hearts Church (ca. 1959) in Lower Queen Anne, St. Thomas the Apostle Seminary Chapel (1958, now Bastyr University) on Lake Washington near Kenmore, St. Edwards Church (1953) in Columbia City, and St. Anne's Church and rectory (1960) in Lower Queen Anne. He also designed St. John's Hospital (1952) in Santa Monica, California, as well as the Science Building (1960, 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue E & E Marion Street) on the Seattle University campus. <sup>180</sup> *See figures 180-182.* 

Most of Maloney's later commercial works would incorporate innovative structural technologies and modern design elements. Notable Modern-style buildings include the Seattle First National Bank/Denny Way Branch (1950, 564 Denny Way, City of Seattle Landmark), Northwestern Life Insurance Co. Office (1952), a warehouse for the Seattle School District (1955, 1255 Harrison Street, demolished, utilized thin-shelled curved roofs), the Kittitas County Courthouse (1955, w/

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>176</sup> Michael Houser, "John W. Maloney, 1896-1978," Washington State Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation, http://www.dahp.wa.gov/learn-and-research/architect-biographies/john-w-maloney-0 (accessed February 2013).

Houser, "Edward K. Mahlum," architect biographies, Washington State Department of Archaeology & Historic Preservation.
 David Peterson, "Seattle Public Schools District Warehouse," Nicholson Kovalchick Architects, November 8, 2013.

<sup>180</sup> Houser, "Maloney."

John H. Whitney), the curtain-walled Blue Cross Insurance Building on Seattle's First Hill (1958, demolished), and the Hartford Insurance Company office building (1960, 1820 Eastlake Avenue. Maloney also added curtain walls to both the Yakima County Courthouse and the Kittitas County Courthouse, and a mausoleum at Holyrood Catholic Cemetery in Shoreline.<sup>181</sup> *See figures 183-185.* 

Maloney's office also designed many area schools including Beacon Hill Junior High School (1954), an addition to the 20<sup>th</sup> Avenue School (1955, now Meany Middle School), Jefferson Park Junior High School (1956), Asa Mercer Junior High School (1957, utilized a number of thin-shell concrete roofs), an addition to Grover Cleveland High School (1958), an addition to Franklin High School (1958, demolished), and Rainier Beach Junior-Senior High School (1960), all for the Seattle School District. Maloney's office also designed Terracene Elementary School (1957), and Lakota Junior High School (1959), both in Federal Way.<sup>182</sup>

In 1963, Maloney, then 68, partnered with other architects to form a new architectural firm of Maloney, Herrington, Freesz & Lund. Each partner was responsible for their own design work, with the firm supplying production support.

Among Maloney's notable buildings during this time were St. Thomas Catholic Seminary (1958, today Bastyr University); St. Edward's Church in Seattle (1958, features the longest-span, long-barrel-vault, thin-shell roof designed by structural engineer Jack Christiansen); St. Anne's Catholic Church and rectory on Queen Anne Hill (1960, incorporates an undulating thin-shell roof); St. Thomas More Church (1963) in Lynwood; and the men's dormitory (1963) and Lemieux Library (1966) on Seattle University campus. <sup>183</sup> *See figure 186*.

Maloney retired in 1970. His firm subsequently evolved into Mills, John and Rigdon (later MJR, later absorbed by CKA of Portland, OR). Maloney died in Seattle on January 23, 1978. 184

## 4.8 Building Engineer: Worthington, Skilling, Helle & Jackson, Structural Engineers

The Seattle engineering firm of Worthington, Skilling, Helle & Jackson, consulting structural and civil engineers, was responsible for the structural engineering of the Southeast Seattle Junior-Senior High School, eventually Rainier Beach High School, in 1958, with Joseph F. Jackson signing the drawings. Although the title block on the drawings belongs to John Maloney's architectural office, and Maloney's architectural stamp is also apparent on the structural drawings, both the architect and engineer placed their stamps on the drawings and took responsibility for drafting and design. It has been said that this type of collaborative architectural/structural teaming is a "distinctive trait within the modernist work of the Pacific Northwest." <sup>185</sup>

The engineering firm of Worthington Skilling Helle & Jackson grew out the W.H. Witt Company, founded in 1928. By 1959 the firm had evolved into Worthington, Skilling, Helle & Jackson, with John B. Skilling as one of the principal engineers. The firm was well known for collaborating on innovative mid-century architectural design such as those for the Rainier Tower (1972-77, Minoru Yamasaki with NBBJ, Seattle) and World Trade Center towers I and II (1963-

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>181</sup> Ibid.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>182</sup> Ibid.

<sup>183</sup> Ibid. Peterson.

<sup>184</sup> Houser, "Maloney."

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>185</sup> Docomomo WEWA, "Shannon and Wilson Building, Landmark Nomination Report," March 17, 2017, p. 16.

77, Minoru Yamasaki, New York, NY), along with numerous other projects. Skilling and his firm also provided the structural engineering for many buildings in Seattle, such as the Seattle World's Fair Fine Arts Pavilion (1961-62), the IBM Corporation Office Building and Garage (1962-64, Minoru Yamasaki, Seattle, WA), the King County Domed Stadium (the "Kingdome," 1972-76, Naramore, Bain, Brady, & Johanson, Seattle), One Union Square (1981, TRA Architects), Two Union Square (1987, NBBJ), the U.S. Bank Centre (1989, Callison Architecture), and the AT&T Gateway Tower (1990, now the Municipal Building). 1866

Skilling spent most of his career in Seattle, partnering with architect Floyd Naramore in 1977, as well as many other engineers during his career including Harold Worthington, Helge Joel Helle, John V. Christianson, Leslie Earl Robertson, William D. Ward, Jon Magnusson, Arthur J. Barkshire, and Joseph F. Jackson. Jack Christiansen is one of the best-known consulting engineers of the firm, who innovated techniques in thin-shell concrete construction. Leslie Earl Robertson was also well known at the time for specializing in tall buildings, such as New York City's twin towers of the World Trade Center. Both men became partners in the firm in 1967 and at Worthington's retirement the firm changed its name to Skilling, Helle, Christiansen & Robertson. Although Jackson's name was removed from the firm title, he stayed on as an active consultant. Helle retired from the firm in 1979, after which the firm name changed again to Skilling Ward Rogers Robertson, Engineers, which operated between 1983 and 1987. This firm later evolved into Skilling Ward Magnusson Barkshire (SWMB) Inc., Engineers, which operated between 1987 and 2003.

Representative buildings designed by Worthington, Skilling, Helle & Jackson:

## See figures 187-190.

Date	Project	Location	Design Architect	
1959-60	West Seattle Congregational Church	West Seattle, WA	Kirk Wallace McKinley	
1960	Chief Seattle Council Service Center,	Seattle, WA	Nelson and Sabin	
	Boy Scouts of America			
1960	Shannon and Wilson Properties	Seattle, WA	NBBJ	
	Incorporated Geotechnical Engineers			
	Office and Laboratory Building			
1961-62	Fine Arts Pavilion, Seattle World's	Seattle, WA	Kirk Wallace McKinley	
	Fair			
1962-64	International Business Machines	Downtown	NBBJ	
	(IBM) Corporation Office Building	Seattle, WA		
	and Garage			
1963-64	City of Seattle Public Library Branch	Magnolia, Seattle,	Kirk Wallace McKinley,	
	#3	WA	building architect;	
			Richard Haag, landscape	
			architect	
1964-68	Rivergate Exhibit Facility	New Orleans, LA	Curtis and Davis	
1967-69	University of Washington Child	Seattle, WA	Arnold G. Gangnes &	
	Development and Mental Retardation		Associates	
	Center			
1966-73	Port Authority of New York and	New York, NY	Minoru Yamasaki	

<sup>186</sup> Pacific Coast Architecture Database, "Skilling, John," https://digital.lib.washington.edu/architect/architects/2319/ (accessed October 2010).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>187</sup> Seattle Times, "Rites Held for Helge J. Helle, Engineer," July 1, 1986, F8.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>188</sup> Seattle Times, "Firm Name Changes to Include Partners," April 9, 1967, p. 90.

	New Jersey World Trade Center		
	Towers I and II		
1972-76	Kingdome, King County Department	Pioneer Square,	NBBJ
	of Stadium Administration Domed	Seattle, WA	
	Stadium		
1972-77	Rainier Bank Tower	Downtown	Minoru Yamasaki with
		Seattle, WA	NBBJ
1979-81	Seattle First National Bank	Downtown	Natalie de Blois of
	Incorporated Fifth Avenue Plaza	Seattle, WA	3D/International
	Building		
1985	Columbia Seafirst Center	Downtown	Chester L. Lindsey
		Seattle, WA	·

## 4.9 Original Building Contractor: Johnson-Morrison-Knudsen (1958-1964)

Johnson-Morrison-Knudsen was the general contractor for the 1959 construction of Southeast Junior High School (later Rainier Beach High School). They were the low bidder for the general contract for construction with a bid of \$1,848,170. 189 Johnson-Morrison-Knudsen appears to have been in business between 1958 and 1964.

Lloyd W. Johnson was the founding principal of the firm. He was born in Seattle on September 9, 1910, graduated from Roosevelt High School, and earned an engineering degree from the University of Washington. Johnson worked with Spokane contractor Max Kuney between 1942 and 1958 as a partner in the Seattle branch of the firm named Kuney-Johnson. By 1958, Johnson was a partner in Johnson-Morrison-Knudsen. In 1964, The Lloyd W. Johnson Co. of Bellevue was elected to membership to the Northwest chapter of Associated General Contractors. <sup>190</sup> Johnson died in 1991. <sup>191</sup>

Projects in Seattle built by Kuney-Johnson include a grain elevator on Hanford Street designed by C.W. Lawson in 1942,<sup>192</sup> the firm's own office building in South Lake Union in 1945,<sup>193</sup> the Public Safety Building<sup>194</sup> and the S. L. Savidge building in 1950, and the Federal Reserve Building in 1951.<sup>195</sup> The firm claimed that the floor structure of the S. L. Savidge building was the largest structural concrete pour in Seattle's history to date at 900 cubic yards and a 10-hour pour.<sup>196</sup> *See figure 191*.

By 1959, Johnson-Morrison-Knudsen had several significant projects underway including the 21-story Washington Building, located at Fourth Avenue and Union Street. The firm claimed this was the first office building on the west coast to use the "slip form" construction method for concrete formation and pouring.<sup>197</sup>

Johnson-Morrison-Knudsen was awarded the general contract for construction of the Group Health Hospital Building designed by Young, Richardson & Carleton at 16<sup>th</sup> Avenue E and E

<sup>189</sup> Seattle Times, "Southeast High to Have No Auditorium," May 28, 1959 p.25

<sup>190</sup> Seattle Times, "New Process Speeds Building," April 7, 1959, p. 25; "Contractors Add Bellevue Firm," May 3, 1964, p. 137.

<sup>191</sup> Dee Norton, "Deaths, Funerals," Seattle Times, March 28, 1991, p. D6.

<sup>192</sup> Seattle Times, "Hanford Street Annex Finished in Quick Time," October 20, 1942, p. 18.

<sup>193</sup> Seattle Department of Neighborhoods, "Kuny [sic.] Johnson C. Gen. Contractor/Cascade Architecture & Engineering," Seattle Historical Sites Survey, February 2014.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>194</sup> Seattle Times, "Tenant Must Go By August 30," August 28, 1948, p. 19.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>195</sup> Seattle Department Construction & Inspections, Permit no. 394011.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>196</sup> Seattle Times, "Concrete For Floor to Be 10-Hour 'Pour," December 26, 1947, p. 13.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>197</sup> Seattle Times, "New Process Speed Building," April 7 1959, p. 25.

John and Thomas streets in 1959.<sup>198</sup> The building was five stories tall and Johnson-Morrison-Knudsen imported a 14-story-tall German crane for the construction of the building. At the time it was the largest crane in the Pacific Northwest.<sup>199</sup> *See figure 192.* 

## 4.10 Subsequent Building Architect: Streeter & Associates

The firm of Mel Streeter & Associates designed the 2000 Performing Arts addition.

## Melvin Edward Streeter (1931-2006)<sup>200</sup>

Mel Streeter designed a new auditorium for RBHS completed in 2000.

Melvin (Mel) E. Streeter was born in Riverside, CA on March 5, 1931, the son of Edward D. and Eddie Mae (Cleveland) Streeter. A talented athlete, Streeter developed an interest in architecture in junior high school. He played varsity basketball Riverside Polytechnic High School, graduating in 1949. Streeter turned down an athletic scholarship at the University of California Los Angeles to attend the University of Oregon, which had an architecture program. He received a sports scholarship and played on the Oregon basketball team between 1950 and 1952, before focusing on architecture studies. He graduated with a Bachelor of Architecture degree in 1955, after which he served as second lieutenant at Seattle's Fort Lawton between 1955 and 1957, fulfilling his United States Army ROTC obligation. He see figure 193.

Streeter was African American, and faced some resistance finding a position in Seattle's architecture community; he eventually found positions with architects Paul Hayden Kirk and Fred Bassetti. <sup>205</sup> In 1967 Streeter founded his own firm, Mel Streeter Architects, thought to be the third African American-owned architecture firm in Seattle. <sup>206</sup> His first commission was a small educational addition to the St. Andrew Episcopal Church in Seattle's Green Lake neighborhood. <sup>207</sup>

In late 1973, Paul Dermanis, another former Bassetti employee, partnered with Streeter, forming the architectural firm of Streeter/Dermanis & Associates. Dermanis had previously been project architect at Bassetti's firm for the Engineering Library at the University of Washington and the Main Library addition Western Washington State College. At its peak Streeter/Dermanis employed 30 people at its Capitol Hill office.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>198</sup> Seattle Times, "Contract Awarded For New Hospital," June 10, 1959, p. 15.

<sup>199</sup> Seattle Times, "Crane Reaches 14 Stories," August 12, 1959, p. 39.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>200</sup> Adapted from Larry E Johnson, Supplemental Report for Liberty Bank Landmark Nomination.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>201</sup> Streeter, "Edward Melvin Streeter," http://trees.ancestry.com/tree/32280883/person/18227326084?ssrc=, accessed December 3, 2013, p. 1.

<sup>202</sup> Jerry Large, "Breaking Barriers, Building Hope -- He Long Ago Proved He Could Succeed as a Black Architect; Now Seattle's Mel Streeter Is Helping Others to Do the Same," Seattle Times, April 11, 2013,

http://community.seattletimes.nwsource.com/archive/?date=19960411&slug=2323607 (accessed December 2013).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>203</sup> University of Oregon, "100 Stories, School of Architecture and Allied Arts, Mel Streeter, AIA,"

http://aaablogs.uoregon.edu/100stories/2010/12/23/mel-streeter/, p. 1.

<sup>204</sup> Athima Chansanchai, "Streeter, pioneering architect, dead at 75," Seattle Post-Intelligencer, June 12, 2006, http://www.seattlepi.com/local/article/Streeter-pioneering-architect-dead-at-75-1206072.php (accessed December 2013).
205 Ibid

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>206</sup> Donald King, "Streeter, Mel (1931-2006)," Blackpast.org, http://www.blackpast.org/aaw/streeter-mel-1931-2006 (accessed November 2013).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>207</sup> Chansanchai.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>208</sup> Seattle Times, "Mel Streeter," December 9, 1973, p. 47.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>209</sup> Ibid.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>210</sup> Chansanchai, p. 2.

Over the next several years Streeter/Dermanis expanded into planning studies including the University of Washington Portage Bay Plan in conjunction with Naramore, Bain, Brady & Johanson (1978), a location study for the Mercer Island park-and-ride lot, I-90 Operational Analysis (1992), Rainier Avenue South Transit Project: Status Report (1992), and the Montlake Trolley Turnback Feasibility Study, Alternatives Analysis Report (1994), among others.<sup>211</sup>

Dermanis left the firm in 1992, with Streeter continuing his practice as Streeter & Associates.<sup>212</sup>

Streeter was a founding member of the Diversity Roundtable of American Institute of Architects (AIA), Seattle Chapter, and was seen as a mentor to many younger architects. Streeter was noted for his contributions and deep investment in public education, civic projects, and developing opportunities for a more racially diverse architectural profession. AIA Seattle awarded Streeter a Community Service Award in 2004.<sup>213</sup> He was also a member of Tabor 100, the Breakfast Club of Seattle, and the Kiwanis Club. He served on the Seattle Planning Commission between 1989 and 2000.<sup>214</sup>

Streeter died on June 12, 2006 at age 75, ending a long and productive architecture career. 215

## Known Works by Mel Streeter, Streeter/Dermanis, and Streeter & Associates Commercial Works

- Liberty Bank, 2320 E Union Street (1969, Mel Streeter Architects w/ Wilmsen, Endicott & Unthank, demolished). In 1968, Streeter, with the Eugene, OR architecture firm of Wilmsen, Endicott & Unthank as associated architects, was commissioned to design a the first African American-owned bank in the region. The bank was designed with a one-story flat roof entry/lobby section intersecting with a rear two-story administrative section with a faux loggia on the second story. The building was constructed without the second story. Demolished 2016. *See figure 194.*
- Bellevue Racquets Club, 140<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE & Bellevue-Redmond Road (1968, Mel Streeter Architects). This sports facility included a swimming pool and outdoor tennis courts.<sup>217</sup> See figure 195.
- Restaurant & office complex, 1431 23<sup>rd</sup> Avenue (designed 1969, Mel Streeter Architects unbuilt). Streeter designed a restaurant and office complex in the heart of Seattle's Central District for jazz artist Q. Sonny Booker and newscaster Sonny Buxton. Although unbuilt, the project was meant to revitalize the neighborhood with black-owned, non-governmental-supported development.<sup>218</sup> *See figure 196.*
- Evergreen Funeral Home, 526 19<sup>th</sup> Avenue E (1971, Mel Streeter Architects, altered). Modest one-story flat-roofed building for William A. Allen.<sup>219</sup>

<sup>213</sup> AIA Seattle, "Mel Streeter AIA—AIA Seattle Community Service Award, 2004,"

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>211</sup> Streeter/Dermanis and Associates, Various reports and planning studies.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>212</sup> Large

http://www.aiaseattle.org/archive\_honors\_communityservice\_04\_melstreeter.htm (accessed December 2013). <sup>214</sup> Large.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>215</sup> Social Security Death Index-Washington State, "Melvin Streeter,"

http://www.digitalarchives.wa.gov/Record/View/0473CA25CE185EF77768625FC9C21C9A (accessed December 2013). <sup>216</sup> Seattle Times, "Central-Area Bank," July 30, 1967, p. 96.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>217</sup> Seattle Times, "Racquets Complex Taking Shape," October 13, 1968, p. 127. Streeter was locally known as an excellent tennis player.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>218</sup> Seattle Times, "For Central Area Office-Restaurant Complex to Rise," June 4, 1969, p. 6. Seattle Times, "No 'Handouts' Needed At Central Area Project," June 14, 1969, p. 1.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>219</sup> Seattle Times, "Open house," July 25, 1971, p. 45.

- Nelson Chevrolet, 1521 NW 50th Street (1973, Mel Streeter Architects, vacant). This new automobile dealer showroom Ballard building featured a glass curtain wall along its main street façade.<sup>220</sup> See figure 197.
- Washington Mutual Bank, 7100 Martin Luther King Jr. Way (1973, Mel Streeter Architects, altered) One-story brick masonry branch office.<sup>221</sup>
- National Bank of Commerce, Totem Lake branch. (1973, Mel Streeter Architects). 222 See figure 198.
- Pacific National Bank, 2821 Beacon Avenue S (1974, Streeter/Dermanis, demolished). This 4,565-square-foot branch bank was demolished to make way for the Beacon Hill branch library.<sup>223</sup>

#### Residential Works

- The Eleanor and the Northern Apartments, 115-119 18th Avenue (1971, renovation by Mel Streeter Architects). Streeter assisted the Betsuin Housing Corporation, affiliated with the Seattle Buddhist Church, with a \$300,000 conversion of two older brick masonry apartment buildings: the Eleanor and the Northern, into low-income housing for the elderly.<sup>224</sup>
- Wisteria View, 1400 S Main Street. (1979, Streeter/Dermanis). Low-income senior housing project for the Wisteria Housing Corporation, affiliated with the Seattle Buddhist Church.<sup>225</sup>
- Bayview Manor, 11 W Aloha Street (designed 1981 by Streeter/Dermanis, not completed). In 1981 the firm was selected to design a 19,800 sq. ft. addition to a multiunit housing complex, although the project was not completed.
- Archdiocesan Housing Authority complex (1982, Streeter/Dermanis). 85 low-income elderly housing units for the Archdiocesan Housing Authority.<sup>226</sup>
- Samuel B. McKinney Senior Housing Complex (1998, Streeter & Associates). Streeter's firm designed the 65-unit housing complex for Mount Zion Baptist Church.<sup>227</sup>

### **Community Projects**

- Jefferson Park Recreation Center expansion, 3801 Beacon Avenue S (1970, Mel Streeter Architects). A \$200,000 expansion of a one-story brick masonry hip-roofed building that housed classrooms, conference rooms, and gym facilities. 228
- Bikur Cholim Synagogue, 104 17<sup>th</sup> Avenue S (converted 1970, Mel Streeter Architects). As part of the Model Cities program, Streeter prepared plans for the conversion of the into a multi-service community center.<sup>229</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>220</sup> Blaine Schulz, "Dealer expands," Seattle Times, March 18, 1973, p. 34.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>221</sup> Seattle Times, "Bank starts building," September 9, 1973, p. 56.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>222</sup> Seattle Times, "Bank in construction," June 3, 1973, p. 65.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>223</sup> Seattle Times, "New Bank for Beacon Hill," October 13, 1974, p. 104. <sup>224</sup> Seattle Times, "Rehab project begins," July 25, 1971, p. 44.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>225</sup> Seattle Times, "Residence for elderly to be built in International District," October 14, 1979, p. 154.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>227</sup> Mary T. Henry, "Mount Zion Baptist Church (Seattle)," HistoryLink.org essay 2048, January 29, 1999, http://www.historylink.org/index.cfm?displaypage=output.cfm&file\_id=2048 (accessed December 2013).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>228</sup> Seattle Times, "Plans moving ahead on expansion of Jefferson Park Recreation Center," October 9, 1970, p. 56.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>229</sup> Seattle Times, "Final approval given synagogue conversion," November 12, 1970, p. 30. Seattle Times, "Synagogue remodeled into east-neighborhood center," June 18, 1972, p. 14. W.D. Calvin may have assisted Streeter with early planning of the facility.

- Chevra Bikur Cholim Synagogue/Langston Hughes Cultural Arts Center, 104 17<sup>th</sup>
   Avenue S (1913, B. Marcus Priteca; 1970, renovation/conversion by Mel Streeter
   Architects with Isador Mervin Gorasht). Eight years after he prepared plans to convert
   the synagogue to a community center, Streeter and Gorasht prepared plans for the
   conversion of former synagogue to an arts center.<sup>230</sup>
- Federal Aviation Administration Regional Headquarters, 9010 E Marginal Way S, Boeing Field (1971, Mel Streeter Architects, demolished). Streeter was selected to design the \$2.5 million, 63,000 sq. ft. three-story Brutalist-style building.<sup>231</sup> The building was constructed of reinforced concrete, with massive pre-cast concrete sunscreens to deflect sun and sound. The building's first floor was depressed 5'-0" and surrounded by landscaped berms to form an "acoustical moat" to deflect runway noise.<sup>232</sup> The building received a Washington Precast Concrete Industry honor award in 1976.<sup>233</sup> **See figure 199.**
- Public Safety Building, Third Ave & Cherry Street (1951, demolished. 1978 interior renovation by Streeter/Dermanis, with Business Space Design). The firm was part of the building's interior renovation.<sup>234</sup>
- Auburn City Hall, 25 W Main Street, Auburn, WA (1979, Streeter/Dermanis). This 50,000-sq. ft. complex included offices, public meeting rooms, police and fire central operations, and court facilities. See figure 200.
- Wallingford Post Office, 1329 N 47<sup>th</sup> Street (1979, Streeter/Dermanis). A one-story brick masonry institutional building with a heavy horizontal fascia.<sup>236</sup>
- East-Central Precinct Police Station (1980, Streeter/Dermanis, unbuilt project).
   Streeter/Dermanis was selected to design a new police station, although controversy surrounding the proposed location delayed the project for several years, with the city eventually choosing to renovate the Klineburger Building (1519 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue) on Capitol Hill for the station.<sup>237</sup>
- High Point Community Center, 6920 34<sup>th</sup> Avenue SW (1981, Streeter/Dermanis) The building includes solar water heating and a concrete Trombe wall.<sup>238</sup>
- Seattle Public Library, Rainier Beach branch, 9125 Rainier Avenue S (1981, Streeter/Dermanis).<sup>239</sup>
- John Muir Elementary School addition and gymnasium, 3301 S Horton Street (1991, Streeter/Dermanis).<sup>240</sup>
- Administration Building, United States Naval Station (early 1990s, Streeter/Dermanis).<sup>241</sup>

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>235</sup> University of Oregon.

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>241</sup> Mark Hinshaw, "Revitalizing Everett – Homeport, Thriving City Center Reflect Commitment To Community," *Seattle Times*, February 27, 1994, http://community.seattletimes.nwsource.com/archive/?date=19940227&slug=1897464, (accessed November 2013).

- Paul Robeson Performing Arts Center at Rainier Beach High School (2000, Streeter & Associates)
- African American Academy, 8311 Beacon Ave S (2000, Streeter & Associates). Streeter's late signature project was the African American Academy for Seattle Public Schools. The design featured a circular *dogon* containing the library. <sup>242</sup> See figure 201.
- Qwest Field, now CenturyLink Field (1998-2002, Streeter & Associates with Ellerbe Beckett and LMN Architects).
- Seattle Public Library, Rainier Beach branch, 9125 Rainier Avenue S (2004, Streeter & Associates). Streeter was selected by the Seattle Public Library to design the new Rainier Beach branch library, replacing his earlier design. The new 15,000 sq. ft. \$3.1 million library building was completed in 2004.<sup>243</sup> See figure 202.

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Appendix 1

Figures

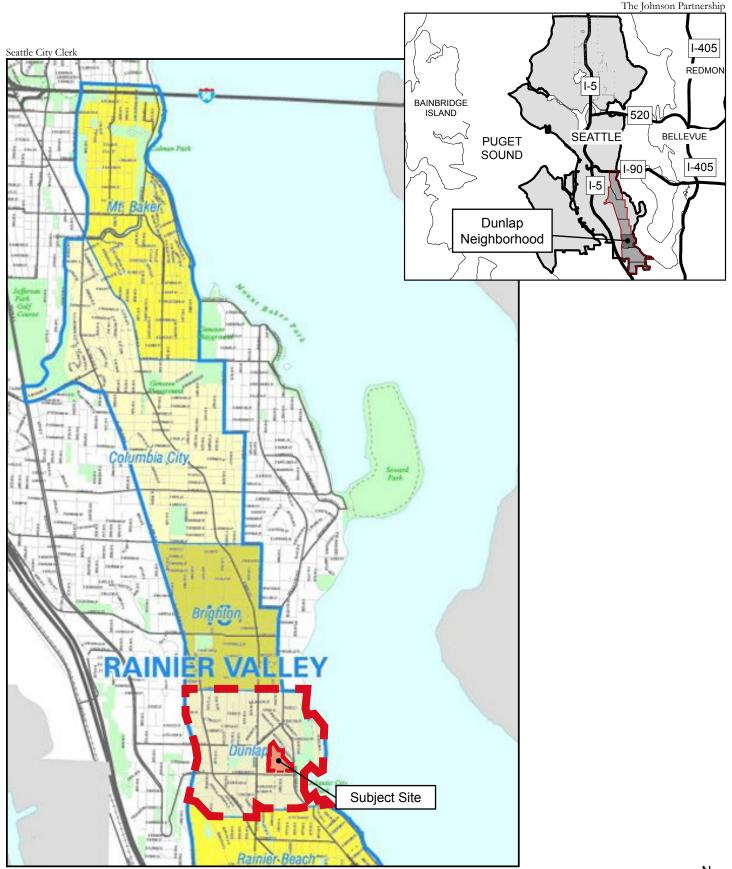


Figure 1 • Location Maps



Rainier Beach High School Landmark Nomination Report

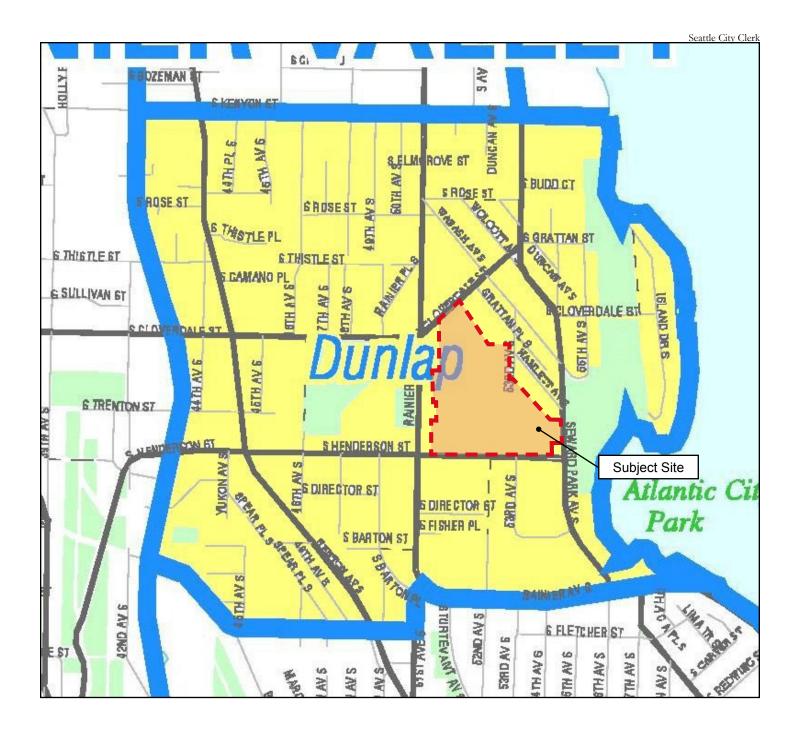


Figure 2 • Location Map: Dunlap/Rainier Beach Neighborhood



Figure 3 • Aerial View

View referenced in this document  $\leftarrow$  (x)





Figure 4 • View A - Viewing northeast on S Henderson St



Figure 5  ${\color{blue}\bullet}$  View B - Viewing north from S Henderson St and 52nd Ave S

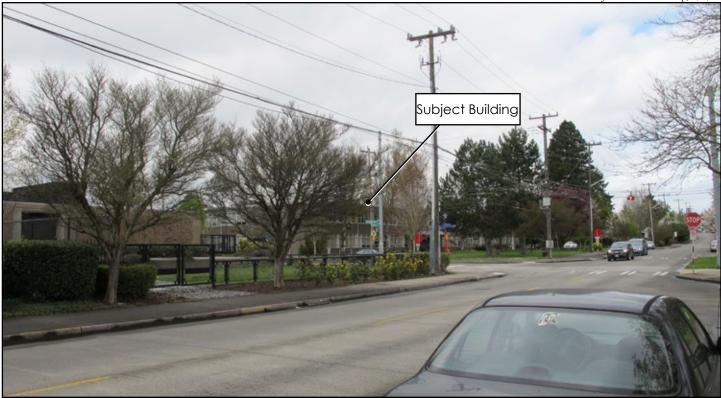


Figure 6 • View C - Viewing northwest on Seward Park Ave S



Figure 7 • View D - Viewing west from Beer Sheva Park



Figure 8 • View E - Viewing southwest on Seward Park Ave S



Figure 9 • View F - Viewing southwest on Hamlet Ave S



Figure 10 • View G - Viewing southwest on Hamlet Ave S

Subject Building

Subject Building

Figure 11 • View H - Viewing south at Hamlet Ave S and 53rd Ave S

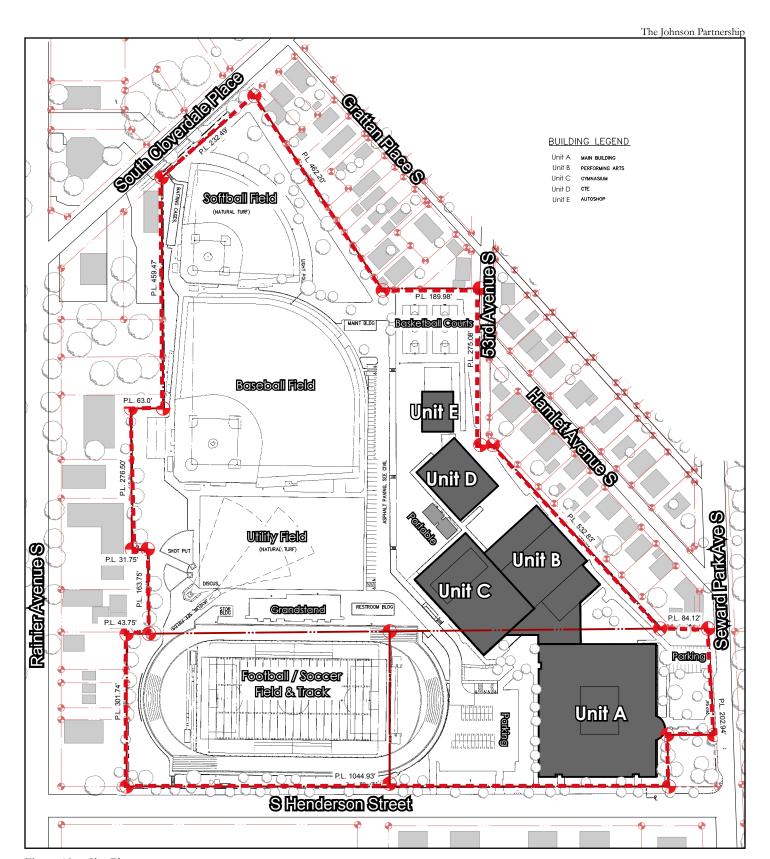


Figure 12 • Site Plan

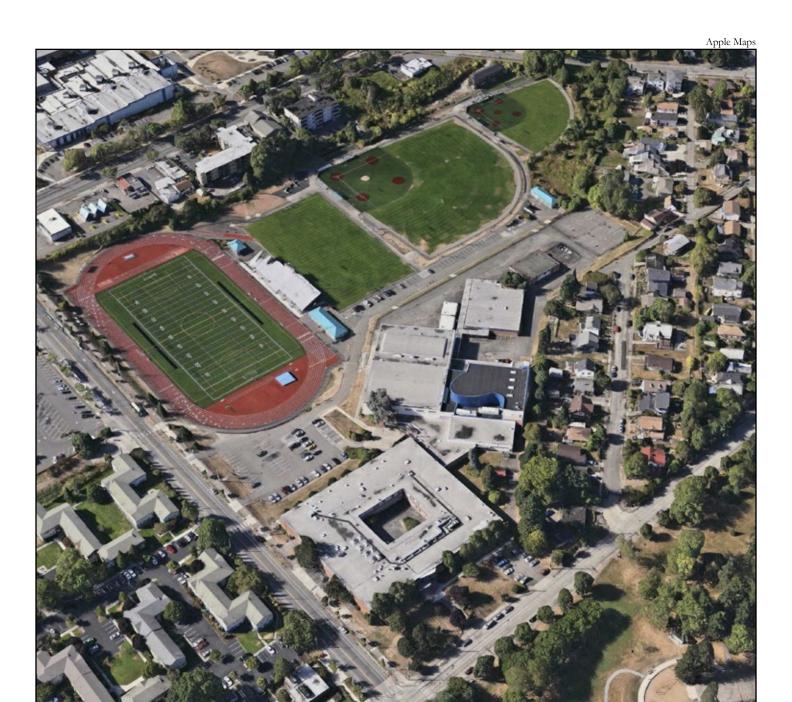


Figure 13 • Rainier Beach High School, aerial view



Figure 14 • Rainier Beach High School, Site, football/soccer field and track

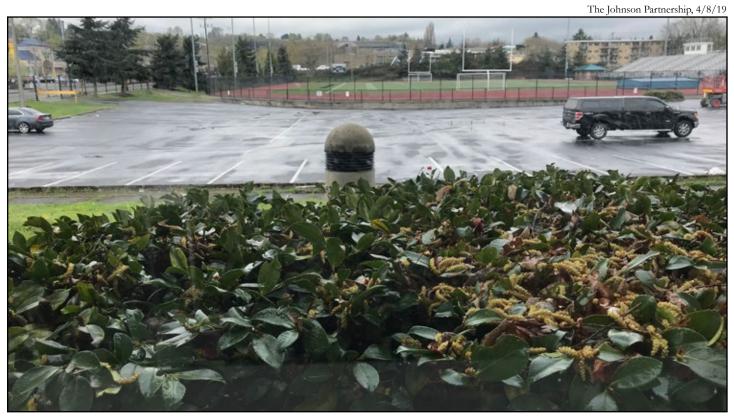


Figure 15 • Rainier Beach High School, Site, view of athletic field from parking

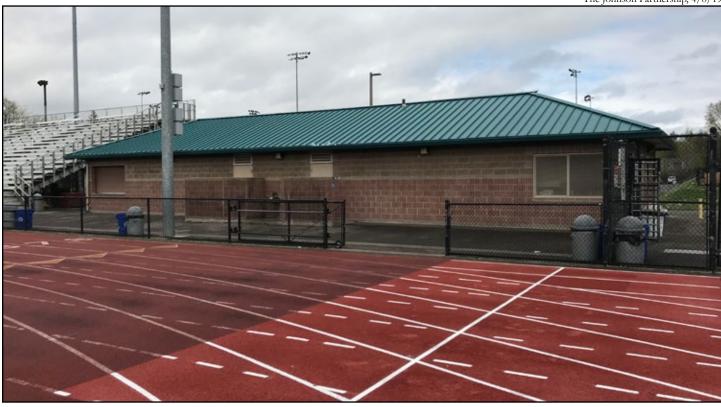


Figure 16 • Rainier Beach High School, Site, restroom and concessions facilities

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Figure 17 • Rainier Beach High School, Site, wetland buffer and softball field



Figure 18 • Rainier Beach High School, Site, grandstands



Figure 19 • Rainier Beach High School, Site, Rainier Beach organic garden



Figure 20 • Rainier Beach High School, Unit A, eastern façade, main entry



Figure 21 • Rainier Beach High School, Unit A, eastern façade, northern end



Figure 22 • Rainier Beach High School, Unit A, eastern façade, southern end



Figure 23 • Rainier Beach High School, Unit A, southern façade, western end



Figure 24 • Rainier Beach High School, Unit A, southern façade, eastern end



Figure 25 • Rainier Beach High School, Unit A, western façade, southern end



Figure 26 • Rainier Beach High School, Unit A, western façade, northern end



Figure 27 • Rainier Beach High School, Unit A, northern façade, southeastern end



Figure 28 • Rainier Beach High School, Unit A, northern façade, northwestern end



Figure 29 • Rainier Beach High School, Unit A, eastern wing, main entry lobby



Figure 30 • Rainier Beach High School, Unit A, eastern wing, administrative area



Figure 31 • Rainier Beach High School, Unit A, eastern wing, art classroom



Figure 32 • Rainier Beach High School, Unit A, southern wing, lunch room

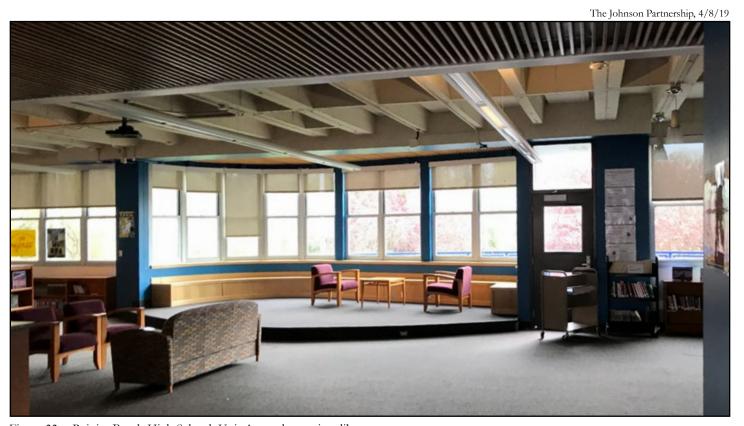


Figure 33 • Rainier Beach High School, Unit A, southern wing, library

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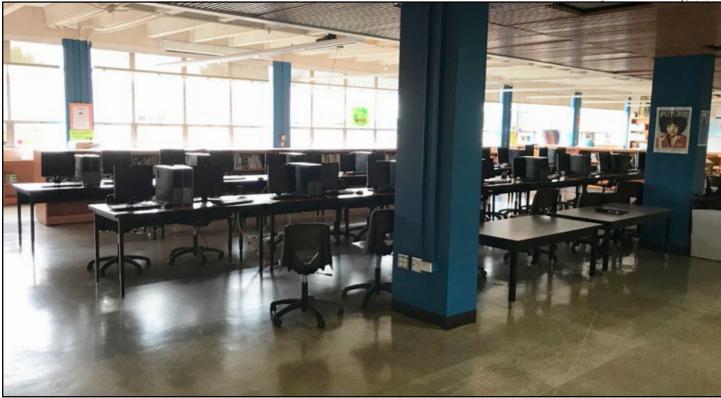


Figure 34 • Rainier Beach High School, Unit A, southern wing, library computer lab

Figure 35 • Rainier Beach High School, Unit A, western wing, food laboratory



Figure 36 • Rainier Beach High School, Unit A, western wing, food laboratory

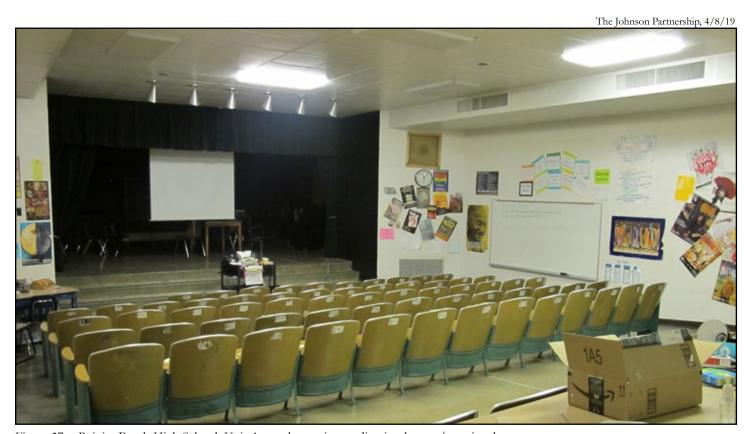
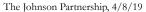


Figure 37 • Rainier Beach High School, Unit A, northern wing, audio visual room/practice theater



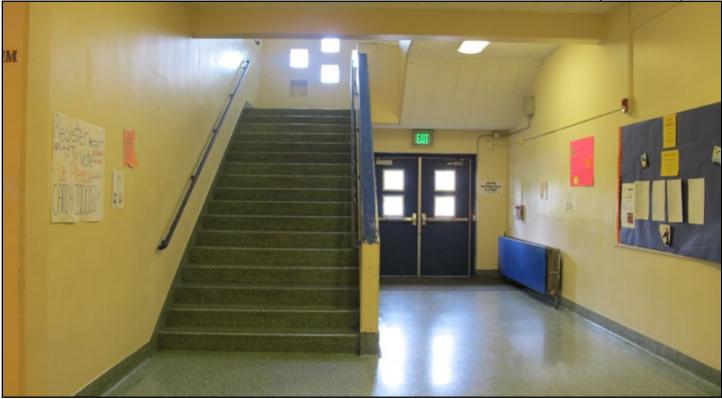


Figure 38 • Rainier Beach High School, Unit A, typical stairway

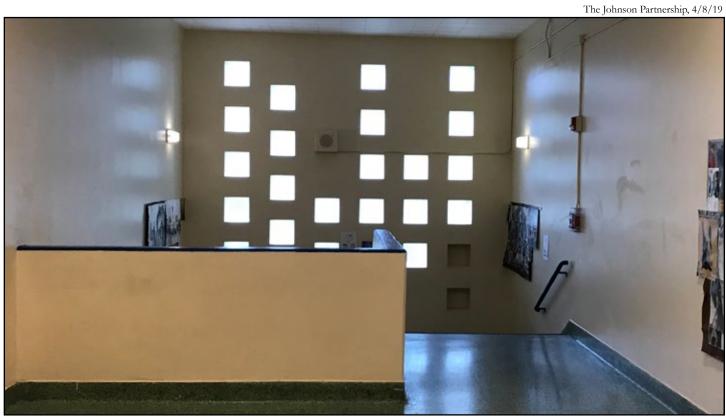


Figure 39 • Rainier Beach High School, Unit A, typical stairway fenestration detail



Figure 40 • Rainier Beach High School, Unit A, typical main floor classroom



Figure 41 • Rainier Beach High School, Unit A, typical main floor classroom



Figure 42 • Rainier Beach High School, Unit A, typical built-in cabinetry



Figure 43 • Rainier Beach High School, Unit A, typical hallway



Figure 44 • Rainier Beach High School, Unit B, entry at Paul Robeson Performing Arts Center

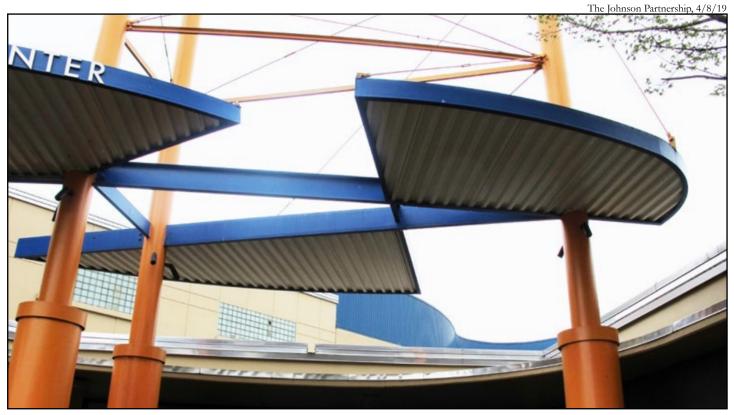


Figure 45 • Rainier Beach High School, Unit B, performing arts center entry, canopy detail



Figure 46 • Rainier Beach High School, Unit B, northern façade, western end



Figure 47 • Rainier Beach High School, Unit B, eastern façade, northern end



Figure 48 • Rainier Beach High School, Unit B, eastern façade, southern end, loading bay detail

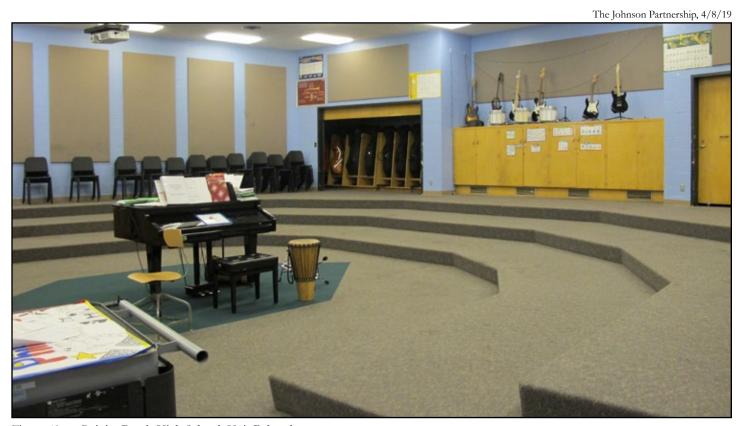


Figure 49 • Rainier Beach High School, Unit B, band room



Figure 50 • Rainier Beach High School, Unit C, southern façade





Figure 51 • Rainier Beach High School, Unit C, western façade





Figure 52 • Rainier Beach High School, Unit C, northern façade



Figure 53 • Rainier Beach High School, Unit C, eastern façade



Figure 54 • Rainier Beach High School, Unit C, western façade, detail

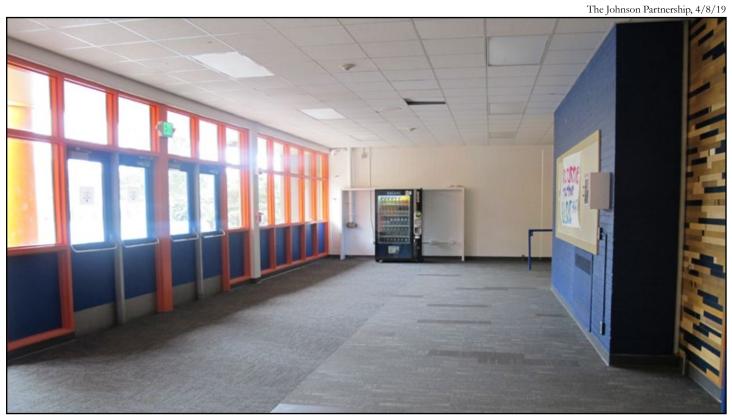


Figure 55 • Rainier Beach High School, Unit C, gymnasium lobby



Figure 56 • Rainier Beach High School, Unit C, gymnasium

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Figure 57 • Rainier Beach High School, Unit C, gymnasium, stands

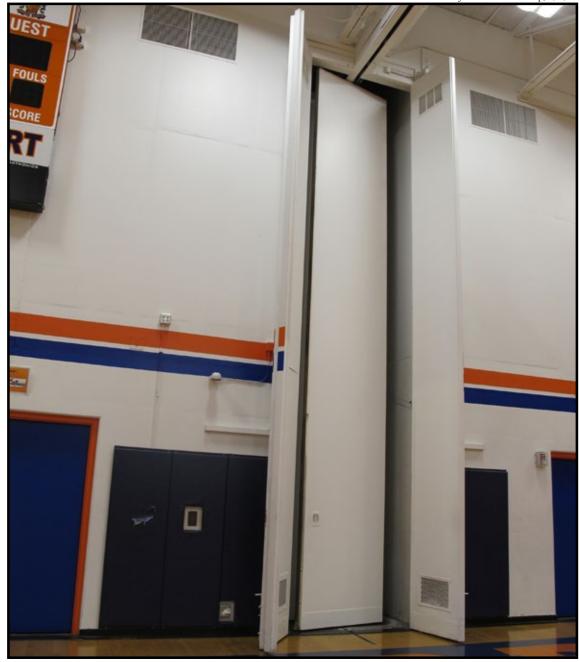


Figure 58 • Rainier Beach High School, Unit C, gymnasium, dividing folding wall



Figure 59 • Rainier Beach High School, Unit C, gymnasium locker room

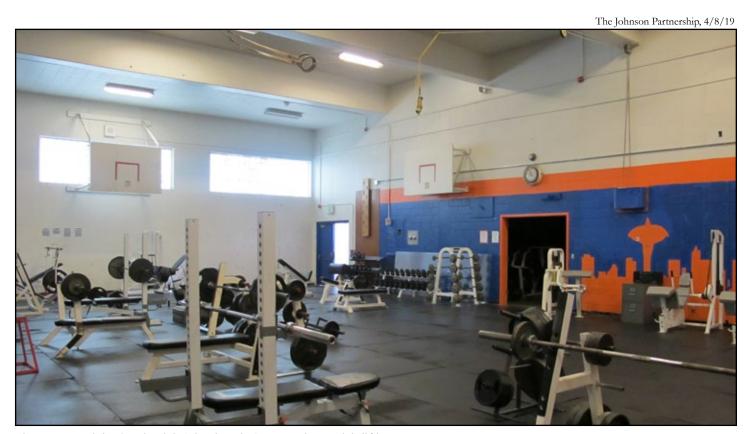


Figure 60 • Rainier Beach High School, Unit C, gymnasium weightlifting room



Figure 61 • Rainier Beach High School, Unit D, shops, northern façade



Figure 62 • Rainier Beach High School, Unit D, shops, northern façade, detail



Figure 63 • Rainier Beach High School, Unit D, shops, western façade, southern end w/ portable



Figure 64 • Rainier Beach High School, Unit D, shops, western façade, northern end



Figure 65 • Rainier Beach High School, Unit D, shops, southern façade

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Figure 66 • Rainier Beach High School, Unit D, shops, eastern façade



Figure 67 • Rainier Beach High School, Unit D, shops, classroom/computer lab

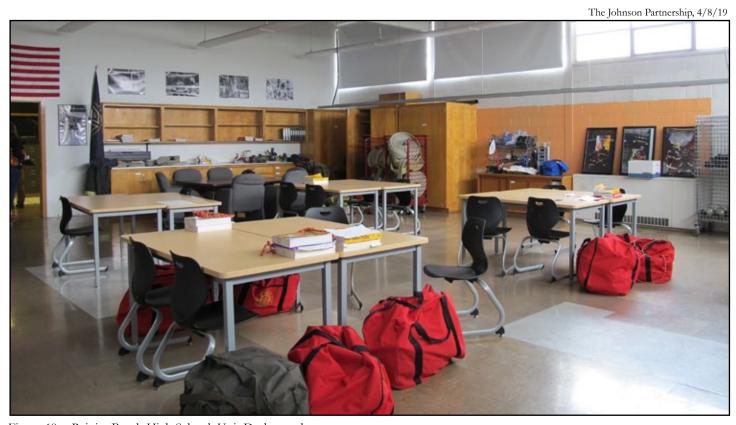


Figure 68 • Rainier Beach High School, Unit D, shops, classroom



Figure 69 • Rainier Beach High School, Unit D, shops, main shop space



Figure 70 • Rainier Beach High School, Unit D, shops, wood shop



Figure 71 • Rainier Beach High School, Unit E, auto shop, southern façade



Figure 72 • Rainier Beach High School, Unit E, auto shop, eastern façade



Figure 73 • Rainier Beach High School, Unit E, auto shop, northern façade and fenced yard



Figure 74 • Rainier Beach High School, Unit E, auto shop, western façade



Figure 75 • Rainier Beach High School, Unit E, auto shop, interior north

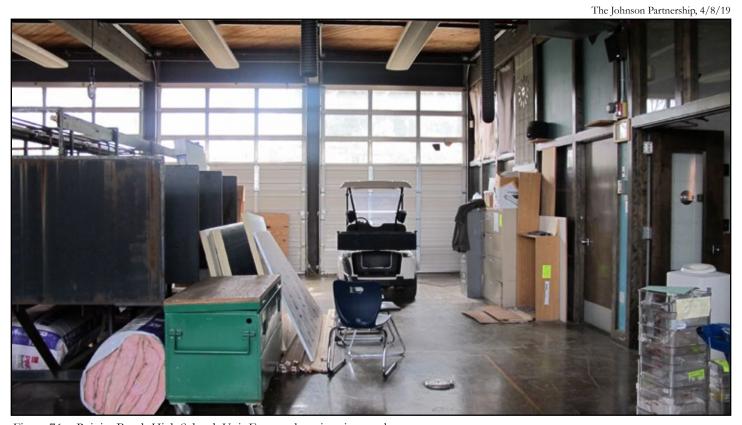


Figure 76 • Rainier Beach High School, Unit E, auto shop, interior south

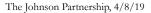




Figure 77 • Rainier Beach High School, Unit E, auto shop, ceiling detail



Figure 78 • Rainier Beach High School, Unit E, auto shop, garage doors detail

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Figure 79 • City of Seattle Permit no. 477553, To Const Bldgs - per plan, 1959

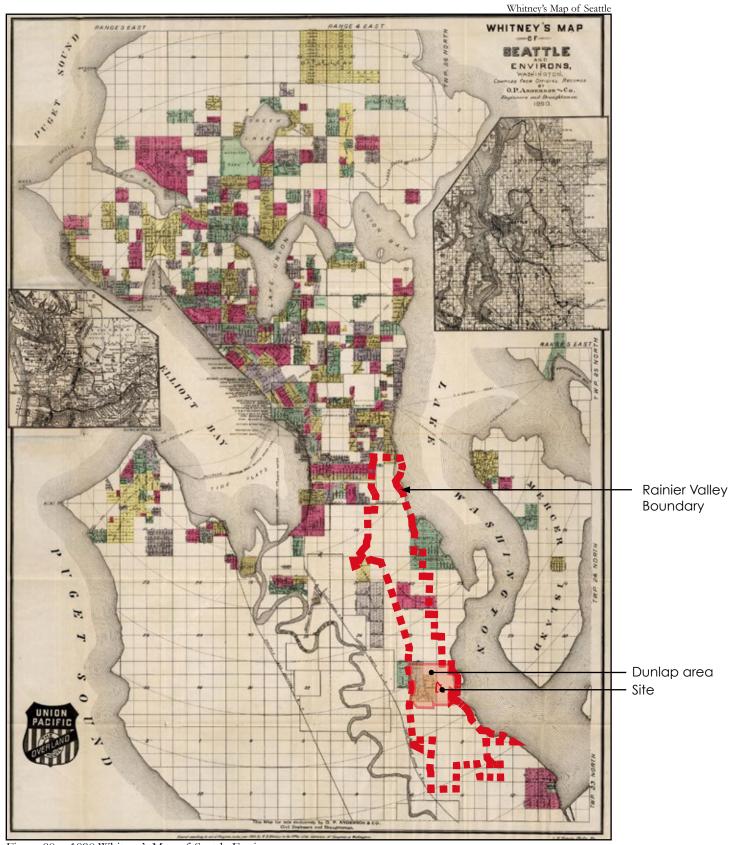


Figure 80 • 1890 Whitney's Map of Seattle Environs

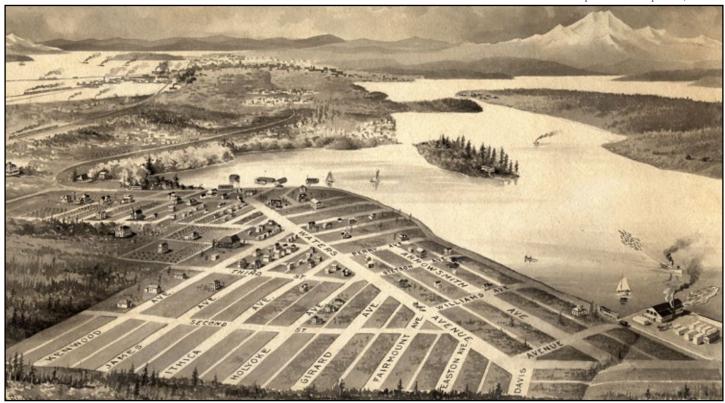


Figure 81 • Aerial Map of Rainier Beach, 1895



Figure 82 • Rainier Beach Station, 1905



Figure 83 • Atlantic City Beach and Pier, 1913



Figure 84 • Fujitaro Kubota in his garden, ca. 1927

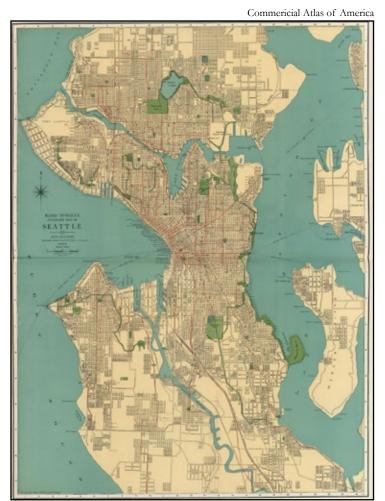


Figure 85 • 1924 Rand McNalley map

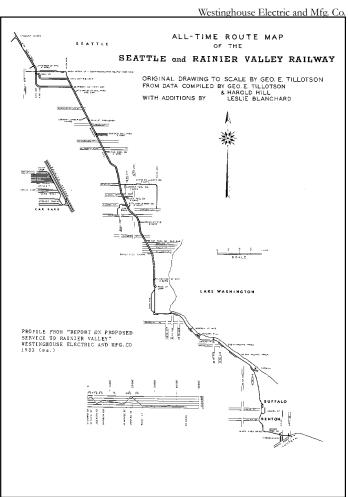


Figure 86 • Seattle and Rainier Valley Railway, 1933

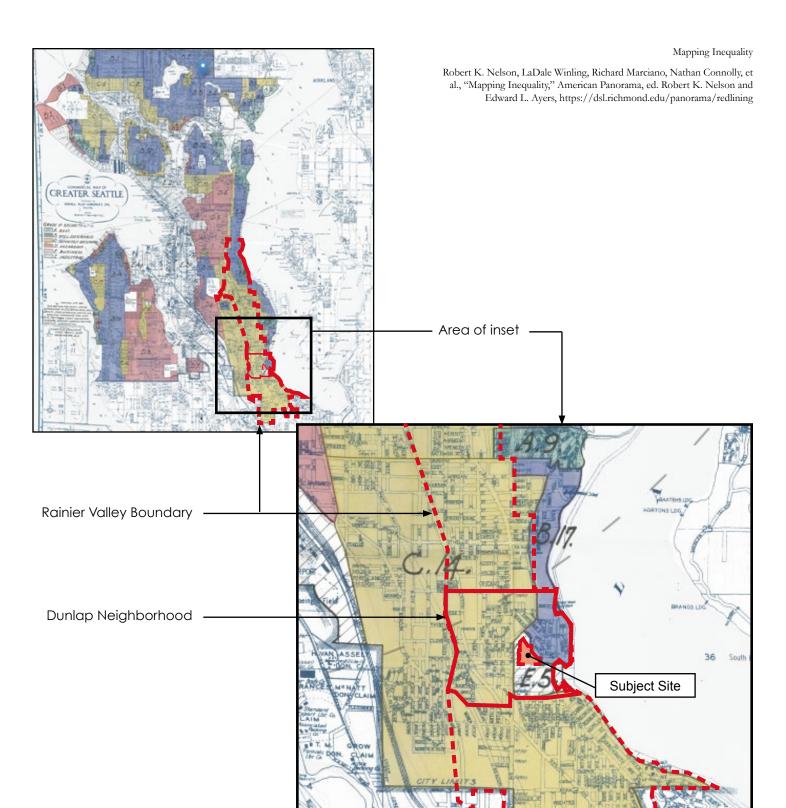


Figure 87 • City of Seattle Redline map, overlaid on a 1935 Kroll Map.



Figure 88 • Beer Sheva Park and Pritchard Island, 1999

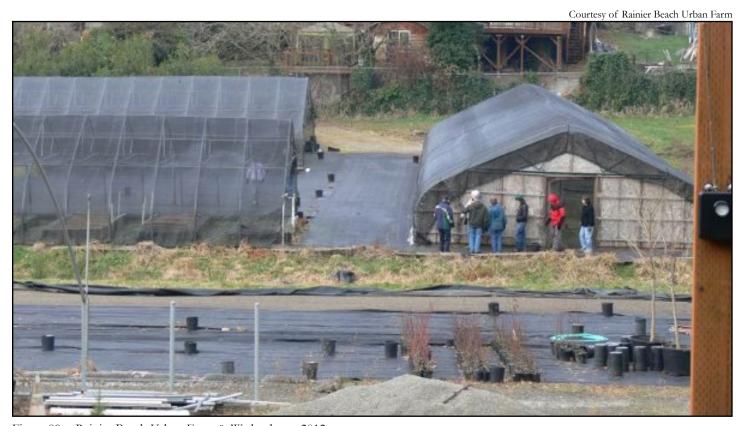


Figure 89 • Rainier Beach Urban Farm & Wetlands, ca. 2012



Figure 90 • Anti-gentrification yard signs, 2018



Figure 91 • Brighton School, 4425 S Holly St (1904, demolished, now site of Martin Luther King Jr. Elementary)



Figure 92 • Dunlap School, Trenton Street between 48th & 50th S (1904, James Stephen, Demolished)



Figure 93 • Whitworth, 5215 46th Avenue S (1908, James Stephen, Demolished)

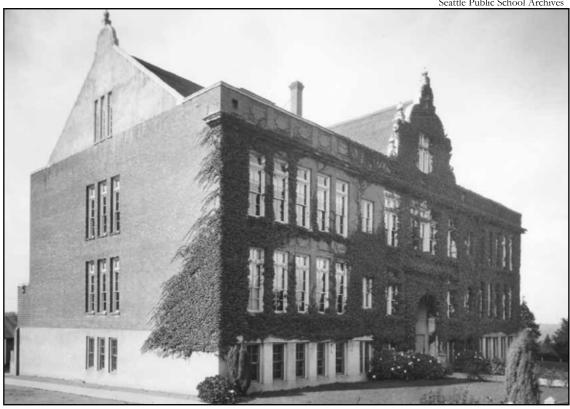


Figure 94 • Emerson, 9709 60th Ave S (1909, James Stephen, City of Seattle Landmark)



Figure 95 • Original Van Asselt, Beacon Ave S & S Othello Street (1909, Edgar Blair, City of Seattle Landmark)



Figure 96 • Brighton, 4425 S Holly Street (1909, James Stephen, demolished, now site of Martin Luther King Jr. Elementary)



Figure 97 • Harrison, later Martin Luther King Jr. (1913, Edgar Blair, addition 1958 by Bindon & Wright), now MLK F.A.M.E. Community Center



Figure 98 • Martha Washington, 6612 57th Ave S (1921, Floyd A. Naramore, Demolished)

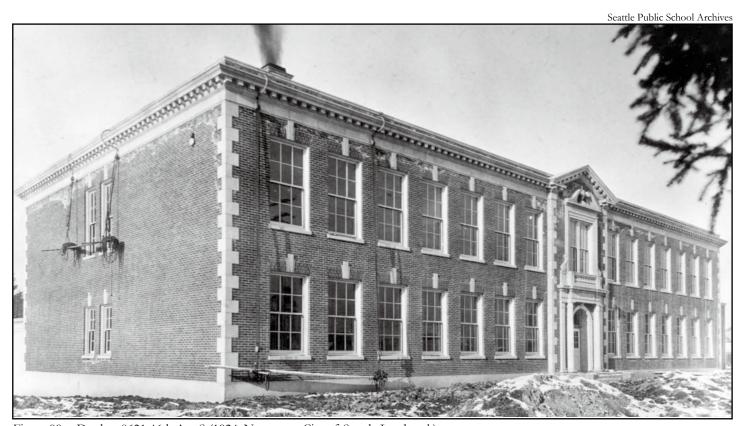


Figure 99 • Dunlap, 8621 46th Ave S (1924, Naramore, City of Seattle Landmark)



Figure 100 • Brighton, 4425 S Holly Street (1949, Young & Richardson, demolished. Now site of Martin Luther King, Jr. Elementary



Figure 101 • Original Van Asselt, 7201 Beacon Ave S (1950, Jones & Bindon)

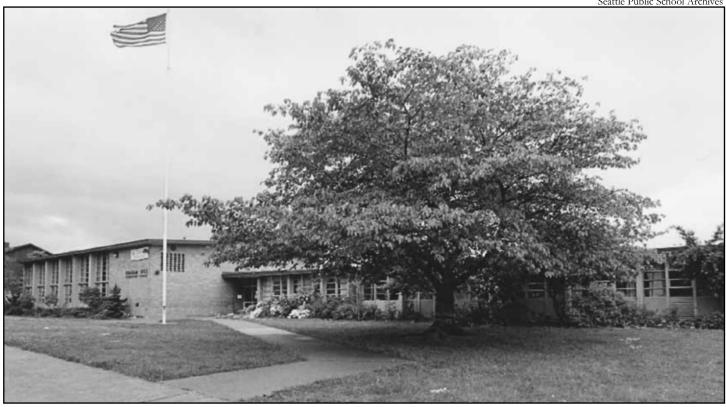


Figure 102 • Graham Hill, 5149 S Graham Street (1961, Theo Damm)



Figure 103 • Rainier View, 11650 Beacon Ave S (1961, Durham, Anderson & Freed)



Figure 104 • South Shore, 8825 Rainier Ave S (1973, Naramore, Bain, Brady & Johanson, demolished)



Figure 105 • African American Academy, 8311 Beacon Ave S (2000, Streeter & Associates)



Figure 106 • Brighton/Martin Luther King Jr Elementary, 6725 45th Ave S (2004)



Figure 107 • South Lake High, 8601 Rainier Ave S (2008)



Figure 108 • South Shore, 4800 S Henderson St (2009)

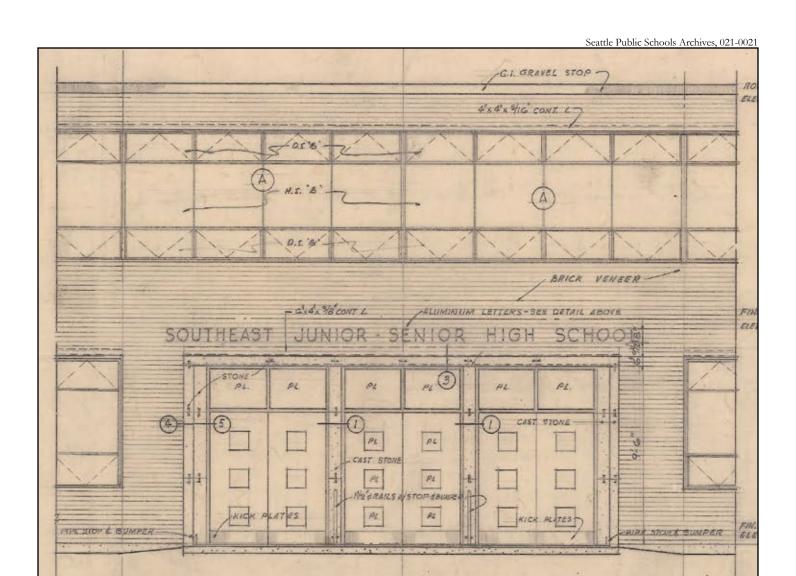


Figure 109 • Southeast Junior-Senior High School, Main Entrance Detail, Unit A, 1959



Figure 110 • Entrance to Rainier Beach Junior-Senior High School, 1965



Figure 111 • Tax Assessor Photo, 1961



Figure 112 • Front view of Rainier Beach Junior-Senior High School, 1964



Figure 113 • Rainier Beach Junior-Senior High School, 1965

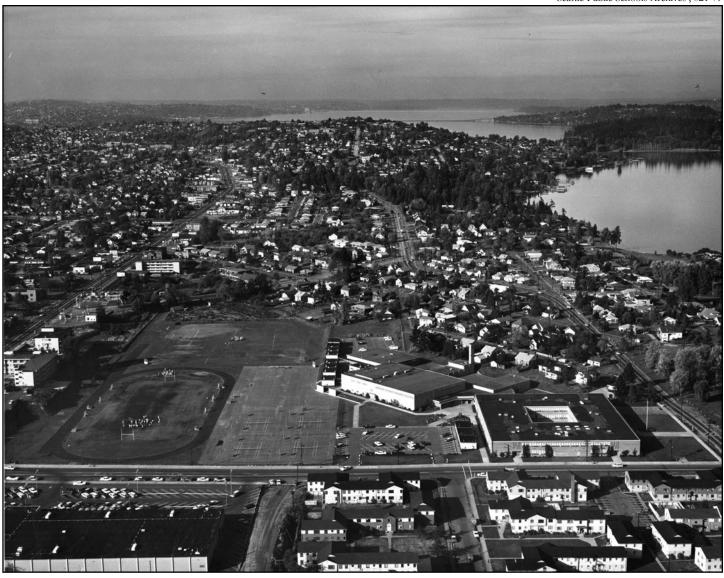


Figure 114 • Rainier Beach Junior-Senior High School and vicinity, 1965



Figure 115 • Rainier Beach Junior-Senior High School and vicinity, 1965

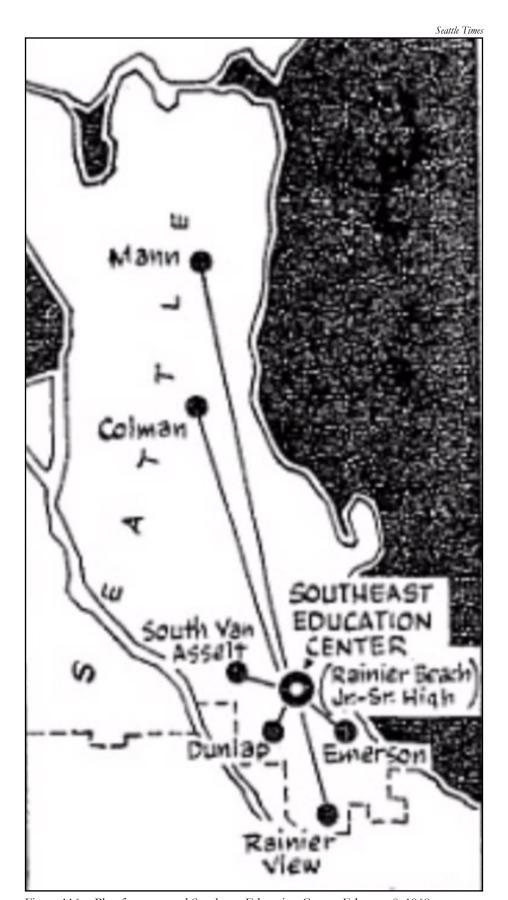


Figure 116 • Plan for proposed Southeast Education Center, February 8, 1968



Figure 117 • Aerial view of Rainier Beach High School, ca. 1970s

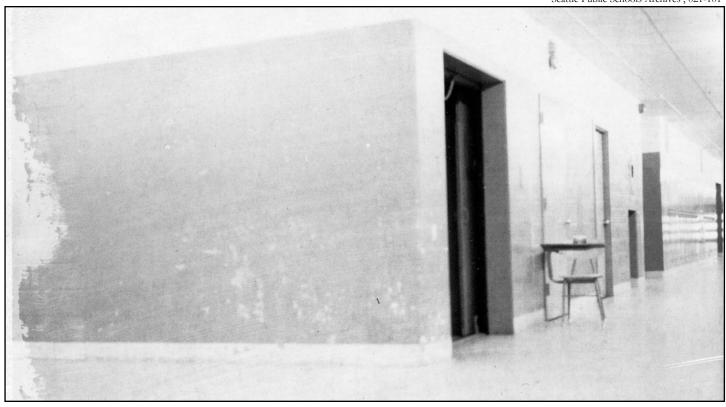


Figure 118 • Rainier Beach hallway, 1966



Figure 119 • Students in business education classroom, 1971

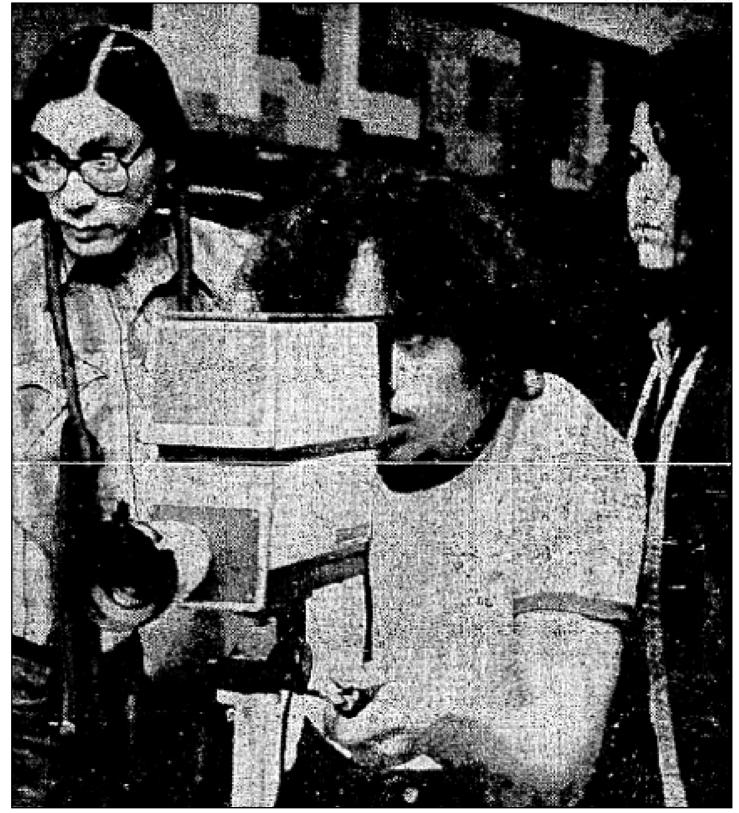


Figure 120 • Students in a theater arts class at Indian Heritage High School at Rainier Beach High School, 1974



Figure 121 • Indian crafts class at Indian Heritage High School at Rainier Beach High School, 1976

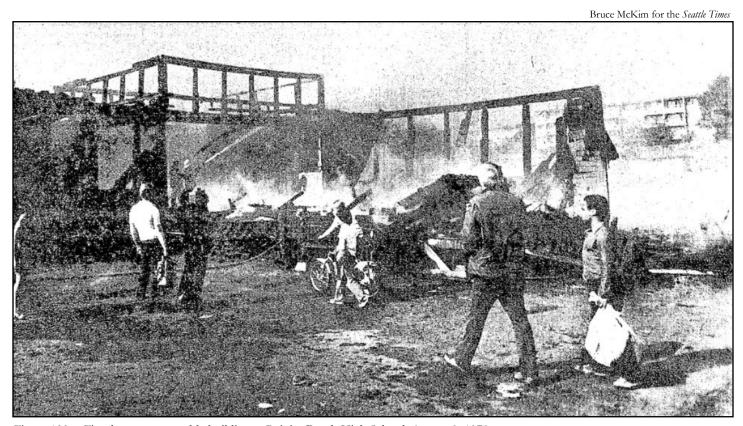


Figure 122 • Fire destroys a portable building at Rainier Beach High School, August 9, 1978



Figure 123 • Rainier Beach High School hallway, 1983



Figure 124 • View of Rainier Beach main entrance, 2000



Figure 125 • View of Rainier Beach performing arts entrance, 2000



Figure 126 • View of Rainier Beach performing arts approach, 2000



Figure 127 • View of Rainier Beach Performing Arts Center, viewing from S Henderson Street, 2000

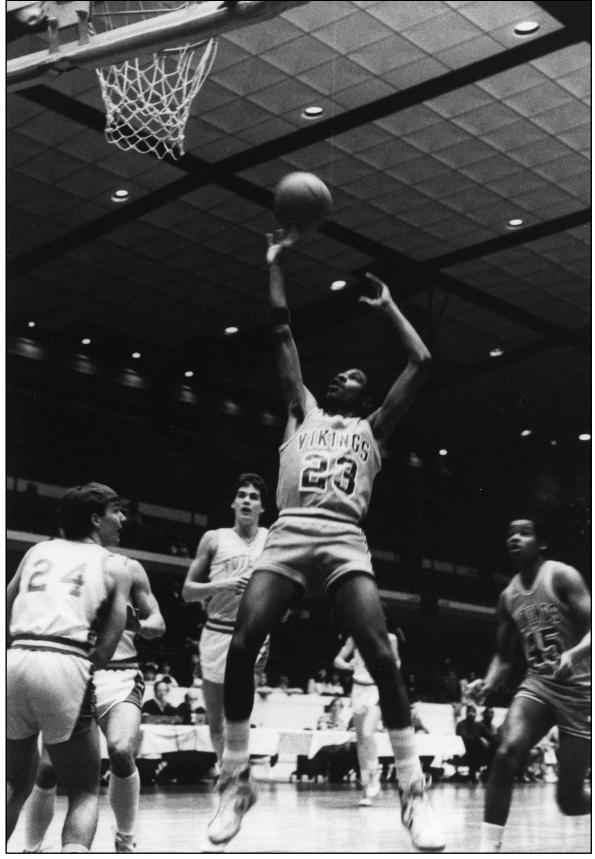


Figure 128 • Boys' basketball game, undated

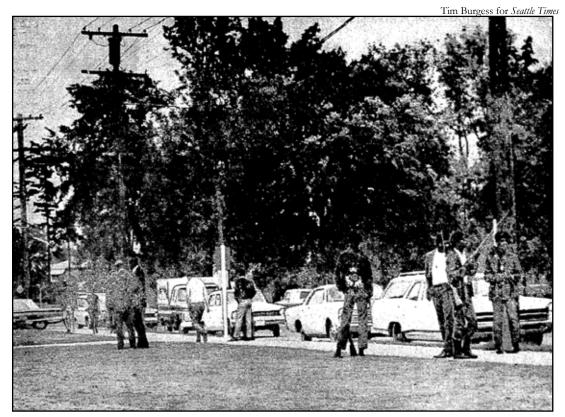


Figure 129 • Members of the Black Panther Party outside Rainier Beach High School, 1968

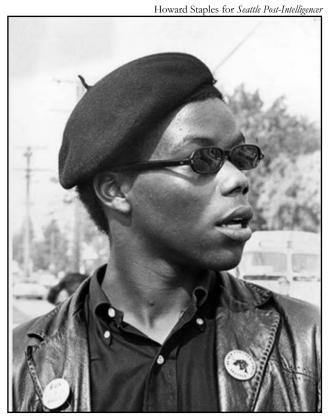


Figure 130 • Black Panther Lieutenant Cranston Owens at Rainer Beach High School, 1968

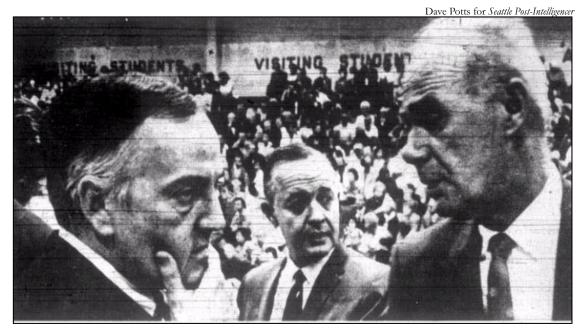


Figure 131 • Community assembly in Rainier Beach gymnasium, 1968 (l-r: Mayor's assistant Ed Devine, Superintendent Forbes Bottomly, Police Chief Frank Ramon)

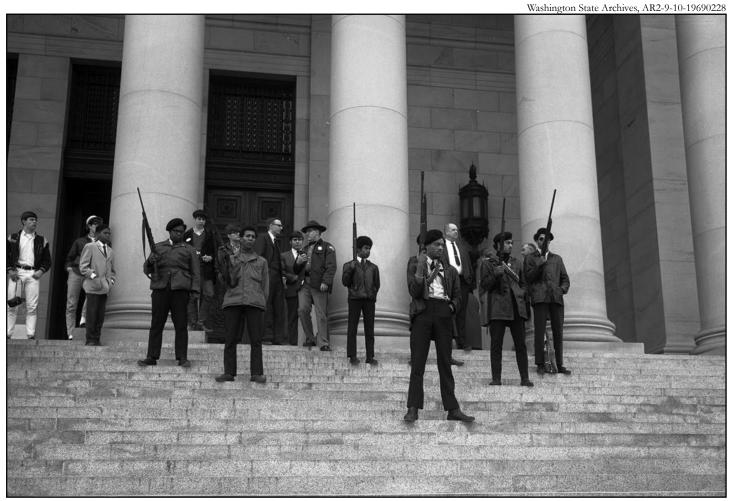


Figure 132 • Seattle Black Panther Party members protest gun legislation at the Washington State Capitol, 1969



Figure 133 • Ansonia High School, Connecticut (1937, William Lescaze)



Figure 134 • Crow Island School, Winnetka, Illinois (1940, Eliel Saarinen)



Figure 135 • Corona Avenue School, California (1935, Richard Neutra)

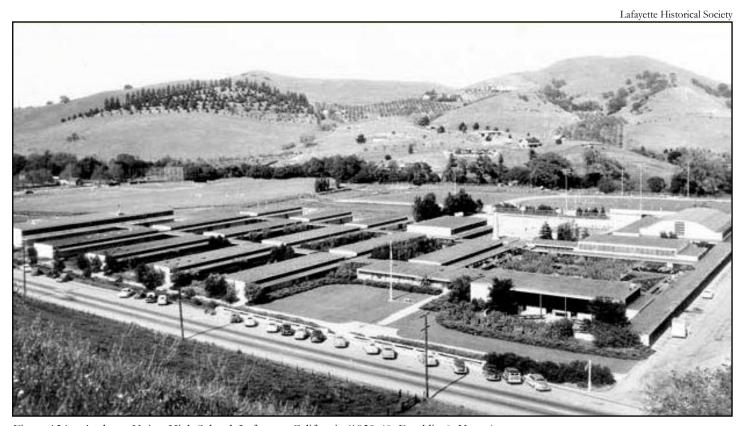


Figure 136 • Acalanes Union High School, Lafayette, California (1939-40, Franklin & Kump)





Figure 137 • Portola Junior High School, El Cerrito, California (1951, John Carl Warneke, demolished 2015)



Figure 138 • Lincoln High School Gymnasium, Seattle (1958, NBBJ)

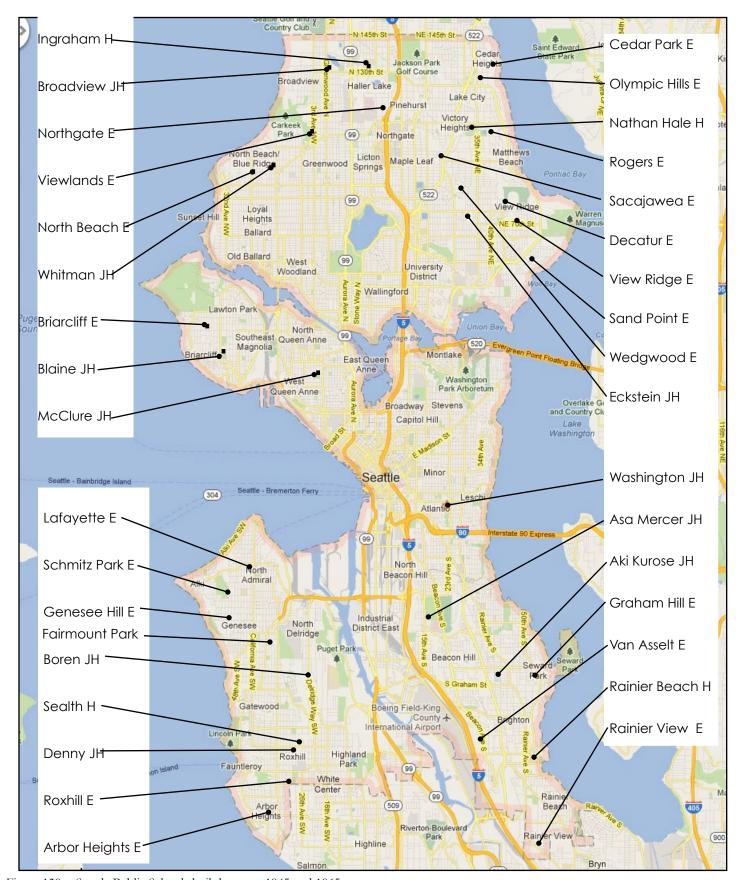


Figure 139 • Seattle Public Schools built between 1945 and 1965

\*abbreviations: E=Elementary School, JH=Junior High School, H= High School

## View Ridge Elementary 48th Avenue NE

1948, William Mallis



The Johnson Partnership, August 2012



Figure 140 • View Ridge Elementary (1948, William Mallis)

### Notes:

• Roman brick masonry construction with original steel-sash windows.

William Mallis also designed Sharples/Kurose Junior High (1952) & Eckstein Junior High (1950, City of Seattle Landmark).

Mallis' firm, Mallis & DeHart, designed Whitman Junior High (1959), Denny Junior High (1952, demolished), Nathan Hale High School (1963), and Viewlands Elementary (1954) for SPS.

Mallis & DeHart designed Wilson Junior High (1954, demolished) and Pinehurst Elementary (1953, demolished) for the Shoreline School District, and the schools were gained by annexation.

Mallis, DeHart & Hopkins also designed Addams Junior High (1954), which SPS gained through annexation.

## Arbor Heights Elementary (Demolished)

3701 SW 104 Street

1949, George W. Stoddard



### Notes:

- Roman brick and stone masonry construction.
- Retains original steel sash windows.
- Stoddard designed three additions to the school (1950, 1953, 1957).

Stoddard also designed Briarcliff Elementary (1949, demolished), Genesee Hill Elementary (1949, demolished), and Sand Point Elementary with Francis Huggard (1958).



Figure 141 • Arbor Heights Elementary (1949, George W. Stoddard, Demolished)

Seattle Public Schools 1949

# Briarcliff Elementary (Demolished)

3901 W Dravus Street 1949, George W. Stoddard



### Seattle Public Schools, n.d.

### Notes:

- Roman brick masonry and stone construction.
- Surplused, and demolished in 2004.

Stoddard also designed Arbor Heights Elementary (1949, demolished), Genesee Hill Elementary (1949, demolished), and Sand Point Elementary with Francis Huggard (1958).



Figure 142 • Briarcliff Elementary (1949, George W. Stoddard, Demolished)

Seattle Public Schools

## Genesee Hill Elementary (Demolished)

5012 SW Genesee Street 1949, George W. Stoddard







The Johnson Partnership, August 2012

### Notes:

- Roman brick masonry and concrete construction.
- Closed in 2009.
- Stoddard designed the northern addition in 1953.

Stoddard also designed Arbor Heights Elementary (1949, demolished), Briarcliff Elementary (1949, demolished), and Sand Point Elementary with Francis Huggard (1958).



Figure 143 • Genesee Hill Elementary (1949, George Stoddard, Demolished)

Seattle Public Schools

## Lafayette Elementary

2645 California Ave SW 1950 Addition, John Graham & Co.



### Notes:

- Roman brick masonry construction.
- Windows sensitively replaced.
- John Graham & Co. also designed the 1953 addition.
- Roof monitors for classroom lighting

John Graham & Co. also designed North Beach Elementary (1958), Olympic Hills Elementary (1954, demolished), Roxhill Elementary (1958, now BRIDGES), Wedgwood Elementary (1955), and Washington Middle School (1963).



Figure 144 • Lafayette Elementary (1950 Addition, John Graham & Co.)

Seattle Public Schools 1949

## Van Asselt Elementary 8311 Beacon Avenue S 1950, Jones & Bindon



The Johnson Partnership, 2018

### Notes:

- Brick masonry with steel construction.
- Windows replaced in 2006.
- Original 1909 Landmarked building is also located on the

This is the only new freestanding school designed for SPS by Jones & Bindon during this period, although they designed a major addition at Crown Hill, and later Bindon & Wright designed major additions at Harrison (later Martin Luther King Jr.) and Leschi.

SPS 275-3



Figure 145 • Van Asselt Elementary (1950, Jones & Bindon)

## Olympic Hills Elementary (Demolished)

13018 20th Avenue NE 1953, John Graham & Co.



### Notes:

- Roman brick masonry and concrete construction.
- Roof monitors for classroom lighting

John Graham & Co. also designed Lafayette Elementary (1961), North Beach Elementary (1958), Roxhill Elementary (1958, now BRIDGES), Wedgwood Elementary (1955), and Washington Middle School (1963).

The Johnson Partnership, August 2012



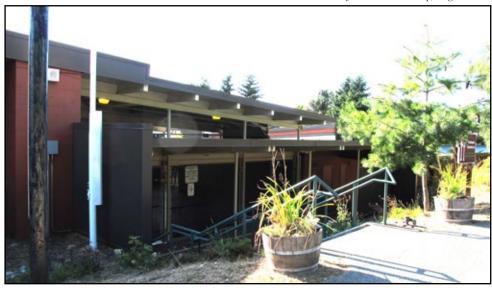
Figure 146 • Olympic Hills Elementary (1953, John Graham & Co., Demolished)

Seattle Public Schools

## Viewlands Elementary 10523 Third Avenue NW 1954, Mallis & DeHart



The Johnson Partnership, August 2012



### Notes:

- Concrete block and brick masonry construction.
- Frame roof.
- Replacement windows and other recent upgrades.

Mallis & DeHart designed Whitman Junior High (1959), Denny Junior High (1952, demolished), and Nathan Hale High (1963) for SPS.

Mallis & DeHart designed Wilson Junior High (1954, demolished) and Pinehurst Elementary (1953, demolished) for the Shoreline School District, but these schools were gained by annexation.

William Mallis designed Sharples/Kurose Junior High (1952), Eckstein Junior High (1950, City of Seattle Landmark), and View Ridge Elementary (1948).

Mallis, DeHart & Hopkins designed Addams Junior High (1954), which was gained by SPS through annexation.



Figure 147 • Viewlands Elementary (1954, Mallis & DeHart)

Seattle Public Schools

## Wedgwood Elementary 2720 NE 85th Street

1955, John Graham & Co.



## Notes:

- Pre-cast and cast-in-place concrete.
- Replacement windows.

John Graham & Co. also designed Lafayette Elementary (1961), North Beach Elementary (1958), Olympic Hills Elementary (1954, demolished), Roxhill Elementary (1958, now BRIDGES), and Washington Middle School (1963).

The Johnson Partnership, August 2012





Figure 148 • Wedgwood Elementary (1955, John Graham & Co.)

## Northgate Elementary 11725 First Avenue NE 1956, Paul Thiry







The Johnson Partnership, August 2012

### Notes:

- Precast concrete construction.
- Some replacement windows of same similar configuration to original.

Thiry also designed Cedar Park Elementary (1959, City of Seattle Landmark) for SPS, as well as Our Lady of the Lake and St. Pius X for the Archdiocese of Seattle.



Seattle Public Schools



Mary Randlett, 2000, Seattle Public Schools

Figure 149 • Northgate Elementary (1956, Paul Thiry)



## John Rogers Elementary 4030 NE 109 Street 1956, Theo Damm



## Notes:

- Brick masonry construction with some steel.
- Retains original steel-sash windows.

Theo Damm also designed Graham Hill Elementary (1961).

The Johnson Partnership, August 2012



Figure 150 • John Rogers Elementary (1956, Theo Damm)

Seattle Public Schools

## North Beach Elementary 9012 24th Avenue NW 1958, John Graham & Co.







### Notes:

- Brick masonry and concrete.
- Retains original aluminum sash windows.

John Graham & Co. also designed Lafayette Elementary (1961), Olympic Hills Elementary (1954, demolished), Roxhill Elementary (1958, now BRIDGES), Wedgwood Elementary (1955), and Washington Middle School (1963).









Seattle Public Schools

Figure 151 • North Beach Elementary (1958, John Graham & Co.)

## Roxhill Elementary 9034 30th Avenue SW 1958, John Graham & Co.



### The Johnson Partnership, August 2012

### Notes:

- Masonry and concrete construction.
- Some windows replaced.

John Graham & Co. also designed Lafayette Elementary (1961), North Beach Elementary (1958), Olympic Hills Elementary (1954, demolished), Wedgwood Elementary (1955), and Washington Middle School (1963).

Roxhill Elementary program is currently housed in E. C. Hughes. Special education program BRIDGES now occupies the former Roxhill building.



Seattle Public Schools



Figure 152 • Roxhill Elementary (1958, John Graham & Co.)

## Sand Point Elementary

6208 60th Avenue NE

1958, George Stoddard and Francis Huggard





The Johnson Partnership, August 2012

### Notes:

- Brick masonry and concrete construction.
- Insensitive addition of roof insulation.

This is the only school for SPS that Stoddard and Huggard share credit for.

Stoddard also designed Arbor Heights Elementary (1949, demolished), Briarcliff Elementary (1949, demolished), and Genesee Hill Elementary (1949, demolished).



Figure 153 • Sand Point Elementary (1958, George Stoddard and Francis Huggard)

Seattle Public Schools

## Cedar Park Elementary (City of Seattle Landmark)

13224 37th Avenue NE 1959, Paul Thiry



The Johnson Partnership, May 2012

### Notes:

- Precast concrete construction.
- Retains original windows.
- Some changes to interior and exterior openings.
- Rehabilitated 2017.

Thiry also designed Northgate Elementary (1956) for SPS, as well as Our Lady of the Lake and St. Pius X for the Archdiocese of Seattle.



Seattle Public Schools



Collection of Lance Wagner



Figure 154 • Cedar Park Elementary (1959, Paul Thiry, City of Seattle Landmark)

# Sacajawea Elementary

9501 20th Avenue NE 1959, Waldron & Dietz





Figure 155 • Sacajawea Elementary (1959, Waldron & Dietz)

### Notes:

- Brick masonry and steel frame construction.
- Retains original aluminumsash windows.
- Insensitive addition of roof insulation.

Waldron & Dietz also designed Broadview-Thomson Junior High (1963).



The Johnson Partnership, August 2012

December 2019

## **Decatur Elementary**

7711 43rd Avenue NE

1961, Edward Mahlum



# STEPHEN LECUM IIII



The Johnson Partnership, August 2012

## Notes:

- Brick masonry and concrete construction.
- Retains its original aluminumsash windows.

Mahlum also designed McClure Junior High (1964).



Figure 156 • Decatur Elementary (1961, Edward Mahlum)

Seattle Public Schools

## Graham Hill Elementary 5149 South Graham Street 1961, Theo Damm







The Johnson Partnership, August 2012

## Notes:

- Brick masonry.
- Retains original aluminumsash windows.
- Recent addition on western side.
- Non-original supplemental fletch beam observed at overhang.

Theo Damm also designed Rogers Elementary (1956).



Figure 157 • Graham Hill Elementary (1961, Theo Damm)

Seattle Public Schools

## Rainier View Elementary

11650 Beacon Avenue S

1961, Durham, Anderson & Freed



The Johnson Partnership, August 2012



Seattle Public Schools

Figure 158 • Rainier View Elementary (1961, Durham, Anderson & Freed)

## Rainier Beach High School Landmark Nomination Report

### Notes:

- Brick masonry and concrete construction.
- Building renovated in 2011 with replacement windows and new entrance.

Durham, Anderson & Freed also designed Schmitz Park Elementary (1962).

## Schmitz Park Elementary 5000 SW Spokane Street 1962, Durham, Anderson & Freed



### Notes:

- Brick masonry and concrete construction.
- Retains original aluminumsash windows.

Durham, Anderson & Freed also designed Rainier View Elementary (1961).

The Johnson Partnership, August 2012



Figure 159 • Schmitz Park Elementary (1962, Anderson & Freed)

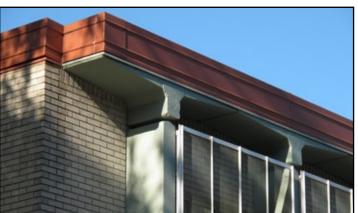
SPS 270-23

## Broadview-Thomson K-8 (formerly R. H. Thomson Jr High)

13052 Greenwood Avenue N

1963, Waldron & Dietz





### Notes:

- Brick masonry and concrete construction.
- Retains original aluminumsash.
- Lin-T concrete slab roof.
- Recent roof insulation upgrade.

Waldron & Dietz also designed Sacajawea Elementary (1959).





Figure 160 • R. H. Thomson Junior High School (now Broadview-Thomson K-8, 1963, Waldron & Dietz)

# Fairmount Park School (altered, now Fairmount Park Elementary School) 3800 SW Findlay Street

1964, Carlson, Eley & Grevstad



Seattle Public School

### Notes:

- Brick masonry
- Flat roofs
- Aluminum windows

Carlson, Eley, & Grevstad designed the Fairmount Park School (1964).



Figure 161 • Fairmount Park School (1964, Carlson, Eley & Grevstad, altered)

Seattle Public Schools

## Nathan Eckstein Middle School (City of Seattle Landmark)

3003 NE 75th Street 1950, William Mallis



Seattle Public Schools



Figure 162 • Nathan Eckstein Middle School (1950, William Mallis, City of Seattle Landmark)

### Notes:

- Brick masonry with integral glass block.
- Retains original steel-sash windows.
- City of Seattle Landmark.

William Mallis also designed Sharples/Kurose Junior High (1952) and View Ridge Elementary (1948).

Mallis' firm, Mallis & DeHart, designed Whitman Junior High (1959), D. Denny Junior High (1952, demolished), Nathan Hale High School (1963), and Viewlands Elementary (1954) for SPS.

Mallis & DeHart designed Wilson Junior High (1954, demolished) and Pinehurst Elementary (1953, demolished) for the Shoreline School District, and the schools were gained by annexation.

Mallis, DeHart & Hopkins designed Addams Junior High (1954), which was SPS gained through annexation.

## Catharine Blaine Middle School 2550 34th Avenue W 1952, J. Lister Holmes



### Notes:

- Concrete with brick masonry infill
- Appears to retain early aluminum-sash windows.
- Original saw-tooth clerestories removed.

This is the only school that J. Lister Holmes designed for SPS during this period.

The Johnson Partnership, August 2012



Figure 163 • Catharine Blaine Junior High School (1952, J. Lister Holmes)

Seattle Public Schools

# Aki Kurose Middle School (Formerly Casper W. Sharples Jr. High)

3928 S Graham Street

1952, William Mallis



Seattle Public Schools

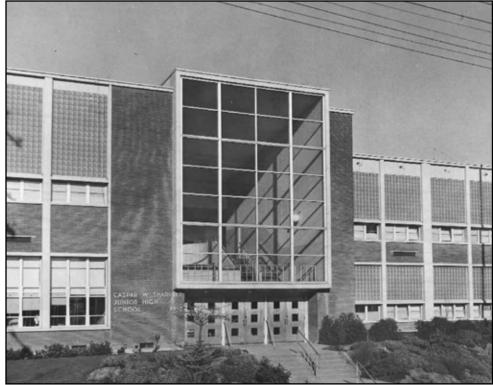


Figure 164 • Aki Kurose School (1952, William Mallis, formerly Casper W. Sharples Jr High School)

## Rainier Beach High School Landmark Nomination Report

### Notes:

- Brick masonry and concrete construction with integral glass block infill.
- Replacement windows.

William Mallis also designed Eckstein Junior High (1950, City of Seattle Landmark) & View Ridge Elementary (1948).

Mallis' firm, Mallis & DeHart, designed Whitman Junior High (1959), D. Denny Junior High (1952, demolished), Nathan Hale High School (1963), & Viewlands Elementary (1954) for SPS.

Mallis & DeHart designed Wilson Junior High (1954, demolished) and Pinehurst Elementary (1953, demolished) for the Shoreline School District, and the schools were gained by annexation.

Mallis, DeHart & Hopkins designed Addams Junior High (1954), which SPS gained through annexation.

## David Denny Junior High School (Demolished)

8402 30th Avenue SW 1952, Mallis & DeHart



Seattle Public Schools



Figure 165 • David Denny Junior High School (1952, Mallis & DeHart, Demolished)

### Notes:

- Brick masonry and concrete construction.
- Demolished in 2011.

Mallis & DeHart designed Whitman Junior High (1959), Nathan Hale High School (1963), and Viewlands Elementary (1954) for SPS.

Mallis & DeHart designed Wilson Junior High (1954, demolished) and Pinehurst Elementary (1953, demolished) for the Shoreline School District, and the schools were gained by annexation.

Mallis, DeHart & Hopkins designed Addams Junior High (1954), which SPS gained through annexation.

William Mallis also designed Sharples/Kurose Junior High (1952), View Ridge Elementary (1948), and Eckstein Junior High (1950, City of Seattle Landmark).

## Asa Mercer Middle School

1600 Columbian Way S

1957, John W. Maloney



The Johnson Partnership, August 2012



### Notes:

- Brick masonry and concrete construction.
- Replacement windows.
- Thin-sheel concrete roof on gymnasium.

John W. Maloney also designed Rainier Beach High School (1960).





Figure 166 • Asa Mercer Junior High School (1957, John W. Maloney)

## Whitman Middle School

9201 15th Avenue NW 1959, Mallis & DeHart







Figure 167 • Whitman Junior High School (1959, Mallis & DeHart)

## Rainier Beach High School Landmark Nomination Report

The Johnson Partnership, August 2012

### Notes:

- Brick masonry and concrete construction.
- Retains original aluminumsash windows.

Mallis & DeHart designed Denny Junior High (1952, demolished), Nathan Hale High School (1963), and Viewlands Elementary (1954) for SPS.

Mallis & DeHart designed Wilson Junior High (1954, demolished) and Pinehurst Elementary (1953, demolished) for the Shoreline School District, and the schools were gained by annexation.

Mallis, DeHart & Hopkins designed Addams Junior High (1954), which SPS gained through annexation.

William Mallis designed Aki Kurose Junior High (1952), View Ridge Elementary (1948) & Eckstein Junior High (1950, City of Seattle Landmark).

## Lousia Boren Junior High School (now Boren K-8 STEM)

5950 Delridge Way SW

1963, Naramore, Bain, Brady & Johanson







Figure 168 • Louisa Boren Junior High School (1963, Naramore, Bain, Brady & Johnson)

### Notes:

- Stucco over frame.
- Retains original windows.
- Recent upgrades to roof insulation.
- Currently K-8 STEM school.

NBBJ designed Ingraham High School (1959, partial City of Seattle Landmark), Chief Sealth High School (1957), and Louisa Boren Junior High School (1963).

### George Washington Middle School 2101 S Jackson Street

1963, John Graham & Co.



#### Notes:

- Precast concrete construction with folded plate roof.
- Retains original aluminumsash windows.

John Graham & Co. also designed Lafayette Elementary (1961), North Beach Elementary (1958), Olympic Hills Elementary (1954, demolished), Wedgwood Elementary (1955), and Roxhill Elementary (1963, now BRIDGES).





Figure 169 • George Washington Junior High School (1963, John Graham & Co.)

### Worth McClure Middle School

1915 First Avenue W 1964, Edward Mahlum

The Johnson Partnership, August 2012



#### Notes:

- Concrete with brick masonry infill
- Replacement windows.

Edward Mahlum also designed Decatur Elementary (1961).



Figure 170 • Worth McClure Junior High School (1964, Edward Mahlum)

### Chief Sealth High School

2600 SW Thistle Street

1957, Naramore, Bain, Brady & Johanson

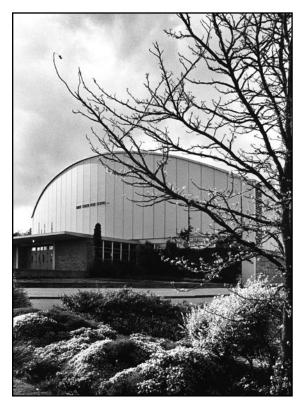


The Johnson Partnership, August 2012

#### Notes:

- Brick masonry and concrete construction.
- Use of dramatic thin-shell concrete roof.
- Has undergone major renovations.

NBBJ also designed Ingraham High School (1959), and Louisa Boren Junior High School (1963).





Seattle Public Schools

Figure 171 • Chief Sealth High School (1957, Naramore, Bain, Brady, & Johanson)

## Ingraham High School (City of Seattle Landmark)

1819 N 135th Street

1959, Naramore, Bain, Brady & Johanson



#### Notes:

- Thin shell concrete on auditorium and gymnasium
- Modular classroom wings with steel framing

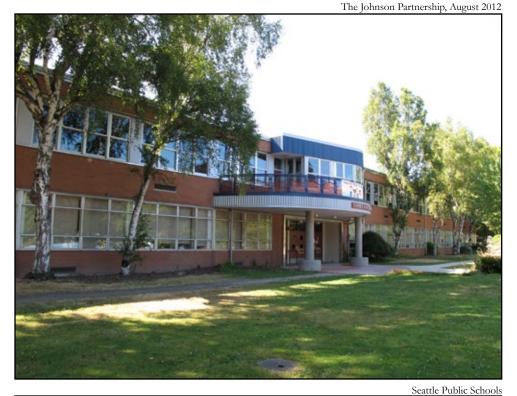
NBBJ also designed Chief Sealth High School (1957) and Louisa Boren Junior High School (1963).



Figure 172 • Ingraham High School (1959, Naramore, Bain, Brady, & Johnson, partial City of Seattle Landmark)

### Rainier Beach High School

8815 Seward Park Avenue S 1960, John W. Maloney



#### Notes:

- Brick masonry construction.
- Windows on second floor replaced.
- New entry and other renovations completed in 2008.

John W. Maloney also designed Asa Mercer Junior High School (1957).



Figure 173 • Rainier Beach High School (1960, John W. Maloney)

### Nathan Hale High School

10750 30th Avenue NE 1963, Mallis & DeHart



The Johnson Partnership, August 2012



Figure 174 • Nathan Hale High School (1963, Mallis & DeHart)

#### Seattle Public Schools

#### Notes:

- Brick masonry and concrete construction.
- Use of Lin-T concrete roof slabs.
- Major renovations and additions completed between 2008 and 2011.

Mallis & DeHart designed David Denny Junior High (1952, demolished), Whitman Junior High School (1959), and Viewlands Elementary (1954) for SPS.

Mallis & DeHart designed Wilson Junior High (1954, demolished) and Pinehurst Elementary (1953, demolished) for the Shoreline School District, and the schools were gained by annexation.

Mallis, DeHart & Hopkins designed Addams Junior High (1954), which SPS gained through annexation.

William Mallis designed Aki Kurose Junior High (1952), View Ridge Elementary (1948), and Eckstein Junior High (1950, City of Seattle Landmark).

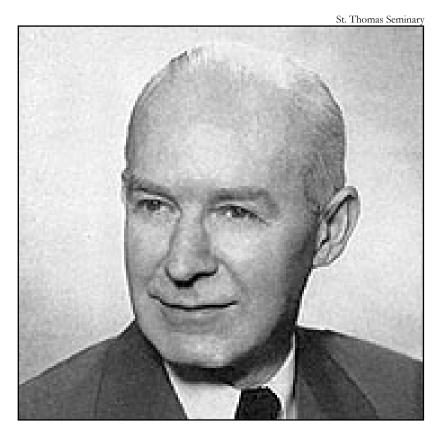


Figure 175 • Architect John W. Maloney (ca. 1896-1978)

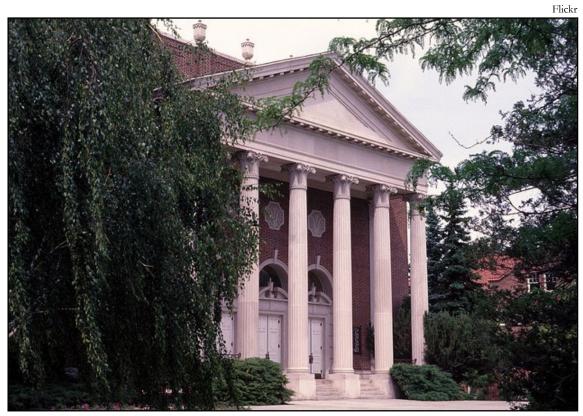


Figure 176 • McConnell Auditorium, Central Washington University, Ellensburg, WA (1934-35, John W. Maloney Associates)



Figure 177 • A.E. Larson Building, Yakima, WA (1931, John W. Maloney Associates)



Figure 178 • Perry Technical Institute, Yakima, WA (1940, John W. Maloney Associates)

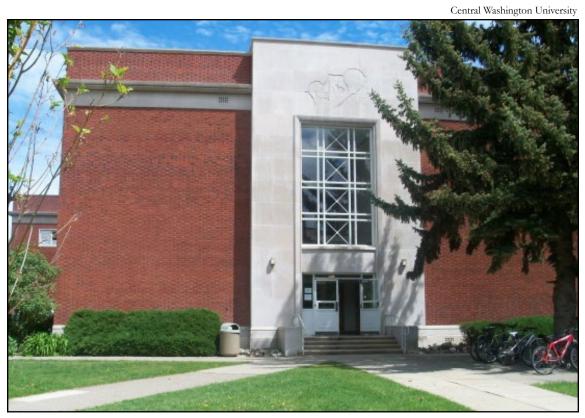


Figure 179 • Lind Hall, Central Washington University, Ellensburg, WA (1947, John W. Maloney Associates)



Figure 180 • St. Benedict Church, West Seattle (1958, John W. Maloney Associates)



Figure 181 • St. Edward's Church, Columbia City, WA (1953, John W. Maloney Associates)



Figure 182 • St. Thomas the Apostle Seminary Chapel (1958, John W. Maloney Associates)



Figure 183 • Seattle First National Bank, Denny Way Branch (1950, John W. Maloney Associates, City of Seattle Landmark)



Figure 184 • Kittitas County Courthouse, Yakima, WA (1955, John W. Maloney Associates with John H. Whitney)



Figure 185 • Blue Cross Building (1958, demolished, John W. Maloney Associates)



Figure 186 • Lemieux Library, Seattle University (1966, Maloney, Herrington, Freesz & Lund)



Figure 187 • West Seattle Congregational Church (1959-60, Kirk, Wallace, McKinley & Associates, architects; Worthington, Skilling, Helle & Jackson, engineers)



Figure 188 • Fine Arts Pavilion, Seattle World's Fair (1961-62, Kirk, Wallace, McKinley & Associates, architects; Worthington, Skilling, Helle & Jackson, engineers)

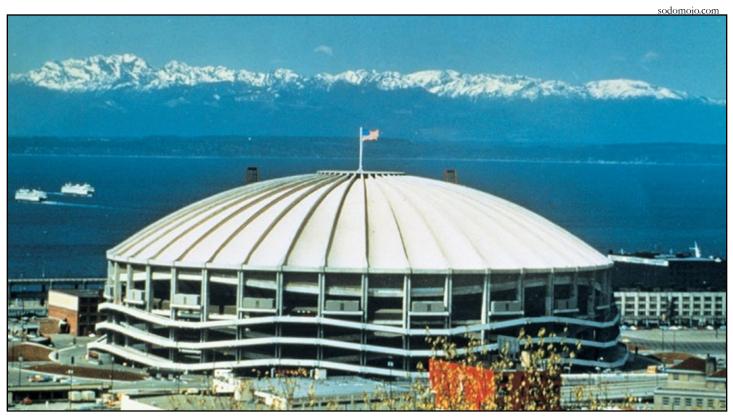


Figure 189 • Kingdome (1972-76, demolished. NBBJ, architect; Worthington, Skilling, Helle & Jackson, engineers)

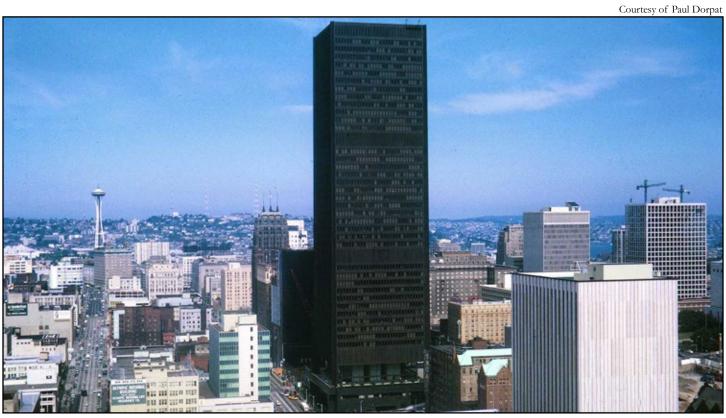


Figure 190 • Columbia Seafirst Center (1985, Chester L. Lindsey architect; Worthington, Skilling, Helle & Jackson, engineers)





Figure 191 • S.L. Savidge Building (1950, NBBJ, architects; Johnson-Morrison-Knudsen, contractor)

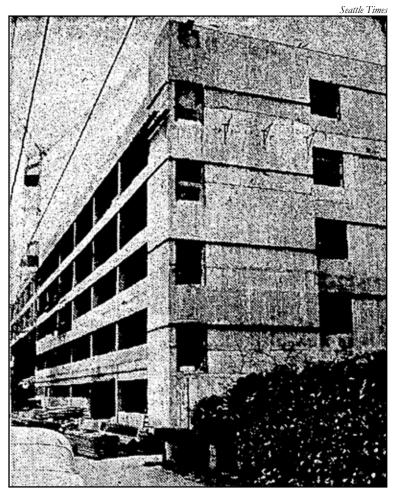


Figure 192 • Group Health Hospital Building (1959, Young, Richardson & Carleton, architects; Johnson-Morrison-Knudsen, contractor)

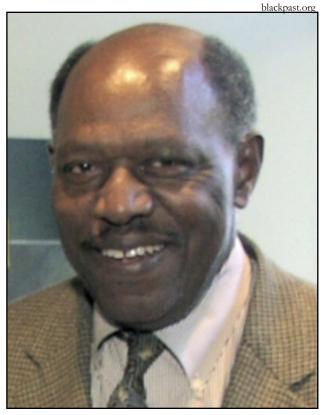


Figure 193 • Architect Melvin Edward Streeter (1931-2006)



Figure 194 • Liberty Bank, 2320 E Union Street (1968, demolished. Streeter, also Wilmsen, Endicott & Unthank architects)

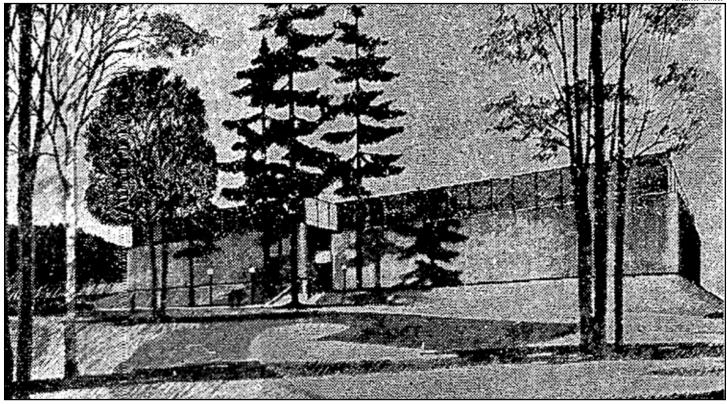


Figure 195 • Bellevue Racquets Club, 140th Avenue NE and Bellevue-Redmond Road, Bellevue, demolished (1968, Melvin Streeter)

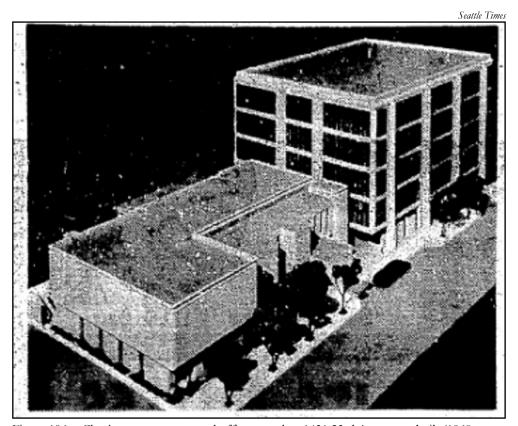


Figure 196 • Checkmate restaurant and office complex, 1431 23rd Avenue, unbuilt (1969, Melvin Streeter)

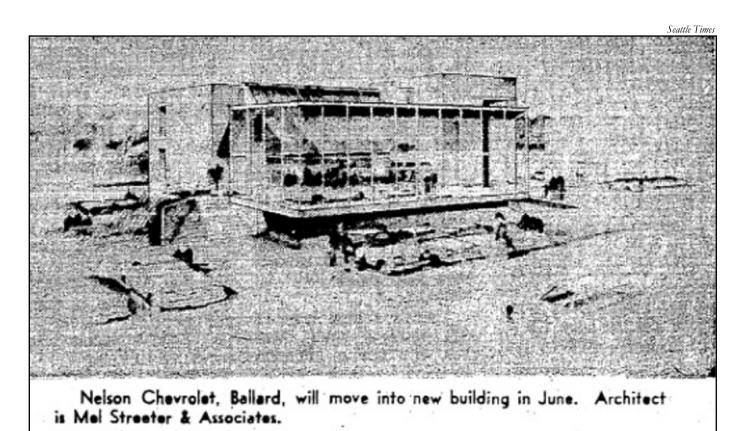


Figure 197 • Nelson Chevrolet, 1521 NW 50th Street, Ballard (1973, Mel Streeter & Associates)



Figure 198 • National Bank of Commerce, Totem Lake branch (1973, Mel Streeter & Associates)



Figure 199 • Federal Aviation Administration Regional Headquarters at Boeing Field, demolished (1971, Mel Streeter & Associates)



Figure 200 • Auburn City Hall, 25 W Main Street, Auburn, WA (1979, Streeter/Dermanis)



Figure 201 • African American Academy (2000, Streeter & Associates)



Figure 202 • Seattle Public Library, Rainier Beach branch (2004, Streeter & Associates)

Appendix 2

Architectural Drawings

Appendix 3

Seattle Public Schools Context Statement

### Appendix 4

# Additional Context: The American Indian Heritage Program & Indian Heritage School

This text was excerpted from the draft report for Woodrow Wilson Junior High School, prepared by BOLA Architecture + Planning for the Seattle School District and edited by The Johnson Partnership. Text was revised in June 2019, to expand upon some topics and correct errors and information related to program locations and occupancy dates.

The American Indian Heritage Program and Indian Heritage School were housed in portable buildings at the Rainier Beach High School site from 1974 to 1978.

In 1969, Seattle Public Schools embarked on a program to address specific educational needs of Native American children, including those from tribes in Washington State, the Plains states, Alaska, and Canada. The program, funded in part by the federal Urban-Rural Racial Disadvantaged Program, was initiated to also address the high dropout rates of young Native American students. The program was originally located at the Georgetown School, where it remained until the end of the school year in 1974.

Seattle's American Indian Heritage School was started in 1974, after passage of the federal Indian Education Act in 1972. It emerged in response to efforts by school leaders and Native American community members, including Jeanne Raymond, a teacher of American Indian Studies at Seattle Central Community College, and president of a local parent committee that helped establish the school. Raymond and others initiated a high school for Native American students and an "Indian Heritage Program" in five portable buildings at Rainier Beach High School, offering tutoring, cultural classes and outreach to students she characterized as "invisible kids...with incredible gifts."<sup>244</sup>

Within its first year of existence the Indian Heritage program had reached an estimated 300 of the district's 704 Native American children. The program also included presentations at 32 assemblies in 21 other schools, serving another 4,500 non-Native students. <sup>245</sup> Later funding for the program came from the Seattle Arts Commission, Native American organizations, and the U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare through its Indian-education grants. <sup>246</sup>

Native American arts, culture, crafts, legends, and ways of life were taught in a weekly one-hour program to 459 students at Addams, Cooper, Fairmount Park, Georgetown, Greenwood, High Point, Hughes and West Woodland Elementary schools. The original program manager and teacher was John Emhoolah, Jr., of the Kiowa tribe from Oklahoma. Jeanne Halliday, of the Warm Springs tribe, was a teacher and program assistant. Other teachers and teacher's aides included Phil George, of the Nez Perce tribe, and Rosanne Pennington of the Tsimshian tribe. Counselors were Julie Johnson of the Lummi tribe, and Mary Jo Butterfield of the Makah

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>244</sup> Jeanne Raymond, interview with Teresa Brownwolf, Powers, November 22, 2005, University of Washington Labor History Program, http://depts.washington.edu/civilr/raymond.htm (accessed July 2013).
<sup>245</sup> Ibid

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>246</sup> Seattle Times, "Seattle schools receive U.S. aid," August 3, 1973, p. 25.

tribe.<sup>247</sup> Some of the eight- to 13-year-old students in the early program attended a YMCA program, Camp Orkila, where they studied woodcarving, dance, feather and beadwork.

In September of 1990, the program moved to the former Woodrow Wilson Junior High School. In 1994, the program was split into the after-school Huchoosedah Program, and Indian Heritage School with 110 students, with Robert Eaglestaff as Principal. Raymond was Assistant Program Manager of the Indian Heritage School and its Vice Principal.<sup>248</sup>

At Woodrow Wilson, Eaglestaff focused his efforts on enhancing Native cultural programs and setting college as a goal for all of its students. The 6-12 grade school programs were expanded to include younger children in what became a small K-12 school with individualized teaching.

The student body of the Indian Heritage School was initially selected on an application basis, and was made up by an estimated 75 percent Native Alaskans and American Indians. This allowed its students to "feel empowered... as a majority rather a minority," according to Eaglestaff.<sup>249</sup> The school was successful in reducing dropout rates, with all of its graduating seniors from 1994-1998 enrolled to attend a college or university.<sup>250</sup> The school sponsored basketball games and powwows, which were open to the public in order to broaden its community service and outreach.

Robert Eaglestaff suffered a fatal heart attack on July 19, 1996, while dancing at a powwow in Enterprise, Oregon. His death was a significant blow to the Indian Heritage School, which saw a rapid decline in enrollment.<sup>251</sup>

Andrew Lawson, a member of the Tsimshian tribe, took over the Indian Heritage School in February 1997. The school continued to serve grades 6 through 12, until it was designated as a K-12 school beginning of the 1997 school year. In 2000, the program was relocated to North Seattle Community College (now North Seattle College.) In 2001, the school's name was officially changed to the Indian Heritage Middle College, serving students in 9th through 12th grades. The grades are considered to the Indian Heritage Middle College, serving students in 9th through 12th grades.

By 2009, enrollment had changed, with 50 of the school's 60 students being non-Native, and fewer Native American cultural classes being offered. Total estimated Native American/American Indian student enrollment in the school district numbered 900, down from and estimated 1,200 to 1,300 students only a few years earlier. That year the school's graduating class of 20 included only one Native American student.<sup>255</sup>

In 2010 the school district missed a deadline that resulted in the loss of federal funding for a Native culture and academics program. As a result, two teachers were laid off from the school.<sup>256</sup>

By the 2012-2013 school year, students were completing most of their coursework online. Only three Native American students were enrolled, none of the teachers were Native American, and

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>247</sup> Seattle Times, "In Seattle schools, Indian children learn their heritage," October 4, 1970, p. 50.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>248</sup> Ibid. Jeanne Raymond, interview November 22, 2005.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>249</sup> Thompson & Marr, pp. 324-325.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>250</sup> Seattle Post-Intelligencer, "Seattle Indian School Is at a Crossroads," November 22, 1996.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>251</sup> Carol Beers, Susan Byrnes, and Floranga Davilla, "Eaglestaff's Death Leaves Void," *Seattle Times*, July 22, 1996, n.p.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>253</sup> Keith Ervin, "New home for Indian Heritage school," Seattle Times, March 2, 2000, p. B3.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>254</sup> Purcell, e-mail communication to Tingyu Wang, May, 30, 2014, and telephone communication with Ellen Mirro June 23, 2014

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>255</sup> Cydney Gillis, "Parents call changes at Seattle's Indian Heritage School a Whitewash," Real Change, October 1, 2009.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>256</sup> Rianna Hidalgo, "A Loss of heritage," Real Change, July 31, 2013, https://www.realchangenews.org/2013/07/31/loss-heritage (accessed January 2020),

there was no cultural component to the curriculum. In July 2013 the school district announced that the Indian Heritage School would not be staffed for the 2013-2014 school year. <sup>257</sup> Later that same year, then-superintendent Jose Banda announced plans to move the program from the Wilson-Pacific building, which had been slated for demolition, to leased space in Northgate Mall. This plan was met with protest from program supporters, who felt that the school district had neglected the program and that it would further deteriorate if shunted to another space. <sup>258</sup> In spite of the outcry, the program was moved to Northgate Mall, and was combined with the Middle College high school, a program for students at high risk of dropping out. <sup>259</sup>

Even before the Wilson-Pacific Building was demolished, the Urban Native Education Alliance, a volunteer-driven nonprofit that facilitates and sponsors Native American-focused activities and workshops, was urging the school district to name its replacement building after Robert Eaglestaff, and provide a thorough Native-focused curriculum and cultural programs.<sup>260</sup>

By 2015, the Indian Heritage Program had been combined with alternative school Pinehurst K-8, under the new name Licton Springs K-8.<sup>261</sup>

Robert Eagle Staff<sup>262</sup> Middle School opened in September 2017 on the site of the former Wilson-Pacific building, and sharing a building with Licton-Springs K-8, immediately next to Cascadia Elementary School. The middle school bears Eaglestaff's name, Licton Springs K-8 includes a includes a Native-centered curriculum, <sup>263</sup> and the campus includes Andrew Morrison's murals of historic Native American leaders; <sup>264</sup> however, there is no longer a centralized program called Indian Heritage Program, focused on the specific needs of Native American students in the same way that the program had under Eaglestaff's leadership and in the approximately 15 years after his death. The program Huchoosedah Indian Education, essentially a referral service operating within the school district, works with "students, parents, teachers, principals, and SPS departments on a case by case basis to address the broad scope of needs [...] Native students face." <sup>265</sup>

As of November 2019, Licton Springs K-8 had been slated to move from the building it shared with Eagle Staff Middle School and into the former Webster School in Ballard. The proposed move was a result of swelling enrollment at Eagle Staff, one of the few schools in the district that houses the gifted/Highly Capable Cohort program.<sup>266</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>257</sup> Hidalgo.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>258</sup> Linda Shaw, "Seattle schools urged to revitalize Indian Heritage program," Seattle Times, May 15, 2013, n.p.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>259</sup> Paige Cornwell, "New school honors Native visionary Robert Eagle Staff," *Seattle Times*, September 6, 2017, p. B2. <sup>260</sup> Hidalgo.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>261</sup> Seattle Times, "Peaslee says she won't run for new School Board term," April 22, 2015, p. B2.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>262</sup> At the request of Eaglestaff's family, the school was named the two-word "Eagle Staff," rather than the combined "Eaglestaff" that had been the former director's chosen spelling of his name. Paige Cornwell, "New school honors Native visionary Robert Eagle Staff," *Seattle Times*, September 6, 2017, p. B2.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>263</sup> Seattle Public Schools, "Licton Springs K-8," https://www.seattleschools.org/schools/k-8/licton\_springs.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>264</sup> Seattle Public Schools, "Eagle Staff and Cascadia Murals unveiling," June 27, 2017,

https://www.seattleschools.org/district/calendars/news/archived\_news/eagle\_staff\_and\_cascadia\_murals\_unveiling. <sup>265</sup> Seattle Public Schools, "Huchoosedah Indian Education,"

https://www.seattleschools.org/departments/huchoosedah\_indian\_education.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>266</sup> Dahlia Bazzaz, "Licton Springs to move next school year," Seattle Times, November 22, 2019, p. A9.