

The City of Seattle

Landmarks Preservation Board

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

Landmark NOMINATION Application

Historic Name Current Name Historic / Current Use	University of Washington Academic Computer Center Wallace Hall Centralized computer center / Administrative & faculty offices, seminar room, non-science lab space, and classroom
Year Built Address	1976 3737 Brooklyn Avenue NE, Seattle, WA 98105 (campus address) University of Washington Seattle, WA 98195
Assessor's File No. Legal Description	114200-3570 (The building is a part of this tax parcel.) See page 4 in the accompanying landmark nomination report for the legal description of this parcel in West Campus.
Original Designers	Ibsen Andreas Nelsen and Ivo Gregov, Ibsen Nelsen & Associates Structural Engineers Victor O. Gray & Co. Mechanical Engineers Wood & Assoc. Electrical Engineers Beverly A. Travis & Assoc., Inc.
Original Builder	Baugh Construction
Original & Present Owner	University of Washington
Owner's Representative:	Julie Blakeslee, Environmental and Land Use Planner Capital Planning & Development, University Facilities Building Box 352205, Seattle, WA 98195-2205 jblakesl@uw.edu / 206.543.2425
Submitted by	Susan Boyle, AIA, Principal
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Date	October 10, 2021
Reviewed (historic preservation	n officer): Date:

Administered by The Historic Preservation Program the Seattle Department of Neighborhoods

The University of Washington Academic Computer Center / Wallace Hall Seattle Landmark Nomination October 10, 2021



BOLA Architecture + Planning Seattle

University of Washington Academic Computer Center / Wallace Hall Seattle Landmark Nomination, October 10, 2021

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West Campus Planning

Appendix – Original 1975 Architectural Record Drawings

Cover: The cover sheet of the original record set of Feb. 20, 1975 (University of Washington Facility Records), and a view of the exterior ramp structure and entry to the first floor (Susan Boyle, BOLA, May 2021).

University of Washington Wallace Hall Seattle Landmark Nomination BOLA Architecture + Planning October 10, 2021

1. INTRODUCTION

Background

This landmark nomination report provides historic and architectural information about Wallace Hall, a building located in the West Campus area of the University of Washington campus. Built in 1976 the 45 year old building was constructed originally as the University's Academic Computer Center.

The report provides an architectural descriptions of the setting, site, and building, along with a historic context statement about development of the University and the neighborhood surrounding its southwest campus area, the building's planning and construction history, its use, and the design in the context of the late 20th century campus architecture. The life and career of its original designer, architect Ibsen Nelson, is provided, along with information about the original builder, Baugh Construction. The text is illustrated by historic and contemporary photographs, maps, photos, and drawings. Unless otherwise noted, current photos are by Susan Boyle and date from November 2018 to January 2019, and June 2021.

The intent of this landmark nomination is to clarify the status of Wallace Hall and to help the University plan for the building's future. The area that encompasses this building was envisioned for some change in the 2019 Campus Master Plan, which was reviewed and approved that year by the City Council. (**Figure 71**) This plan conceptualized an extension of the open space created by the recently developed City of Seattle Fritz Hedges Park along the shoreline south of NE Pacific Street. The enlarged open space was sought by both the U District community and the City of Seattle in response to both the up-zoning of the University District for increased residential density, and proposed UW West Campus density increase, to serve as space as an amenity for students, faculty, local residents, and visitors to the area. Development of the green would involve removal of three buildings and parking areas, terracing of the site, and landscaping.

Research

Research for this report was initiated in 2019 with a review of the subject building and neighboring buildings on the same block in the West Campus area. It continued in early 2021 with several visits to tour and photograph the site and the building and its surroundings. Historical research involved

collection and review of historic documents, maps, and photos from the following sources:

- Newspaper articles from the archival *Seattle Post Intelligencer* and *Seattle Times* database available from the Seattle Public Library.
- Digital map and photography collections from the University Libraries Special Collections, Museum of History and Industry, Seattle Municipal Archives, and the Seattle Public Library
- Original architectural record drawings of the building from the University Facility Records
- Publications and digital information about the university, the building, and its original designer, architect Ibsen Nelsen.
- Other City of Seattle landmark nominations and historic survey inventory forms documenting comparable buildings and other work by Ibsen Nelson.
- Relevant information from the 2017 Historic Survey of the University of Washington Campus
- Publications about Brutalist style architecture

Seattle's Landmarks Process

[Note: The following information is provided for those unfamiliar with local landmarks.]

Designated historic landmarks are those properties that have been recognized locally, regionally, or nationally as important resources to the community, city, state, or nation. Official recognition may be provided by listing in the State or National Registers of Historic Places and locally by the City of Seattle's designation of a property as historic landmark. The City's landmarks process is a multi-part proceeding of three sequential steps involving the Landmarks Preservation Board: a review of the nomination and its and approval or rejection; a designation; and negotiation of controls and incentives by the property owner and the City's Historic Preservation Office and its approval by the Landmarks Preservation Board A final step in this landmarks process is passage of a designation ordinance by the City Council. These steps all occur with public hearings to allow input from the property owner, applicant, the public, and other interested parties.

Seattle's landmarks process is quasi-judicial, with the Board ruling rather than serving as an advisory body to another commission, department, or agency. Under the ordinance, more than 470 individual properties have been designated as landmarks by the Board. Other properties within one of the City's eight special review and historic districts are also local landmarks.

The City of Seattle's Landmarks Preservation Ordinance (SMC 25.12.350) does not consider future changes or uses, or other land use issues. Rather, it requires a property to be more than 25 years old and to "have significant character, interest or value, as part of the development, heritage or cultural characteristics of the City, State or Nation," and that it meet one or more of six designation criteria:

Criterion 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.

<u>Criterion B.</u> It is associated in a significant way with the life of a person important in the history of the City, state, or nation.

Criterion 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.
<u>Criterion D.</u>	It embodies the distinctive visible characteristics of an architectural style, or period, or of a method of construction
Criterion E.	It is an outstanding work of a designer or builder.
<u>Criterion F.</u>	Because of its prominence of spatial location, contrasts of siting, age, or scale, it is an easily identifiable visual feature of its neighborhood or the City and contributes to the distinctive quality or identity of such neighborhood or the City.

There is no local ordinance that requires an owner to nominate its property. The City may require a nomination for substantial development requiring a Master Use Permit as part of its environmental review under the State Environmental Policy Act.

The University's Historic Survey and Seattle Campus Master Plan

A recent historic survey of the campus was undertaken in 2017, which provided a historic context statement and timeline, information about open spaces, buildings, and designers, and preliminary evaluations for buildings, landscapes and objects that were at least 50 years old in 2022, e.g., those constructed prior to 1972. Because of its date of construction in 1976, the historic survey did not include Wallace Hall.¹

The block on which the building is located is a part of a proposed new open space, the West Campus Green, which it shares with several other buildings. The 2003 Campus Master Plan (CMP) anticipated this area, citing as goals to "improve open space as part of a continuum along the north side of NE Boat Street." ² (**Figures 69 & 70**) The University's planning for this area changed by 2019 when the CMP acknowledged the development of the new Portage Bay Park to the south, which was built that year (**Figure 71**):

Under the Long-Term Vision, West Campus is anchored by the new West Campus Green (north of Boat Street), which seamlessly integrates with the City of Seattle's new Portage Bay Park (south of Boat Street). The combined open spaces would provide seven acres of open space bordered by new development and small pavilion spaces with amenities for park visitors. A plaza at the north end of the Green atop a stepped terrace would provide a venue to highlight University activities and contributions through activated ground floor uses.³

¹ Confluence Environmental Company, et al, 2017.

² 2003 Campus Master Plan, Figure 7.4.

³ Campus Master Plan, 2019.

Property Information

Original Name:	Academic Computer Center			
Current Name:	Wallace Hall (UW Facility #1119)			
Address:	3737 Brooklyn Avenue NE Seattle, WA 98195 (campus address)			
Parcel Address:	1200 NE Pacific Street			
Parcel Number:	1142003570			
Legal Description:	Note: The University of Washington does not use the parcel description shown for Wallace Hall on some of the King County Parcel view maps (1142003570). For the west campus area, it provides the attached legal description.			
Construction Date: 1976				
Original Designers:	Ibsen Andreas Nelsen and Ivo Gregov, Ibsen Nelsen & Associates Structural Engineers Victor O. Gray & Co. Mechanical Engineers Wood & Assoc. Electrical Engineers Beverly A. Travis & Assoc., Inc. Artist Lee Kelly			
Original Builder:	Baugh Construction, Seattle			
Tax Parcel No.:	114200-3570			

Legal Description:

Brooklyn Addition Lots 19 through 32 less portion of subdivision lots 27 through 29 for street together with lots 15 through 43; block 33 subdivision plat together with lots 11 through 15; block 34 subdivision plat and together with portions of vacated streets and alleys adjacent; less portion subdivision block 34 and alley within conveyed to city of Seattle by deed record number 9501050900 less portion for road per record number 20000825000510, as recorded in Volume 7 of Plats, Page 32, Records of King County, Washington.

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2. ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

The West Campus Setting

The boundaries of the University of Washington's West Campus are set by Portage Bay on the south and generally along NE 41st Street on the north, and 15th Avenue NE on the east. It extends west of Roosevelt Way NE to the south of NW 40th Street. The building is situated on the corner of Brooklyn Avenue NE on the east, NE Pacific Street on the north. (**Figures 1 & 2**) Adjacent to the west is a surface parking lot. To the east there is a parking garage and to the south is the Marine Studies Facility (MSF). At the southeast corner of Brooklyn Avenue NE and NE Boat Street, there is a small City of Seattle-owned parcel occupied by a highly visible Utility Pump Station No. 48.

The present 5.74-acre block was made up by four individual blocks, along with NE 38th Street, and 11th and 12th Avenues NE and the north-south alley ways, which were vacated. Development of the area was guided by a plan adopted by the Regents in 1994 as a supplement to the General Physical Development Plan of 1991-2001, and the University's Property Use and Development Agreement for the Southwest Campus Plan, as well as the 2003 and 2019 Campus Master Plans, which was approved by the City Council (**Figures 69 -71**).

In 1995 University architectural historian Norman Johnson described this part of the campus: "In this sector, the new Marine Studies Building and its connecting Fisheries Research and Technology Center are already in place – in locations designated by the Southwest Campus Plan. Built at different times, they share, nevertheless, a similar technology of poured and precast concrete – the fisheries building benefitting from its later date and a sprightlier design."⁴ The area was characterized later as containing "University facilities leased for private houseboats, private boat moorages, and one private property, the Jensen Motorboat Company. City streets, including a street-end boat launch and a public park currently provide public access to the waterfront."⁵

Nearby Campus Buildings

Wallace Hall shares its block with three separate marine and natural science facilities. The Marine Studies Facility, Phase 1 (MSF) building, at 3707 12th Avenue NE, is situated approximately 30 feet to the south of Wallace Hall, near the southwest corner of the block, with its primary facade facing south toward NE Boat Street. A paved driveway is situated between the two buildings that provides vehicle access to the service areas and parking lot in the center of the block. (**Figures 2 & 22**) to the east, across Brooklyn Avenue NE, is a concrete frame parking garage. (**Figure 46**)

The two story, steel frame MSF building, irregular shaped academic building has overall exterior dimensions of 182'-5" by 182'-4" in stepped sections, and contains two stories. (Figures 45, 47 & 48) It was designed and constructed as an academic building for the College of Ocean and Fisheries Sciences, Marine Studies Facility. Built in 1984 at a cost of \$4.6million, it was one of the first purpose-built academic facilities on the west campus area, and the first of the three buildings for its college. The original design was produced by a collaborative team made up by the Seattle

⁴ Johnson, 2001, pp. 138-139, 142-145.

⁵ University of Washington Master Plan, 2003, p. 14.

architecture firm of Streeter Dermanis, led by principal Mel Streeter, and the larger interdisciplinary firm of NBBJ, along with glass artist Glenn Weiss.⁶

The MSF building was occupied by an office administrative suite, laboratories, classrooms, and conference spaces. The MSF building fits within the context of standard Modern style architectural designs for university, college, and commercial campuses. Its building materials – steel, cast concrete, and precast concrete panels – and its construction technology are typical of its era.

The Fisheries Teaching and Research Center (FTRC), at 1200 NE Pacific Street, is placed along the south edge of the block, southwest of Wallace Hall and west of the MSF. (**Figures 49 & 50**) This building, constructed in 1990, was envisioned as the second phase of the Marine Science Facility (Phase 1), and it contains many of the same types of spaces as the earlier building, with exception of the administrative offices. Completed at a construction cost of approximately \$2.58 million, the building contains two stories and a full basement along with a 20 foot-wide and 60 foot-long covered arcade linking it to the nearby MSF.⁷

The FTRC building was designed in a somewhat Post Modern styler a well-known local architectural firm, Miller/Hull Partnership with involvement by both principals, Bob Hull and Dave Miller, and it was Miller/Hull's first major work on the campus.⁸ The primary building mass is a102-6" square made up by five 20'-wide structural bays in each direction, which are expressed on the exterior by its mass and façade composition. The structure consists of concrete and steel framing with steel beams and columns, concrete foundations, floor and roof slabs, a steel framed flat roof with metal decking and roofing over rigid insulation, and cladding of smooth finish, 6" thick precast concrete panels. Because of the arcade the south facade extends the full 162' in width to spans much of the southern part of its site, limiting waterfront views from northern portions of the block.

The landscaping surrounding the MSF and FTRC buildings includes grass along with perimeter trees and shrubbery and paved walkways. The block's paved parking area (University Lot W35) and service area are situated in the center, west of Wallace Hall where they are accessed by a driveway off NE Boat Street and Brooklyn Avenue NE. (**Figures 23 & 24**) In addition, a service drive and parking are provided along the east side of the FTRC building, directly north of the arcade between it and the MSF building. Across Brooklyn Avenue NE, on the east side of the street there is the multilevel South Campus Parking Garage / Portage Bay Garage (1988, NBBJ).

The Site and Landscape

Wallace Hall is situated near the northeast corner of the block. The site proposed for nomination is a rectangle, approximately 103 by 260 feet. (**Figure 40**) At this location, the grade slopes down approximate elevation 37.5 feet from the northeast corner of the site to the building's southwest corner at approximate elevation 27.5 feet. The building's first floor is set at elevation 34, and the second floor at elevation 47.

⁶ Rupp, 1992, p. 189.

⁷ Johnson, 1995, p. 166.

⁸ Miller Hull, "About." In addition, the architects designed ten projects for the Seattle UW campus and two rehabilitations on the Tacoma UW campus between 1980 and 2017.

The building is surrounded by landscaping on its primary north and east street-facing sides. A deep setback on the north, approximately 66 feet-deep, originally contained two rows of deciduous trees, set 24 and 54 feet from the building's north facade. (Figure 3-5) This setback currently contains turf and the trees, shrubs, groundcovers, and vines planted largely near the building's north façade. (Figures 6 & 7) The north yard also contains a large, untitled Cor-ten steel sculpture by artist Lee Kelly, which was commissioned by the University, and created in 1977.⁹ (Figures 8 & 9) (This sculpture, part of the Washington State Arts Commission collection, is not a part of the nominated property.)

The 17 foot-deep east side setback is landscaped with thick ground covers and shrubs, and it contains an 11 foot-wide walkway and concrete steps along the building perimeter that leads to the first floor entry. (Figures 10-12) Parallel to this a long concrete ramp, which extends from the sidewalk along NE Brooklyn Street to the second floor entry landing. This ramp landing shelters the recessed, east-facing entry to the first floor lobby and a nearby bike parking area. The east front yard setback is heavily landscaped. (Figures 13-16)

The original site plan notes a public alley that then extended along the east of the building, and 2 foot-wide planting strip along the south façade and an adjacent 6 foot-wide asphalt paved sidewalk. None of these elements are apparent, and presently there is a large, paved parking lot to the east and a paved driveway to the south of Wallace Hall. In contrast to the well landscaped north and east setbacks the open spaces to the south and west are utilitarian. (Figures 20-23) The building's raised loading dock extends approximately 10 feet to the west of its west facade, and vines that cover portions of the concrete perimeter walls. (Figures 24 & 25)

Because of changes to the surroundings to the south and west of Wallace Hall, the site proposed in this nomination includes the north and east setbacks, onto which the building's primary facades face, along with a perimeter section 10 feet-deep on the west, to align with the outer edge of the loading dock and what was originally the edge of an alley, and a 2 foot-deep strip of the present driveway along the south side, which aligns with what the narrow planting strip. (Figure 40)

The Building

The building contains two stories and a small partial basement. Floor areas, as noted on the orignal plans, total 26,278 square feet with 1,062 square feet at the basement, 14,758 square feet at the first floor and 10,457 at the second floor. (The original plans refer to a "ground floor" and "first floor", but in this nomination they are cited as first and second floors.) The floor-to-floor heights are set at 11'-5" and the overall height of the building is only 25', giving the building mass a long horizontal profile. Because of the slope of the site, the northern part of the first floor sits up to four

⁹ For more information about Lee Kelly, see Row, D.K., 2019, and the Washington State Arts Commission. Lee Kelly (1932 –) was born in Idaho and studied architecture as a young man. He graduated from the Portland Art Museum School in 1959, and subsequently studied traditional bonze casting methods in Nepal. Kelly has created art for over five decades. His large Cor-ten Modernist style steel pieces are seen on the campuses of Stanford University, Wenatchee Valley College, Olympic College, Pierce College, Portland State, University of Oregon, Reed College, the collections of Seattle Art Museum and municipal collections in Washington and Oregon.

feet below grade. (See the report cover illustration, which is the cover sheet to original 1975 drawing set.)

The building is constructed with a slab-on-grade, poured-in-place concrete columns and one-foot wide pre-cast concrete and reinforced CMU walls, along with steel floor and roof joists, metal panel cladding, aluminum windows and skylights on raised curbs, and painted steel pipe railings. Portions of the original first floor were raised for electrical access. The mass is generally a flat-roof, and rectangular shaped. (Figure 41-44)

The first floor measures 75 to 79 feet deep by 192 feet long, with the length defined by ten footwide bays. (Figure 41) The wall plane of the primary (east) facade is setback 3.25 feet along the northern seven bays adjacent to the 11 foot-wide steps and paved walk leading to the main entry along with a prominent, 6 foot-wide, 70 foot ramp and landing leading to the second floor entry. (Figure 10) The 10 foot-deep setback is matched also at the east facade's southernmost bay. Entries on both floors are recessed and set within 10 foot-wide openings with splayed walls that extend to 20 foot-wide perimeter openings. An access door to the west loading dock is similarly positioned within a recess with splayed wall. (Figures 12 & 27-29) To the south of the first floor entry the east wall plane projects forward 3.25 feet, with sloped clerestories and a band of windows set into the concrete facade. (Figures 13 & 14) Adjacent to the main first floor entry there is a sheltered bike parking area announced by a large circular cut out in the ramp wall. (Figures 19 & 20)

Exteriors are notable for the material texture of the precast concrete and metal-cladding, and detailing with 1.5'-radius curved outer corners at the southeast and southwest. (Figures 15-17) There is a clear distinction between the lower level formed concrete walls, which are cast with smooth finishes and deep vertical reveals, and the smooth reflective metal panels of the upper metal wall panels. The proportion between these two materials varies on each facade, with the metal panels lowest at the northeast corner, and rising above the first floor window heads along much of the east facade. (Figures 18 & 42)

Windows and door openings emphasize the mass of the concrete structure, and the machined quality of the two exterior materials as they are set deep within the concrete openings or near the exterior face of the cladding. Designed to ventilate the exterior office spaces, the windows are typically small operable clerestory or narrow casement types. The fenestration on the east facade include a long horizontal band of clerestories on the second floor, and a similar band of low sloped angled windows and aligned paired windows on the first floor. Portions of the north and south facades contain shorter horizontal bands of similar windows. (Figure 44)

Near the northeast corner the north facade features a large curtainwall which opens into the original 50 to 60 by 27 foot Work Study Lounge, currently the Program for the Environment (POE) Commons, and into a series of offices and the tall common space. (Figure 7) There are no window openings on the west facade at the first floor, only a partially glazed egress doors and the loading dock door. (Figures 25 & 29)

The two main lobby entries are set within recesses on the east side of the building, with the secondary lobby at the first floor and the main entry lobby (one leading to administrative offices) on the second floor accessed by the long cast-in-place concrete ramp. The first floor entry is

distinguished by the angled wall, a circular opening in the outer ramp wall, and a single cast concrete column that supports the upper landing. Both straight and curved concrete walls are carried into this lobby and reflected in smooth curved walls, corners, and casework. (Figures 27 & 28). Within the lobby a free-standing stairway is encircled by a smooth walls and a custom banquette. (Figures 30 & 31)

The building's orignal first floor was devoted largely to computers, while presently it houses primarily administrative and faculty offices. South of the entry lobby there was a 110 foot by 19.5 foot keypunch room along the east and adjoining computer and input/output rooms in the center with stock rooms, electrical and mechanical spaces along the west side. The building's first floor currently provides space for the Program for the Environment (POE) Commons, a seminar and presentation room at the northeast corner of the first floor. This space, originally a study hall, features the large curtainwall windows and views of the north yard landscape. The upper east wall of the double-height space was once open to the second floor, but that opening has been infilled by a solid flush wall. This eliminated an overlook from the second floor and connection between the two levels, but it provides acoustical separation between the adjoining spaces. (Figures 32-34)

The Keypunch Room in the original Academic Computer Center was placed along the east perimeter walls on the first floor. Currently this area is partitioned to provide a series of narrow by 10 footwide faculty office. (**Figures 35 & 36**) A double-loaded corridor separates the offices. To the west there is the former Computer Room, a large 60 by 35 foot windowless space near the southeast corner, which was designed to meet the glare-free lighting and large-capacity ventilation needs of early computers. (**Figure 38**) This room is largely an open storage space and reportedly it is currently vacant. Signage suggests it was used recently for an interdisciplinary study as the AMP (Amplify Movement & Performance) Lab, a collaboration between the College of Engineering and Rehabilitation Medicine to study the dynamics human and robotic movement design. (This space was not accessible during a 2021 site tour.)

Adjacent windowless spaces along the south perimeter wall were designated originally to serve as an Engineering Shop, Customer Engineers office and System Work. The Mechanical and Electrical Rooms and other service spaces remain placed along the west side of the building and restrooms are in the center.

With a few exceptions the second floor the layout appears much as it was originally designed. (Figures 37, 39 & 42) The southern two-thirds of this floor contains a series of 10 foot-wide offices along the east, west and south perimeter walls, and workrooms, storage and service spaces in the center, and an enclosed exit stairs in the southeast corner. The northeast portion of the second floor was once open to the original double-height space below to the current POE Commons, but with the wall infilled only a corridor remains. (Figure 33)

A general conference/seminar room is at the northwest corner of the second floor. It originally had access through sliding doors to an adjacent west roof terrace, which has also been closed because of safety concerns. The second floor is setback up to 18'-8" from the first floor to provide outdoor roof space for two mechanical rooms with shed roofs and what was once the roof terrace. (**Figure 26**) Perimeter walls in many of the west office spaces to the south are stepped with windows set in

angled sections facing northwest to provide glare-free lighting. Some of the interior office spaces are skylit. (Figure 37)

Changes have been made repeatedly to upgrade the buildings mechanical HVAC, plumbing, electrical, security equipment. In recent years, the large space at the northeast corner, the original Study Hall and current POE Commons, has seen additional modification with the insertion of translucent fiberglass partitions to create office-like spaces along the north perimeter wall, in addition infill of the upper portion of the room's west wall.

Interior finishes throughout the building appear contemporary. They include painted gypsum wallboard walls and ceilings along in the lobby and some office spaces with acoustic ceiling tiles in a suspended metal grid in enclosed rooms, resilient flooring, and carpeting.

The exterior of the somewhat vault-like building remains largely intact and changes to the facades may have been minimized by the presence of building's 12 inch-thick concrete perimeter walls. Visible change include rooftop mechanical equipment on the west side and the addition of a small, cantilevered stainless steel rooflet on the south facade, which shelters an egress door. (Figure 21)

3. HISTORIC CONTEXT

Development of the University District and the Portage Bay Area

Prior to mid to late-19th century Euro-American settlement of the area that became the University District was a forested land crossed by trails used by the Native Americans for hunting and berry growing. In 1855, the federal government surveyed and divided the unceded territory it into townships. This land was governed initially by the Oregon Territory's Organic Act, which reserved Sections 16 and 36 of each township for the maintenance of public schools. Section 16 later became the University campus.

In 1867, Christian and Harriet Brownfield became the first homesteaders in the area after filing a claim for 174 acres adjacent to Section 16. Additional settlers followed. In 1887 the Seattle, Lake Shore, and Eastern Railroad was laid from Fremont to Union Bay on Lake Washington. Development of nearby properties along the rail route commenced, increasing land values. Plans were made also for a ship canal to link Puget Sound and Salmon Bay with Lake Union and Lake Washington. The Brownfield's' property was repeatedly sold and platted and was acquired in 1890 by developer James A. Moore, who re-platted it as the Brooklyn Addition.

The year 1891 was a formative one for the area. That year the City of Seattle annexed the north end communities of Brooklyn, Fremont, Wallingford, Latona, and Green Lake. In addition, the Latona Bridge was constructed from what was then 6th Avenue NE across Lake Union to the north end of Capitol Hill, providing passage for streetcars traveling onto a route along present-day University Way NE. The streetcar stimulated a linear corridor of commercial development. Around the same time, the State Legislature voted to move the State's University from its downtown location to Section 16. The move occurred in 1895, prompting a renaming of the area from Brooklyn to University Station. By 1910 neighborhoods around the campus were almost entirely platted.

The decision to site the Alaska Yukon Pacific Exposition (AYPE) of 1909 on the University grounds of was a critical step in the expansion of the campus and its surroundings. The fair attracted between 3,000,000 and 4,000,000 visitors. The AYPE grounds, designed by John Charles Olmsted of the renowned Olmsted Brothers firm from Brookline, Massachusetts, contained a number of the buildings intended as permanent structures to be retained for the University's subsequent use. In addition, hotels and commercial buildings were constructed to serve visitors. After the AYPE, the neighborhood saw increased residential and commercial development.

Further growth in the teens was stimulated by transportation and infrastructure improvements, including completion of the Ship Canal from Lake Union to Elliott Bay, and opening of the Montlake Cut from Lake Washington to Lake Union. The early Latona Bridge was replaced by the University Bridge at the foot of 10th Avenue NE (Roosevelt Way NE) in 1919, the Montlake Bridge constructed in 1925. The ensuing construction boom extended into the 1920s with a streetcar loop connecting the Montlake and Wallingford neighborhoods with the University District in 1928.

Meanwhile industrial use of Lake Union continued with many resource-extraction industries positioned along its shoreline. Prior to construction of the Ship Canal in 1917, logs and coal were brought by ship via Lake Washington and Portage Bay to Lake Union and from there by railroad lines

that ran from Elliott Bay to Ballard, and then past Fremont and Latona. Early maps and photographs of Lake Union and Portage Bay show industries along the north shores: lumber mills, shipping facilities, a cooperage, and shipbuilding and ship repair facilities along with marinas and moorages for fishing boats and other vessels. In contrast, the south shore of Portage Bay saw residential development. After 1910, the Seattle Yacht Club moved to its present location at 1801 East Hamlin Street, near the west entrance of the Montlake Cut and the east end of Portage Bay. The Yacht Club is a designated Seattle Landmark.

Industrial use on the north side of Portage Bay remained largely within the blocks south of NE 40th Street. Historic Sanborn maps of 1905 and the Kroll map of 1912-20 identify two public waterways: No. 12 near the foot of 13th (Brooklyn) Avenue NE and No. 13 at the southern end of 10th Avenue NE, along with the platted street grid with north-south streets from 5th Avenue NE to Avenue 15th NE and terminating at North Lake Avenue, and NE 38th and 40th Streets as east-west cross streets. (The maps also show the Washington Lake Shore rail line along the current route of Burke-Gilman Trail and NE Pacific Street.)

Growth of the campus and the surrounding neighborhood in this period resulted in traffic congestion. Partly in response to this, University President Henry Suzzallo proposed a formal westerly approach to the campus. While a broad boulevard was initially suggested in a 1923 campus plan by architects Bebb and Gould, the construction of NE Campus Parkway was not realized until several decades later. (Figure 51)

Subsequent development throughout the city and on the campus was largely halted by the Great Depression, although some infrastructure improvements were made under the federal government's Public Works Administration and Works Progress Administration programs, such as street expansions and bridge upgrading. Despite these efforts, the southern area of the University District continued to be characterized by older industrial facilities mixed with older low-rise residences, while the nearby campus area along Portage Bay and the Ship Canal was largely open space developed as a golf course. (**Figure 51**) To the east the Medical Center emerged along with other expansion of the campus in its post-war development. (**Figure 52**)

Many of lake front industries were transformed to serve the intense war effort in the 1940s, including shipbuilding and ship repair businesses. At the end of World War II, the regional and local economy changed with dramatic development in the aerospace industry, airplane construction and trade, and steep declines in resource-based industries. "From 1946 to the present Lake Union [saw] a decline in industrial and increased mixed-commercial and recreational use of the lakeshore."¹⁰

Emergence of the South and West Campus Areas

After World War II, returning soldiers flooded the University seeking college degrees under the provisions of the GI Bill. Residential and academic facilities on the campus were soon expanded to meet the rapidly growing enrollment. In 1948 the University's Campus Plan recommended acquisition of the Northlake area to the southwest of the traditional campus. Despite some neighborhood opposition, the University carried out its expansion. By the early 1950s construction

¹⁰ Tobin, December 9-15, 1987.

of NE Campus Parkway was completed along with the new Terry and Lander dormitories. (Figure 53) (These two dorms have been replaced.) Other construction in the Northlake area also included a complex of Northwest Modern style low-rise wood frame dwellings for married students along Brooklyn Avenue NE south of NE Pacific Street (Bassetti and Morse, 1947-48, demolished ca. 1980). Despite this expansion of campus, aerial photographs from the late 1950s and early 1960s show the persistence of older residences and older industries along the Lake Union shoreline. (Figure 54)

Completion of the 520 Bridge in 1964 also isolated residential blocks south of the Montlake Cut. Within the University District neighborhood, traffic was funneled along several arterials, including NE Pacific Street. Expansion of the University Hospital and other university's programs led to additional construction in the south part of the campus. The Northlake Urban Renewal project established cooperative development between the City and the University of the area south of NE 40th Street between 15th Avenue NE and Roosevelt Way NE. The campus continued to grow, and between 1962 and 1994 it undertook 80 major construction projects.¹¹ In the south and southwest campus areas, new buildings included the Ethnic Cultural Center, and expansions of the Oceanography and Fisheries buildings. Despite some opposition by some nearby marine businesses, the last three decades have seen continued construction in the Northlake area, with the recent opening of four six-story dormitory buildings between NE Northlake Way and NE Campus Parkway.

In addition to industrial uses, parts of Portage Bay and Lake Union historically served as the site for a houseboat community. This originated as a floating "Hooverville" for low-income residents and seasonal workers in the early part of the 20th century, made up by small wood-frame buildings, modeled on 19th century boat houses and supported on log floats. Only a few houseboats remain on the north shore of Portage Bay. Currently the lakefront area contains a number of garages and academic facilities, along with the Aqua Verde café and kayak-rental business, several marinas, and the former Jensen Boatyard (1927) at 1417 NE Boat Street, which was recently rehabilitated as a bakery and community space.

In the 1970s and 1980s several streets in the area were vacated to assemble the large block on which the subject building is located, including 11th and 12th Avenues NE and portions of NE 38th Street, along with internal alleys. Driveways to the interior parking lots were revised also. NE Pacific Street was rerouted along parts of NE 38th Street and street trees planted were along it. Other transformation of the lakeshore has continued with the creation of street-end parks, including a one at the foot of Brooklyn Avenue NE that was expanded when Portage Bay Park was constructed in 2015 to the south of NE Boat Street on the site of the former Bryant Marina.

The block on which Wallace Hall is situated is largely taken up with facilities of the College of the Environment. This college was established in 1981, and in 2000 the School of Fisheries changed its name to become part of the larger interdisciplinary college. By the latter date there were two new buildings in the South Campus serving these programs, both built in 1969: the Oceanography Teaching Building and the nearby Marine Sciences Facility building (MSF).¹² The Fisheries and Oceanography programs evolved and become part of the current College of the Environment when it was established in ca. 2010.

¹¹ Johnston, p. 66.

¹² Dorpat, October 28, 2017.

The interdisciplinary College of the Environment shares the balance of the block with Wallace Hall. Occupying three distinct buildings, this college has total of 240 faculty and approximately 1,600 students, while the School of Aquatic and Fisheries Sciences (SAFS) has 34 faculty members and 142 undergraduate and graduate students.¹³ SAFS programs include undergraduate and graduate teaching, research and service with an emphasis on fisheries management and aquatic resource conservation, and interdisciplinary studies as well as partnerships with public and private organizations and environmental and regulatory agencies. Some of these programs are served by spaces within Wallace Hall.¹⁴

Construction and Use of Wallace Hall

In late 1956, nearly 65 years ago, the *Seattle Times* reported that the first purpose-built academic computer laboratory in the Northwest had opened, with the Research Computing Center at the University of Washington. At that time computers of the sort installed in the center were new to the worlds of both academia and commerce; the Boeing Company had just begun running its accounting on a rented IBM 750 computer only two months earlier. The university's new computing center was operated by the Departments of Mathematics and Business Administration, and it served the institution's administration and academic units. It later offered services to other institutions and businesses with contracts for payroll and inventory management, and other time-consuming calculations.

The university's computer equipment was housed initially in older buildings on the south-central part of the campus -- in the basement of the Mechanical Engineering Building, and later in Wilcox Hall and Roberts Hall in the 1960s and 1970s. References differ as to the specific equipment – an IBM 7040/7094 with IBM 1401 and 729 tape drivers, an IBM 7094 or IBM 650, and a Burroughs 5500. Regardless of the specific type, the data entry involved used of punch cards and tape drives.¹⁵

In 1956 the new Research Computing Center's equipment was cited in a local newspaper article as an "electronic brain." IBM leased its 650 to the university at an annual cost of \$60,000, but donated \$36,000 of this figure, while the National Science Foundation contributed an annual grant of \$17,500. The computer's awesome performance was described: "The magnetic drum, operating on the principle of a magnetic tape recorder, can store or 'memorize' 20,000 digits. It is used to set up the problem. A problem that would take eight hours to do by hand on a desk calculator can be solved in five seconds with the new machine, university authorities said. A more difficult problem, which would require a week's work by hand, takes a little more time—about five minutes." The new

https://cdm16786.contentdm.oclc.org/digital/collection/filmarch/id/132/rec/281 The caption notes, "Originally I/O was done on the IBM 1401's tape drives. IE: punch cards to tape on the 1401 and tape to 709. Then, 709 to tape and then tape on 1401 to printer. The 7094 was called a DCS (direct coupled system). I believe this eliminated the need for the 1401 doing I/O."

¹³ Faculty and enrollment figures are based on 2018 data, provided by Daniel Webb, Associate Dean of Advancement, School of Aquatic and Fisheries Sciences.

¹⁴ UW School of Aquatic and Fisheries Sciences

¹⁵ The earliest computer equipment on the campus is described in a caption for a 1966 video of the early computer center in Wilcox Hall by Michael Peskura and Sid McHarg of the UW Technology Enterprise Platform, available from the UWLSC,

laboratory offered specific classes in "numerical analysis" to students in mathematics, while those for business students were called "data processing."¹⁶

A new two-story building was designed in 1974-1975 to respond to the increasing needs of main frame computing, and to replace the earlier ad hoc computer laboratories. Plans for the new purpose-built computer building involved removal of at least one multi-family residence at 3737 Brooklyn Avenue NE.¹⁷ The new building, known initially as the Computer Center, opened in during the Spring academic break in 1976. (In 1977 the Regents added "Academic" to the building's name, and it later became known as the ACC.)

The ACC was an immediate success: the main frame computer was used by students from all disciplines, and the center was open 24:7 to provide access and cost-effective service. The building contained large windowless spaces for the computer equipment, served by extensive ventilation machinery, and a two-story common study area with large windows looking out onto the landscaped front yard and the neighborhood.

Energy savings was part of the original design, with heat for the building's hot water system being produced from the computers and light fixtures, and the internal temperature enhanced by double-glazed windows and extra insulation. Reported budget concerns during the design process arose as this mechanical system cost 20 percent more than a standard system. A *Seattle Times* newspaper columnist cited these design features when the construction was completed: "With \$1.3 million budgeted, the extensive utility work and air-treatment systems required for a computer center provided little extra for design details. The exterior of the building is enameled metal panels and textured concrete, although there are some window bays which extend from the front, which give it a little bit more than the utilitarian appearance which a low-budget building might have had."¹⁸

Computer equipment in the original building was expensive, with monitors alone costing \$4,000 in 1976. As personal computers emerged, they took hold on campuses across the county, but still at considerable cost. Change arrived initially in 1984 with Apple's introduction of the Macintosh.¹⁹ In 1985 the ACC became the site for personal computer sales by the university, with deep discounts on hardware by Apple, Digital Equipment, Microsoft, Zenith, and IBM. Sales far exceeded expectations, with over 2,800 personal computers sold the first year.²⁰ By that date, however, student services had been reduced, initiated by cutbacks in response to an operating budget shortfall of \$7.8 million made by the Board of Regents in the 1981-1982 academic year.

¹⁶ Seattle Times, September 11, 1956, p. 11.

¹⁷ Michelson, PCAD, "Wallace Hall, 10146, ca. 2020."

¹⁸ Collins, Alf *Seattle Times*, June 27, 1976. The building cost \$1,719,003 upon its completion in 1976. See Johnson, 1995, p. 166.

¹⁹ The Macintosh 128K, complete with a case, keyboard, monitor and mouse cost \$2,500. It was introduced to the world through a Superbowl commercial, "1984," by film director Ridley Scott, in January 1984. The University of Washington was one of 24 universities within Apple's consortium where models were sold to students and faculty below cost.

²⁰ Seattle Post-Intelligencer, April 4, 1985. Despite these limitations, the interiors included a custom carpet in the Commons, designed by Ivo Gregov, the project architect within Ibsen Nelsen's office. This carpet has since been replaced.

As networked personal computers became common throughout the campus and network technologies replaced centralized systems, the university's need for computer services and sales waned. The ACC became redundant, and its functions transitioned from computer uses to serve campus academic programs, largely with faculty offices and teaching spaces.

By early 1982 the budget cuts from dwindling state funding were felt across the campus. At the same time, construction of the long-funded Marine Sciences Laboratory (MSL), a \$3.6 million new building directly south of the Academic Computer Center, was nearing completion.²¹ The MSL building, designed by NBBJ, began operation in 1983. At that time, it was the first building on the transitioning block to serve growing marine science programs. The Fisheries Teaching and Research Center (FTRC) soon followed in 1990, and the larger Fisheries Science Building opened at the west end of the block in 1999. All four of the buildings on the block currently serve the College of the Environment. This college had its origins in the College of Ocean & Fishery Sciences, established in 1981, and the School of Fisheries, which changed its name in 2000.²² The two programs evolved, and become part of the College of the Environment when it was established in 2010.

Previously known as the UW Academic Computer Center (ACC), the building was formally re-named that same year in honor of John Michael Wallace (1940 –). Wallace, an emeritus professor in the Department of Atmospheric Sciences, taught at the University of Washington from 1966 to 2012, and also served on committees for the National Research Council from 1969 to 2005, the National Science Foundation from 1975 to 1979, and NASA in 1979. He is the director of the Joint Institute for the Study of the Atmosphere and Ocean (JISAO), a joint venture between the UW and NOAA.

Use of the buildings on the campus change frequently at this time (mid-2021), and Wallace Hall presently serves the needs of the College of Environment. This college encompasses a wide range of disciplines in the natural sciences.²³ The building houses the Program on the Environment (POE) Commons, a study hall / seminar and presentation space at the northeast corner of the first floor, and a general conference/seminar room on the second floor. Faculty and staff offices are situated along the east and south perimeter walls on the first floor and the southern part of the second floor. The first floor southwest corner contains the large, windowless former computer, which functions at times as an interdisciplinary laboratory space.

The Original Designer, Architect Ibsen Nelsen

The Academic Computer Center was designed by Ibsen Andreas Nelsen, principal of Ibsen Nelsen & Associates along with senior architect Ivo Gregov, and consultant structural engineers Victor O. Gray

²¹ Lane, Polly, *Seattle Times*, December 26, 1982, p. 80.

²² Dorpat, Paul and DorpatSherrardLamont, October 28, 2017.

²³ Organized within the College of the Environment there are the Aquatic and Fisheries Sciences, Atmospheric Sciences, Center for Quantitative Science, Climate impact Group, Comparative Institute for Climate, Ocean and Ecosystem Studies, EarthLab, Earth and Space Sciences, Environmental and Forest Sciences, Friday Harbor Laboratories, Marine and Environmental Affairs, Marine Biology, Oceanography, Program on Climate Change, Quaternary Research Center, UW Botanical Gardens and the Washington Sea Grant. In addition to the Seattle campus and Friday Harbor labs, it maintains the Wind River Field Station near the Columbia River, the Center for Sustainable Forestry at Pack Forest, and the Olympic Natural Resources in Forks, Washington.

& Company, mechanical engineers Wood & Associates, and electrical engineers Beverly A. Travis & Associates, Inc. All of these firms were located in Seattle. An exterior sculpture was created by artist Lee Kelly.

Ibsen Nelsen (1919 – 2001) was a prominent and influential local architect. Born in Ruskin, Nebraska in 1919 he was the son of a Danish immigrant father who worked as a cabinet maker. Nelsen's family moved to Medford, Oregon, where he graduated from high school before serving in the Army during World War II. Nelsen took advantage of the GI Bill to return to school at the University of Oregon where he received an architecture degree in 1951 before moving to Seattle.

Nelsen's career began with a short period of employment with NBBJ before opening his own firm in 1953. The following year he formed a partnership with architect Russell Sabin. The firm of Nelsen & Sabin (1954 - 1960), later Nelsen, Sabin & Varey (1961 - 1967), designed a variety building projects throughout the Pacific Northwest. In his early residential projects, Nelsen committed himself to creating simple, affordable designs. He and other emerging architects of the post-war era believed that young families deserved well-designed and affordable family dwellings. Houses that he designed frequently appeared in the early decades of the Seattle AIA Home of the Month program, which was publicized in The *Seattle Times beginning* in 1954. Nelsen also contributed to the Home Plan Bureau, which published residential designs for the emerging middle class families.

Nelsen's focus on residential projects throughout Seattle. Notable projects included the steelframed Benjamin Weeks House (1961), in southwest Seattle, which received a local AIA Honor Award and a Lincoln Steel Foundation Award; the Latter Day Saints Chapel, Mountlake Ward (1961), also a local Honor Award winner; and a residence for Northwest artist Morris Graves in Lolita, California (1967). In the late 1950s Nelsen and Sabin designed a new Modern style, brick clad labor hall for the Musicians Union in Seattle's Belltown.²⁴ From 1957 to 1965 Nelsen also worked part time as an associate professor in the University of Washington's Architecture Department.

In 1968, Nelsen established an independent practice and began to work on commercial interiors and large-scale projects. Nelsen was a Modernist mentor to other architects. Well known Seattle architects who he employed included Ivo and Lidija Gregov, two senior associates in his firm, along with Rick Sundberg, Rich Cardwell, David Hewitt, and David Wright – all of whom went on to lead their own firms. The firm's work was promoted at Western Washington University, in Bellingham, by a friend and colleague of Nelsen, George Bartholick, who was the campus architect. There, Nelsen's commissions included Bond and Miller Hall (1968), Arntzen Hall (1972), the Social Science Building (1973-1974), and the Northwest Environmental Studies Center, which won an AIA Honor Award in 1981. (**Figures 55 – 57**) When built, the latter building was reportedly the first environmental sciences facility on a university campus in the nation. Designed in a Brutalist style, it was detailed with human scale interior elements and wood finishes. In addition to the WWU academic buildings and the ACC, Nelsen designed one other project for the UW – the 1968 renovation of the ca. 1931 Playhouse Theater – completed by Nelsen, Sabin & Varey.²⁵

In his design approach Nelsen appears to have been influenced by the work of Alvar Aalto and Scandinavian Modernism rather than post-war precedents by Corbusier or the English advocates of

²⁴ BOLA Architecture + Planning, 2008.

²⁵ Johnson, p. 145.

Brutalism. Throughout his career he was interested in interior design and he brought a strong interest in material textures and finishes and use of natural light to his architectural projects. The original Academic Computer Center contrasts with earlier Brutalist style buildings on the University campus, such as the 1961 Nuclear Reactor or the 1970 Schmitz Hall, and seems more akin to the 1963 McMahon Hall in its handling of textured concrete and daylighting, and attention to interiors.

Ibsen Nelsen's his later work includes several well-known Seattle buildings, such as the Museum of Flight and the Red Barn Renovation in south Seattle (1975 - 1987) (**Figures 58 & 59**) His late commercial and residential projects included the Inn at the Market in the Pike Place Market (1975 - 1982), and Merrill Court townhouses (1981 - 1986) in the Harvard Belmont Historic District on Capitol Hill. Upon retirement he moved to his Danish style farmhouse on Vashon Island (1986-1990).

Throughout his life Ibsen Nelsen remained active in Seattle's design community and he served on many civic and non-profit boards that focused on historic preservation and urban renewal including the Seattle Design and Seattle Arts Commissions, Allied Arts of Seattle, and the Save the Market campaign. He became an AIA Fellow in 1981, and received an AIA Seattle Gold Medal in 1989. Nelsen died at the age of 82 on July 19, 2001.

The Building's Brutalist Style

Because of the use of board-formed, unfinished concrete, the Wallace Building can be seen as an example of a Brutalist style building, but the design seems to have been influenced by Scandinavian Modernism as well. A relatively small structure, it includes many details not often seen in institutional buildings, such as the curvilinear ramp and wall, which carries into the interior first and second lobbies and the POE Commons, the carefully angled entries and placement of perimeter window walls on the second floor, sky lit interior office spaces, and originally the west roof terrace. Although it pales in contrast to current performance-driven buildings, thought was given to the building's conserving energy features, such as the orientation and size of openings, and daylight and natural venting operable windows.

Upon the building's completion, it was cited in a local newspaper for forward-thinking, sustainable design and energy-conserving performance: "(It) collects, reuses heat of computer and lights (with) extra insulated glass, heat collection system," and as "low budget (but) more than utilitarian appearance . . . It is a 24-hour, 7 day-a-week people place." ²⁶ Over time the occupants have found the small office spaces are less useful for increasingly collaborative and interdisciplinary work.

While post-war buildings on University campus represent many variations of Modernism, most were designed using the International Style, Brutalism or New Formalism. The International Style was popularized in America during the post-war period, largely with commercial applications and some institutional buildings. Iconic representations include curtain wall skyscrapers throughout the county from the 1950s and 1960s. On the University's Seattle campus, they include the Faculty Club / UW Club (1961, Paul Kirk and Victor Steinbrueck).

²⁶ Alf Collins, *Seattle Times*, June 27, 1976.

In contrast, there is Brutalism. The term for this style is derived from the French term for rough concrete, "beton brut." Early precedents for Brutalism came from European practitioners including Le Corbusier, with his Unité d 'Habitation, Marseilles (1947-1952) and Berlin (1957), along with projects by English architects Peter and Allison Smithson, such as Robin Hood Gardens in London (1972), and other English examples in the 1960s and 1970s. The Smithsons in particular advocated for what they called a "rough poetry" to be pulled from harsh post-war social conditions in Europe. Using rough, unfinished, board-formed concrete in massive forms with angular shapes and relatively small and repetitive windows, these designers created a new architectural vocabulary.

The aesthetic concept of Brutalism was idea was "based on the exposure of a building's components: its frame, its sheathing, and its mechanical systems. Quickly however the term began to be applied to buildings that utilized monumental concrete forms and bulky massing. The style represents a revolt by architects against the corporate glass curtain wall and was often seen as a quick and easy way to construct long-lasting building."²⁷

In America, Brutalism saw expression in Le Corbusier's Carpenter Hall at Harvard (1963) (**Figure 60**), and was used to creative ends by Paul Rudolph on both the Yale and Harvard campuses. Later work by Louis Kahn resulted in refined and less muscular concrete buildings, such as the Salk Institute (1960). The style may be best exemplified by the well-publicized Boston City Hall project (1969).

The Brutalist style became popular with college administrators during the turbulent late 1960s and early 1970s when many campus saw unrest and student protests, and also with religious buildings where the elemental materials and forms came to express spiritual properties, such as with the Church of Christ the King, Seattle and Christ Episcopal Church, Tacoma (1952 and 1969 respectively, both by Paul Thiry). The Brutalist style can be seen also in a number of University buildings from the 1960s and the 1970s, such as the Nuclear Reactor Building (1961, demolished, Wendell Lovett, Dan Streissguth, and Gene Zema), McMahon Hall (1965, Kirk Wallace McKinley & Assoc.), Oceanography Teaching Building (1967), Schmitz Hall (1970), and Condon Hall (1974, Romaldo Guirgola).²⁸ (**Figures 61-63**) While these examples are concrete buildings, there also are notable brick masonry Brutalist campus buildings, such as the Mechanical Engineering Library and Loew Hall (Bassetti, 1968-1969).

Other examples on campuses are found also at The Evergreen State University, North Seattle Community College (Edward Mahlum, 1968-1970), Central Washington University, and the Western Washington University Environmental Studies Building (1972, Ibsen Nelsen. Outstanding buildings also include the Weyerhaeuser Headquarters (1971, SOM, Federal Way), the Pike & Virginia Building in the Pike Place Market (1972, Olson Walker) (**Figure 64**) and Seattle's Freeway Park (1976, Lawrence Halprin and Angela Danadjieva).

The Original Builder, Baugh Construction

According to permit records the original builder of the University of Washington Computer Center was Baugh Construction of Seattle.²⁹ The contract, for Project 40-4434, was awarded on April 25,

²⁷ Houser, "Brutalism, 1955 – 1980."

²⁸ Confluence Environmental Company, et al, University of Washington Historic Survey, 2017.

²⁹ SDCI Permit # 557438, filed under 1200 NE Pacific Street, "Misc. Letters" in SDCI Microfilm Library, and University of Washington Regents Records, Vol. 27.

1975, by the Board of Regents with funding of \$1,273,000 set for construction and a project budget of \$1,719,096. At this meeting the Board also authorized design of a new utility extension for the building. The Regents accepted the completed construction on June 6, 1976. Several years later, on November 18, 1977, the Regents changed the building's name to the Academic Computer Center.³⁰

Baugh Construction was founded by Lawrence "Larry" Baugh (1910 – 2000) three decades before the building was constructed. Born in Nebraska, Baugh studied at the Carnegie Institute of Technology where he received a degree in civil and structural engineering in 1931. He worked in Texas during the Depression, and arrived in Seattle in 1940 where he was employed by a civil-engineering firm, Sims- Drake. In 1946 he established the Baugh Company, working initially from his home in West Seattle.³¹ The company started small, and reportedly advertised for its construction services for \$3.50/square foot.³² Its business grew quickly in Seattle's booming post-war economy, and it incorporated in 1952.

Baugh Construction developed into a major construction company. Within the following decade of its founding, Baugh was awarded an addition to Ballard High School, its first contract of over \$1,000,000. In 1962 it completed a folded plate exhibit pavilion at the Center 21 World's Fair.
(Figure 65) In 1963 it built the UW Forestry Science Building / Winkenwerder Hall, a Northwest Modern style wood and timber frame structure by architects Grant Copeland & Chervenak. (Figure 66) The company's growth may have been due to Larry Baugh's background in civil engineering and knowledge of complex construction technologies. A lifelong member of the American Society of Civil Engineers, he was named its Engineer of the Year in 1976, the year that Wallace Hall was built.

In 1955 Larry Baugh partnered with Robert (Bob) H. Baugh, his nephew. Bob Baugh (1926-2012) later took on leadership of the company. Baugh Construction became employee-owned in 1976, the year that Larry Baugh retired. Bob Baugh continued with the company until his retirement in 1997. During his career, he was involved in civic organizations, including the UW Presidents Club.

Baugh Construction was eventually responsible for projects throughout the Northwest including for many during the mid-1970s when the UW Computer Center was constructed. The company worked with well-known designers and more obscure ones. (**Figure 67**) In 1968 was ranked at 231 among the 8,500 members of the Associated General Contractors, and by 1969 it had reportedly built an estimated 700 structures.³³ That year the company was highlighted in a *Seattle Times* article about its largest project to date, the \$16 million Brutalist style North Seattle College.³⁴ (**Figure 68**)

Baugh continued to grow in the following decades, opening offices in Portland and Bellevue. In late 2000 the company (then known as Baugh Enterprises) was purchased by Skanska USA Group, a subsidiary of the Swedish conglomerate, for \$60 million. By that date it reportedly had 1,400 employees and a focus on construction to health care, education, food processing, pulp and paper, electronics, semiconductor, and aerospace clients.³⁵

³⁰ University of Washington Board of Regents Minutes.

³¹ Daily Journal of Commerce Oregon, September 18, 2000; Seattle Times, September 18, 2000.

³² Duncan, D., *Seattle Times*, May 27, 1969, p. 8.

³³ Wright, Ron & Associates, July 9, 1918, pp. 17-18. See also Martin, Sarah, 2019, pp. 12-13.

³⁴ Duncan, Don, *Seattle Times*, May 27, 1969, p. 8.

³⁵ *Coast to Coast*, 2007, p. 11.

Construction projects undertaken by Baugh include the following, listed chronologically along with the designer. Several of these (*) are National Register listed or designated Seattle landmarks: ³⁶

- Ballard High School Addition (1956, Theo Damm)
- Tradewell Store, Columba City (1957, Welton Becket and Associates) (demolished)
- St. Michel's Episcopal Church, Issaquah (1958) (demolished)
- Melrose Terrace, Seattle (1959-1960, George Bolotin)
- Bricklayers Union, Seattle (1959-1960, Grant, Copeland and Chervenak) (*)
- Island of Hawaii Pavilion, Century 21 World's Fair (1962, James E Fox, John Graham & Company) (demolished)
- UW Forest Products Building/ Winkenwerder Hall (1963, Grant, Copeland and Chervenak)
- Seattle Fire Station No. 5, Central Waterfront (1963, Durham Anderson Freed) (*)
- US Postal Service SODO Distribution Center (1964)
- US Post Office, Queen Anne Branch (1965, Thomas Albert Smith)
- Frye Art Museum Expansion, Seattle (1967)
- Southcenter Mall, Tukwila (1968), Tukwila
- Nordstrom-Best Store, Tacoma Mall (1966, John Graham & Assoc.)
- North Seattle College/N Seattle Community College (1968-1970, Edward Mahlum and Associates, Architect, and Peter H. Hostmark and Associates, Structural Engineers)
- King County Medical Service Corp. Building, Seattle (1964, 1969, Grant, Copeland, Chervenak)
- Surrey Office Building, Bellevue (1970, McClarty & Silverthorn Architects)
- Boeing Buildings in Seattle, Tukwila, Kent, and Bellevue (ca. 1970s)
- St. Joseph Hospital Addition, Tacoma (1973,) Bertrand Goldberg)
- Boeing Red Barn Restoration, South Seattle (1975-1976, Ibsen Nelsen) (*)
- Spec office buildings & warehouses (various dates, 1977-1980, Lance Mueller)³⁷
- Sea-Tac Tower II (1978-1979, NAM Engineering, Structural Engineer)
- Wall Street Building / Everett City Hall (1980, Whitely-Jacobson)
- Chapel of St. Ignatius, Seattle University (1994-1996, Steven Holl)
- Benaroya Hall, Seattle (1996, LMN)
- Union Station Rehabilitation (1996-1999, NBBJ & Ron Wright Assoc.) (*)
- Seattle University Students Center (2001)
- Seattle Civic Auditorium/Mercer Arts Arena Renovation (2001, LMN)
- Museum of Glass, Tacoma (2001-2002, Arthur Erickson), Tacoma

³⁶ This building list is derived primarily from Martin, Wright & Assoc, and PCAD, as well as online information.

³⁷ Between 1978 and 1980 Baugh Construction built at least eight office building, business centers and warehouses designed by Seattle architect Lance Mueller, including the Lynnwood Business Center, Federal Way Plaza, Ocean Beauty Seafoods Warehouse, Columbia Square Shopping Center, Quadrant Business Park, and JAFCO College Plaza Catalogue showroom. Most involved tilt-up concrete construction.

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Appendix – Original Record Architectural Drawings, 1975 (attached)

Location & Vicinity



3716 3710 **Figure 1.** Above, a current map of the Seattle campus. North is oriented up. Left, an excerpt of the west campus area and the block on which the building is located, at the southwest corner of the intersection of NE Pacific Street and Brooklyn Avenue NE (University of Washington).



Figure 2. Above, an aerial map from 2019 showing the building site, bounded by Brooklyn Avenue NE on the east and NE Pacific Street on the north (former NE 38th Street), and the block it shares with other academic buildings. NE Boat Street runs along the south side of the block.



Figure 3. Below, looking west across Brooklyn Avenue NE at the landscaped north setback



Figures 4. Above, looking southeast at the north yard and facade.

Figure 5. Below, looking south at the east end of the north facade and entry ramp.





Figure 6. Above, looking eastward along the lower west part of the facade.



Figures 7. Detail view of windows on the east side of the north façade.



Figures 8 & 9. Left and below, the public sculpture (1977) by Northwest artist Lee Kelly, which is situated on the north yard near the ramp entry. The untitled piece is made of Corten steel. (The sculpture is not included in this nominaiton, and is cited for reference only.)





Figure 10. Above, looking south at the ramp to the second floor and steps and walkway to the first floor entry. Windows in the north facade, right, open into the original Study Hall, currently the Program for the Environment (POE) Commons.

Figures 11 – 12. Below, detail views looking northwest from grade at the ramp, and looking east at the second floor landing.





Figure 13. Above, a composite photo looking west at the east facade.

Figures 14. Below, looking north along the east façade, west setback and plant bed and Brooklyn Avenue NE.


University of Washington Wallace Hall BOLA Architecture + Planning



Figure 15. Left, a detail looking generally north at the inset band of windows on the east façade, north of the east entry.

Figure 16. Below, a similar detail view looking north along the first floor east facade, south of the entry ramp.





Figure 17. Above left, looking down and southward at the east façade windows south of the ramp landing.

Figure 18 – 20. Ramp and entry views: Above right. East façade the floor entry. Below, the ramp structure and opening in the cast-in-place ramp wall.







Figure 21. Above, looking northwest at the southeast corner and south façade.



Figure 22. Below, looking northeast at the southwest corner of the building.



Figure 23. Above looking northeast at the west facade.

Figure 24. Below, looking southward along the west façade and the adjacent parking lot. The nearby Fisheries Training Research Center (FTRC) building is in the background left.





Figure 25. Above, the west loading dock.

Figure 26. Below, equipment on the 2nd floor west roof setback.





Entry views: Figure 27. Above, looking southwest at the east first floor recessed entry.

Figure 28. Below left, looking west at the second floor east entry. Figure 29. Below right, the recessed back (west)





Interior Views



Figures 30 & 31. Above right and left, looking west and east at the lobby space and stairs to the second floor lobby. The banquette seating, along the back of the stair element, faces toward the south and back (west).



Figure 32. Below, looking northeast in the Program for the Environment (POE) Commons at the building's northeast corner. Office on the far north wall (visible below) and on the west wall are recent construction.





Figure 33. Above, looking south in the POE Commons. The upper west (right) wall was open to the second floor, and the glazed wall at the south end was visually open to the lobby.

Figure 34. Left, recently inserted office along the west perimeter, 1st floor.



Figures 35 & 36. Above right and left, the 10 foot-wide offices in the original keyboard space along the east side, first floor.

Figure 37. Below, an interior office on the second floor with indirect skylight illumination.





Figure 38. Above, looking south in the original computer room on the first floor near the southwest corner.



Figure 39. Left, diagrammatic floor plans show the layout of office, and small infill offices in the larger Commons room at the northeast corner (lower plan, lower left).

Notes: The building levels are considered by code and known as a first and second floors. The citation of a Ground Floor is incorrect.

North is to the right.

Figures 40 – 44. The following plans, section and elevation drawings are from the record set of Feb. 20, 1975 (UW Facility Records). An appendix with additional drawings is provided separately from this report.

Figure 40. Below, an excerpt from the orignal record site plan, Sheet A2 (not to scale). The added dimensions and red outline indicate the site proposed in this nomination.





Figure 41. Below, first floor plan, Sheet A3 from the 1975 drawing set. North is oriented down on the page.



Figure 42. Below, second floor plan, Sheet A4 from the 1975 drawing set. North is oriented down on the page.







Figure 44. Elevations, Sheet A7, Sheet A5 from the 1975 drawing set.

West Campus Setting



Figures 45. Above left, view looking northeast at the neighboring Marine Studies Center (MSF) building's primary south facade. This building is directly south of Wallace Hall.

Figure 46. Above right, the nearby Portage Bay Parking Garage, another concrete frame structure designed by NBBJ, which is located to the east of Wallace Hall across Brooklyn Avenue NE.

Figures 47 & 48. The back of the MSF building. Below left, looking southeast at portions of the north and west facades. Below right, looking southeast at the north and west facades from the adjacent parking lot within the center of the block.







Figure 49. Above, view looking northwest at the primary south facade of the neighboring Fisheries Teaching and Resource Center (FTRC, Miller Hull Partnership, 1990).

Figures 50. Below, looking southeast at the FTRC's north facade. Wallace Hall, unseen is to the northeast (left)



Historic Context Images



Figure 51. Above, a postcard of the campus, viewed from the south, ca. 1935. The south edge of the campus was set at Portage Bay, with residential and industrial uses to the west.



Figure 52. Left, the 1949 campus plan retains the western edge along 15th Avenue NE (UWLSC).



Figure 53. Left, an aerial view looking generally northeast at the University Bridge and Campus Parkway and the surrounding neighborhood area in 1953 showing expansion of campus buildings along Campus Parkway (Seattle Public Library, spl_shp_20785).

Figure 54. Below, an early 1962 aerial view, looking east from the I-5 Bridge at the mixed neighborhood that would become West Campus, and the typical urban grid of streets and alleys in the area, and industrial and marina buildings, and older houses and apartments. The area south of NE 40th became the Northlake Urban Renewal Area (Seattle Municipal Archives 71036). The red arrow points to the site of Wallace Hall.



Other Work by Architect Ibsen Nelsen







Three of Ibsen Nelsen's five buildings at Western Washington University, Bellingham: Figure 55. Above left, the 1968 Bond Hall (wwu.edu). Figure 56. Above right, the 1972 Arntzen Hall (Wikimedia Commons, 08.03.2008 photo). Figure 57. Left the 1974 Northwest Environmental Studies Center (wwu.edu).

Figures 58 & 59. Below, the Red Barn and Museum of Flight, Seattle (Wikimedia Commons. Left photo by Benjamin Cook, right photo from the Museum of Flight website). This project was built by Baugh Construction, the builder of Wallace Hall, in 1975-1976





Brutalist Style Architecture



Figure 60. Above left, Carpenter Hall at Harvard University (1963). the last building completed by Le Corbusier during his lifetime, it may have inspired the design of Wallace Hall (Foundation Le Corbusier).





Figure 64. Left, the Pike & Virginia Building (1972, Olson Walker) (Photo by Andrew van Leeuwen)

Examples of UW campus Brutalist buildings: **Figure 61.** Above right, McMahon Hall (1965, Kirk Wallace McKinley) (UWLSC.UWC1248). **Figure 62**. Left, the Nuclear Reactor Building/More Hall Annex (1961, TAAG, demolished) (Wikimedia Commons, photo by Joe Mabel). **Figure 63**. Below left, Condon Hall (1974, Mitchell Guirgola) (Wikimedia Commons, photo by Stibes).



Other Projects by Baugh Construction



Figure 65. Above left, the Hawaii Pavilion at the 1962 World's Fair (UWLSC, SEA2335).

Figure 66. Above right, the UW Forest Science Building / Winkenwerder Hall, designed by Grant, Copeland and Chervenak and dating from 1963 (Photo courtesy of Andrew van Leeuwen)

Figure 67. Below right, the Ocean Beauty Seafood Warehouse, a tilt-up concrete structure with textured concrete wall panels, designed by Lance Mueller and dating from 1978.

Figure 68. Below left, a current view of North Seattle Community College, a Brutalist style assembly designed by Edward Mahlum, and dating from 1968-1970 (North Seattle Community College website)





Campus Development Plans

Figures 69 & 70. Below, the 2003 Campus Master Plan identified existing buildings and potential development areas. The subject site is identified by an arrow. North is oriented up.





Figure 71. Below, an excerpt from the 2019 Campus Master Plan showing the concept for West Campus with existing buildings (in a dark grey color without a "W" site number) and potential buildings (in purple colors) surrounding a potential 4-acre open space and an 0.4 acre plaza in bright green) on either side of NE Pacific Street, and the City of Seattle's recently developed park to the south of NE Boat Street. Dotted lines indicate "existing uses relocated" (University of Washington, February 2019).











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