

The City of Seattle

Landmarks Preservation Board

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

Name Asa Mercer International Middle School Year Built 1957
(Common, present or historic)

Street and Number 1600 S Columbian Way

Assessor's File No. 162404-9214

Legal Description [See below]

Plat Name: _____ Block _____ Lot _____

Portion of Government Lot 5: Beginning at the intersection of the easterly margin of Columbian Way and the easterly margin of 16th Avenue South then N 0° 52' 51" E 539.88', thence S 88° 08' 51" E 580.00 Thence S 14° 05' 15" W 942.98', thence N 42° 19' 47" W 532.34' to the true point of beginning.

Present Owner: Seattle Public Schools Present Use: Middle School

Address: Mail Stop 22-336 PO Box 34165 Seattle WA 98124-1165

Original Owner: Seattle Public Schools

Original Use: Junior High School

Architect: John W. Maloney

Builder: Henrik Valle Construction Company

Photographs

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Phone: (206) 252-0551 Date April 12, 2021

Reviewed: _____ Date _____

Historic Preservation Officer

CITY OF SEATTLE LANDMARK NOMINATION REPORT

APRIL 2021

ASA MERCER INTERNATIONAL MIDDLE SCHOOL

1600 S COLUMBIAN WAY

Prepared by:

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ASA MERCER MIDDLE SCHOOL
LANDMARK NOMINATION REPORT

APRIL 2021

1. INTRODUCTION

This Landmark Nomination Report provides information regarding the architectural design and historical significance of Asa Mercer Middle School, a Mid-Century Modern-style school building addressed at 1600 Columbian Way S, in the North Beacon Hill neighborhood of Seattle. The school was designed by architect John W. Maloney and completed in 1957. The building was documented on the Seattle Historic Resources survey as eligible for Landmark status.[1] Studio TJP (formerly The Johnson Partnership) prepared this report at the request of Seattle Public Schools with the assistance of Bassetti Architects.

1.1 BACKGROUND

The City of Seattle's Department of Construction and Inspections (SDCI)—formerly the Department of Planning and Development—through a 1995 agreement with the Department of Neighborhoods, requires a review of "potentially eligible landmarks" for commercial projects over 4,000 square feet in area. As any proposed alterations or demolition of the subject building described within this report will require a permit from DCI, 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] Seattle Department of Neighborhoods, "Summary for 1600 Columbian Way S," Seattle Historical Sites Survey, http://web6.seattle.gov/DPD/HistoricalSite/QueryResult.aspx?ID=-360066936.

1.2 METHODOLOGY

Ellen F. C. Mirro, AIA, Principal; Larry E. Johnson, AIA, Principal Emeritus; Katherine Jaeger, MFA; and Audrey N. Reda, MArch, of Studio TJP (formerly the Johnson Partnership), Seattle, completed research on this report between June and September 2019. Research was undertaken at the Seattle Public School District Archives, Puget Sound Regional Archives, Seattle Dept of Construction and Inspections, Seattle Public Library, the Museum of History and Industry, and the UW Special Collections Library. Research also included review of Internet resources, including HistoryLink.com, and the *Seattle Times* digital archive. Special thanks to Meaghan Kahlo, the Seattle Public School Archivist for assistance with research. Some context statements in this report are based on research developed by Larry E. Johnson and the Johnson Partnership for previous reports. Buildings and site were inspected and photographed on August 16, 2019 to document the existing conditions. Although photos were taken more than 18 months ago, the building has undergone no alterations since the time of photography.

The report was revised and updated in December 2020 and January 2021 by Studio TJP in accordance with comments by Seattle Public Schools and with new contributions throughout the report by Lorne McConachie, FAIA and Kyle Elliot of Bassetti Architects, with special contributions in sections 4.4 and 4.7.

The report was revised in April 2021 in response to comments by the Department of Neighborhoods Landmarks coordinator, Erin Doherty.

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2. PROPERTY DATA

Historic Building Names: Jefferson Park Junior High School/Asa Mercer Junior High School/Asa Mercer Middle School

Current Building Name: Asa Mercer International Middle School

Address: 1600 S Columbian Way

Location: North Beacon Hill

Assessor's File Number: 162404-9214

Legal Description: Portion of Government Lot 5: Beginning at the intersection of the easterly margin of Columbian Way and the easterly margin of 16th Avenue South then N 0° 52' 51" E 539.88', thence S 88° 08' 51" E 580.00 Thence S 14° 05' 15" W 942.98', thence N 42° 19' 47" W 532.34' to the true point of beginning.

Date of Construction: 1957

Original/Present Use: School

Original/Present Owner: Seattle Public School District

Original Designer: John W. Maloney, Architect
John B. Skilling and Jack Christiansen of Worthington & Skilling Structural Engineers

Original Builder: Henrik Valle Construction Company

Zoning: SF 5000

Property Size: 8.39 acres or 365,468 sq. ft. (from King County Tax Assessor)

Building Size: 120,636 sq. ft. total
60,066 sq. ft. Building 1 + 60,570 sq. ft. Building 2 (from King County Tax Assessor)

3. ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

(NB: Units of measurement have been rounded to the nearest whole number for clarity and ease of reading.)

3.1 LOCATION & NEIGHBORHOOD CHARACTER

Asa Mercer International Middle School is located in the portion of Beacon Hill identified by the Seattle City Clerk as North Beacon Hill, and is located at the southwestern corner of Jefferson Park. Jefferson Playfield is located immediately north of the subject building, and serves as the sports field for the students of the school. The VA Puget Sound Health Care System Hospital is located immediately east of the subject site. The school is located one half-mile east of the Interstate 5 corridor, one half-mile northeast of the Maple Wood Playfield, and a scant mile west of the Rainier Vista housing development. Jefferson Park contains the Jefferson Park Golf Course, Jefferson Community Center, Jefferson Park Skatepark, and the Beacon Food Forest. The school lies between two of Beacon Hill's major north-south arterials: 15th Avenue S and Beacon Avenue S. The neighborhood to the northwest, west, and south consists of single-family houses, apartment buildings, shops, restaurants, and offices.

The service area for Mercer extends westward to include parts of SoDo, Georgetown, Mid- and South Beacon Hill, and the northern portion of Seward Park. This means the effective neighborhood for Mercer is much broader than that of its narrower North Beacon Hill classification by the office of the City Clerk, or even the long north-south geographic hill of the Beacon Hill neighborhood as defined by the Department of Neighborhoods.

Designated City of Seattle Landmarks in the Beacon Hill neighborhood are as follows: the former U. S. Marine Hospital/Pacific Medical Center (1932, Bebb & Gould with John Graham & Co.), Fire Station #13 (1928, architect unknown), Cleveland High School (1927, Floyd Naramore), Cheasty Boulevard South (Olmsted Brothers), the Black Property and the Katie Black Garden (1914), Beacon Hill First Baptist Church (1910, Ellsworth Storey), Turner-Koepf House (1883, 2336 15th Avenue S), and the 1909 portion of Van Asselt Elementary School (Edgar Blair, 7201 Beacon Avenue S). ***See figures 1-13.***

The full name of the subject building is Asa Mercer International Middle School; for shorthand purposes, within this report, the school will be referred to as "Mercer."

3.2 SITE

3.2.1 Site Description

The subject site is a trapezoidal-shaped lot of more than 8.3 acres. The western boundary lies along 16th Avenue S and the southwestern boundary along S Columbian Way. The eastern boundary abuts the VA Puget Sound Health Care System campus, and the northern boundary abuts Jefferson Park. Jefferson Park shares playfield space with the school.

The western boundary along 16th Avenue S, measuring approximately 539', is bounded by a paved sidewalk with a gravel parking area between the sidewalk and the paved street. The street and sidewalk slope up from the corner of S Columbian Way, and the level site slopes down to meet the street grade,

except at approximately the center of the site along 16th Avenue S where a retaining wall contains a paved terrace.

The southwestern boundary along S Columbian Way measures approximately 532', and is bordered by a paved sidewalk median with street trees and curb. S Columbian Way slopes down to the northeast, and the level site above slopes down to meet street grade with a vegetated hillside, including three large coniferous trees. The main entry and vehicular access to the site is located near the southern end of the S Columbian way boundary, and marked with a brick retaining wall and planter topped with a sign. East of the planter is a double stairway for pedestrian access.

The eastern boundary measures approximately 943', and abuts the hospital campus. The boundary is marked with a chain link fence. Eight portable classrooms are located within 20 feet of the eastern property line. An access road connects to S Columbian Way at the eastern boundary of the site, and continues along the eastern boundary to a small paved parking area at the northeastern corner of the site.

The northern property line measures approximately 580' and abuts the turf playfield of Jefferson Playfield. The school uses this facility during school hours. Nine portable buildings are located on the northern end of the site; of these, one contains HVAC equipment and all others contain classrooms.

The main parking area is located on the southwestern portion of the site. The school consists of two main buildings, one stretching along the eastern side of the site, positioned at a slight angle to the other building, which is located on western side of the site. A paved playcourt connects the buildings, with a single covered walkway marking the main entry to each building.

A large proportion of the site is covered by building and hardscape, with landscaped areas only at the perimeter of the site, at certain planters, and a small entry yard at the southern tip of the site.

See figures 14-31. Also see figure 107 for historical condition.

3.2.2 Documented Site Alterations

Photographic evidence from 1955, before the construction of the two subject buildings, shows the site was mostly open field with a scattering of mature and young trees. Between 1956 and 1957, off-street parking was established for the site. In 1958 permits were issued to regrade a corner of the site, add a parking lot, develop an athletic playground, and install a lawn sprinkler system.

The documented permits and SPS records recording these changes are as follows:

- 1956-57: "Establish off-street parking area, flag pole and chimney." City of Seattle permit nos. 445576 and 458714.
- 1958: "Regrade corner, Parking Lot, Playground Athletic Development, Lawn Sprinkler System," all by SPS Maintenance Department. Drawing nos. 110.0091-110.0093, SPS Archives.

After the above documented changes, all documented changes to the site were for portable structures. In 1959, four single portable buildings were relocated to the site from Cedar Park Elementary. In 1960, three more portables were relocated from Sharples Junior High to the subject site. In 1961 a single

portable was added to the site. In 1963, a permit was issued to relocate four more portables to the site. A 4,000-gallon underground storage tank was installed in 1966. In 1964, and twice in 1969, permits were issued to relocate a portable school building.

Documented City of Seattle permits recording these changes are as follows:

- 1959: "Relocate 4 single portables from 13226 37th NE (Cedar Park Elementary)" no. 478485
- 1960: "Relocate 3 portables from 3928 Graham St (Aki Kurose MS)," no. 454306
- 1961: "Locate 1 portable," no. 490263
- 1963: "Relocate 4 portables from 210 18th S," no. 502962
- 1964: "Relocate portable school building," no. 508000
- 1966: "Install & Maintain one 4000 gallon underground storage tank," no. 449386
- 1969: "Relocate portable school building #671," no. 533244
- 1969: "Relocate portable school building #729 from 4408 Delridge Way SW (Cooper)," no. 534614

During the 1970s, the few permits issued primarily concerned alterations to the portable buildings. In 1970 and 1971, permits were issued for the construction of a post-and-pier foundation for relocated portables. In 1975 an issued permit allowed the relocation another portable.

Documented City of Seattle permits recording these changes are as follows:

- 1970: "const. post & pier fnd and relocate portable from 2101 S Jackson (Washington MS)," no. 538744
- 1971: "const. post & pier fnd and relocate portable from 7201 Beacon Avenue S (Van Asselt)," no. 542373
- 1975: "Relocate portable from Gatzert," no. 555569

In 1989, an issued permit relocated three double and four single portable classrooms.

- 1989: "Relocate three double and four single portable classrooms," no. 8902797

A 2005 permit allowed the construction of foundations and the installation of two 28' x 33 portable buildings for classrooms:

- 2005: "Establish Use as Accessory Classrooms Const. Fnd. And install 2-28' x 33' portable gold seal factory structures for classrooms and occupy per plans," no. 2503277

The playgrounds were rehabilitated as part of waterline work in 2008. Between 2007 and 2017, aerial photographs show the addition of at least five more portables near the northern end of the site.

- 2008: Exterior, Interior, and waterline upgrades, Hawthorne Hagen Architects. SPS Archive record numbers 110-00182 through 110-0230

3.3 ASA MERCER MIDDLE SCHOOL BUILDING

3.3.1 Building Structure & Exterior Features

Note: See Drawings in Appendix 2 to this document.

The one-story building is divided into two long, separate structures. The east wing, Building 1, consisting of Units A, B and C, forms a linear bar along a north-south axis along the eastern edge of the site. Building 1 measures approximately 606' long and 143' wide at the widest point. The tallest portion of the building is the exhaust stack. The typical plate height of the classroom buildings is eight feet. The rise of the vault is less than four feet, making the height of the vault crown at the intrados[2] slightly under twelve feet.

The west wing, Building 2, consisting of Units D and E, is located on the western edge of the site, with an axis angled north-northeast parallel to the eastern boundary line and 16th Avenue S. Building 2 measures approximately 450'-10" feet long by 161'-6" wide with the tallest portion of the building approximately 30 feet tall. ***See figure 14, site plan, figure 17, and figure 27.***

Typical Roofs

Typical roofs over classrooms are thin-shell concrete barrel vaults running north-south. Typically, the thin-shell concrete is three inches thick. Typically, these roofs have flat overhangs extending beyond the building walls by approximately three feet. The north-south hallways of double-loaded corridors are covered by flat or low slope roofs. Over specialty areas in Units B, D and E higher ceilings are covered by sequential east-west thin-shell concrete barrel vaults. Membrane roofing covers the roofs, and metal flashing covers the roof edges. ***See figures 30-31.***

Typical Windows

Typical windows are ganged three-light steel sash units,[3] with operable-awning upper and lower sashes and a fixed center sash. These steel windows have been replaced with new aluminum units at the western façades of Units A, B, and C, and at other locations on the building. These ganged windows typically function as ribbon windows across the structural bays on the eastern and western façades of the buildings. The sill heights are typically located at 3'-4" above the finish floor and the height of the windows is approximately 3'-11". ***See figures 32-33.***

Typical Walls

There are three types of typical exterior walls: painted-over Roman brick veneer cladding; painted concrete formed with control joints[4] in a pattern of 4' x 8' rectangles; and window wall and insulated plastic panel steel frame system on a six-inch concrete curb. The frame system is structured on a four-

[2] The curve that forms the lower edge of an arch.
[3] Original drawings by John Maloney from 1956 on p. A6 and elsewhere in the detailing on p. A25 call for steel windows. ***See Appendix 2 for drawings.***
[4] A control joint is a groove added to a concrete or masonry structure to regulate the location and amount of cracking and separation, to avoid the development of stress.

foot foot grid with a horizontal mullion dividing the lower section from the glazing at the upper section at approximately three feet above the finish floor at the interior. ***See figures 32-33.***

Main Entry

The main entry to the building administration area is located in on the western façade of Building 1, Unit B. The double entry doors are steel, with a single half-light in each. The covered walk is constructed of pre-cast concrete bents[5], approximately 15' wide, with tapered legs and a 14-inch-deep upper beam capped with a four-inch-thick concrete flat roof. ***See figures 36 and 38.***

3.3.2 Building 1 (East Wing)

Unit A: Classrooms
Unit B: Administration, Library, Cafeteria, Boiler Room
Unit C: Specialized Science & Art Classrooms

For a graphic representation of technical terminology of arch construction, see figure 34.

The east wing, Building 1, is divided into three different functional uses. Standard classrooms are in the northernmost section, Unit A. Administration, library, cafeteria and boiler room are in the centrally-located Unit B. Specialized art and science classrooms are in the southern end, Unit C.

Overall the building is long, measuring around 689' north-south, with staggered widths for each unit at the eastern rear elevation. The western elevation forms a single plane, facing the main courtyard and Building 2. The building is aligned to the western property line rather than the cardinal directions. When we describe the north-south orientation of Building 1, it is skewed from true north by approximately 15 degrees.

Unit A measures approximately 152' long (north-south) and approximately 75' wide, and is located on the northern end of Building 1. Unit B measures 239' long and 143' wide and is located in the center of Building 1. Unit C measures 296'-7" long and 87'-2" wide, and is located at the southern end of Building 1. The western façade of Unit B aligns with the western façades of Units A and C. The eastern façade of Unit B is positioned farther east than those of units A and C, extending 70' east of the eastern façade of Unit A and 55' east of the eastern façade of unit C.

The plan of the East Wing, Building 1, centers around a 13'-wide double-loaded corridor running the length of the building, north to south.

Unit A: Classrooms

Unit A contains five bays with five 30' square classrooms on the western side and four 30' square classrooms on the eastern side, with the southernmost bay taken up with girls' and boys' restrooms. At each bay, a 12"-thick reinforced concrete bent with a 16"-deep arched beam and 20"-wide piers support the vaulting above. The spring point of the arched beam is located approximately 6'-5" above the finish

[5] A bent is a transverse rigid framework or similar three-hinged arch (as in a bridge or in timber framing) to carry lateral and vertical loads.

floor, with the crown of the intrados of the arch at approximately 10'-8." At the interior, this provides each classroom with a wide barrel-vaulted room volume with very low side walls, encroaching concrete bents, and arched end walls under the thin-shell concrete roof. At the exterior, each pier of the arched bents are clad in brick veneer, which protrudes approximately 13" from the face of the window wall.

At the southern end of Unit A, the central corridor joins Unit B, connecting though an 18'-wide lobby. On either side of the lobby, brick walls return approximately 21'-6", forming small entry courts at the eastern and western façades.

Unit B: Administration, Library, Cafeteria, Boiler Room

Unit B consists of six 30'-long north-south bays. It is substantially wider than the other two units of the building.

Unit B is flanked by lobbies connecting to Units A and C. Each lobby measures approximately 30' north-south and 30'-4" east-west. The eastern and western façades of each lobby are composed of steel-frame window wall systems. These systems include glazing at the upper section and insulated plastic panels at the lower section. The system is laid out on a 4' grid with a horizontal mullion dividing the lower section from the glazing at the upper section. The horizontal mullion is located approximately 3' above the finish floor at the interior. Three frame lights flank a central pair of single half-light steel entry doors. Each lobby is roofed with a thin-shell concrete barrel vault with typical membrane roofing and unpainted metal flashing at the edges. Because the lobbies are centrally located along the central north-south corridor, these barrel vaults interrupt the flat roofs of the hallways expressed elsewhere in the building.

The western side of Unit B is morphologically similar to Units A and C, with the western façade in the same plane, and a long north-south-oriented barrel vault spanning approximately 30' across the administration portion of the school.

The north-south hallway continues through Unit B on the same axis as the rest of Building 1, and is capped with a flat roof.

On the eastern side of the hallway, the roof over the library and cafeteria is higher than that of the classrooms and administration area, with the crown of the vaulting rising to just under 16' from the interior finish floor. The vaulting in this area runs between a series of east-west integral concrete beams. Each vault spans 30 feet, remaining on the same 30' structural grid as the rest of the building. The exterior walls of the library and cafeteria are of typical painted scored poured-in-place concrete.

East of the library and cafeteria volume are the service areas of the building. These are covered with a flat roof of poured-in-place concrete, at a height of 13'-7", the same height as the springline of the arch at the extrados[6] on the vaulting over the library and cafeteria. These service areas are accessed through an east-west hallway between the library and cafeteria and consist of storage, boiler room, janitorial spaces, and the kitchen that serves the cafeteria. The exterior walls of these service areas are of typical painted scored poured-in-place concrete.

[6] The curve that forms the upper edge of an arch.

Unit C: Specialized Science & Art Classrooms

The central corridor joins Unit C at its northern end, connecting though an 18'-wide lobby. On either side of the lobby, brick walls return approximately 21'-6", forming small entry courts at the eastern and western façades. There are no windows in this façade. The ends of the barrel vaults are filled in with painted cast-in-place concrete.

The classrooms of Unit C on the western side of the corridor are typically 30' by 30', with vaulting similar to that of Unit A. The eastern side of the corridor has a wider barrel vault, spanning approximately 44'. These eastern classrooms were constructed for specialized science and art curricula and have varied bay depths of either 30' or 36'. Nine classrooms and a lobby are located west of the central hall, and eight classrooms and girls' and boys' restrooms are located at the eastern side of the hall. This configuration provides ten bays at the western façade. The entry lobby is located in the fifth bay from the south, which is 24' wide, narrower than the typical 30' width of the classroom bays. This configuration provides nine bays at the eastern façade, with the northernmost bay containing the restrooms and the four southernmost bays having the wider approximately 36' width. At each bay on the western side of the hallway, the vaulting is supported by a 12"-thick reinforced concrete bent with 16"-deep arched beams and 20"-wide piers. The spring point of the arched beam is located 6'-4" above the finish floor, with the crown of the intrados of the arch at approximately 10'-8". At each bay on the eastern side of the hallway, a 12"-thick reinforced concrete bent with 18"-deep arched beams and 26"-wide piers support the vaulting above. The spring point of the arched beam is located approximately 5'-11" above the finish floor, with the crown of the intrados of the arch at approximately 12'. As in Unit A, this provides each classroom with a wide barrel-vaulted room volume with very low side walls, encroaching concrete bents, and arched end walls under the thin-shell concrete roof. At the exterior, each pier of the arched bents are clad in brick veneer that protrudes approximately 13" from the face of the window wall.

Façades of East Wing (Building 1)

The western façade of the Building 1, contains 19 bays, which are defined by the bents of the structural system. Unit A comprises five bays with typical ganged windows spanning the bay between brick-clad concrete piers. Unit B is similar to that of Unit A, with the main entry to the school located in the middle northern bay, or third bay from the north. The bay contains a typical window wall and insulated plastic-panel steel-frame system with sidelights flanking two central pairs of half-light steel entry doors. As with Unit A, the remaining five bays of Unit B contain typical ganged windows spanning the bay between brick-clad concrete piers. The western façade of Unit C consists of nine bays with typical ganged windows spanning the bay between brick-clad concrete piers, and the fifth bay from the south containing a typical window wall and insulated plastic-panel steel-frame system. The central pair of single half-light steel entry doors are flanked by three-light windows.

All along the western façade of the Building 1, the lower spandrels of the window walls comprise typical cast-in-place painted concrete scored with the typical 4' on-center control joints. At the center of each bay, horizontal louvers are cast in the concrete spandrels below the windows. The metal flashing of the horizontal roof edge above is unpainted. ***See figures 35-41.***

The northern façade of the Building 1 is at Unit A. It is clad in brick veneer, and a central pair of doors accesses the north-south-oriented corridor. There are no windows in this façade. The metal flashing of the horizontal roof edge is apparent, as are the two domes of the barrel vaults over the classrooms. The ends of the barrel vaults are infilled with painted cast-in-place concrete. ***See figures 42-43.***

The eastern façade of Unit A is similar to the western façade, except at the southernmost bay, where there is no louver cast in the spandrel, an obscure panel was used in place of a typical window at the center of the bay, and obscure glass was used in the remainder of the windows. ***See figure 44.***

The northern façade of the centrally-located Unit B consists of four portions: the 20'-5"-long brick veneer return of the courtyard at the lobby, the interior portion of the lobby, the northern exterior wall of the library, and the northern façade of the custodial and equipment storage area. The exterior walls of the library are of painted formed concrete, and contain a group of 14 ganged atypical windows. These steel-sash windows are similar to those in the classrooms but taller, with an overall height of 6'-7", rather than the typical 4'-9". These have five lights rather than three, with two lights contained in an operable awning sash below a fixed sash at the upper light, and another operable awning sash at the bottom light. The northern façade of the storage area steps back 30' to the south, with a typical formed concrete wall. Two double steel utility doors are located on this façade, flanking a group of four two-light clerestory windows in the center of the façade. The flat roof overhangs the 10' loading dock to the north by approximately 6'. ***See figures 45-47.***

The eastern façade of Unit B is not defined by delineated bays, as it consists of a formed poured-in-place wall with a 1' crown capped with painted metal flashing. The wall contains four single metal utility access doors, the southern two of which are covered with simple flat-roofed canopies. A group of four ganged windows, similar in configuration to those on the northern façade, is located between the northern two access doors. In the center of the façade are two larger window openings, with sills located 1'-9" above finish floor and an overall height of approximately 8'-2". One of these openings is infilled with a set of three metal louvers, the other with three ganged six-light steel sash windows with the upper two lights in an operable awning sash. Two sets of three ganged three-light steel-sash windows, with the middle window having an operable awning sash, are located between the southernmost access doors. These windows have a sill height of 6'-7" and an overall height of 3'-3". One similar window containing two ganged three-light windows is located on the southern end of this façade. ***See figure 48.***

The southern façade of Unit B is similar to the northern façade, consisting of four portions: a 20'-5 brick veneer return of the courtyard at the lobby, the interior portion of the lobby, the southern exterior wall of the cafeteria, and the southern façade of the kitchen area. The exterior wall of the cafeteria is of painted formed concrete, and contains a group of 14 ganged atypical windows. These steel-sash windows are similar to those in the library, with five lights for an overall height of 6'-7". Of those five lights, two share an operable awning sash below a fixed sash at the upper light. A second operable awning sash is located at the bottom light of the window. The southern façade of the kitchen area contains a gang of three similar windows, and a group of three clerestory windows at the eastern end with a sill located approximately 7' above the finish floor and an overall height of approximately 3'. ***See figures 49-50.***

The eastern façade of Unit C is similar to the western façade, only with differing bay widths as described above, and at the northernmost bay (restrooms), no louver was cast in the spandrel, an obscure panel was used in place of a typical window at the center of the bay, and obscure glass was used in the remaining the windows. ***See figure 51.***

The southern façade of Building 1 is at Unit C. It is clad in brick veneer, with a central pair of doors accessing the north-south-oriented corridor. There are no windows in this façade. The ends of the barrel vaults are infilled with painted cast-in-place concrete. ***See figure 52.***

Interior Finishes of East Wing (Building 1)

Interior finishes in Unit A include vinyl composition tile flooring, painted metal lockers and glazed concrete masonry units (CMU) at the central hallway, painted CMU and painted gypsum wallboard at the classrooms, ceramic tile at the window sills and exposed brick at the window jambs, acoustical ceiling treatments, and fluorescent lighting. Built-in features of the classrooms in Unit A include framed whiteboards, corkboards, chalkboards, and limited cabinetry. ***See figures 53-54.***

Interior finishes in Unit B consist of vinyl composition tile at the hallways, administration areas, and cafeteria; commercial carpet tiles at the library; brick interior walls with glazed CMU wall base at the central hallway; glazed CMU at the cafeteria walls and kitchen wall; painted CMU walls at the custodial and boiler room areas; painted concrete exposed concrete structure; acoustical ceiling tiles and fluorescent lighting; and flush wooden doors. ***See figures 55-62.***

Interior finishes in Unit C include vinyl composition tile flooring, painted metal lockers and glazed concrete masonry units (CMU) at the central hallway, painted CMU and painted gypsum wallboard at the classrooms, ceramic tile at the window sills and exposed brick at the window jambs, acoustical ceiling treatments, and fluorescent lighting. Built-in features of the classrooms in Unit C include framed whiteboards, corkboards, chalkboards, and more extensive built-in cabinetry on the northern and southern partition walls in the science and art rooms. ***See figures 63-64.***

3.3.3 Building 2 (West Wing)

Unit D: Gymnasium & Former Shops
Unit E: Auditorium & Specialty Classrooms

The west wing, Building 2, consists of two functional sections. On the northern end is Unit D, the gymnasium and shops. On the southern end is Unit E, the auditorium and more specialty classrooms. The building is aligned true north-south, skewing it approximately 15 degrees from Building 1, making the western façade parallel with the western property line, and creating a triangular north-facing courtyard. Overall the building is longer north-south than it is wide. The volume of the auditorium and gymnasium are located on the eastern side of Building 2. ***See figure 65.***

The building is organized around a 13'-wide corridor running north-south between the auditorium/gymnasium volume and the western classrooms. The corridor continues through Units D and E. The main entry to Building 2 is located on the eastern façade, south of the gymnasium, north of

the auditorium. The entry connects to an east-west-oriented 30'-wide central foyer corridor running between the two main volumes of the auditorium and gymnasium and separating the northern Unit D from the southern Unit E.

Unit D has an irregularly-shaped plan with two parts. The gymnasium and locker room block measures approximately 106'-6" by 150'. This portion is located to the east of and shifted slightly south of the second portion, a bar of former shop classrooms, measuring approximately 42' by 240'. These two volumes are separated by the 13'-wide corridor, which has a typical flat roof. The shop classrooms are no longer used for specialty shop curriculum, and have been converted to general education curriculum spaces. This has involved reconfiguring partition walls within this area.

The gymnasium and locker room block consists of five 30'-wide bays running east-west, and five bays running north-south: three 30'-wide bays each separated by a narrow 8'-3" wide bay. The southern three east-west bays contain the gymnasium; the northern two contain the locker rooms. Restrooms with flat roofs are located on the northern end of the locker rooms. These restrooms are accessed from the exterior of the building, and are used exclusively by park patrons.[7]

Above the gymnasium, thin-shell barrel vaulting running east-west is supported on clear-spanning integral concrete beams, measuring 1' by 5' that span east-west across the 106'-foot-wide gymnasium. The beams are supported on rectangular cast-in-place concrete piers on the eastern and western sides of the interior of the gymnasium. The height of the gymnasium vaulting is approximately 27' at the spring point and 30'-10" at the crown of the intrados, providing the height for this volume of the building.

Above the locker rooms, thin-shell barrel vaulting running north-south is supported on integral concrete beams that span north-south across each 30'-wide bay. At each bay, a 12-inch-thick reinforced concrete bent with a 16-inch-deep arched beams and 20-inch-wide piers support the vaulting above. The spring point of the arched beam is located approximately 6'-5" above the finish floor, with the crown of the intrados of the arch at approximately 10'-8". This volume of space is much lower, congruent with the classrooms to the west, and has an interior volume of space with a low ceiling height that feels lower due to the encroaching structural bents. As is typical, at the exterior, each of the piers of these arched bents are clad in brick veneer protruding approximately 13" from the face of the wall.

Above the former shops, a 12"-thick reinforced concrete bent with 18"-deep arched beams and 26'-wide piers support the vaulting above. The spring point of the arched beam is located approximately 5'-11" above the finish floor, with the crown of the intrados of the arch at approximately 12'. This provides each classroom with a wide barrel-vaulted room volume with very low side walls, encroaching concrete bents, and arched end walls under the thin-shell concrete roof. At the exterior, each of the piers of these arched bents are clad in brick veneer protruding approximately 13" from the face of the window wall.

Unit E has an irregularly-shaped plan. The approximately 106' by 120' auditorium volume attaches to the gymnasium volume of Unit D (described above) by the 30' wide central foyer. The auditorium volume is located on the northern end of Unit E, east of the 13'-wide flat-roofed central hallway. A classroom bar

[7] Personal communication from Assistant Principal Gina Gerlitz to Ellen Mirro on August 16, 2019.

measuring 60' by 42' continues south of the auditorium on the eastern side of the hallway. A specialized volume for the former band and choir rooms, measuring 90' by 48', marks the northern end of the unit on the western side of the hallway, with an approximately 42' by 120' bar of classrooms continuing south.

The auditorium volume consists of four 30'-wide bays running east-west, with free-spanning vaulting oriented east-west, similar to that described in Unit D above. The northern three bays contain the auditorium seating. The southern bay contains the stage. Above the auditorium, 3" thin-shell barrel vaulting runs east-west, supported by clear-spanning integral concrete beams, which measure 1' by 5' and span east-west across the 106'-wide auditorium. The beams are supported by rectangular cast-in-place concrete piers on the eastern and western sides of auditorium's interior. Similar to the gymnasium, the height of the vaulting at the auditorium is 27' at the spring point and 30'-10" at the crown of the intrados. The interior volume of the auditorium is shaped by a ceiling hanging from the thin-shell vaulting above, disguising the structure from the interior, but providing asymmetrical interior angles designed for acoustics.

The structural piers are located inside irregularly-shaped storage areas, which define the eastern and western edges of the tapered auditorium plan. The northern wall of the auditorium is radiused, and translates to a convex shape on the southern wall at the central entry foyer north of the auditorium.

The former band and choir rooms consist of three 30'-wide east-west bays with free-spanning thin-shell barrel vaulting oriented east-west above. The vaulting spring point is located 16'-6" above the finish floor. Originally the band room was located on the southern end of the volume, the choir room on the northern end, with the instrument storage room separating them. The former band and choir rooms still retain their stepped platform floors, although the central portions and edges of the rooms have been re-partitioned. The rooms are now used for specialized educational programs, not including music education.

As the central 13'-wide north-south hallway continues south, classrooms line the double-loaded corridor. On the eastern side, two classrooms south of the auditorium were originally programmed as clothing rooms, and now are used for general educational classrooms. The four on the western side were programmed as music classrooms, a food laboratory, and general purpose room. These classrooms are now used for special education. The barrel vault roof above these classrooms is typical, and matches that on the northern end of Unit D, with a 12"-thick reinforced concrete bent, 18"-deep arched beams and 26"-wide piers supporting the vaulting above. The spring point of the arched beam is located approximately 5'-11" above the finish floor, with the crown of the intrados of the arch at approximately 12'. This provides each classroom with a wide barrel-vaulted room volume with very low side walls, encroaching concrete bents, and arched end walls under the thin-shell concrete roof. At the exterior, each of the piers of these arched bents are clad in brick veneer protruding approximately 13" from the face of the window wall.

Façades of West Wing (Building 2)

The western façade of Building 2 is located along 16th Avenue S, with Units D and E mostly in plane with

each other. The southern end of the western façade is part of Unit E and comprises two sections: the classroom volume and the former band and choir room volume. The classroom volume consists of four bays with typical ganged windows spanning the bay between brick-clad concrete piers. The western façade of Building 2, Unit D consists of eight bays with typical steel-sash ganged windows spanning the bay between brick-clad concrete piers, except at the southernmost bay and the fourth bay from the north, which both have doors. ***See figure 66.***

The grade at the southwestern side of Building 2 slopes down to street level. Therefore, at the volume of the former band and choir room is an approximately 8'-tall painted poured-in-place concrete retaining wall. This retaining wall encloses an exterior paved terrace with a painted steel railing. The western façade of the former band and choir room volume is composed of the typical painted formed poured-in-place concrete, with the curves of the barrel vaulting expressed at the roof-line. The façade includes two exterior doors leading out on to the terrace, both with minimal square canopies. ***See figure 67.***

The northern end of Unit E connects to Unit D, so the exterior northern façade consists of that portion of the band and choir room volume that rises above the former shop classrooms of Unit D. This façade is of typical formed concrete.

At the southern bay of Unit D, north of the band and choir room volume, two pairs of steel half-light doors access the corridor beyond. A brick veneer wall panel infills the area between the doors and the northern half of the bay. This northern half contains the typical ribbon window above the concrete spandrel. At the fourth bay from the north, two access doors with an insulated metal panel between them interrupt the ribbon windows. The metal flashing of the horizontal roof edge above is unpainted.

As is typical, the lower spandrels of the window walls on the western façade are composed of cast-in-place painted concrete scored with typical 4' on-center control joints. At the center of each bay, horizontal louvers are cast in concrete spandrels below the windows. The metal flashing of the horizontal roof edge above is unpainted. ***See figure 68.***

The western façade of the upper portion of the gymnasium is composed of typical formed cast-in-place painted concrete. Clerestory ribbon windows of fixed-steel sash span each bay, with a meatal louver located in the northernmost sash of the northernmost bay. Additionally, 6'-wide metal louvers are located in the center of the northernmost and southernmost bays of the gymnasium.

The northern façade is part of Unit D. It is clad in brick veneer. Nine ganged typical windows are located at the western end of the northern façade, the block of former shops. Poured-in-place concrete infills the barrel vault end. ***See figure 69.***

The block of former shops then returns approximately 60' at the eastern façade. This façade is also clad in brick veneer, and is lined by an approximately 11'-wide covered walkway with a flat roofline. Square 10" poured-in-place concrete columns support the flat roof, located every 15' along the outer edge of the walkway. The overhang of the covered walk extends approximately 4' beyond the line of the columns. Three access doors are located along the exterior eastern façade of the former shops. ***See figure 70.***

The northern façade then continues at the entry to the interior corridor, with a pair of half-light painted

steel doors with sidelights, located directly east of the shop block. A restroom block protrudes approximately 8'-6" from the northern façade of Unit D. A flat roof overhangs another 5', supported by a brick screen wall at the center. The brick-clad restroom block is composed symmetrically, with the restroom entry doors screened by the central wall, a gang of two two-light awning windows with sills located at 5'-8" above finish floor, and two additional painted steel access doors accessing equipment storage and the locker room vestibules. Poured-in-place concrete fills in the three barrel vault ends. A wooden storage locker unit is located on the eastern end of the northern façade of Unit D. ***See figure 71.***

Returning to the eastern façade of the gymnasium block, the two northernmost bays of Unit D, approximately 8' tall, are clad in brick veneer. At each bay a 1'-9"-wide brick pilaster projects 1' from the face of the wall, marking the internal structure. On the southern end of these two lower sections of the façade, a double entry door accesses a vestibule to the gymnasium. A covered walkway projects from the exterior of Building 2. This covered walkway continues to line the lower façade of the southern three bays of Unit D, and the façade rises above it at the taller volume of the gymnasium. The covered walk connects to the main covered walkway connecting to Building 1. The façade under the covered walkway is clad in brick veneer, and above the walkway the walls are typical formed painted poured-in-place concrete. This covered walk differs from that at the former shops in that is supported on precast, inverted "L"-shaped concrete bents. ***See figures 72-74.***

The eastern façade of the auditorium volume, Unit E, is clad in brick veneer, approximately 8' tall below the continuing covered walkway lining the lower façade. The façade rises above the walkway with typical formed poured-in-place concrete walls similar to those at Unit D, only lacking the clerestory windows and ventilation louvers. The covered walkway is supported on precast inverted "L"-shaped concrete bents. The entry doors to the foyer are located between Units D and E, and consist of four pairs of single half-light painted steel doors, as described above.

The southern façade of Unit E comprises three volumes: the auditorium, classrooms, and the former band-and-choir volume. The easternmost volume, the auditorium, consists of a typical formed poured-in-place painted concrete wall rising to a height of 27'. The length of this wall is 106'. The volume containing the classrooms overlaps the westernmost 42' of the auditorium wall, and rises to a height of 8'. ***See figure 75-77.***

The eastern façade of the classroom portion of Unit E is composed of two bays with typical steel-sash ganged windows stretching between the brick cladding encasing each concrete pier. As is typical, the lower spandrels of the window walls are composed of cast-in-place painted concrete scored with typical 4' on-center control joints. At the center of each bay, horizontal louvers are cast in the concrete spandrels below the windows. The 8'-high classroom volume walls are clad in brick veneer. The barrel vault ends are infilled with poured-in-place concrete. The former band and choir room volume rises above this volume on the western side to a height of 16'-6" with a wall of typical formed poured-in-place painted concrete, and projects further to the west by approximately 6'. Double entry doors access the central 13'-wide hallway at the midpoint of the classroom volume façade. ***See figures 78-81.***

Interior Finishes of West Wing (Building 2)

Interior finishes in Unit D consist of maple gym flooring in the gymnasium; polished concrete floors in the locker room; vinyl composition flooring in the hallway; polished concrete floors in the former shops; painted concrete walls in the gymnasium and locker rooms; fixed metal freestanding lockers on glazed CMU pedestals in the locker rooms; walls of glazed CMU lined with metal lockers in the hallway; and walls of painted CMU, concrete and gypsum wallboard in the former shops; ceilings with acoustical tile treatments; gypsum wall board soffits in the hallway; and fluorescent lighting. ***See figures 82-87.***

Interior finishes in the auditorium portion of Unit E consist of the following: vinyl composition flooring in the auditorium along with fixed theater seating, maple stage flooring, lower walls of brick with painted gypsum wallboard and acoustical panel treatment walls above, fabric stage curtains, a shaped ceiling with acoustical treatments, and integral lighting and ventilation. ***See figures 88-89.***

Aside from the auditorium, interior finishes in Unit E consist of the following: vinyl composition flooring in the hallway; a combination of polished concrete floors, vinyl tile and commercial carpeting in the classrooms; walls of glazed CMU lined with metal lockers in the hallway; walls of painted CMU; concrete and gypsum wallboard in the classrooms; ceilings with acoustical tile treatments; gypsum wall board soffits in the hallway; and fluorescent lighting. ***See figures 90-92.***

3.3.4 Documented Building Alterations

The subject buildings were designed by architect John Maloney and constructed in 1956 by Henrik Valle Construction Company. A permit was issued for the construction of two buildings in 1956 and a second permit was issued for the completion of work in 1957.

- 1956-57, Construct 2 buildings, architect John Maloney, contractor Henrik Valle Construction Company, City of Seattle permit nos. 444658 and 456791.

During the 1960s, issued permits covered a variety of interior improvements and alterations. In 1960 a permit was issued for a Language Laboratory in the southeast corner of Building 1 and a 1965 permit allowed for Language Laboratory alterations. Also in 1965, a permit was issued for a new trophy showcase, located in the main lobby and for the relocation the vice principal's office. A 1966 permit was issued to make renovations to the girls' basketball room. In 1968, several permits were issued for remodeling and improvements. These included remodeling for the teachers' reading room, remodeling to room 101, a "new AV Resource Center and Teachers' Library," and adding re-lights to rooms 208 and 209.

SPS records include:

- 1960 & 1965: Language laboratory and Language Lab alteration, SPS Maintenance Department, SPS record 110-0095 & 110-0098
- 1965: New trophy showcase-Main Lobby, SPS Maintenance Department, SPS record 110-0099
- 1965: Vice Principal's office, SPS Maintenance Department, SPS record 110-0100
- 1966: Girls Basketball Room revisions, SPS Maintenance Department, SPS record 110-0101

- 1968: Remodeling for Teachers' Reading Room, SPS Maintenance Department, SPS record 110-0102
- 1968: Room 101 Remodeling, SPS Maintenance Department, SPS record 110-0103
- 1968: New AV Resource Center and Teachers' Library, SPS Maintenance Department, SPS record 110-0104
- 1968: Add re-light room 208 & 209, SPS Maintenance Department, SPS record 110-0105

In 1974 a wall was added to room 125. A permit issued in 1976 allowed for increased ventilation at the metal shop. In 1977, alterations were made for the magnet program in rooms 111, 109, 156, and 157, which included the choir and band rooms.

- 1974: Add wall Room 125, SPS Facilities Department, SPS record 110-0108
- 1976: Increase ventilation at metal shop, SPS Facilities Department, SPS record 110-0109
- 1977: Alterations for Magnet Program Rms 111 & 109, 156-157 (choir & band), architect Douglas L. Cuykendall for SPS Facilities, SPS record 110-0110

During the 1980s permit improvements occurred in the interior and exterior of the school. In 1981 a permit was issued for an addition to the vice principal's office. A darkroom was added to the graphic arts rooms in 1983. Also in 1983, a permit was issued to rehabilitate the roof.

- 1981: Add V.P. office, SPS Facilities Department, SPS record 110-0111
- 1983: New Dark Rooms in Graphic Arts Rooms, SPS Facilities Department, SPS record 110-0112
- 1983: Roof Rehab, The Chervenak Architects PS

In 2001 a permit was issued for interior alterations and roofing repairs. Record drawings call this project the "Modernization at Mercer Middle School," and focus on electrical replacements and telecommunications improvements, cabinet replacements, and roof repairs.

- 2001: Interior alterations and roofing repairs to public secondary school (Mercer M.S.), per plan Paul S. Rising, City of Seattle permit 721478

Selected windows at the western and southern elevations of Building 1 were replaced in an extensive 2008 upgrade. Interiors at the science classrooms and teachers' areas were altered, roof flashings and other waterproofing were added. Phase 2 of the waterline replacement was undertaken in 2009.

- 2008: Exterior, Interior, and waterline upgrades, Hawthorne Hagen Architects, SPS record 110-0182 through 110-0230

Some of the administrative area was transformed into a health center in 2012. This involved alterations at the interior of Unit B, including at the main hallway, as well as exterior improvements including new windows at the western façade, new flashings and other waterproofing.

- 2012: Health Center, Miller Hayashi Architects with Neighborcare Health, SPS record 110-0250 through 110-0268

4. SIGNIFICANCE

4.1 HISTORIC NEIGHBORHOOD CONTEXT: NORTH BEACON HILL[8]

Mercer Middle School is located in the North Beacon Hill neighborhood of Seattle. This historic overview aims to give a brief summary of the area's development and the social, cultural, and economic forces within which the school was established and operates. However, the school's service area exceeds the Beacon Hill neighborhood, and serves students from SoDo, Georgetown, Mid- and South Beacon Hill, and the northern portion of Seward Park.

Early Neighborhood Development & Infrastructure

Prior to 1850, the Duwamish village of Tal-tal-kus, consisting of five cedar longhouses, stood at what is now the interchange of I-5, I-90, the Spokane Street Viaduct.[9] The year 1850 marked the migration of white settlers to the region, and on September 16, 1851, the first white settlers staked claims on the low-lying floodplains southeast of what would become downtown Seattle. These settlers were Henry Van Asselt, Luther M. Collins, and Jacob Maple and his son Samuel.[10] Van Asselt's 1851 360-acre claim included the future site of Boeing Field; Collins and Maple staked their claims two years later in what is now Georgetown.[11]

Two years later, John Cornelius Holgate and Edward and John Hanford filed additional claims on what was then known as Maple Hill, rising above the tideflats. These early settlements, however, were destroyed by Native Americans during the Indian War of 1855-1856. Military Road, which used to ascend the hill west of the subject site and connect Olympia to Seattle, was constructed in 1860.[12]

Charles Plummer, who had arrived in Seattle in 1853, platted the hill, called Plummer's Addition. The area went mostly undeveloped for the next forty years, largely due to the area's challenging topography: steep slopes flanking the tideflats. In 1885 Eugene Semple, the former territorial governor, proposed creating a canal from Elliot Bay to Lake Washington that would run through Beacon Hill.[13] Work on the canal started, and 1,400 acres of Duwamish tide flats were filled in until the project stalled due to lack of support. The project was abandoned in 1900 when the state legislature approved building a canal north of downtown. [14]

In 1889 M. Harwood Young, a real estate developer from Boston, built a streetcar line running between downtown Seattle and the newly-dubbed Beacon Hill, which Young named after the Boston

[8] This text is excerpted from the Landmark Nomination Report for Van Asselt Elementary School, the Johnson Partnership, 2018.
[9] Pacific Coast Architecture Database, "Tal-tal-kus, Duwamish Village, Beacon Hill, Seattle," http://pcad.lib.washington.edu/building/14313/ (accessed May 16, 2016).
[10] Greg Lange, "Collins, Van Asselt, and Maple (or Mapel) select first Donation Land Claims in King County on September 16, 1851," HistoryLink.org Essay #1750, October 3, 2000, http://www.historylink.org/index.cfm?DisplayPage=output.cfm&file_id=1750 (accessed April 26, 2016).
[11] David Peterson, "H & K Foods, Landmark Nomination Report," Nicholson Kovalchick Architects, 2017.
[12] Peterson.
[13] David Wilma, "Seattle Neighborhoods: Beacon Hill—Thumbnail History," HistoryLink.org Essay #3004, http://www.historylink.org/index.cfm?DisplayPage=output.cfm&file_id=3004 (accessed May 2016).
[14] Walt Crowley, "Lake Washington Ship Canal," HistoryLink.org Essay #1444, posted July 1, 1999, http://www.historylink.org/index.cfm?DisplayPage=output.cfm&file_id=1444 (accessed May 11, 2016).

neighborhood.[15] As a result of the streetcar, residential development in the area soon increased, as did industrial development, with the establishment of slaughterhouses, breweries, and various factories.[16] ***See figures 93-94.***

Jefferson Park

A *Seattle Post-Intelligencer* article describes Beacon Hill's early history as being defined by "illness and open spaces,"[17] many examples of which played out on and near the parkland now known as Jefferson Park and Golf Course, which lies immediately north and east of the subject building. In the 1880s, a private water company built a reservoir on the hill to contain water pumped from Lake Washington. In 1892, the city established an isolation hospital for smallpox patients, also known as a pesthouse, on Beacon Hill; the hospital operated there until 1914, when it moved to Firlands in what is now Shoreline.[18]

In 1898, the city acquired 235 acres to establish a cemetery and a public reservoir. From 1909 to 1918, Beacon Hill was home to a stockade built to house jail inmates and to replace Seattle's chain gang.[19] The land that had been set aside for a cemetery was instead turned into a park and then into a golf course; inmates at the stockade cleared the land that made up the park. The park was named Jefferson Park after Thomas Jefferson. Jefferson Park Golf Course opened on May 12, 1915, becoming the first municipally-owned golf course in Seattle.[20] In 1918 the park served as an impromptu airfield, hosting a fleet of touring U.S. Army warplanes. This event made clear the necessity of an airfield in Seattle, and by 1928 Boeing Field was open for business.[21] Other golf courses in Seattle only allowed entrance to white people, yet Jefferson Park Golf Course was frequented by Chinese-, Japanese-, and African American players; the Japanese Golf Association held tournaments there in the 1930s.[22]

Beacon Hill was annexed by the City of Seattle in 1907, as part of a huge expansion that also included the southern portion of Rainier Valley, West Seattle, and Ballard.[23] For the most part, early residential development took place north of South Snoqualmie Street—immediately south of the subject site—which was as far as the streetcar line ran. South of that was mostly farmland, primarily farmed by Italian and Japanese families, who sold their produce in the city.[24] ***See figures 95-96.***

Redlining & Restrictive Covenants

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[15] David Wilma, "Seattle Neighborhoods: Beacon Hill—Thumbnail History," HistoryLink.org essay #3004, http://www.historylink.org/index.cfm?DisplayPage=output.cfm&file_id=3004 (accessed May 16, 2016).
[16] Peterson.
[17] Levi Pulkkinen, "Seattle's Beacon Hill Through the Years," *Seattle Post-Intelligencer*, February 24, 2015, http://www.seattlepi.com/local/article/Seattle-s-Beacon-Hill-through-the-years (accessed May 11, 2016).
[18] Peterson.
[19] David Wilma and Catherine Hinchliff, "Jefferson Park Municipal Golf Course," HistoryLink.org essay #3015, February 24, 2001, http://www.historylink.org/index.cfm?DisplayPage=output.cfm&file_id=3015 (accessed May 19, 2016).
[20] Wilma and Hinchliff.
[21] Peterson.
[22] Seattle Department of Neighborhoods, "Summary for 3523 S Portland Street," Seattle Historic Sites Survey, 2010, https://web6.seattle.gov/DPD/HistoricalSite/QueryResult.aspx?ID=2147011496 (accessed February 2019).
[23] Greg Lange, "Collins, Van Asselt, and Maple (or Mapel) select first Donation Land Claims in King County on September 16, 1851," HistoryLink essay 1750, posted October 3, 2000, http://www.historylink.org/File/1750 (accessed September 2018).
[24] Wilma and Hinchliff.

Beacon Hill was one of the few areas where people of racial and ethnic minority groups were allowed to purchase property, due to racial restrictive covenants and the practice of redlining.[25] In Beacon Hill, redlining seems to have been put into practice due to sparse settlement, hilly terrain, and difficult transportation. The subject building is located on land that was within Jefferson Park at the time the redline map was created. The map describes adjacent properties immediately north and west of the park as "Still Desirable" and those south of Columbian Way as "Hazardous." The notes describing the "Hazardous" area include, "[t]his is a sparsely settled and undeveloped section. Most of the property is located on a sidehill. Transportation is a problem in this area."[26]

Only two pockets within Beacon Hill were deemed "Still Desirable." One was located southeast of Jefferson Park,[27] the other of immediately west and northwest Jefferson Park Municipal Golf Links.[28]

Racial restrictive covenants were attached to land titles, specifying areas where only white people, often specifically non-Jewish white people, were allowed to live. The two Beacon Hill plats that carried racial restrictive covenants were both located in one of the "still desirable" portions.[29] The restrictive language for the Jefferson Park Addition Division 1 is as follows:

> No person other than one of the Caucasian race shall be permitted to occupy any portion of any lot in said plat or any building thereon except a domestic servant actually employed by a Caucasian occupant of said lot or building.[30]

The restrictive language attached to Ladd's Second Addition and Jefferson Park Addition #2 is as follows:

> No person other than one of the Caucasian race shall reside on any of said described premises excepting that a domestic servant in the actual employ of an occupant may reside in the home of his master.[31]

Those areas with few racial restrictive covenants, such as areas in southeast Seattle, became the available areas for minority populations and people of color to live. One result of redlining is that Beacon Hill's population has had much more racial and ethnic diversity than nearly any other Seattle neighborhood, a diversity which has persisted through the 20th century and up to the present day. ***See figure 97.***

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[25] Redlining became popular in the 1930s as part of the Federal Housing Authority's home loan guarantee program. The FHA guaranteed loans for private homes in areas that were not considered "hazardous." 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. Peterson.

[26] Robert K. Nelson, LaDale Winling, Richard Marciano, Nathan Connolly, et al., *Mapping Inequality*, American Panorama, ed. Robert K. Nelson and Edward L. Ayers, accessed January 2019, https://dsl.richmond.edu/panorama/redslining/#loc=14/47.5660/-122.2890&opacity=0.8&area=B16&city=seattle-wa.

[27] "This is a new residential sub-division, built up during the past 15 years with homes of modern architecture, and allin good condition. The residents are of substantial means, and generally of the business and professional types. A vast majority of the property is populated by the owners."

[28] "This locality is on the top of Beacon Hill and adjoins the Jefferson Golf Links. Property is occupied by people of moderate means. A few orientals live in this area but they are of the socially elite and professional type. The residences vary in age from 10 to 25 years old and are generally in good condition. Many new residences were built in this area prior to the depression."

[29] https://depts.washington.edu/civilr/covenants/Jefferson%20Park%20Div%20No%202.PDF

[30] Seattle Civil Rights & Labor History Project, "Racial Restrictive Covenants," University of Washington, http://depts.washington.edu/civilr/covenants.htm (accessed February 2019).

[31] Seattle Civil Rights & Labor History Project, "Racial Restrictive Covenants," University of Washington, http://depts.washington.edu/civilr/covenants.htm (accessed February 2019).

World War II & the VA Hospital

The influx of defense industry workers to Seattle during World Wars I and II spurred the development of housing to accommodate the workers and their families. Beacon Hill and the Rainier Valley contain two of the housing developments, that were originally constructed for wartime industry workers and after the Korean War were converted to low-income housing. The Rainier Vista Housing Development is located approximately one mile directly east of Mercer. The former Holly Park Development (now NewHolly) is located approximately 2.5 miles south of Jefferson Park.

In June 1940 Congress amended the 1937 U.S. Housing Act to fund new housing for defense industry workers. Later that year Congress passed the Lanham Act, allowing the building of public housing for such workers. In 1941, with funds from the Lanham Act, the Seattle Housing Authority (SHA, established 1939) was selected to build and maintain a housing development in the Rainier Valley. Architect B. Marcus Priteca and engineer A. M. Young designed the complex, dubbed Rainier Vista. Designed in the "Garden City" style, with open green space, curving roads, and cul-de-sacs,[32] the development opened in 1942 with 500 housing units over 90 acres.[33]

In 1953 the SHA took over ownership of Rainier Vista, and middle-class residents were gradually replaced by lower-income families. Rainier Vista mirrored the racial segregation that took place during the 1960s, as many white families moved to the suburbs, and more so during the "Boeing Bust" of the 1970s, as Boeing laid off nearly two-thirds of its workforce. During the 1960s and 1970s, the number of white residents in the area shrank by a third, while the number of African Americans increased threefold, and the number of Asian Americans doubled.[34]

In 1999 Rainier Vista was slated for demolition and redevelopment, converting the complex from low-income housing to mixed-income housing. This came two years after a similar redevelopment of the Holly Park housing development (now NewHolly) in Beacon Hill. The demolition was planned in anticipation of the new light rail tracks and station, which were planned to run directly through the housing development. As was the case with NewHolly, the Seattle Housing Authority planned to rebuild Rainier Vista as a denser, mixed-income community, with a planned 965 units.[35] The 83-unit apartment building Tamarack Place opened in 2011, providing 83 housing units to elderly, disabled, and low-income tenants.[36]

In 1945, the City Council deeded 44 acres of city-owned land to the federal government for the purpose of constructing a new Veterans Administration Hospital. The tract included much of the 9-hole golf course, adjacent to the 18-hole course, to the dismay of the golfing community.[37] The hospital was designed by Naramore, Bain, Brady & Johanson, and managed by the Army Corps of Engineers.

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[32] John Caldbick, "Seattle Housing Authority—Part 1," HistoryLink.org essay 10760, March 27, 2014, http://www.historylink.org/File/10760 (accessed January 2019).
[33] Ibid.
[34] John Caldbick, "Seattle Housing Authority—Part 2," HistoryLink.org essay 10761, March 27, 2014, https://www.historylink.org/File/10761 (accessed February 2019).
[35] Jacklet.
[36] Caldbick, "Seattle Housing Authority—Part 2."
[37] *Seattle Times*, "Vet Hospital Land Donated," June 14, 1945, p. 16.

Groundbreaking began in November 1948. In addition to the eight-story main hospital building the hospital campus included quarters to house nurses, doctors, staff, and managers,[38] and a radioisotope research laboratory.[39] The hospital, with a total of 325 beds, was dedicated in April 1951, and took in its first patient the following month. The hospital's equipment and technology made it a draw for medical professionals, with many administrative and high staff positions filled from a national search. Classified advertisements for apartment rentals and homes for sale in the neighborhood touted their proximity to the hospital, presumably a draw for hospital staff and their families.[40] ***See figures 98-99.***

Diverse Communities of Beacon Hill

Due to the practice of redlining and racial restrictive covenants, in the early decades of the 20th Century the minority populations of Seattle were essentially shoehorned into portions of the Central District and into Chinatown, Nihonmachi (Japan Town), and Manilatown/Filipinotown—now collectively known as the International District. Beacon Hill, thanks to its less restrictive housing options, was an appealing draw to Asian and Asian American families who wanted more space while also maintaining proximity to the cultural hub of the International District.

By around 1920 Beacon Hill was home to only three Japanese families. The Japanese Language School (1414 S Weller Street, S. Shimuzu, City of Seattle Landmark) provided language instruction and served as a cultural hub for the community, and its location immediately north of Beacon Hill helped draw Japanese families to the neighborhood.[41] In the 1920s Japanese people replaced Chinese as the most numerous non-white group in Seattle.[42]

By the 1930s North Beacon Hill was home to many Japanese-owned business in North Beacon Hill. The incarceration of the Japanese community in 1942 resulted in houses and businesses being left empty and unoccupied.[43] After World War II, the Japanese community was slow to redevelop. By 1964, however, Japanese American students made up 22.2% of the student body at Beacon Hill Elementary, and more than 50% by the early 2000s.[44]

In the 1930s there were approximately seven Chinese American families living in North Beacon Hill. During the Japanese incarceration, more Chinese people moved to the area to take over operation of formerly Japanese-run and -owned businesses.[45] After World War II, many (primarily white) Boeing employees began moving from Beacon Hill to the suburbs. Many families of Chinese descent moved

[38] *Seattle Times*, "Work to Start on V.A. Hospital," November 14, 1948, p. 29.
[39] *Seattle Times*, "Bids Opened for Unit of Vet Hospital," February 8, 1950, p. 3.
[40] *Seattle Times*, classified advertisements, *passim*, 1948-1955.
[41] Seattle Historic Sites Survey, "Summary for 1536 12th Avenue," https://web6.seattle.gov/DPD/HistoricalSite/QueryResult.aspx?ID=1890755248 (accessed February 2019).
[42] James Gregory, "Mapping Race in Seattle/King County, 1920-2010," Civil Rights & Labor History Consortium, University of Washington, 2017, http://depts.washington.edu/labhist/maps-seattle-segregation.shtml (accessed February 2019).
[43] Tong.
[44] Seattle Historic Sites Survey, "Summary for 1536 12th Avenue," Seattle Department of Neighborhoods, https://web6.seattle.gov/DPD/HistoricalSite/QueryResult.aspx?ID=1890755248 (accessed February 2019)
[45] Seattle Historic Sites Survey, "Summary for 2303 16th Ave,", https://web6.seattle.gov/DPD/HistoricalSite/QueryResult.aspx?ID=-1187344839 (accessed February 2019).

south into homes on Beacon Hill, particularly North Beacon Hill.[46] This influx continued through the 1950s.

Seattle was also home to a sizeable Filipino and Filipino American population, many of whom also moved to Beacon Hill from the International District.[47] In the 1970s there was a particular rise in the numbers of Japanese and Chinese communities in Beacon Hill.[48] The mid- and late 1970s saw an increase in immigrants to south Seattle from Southeast Asia, fleeing the aftermath of the Vietnam War.[49] By the 1990s the neighborhood was a robust "multiracial zone" of "Asians of many nationalities, Blacks, Whites, Native Americans, and Latinos."[50]

African American people have had a presence on Beacon Hill since the late 1860s, when businessman George Riley purchased approximately ten acres of land.[51] In the 1920s and 1930s a handful of Black families lived on Beacon Hill. Although the Supreme Court had ruled racial covenants unenforceable in 1948, de facto segregation remained, due to realtors' and white homeowners' unofficial refusal to sell homes to people of color. As such, Beacon Hill was by necessity a popular choice for African American families moving out of the Central District.[52]

During the 1990s, King County saw an influx of refugees and immigrants from East Africa, many of whom settled on Beacon Hill.[53] NewHolly contains the largest number of Seattle Public School students living in public housing; of this subset, more than 65% are of East African descent.[54]

Light Rail & Contemporary Beacon Hill

In 1997 Seattle voters approved a ten-year plan to establish a light rail system running from Northgate to Sea-Tac Airport.[55] The following year Sound Transit, the regional transit authority, modified the initial plan to include a tunnel under Beacon Hill. The decision to bore a tunnel rather than build a route on surface streets saved many homes and business in the neighborhood from demolition. Nevertheless,

[46] Collin Tong, "How Asian Americans finally moved beyond the ID," Crosscut, October 16, 2011, https://crosscut.com/2011/10/how-asian-americans-finally-moved-beyond-id (accessed February 2019).
[47] Ibid.
[48] Seattle Civil Rights & Labor History Project, "Seattle Segregation Maps, 1920-2010," University of Washington, http://depts.washington.edu/civilr/segregation_maps.htm (accessed February 2019).
[49] Cassandra Tate, "Southeast Seattle Zip Code 98118: Neighborhood of Nations," HistoryLInk.org essay 10164, posted August 13, 2012, http://www.historylink.org/File/10164 (accessed February 2019).
[50] Seattle Civil Rights & Labor History Project, "Seattle Segregation Maps, 1920-2010," University of Washington, http://depts.washington.edu/civilr/segregation_maps.htm (accessed February 2019).
[51] Turkiya Lowe, "George Putnam Riley (1833-1905)," https://www.blackpast.org/african-american-history/riley-george-putnam-1833-1905/ (accessed February 2019).
[52] Catherine Silva, "Racial Restrictive Covenants History," Seattle Civil Rights & Labor History Project, University of Washington, 2009, http://depts.washington.edu/civilr/covenants_report.htm (accessed February 2019).
[53] Cecilia Garza, "SVP Welcomes New Investee East African Community Services," Social Venture Partners, August 10, 2016, http://www.socialventurepartners.org/seattle/2016/08/10/svp-welcomes-new-investee-east-african-community-services/ (accessed February 2019).
[54] Garza.
[55] Sound Transit, "The Ten-Year Regional Transit System Plan," May 31, 1996, https://www.soundtransit.org/sites/default/files/documents/pdf/news/reports/soundmove/199605_soundmovethetenyearregionaltransitsystemplan.pdf (accessed January 2019).

there was community outcry for some buildings and businesses that were slated for demolition.[56,57] Tunnel drilling began in January 2006, and ended in May 2007, emerging on the eastern slope of Beacon Hill.[58] The station opened on July 18, 2009, offering service northward to downtown Seattle, and southward as far as Tukwila.[59]

Today North Beacon Hill is a popular residential neighborhood. The Chief Sealth Trail is a 3.6-mile recreational trail that runs the length of a Seattle City Light right-of-way. Sound Transit Light Rail service now extends as far north as the Roosevelt District and as far south as Sea-Tac Airport. As of 2013 Beacon Hill had more than 19,000 residents, and still has significantly more racial diversity than many other Seattle neighborhoods.[60]

4.2 SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT IN BEACON HILL

See figure 100 for map of school locations.

Early School History

The history of schools in the Beacon Hill neighborhood effectively begins in the early 1860s, when Henry Van Asselt donated a portion of his claim, Duwamish bottomland that would come to be known as Georgetown, to create a school. The resulting building was the first erected in King County for the purpose of housing a school, and was known variably as Van Asselt School and the Duwamish School. John Maple (sometimes spelled "Mapel") also donated a piece of his land for a school in the area that is now Boeing Field. This one-room building, known as the Maple School, was built in 1865. That same year, the students of the Duwamish/Van Asselt School transferred to Maple. The original Van Asselt building remained in place until 1907, when it was torn down to make way for the Oregon & Washington Railway.

Maple's one-room building was replaced in 1900 by a two-story school just south of the first, which remained in use as a community gathering space. The two-story building was torn down in 1907-08, also to make way for the railroad line. A new four-classroom, two-story school was erected on Roosevelt Hill in Georgetown in 1909. In 1910 the school was incorporated into the Seattle school district. At the time,

[56] Alex Fryer, "Light Rail to displace Beacon Hill hangout," *Seattle Times*, July 26, 2002, http://community.seattletimes.nwsource.com/archive/?date=20020726&slug=southchina26m (accessed January 2019).
[57] Rebekah Denn, "Final Days for Perry Ko's South China Restaurant," *Seattle Times*, November 5, 2014, http://blogs.seattletimes.com/allyoucaneat/2014/11/05/final-days-for-perry-kos-south-china-restaurant/ (accessed January 2019).
[58] Mike Lindblom, "Light-rail breakthrough: 375-ton drill tunnels out of Beacon Hill," *Seattle Times*, May 9, 2007, http://old.seattletimes.com/html/localnews/2003699290_tunnel09m.html (accessed January 2019).
[59] Sound Transit, "Link light rail launches new era of mobility for central Puget Sound," July 18, 2009, https://www.soundtransit.org/get-to-know-us/news-events/news-releases/link-light-rail-launches-new-era-mobility-central-puget (accessed January 2019).
[60] City-data.com

the school had five grades, 179 students, and four teachers. In 1918, due in part to an influx of defense industry workers during World War I, a "Liberty Building" school annex was erected on the Maple site.[61]

Thanks to the streetcar system, the population of Beacon Hill had grown enough by 1892 that the school district purchased land from the city to build a school, which would be the first on Beacon Hill itself. When the Beacon Hill School opened in 1899, on 16th Avenue S and S Lander Street, it served grades one through three, but within two years expanded to five grades and 100 students. The following year the school expanded to grades one through eight, and enrollment doubled. In 1904 the school added a Colonial Revival-style building (altered, now El Centro de la Raza), designed by James Stephen as part of his model school plan, though retaining the original 1899 structure. The school began offering kindergarten in 1913, and by 1916 enrollment was at 500. By 1918 the Beacon Hill School was so crowded that the Robert Fulton School was built to serve as an annex, housed in a Liberty Building at 24th Avenue S and Stevens Street. Fulton closed in 1922, and in 1923 Beacon Hill School got an addition of 12 classrooms, creating an H-shaped building.

By 1912, older students from neighborhoods in Seattle's south end attended high school at either Broadway, Queen Anne, or the provisional location of Franklin High (located at 18th Avenue S and S Main Street, just south of Yesler Way E). The city believed south Seattle would not grow enough to warrant its own high school. However, in 1918 residents petitioned the school board for a new high school to accommodate students leaving various schools in Van Asselt, South Beacon Hill, Georgetown, South Park, and other far-south neighborhoods. In 1925 the school board voted to establish a new high school on the site of the Maple School. In 1926 the Maple School and Maple Annex were moved several blocks to the east, 17th Avenue S and S Lucile Street.

District Architect Floyd Naramore designed the new high school in a Georgian Revival style. Grover Cleveland High School opened in the middle of the 1926-1927 school year, serving grades seven through twelve, and with 52 graduating seniors in its first year.[62] Although Cleveland offered grades seven through twelve, the middle and high schools operated separately and had different principals.

After Cleveland High opened, Beacon Hill, like much of the city as a whole, saw a nearly 25-year lull in the building of new schools. During the Great Depression district-wide school enrollment declined and new construction of all types nearly ceased. T. T. Minor (Naramore & Brady, 1700 E Union Street) opened in 1941. During World War II, public resources tended to go towards wartime industries rather than new schools.

Mid-Century Growth

In the 1950s one elementary and two middle schools were opened in or in close proximity to Beacon Hill. The elementary, Southeast Beacon Hill School (11230 Luther Avenue S), opened in 1953 entirely as portable buildings. Later renamed Rainier View Elementary, the school was established at the urging of

[61] Nile Thompson and Carolyn J. Marr, "Maple," *Building for Learning, Seattle Public School Histories, 1862-2000* (Seattle, WA: Seattle Public Schools, 2002).
[62] Thompson & Marr, "Cleveland."

the Rainier Valley Community Club, who wanted the Parks Department to build a playfield in the area.[63] Rainier View Elementary is located within what is now the boundaries of the Rainier View neighborhood. Given its original name of "Southeast Beacon Hill School," it is clear that the school was located in a liminal zone between neighborhoods, and served students from southeast Beacon Hill. Sharples Middle School (3928 S Graham St, William Mallis, now Aki Kurose) opened in 1952. Although located 1.5 blocks east of Martin Luther King Jr. Way S (formerly known as Empire Way), and thus not within the present-day boundaries of Beacon Hill as defined by the Seattle City Clerk, the school took in students from several south end neighborhoods, including students from Van Asselt and Beacon Hill schools.[64] In 1957, five years after Sharples opened, Asa Mercer Junior High (1600 Columbian Way, John W. Maloney) opened at the southwestern corner of Jefferson Park. Cleveland's seventh and eighth grades were transferred to Mercer, as were many of Sharples' students.[65] Enrollment continued to surge in the district, and by the 1959-60 school year Sharples had, in addition to its permanent building, seventeen portable buildings. Within one year of its opening Mercer required two portable buildings, and by the 1963-1964 school year there were sixteen portables at Mercer.[66] ***See figures 101-102.***

In the 1960s Beacon Hill gained three new schools: the Beacon Hill Annex, formerly Fulton, was opened in 1960 in portable buildings, and became an independent school named Kimball in 1964. In 1961 Rainier View, which had opened in 1953 as Southeast Beacon Hill School, moved from portables into a new building (11650 Beacon Avenue S, Durham, Anderson & Freed). In 1962 the Van Asselt Annex was established in portables at the southernmost end of Beacon Avenue S. This annex became Wing Luke in 1969.

The former site of Fulton was reopened in 1960, when the site was revived to again serve as an annex for Beacon Hill School, consisting entirely of portable buildings. In in 1963 the school became an independent institution, and the following year was named after Captain George Kimball. The Maple School was closed in 1960, and the Liberty Building that housed the Maple Annex was demolished in 1964.[67]

1971 saw five new school buildings opening in Beacon Hill. All five of these were designed as "open plan" schools, based on emerging pedagogical theories of team teaching and the benefits of open space. Fred Bassetti & Co. designed the dedicated building for Wing Luke (3701 S Kenyon Street) and Dearborn Park Elementary (2820 S Orcas Street). The firm of Durham, Anderson & Freed designed three new open plan buildings for existing schools: Beacon Hill (2025 14th Avenue S), Maple (4925 Corson Avenue S), and Kimball (3200 23rd Avenue S). The former Beacon Hill School on 16th Avenue S

[63] Thompson & Marr, "Rainier View."
[64] Thompson & Marr, "Kurose." Today the attendance area of Kurose includes portions of the eastern edge of South Beacon Hill. Seattle Public Schools, "Aki Kurose: Middle School Attendance Area," Map, https://www.seattleschools.org/UserFiles/Servers/Server_543/File/District/Departments/Enrollment%20Planning/Maps/AAMS/AAMS_130.pdf (accessed February 2019).
[65] Ibid.
[66] Thompson & Marr, "Asa Mercer."
[67] Thompson & Marr, *Building for Learning*, passim.

closed in March 1971, and was occupied the following year by Chicano protesters.[68] The Maple School just NE of Cleveland was revived as an alternative school in 1972, then closed and demolished in 1982.

The 1904 Beacon Hill School building was shuttered in 1971, the school having moved to its new building on 14th Avenue S. The following year, Chicano activists occupied the empty school building to protest the elimination of the Adult Education program at South Seattle College. After a three-month occupation, the school district leased the building to the activists. This became El Centro de la Raza, which remains in the 1904 building today.[69]

Integration, Busing & The Seattle Plan

In 1966, civil rights groups—including the NAACP, Congress for Racial Equity (CORE) and the Central Area Civil Rights Committee (CACRE)—led a two-day boycott of Seattle public schools, demanding racial integration. Civil rights groups had been advocating an end to the de facto segregation of the school district since at least the 1950s, and the boycott was a response to the district's lack of progress on the issue.[70] Participation was most dense at Central District schools, although absences were also noted at middle and high schools in Beacon Hill and Mt. Baker schools. Mercer reported a combined 15.75% absence rate for the two days.[71]

In 1970, the school board developed the Middle School Desegregation Plan, involving approximately 2,000 students in four middle schools. Under this plan, students from Maple Elementary (in North Beacon Hill) and Lafayette Elementary (in West Seattle) would attend Mercer for middle school, and then attend West Seattle for high school. Anti-busing lawsuits delayed implementation of this plan for several years.[72]

In 1977, civil rights groups threatened to sue the school district unless it developed a better integration strategy. Wanting to avoid a federal court order, the School Board instituted sweeping desegregation regulations, and in 1977 approved a citywide busing program, known as the "Seattle Plan." Students from neighborhoods north of the Lake Washington Ship Canal and West Seattle were to be bused to the Central District and south end, and vice versa.[73] There was an immediate public outcry over this change. To avoid the mandatory busing program, many families in Seattle's north end moved out of the school district boundary, and many enrolled their children in private schools. As a result, enrollment at many

[68] Thompson & Marr, "Beacon Hill School."
[69] David Wilma, "Chicano activists occupy abandoned school that becomes El Centro de la Raza, on October 11, 1972," HistoryLink.org essay 2588, posted August 2, 2000, http://www.historylink.org/File/2588 (accessed January 2019).
[70] Brooke Clark, "The Seattle School Boycott of 1966," Seattle Civil Rights & Labor History Project, University of Washington, 2005, https://depts.washington.edu/civilr/school_boycott.htm (accessed February 2021).
[71] *Seattle Times*, "Absentee Count Up In Boycott," April 2, 1966, p. 1.
[72] Cassandra Tate, "Busing in Seattle: A Well-Intentioned Failure," HistoryLink.org essay 3939, September 7, 2002, https://www.historylink.org/File/3939 (accessed February 2021).
[73] Schools were paired or tripled up as "Desegregation Partners." The desegregation partners for Beacon Hill elementary schools were as follows: Beacon Hill: Alki, Schmitz Park & Genesee Hill; Dearborn Park: Magnolia; Kimball: Adams; Rainier View: Whittier; Van Asselt: Arbor Heights & Gatewood; Wing Luke: Highland Park. Constantine Angelos, "School-closure proposals mean major changes," *Seattle Times*, October 12, 1980, A18.

south end schools plummeted, as local students were being bused to the north end or to West Seattle, but there was not an equivalent number of students being bused in.[74]

In 1977, Mercer's combined minority enrollment was 79.1%, making it one of eight Seattle schools that exceeded the federal rule of 50% minority enrollment, although not the state standard of 40% of a single minority group.[75] Magnet programs were established at schools throughout the city, in hopes of drawing enough voluntary transfer students to achieve better integration. Mercer was home to "multi-arts" and "science-math-health" magnets.[76] A year and a half later, in November 1978, Mercer was still officially "segregated," with 65.8% minority enrollment.

By the fall of 1981, only one school in the district was still officially racially imbalanced, according to School Board parameters. However, this was due less to successful integration strategies as due to the decrease in enrollment of white students, and an increase in the overall minority student enrollment throughout the district. In 1971, district-wide white enrollment was 61,631. Ten years later that number had plummeted to less than half of the 1971 total. Conversely, between 1977 and 1981, minority student enrollment grew from 35.7% in 1977 to 45.9% in 1981.[77] Asian American students accounted for much of this increase, with the Asian American student population nearly doubling between 1971 and 1981 and accounting for 17.3% of the district enrollment.[78]

In 1984 the school board implemented various "options" programs throughout the district, to make the busing plan more appealing to families and giving students more choice of activities and programs of study. Within Beacon Hill schools, the following specialty programs were established: music (Dearborn Park), science/technology (Beacon Hill and Van Asselt), all-day kindergarten (Rainier View and Maple), world languages (Rainier View and Wing Luke), and a gifted/enrichment program (Dearborn Park).[79]

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."[80] Of the nine "racially imbalanced" schools, nine were located in south end neighborhoods,[81] and five of those in Beacon Hill: Cleveland (72.1% racial minority), Beacon Hill (73.9%), Rainier View (72.5%), Van Asselt (77.3%), and Wing Luke (73.8%).[82] 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.

A 1995 study revealed that standardized test scores of students who were bused were lower across race and class lines. Given that most of the students who were bused were minorities, this disadvantage hit

[74] *Seattle Times*, "Whites Missing the Bus?" December 10, 1978, p. L6.
[75] Angelos, "Seattle minority students shifting southeast," Seattle Times, March 5, 1977.
[76] Mary Elayne Dunphy, "School Board may eliminate lagging magnet programs," Seattle Times, June 14, 1977.
[77] Constantine Angelos, "Schools: Minority students here increase to 45.9 per cent," *Seattle Times*, October 11, 1981, A30.
[78] Ibid.
[79] Constantine Angelos, "School chief urges $2.3 million more in options programs," *Seattle Times*, February 18, 1984, p. A6.
[80] Joe Haberstroh, "New Desegregation Plan Maintains Last Year's Racial Mix, Figures Show," *Seattle Times*, Aug 30, 1989, p. A1.
[81] Ibid.
[82] Ibid.

minority students disproportionately.[83] By many accounts, the entirety of the Seattle Plan was a failure, one that neither properly integrated schools nor improved student achievement. Retired University of Washington geographer Richard L. Morrill referred to the plan as "one of those well-intentioned social experiments that don't work."[84]

Turn of the New Century

After the flurry of five new schools in 1971, school development in Beacon Hill halted for nearly thirty years. Sharples Middle School, which had been closed since 1981 and had housed the Sharples Alternative Secondary School, reopened in September 1999 as Sharples Middle School,[85] and was renamed Aki Kurose later that year.

In 2000 the African American Academy moved into a new building at 8311 Beacon Avenue S. Established in 1991, the African American Academy originally occupied part of the Colman School (James Stephen, City of Seattle Landmark, now the Northwest African American Museum). The school was founded with the help of African American education activists in the belief that Black students would thrive in a school with a faculty and curriculum focused on African American experience and community.[86] After nine years in a several different venues, the school moved into the new building, designed by the firm of Streeter & Associates. The School Board decided to close the school at the end of the 2008-2009 school year. Today this building houses Rising Star at African American Academy, formerly known as Van Asselt at African American Academy.[87]

Currently existing and open schools in Beacon Hill are Cleveland High School, Asa Mercer Middle School, Aki Kurose Middle School, and the following elementary schools: Rainier View, Beacon Hill, Wing Luke (currently housed in the 1950 Van Asselt School building), Maple, Dearborn Park, Kimball, and Rising Star.[88]

As is the case with Beacon Hill as a whole, racial and ethnic diversity in its schools is much greater than elsewhere in Seattle. At Cleveland High School as of October 2017, 50% of students were Asian or Pacific Islander, 25% were African American, 11% Hispanic, 8% white, and 1% Native American. 56% of the students qualified for free or reduced lunch, approximately 50% more than the average district-wide percentage for high schools.[89] At Beacon Hill School in North Beacon Hill, the racial and ethnic breakdown is as follows: 35% Hispanic (approximately triple the district-wide average for elementary schools), 27% Asian or Pacific Islander, 16% White, 14% multiracial or unknown, and 7% African

[83] Dick Lilly, "Minorities hurt most by busing, says Seattle study," *Seattle Times*, November 2, 1995, p. B1.
[84] Cassandra Tate, "Busing in Seattle: A Well-Intentioned Failure," HistoryLink Essay 3939, posted September 2, 2007, http://www.historylink.org/File/3939 (accessed January 2019).
[85] The many alternative programs were moved to South Shore Middle School in September 1999.
[86] Secret Charles-Ford, "African American Academy (1991-2009)," BlackPast.org, https://blackpast.org/aaw/african-american-academy-1991-2009 (accessed January 2019).
[87] Ibid.
[88] Seattle Public Schools, "2018-2019: All District Schools," map, https://www.seattleschools.org/common/pages/UserFile.aspx?fileId=26914835 (accessed January 2019).
[89] Seattle Public Schools, "Cleveland STEM High School, School Report for 2017-2018 School Year," https://www.seattleschools.org/UserFiles/Servers/Server_543/File/District/Departments/REA/school_reports/current/Cleveland.PDF (accessed February 2019).

American, with 53% of the student body qualifying for free or reduced lunch. At Maple Elementary in Mid Beacon Hill, the student body as of October 2017 was 51% Asian or Pacific Islander, 16% Hispanic, 14% white, 7% African American, and nearly 58% qualify for free or reduced lunch, nearly double the districtwide average for elementary schools.[90]

4.3 BUILDING HISTORY: ASA MERCER JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL

In June 1954, the Seattle City Council petitioned the Veterans Administration to return 9.5 of the 44 acres originally donated for the hospital site. According to the *Seattle Times*, "The tract is sought as a site of a proposed junior high school and community center. […] The Seattle School District will finance the development of playfields adjoining the school site."[91] In August of that year, the VA declared the tract "excess," and ownership was transferred back to the city. By 1954, John Maloney had been selected as the architect of the new school, which was originally conceived as a "virtual duplicate" of Catherine Blaine Junior High (1951-1952, J. Lister Holmes & Associates) in Magnolia, which was a combined school and fieldhouse.[92] Several fairways of the Jefferson Park Golf Course were relocated to the eastern side of Beacon Avenue S to make way for the school.[93] ***See figures 103-106.***

Originally developed as Jefferson Park Junior High School, the name was changed to Asa Mercer Junior High by the time the school opened in 1957. Asa Shinn Mercer (1839-1917), younger brother of pioneer Thomas Mercer, was the first instructor at the Territorial University of Washington from 1861 to 1863. Mercer was best known for bringing two groups of young women, in 1864 and 1866, from Massachusetts to Washington Territory, which at the time was predominantly populated with bachelors. The women came to be known as "Mercer Girls" and "Mercer's Belles."[94]

Mercer opened for classes on September 4, 1957, with 1,074 students enrolled in grades seven through nine.[95] The school's first principal was Inez Petersen. Petersen had previously been the principal at Washington Junior High, becoming the first female principal of a secondary school in the district. Petersen was principal at Mercer from 1957 until her retirement in 1966.[96]

An article in the *Seattle Times* described the new school thus:

> The roof of the new Asa Mercer Junior High School presents a gracefully curving line against the sky, The school, to serve the Beacon Hill area, is at 1600 Columbian Way. It contains 18 standard classrooms, five special classrooms, an auditorium, library, lunchroom and gymnasium.

[90] Seattle Public Schools, "Maple Elementary, School Report for 2017-2018 School Year," https://www.seattleschools.org/UserFiles/Servers/Server_543/File/District/Departments/REA/school_reports/current/Maple.PDF (accessed February 2019).
[91] Seattle Times, "Land Petition's O.K. by City Council Urged," June 16, 1954, p. 37.
[92] Seattle Times, "School to Be Built Near Vets Hospital," August 15, 1954. P. 14.
[93] Nile Thompson & Carolyn Marr, "Asa Mercer," Building for Learning: Seattle School Histories.
[94] Peri Muhich, "Mercer Girls," HistoryLink.org essay 1125, May 7, 1999, https://historylink.org/file/1125 (accessed September 2019).
[95] *Seattle Times*, "Public-School Enrollment Up 13,144," September 11, 1957, p. 16.
[96] *Seattle Times*, "Friends to honor Inez Peterson [*sic*]," January 23, 1978, p. 47.

> Officials of the Seattle Public Schools have described it as one of the finest building [*sic*] of its type erected in recent years.[97]

A ceremony to dedicate the new school was held on December 12, 1957.[98] ***See figures 107-112.***

As was often the case with new schools in Seattle, enrollment swiftly exceeded the building's capacity, and portables were added in September 1958. From 1958 to 1962, 250 ninth graders attended classes at Cleveland High, to relieve overcrowding at Mercer. By the 1963-1964 school year, sixteen additional portables were in use at Mercer.[99]

On December 9, 1968, approximately 60 African American students staged a walkout from school and congregated in and around the lunchroom to rally for the formation of a Black Student Union at the school.[100] In 1969 Mercer's student body was 28.7% Asian American, one of eight schools in Seattle with a student body that was more than 20% Asian American.[101]

On February 2, 1969, a fire broke out in the school's auditorium, a probable case of arson. The fire began in the stage area of the auditorium, and destroyed portions of the stage floor, a grand piano, chairs, wiring, stage curtains, and lighting. Initial reports suggested the fire was arson. The fire was contained to the auditorium, although the smoke also damaged classrooms and the gymnasium.[102] Initial reports indicated $45,000 of damages, although within a week the estimate had been revised to $31,000.[103] ***See figure 113.***

On August 21, 1975, another apparent arson fire was set at Mercer, this time to a portable classroom. Damage was estimated at $2,500. ***See figures 114-116.***

In late 1970s Mercer had a well-regarded Chinese Dance Club, which performed traditional Chinese folk dances—the only group of its kind in the city at the time. The group performed at school assemblies, but also at events throughout the city, including at retirement homes, charitable organizations, and other schools.[104]

By 1982, the school was known as Asa Mercer Middle School.

In at least the early 1990s Mercer was one of two locations of the Belief Academy, a special education program.[105]

In 1997 the director of nursing at the neighboring VA hospital established a program called "Partners," initially founded to deter Mercer students from vandalizing cars in the hospital parking lot. The students

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[97] *Seattle Times*, "3,518 Teachers Assigned to Classes in Seattle District; 93,442 Pupils Expected to Enroll," September 1, 1957, p. 12.
[98] *Seattle Times*, "Mercer School Dedication Set Wednesday," November 28, 1957, p. 42.
[99] Thompson & Marr.
[100] *Seattle Times*, "60 Blacks Walk Out Of Junior High," December 9, 1968, p. 37.
[101] The other seven schools with a greater-than-20% enrollment of Asian American students were Beacon Hill (49.7%), Bailey Gatzert (34.7%), Kimball (28.3%), South Van Asselt (25.9%), Van Asselt (21.7%), Cleveland High (21%), and Franklin High (20.6%). Constantine Angelos, "Black Enrollment Here Rises to 11 Pct.," *Seattle Times*, January 23, 1969, p. 32.
[102] Paul Henderson, "Fire Damages Junior High," *Seattle Times*, February 3, 1969, p. 8.
[103] Constantine Angelos, "Citizens Praised for Aid in School Vote," *Seattle Times*, February 13, 1969, p. 21.
[104] Tom Stockley, "Folk Dancing—Chinese Style," *Seattle Times Sunday Pictorial*, October 1, 1978, p. 20.
[105] Thompson & Marr, "Asa Mercer."

took 48 hours' worth of classes in health care skills at the hospital. They also performed paid work assisting veterans after school and during summer months. The first year of the program 22 students participated in the program; within two years there was a waiting list of dozens.[106]

By 2005 Asa Mercer had the reputation of being one of the worst schools in the city. That year, test scores were well below the district average for math and reading; only 13.8% of eighth grade students passed the state science test. The school hired an on-staff literacy coach, rewrote its math curriculum, and instituted more planning within teacher teams. By 2011, Mercer was held up as a model of a "high-poverty high-performance" school, with the school board adopting some of Mercer's strategy for other schools in the district. In 2010, 84.3% of eighth graders passed the state science test, and students showed similar improvement on math and reading tests.[107] Every year between 2008 and 2014, Mercer was named a School of Distinction, a statewide list of schools showing significant improvements in reading and math.

By 2014 the school had been renamed Asa Mercer International Middle School.

In the 2017-2018 school year, Mercer had a total enrollment of 1,134 students. The racial breakdown of the student body is as follows: 40% Asian or Pacific Islander, 20% African American, 19% Hispanic, 13% white, and 8% multiracial or unknown. 59% of the student body were eligible for free or reduced lunch, nearly double the district average. 17% were English language learners, 12% were in special education programs, and 16% were eligible for advanced learning programs.[108] In April 2019, Mercer was honored for having the district's "highest outcomes for African American male students."[109] ***See figures 117-120.***

Notable Alumni of Mercer include:

- Mark Morris, dancer and choreographer[110] (late 1960s)
- Lynda Barry, writer and cartoonist[111] (late 1960s)
- Gregory Lewis, football player for UW and the Denver Broncos[112] (early 1980s)

Notable past teachers and staff of Mercer include:

- Sultan Mohamed, painter and children's book author, teacher[113] (2000s)
- Frank Ahern, basketball coach (1970s)

[106] Jerry Large, "Out of Her Healthy Respect for Kids, a Hospital Program that Guides Them," *Seattle Times*, April 11, 1999, p. L1.
[107] Brian M. Rosenthal, "A struggling school jumps ahead of pack," *Seattle Times*, December 5, 2011, p. A1.
[108] Seattle Public Schools, "Mercer International Middle School, School Report for 2017-18 School Year," https://www.seattleschools.org/UserFiles/Servers/Server_543/File/District/Departments/REA/school_reports/current/Mercer.PDF (accessed September 2019).
[109] Dahlia Bazzaz, "At her first major speech, new Seattle schools chief Juneau restates an age-old priority: racial equity," *Seattle Times*, April 17, 2019.
[110] Joan Acocella, "The Early Years of Mark Morris," *Seattle Times*, November 28, 1993, p. J1.
[111] Acocella.
[112] Hugo Kugiya, "Ex-Newport Star Waits for Chance Behind UW's Lewis," *Seattle Times*, September 20, 1990, p. C3.
[113] Jerry Large, "Children's book is artist's gift to Ethiopia and his adopted home," *Seattle Times*, November 4, 2004, p. C1.

4.4 HISTORIC ARCHITECTURAL CONTEXT

4.4.1 Mid-Century Modern Movement & Schools

The design of Mercer in 1957 reflects a postwar trend of adopting Modernist ideas into the design of American schools. The architectural style, Mid-Century Modern, was America's interpretation of the International Style and Bauhaus movements in Europe. Modernism emerged in the United States in the 1920s and 1930s, but it wasn't until after World War II that American designers widely embraced Modernist design principles. Modernism was brought to America by seminal designers including Walter Gropius, Florence Knoll, Marcel Breuer, and Ludwig Mies van der Rohe. The Mid-Century Modern movement, popular from roughly 1945 to 1969, shaped interior-, product-, and graphic design as well as architecture and urban planning. The underlying belief of Mid-Century Modernism was that advances in science and technology would generate a new form of architecture, free from the pervasive eclecticism of various revival styles popular in the late 19th and early 20th centuries in America.

Primary characteristics of the style include:

- Clean, simple lines with minimal decorative embellishment
- Integration with nature and connectivity to the outdoors
- Ample windows and generous natural light
- Honest use of materials and visual expression of structure
- Open floor plans
- "Form follows function," regularly resulting in asymmetrical massing and elevations

Additional European influences that helped shape Mid-Century Modernism in the Pacific Northwest include Scandinavian values for using simple, democratic designs exploring natural shapes and free-flowing contours. Projects by Eliel Saarinen and Alvar Aalto were deeply influential. In the 1930s, Seattle architect Paul Thiry was an influential early adapter of Modernism in the Pacific Northwest. Major influences on Thiry's designs included the work of Le Corbusier, Saarinen, Frank Lloyd Wright, and Antonin Raymond who, in particular, brought an awareness of traditional post-and-beam Japanese architecture to enrich the modern Northwest design palette. ***See figures 121-127.***

After World War II, a new generation of architects in the Pacific Northwest began adopting the tenets of Modernism, thus reshaping the design direction of the region. This influential group included Paul Hayden Kirk, Wendell Lovett, Victor Steinbrueck, Roland Terry, Fred Bassetti, Omer Mithun, Pietro Belluschi, John Yeon, and Gene Zema. This group of early proponents created an economical, open, light-filled architecture deeply shaped by and embedded in the regional landscape. Together, they developed a variation of European Modernism specific to the Pacific Northwest, ultimately recognized as the Northwest Regional Style. ***See figures 128-132.***

Characteristics of the Northwest Regional Style include:

- Asymmetrical floor plans
- Wood-frame construction utilizing native species
- Non-academic (neo-Classical) forms and details
- Broad overhanging roofs: gables, hips, and broken asymmetrical slopes

- Large glass windows
- Integration with the environment

School design in America followed the broader national design trends slowly adopting Modernism. While few schools were built during the Depression, several highly influential projects designed in the 1930's augured future educational design. Richard Neutra's Corona Avenue School (1935) in Los Angeles, William Lescaze's Ansonia High School (1937) in Ansonia, CT, Eliel Saarinen's Crow Island School (1940) in Winnetka, IL, and Franklin & Kump's Acalanes High School (1940) in Lafayette, CA were all designed in the Modernist style and explored new ideas in shaping space to educate children. Lightweight building technologies, metal frame windows, and exterior circulation, combined with classrooms that opened directly to the exterior created less expensive schools with a focus on daylighting, acoustics, and expandability. An influential outgrowth of this early planning was the California School Plan (also known as the Campus Plan or Finger Plan) which is characterized by one-story, residentially-scaled classroom buildings organized in parallel rows or wings, separated by open courts and circulation zones. Classroom access was often through covered breezeways. ***See figures 133-137.***

Educational design in the Northwest followed the lead of the national design trends. Washington schools built during the Great Depression were largely funded by the Works Progress Administration (WPA) and designed in the Art Moderne style. Following World War II, a fuller embrace of Modernism occurred, and schools built to accommodate the burgeoning Baby Boom were designed in the Mid-Century Modern style. ***See Appendix 4 to this report.***

From its founding, the Seattle school district took a centralized approach to school design, in which a district architect oversaw design and construction. Towards the end of World War II, however, the district adopted the practice of hiring private architectural firms to design specific schools. The private firms of the mid-century were led by a new generation of architects who fully embraced Modernism. New school designs followed suit.

In an article for the journal *Washington Education*, architect John Morse (of Bassetti & Morse) discussed postwar attitudes toward school design. The new designs favored one-story plans with classroom wings, landscaped courts, and specialized facilities for athletics. Many of the schools embraced the California School Plan with classrooms accessed by exterior covered walkways. New developments in lighting and heating controls shaped interior design, and innovations in concrete construction contributed to new structural designs. Morse outlines additional changes in classroom design, including more floor area per student (minimum 30 SF), square rooms, sinks in all primary classrooms, daylighting from above or from two sides, lower ceilings (from 12' to 8' or 9'), mechanical ventilation, more tackboard (less chalkboard), more positive colors on walls and floors, higher illumination (40-foot candles minimum), sun control outside the windows, and movable furniture throughout.

Jeffrey Ochsner, architectural historian at the University of Washington, has cited Seattle's postwar schools as derived from Bauhaus and International Style precedents, with some exemplifying a distinct regional style:

> Most of [Seattle's] elementary schools […] were rectilinear designs with flat roofs, often with individual functional components expressed as distinct boxy volumes. […] This design approach juxtaposing individual rectilinear volumes serving different functions was used for many Seattle institutional buildings of this era. […] In contrast to the International Style, many Seattle architects in the years after 1945 explored the approach now recognized as Northwest Regional Modernism.[114]

A combination of growing awareness of the needs of teenagers, advocacy for more specialized learning spaces, and interscholastic sports programs began to shape junior and senior high school building and site designs in post-war America. Career and technical education spaces, enlarged physical education facilities, athletic fields, and paved recreational areas added both size and complexity to secondary school designs. Additionally, the expanding car culture of the mid-century demanded more parking, drop-off zones, and on-site vehicular circulation. Formal landscaping was relegated to primary façades, entries, and courtyards while native landscapes were reduced to property edges and unbuildable ravines and hillsides.

Additional characteristics of Mid-Century Modern schools include:

- One-story, residentially scaled (to fit into single-family neighborhoods)
- Rectilinear site planning (in keeping with variations on the California School Plan) with rows of classrooms, courtyards, and exterior or interior circulation
- Asymmetrical grouping of volumes with flat or low-slope roofs expressing differentiated functions of the school (entry porch, classrooms, gym, library, auditorium, shops, etc.)
- Ribbon windows and curtain walls

4.4.2: Historic Architectural Context: Development of Thin-Shell Concrete Technologies

Mercer is an example of a modern design approach utilizing reinforced concrete construction with a thin-shell concrete roof.

Concrete is a composite material composed of fine and coarse aggregate bonded together with a fluid cement paste that hardens, or cures, over time. Concrete has been in use as a construction material since ancient times. Archeologists discovered its use in the Middle East dating from the 4th century BC. Mayan concrete has been discovered in the Yucatan. Concrete was used in the construction of many ancient structures from Egypt, Assyria, Greece, Crete, and Cyprus. The Romans used concrete extensively. Early concrete utilized 'natural cements' that combined select crushed and processed rocks with lime to develop a low-strength binding material when combined with aggregate. The Romans developed a more lasting concrete using lime and volcanic ash in their cement mixture. Modern concrete utilizes "Portland cement," a patented hydraulic cement mixture developed in England in 1824 that provides superior strength and quality control. Today's concrete is a complex mix design composed of detailed specifications for aggregate (types and sizes), cement mixture, water, ratio of liquid to solid, and often admixtures that modify the properties of the wet mix or the finished material.

Concrete is inherently strong in resisting compressive loads and weak in dealing with tensile forces. Reinforced concrete adds iron, steel, or fibers (carbon, glass, aramid, plastic) to carry tensile loads. Early

[114] Jeffrey Ochsner, "The Unknown Paul Thiry," *Arcade*, 31.1, Winter 2012, p. XX.

experimentation with iron reinforcement began in the mid-nineteenth century by Frenchman Joseph-Louis Lambot. His invention of ferro-cement led to the development of reinforced concrete used for water tanks (1841) and a concrete boat (1848). Joseph Monier, a French gardener, further developed reinforced concrete for pots and troughs for horticulture (1867). His experimentation eventually led to the development of iron-reinforced pipes, basins, panels, and beams. In 1875 Monier designed an iron-reinforced bridge. Francois Hennebique, a French engineer and builder, advanced Monier's ideas into an entire reinforced concrete construction system. American Thaddeus Hyatt, an abolitionist and inventor with several patents for reinforced concrete floors (1878), developed early scientific studies of the new technology in the United States. William Ward is credited with one of the first concrete buildings in the United States, a fireproof home for his wife (1871). English-born engineer, architect, and innovator Earnest L. Ransome further developed reinforced concrete in America. His invention of twisted reinforcing iron, improving bond strength, allowed his development of an entire system for reinforced concrete construction that was used for bridges and buildings from the mid-1880s into the new century. Ransome's system led to the world's first reinforced concrete skyscraper, the 16-story Ingalls Building in Cincinnati, Ohio, designed by Elzner & Anderson Architects in 1903.

Another key innovator in the development of reinforced concrete was French engineer Eugene Freyssinet. His pioneering work in pre-stressed concrete allowed improved performance in long spans, reduced structural thickness, and material savings. In addition to his early long-span bridges, Freyssinet's significant breakthrough was his design of thin-shell concrete structures for two huge airship hangars at Villeneuve-Orly (1916-23). ***See figure 138.***

Designs employing thin-shell concrete technology began appearing in Europe at the beginning of the 20th Century. Thin-shell concrete later became a significant construction type in the Mid-Century Modern movement in the United States. Tyler Sprague, Assistant Professor at the University of Washington and author of a monograph on Christiansen, *Sculpture on a Grand Scale*, writes:

> Thin-shell concrete involves both a distinct structural form (thin-shell) and a structural material (concrete) brought to their limits. […] With such thinness, shell structures gain strength from their overall geometrical forms. Shell structures require curvature in one or more directions to remain stable. When shaped properly, forces move within the shell as almost pure tension or compression, in a structural action referred to as a shell, or membrane, behavior. Shells must also carry these forces without inducing bending or buckling of the shell surface. Such clarity in their structural behavior enables shell structures to enclose extremely large volumes of space with only a minimal amount of material.[115]

Post-World War I Europe saw thin-shell concrete construction become popular due to material scarcity. Paralleling Freyssinet's paraboloid arches at the airship hangars in France, Walter Bauersfeld, working with the building company Dyckerhoff & Widmann (Dywidag), developed a thin-shell planetarium dome constructed on the roof of a factory in Jena, Germany in 1922-23. Other early thin-shell projects include

[115] Tyler Sprague, *Sculpture on a Grand Scale: Jack Christiansen's Thin Shell Modernism* (Seattle, WA: University of Washington Press, 2019), p. 7.

Spanish engineer Eduardo Torroja's Zarzuela Racetrack grandstand in Madrid (1935) and Italian engineer/architect Pier Luigi Nervi's aircraft hangars at Orvieto (1935), Orbetello (1939), and Torre del Lago (1939). Growing out of these early innovative thin-shell projects, the Zeiss-Dywidag patented system was exported to North America in the 1920s and 30s.

Anton Tedesko, a German engineer who had worked with the Zeiss-Dwyidag system in Europe, is credited with introducing thin-shell structures in the United States through three seminal projects: a set of long barrel vaults for the Brook Hill Farm Dairy Exhibit at the "Century of Progress" World's Fair in Chicago, IL (1933); a hemispherical dome for the Hayden Planetarium in New York, NY (1935); and a large barrel vault spanning the roof of a sports arena in Hershey, PA (1936). ***See figures 139-143.***

By the mid-20th Century, thin-shell concrete was playing a vital role in modern architectural design. The opportunities for expressive structural forms, honesty of materials, and open floor plans with ample daylighting fully embraced the goals of Mid-Century Modernism. Eero Saarinen's Kresge Auditorium at MIT (1953-55), Oscar Niemeyer's National Congress in Brasilia (1960), Louis Kahn's Kimbell Art Museum (1968), and Jorn Utzon's Sydney Opera House (1959-73) are a few examples of the exceptional work developed during this time. ***See figures 144-147.***

Felix Candela's work out of Mexico also revealed an artistry with thin-shell design. His work with hyperbolic paraboloid design inspired projects throughout the world. The use of the hyperbolic paraboloid allowed for a wide variety of forms—from straight lines to saddle shapes to umbrella-like surfaces—allowing architects and engineers to embrace the inherent expressive qualities of the structural system. Readily available formwork including wood boards, plywood, and surplus aluminum further supported the formal exploration. Among a wide variety of projects ranging from factories to market halls to churches, three exemplary projects by Candela include the Cosmic Ray Laboratory in Mexico City (1951), Los Manantiales Restaurant in Mexico City (1958), and Chapel Lomas de Cuernavaca (1959). ***See figures 148-150.***

Thin-shell concrete design and construction in the Northwest was used for all kinds of building types from the 1950s to the early 2000s including civic, commercial, religious, recreational, and educational structures. The Seattle School District built five new thin-shell structures between 1956 and 1963:

1. **Seattle School District Warehouse (1956)**
   The first thin-shell structure was a Seattle School District warehouse by architect John Maloney and engineer Jack Christiansen. It utilized repetitive long cylindrical vaults with ribbon windows, similar to Mercer, designed a year later. The utilitarian warehouse was one of Christiansen's earliest explorations of multiple barrel vaults and Maloney's initial foray into thin-shell construction. ***See figure 151.***

2. **Asa Mercer Middle School (1957)**
   Following the completion of the district warehouse, Maloney, in concert with engineer Jack Christiansen, utilized the economical thin-shell system for six schools across the state of Washington over the next year. Maloney's design for Mercer incorporated two sizes of long

cylindrical vaults rotated 90 degrees to give variety and signify importance of the more public areas of the program.

3. **Chief Sealth High School (1958)**
   Chief Sealth High School, by NBBJ Architects and engineer Christiansen, was constructed a year after Mercer and explored short, intermediate, and long multiple barrel vault systems. The project also used an innovative tilted barrel vault over the character-defining auditorium at the front of the school. ***See figure 152.***

4. **Ingraham High School (1959)**
   Ingraham High School, also by NBBJ and Christiansen, pushed the innovative thin-shell design even further. Ingraham's design utilized long cylindrical vaults with pre-stressed shells, edge beams, and tied stiffeners (first known use in the United States) over the gymnasium. An auditorium, shaped with hyperbolic paraboloid formwork, served as a dynamic juxtaposed form within the larger campus design. Portions of Ingraham High School were designated a City of Seattle landmark. ***See figures 153 and 158.***

5. **Nathan Hale High School (1963)**
   Nathan Hale High School employed discrete zones of thin-shell folded plate roof to juxtapose flat roof masses. Mallis & DeHart Architects, in collaboration with structural engineer John H. Stevenson, utilized both precast pre-stressed tee sections for floor and roof designs along with the thin-shell inclined beams (folded plates) at the roof. Cost-effective precast concrete elements gained popularity during the 1950s and 1960s and had an impact on the short life of thin-shell design in schools. ***See figures 154 and 159.***

Thin-shell concrete construction was featured widely at the 1963 World's Fair in Seattle, bringing great examples of the construction type to the city, including the Century 21 Entry Gates, the Fine Arts Pavilion, the US Science Pavilion, and the International Pavilion. Each of these projects, designed by Christiansen in collaboration with leading Modernists (Bassetti & Morse; Kirk, Wallace, McKinley & Associates; Yamasaki & Associates; Walker & McGough) featured expressive, efficient designs with high quality finishes acknowledging thin-shell concrete's central role as a key design element of the Modernist era.

The fair was a catalyst for the use of thin-shell concrete in the state of Washington, which led to all kinds of projects. Various school districts embraced the technology and used it for the growing demand for school buildings. The long-span capability of thin-shell was used for airport terminals, airplane hangars, gymnasiums, auditoriums, factories, and stadiums, including the King County Stadium (1976) which at the time was the biggest concrete dome structure in the world.

By the end of the century, as specialized labor prices outgrew material costs, thin-shell concrete construction became less of a financial advantage and less popular. Water infiltration and maintenance issues also contributed to the decline of thin-shell structures, making way for newer technologies such as precast concrete.

4.5 BUILDING OWNER: SEATTLE PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT [116]

For the complete context of the Seattle School District No. 1, please see Appendix 3 to this report. For a complete overview of all mid-century schools built in Seattle by the Seattle Public School District, see Appendix 4 to this report.

Post-World War II Seattle Schools, 1946 to 1965

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. At 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.[117]

In 1949, a 6.8 Richter-scale earthquake damaged several elementary schools, resulting in their subsequent replacement by temporary portables. As post-war enrollment continued to grow throughout the 1950s, these temporary structures served as a quick, flexible response to overcrowding. In 1958 an estimated twenty 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.[118]

Enrollment in Seattle schools continued to swell, reaching a peak of approximately 100,000 students in the 1960s. Between 1946 and 1958, six separate bond issues were approved for new school construction.[119]

The district completed a large stadium with reinforced concrete stands (1947, George W. Stoddard) in 1947, adjacent to the National Guard Armory in Seattle Center, at the former Civic Field. Named Memorial Stadium, the site includes a war memorial shrine bearing the names of 762 Seattle schools graduates killed in World War II.

In the mid-century, elementary schools were built with 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 enrollment.[120]

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[116] 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.
[117] Robinson, p. 192-193. Aaron Purcell, School enrollment figures from Seattle Public Schools archives.
[118] Hoerlein, p. xiii.
[119] Paul Hoerlein, "Introduction," *Building for Learning: Seattle Public School Histories, 1862- 2000*, Nile Thompson and Carolyn J. Marr (Seattle, WA: Seattle Public Schools, 2002), p. xii.
[120] Ibid., pp. xii-xiii.

Construction following the end of the war tended to be rushed and budget-conscious, but as the mid-century progressed, the quality of construction gradually improved. The earliest postwar school buildings, put up as rapidly as possible, included the three schools constructed in 1949. Designs for what was called the "Transportable School," prepared by George W. Stoddard, were essentially linked portables with a fixed administrative wing. Each of the district's 35 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.

Twenty-two new elementary schools were built by the district between 1948 and 1965. Of these, some significant architectural themes included the use of premanufactured building elements on a smaller scale than Stoddard's Transportable School concept. You can see this in the pre-cast structural elements at the landmarked Cedar Park Elementary, designed by Paul Thiry. Another, less explored, theme was the use of roof monitors for natural light at Olympic Hills Elementary and Lafayette Elementary. ***See figure 155.***

One of the district's top priorities in the mid-century was building new junior high schools. Between 1950 and 1959, ten new junior high schools were completed. Of these, those that stand out are two designed by Williams Mallis' firm: the landmarked Eckstein Middle School (1950) and the former Sharples Junior High, now Aki Kurose Middle School (1952). Both Eckstein and Kurose feature large window walls at the entries and circulation spaces, and classic ribbon windows at the classrooms. ***See figures 156-157.***

The district also constructed three new high schools, including two stand-out Mid-Century Modern designs at Ingraham (1959) and Nathan Hale (1963). At Ingraham High, the NBBJ and Jack Christiansen design illustrates cutting-edge thin-shell concrete technology in a hyperbolic paraboloid. The Mallis & DeHart design for Nathan Hale also used thin-shell concrete, but in a folded plate form. ***See figures 158-159.***

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's 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 85th street, to a uniform northern border at N 145th Street. These annexations brought an additional ten schools into the district from the struggling Shoreline School District.[121]

[121] Hawkins, p. 26.

4.6 ORIGINAL BUILDING ARCHITECT: JOHN W. MALONEY

The Seattle architectural firm John W. Maloney Associates designed Mercer Junior High School. ***See figure 160.***

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 University of Washington and Stanford University. He served in the military during World War I.[122]

Around 1922, Maloney established an architectural practice in Yakima, where he remained until 1943, when he relocated to Seattle. His best-known project in Yakima is the 11-story A. E. Larson Building (National Historic Register), an elaborate Art Deco skyscraper. He also designed the McConnell Auditorium (1934-1935) on the Central Washington College of Education (now Central Washington 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.[123] ***See figures 161-164.***

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.[124]

During this period Maloney designed the Holland Library (1950) and the Compton Union Building (1951), both at Washington State University in Pullman; two dormitories 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 figure 165.***

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 and Blanchet High School. 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.[125]

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. Edward Church (1953) in Columbia City, and St. Anne's Church and rectory (1960) in Lower Queen Anne. He also designed St.

[122] 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).
[123] Ibid.
[124] Houser, "Edward K. Mahlum," architect biographies, Washington State Department of Archaeology & Historic Preservation.
[125] David Peterson, "Seattle Public Schools District Warehouse," Nicholson Kovalchick Architects, November 8, 2013.

John's Hospital (1952) in Santa Monica, CA, as well as the Science Building (1960, 11th Avenue E & E Marion Street) on the Seattle University campus.[126] ***See figures 167-168.***

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-shell curved roofs), the Kittitas County Courthouse (1955, w/ 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.[127] ***See figures 166 and 169-170.***

Maloney's office also designed many area schools in addition to Mercer (1957), including an addition to the 20th Avenue School (1955, now Meany Middle School), 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.[128]

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.[129] ***See figure 171.***

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.[130]

[126] Houser, "Maloney."
[127] Ibid.
[128] Ibid.
[129] Ibid. Peterson.
[130] Houser, "Maloney."

4.7 BUILDING ENGINEER: JOHN B. SKILLING & JACK CHRISTIANSEN OF WORTHINGTON & SKILLING STRUCTURAL ENGINEERS

The Seattle based firm of Worthington & Skilling (now Magnusson Klemencic Associates) was the structural and civil engineer responsible for Mercer. The firm started as the W. H. Witt Company and has changed names several times throughout the years:

- 1923-1955: W. H. Witt Company
- 1955-1960: Worthington & Skilling
- 1960-1967: Worthington, Skilling, Helle & Jackson
- 1967-1983: Skilling, Helle, Christiansen, Robertson
- 1983-1987: Skilling Ward Rogers Barkshire
- 1987-2003: Skilling Ward Magnusson Barkshire
- 2003–present: Magnusson Klemencic Associates

The engineering firm has many outstanding projects in its portfolio, including the World Trade Center in New York, the Seattle Central Library, the IBM Building, Rainier Bank Tower, Sea-First Bank Tower, and Safeco Field in Seattle along with numerous other major projects across the globe. Mercer was a small project within the internationally acclaimed structural engineering office. It is not mentioned on the firm's website.

Although the Mercer drawings were signed and stamped by John B. Skilling, the project was engineered and overseen by John (Jack) V. Christiansen who, at the time, was quickly expanding his knowledge and experience with thin-shell concrete construction. He eventually became one of the most recognized thin-shell structural engineering experts in the nation, building more than 70 thin-shell concrete structures throughout his career, most of them located in Seattle and Washington state.

Christiansen's understanding of the potential of thin-shell design emerged from his architectural and engineering studies, trips to Europe, engineering journals, and his early professional experience. Inspired by the work of Tedesko and Candela, along with the publication of professional manuals addressing concrete shell design, Christiansen designed his first thin-shell structure—the simple barrel-vaulted Green Lake Pool in Seattle (1954)—while working for the W. H. Witt Company and Lamont & Fey Architects.

Following the success of the Green Lake Pool design, Christiansen continued his use of thin-shell design utilizing cylindrical (barrel) vault forms for warehouses, hangars, gymnasiums, and schools from 1954 to 1957. Christiansen's exploration included numerous structures with multiple vaults, taking advantage of the economy of repetition. Innovations in this period included designs for post-tensioned edge beams to improve economy (Wilson Junior High School, Yakima, 1956) and large column-free volumes with pre-stressed girders (Boeing Flight Test Hangar, 1956). During this period, he worked closely with John Maloney, the architect for the subject building. Mercer was one of seven school projects across the state designed by Maloney that utilized multiple cylindrical vaults.

In 1957, collaborating with NBBJ Architects, Christiansen designed his first hyperbolic paraboloid roof for Wenatchee Junior High School, now Pioneer Middle School. His exploration with hyperbolic

paraboloids did not go unnoticed and shortly after the completion of the Wenatchee project he was approached by Bassetti & Morse Architects to engineer the Mercer Island High School Multipurpose Room. The collaboration led to the first of Christiansen's hyperbolic paraboloid roof projects that showed true geometric complexity and purity. He took a similar approach for the design of Ingraham High School's auditorium, which led to equal success. The adoption of this innovative form largely shaped the remainder of Christiansen's career and led him to international recognition.

From 1957 until 2003, the expressive economy of the hyperbolic paraboloid form shaped some 47 structures locally, nationally, and internationally under Christiansen's collaborative design approach. Other notable structural innovations that complimented his use of hyperbolic paraboloids include the following:

1. **Post-tensioned folded plates: Fine Arts Pavilion, World's Fair, Seattle, WA (1961)**
   One of the structures that Christiansen designed during the World's Fair was the Fine Arts Pavilion, part of a complex of buildings. This was the first project where Christiansen used post-tensioned folded plates as a thin-shell concrete technique that covered long spans without the usually required curvature. The folded plates provided structural depth without increasing thickness. The roof structure consisted of eleven 20' x 140' folded plates, each only 4.5" thick. The design provided an elegant roof profile that allowed the building to effortlessly fit within the complex. ***See figure 172.***

2. **Fan vaulted roofs: North Shore Congregation Israel, Glencoe, IL (1963)**
   After their joint success at the World's Fair with the U.S. Science Pavilion, architect Minoru Yamasaki and Christiansen collaborated to build the North Shore Congregation Israel. The structure consisted of eight pairs of cast-in-place concrete fan vaulted shells used to filter natural light into the 50' high space. The shells were cast in pairs standing opposite of each other, allowing them to self-support during the construction process. ***See figure 173.***

3. **Groined vaulted roofs: Carleton College Gym & Pool, Northfield, MN (1965)**
   In 1965, Yamasaki and Christiansen collaborated once again in the design of Carleton College Gymnasium and Swimming Pool building that featured three parabolic groined vaults, each spanning a 60' x 120' space. The vaults were identical in shape and size, which allowed for reuse of formwork, one of Christiansen's usual cost-saving strategies. Christiansen elegantly tapered the ribs supporting the roof to address Yamasaki's desire for a 'slender effect' in order to unify the architectural and structural expression. ***See figure 174.***

4. **Cable net structures: U.S. Pavilion, Expo '74, Spokane, WA (1974)**
   The 1974 Exposition had an environmental focus that required designers to leave only a landscaped area without structures after the end of the fair. This idea steered Christiansen and NBBJ away from concrete construction toward a demountable stressed-cable structure with a 150'-tall central mast. One of the key structural innovations of the project was Christiansen's application of the double curvature principals he had learned with thin-shell construction in a stressed-cable network. ***See figure 175.***

5. **Long-span segmental domes: King County Stadium, Seattle, WA (1976)**
   The King County Stadium, better known as the Kingdome, was Christiansen's crown jewel. It was not his first or last long-span segmental dome project, but it was his largest. At the time of its completion, it was the largest concrete dome in the world, spanning more than 600 feet. The project was driven by politics and cost, and the design was highly focused on function and financial feasibility. Both the circular shape of the stadium and the segmental roof structure, which allowed for reuse of framework, were cost-saving design strategies introduced by Christiansen. The elegant design required only four sets of forms to build all 40 dome segments. ***See figures 176-177.***

   The final result was a grand monument of engineering innovation, described by Princeton professor David Billington as "one of the most successful thin-shell concrete structures in the United States, if not the world." Sprague, in *Sculpture on a Grand Scale*, noted the following statement by Christiansen:

   > The Kingdome was my symphony… the chance to highlight the virtues of concrete in all its uses – the way that concrete should be used. It used a combination of cast-in-place and precast concrete, thin-shell concrete, and conventionally reinforced and prestressed concrete all in different ways appropriate to their nature.[131]

   A combination of water infiltration issues, a growing dislike for the building's lack of aesthetic components, maintenance budget limitations, and operational limitations eventually led to the demolition of the Kingdome, less than 25 years after construction completion. In the year 2000, the structure was imploded.

6. **Post-tensioned truncated pyramids: Baltimore Convention Center, Baltimore, MD (1979)**
   Christiansen collaborated with NBBJ on the construction of the Baltimore Convention Center after leaving the Skilling firm in 1983. He used post-tensioned concrete to shape truncated pyramids as a defining design element of the overall building.

The following is a chronology of some of Jack Christiansen's most innovative and relevant projects throughout his career (compiled from Sprague, *Sculpture on a Grand Scale*):

No.	NAME	LOCATION	YEAR	STRUCTURAL INNOVATION	LANDMARK STATUS	EXISTING/ DEMOLISHED
01	Green Lake Pool	Seattle	1954	Christiansen's first cylindrical shell	No	Existing
02	Seattle School District Warehouse	Seattle	1956	Multiple barrels	No	Demolished
03	Wilson Junior High School	Yakima, WA	1956	First pre-stressed edge beams in USA	No	Demolished
04	Wenatchee Junior High School (now	Wenatchee, WA	1957	Christiansen's first hyperbolic paraboloid shell	No	Existing

[131] Sprague, p. 188.

	Pioneer Middle School)					
05	Mercer Island High School Multipurpose Room	Mercer Island, WA	1958	Hyperbolic paraboloid shell dome	No	Demolished
06	University of Washington Pedestrian Bridges	Seattle	1958	Hyperbolic paraboloid, minimalistic aesthetic	No	Existing
07	Chief Sealth High School	Seattle	1958	Multiple cylindrical shell barrel vaults	No	Existing
08	Ingraham High School	Seattle	1959	Hyperbolic paraboloid shell dome, multiple cylindrical shells	Yes (partial)	Existing
09	King County International Airport Hangar	Seattle	1962	Hyperbolic paraboloid shell	No	Demolished
10	Church of the Good Shepherd (now private residence)	Bellevue, WA	1962	Diamond-shaped concrete shell floor and wood roof shell	No	Existing
11	US Science Pavilion	Seattle	1962	Precast concrete panels	Yes	Existing
12	International Pavilion	Seattle	1962	Hexagonal hyperbolic paraboloids	No	Demolished
13	North Shore Congregation Israel	Glencoe, IL	1963	Fan-vaulted roof	No	Existing
14	Carleton College Gymnasium	Northfield, MN	1965	Groined vaulted roof	No	Existing
15	Mercer Island Beach Club	Mercer Island, WA	1966	Hyperbolic paraboloid roof and floors	No	Existing
16	US Pavilion, Expo '74	Spokane, WA	1974	Cable net and fabric	No	Existing
17	King County Stadium (Kingdome)	Seattle	1976	Long span segmental dome. Largest concrete dome in the world.	No	Demolished
18	Baltimore Convention Center	Baltimore, MD	1979	Post-tensioned truncated pyramids	No	Existing (Altered)
19	SunDome Arena	Yakima, WA	1989	Segmental dome	No	Existing

20	Bainbridge Island High School Grandstand	Bainbridge Island, WA	1991	Hyperbolic paraboloid	No	Existing

4.8 BUILDING CONTRACTOR: HENRIK VALLE CONSTRUCTION COMPANY [132]

The building contractor for Mercer was the Henrik Valle Construction Company.

The Henrik Valle Construction Co. grew out of the firm of Peder P. Gjarde.[133]

Gjarde was born in 1874 in Egvedt, Norway, and immigrated to the United States in 1893.[134] By 1900 he resided in Seattle and was working as a carpenter.[135] Gjarde owned his own general contracting business by 1920,[136] and had offices in the Lyon Building.[137] He is known to have been responsible for the construction of the following buildings:

- Van Asselt School (1909, architect Edgar Blair, City of Seattle Landmark)[138]
- YWCA building (1914, E. F. Champney, City of Seattle Landmark)[139]
- John Hay School Building (1921, architect Floyd Naramore)[140]
- De Honey Dancing Academy (1923)[141]
- A now-demolished mill construction building at the corner of Third Avenue and Lenora Street, designed by Henry Bittman (1926)[142]
- Building for the Crescent Manufacturing Company at the corner of S Maynard Street and Dearborn Avenue S, designed by Stuart & Wheatley (1926, now known as the RDA Building)[143]
- The original Seattle Art Museum by Bebb & Gould (1933, now the Seattle Asian Art Museum, City of Seattle Landmark)[144]
- Wilson Modern Business College (1927, Frank Fowler, now the Griffin Building, City of Seattle Landmark)

[132] This text is adapted from the Landmark Nomination Report for the Former John Hay Elementary School/Queen Anne Elementary School, the Johnson Partnership, 2015.
[133] United States Census Bureau, "1920 United States Federal Census," Ancestry.com online database.
[134] U.S. Census Bureau, United States Census 1900, Seattle Ward 5, King County, WA, Roll 1745, page 11A, enumeration district 0103, FHL microfilm 1241745, Ancestry.com.
[135] United States City Directories, 1822-1995, Ancestry.com online database.
[136] United States Census Bureau, "*1920 United States Federal Census*," Ancestry.com online database.
[137] *Seattle Times*, advertisement, June 28, 1933, p. 8.
[138] *Seattle Times*, "Defective Fittings in High School," October 8, 1909, p. 20.
[139] Svein Gilje, staff reporter "Immigrant built a success story," *Seattle Times* January 17, 1980 p A9. (The article spell his name "Peder P. Gjerde")
[140] *Seattle Times*, "Contract Let For John Hay School Building," October 22, 1921, p. 9.
[141] *Seattle Times*, "Damage Suit is Heard," December 9, 1923, p. 12.
[142] *Seattle Times*, "Contract is Let for Third Avenue Building," September 5, 1926, p. 10.
[143] *Seattle Times*, "$175,000 Building To Be Started This Week," August 19, 1926, p. 9.
[144] *Seattle Times*, "Art Museum Construction Due To Begin," June 12, 1932, p. 9.

Longtime employee Henrik Valle became a partner in the firm and assumed full ownership of the firm in 1936, changing the name to the Henrik Valle Construction Company.[145] Gjarde died in 1938.[146]

The Henrik Valle Construction Company was responsible for the construction of the following buildings:

- Suzzallo Library addition, University of Washington[147]
- Student Union Building, University of Washington (1948)[148]
- Johnson Hall, University of Washington[149]
- Physics Hall, University of Washington[150]
- Emerson Street viaduct to Salmon Bay terminal (1949)[151]
- Twin bridges on the Seattle-Tacoma Highway at Saltwater State Park near Zenith (1950)[152]
- Frederick & Nelson, Seattle (1952, City of Seattle Landmark)[153]
- Pacific Telephone & Telegraph Building, Third Avenue and Seneca Street (1955)[154]
- Business building in Bellevue Square (1956, John Graham & Co.)[155]
- Northern Pacific Produce Terminal, Occidental Avenue S (1959, Decker & Christiansen)[156]
- Parking Garage for the Spring Apartment Hotel, now the Hotel Vintage (1959, Naramore, Bain, Brady & Johanson)[157]
- Veterans Memorial Building (for the American Legion, 1949, demolished for freeway construction)[158]

Valle served on the appeals board in the Building Department for the City of Seattle from 1949 until 1952.[159] Valle retired in 1964 and closed the doors to the construction company.[160]

[145] Svein Gilje, "Immigrant Built a Success Story," *Seattle Times*, January 17, 1980, p. A9. (This article spells his name "Peder P. Gjerde")
[146] Washington State, "*Deaths, 1883-1960*," Ancestry.com online database, Provo, UT: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 2008.
[147] Ibid.
[148] *Seattle Times*, "Contracts Let for U. Building," April 23, 1948, p. 22.
[149] Gilje.
[150] Ibid.
[151] *Seattle Times*, "Port of Seattle Lets Contract for Viaduct," June 9, 1949, p. 7.
[152] *Seattle Times*, "County Accepts Road, Bridge Bids," July 19, 1950, p. 27.
[153] *Seattle Times*, "Business-Industrial Digest: Management," September 11, 1956, p. 16.
[154] *Seattle Times*, "Contract Let for P.T. & T. Building," July 19, 1955, p. 39.
[155] *Seattle Times*, "Business Building in Bellevue About Ready for Tenants," May 6, 1956, p. 84.
[156] *Seattle Times*, "Line to Construct New Produce Terminal Here," May 31, 1959, p. 29.
[157] *Seattle Times*, "261,000 Parking garage Completed," January 25, 1959, p. 33.
[158] *Seattle Times*, "Legion to Complete Vet Memorial," January 22, 1949, p. 2.
[159] *Seattle Times*, "2 Reappointed to City Boards," April 11, 1949, p. 3.
[160] Gilje.

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6. FIGURES

The Johnson Partnership

Seattle City Clerk

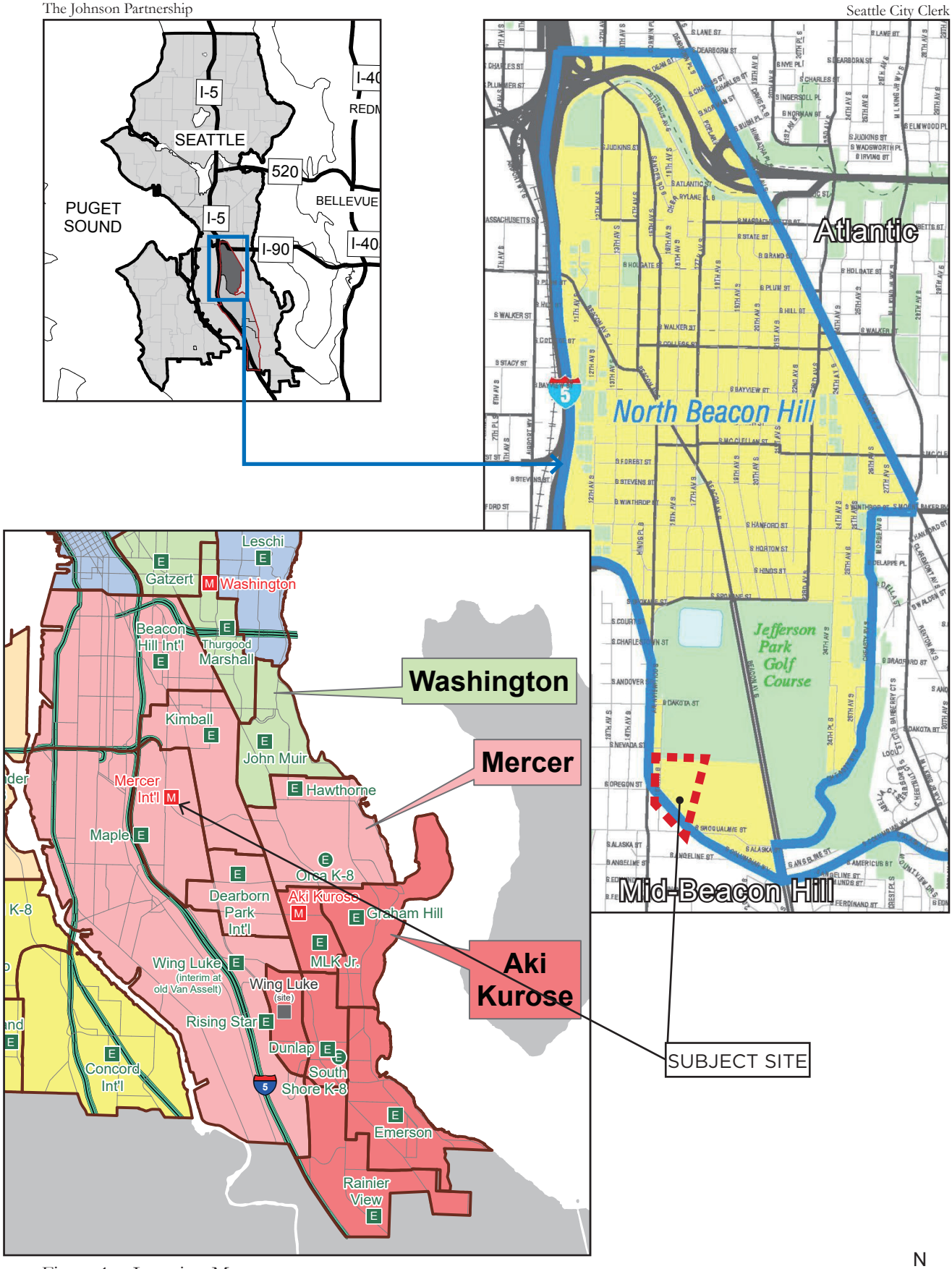


Figure 1 • Location Maps

STUDIO TJP

Apple Maps



Figure 2 • Aerial View

The Johnson Partnership, 8/16/19

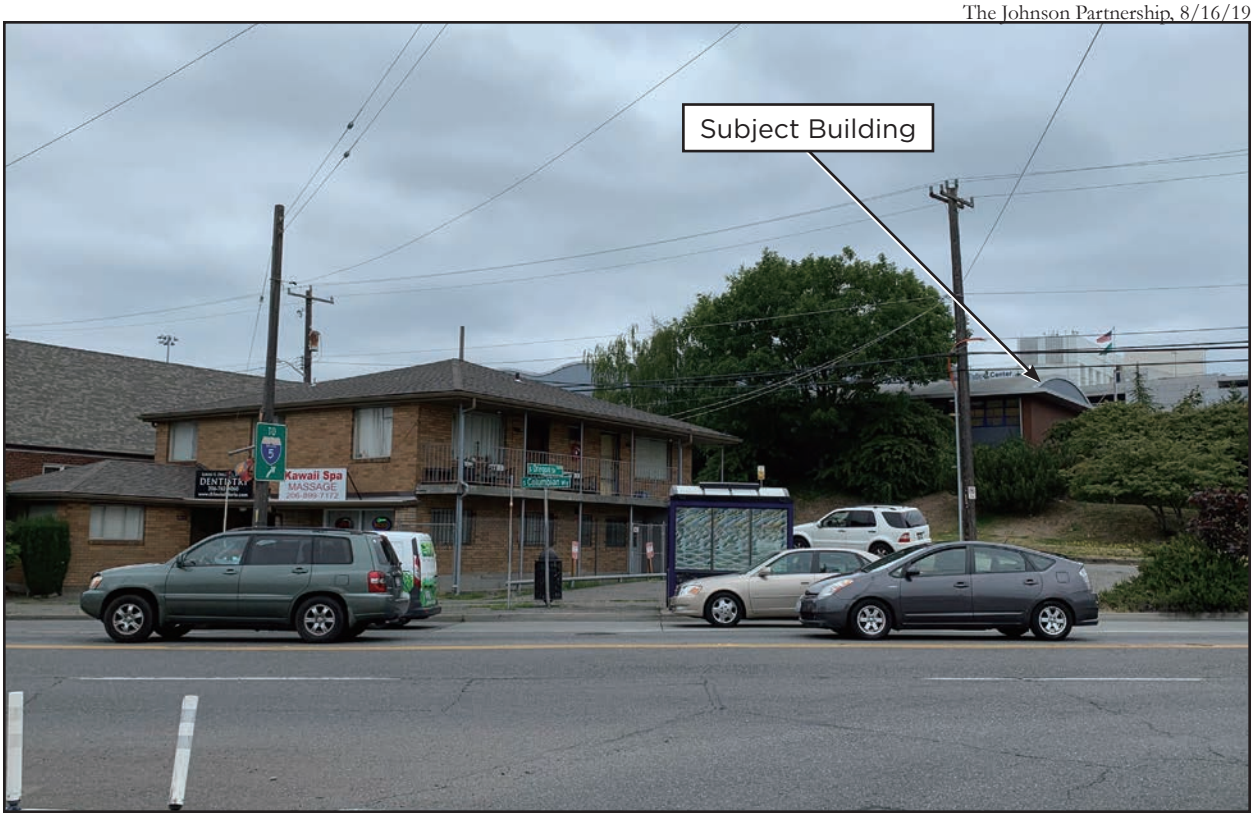


Figure 3 • View A - Viewing east from S Columbian Way

The Johnson Partnership, 8/16/19



Figure 4 • View B - Viewing north on 16th Avenue S

The Johnson Partnership, 8/16/19



Figure 5 • View C - Viewing north on 16th Avenue S

The Johnson Partnership, 8/16/19

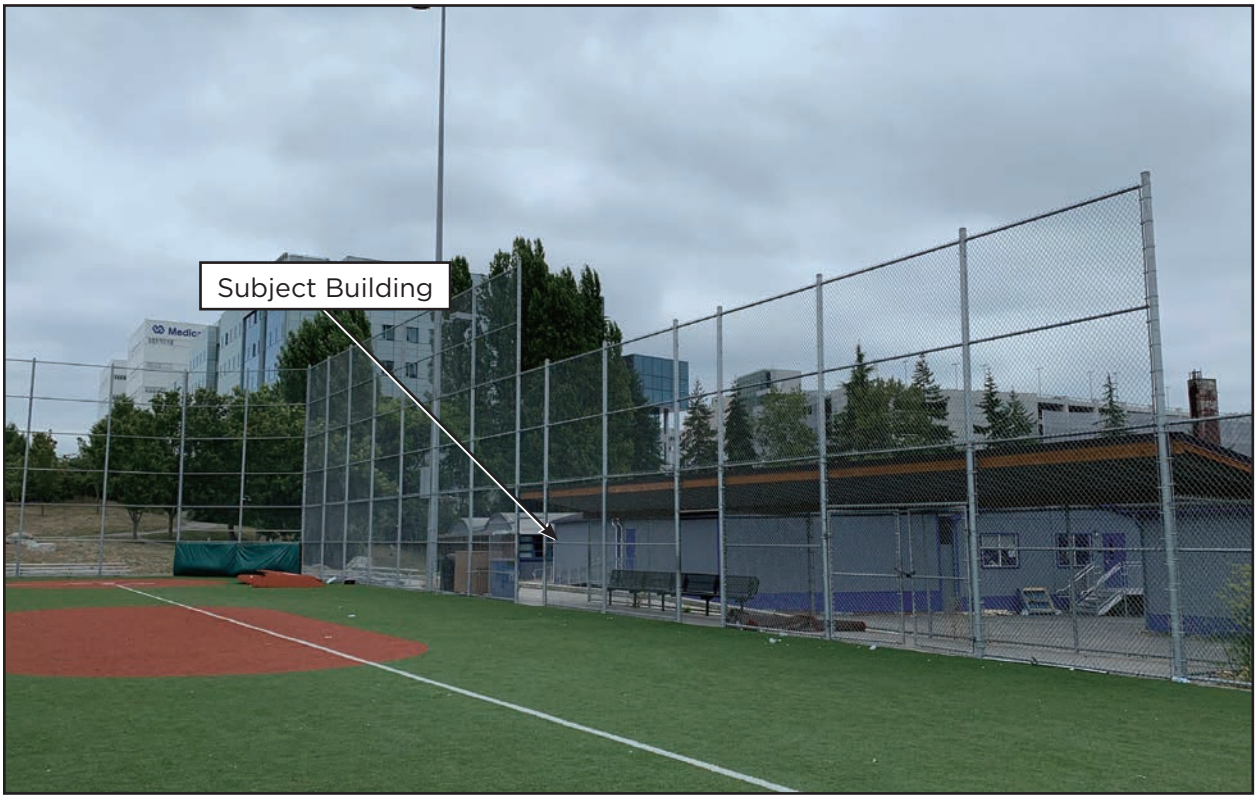


Figure 6 • View D - Viewing southeast from Jefferson Playfield

The Johnson Partnership, 8/16/19



Figure 7 • View E - Viewing southwest from Jefferson Playfield

The Johnson Partnership, 8/16/19



Figure 8 • View F - Viewing south from VA Puget Sound Health Care System

The Johnson Partnership, 8/16/19

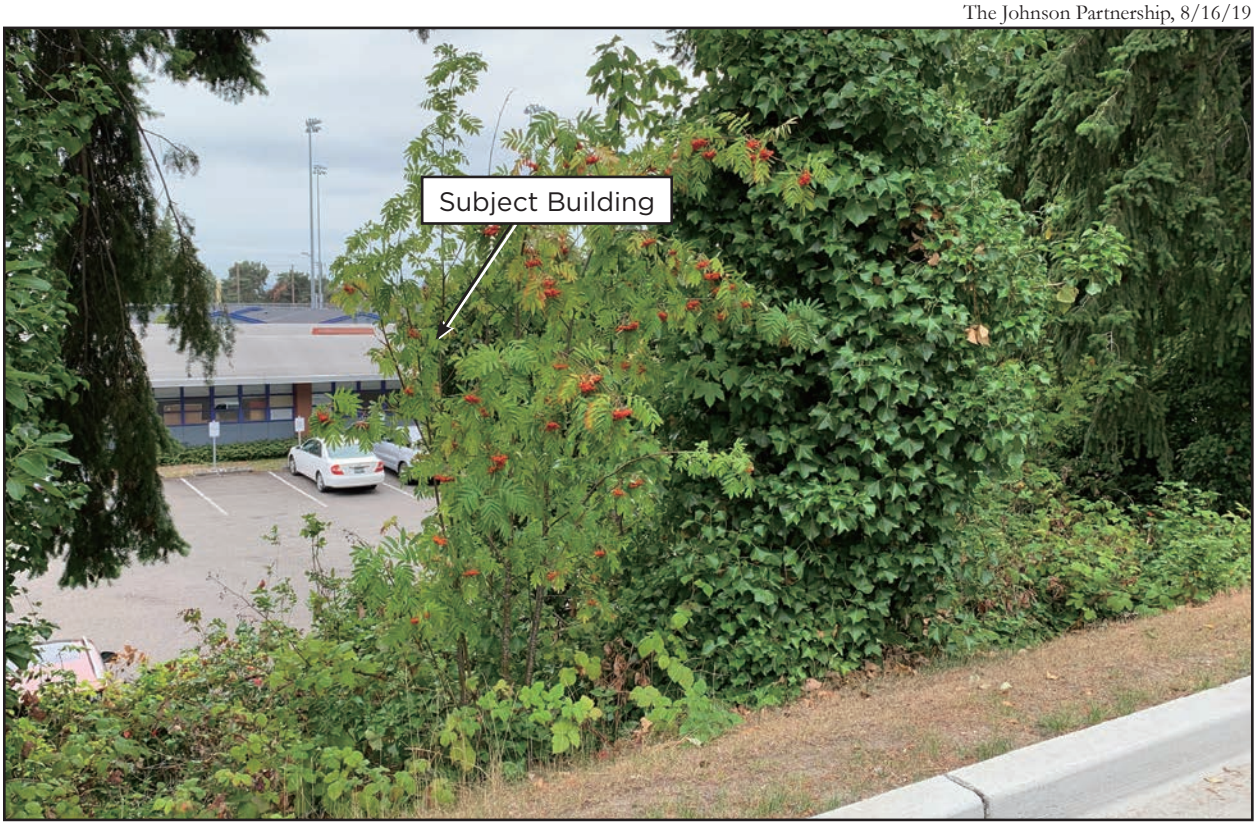


Figure 9 • View G - Viewing west from VA Puget Sound Health Care System

The Johnson Partnership, 8/16/19

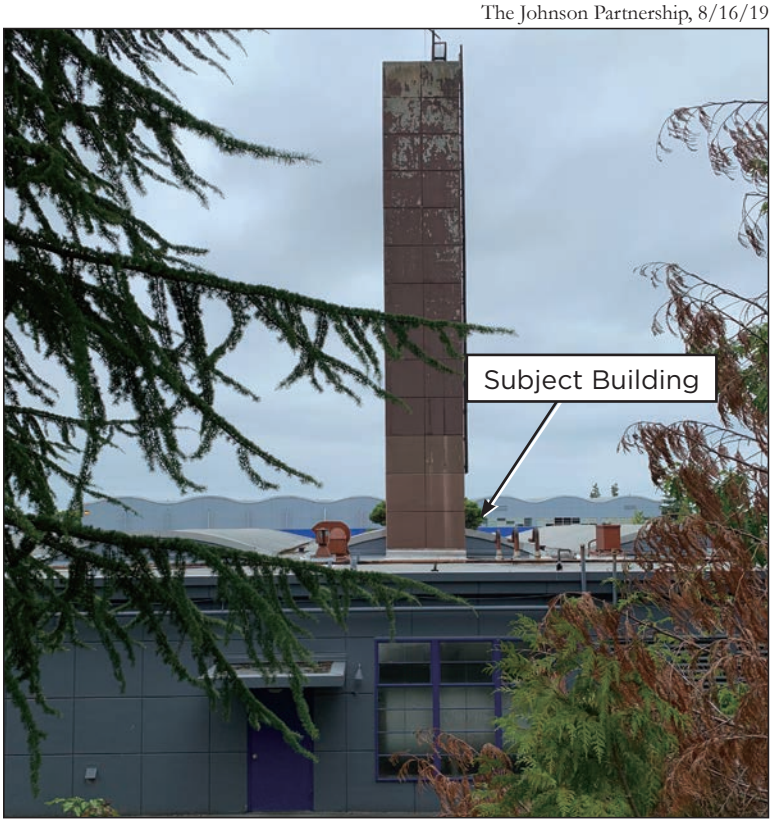


Figure 10 • View H - Viewing west from VA Puget Sound Health Care System

The Johnson Partnership, 8/16/19



Figure 11 • View I - Viewing northwest from VA Puget Sound Health Care System

The Johnson Partnership, 8/16/19



Figure 12 • View J - Viewing northwest on S Columbian Way

The Johnson Partnership, 8/16/19



Figure 13 • View J - Viewing north from S Columbian Way

SPS Archives with overlays by Studio TJP

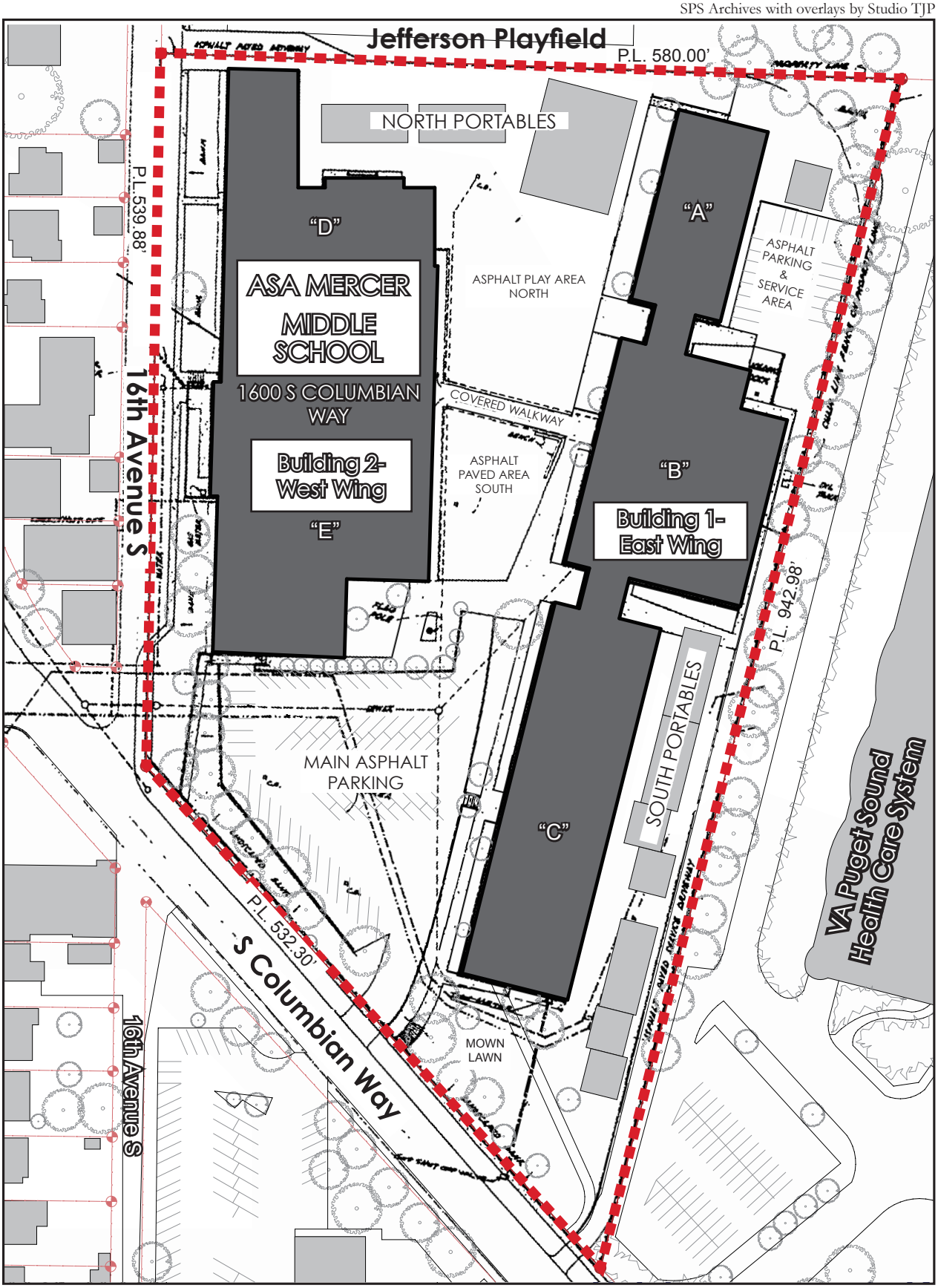


Figure 14 • Site Plan

STUDIO TJP

The Johnson Partnership, 8/16/19



Figure 15 • Asa Mercer Middle School, site, south side, exterior stair

The Johnson Partnership, 8/16/19



Figure 16 • Asa Mercer Middle School, site, south side, lawn near S Columbian Way

The Johnson Partnership, 8/16/19

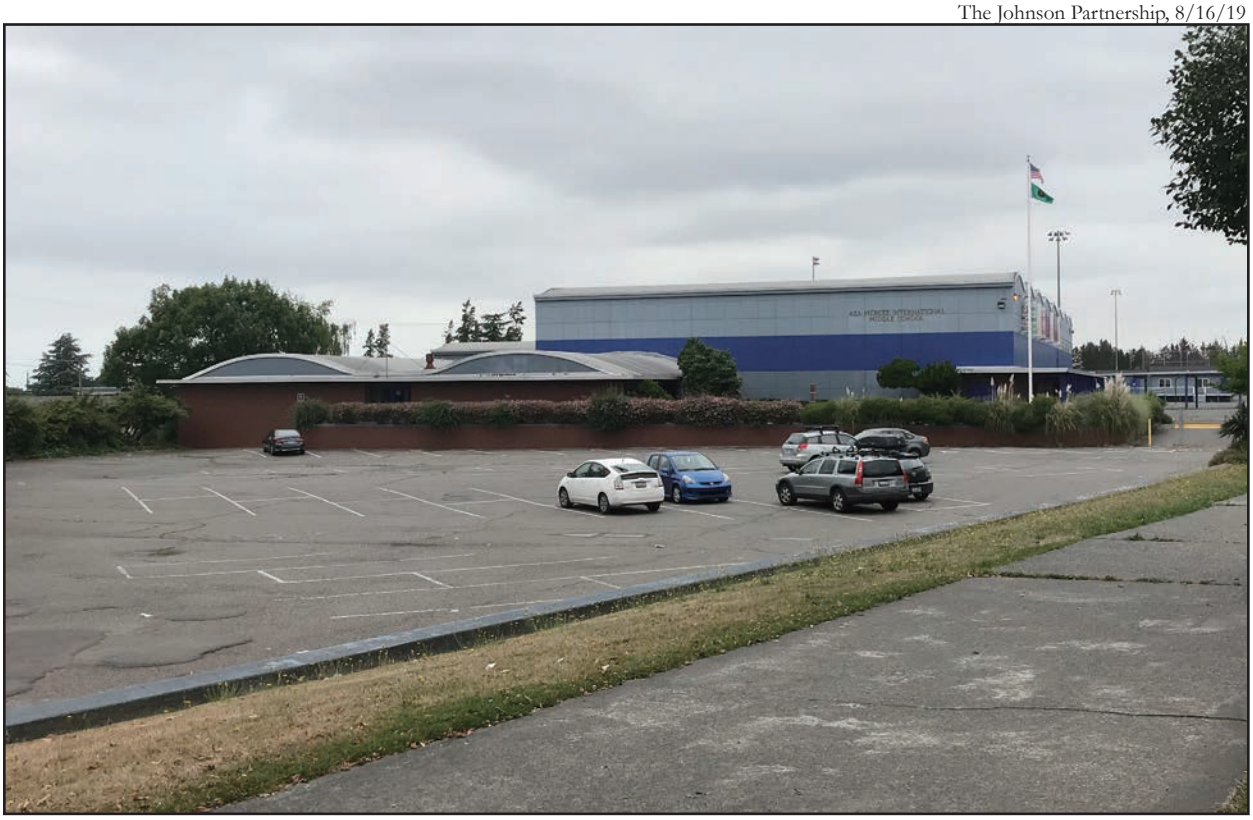


Figure 17 • Asa Mercer Middle School, site, south side, main parking lot

The Johnson Partnership, 8/16/19



Figure 18 • Asa Mercer Middle School, site, west side

The Johnson Partnership, 8/16/19



Figure 19 • Asa Mercer Middle School, site, west side

The Johnson Partnership, 8/16/19

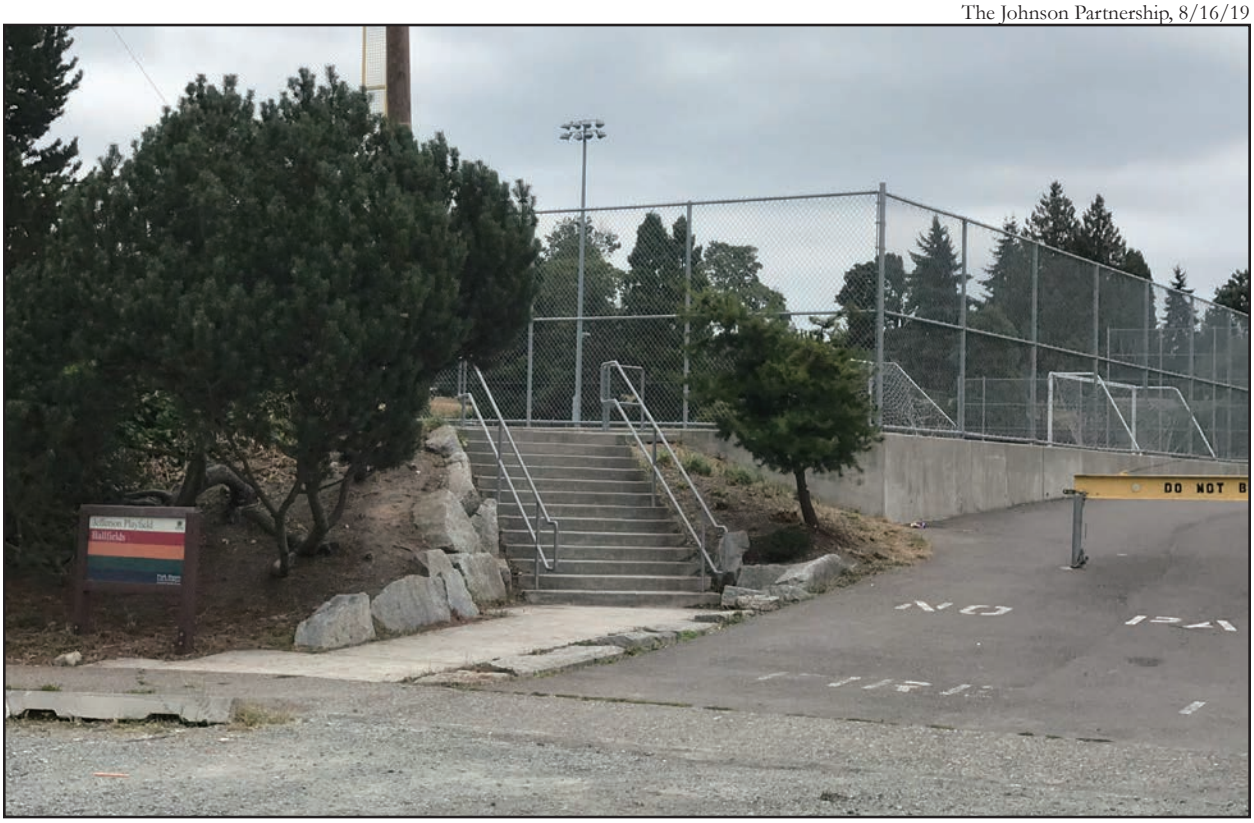


Figure 20 • Asa Mercer Middle School, site, northwest side, stairs to Jefferson Park

The Johnson Partnership, 8/16/19



Figure 21 • Asa Mercer Middle School, site, north side, north portables viewing east

The Johnson Partnership, 8/16/19



Figure 22 • Asa Mercer Middle School, site, north side, north portables viewing south

The Johnson Partnership, 8/16/19



Figure 23 • Asa Mercer Middle School, site, north side, north portables viewing south toward Building 2

The Johnson Partnership, 8/16/19



Figure 24 • Asa Mercer Middle School, site, northeast side, portables, parking lot, service area

The Johnson Partnership, 8/16/19



Figure 25 • Asa Mercer Middle School, site, east side, east portables looking north

The Johnson Partnership, 8/16/19



Figure 26 • Asa Mercer Middle School, site, southeast side, east portables looking south adjacent to property line

The Johnson Partnership, 8/16/19



Figure 27 • Asa Mercer Middle School, site, central location, asphalt paved area south

The Johnson Partnership, 8/16/19



Figure 28 • Asa Mercer Middle School, site, covered walkway

The Johnson Partnership, 8/16/19

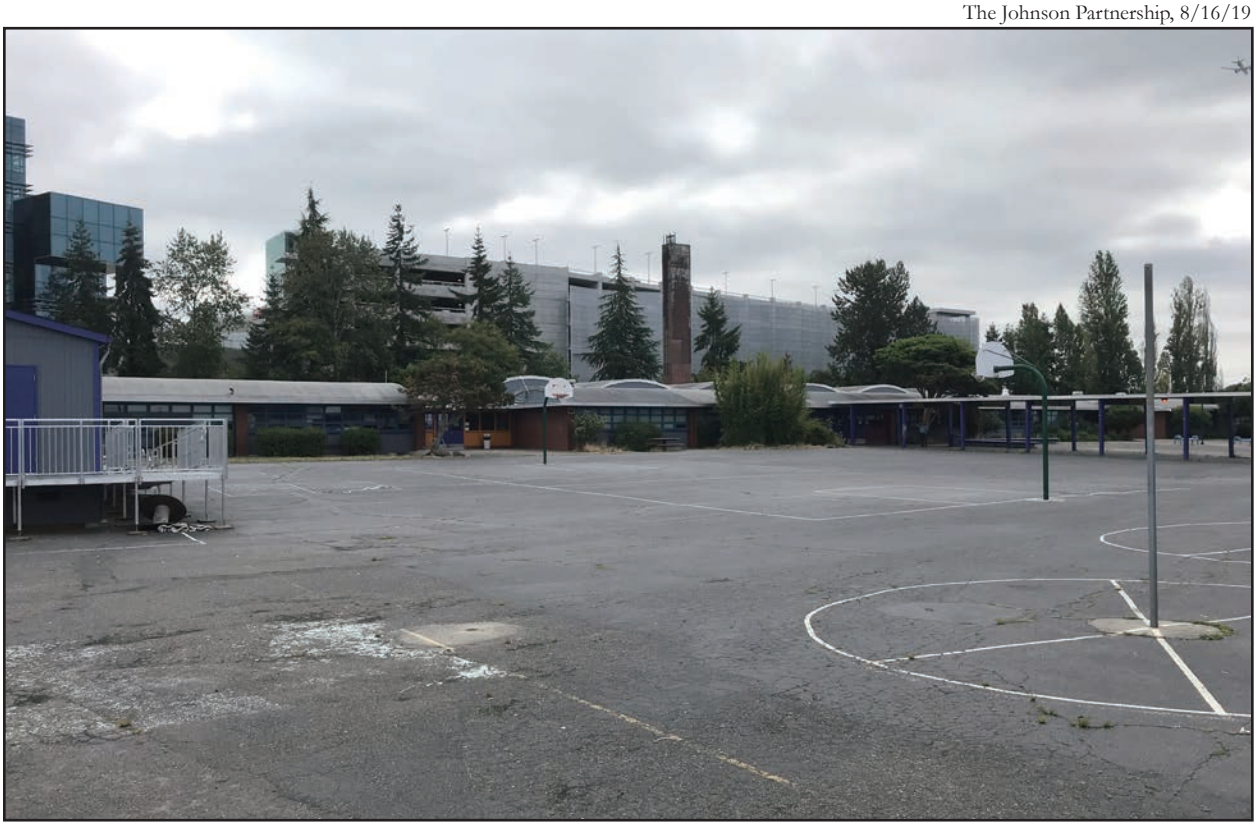


Figure 29 • Asa Mercer Middle School, site, central location, northern asphalt play area

The Johnson Partnership, 8/16/19



Figure 30 • Asa Mercer Middle School, Building 2, Unit D, roof viewing east

The Johnson Partnership, 8/16/19



Figure 31 • Asa Mercer Middle School, Building 2, Unit D, roof viewing southeast



Figure 32 • Asa Mercer Middle School, Typical replacement window at Building 1, west facade, in typical wall



Figure 33 • Asa Mercer Middle School, typical original window at Building 2, west facade, in typical wall

BIA technical Notes 31

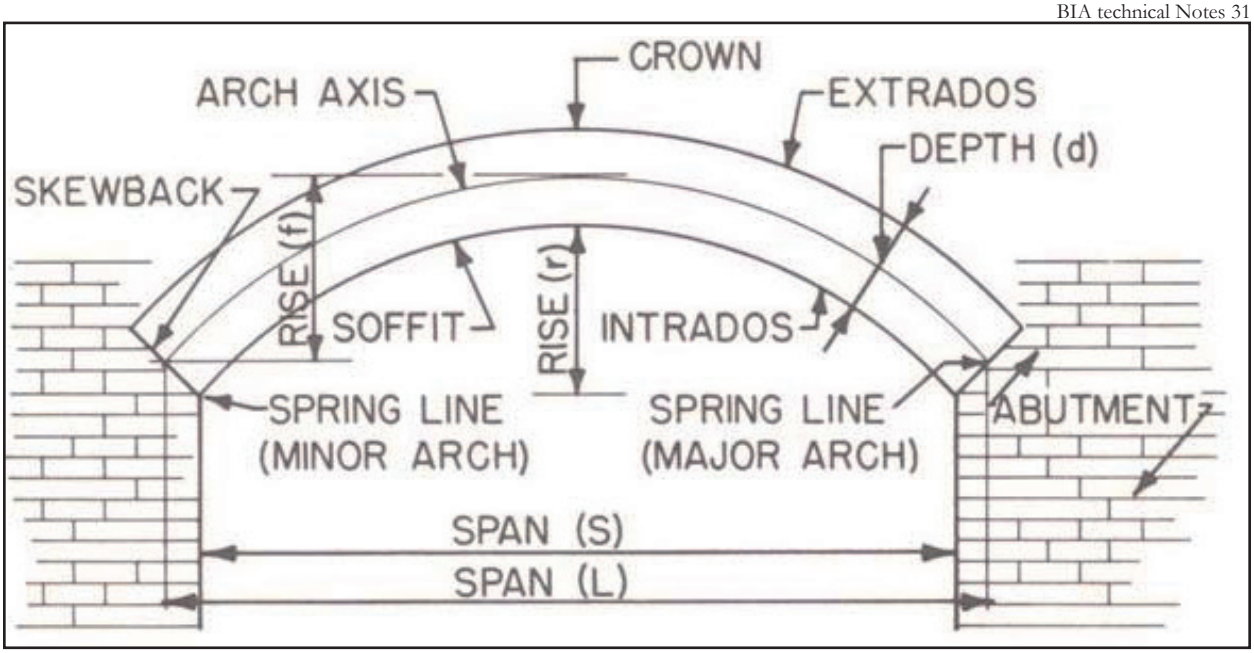


Figure 34 • Terminology for arch construction referred to in text description of building

The Johnson Partnership, 8/16/19



Figure 35 • Asa Mercer Middle School, Bldg. 1, Unit A, western façade, viewing north

The Johnson Partnership, 8/16/19



Figure 36 • Asa Mercer Middle School, Building 1, Unit B, western façade, viewing north

The Johnson Partnership, 8/16/19



Figure 37 • Asa Mercer Middle School, Building 1, Unit B, western façade, northern throughway entrance

The Johnson Partnership, 8/16/19



Figure 38 • Asa Mercer Middle School, Building 1, Unit B, western façade, main entrance

The Johnson Partnership, 8/16/19



Figure 39 • Asa Mercer Middle School, Building 1, Unit B, western façade, southern throughway entry

The Johnson Partnership, 8/16/19



Figure 40 • Asa Mercer Middle School, Building 1, Unit B, western façade, viewing south

The Johnson Partnership, 8/16/19



Figure 41 • Asa Mercer Middle School, Building 1, Unit C, western façade, viewing south

The Johnson Partnership, 8/16/19



Figure 42 • Asa Mercer Middle School, Building 1, Unit A, northern façade

The Johnson Partnership, 8/16/19



Figure 43 • Asa Mercer Middle School, Building 1, Unit A, northern façade entry detail

The Johnson Partnership, 8/16/19



Figure 44 • Asa Mercer Middle School, Building 1, Unit A, eastern façade, viewing north

The Johnson Partnership, 8/16/19



Figure 45 • Asa Mercer Middle School, Building 1, Unit B, eastern façade, northern wall

The Johnson Partnership, 8/16/19



Figure 46 • Asa Mercer Middle School, Building 1, Unit B, eastern façade, northern throughway entrance

The Johnson Partnership, 8/16/19

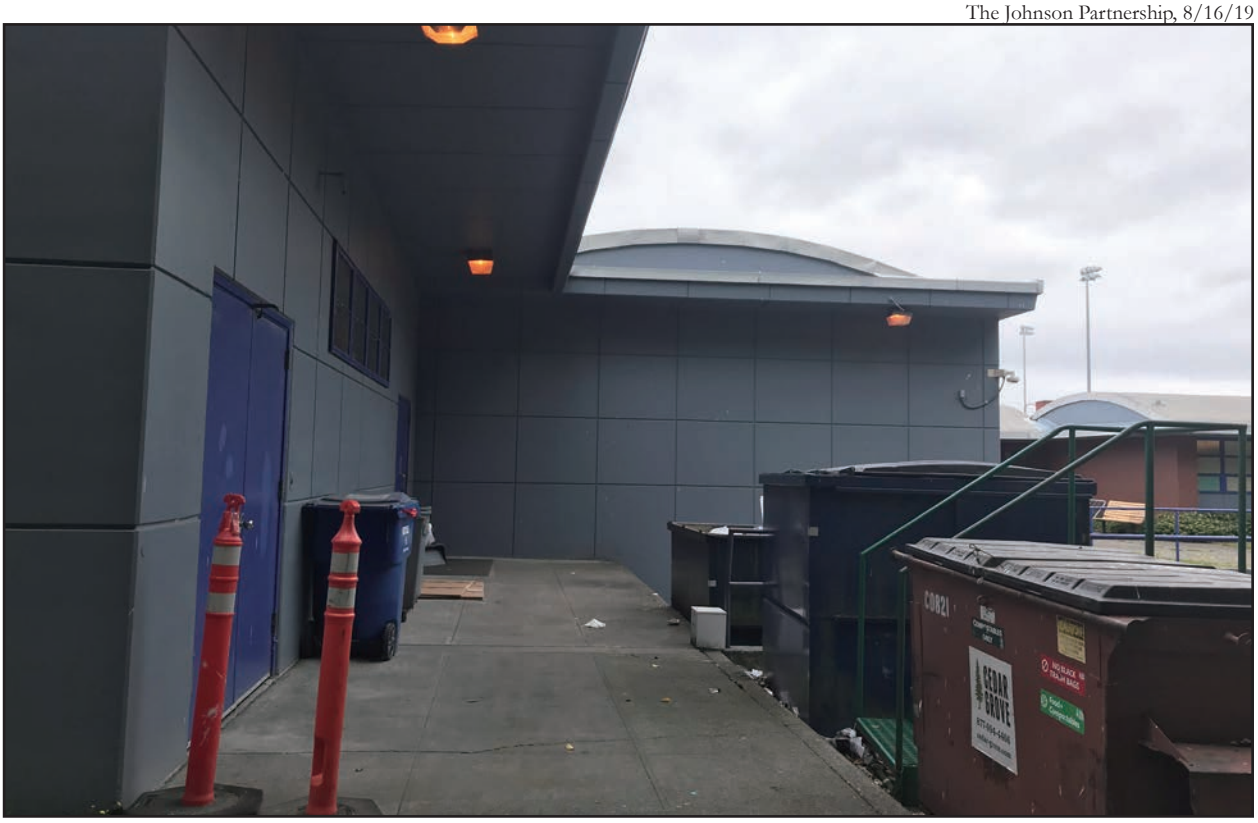


Figure 47 • Asa Mercer Middle School, Building 1, Unit B, eastern façade, service area

The Johnson Partnership, 8/16/19



Figure 48 • Asa Mercer Middle School, Building 1, Unit B, eastern façade, east wall

The Johnson Partnership, 8/16/19



Figure 49 • Asa Mercer Middle School, Building 1, Unit B, eastern façade, south wall

The Johnson Partnership, 8/16/19



Figure 50 • Asa Mercer Middle School, Building 1, Unit B, eastern façade, south wall near southern throughway entry

The Johnson Partnership, 8/16/19



Figure 51 • Asa Mercer Middle School, Building 1, Unit C, eastern façade, viewing south

The Johnson Partnership, 8/16/19



Figure 52 • Asa Mercer Middle School, Building 1, Unit C, southern façade

The Johnson Partnership, 8/16/19

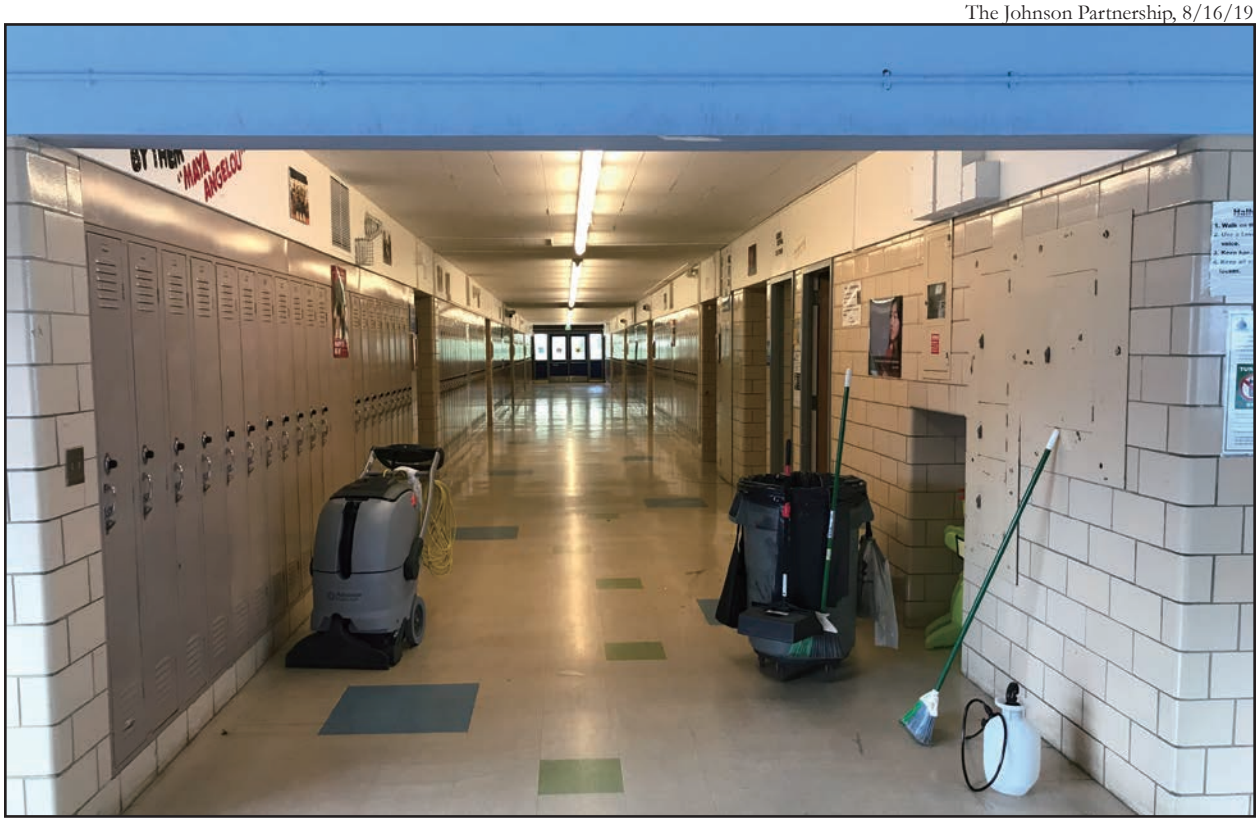


Figure 53 • Asa Mercer Middle School, Building 1, Unit A hallway, viewing north

The Johnson Partnership, 8/16/19

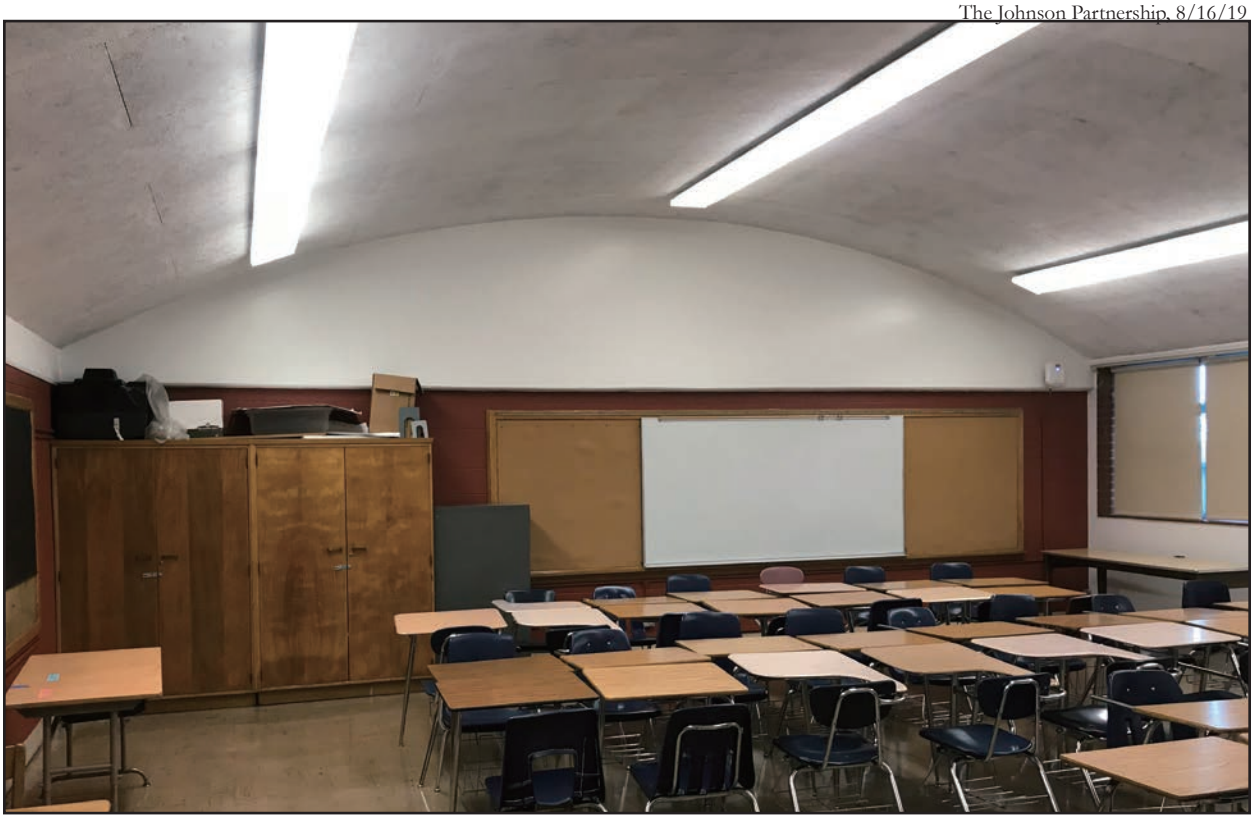


Figure 54 • Asa Mercer Middle School, Building 1, Unit A, classroom

The Johnson Partnership, 8/16/19

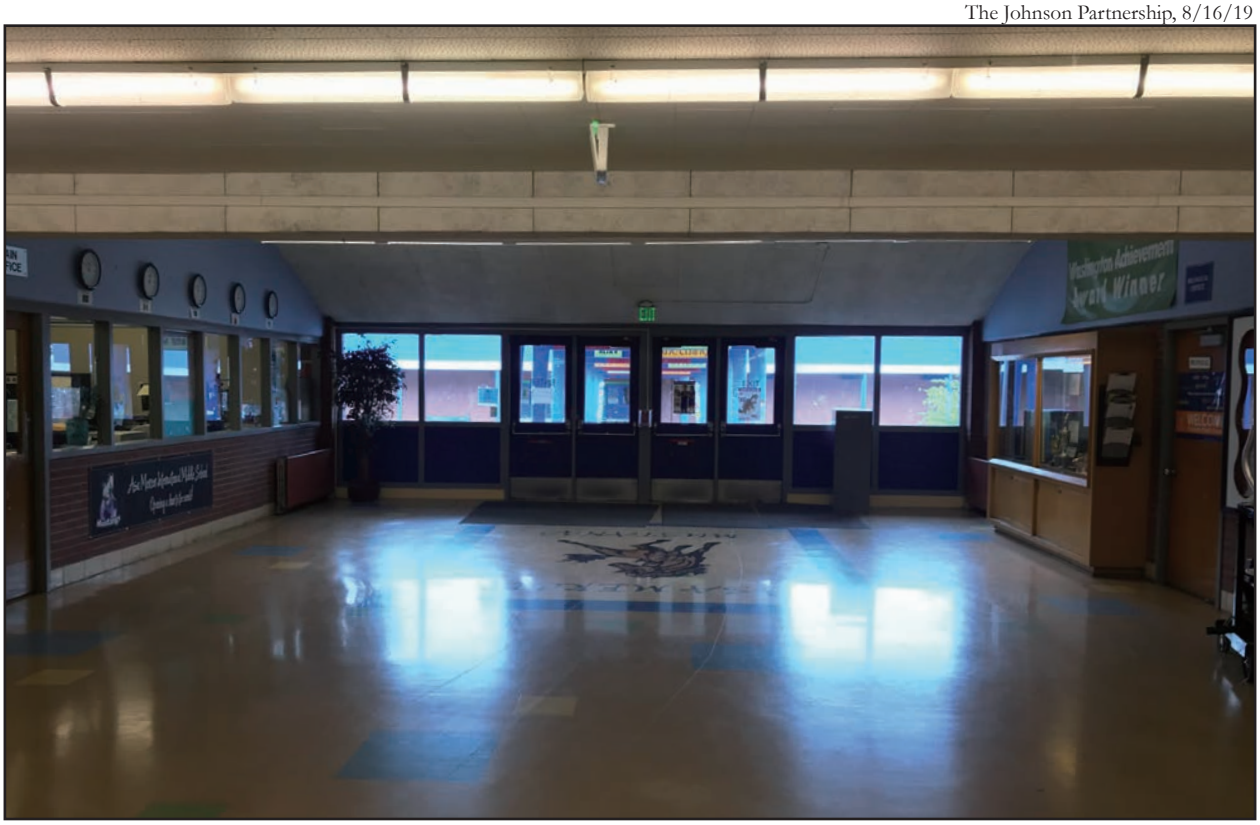


Figure 55 • Asa Mercer Middle School, Building 1, Unit B, main entry lobby, viewing west

The Johnson Partnership, 8/16/19

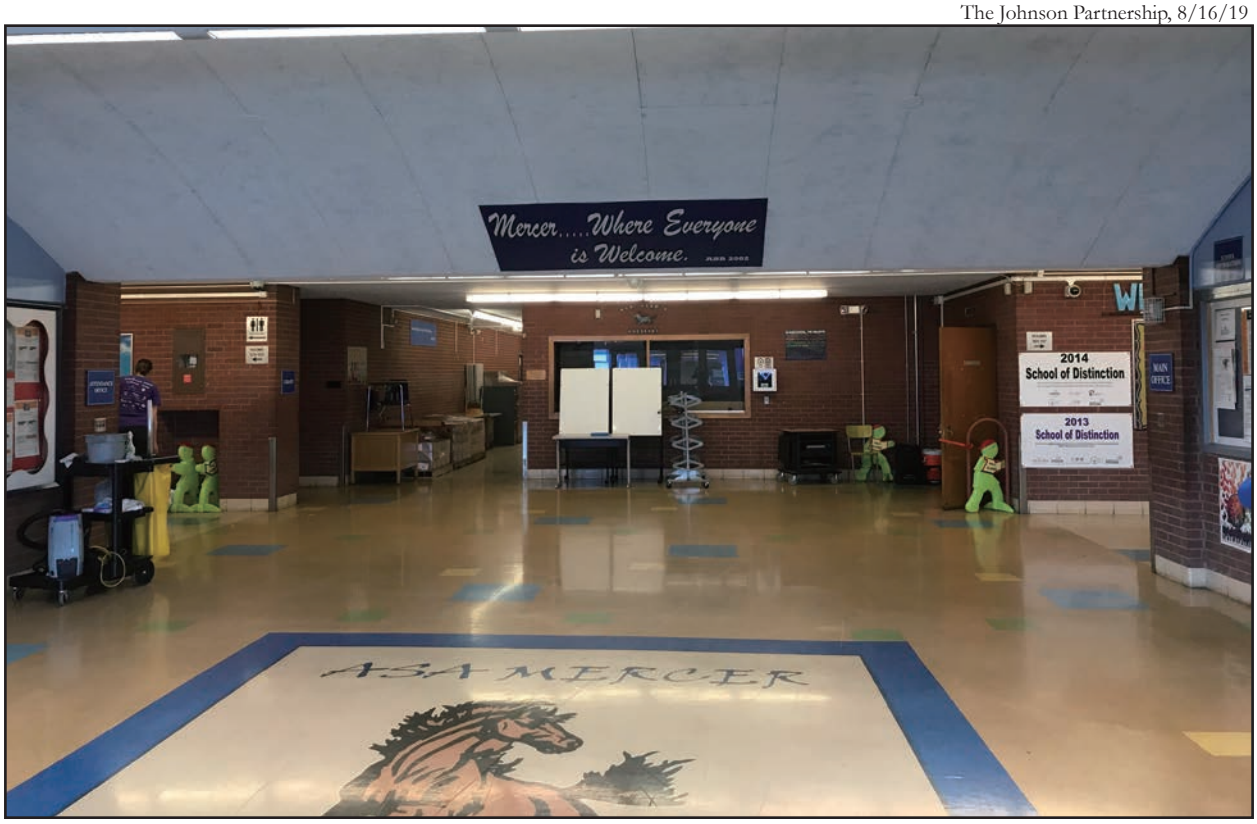


Figure 56 • Asa Mercer Middle School, Building 1, Unit B, main entry lobby, viewing east

The Johnson Partnership, 8/16/19

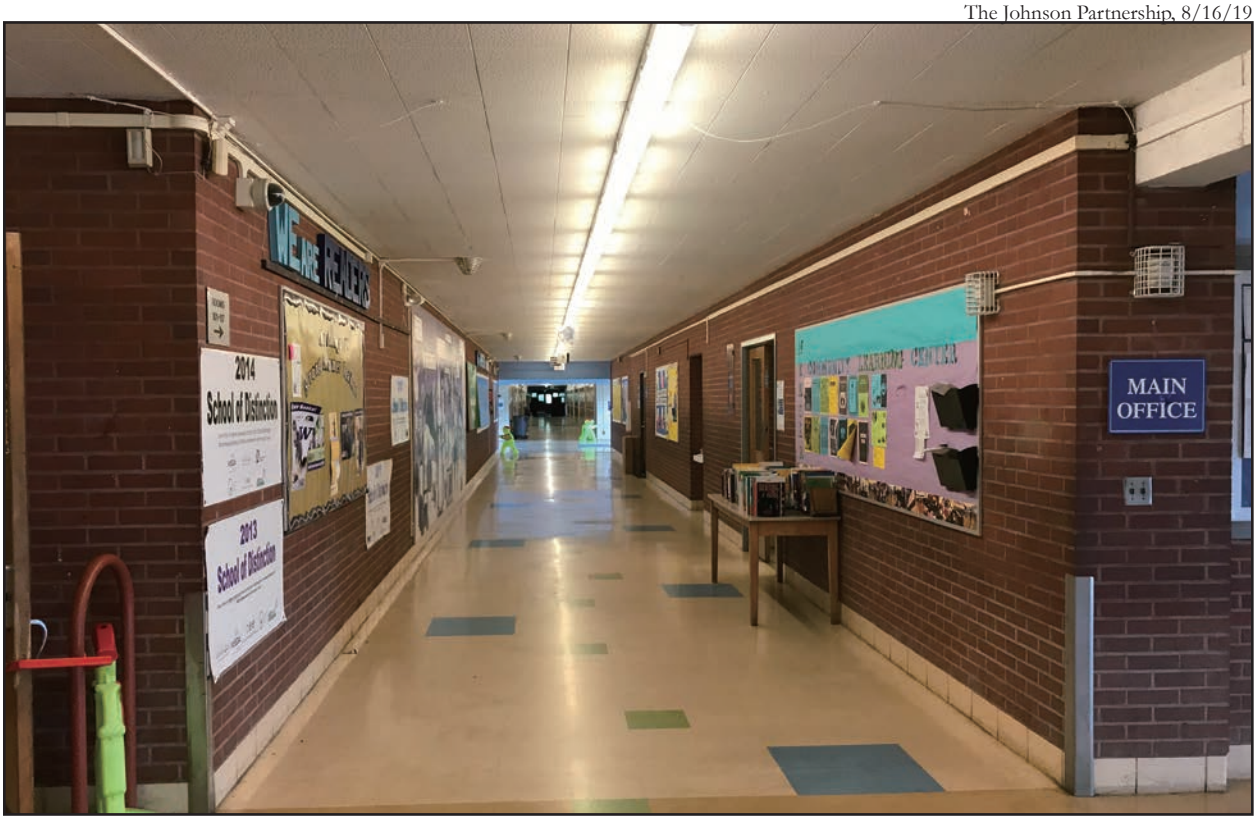


Figure 57 • Asa Mercer Middle School, Building 1, Unit B, typical hallway, viewing south

The Johnson Partnership, 8/16/19



Figure 58 • Asa Mercer Middle School, Building 1, detail of water fountain niche

The Johnson Partnership, 8/16/19

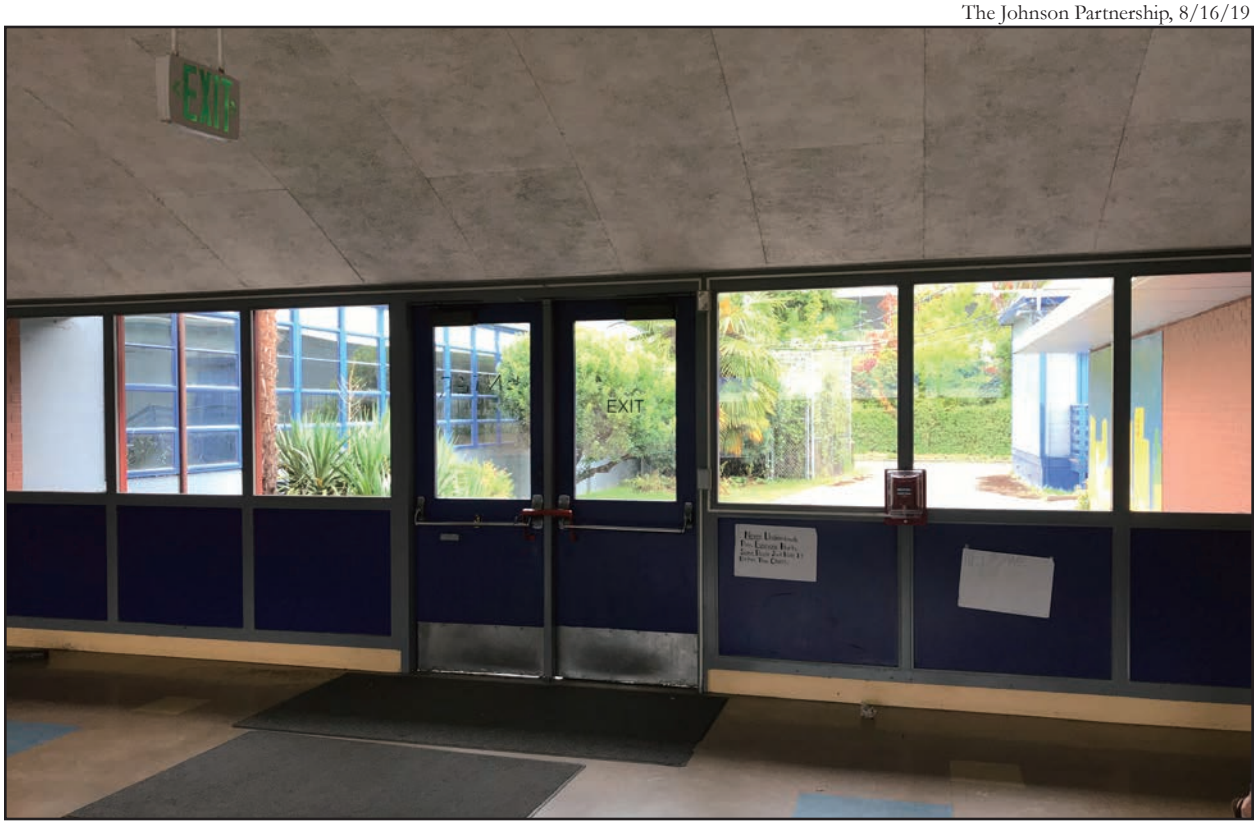


Figure 59 • Asa Mercer Middle School, Building 1, Unit B, southern throughway entry, viewing west

The Johnson Partnership, 8/16/19

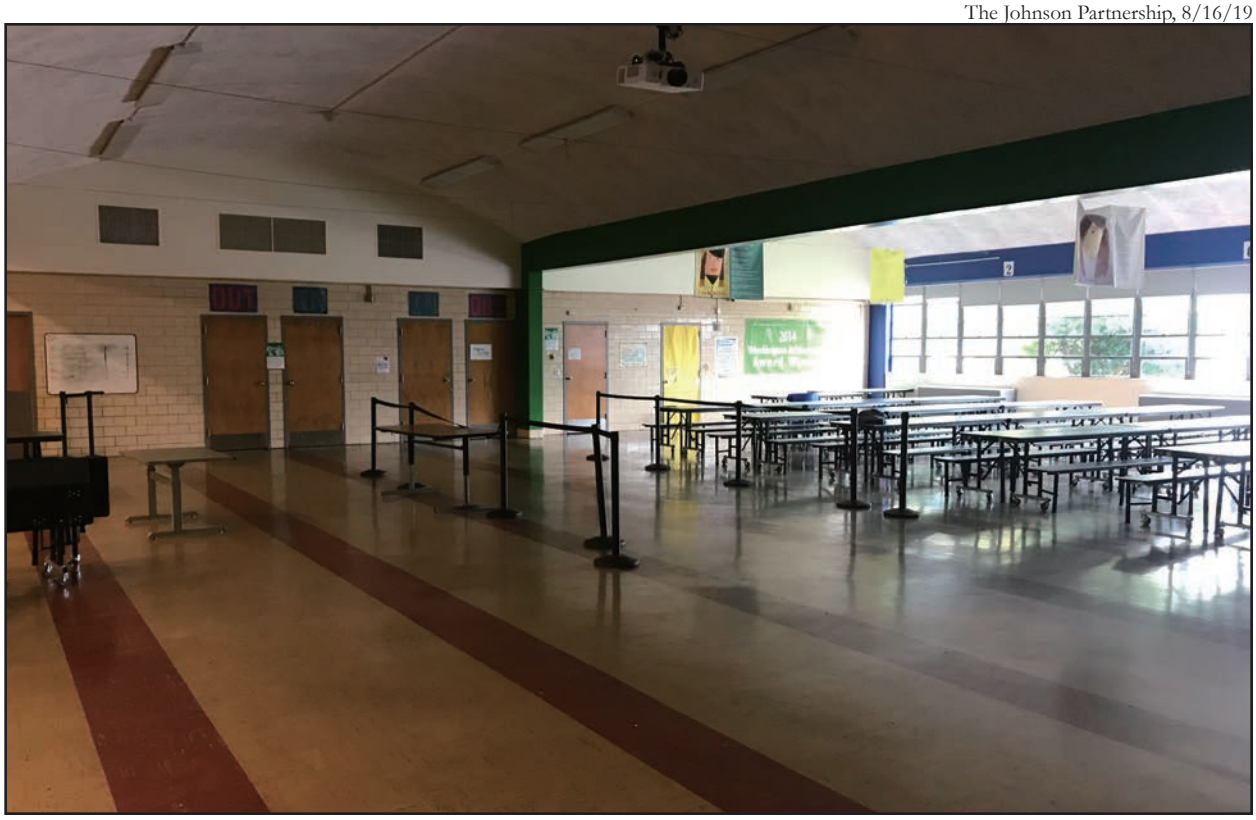


Figure 60 • Asa Mercer Middle School, Building 1, cafeteria looking southeast

The Johnson Partnership, 8/16/19

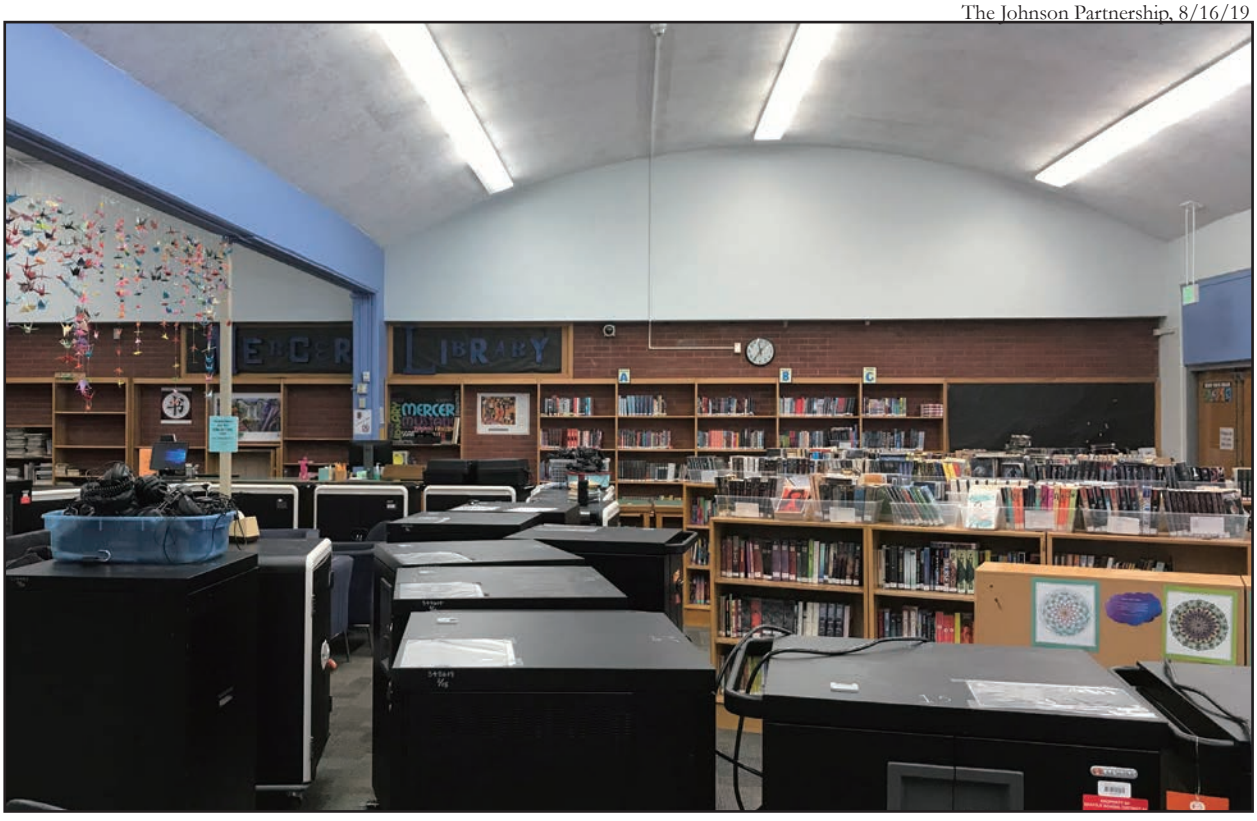


Figure 61 • Asa Mercer Middle School, Building 1, Unit B, library viewing west

The Johnson Partnership, 8/16/19



Figure 62 • Asa Mercer Middle School, Building 1, Unit B, library viewing west

The Johnson Partnership, 8/16/19

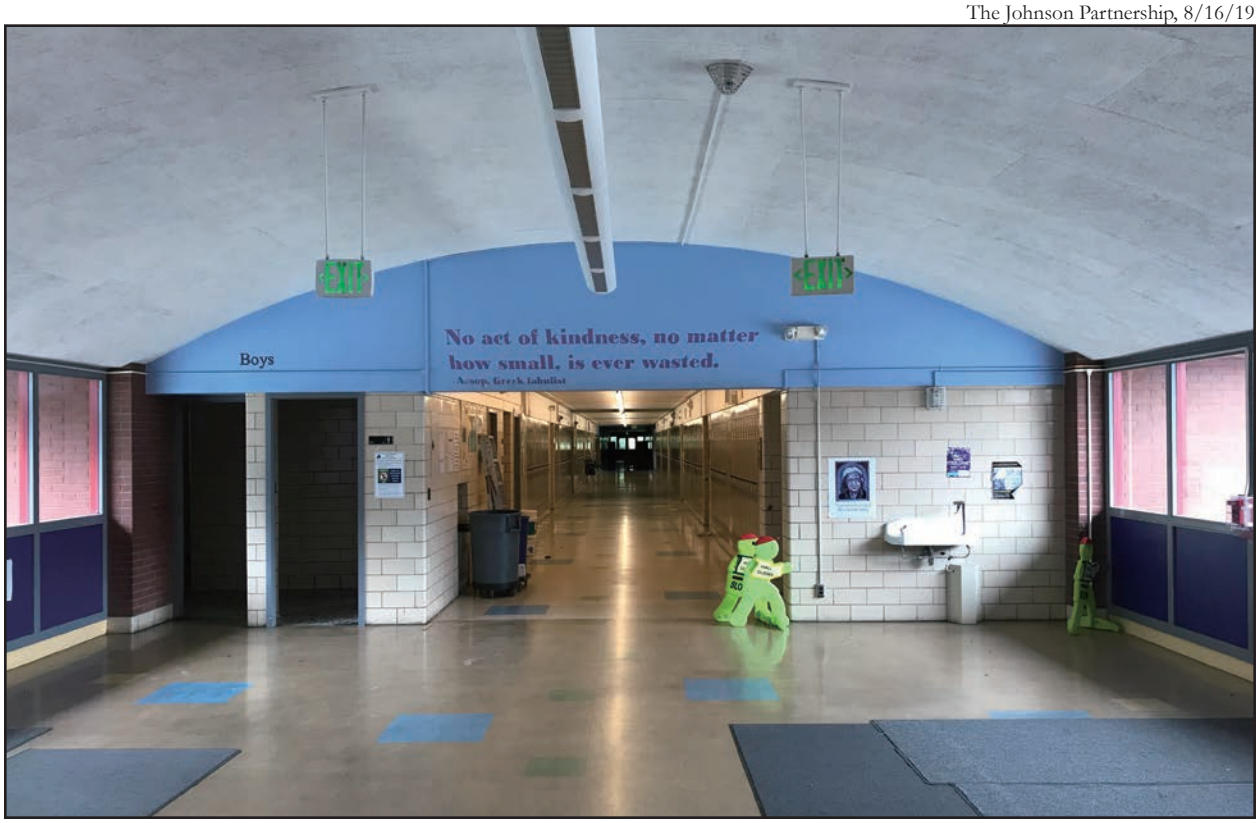


Figure 63 • Asa Mercer Middle School, Building 1, Unit C, hallway viewing south

The Johnson Partnership, 8/16/19

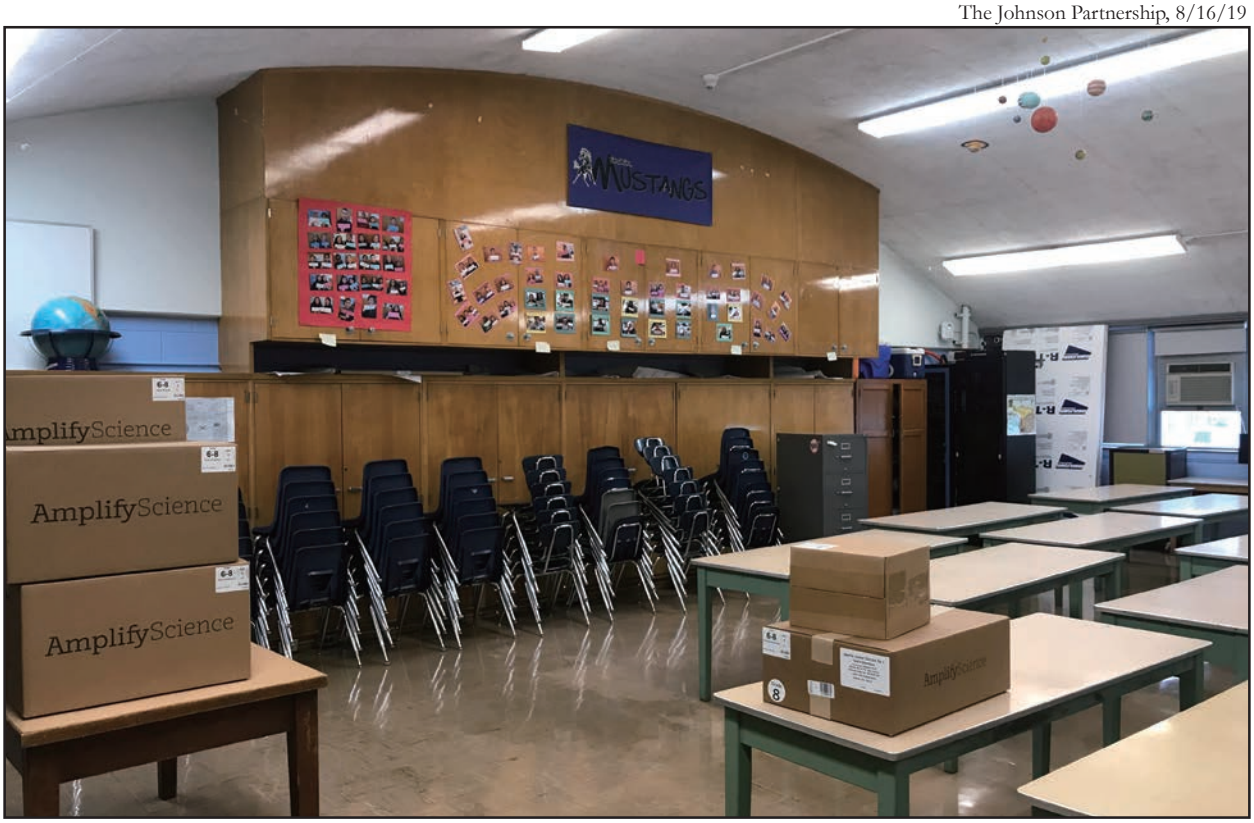


Figure 64 • Asa Mercer Middle School, Building 1, Unit C classroom

The Johnson Partnership, 8/16/19



Figure 65 • Asa Mercer Middle School, Building 2, Unit E, southeastern corner

The Johnson Partnership, 8/16/19



Figure 66 • Asa Mercer Middle School, Building 2, Unit E, western façade, viewing north

The Johnson Partnership, 8/16/19



Figure 67 • Asa Mercer Middle School, Building 2, Unit E, southern façade, central

The Johnson Partnership, 8/16/19



Figure 68 • Asa Mercer Middle School, Building 2, Unit D, western façade, viewing northeast

The Johnson Partnership, 8/16/19



Figure 69 • Asa Mercer Middle School, Building 2, Unit D, northern façade

The Johnson Partnership, 8/16/19



Figure 70 • Asa Mercer Middle School, Building 2, Unit D, northern façade, canopy detail

The Johnson Partnership, 8/16/19



Figure 71 • Asa Mercer Middle School, Building 2, Unit D, northern façade

The Johnson Partnership, 8/16/19



Figure 72 • Asa Mercer Middle School, Building 2, Unit D, northeastern corner

The Johnson Partnership, 8/16/19



Figure 73 • Asa Mercer Middle School, Building 2, Unit D, eastern façade viewing south

The Johnson Partnership, 8/16/19



Figure 74 • Asa Mercer Middle School, Building 2, Unit D, eastern façade, northern side

The Johnson Partnership, 8/16/19



Figure 75 • Asa Mercer Middle School, Building 2, Unit E, eastern façade, south side

The Johnson Partnership, 8/16/19



Figure 76 • Asa Mercer Middle School, Building 2, Unit E, southeastern corner

The Johnson Partnership, 8/16/19



Figure 77 • Asa Mercer Middle School, Building 2, Unit E, southern façade, auditorium south wall

The Johnson Partnership, 8/16/19



Figure 78 • Asa Mercer Middle School, Building 2, Unit E, eastern façade

The Johnson Partnership, 8/16/19



Figure 79 • Asa Mercer Middle School, Building 2, Unit E, southern end

The Johnson Partnership, 8/16/19



Figure 80 • Asa Mercer Middle School, Building 2, Unit E, southern façade from southern parking lot

The Johnson Partnership, 8/16/19

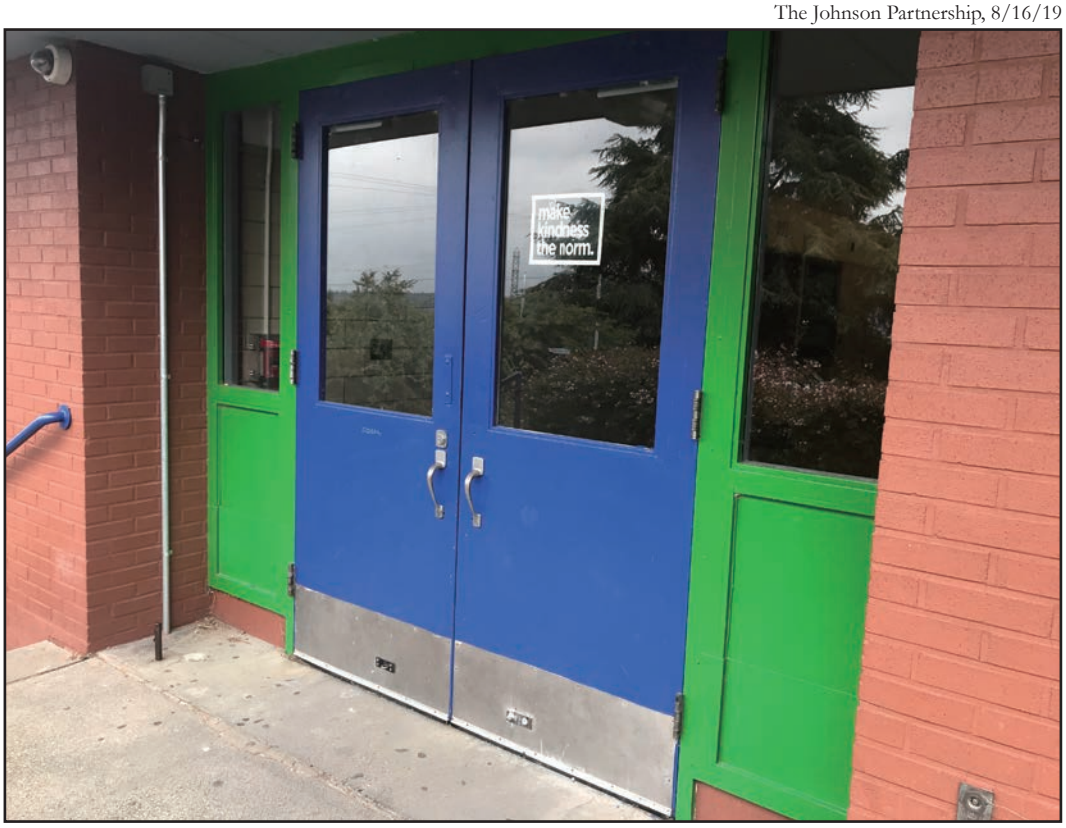


Figure 81 • Asa Mercer Middle School, Building 2, Unit E, southern façade, southern entrance detail

The Johnson Partnership, 8/16/19

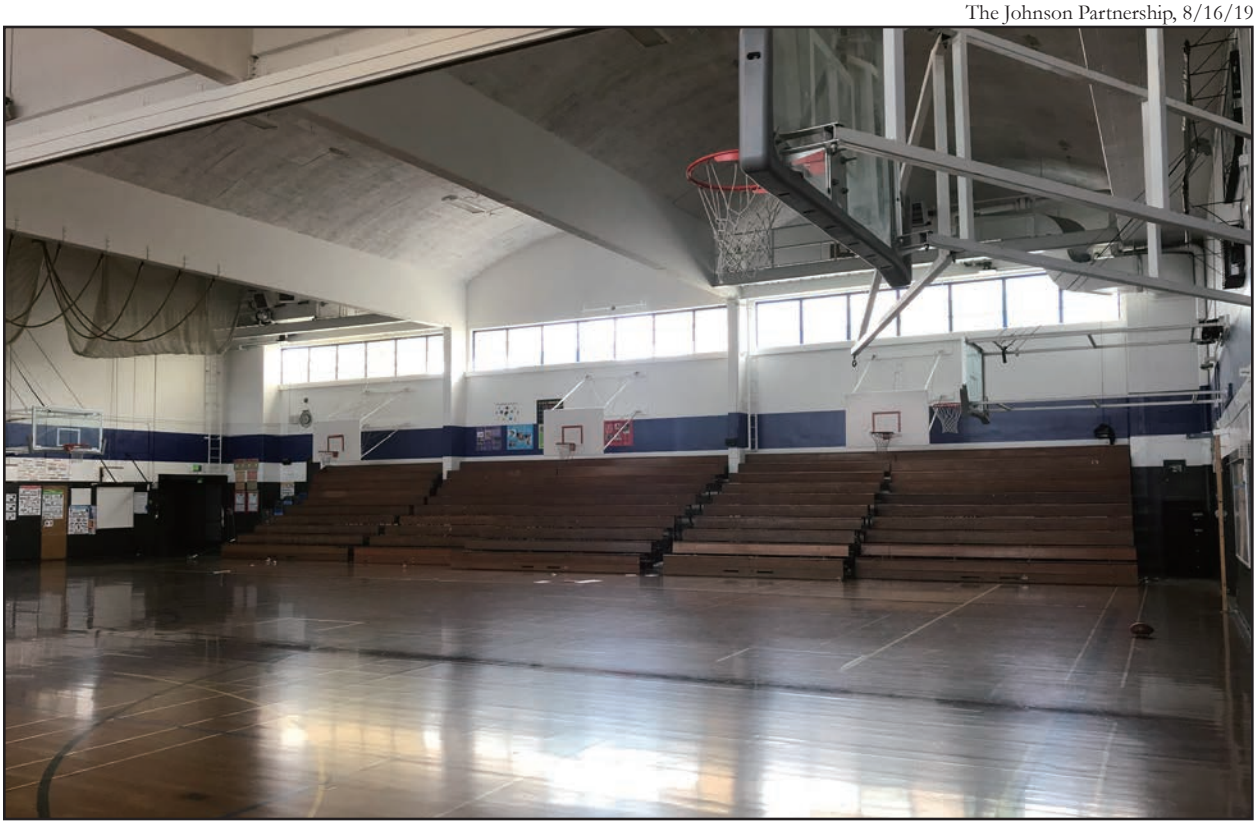


Figure 82 • Asa Mercer Middle School, Building 2, Unit D, gymnasium viewing west

The Johnson Partnership, 8/16/19

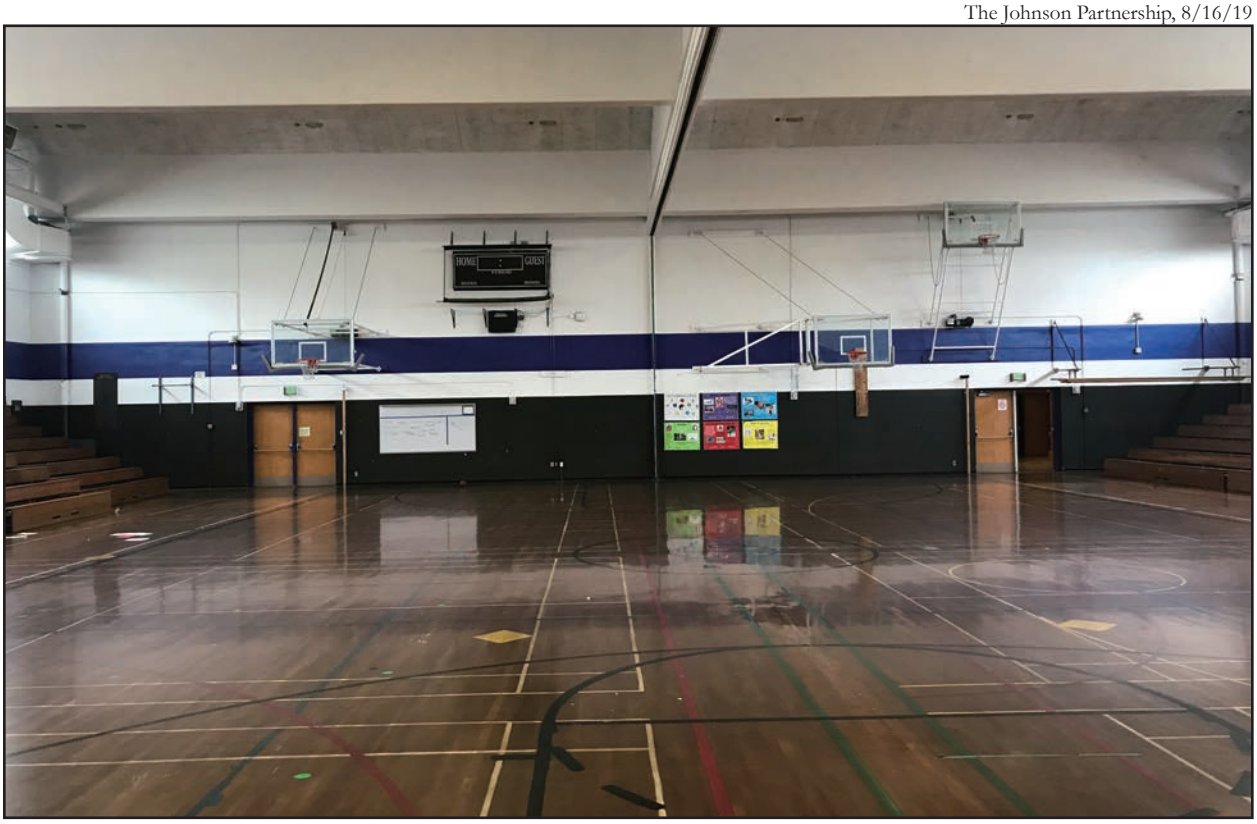


Figure 83 • Asa Mercer Middle School, Building 2, Unit D north, gymnasium viewing south

The Johnson Partnership, 8/16/19

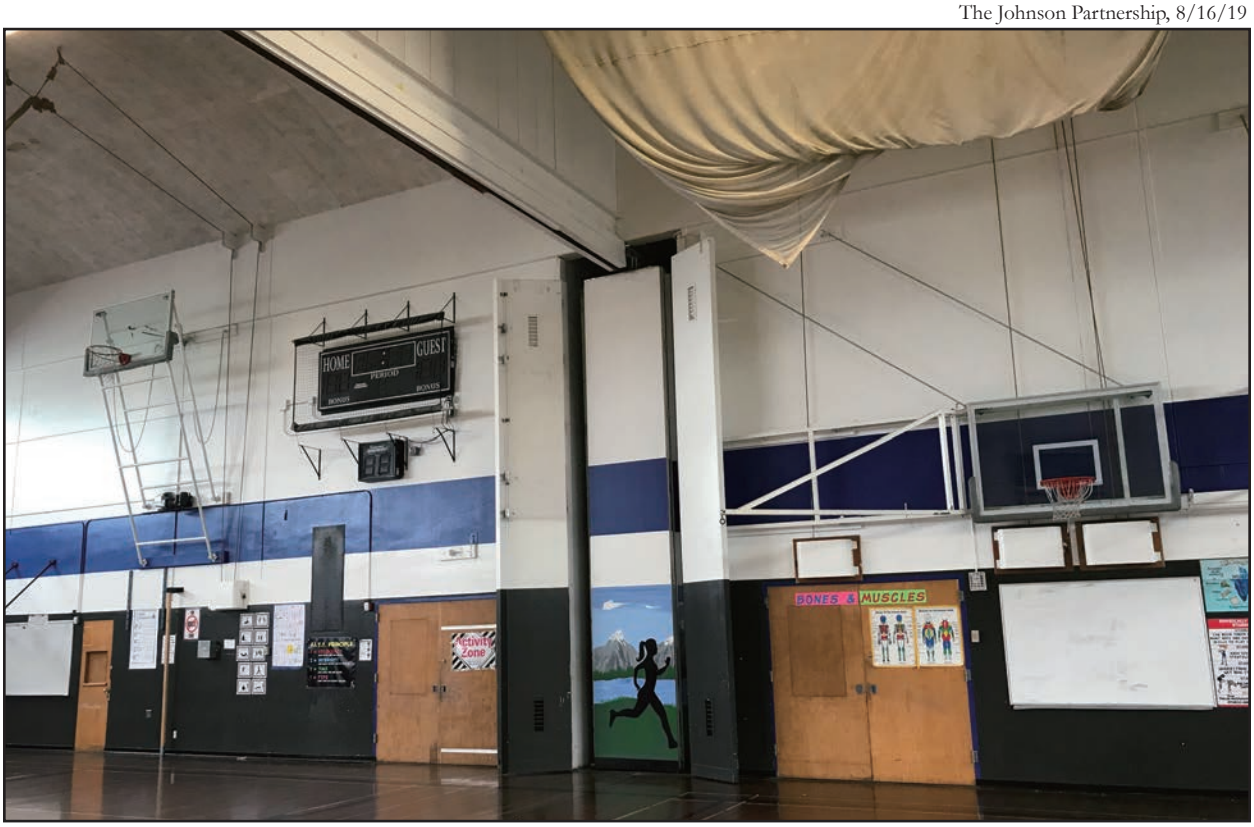


Figure 84 • Asa Mercer Middle School, Building 2, Unit D, gymnasium partition wall

The Johnson Partnership, 8/16/19



Figure 85 • Asa Mercer Middle School, Building 2, Unit D north, locker room

The Johnson Partnership, 8/16/19

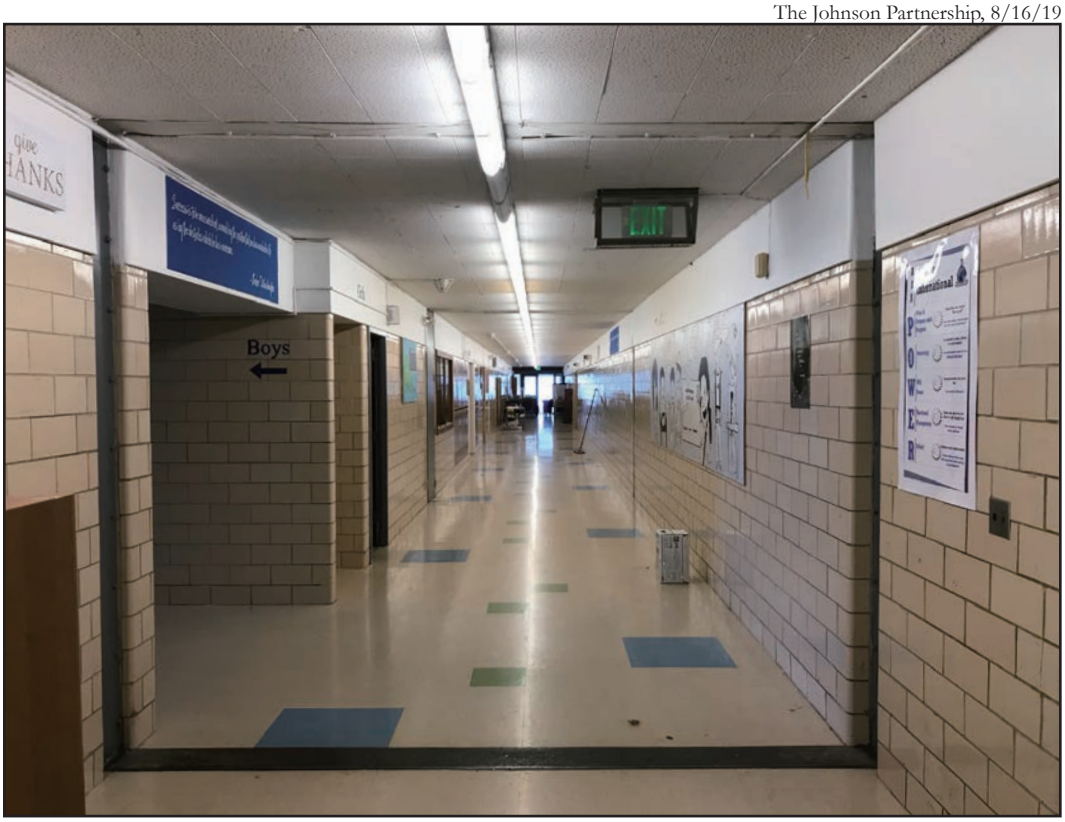


Figure 86 • Asa Mercer Middle School, Building 2, Unit D hallway viewing north

The Johnson Partnership, 8/16/19

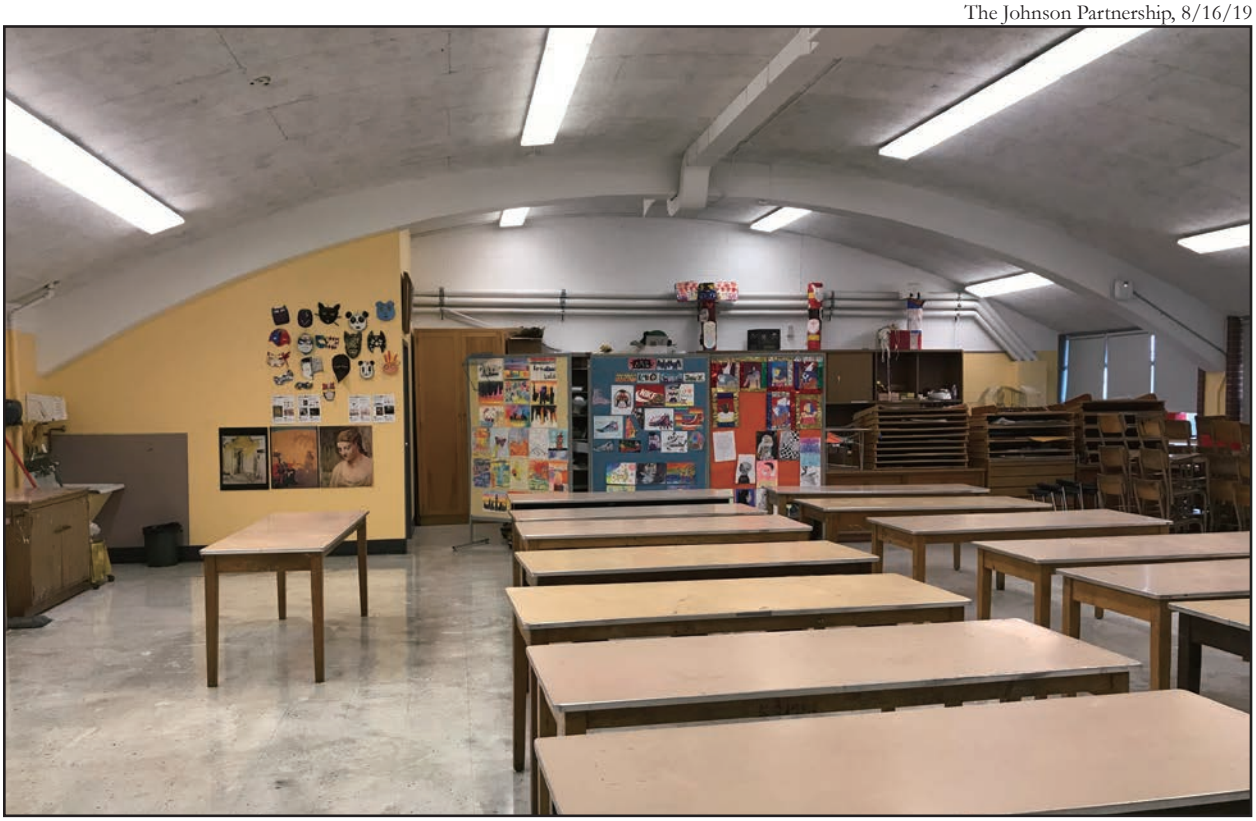


Figure 87 • Asa Mercer Middle School, Building 2, Unit D classroom

The Johnson Partnership, 8/16/19



Figure 88 • Asa Mercer Middle School, Building 2, Unit E auditorium viewing north

The Johnson Partnership, 8/16/19



Figure 89 • Asa Mercer Middle School, Building 2, Unit E, auditorium viewing south

The Johnson Partnership, 8/16/19



Figure 90 • Asa Mercer Middle School, Building 2, lobby between Unit D and Unit E, viewing east

The Johnson Partnership, 8/16/19

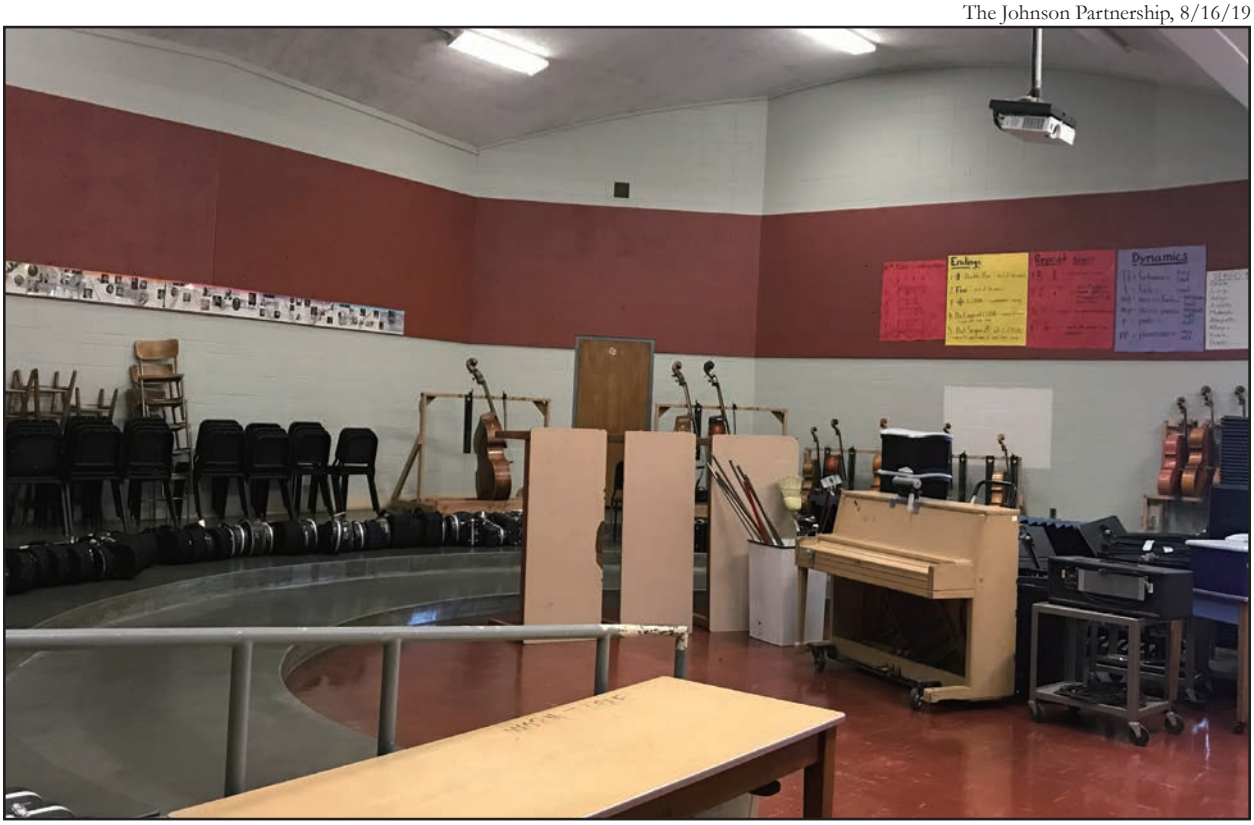


Figure 91 • Asa Mercer Middle School, Building 2, Unit E, music room

The Johnson Partnership, 8/16/19

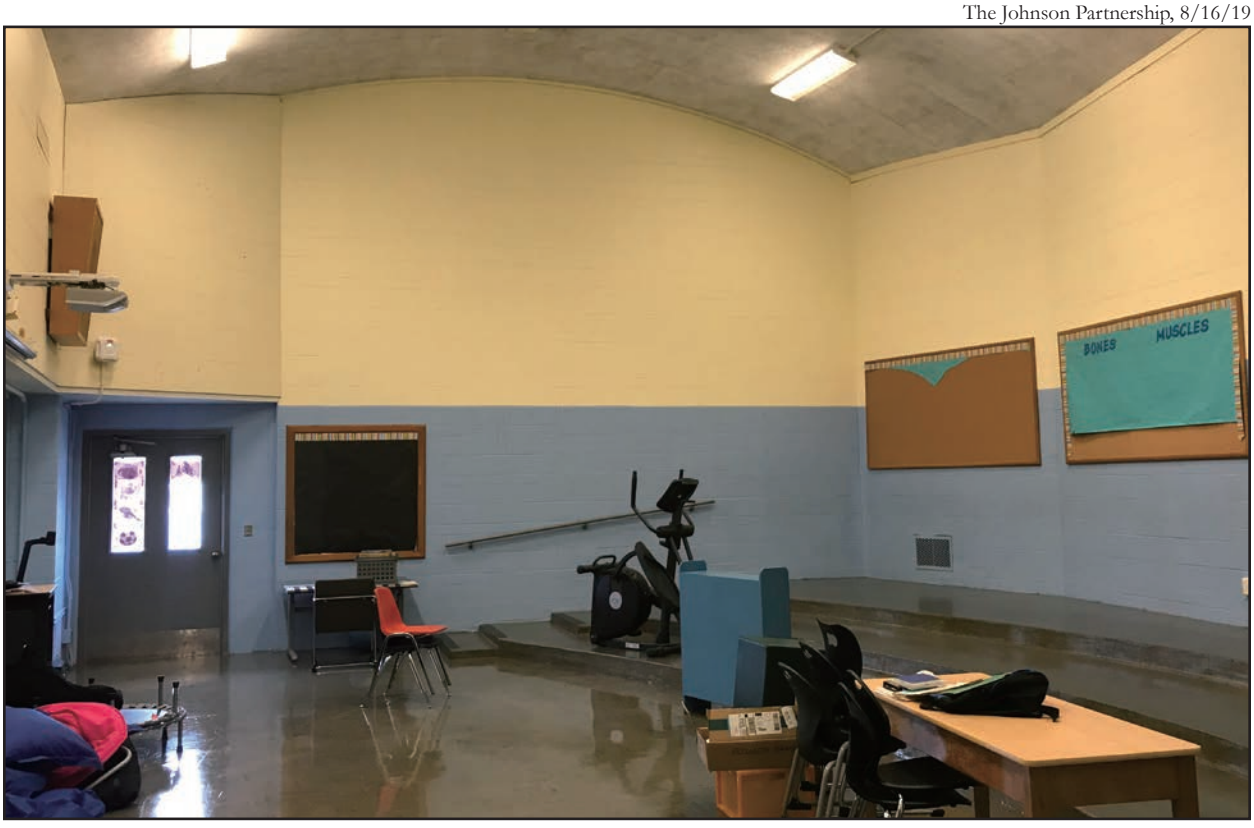


Figure 92 • Asa Mercer Middle School, Building 2, Unit E, former chorus room

Seattle Municipal Archives, 341

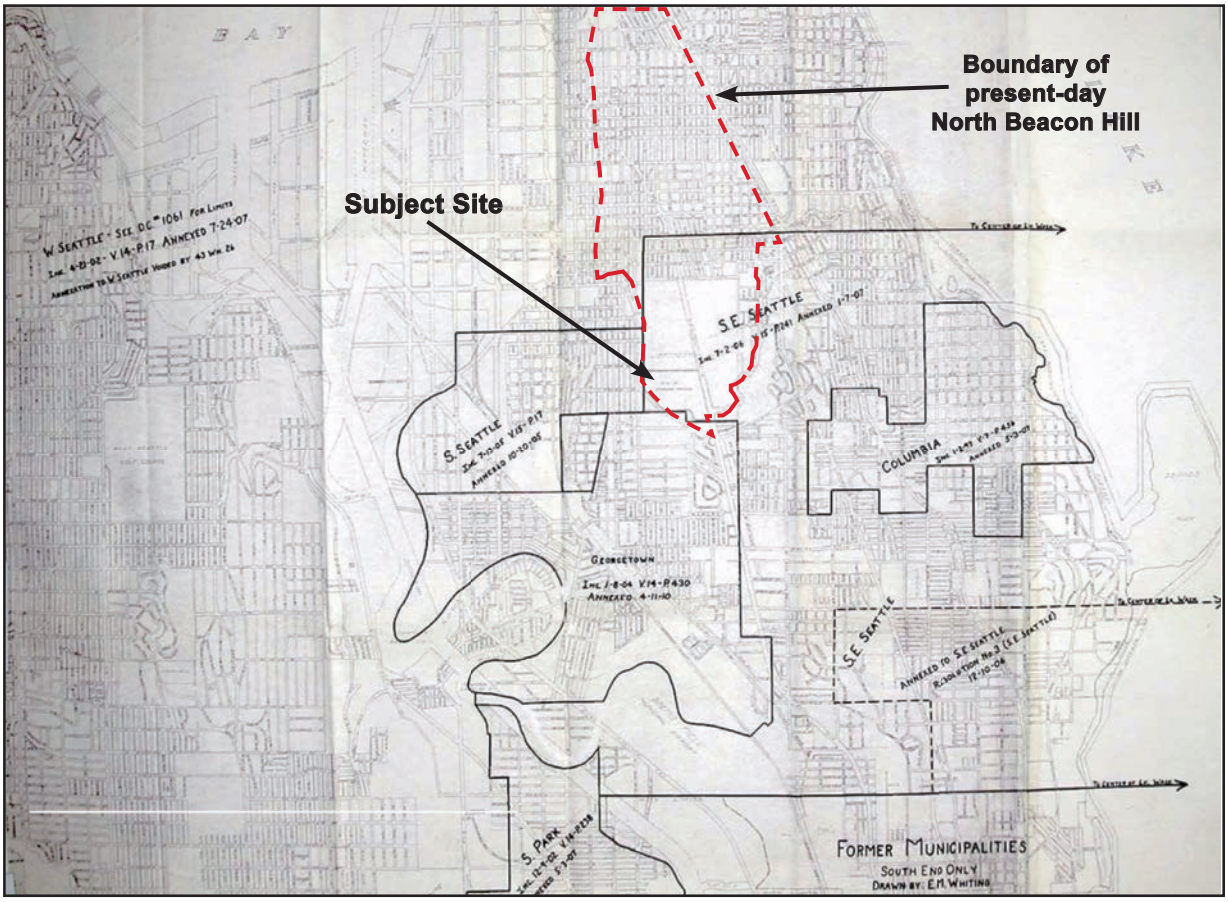


Figure 93 • Map of South Seattle Annexations, 1955

MOHAI

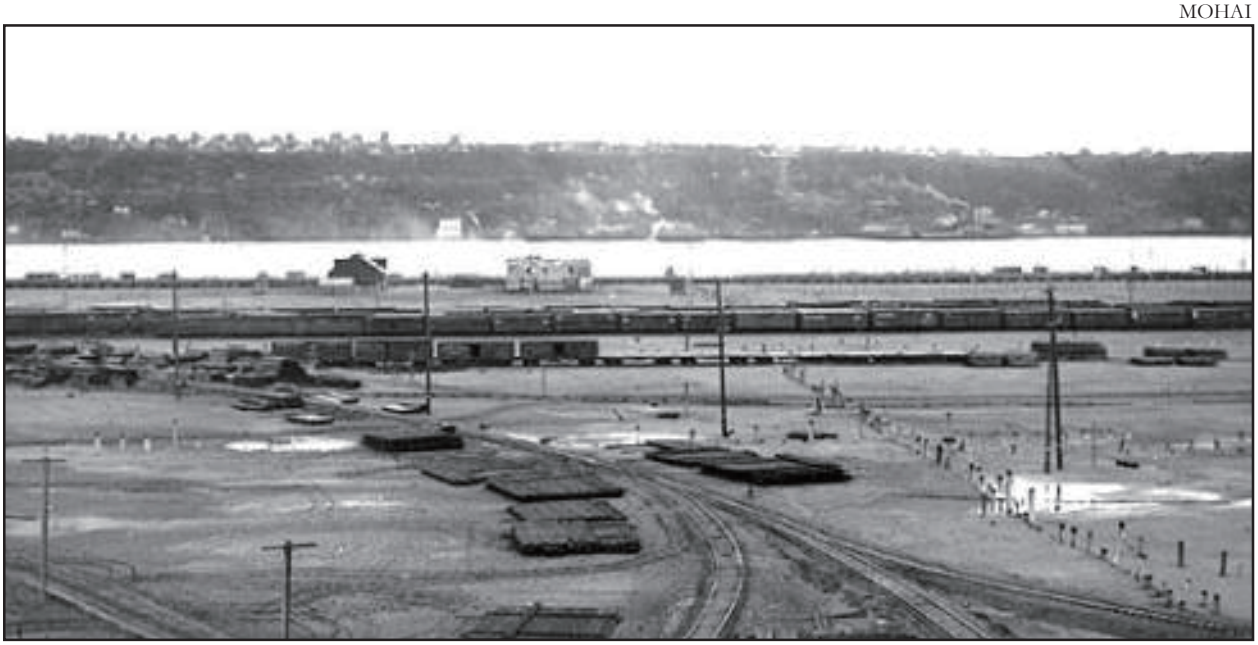


Figure 94 • Duwamish tidal flats and Beacon Hill, ca. 1904

MOHAI 1983.10.7940.1



Figure 95 • Beacon Hill farms, now Jefferson Park, 1911

University of Washington Special Collections SEA1440

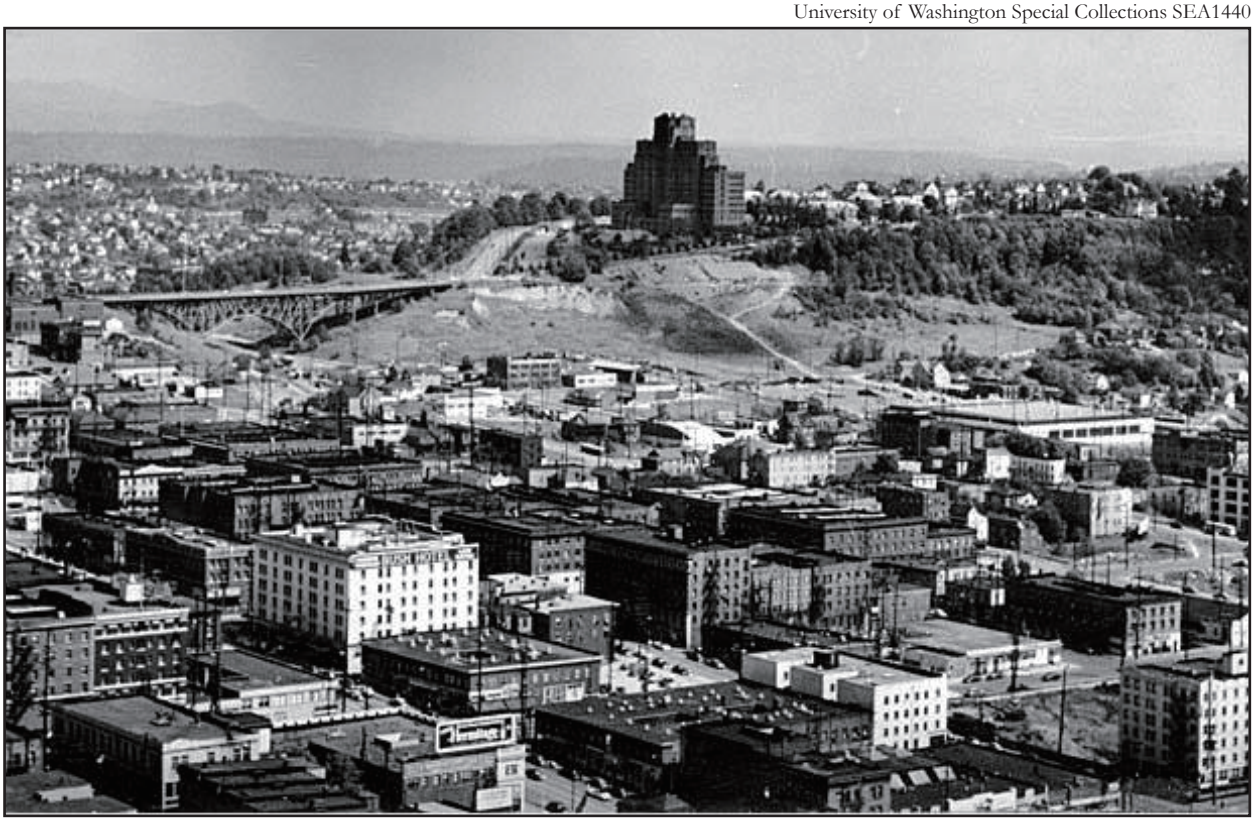
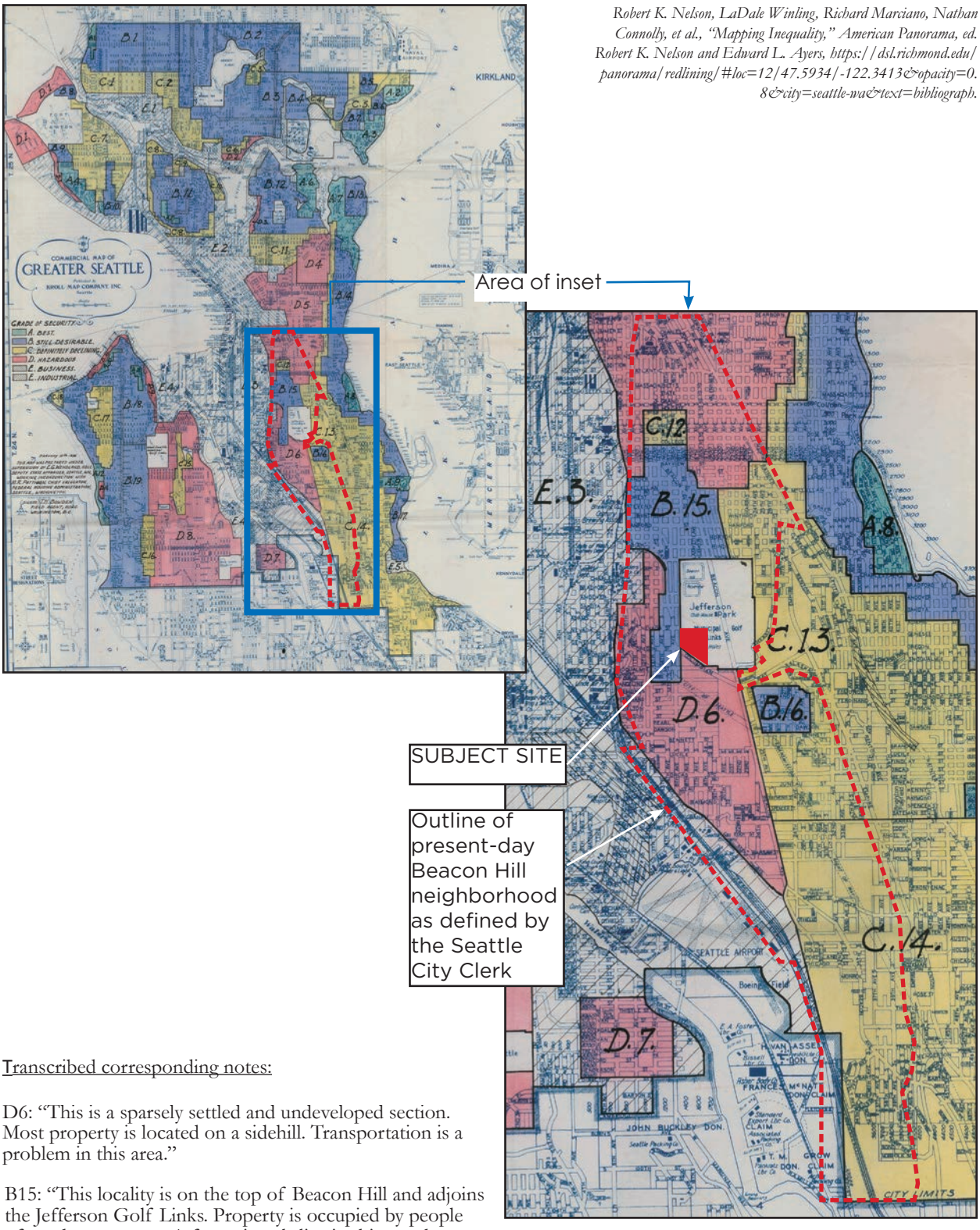


Figure 96 • North Beacon Hill in 1952, including U.S. Marine Hospital, now Pacific Tower (1933, Bebb & Gould, City of Seattle Landmark, National Register of Historic Places)

Robert K. Nelson, LaDale Winling, Richard Marciano, Nathan Connolly, et al., "Mapping Inequality," American Panorama, ed. Robert K. Nelson and Edward L. Ayers, https://dsl.richmond.edu/panorama/redlining/#loc=12/47.5934/-122.3413&opacity=0.8&city=seattle-wa&text=bibliograph.



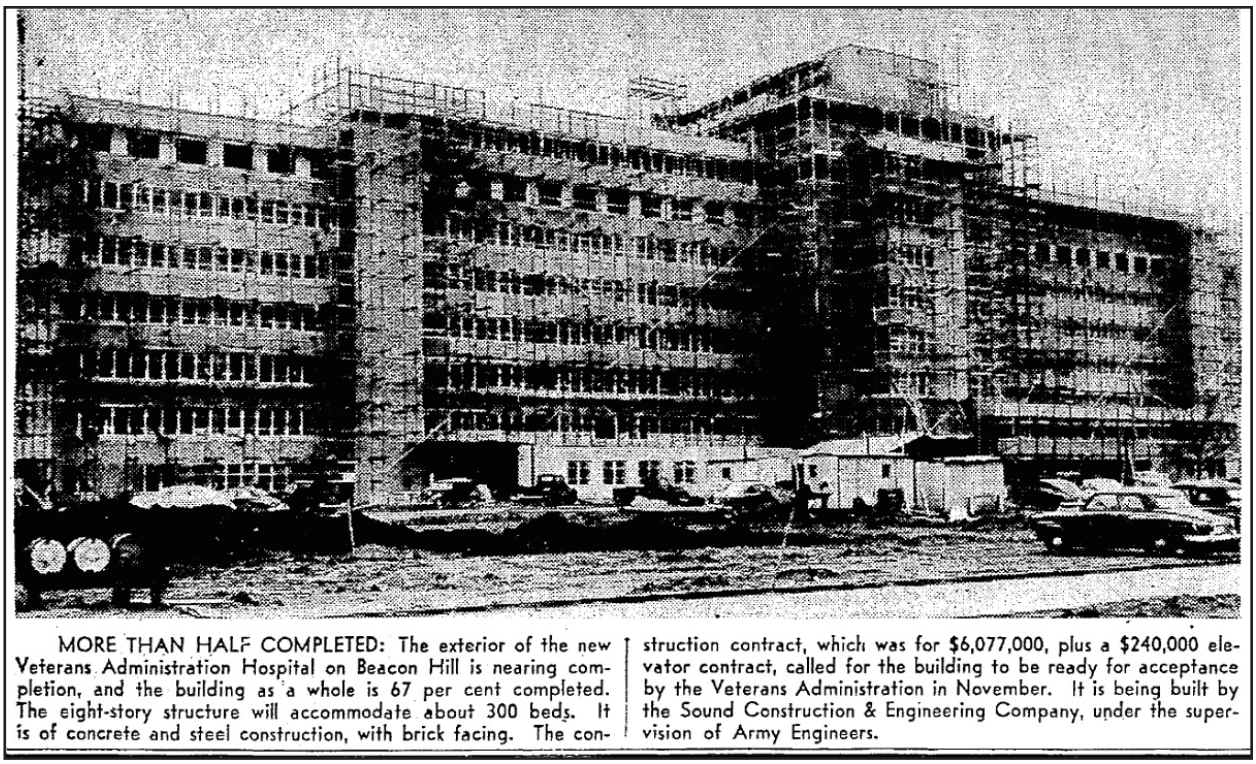
Transcribed corresponding notes:

D6: "This is a sparsely settled and undeveloped section. Most property is located on a sidehill. Transportation is a problem in this area."

B15: "This locality is on the top of Beacon Hill and adjoins the Jefferson Golf Links. Property is occupied by people of moderate means. A few orientals live in this area but they are of the socially elite and professional type. The residences vary in age from 10 to 25 years old and are generally in good condition. Many new residences were built in this area prior to the depression."

Figure 97 • City of Seattle Redline map, 1936, overlaid on a 1935 Kroll Map

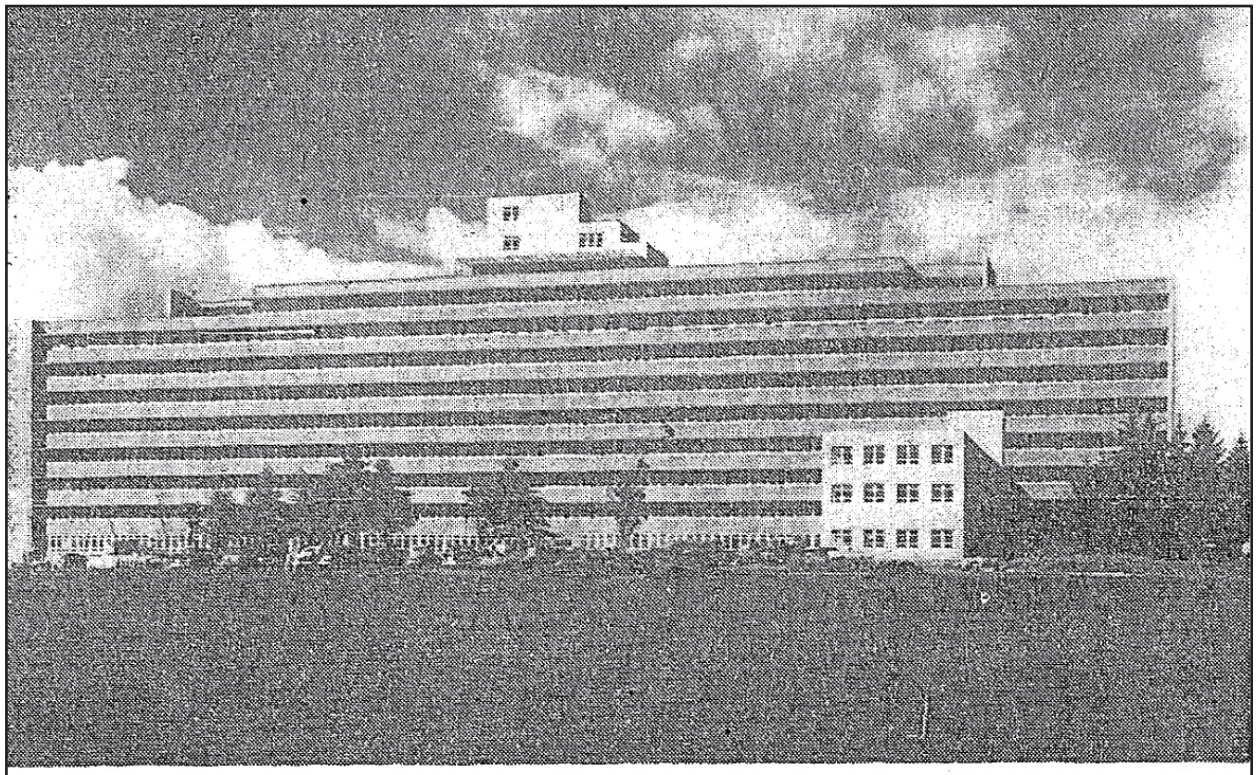
Seattle Times



MORE THAN HALF COMPLETED: The exterior of the new Veterans Administration Hospital on Beacon Hill is nearing completion, and the building as a whole is 67 per cent completed. The eight-story structure will accommodate about 300 beds. It is of concrete and steel construction, with brick facing. The construction contract, which was for $6,077,000, plus a $240,000 elevator contract, called for the building to be ready for acceptance by the Veterans Administration in November. It is being built by the Sound Construction & Engineering Company, under the supervision of Army Engineers.

Figure 98 • Veterans Administration Hospital under construction, *Seattle Times*, April 4, 1950

Seattle Times



NEW VETERANS ADMINISTRATION HOSPITAL ON BEACON HILL NEARING COMPLETION
Plenty of light, pleasant outlook provided in $6,500,000 hospital of 300-bed capacity near Jefferson Park Golf Course

Figure 99 • Veterans Administration Hospital under construction, *Seattle Times*, October 26, 1950

Google maps

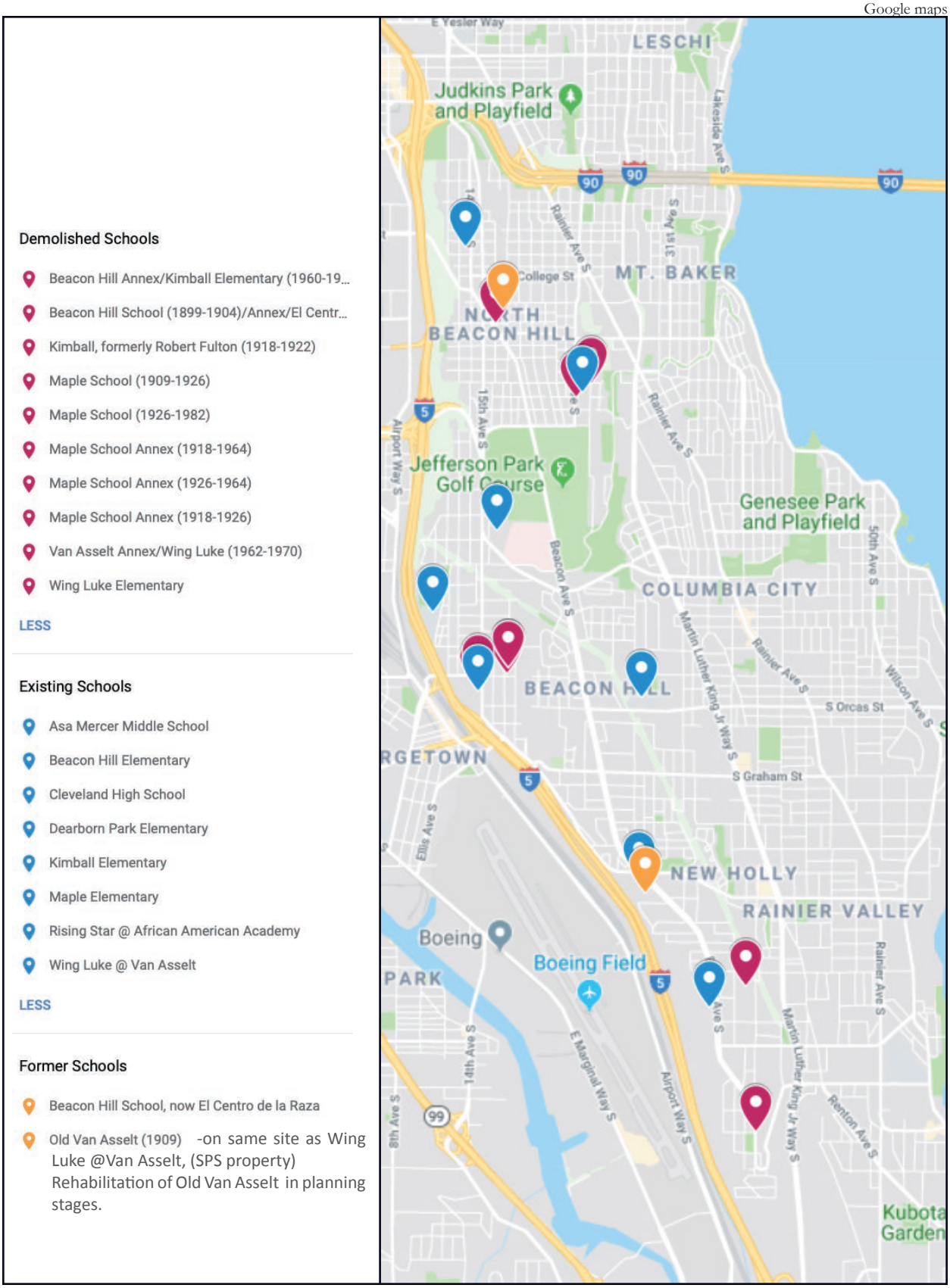


Figure 100 • Map of Schools in Beacon Hill

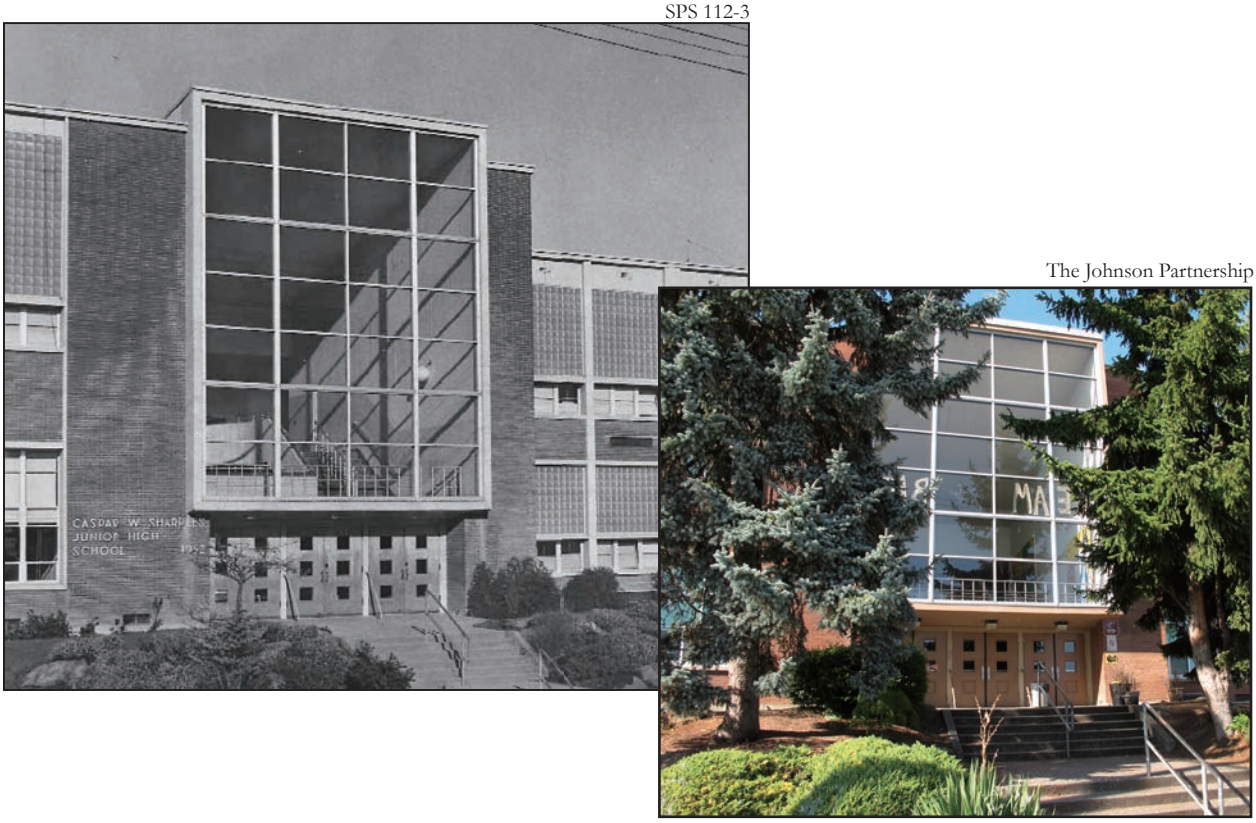
SPS 275-3



The Johnson Partnership

Figure 101 • Addition at Van Asselt Elementary (1950, Jones & Bindon)

SPS 112-3



The Johnson Partnership

Figure 102 • Sharples Junior High (now Aki Kurose Middle Scool, 1952, William Mallis)

King County Parcel Viewer



Figure 103 • Aerial View of site, 1936

SPS Archives, 110-1



Figure 104 • Aerial view of Veteran's Hospital (Mercer site) before construction, 1955

SPS Archives, A002-PF-110

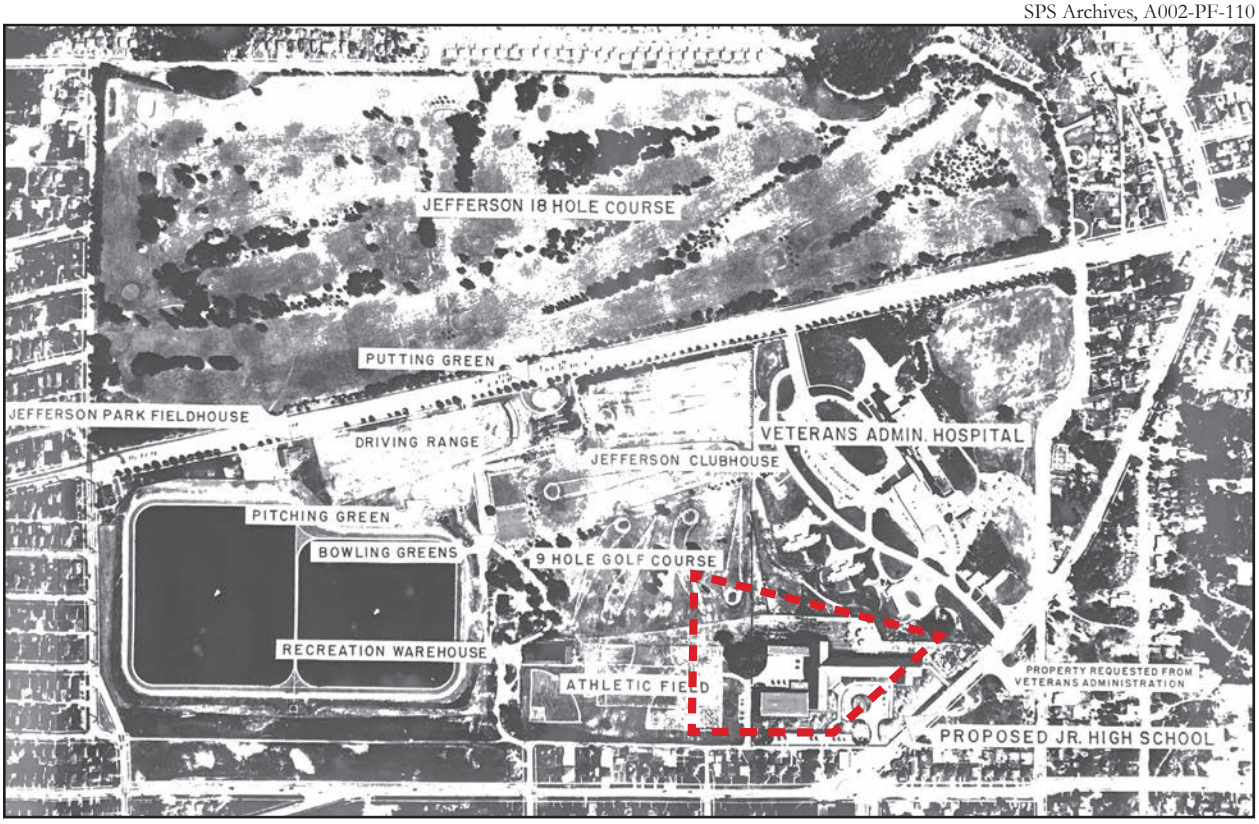


Figure 105 • Proposed site of Junior High School

SPS Archives, A002-PF-110

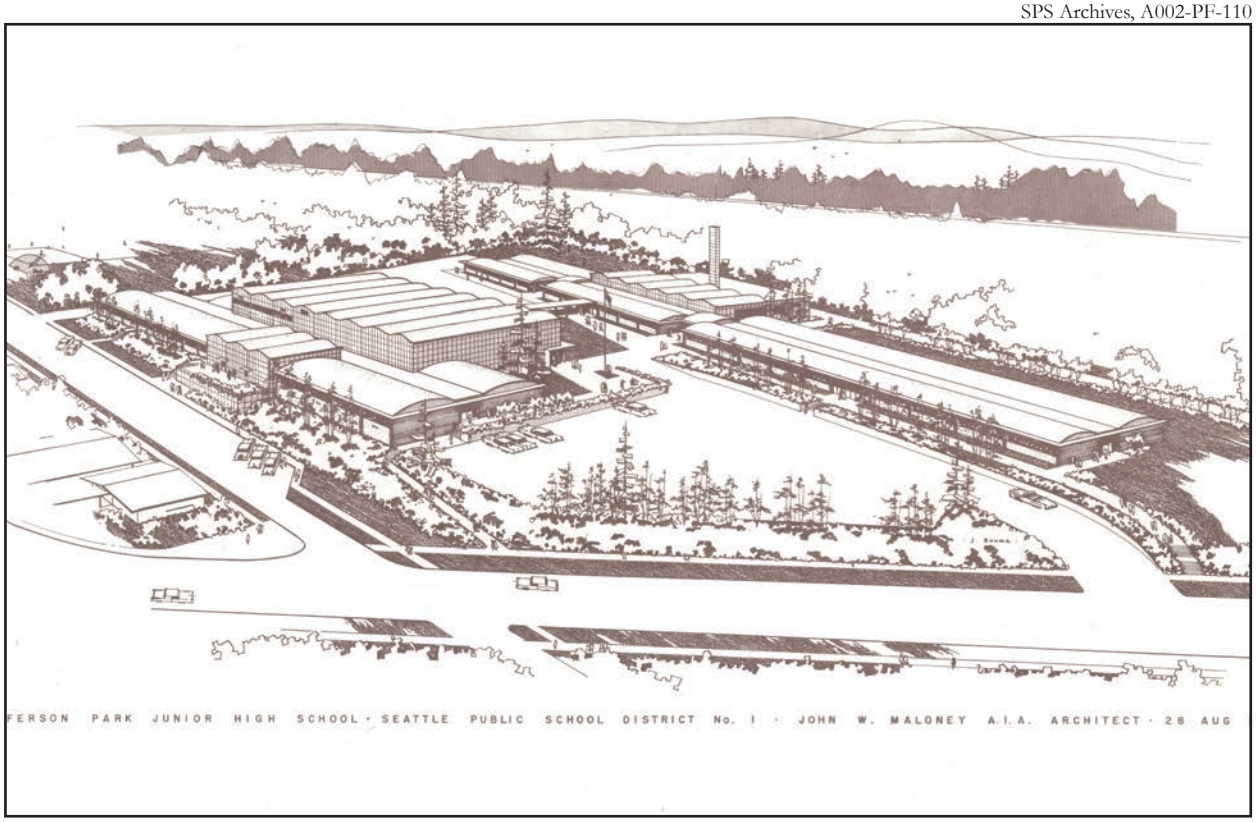


Figure 106 • Jefferson Park Junior High School, John Maloney rendering, 1956

Seattle Times



NEW JUNIOR HIGH: The roof of the new Asa Mercer Junior High School presents a gracefully curving line against the sky. The school, to serve the Beacon Hill area, is at 1600 Columbian Way. It contains 18 standard classrooms, five special classrooms, an auditorium, library, lunchroom and gymnasium. Officials of the Seattle Public Schools have described it as one of the finest building of its type erected in recent years.

Figure 107 • Asa Mercer Junior High School, *Seattle Times,* September 1, 1957

Seattle Times



Figure 108 • Plaque of Asa Mercer and Mrs. Clarence Prentice, grandniece of Mercer, *Seattle Times,* Dec. 5, 1957

SPS Archives, 110-3

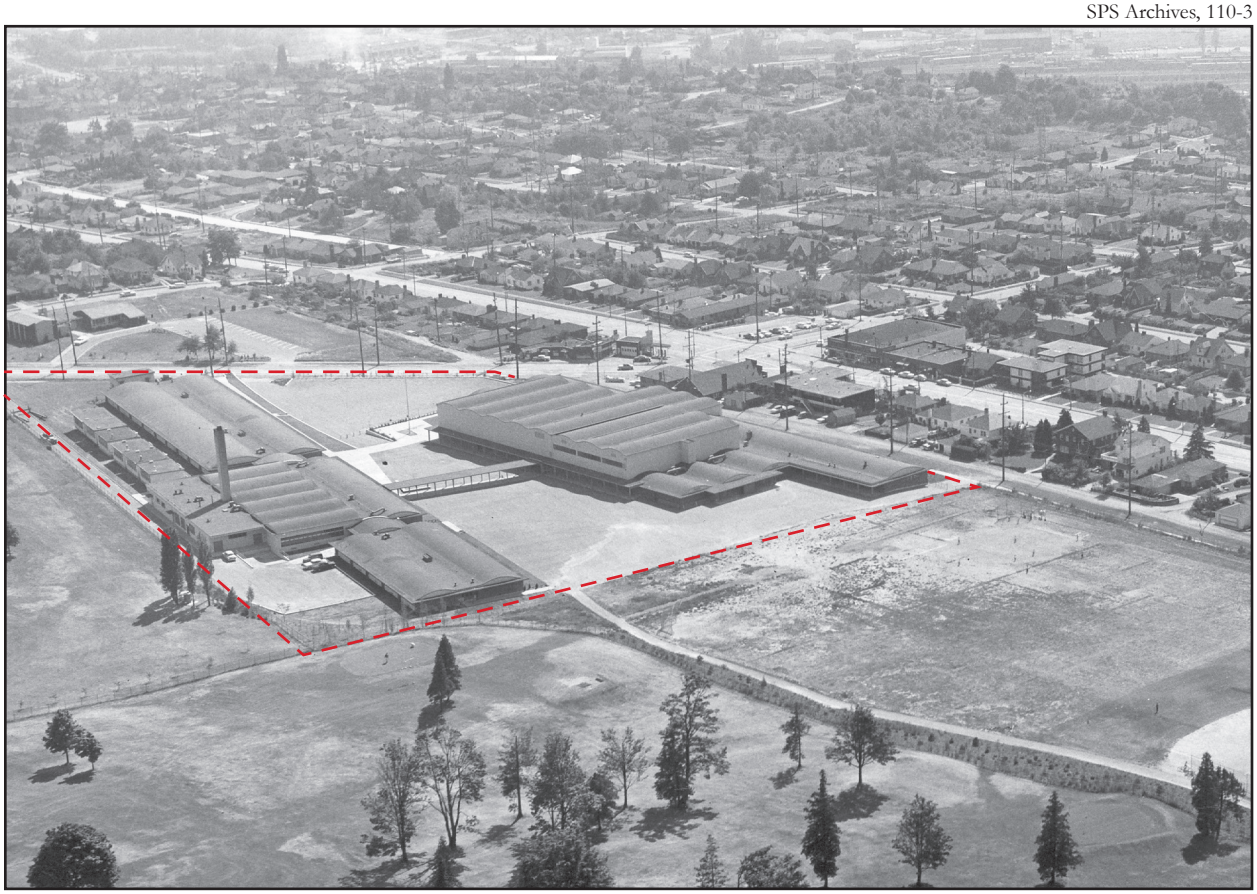


Figure 109 • Asa Mercer Junior High School, viewed from north, 1958 (overlaid dashed property line)

SPS Archives, 110-2



Figure 110 • Asa Mercer Junior High School, viewed from south, 1958

SPS Archives, 110-4



Figure 111 • Asa Mercer Junior High School, side and front of school, 1960

SPS Archives, 110-6

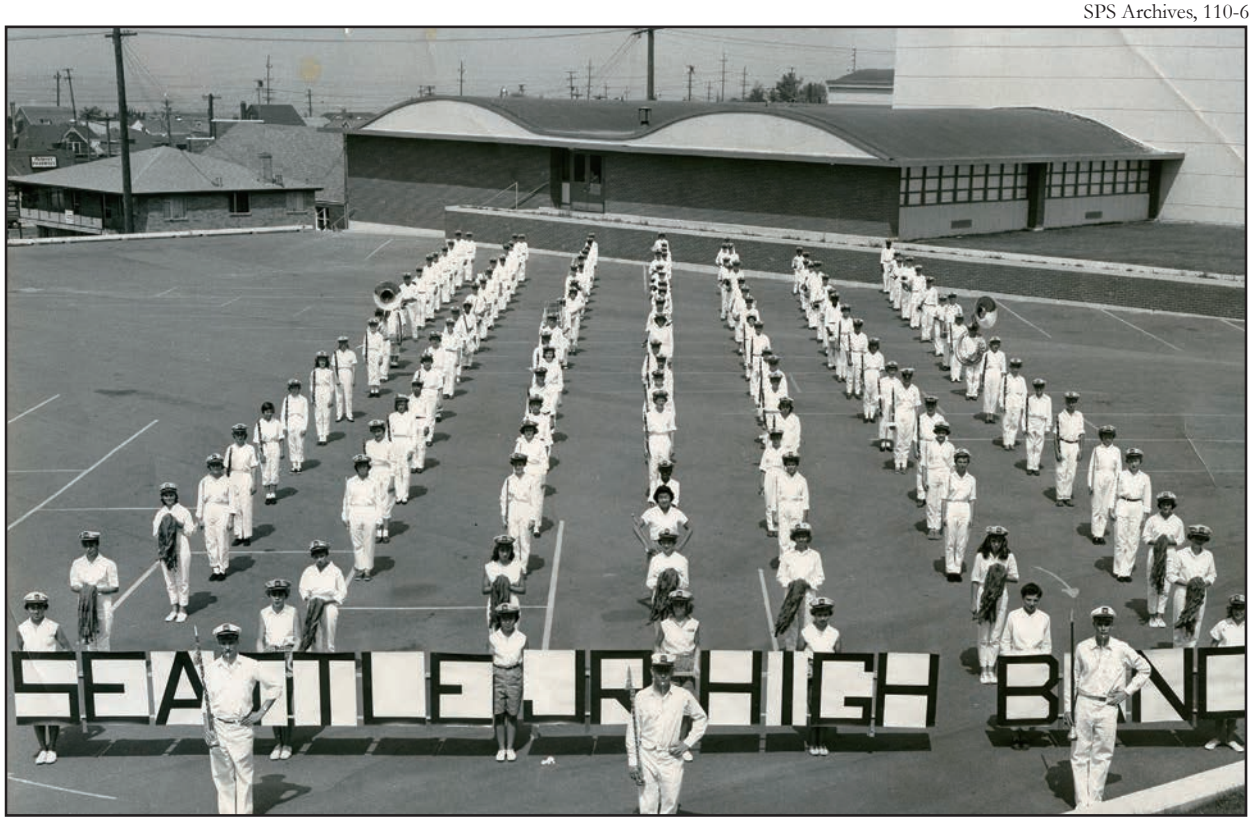


Figure 112 • Mercer School, Seattle Junior High Band, 1958

Seattle Times

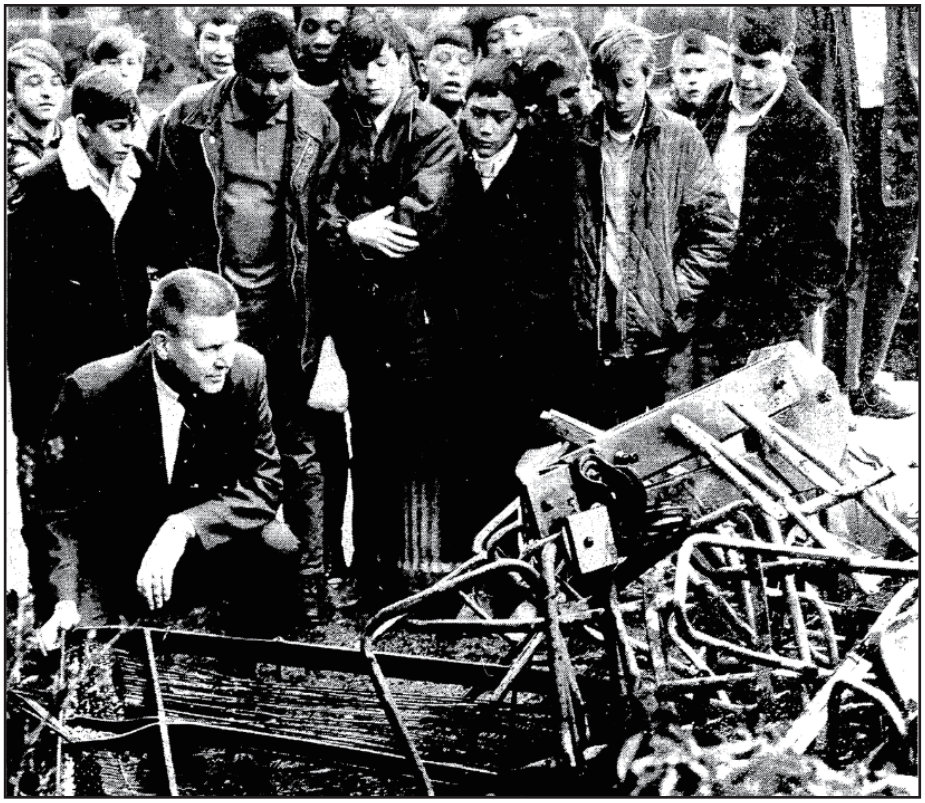


Figure 113 • Principal George Pearson and students examine detritus of auditorium fire, *Seattle Times,* February 3, 1969

SPS Archives, 110-74



Figure 114 • View of school parking lot, ca. 1970's

SPS Archives, 110-85



Figure 115 • Asa Mercer Junior High Varsity Basketball team, 1972-1973

Seattle Times

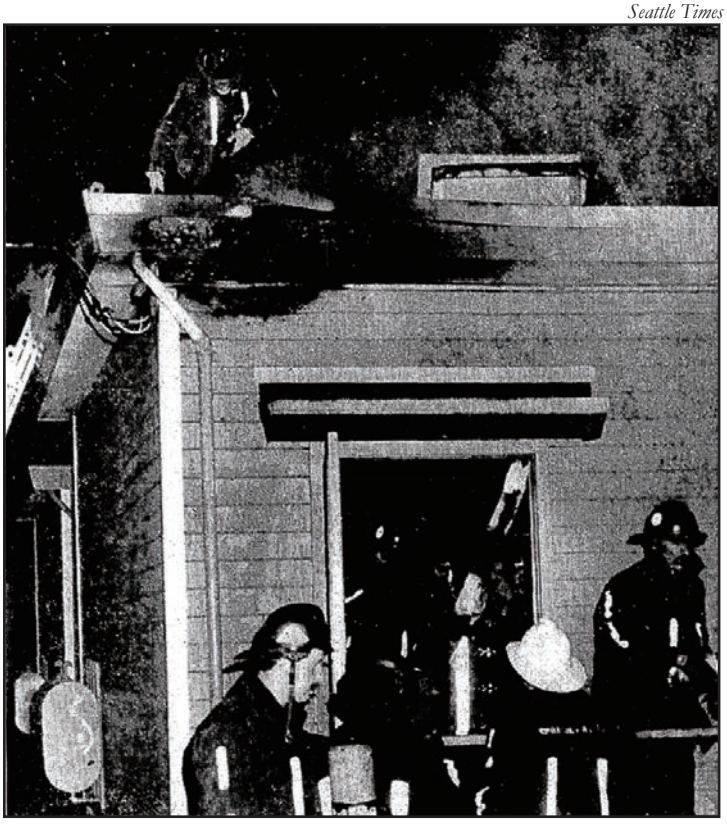


Figure 116 • Firefighters at the scene of an arson fire in portable building, *Seattle Times,* August 22, 1975

SPS Archives, 110-77



Figure 117 • Volunteer workshop - staff from Van Asselt conference, 1986

SPS Archives, 110-174



Figure 118 • Students painting murals for "Murals at Mercer," 2006

King County Parcel Viewer



Figure 119 • Aerial view of site, 2007

King County Parcel Viewer

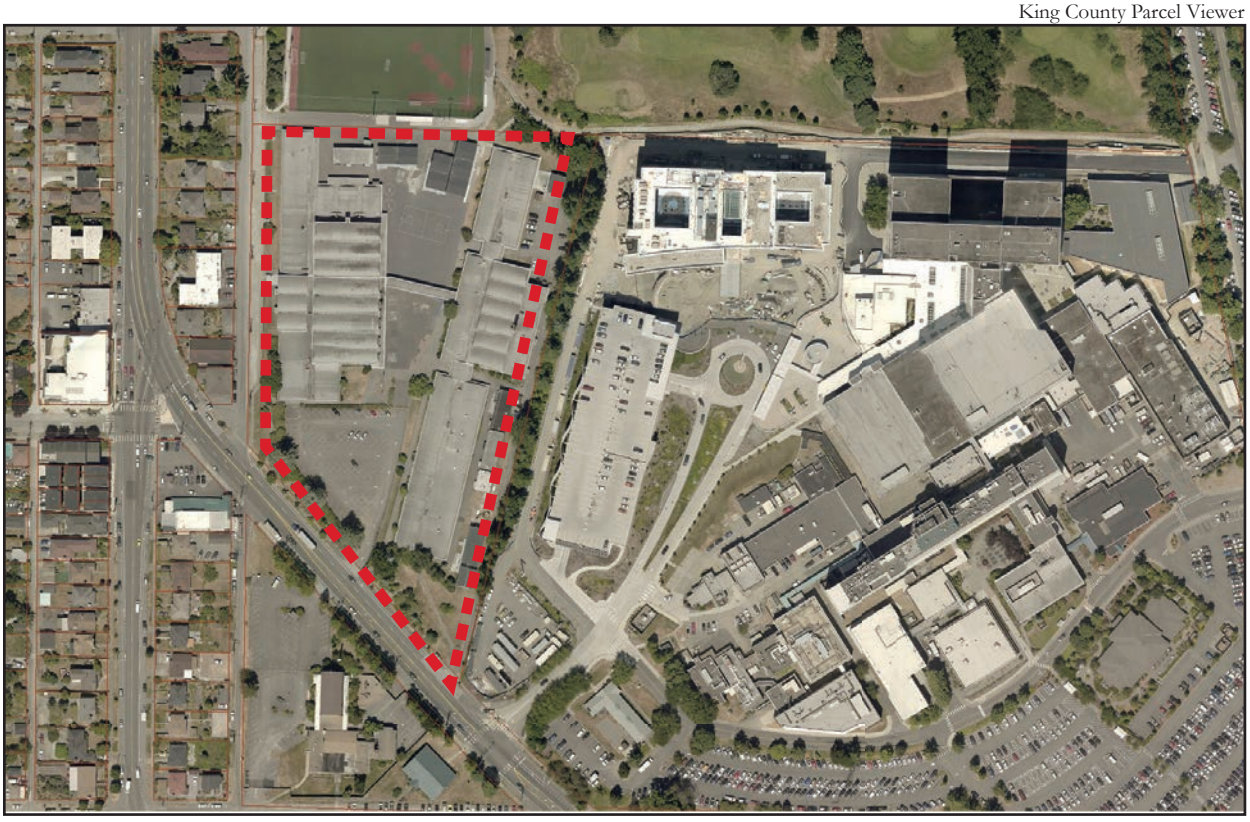


Figure 120 • Aerial view of site, 2017

Harvard Graduate Center_RIBA Journal Collections



Figure 121 • Harvard Graduate Center, Walter Gropius, Cambridge, MA, 1950

Crown Hall_Docomomo Chicago



Figure 122 • Crown Hall, Mies Van der Rohe, Chicago, 1956

Farnsworth House_Chicago Reader



Figure 123 • Farnsworth House, Mies Van der Rohe, Plano, IL, 1951

Carpenter Center for the Visual Arts

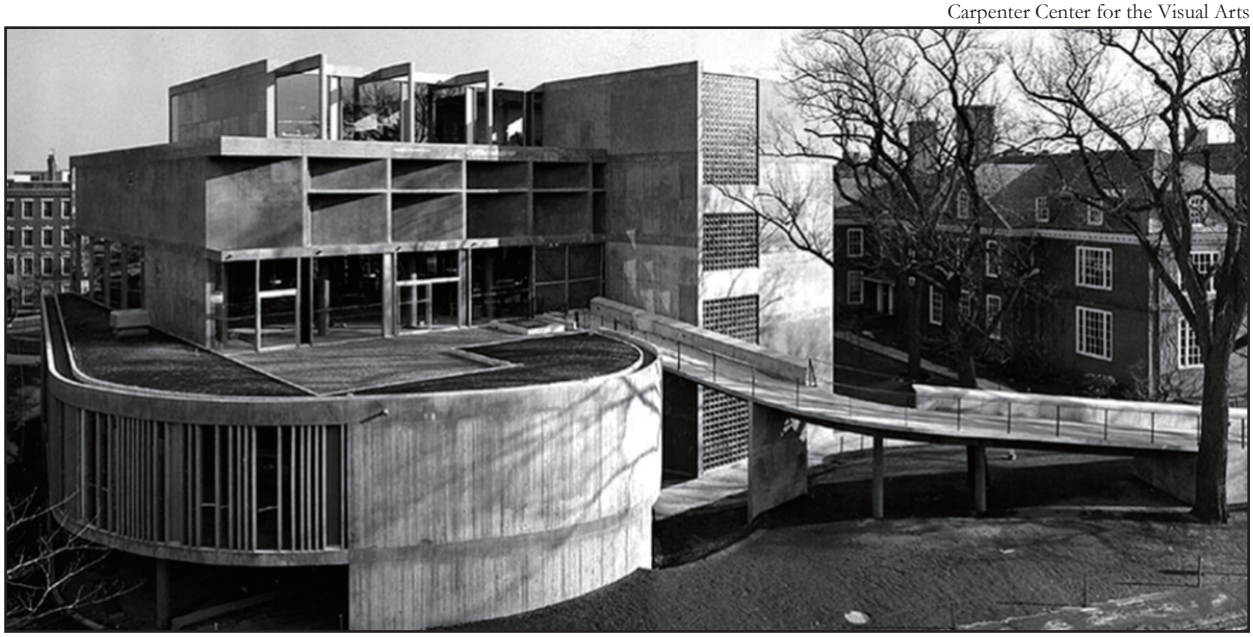


Figure 124 • Carpenter Center for the Visual Arts, Le Corbusier, Cambridge, MA, 1978

Grosse Pointe Library

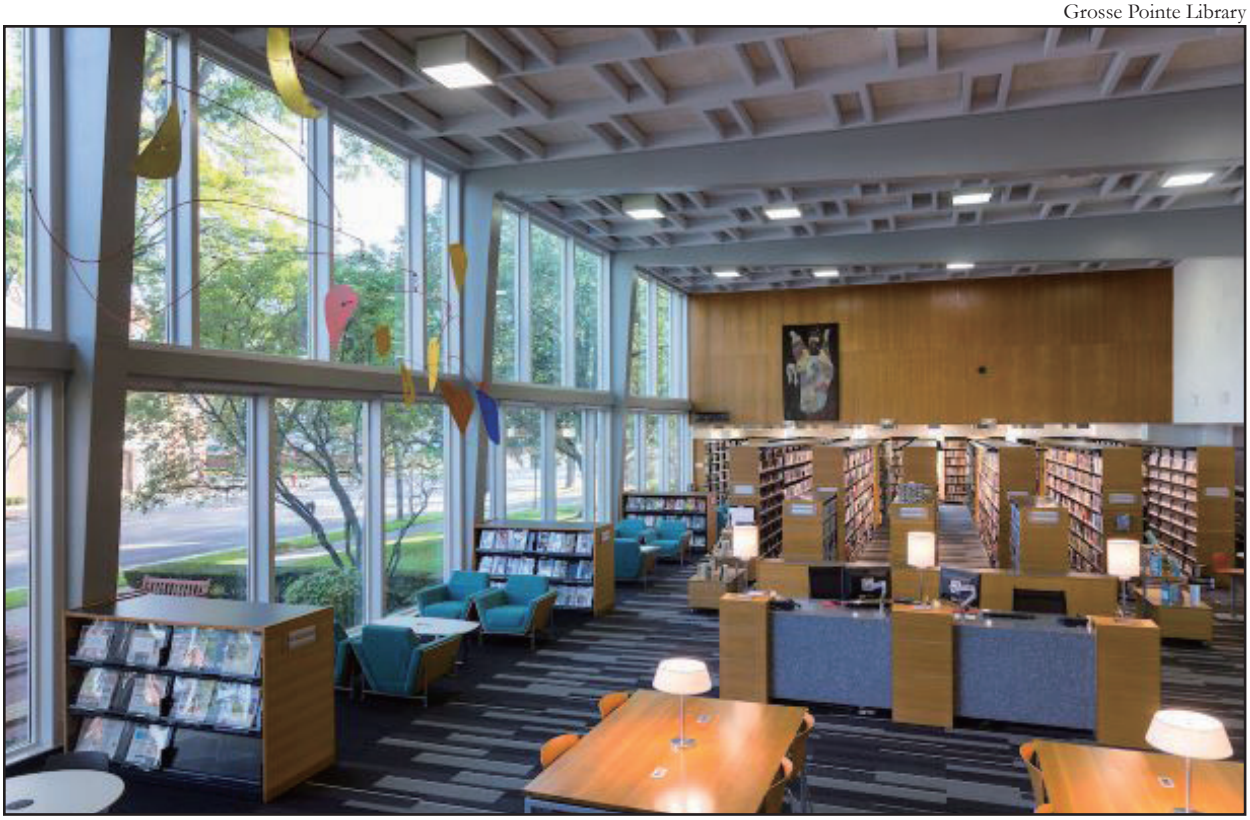


Figure 125 • Grosse Pointe Library, Marcel Breuer, Grosse Pointe, MI, 1953

Architectural Heritage Center



Figure 126 • Mount Angel Library, Alvar Aalto, Mount Angel, OR, 1970

Daily Journal of Commerce Oregon



Figure 127 • Cedar Park Elementary, Paul Thiry, Seattle, WA, 1959

Seattle Magazine



Figure 128 • University Unitarian Church, Paul Hayden Kirk, Seattle, 1959

Kevin Scott



Figure 129 • Canlis Restaurant, Roland Terry, Seattle, 1961

Seattle Times

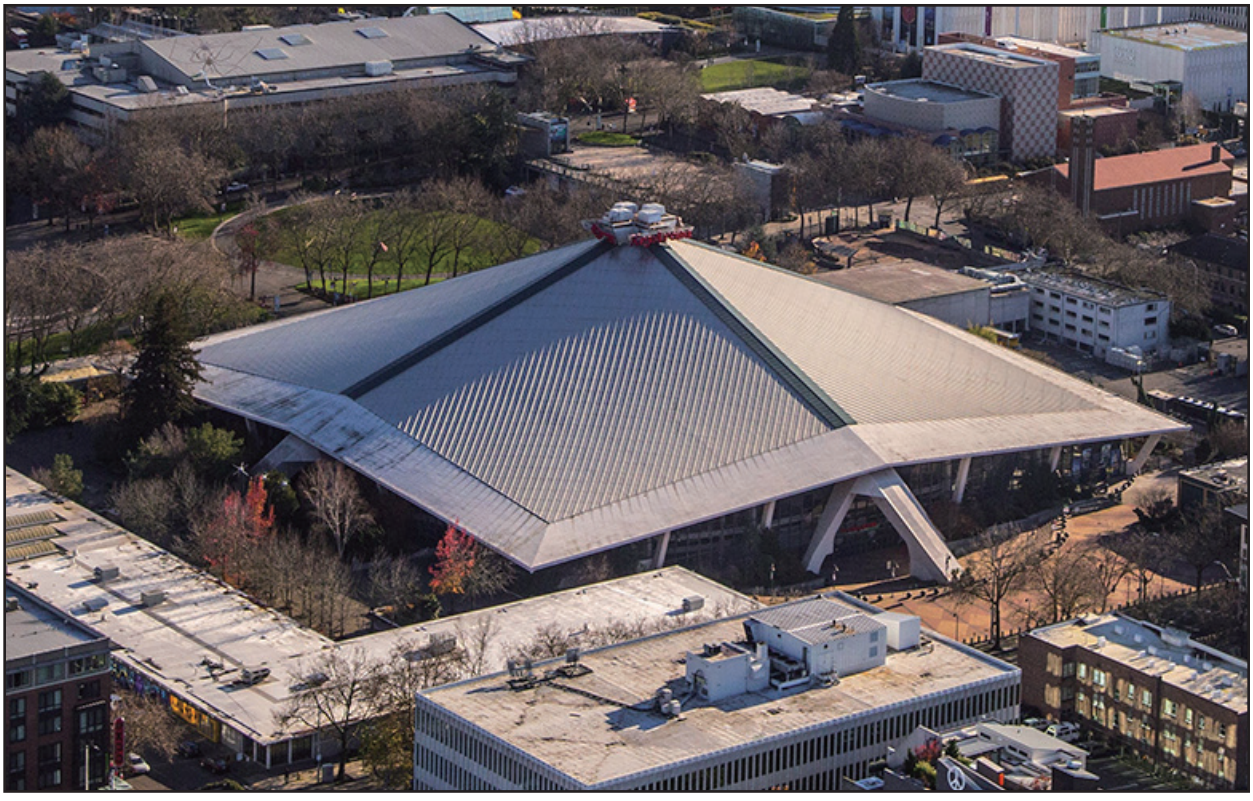


Figure 130 • Key Arena, Paul Thiry, Seattle, WA, 1962

Sprague: *Sculpture at a Grand Scale*



Figure 131 • Mercer Island High School Multipurpose Room, Bassetti & Morse, Seattle, 1958

unknown soucre



Figure 132 • Central Lutheran Church, Pietro Belluschi, Portland, OR, 1951

sah-archipedia.org



Figure 133 • Bellingham High School, Floyd Naramore, 1938

Syracuse University Special Collections, Lescaze Collection

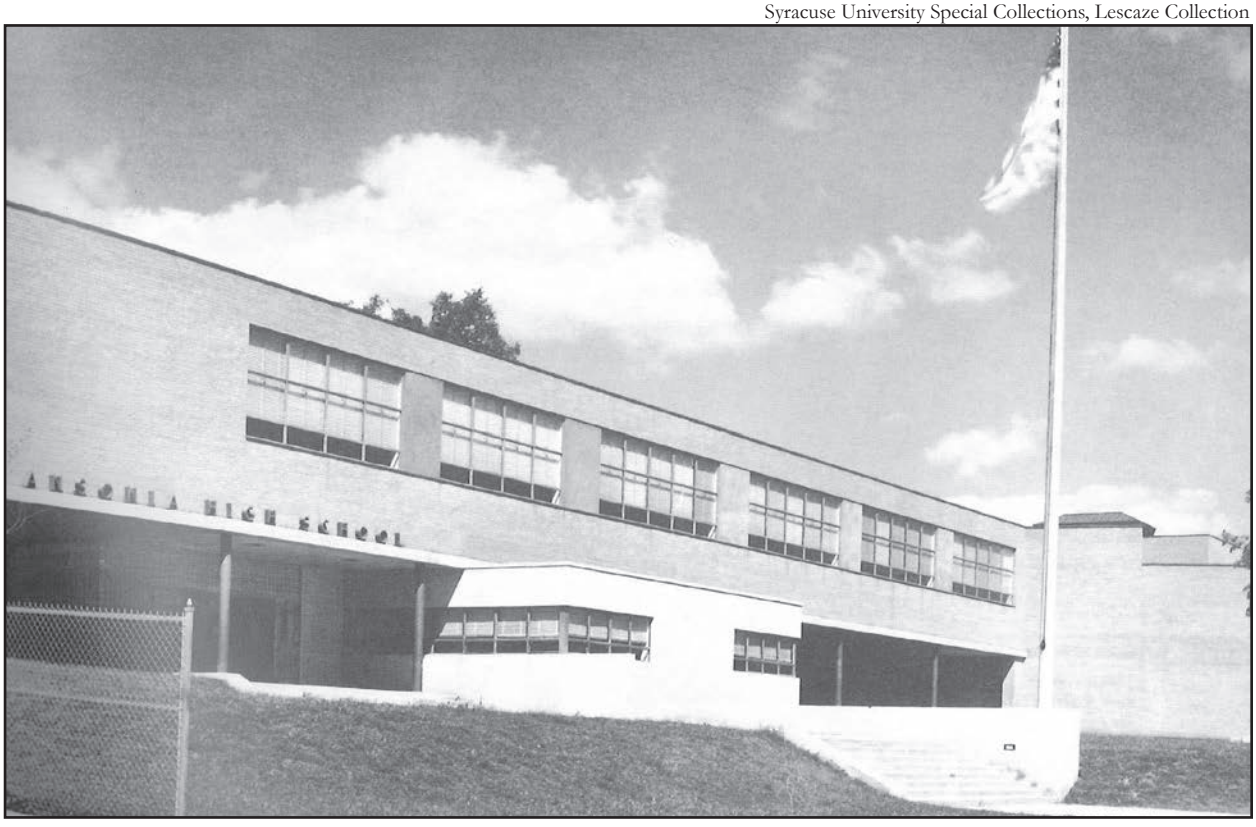


Figure 134 • Ansonia High School, William Lescaze, Ansonia, CT, 1937

archdaily.com.br



Figure 135 • Corona Avenue School, Richard Neutra, Bell, CA, 1935

Lafayette Historical Society

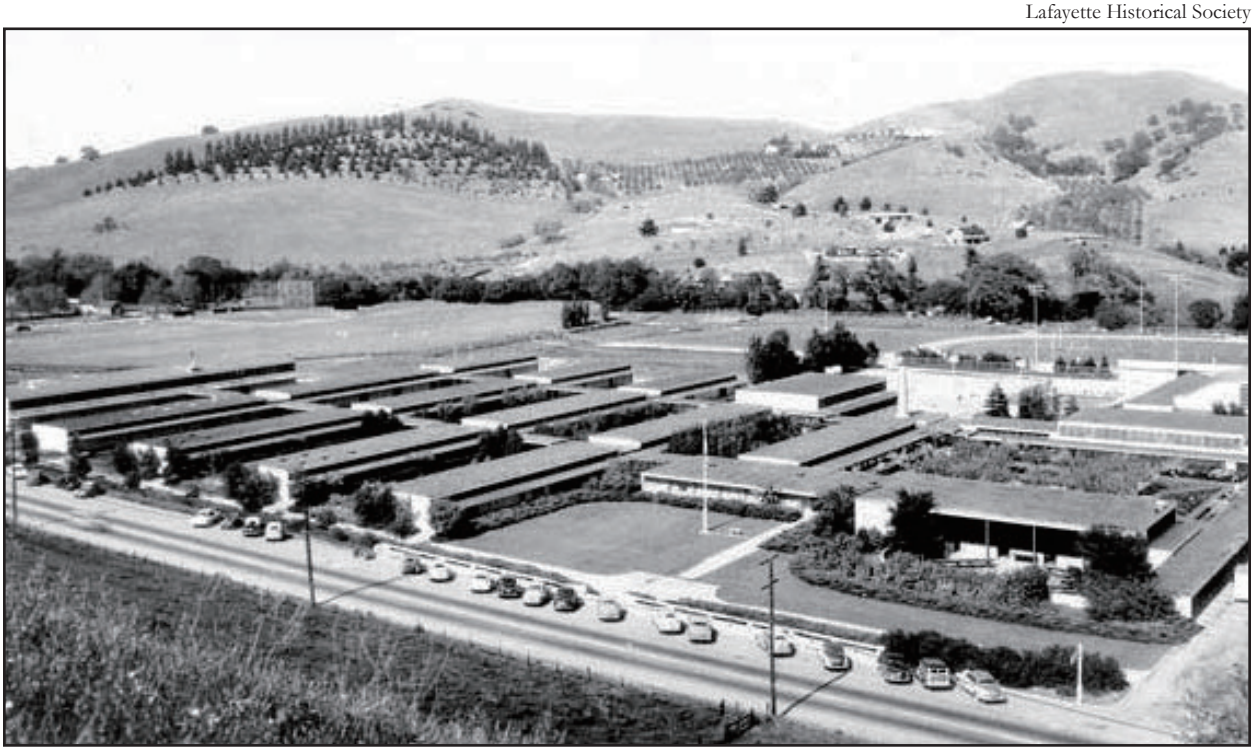


Figure 136 • Acalanes Union High School, Franklin & Kump, Lafayette, CA, 1939-40

Perkins & Will



Figure 137 • Crow Island School, Perkins, Wheeler & Will w/Eliel and Eero Saarinen Winnetka IL, 1940

unknown source

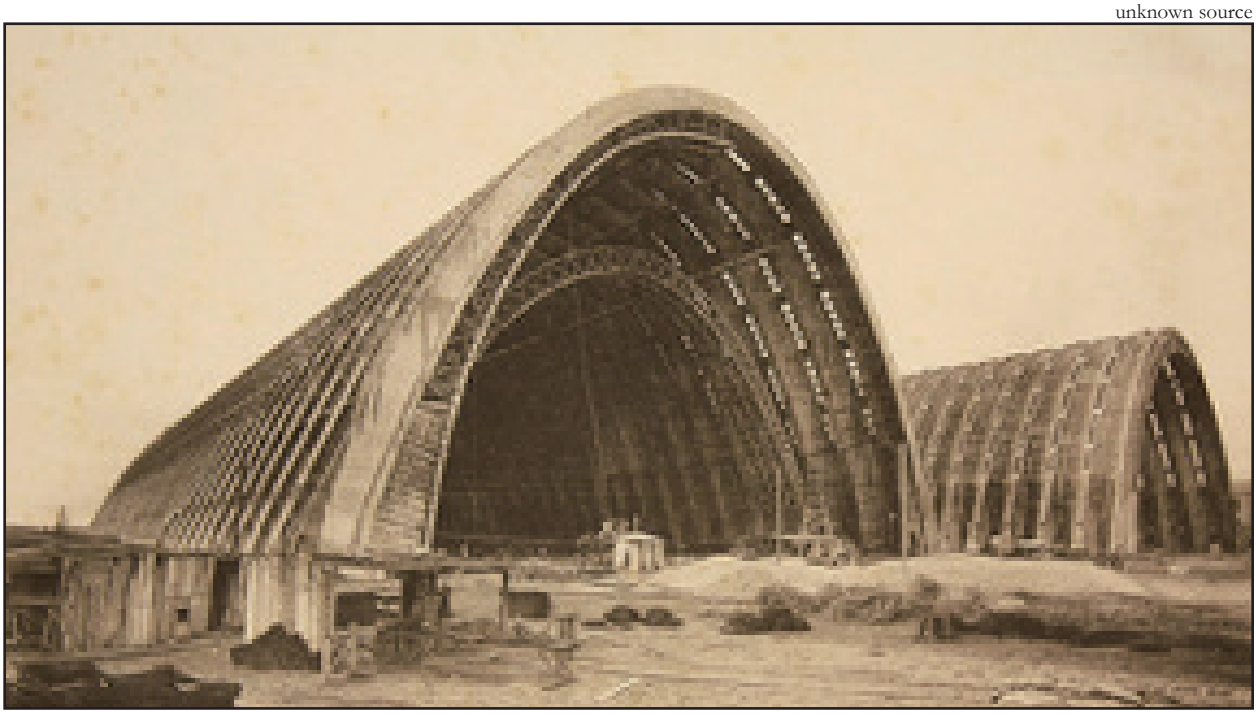


Figure 138 • Aircraft hangars, Eugene Freyssinet, Orly, France, 1916

Getty Images

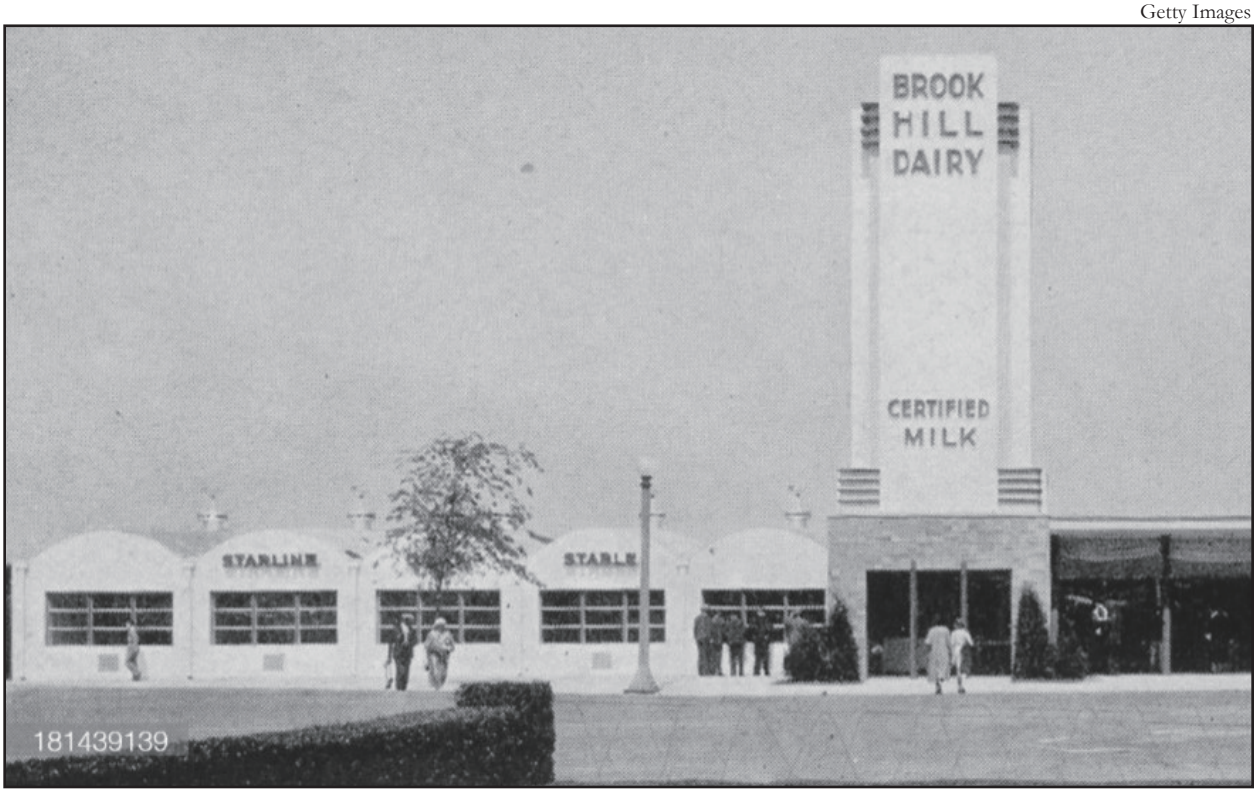


Figure 139 • Brook Hill Dairy Farm at the "Century of Progress" World's Fair, Chicago, 1933

unknown source



Figure 140 • Aircraft hangars, Pier Luigi Nervi, Orvieto, Italy, 1935

pinterest



Figure 141 • Grandstand for the Zarzuela Racetrack, engineer Eduardo Torroja, Madrid, 1935

http://www.aplf-planetariums.info

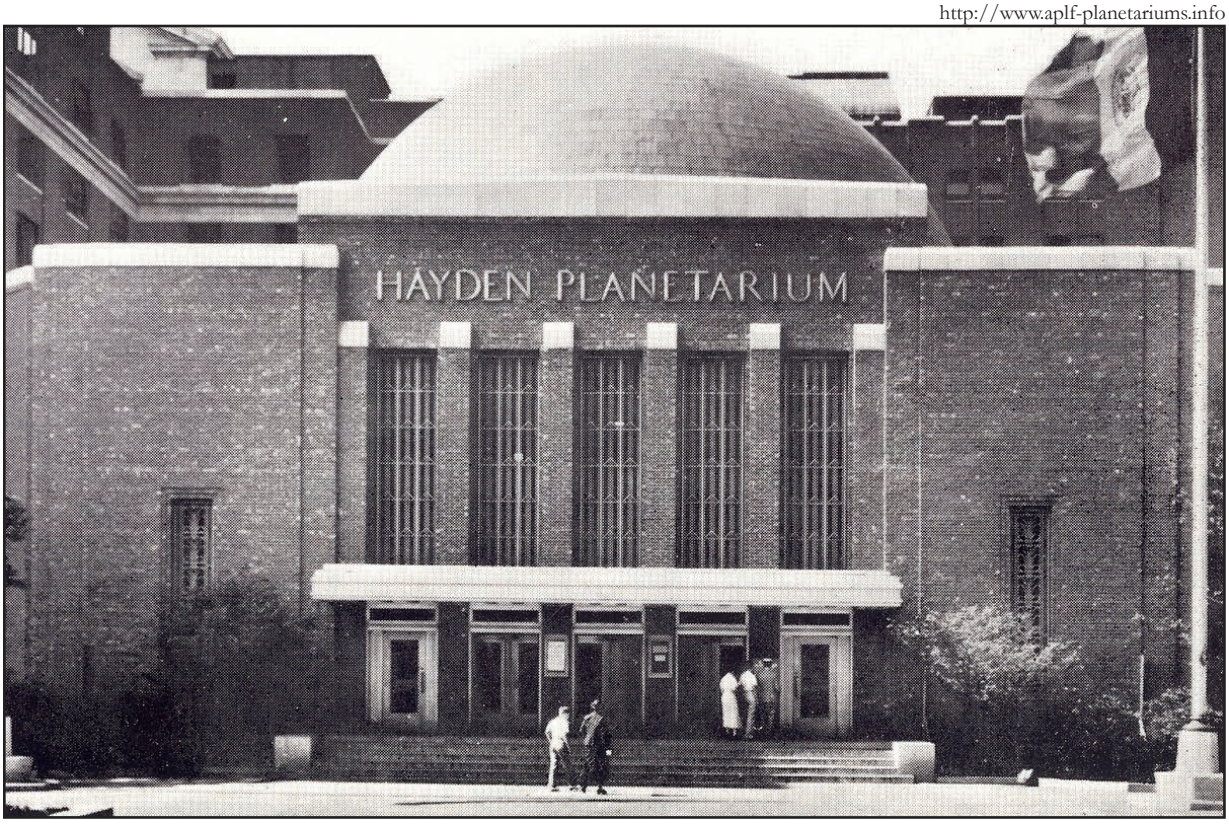


Figure 142 • Hayden Planetarium, architects Trowbridge & Livingston, engineer Anton Tedesko, New York, NY 1935

www.hersheypa.com



Figure 143 • Hershey Sports Arena, Anton Tedesko, Hershey, PA, 1936

Arch Daily



Figure 144 • Kresge Auditorium, Eero Saarinen, Cambridge, MA, 1955

EPDLP



Figure 145 • National Congress of Brazil, Oscar Niemeyer, Brasilia, Brazil, 1970

Kimball Art Museum

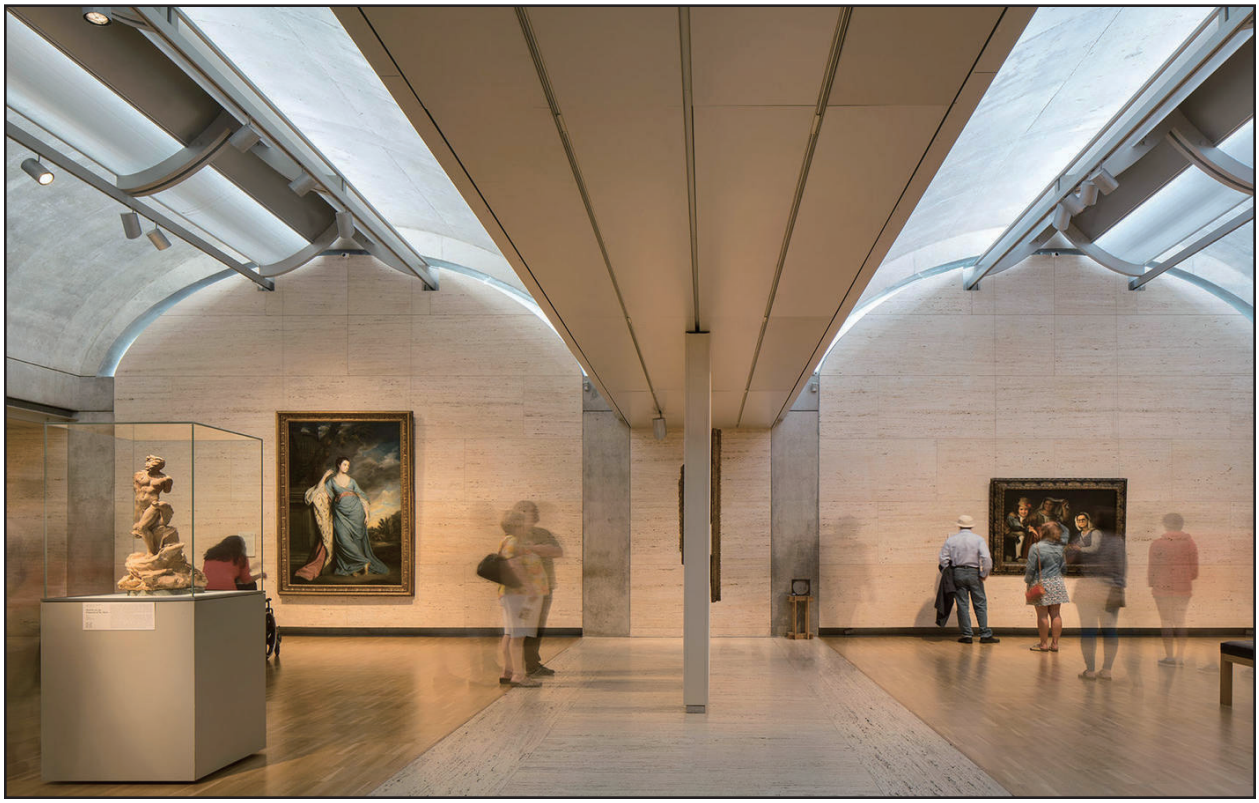


Figure 146 • Kimbell Art Museum, Louis Kahn, Fort Worth, TX, 1972

Paul Carmona



Figure 147 • Sydney Opera House, John Utzon, Sydney, Australia, 1979

Arch Daily



Figure 148 • Cosmic Ray Pavilion, Felix Candela, Mexico City, 1951

Rkett

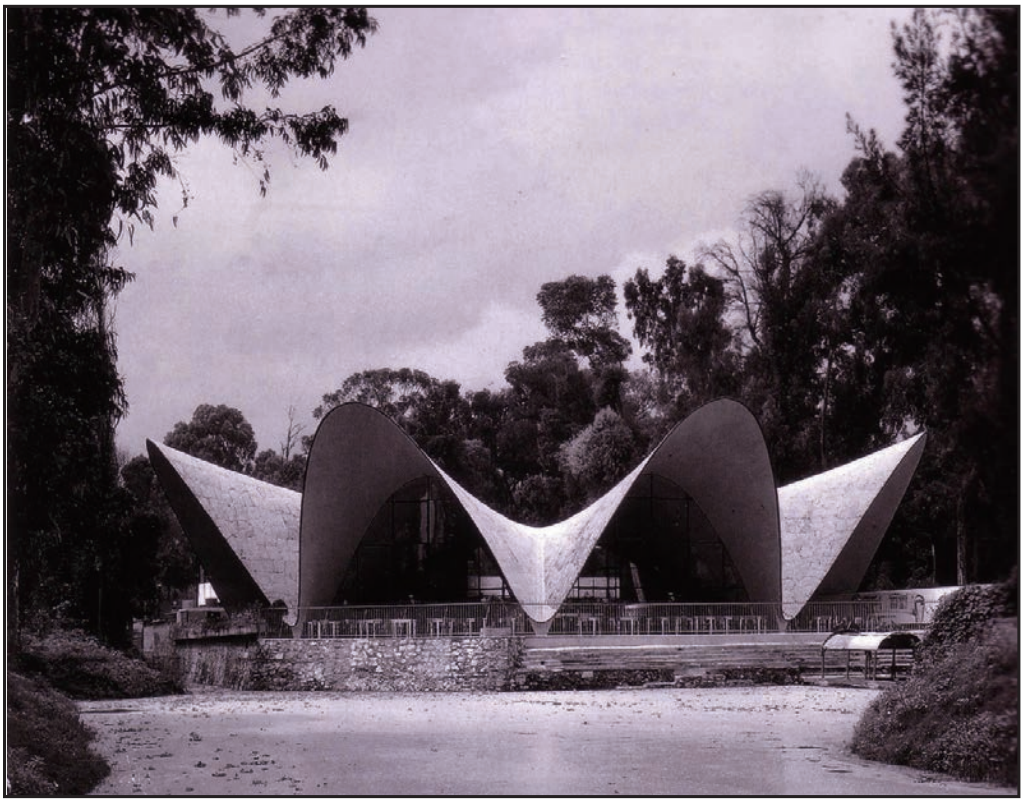


Figure 149 • Los Manantiales Restaurant, Felix Candela, Mexico City, 1958

unknown source



Figure 150 • Chapel Lomas de Cuernavaca, Felix Candela, Cuernavaca, Mexico, 1959

Seattle Public Schools



Figure 151 • Seattle School District Warehouse, John Maloney, Seattle, 1956 (demolished)

Bassetti Architects



Figure 152 • Chief Sealth High School original design by NBBJ, Seattle, 1958

SPS 020-04



Figure 153 • Ingraham High School Auditorium original design by NBBJ, Seattle, 1959 (Gymnasium and Auditorium are City of Seattle Landmarks)

Benjamin Benschneider

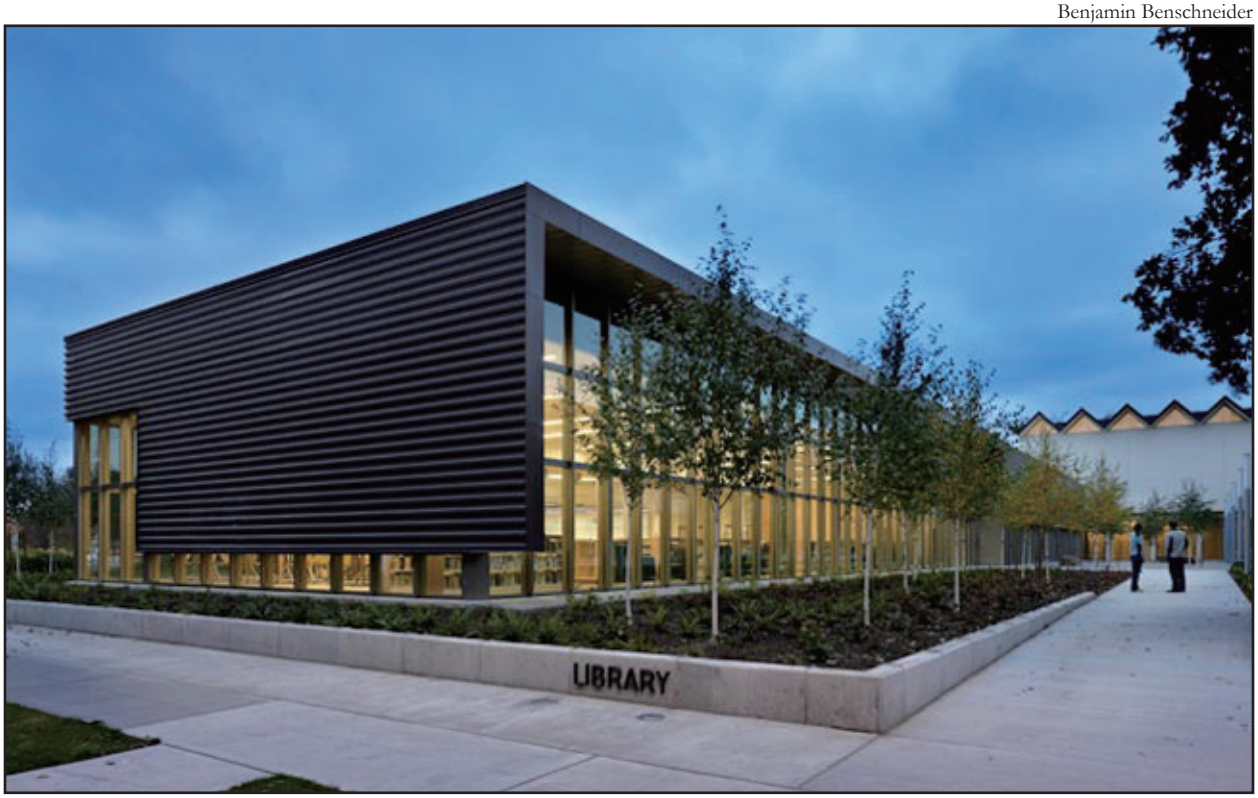


Figure 154 • Nathan Hale High School original design by Mallis & DeHart, Seattle, 1963

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.



Collection of Lance Wagner



Seattle Public Schools



Figure 155 • Cedar Park Elementary, Paul Thiry, City of Seattle Landmark, 1959

NATHAN ECKSTEIN MIDDLE SCHOOL

(CITY OF SEATTLE LANDMARK)
3003 NE 75th Street
1950, William Mallis

The Johnson Partnership, August 2012



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.

Seattle Public Schools



Figure 156 • Nathan Eckstein Middle School, William Mallis, City of Seattle Landmark, 1950

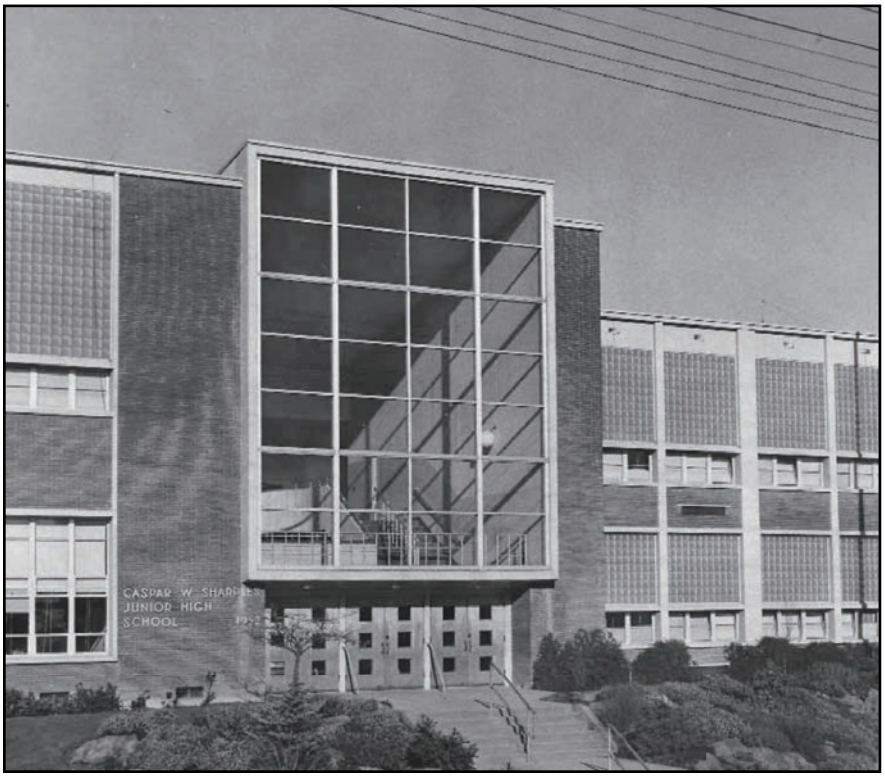
AKI KUROSE MIDDLE SCHOOL

(FORMERLY CASPER W. SHARPLES JR. HIGH)
3928 S Graham Street
1952, William Mallis

The Johnson Partnership, August 2012



Seattle Public Schools



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.

Figure 157 • Aki Kurose Middle School, formerly Casper W. Sharples Jr High, William Mallis, 1952

INGRAHAM HIGH SCHOOL (CITY OF SEATTLE LANDMARK)

1819 N 135th Street
1959, Naramore, Bain, Brady & Johanson

The Johnson Partnership, 2016



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).



Seattle Public Schools



Figure 158 • Ingraham High School (1959, Naramore, Bain, Brady, & Johnson, partial City of Seattle Landmark)

NATHAN HALE HIGH SCHOOL

10750 30th Avenue NE
1963, Mallis & DeHart



The Johnson Partnership, August 2012



Seattle Public Schools

Figure 159 • Nathan Hale High School (1963, Mallis & DeHart)

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).

St. Thomas Seminary



Figure 160 • John W. Maloney (ca. 1896-1978)

Flickr



Figure 161 • McConnell Auditorium, Central Washington University, Ellensburg, WA (1934-35, John W. Maloney Associates)

Tacoma Public Library



Figure 162 • A. E. Larson Building, Yakima WA (1931, John W. Maloney Associates)

Seattle Then and Now



Figure 163 • St. Benedict Church (1958, John W. Maloney Associates)

Perry Technical Institute

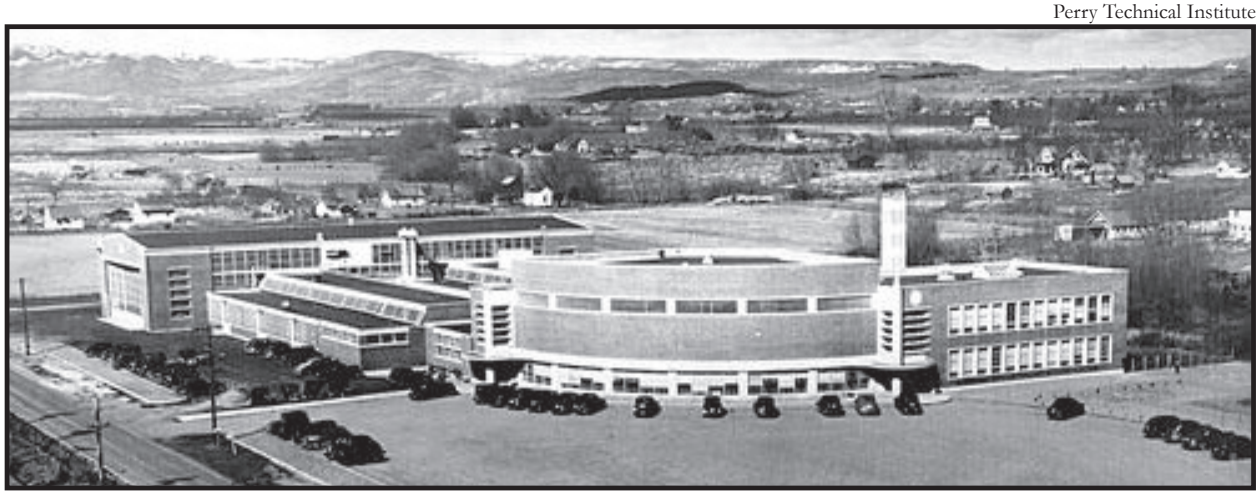


Figure 164 • Perry Technical Institute, Yakima, WA (1940, John W. Maloney Associates)

Central Washington University

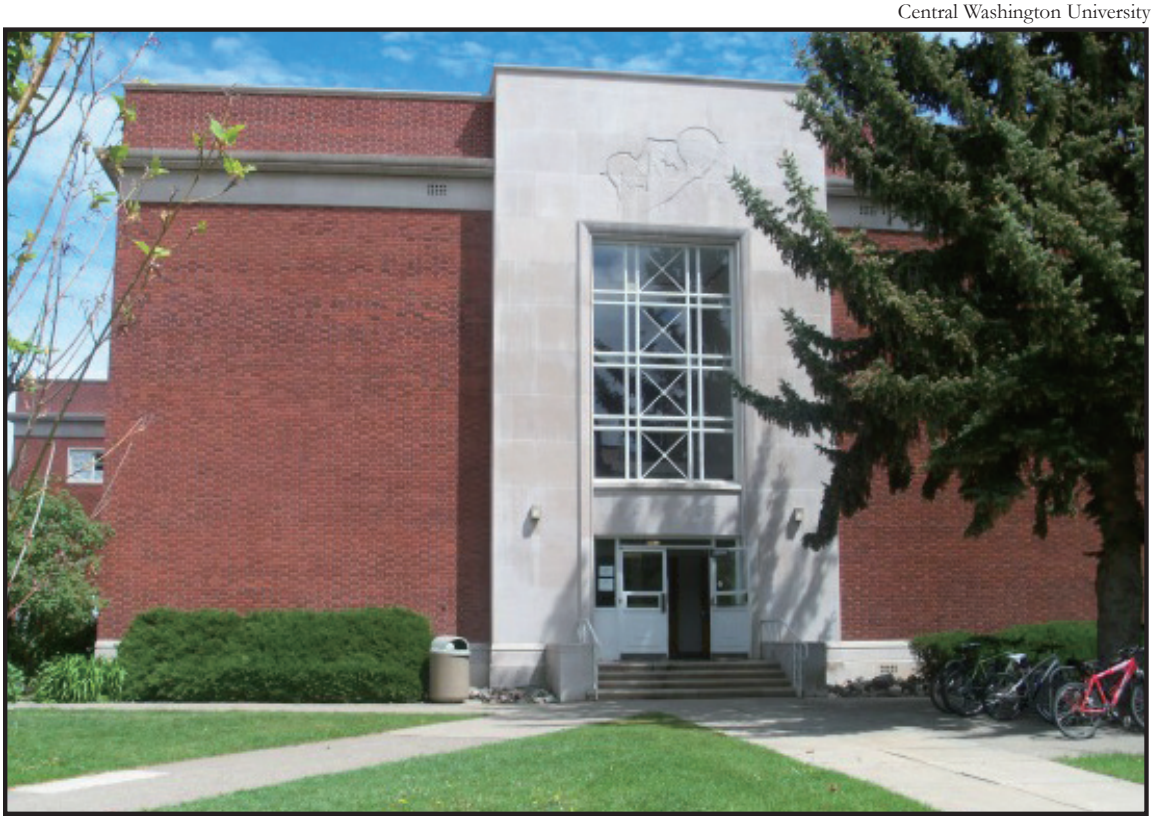


Figure 165 • Lind Hall, Central Washington University, Ellensburg, WA (1947, John W. Maloney Associates)

Seattle Dept. of Neighborhoods



Figure 166 • Seattle First National Bank, Denny Way Branch (1950, John W. Maloney Associates, City of Seattle Landmark)

Google

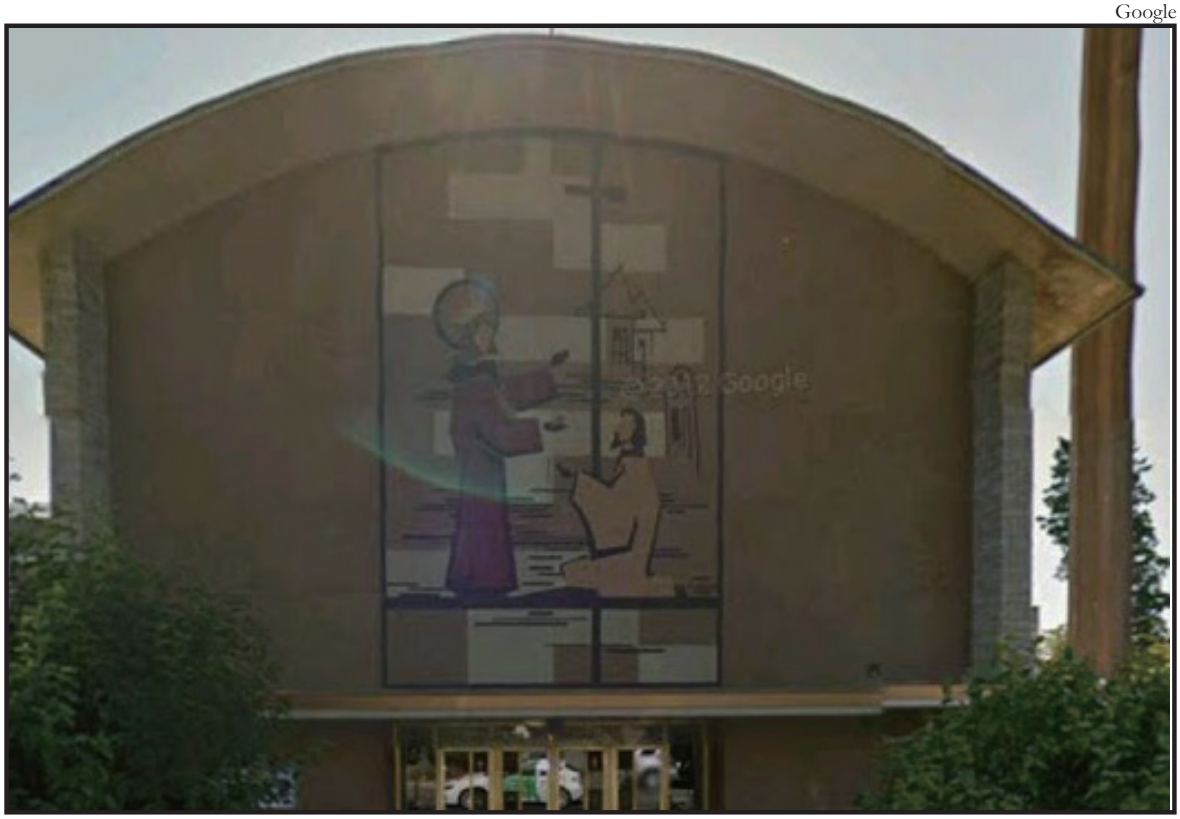


Figure 167 • St. Edward Church (1953, John W. Maloney Associates)

UW Spec Coll. James Patrick Lee Coll., LEE129



Figure 168 • St. Thomas the Apostle Seminary Chapel (1958, John W. Maloney Associates)

www.panoramio.com



Figure 169 • Kittitas County Courthouse, Yakima, WA (1955, John W. Maloney Associates with John H. Whitney)

DAHP



Figure 170 • Blue Cross Building (1958, demolished, John W. Maloney Associates)

Seattle Then and Now



Figure 171 • Lemieux Library, Seattle University (1966, Maloney, Herrington, Freesz & Lund)

University of Washington Library

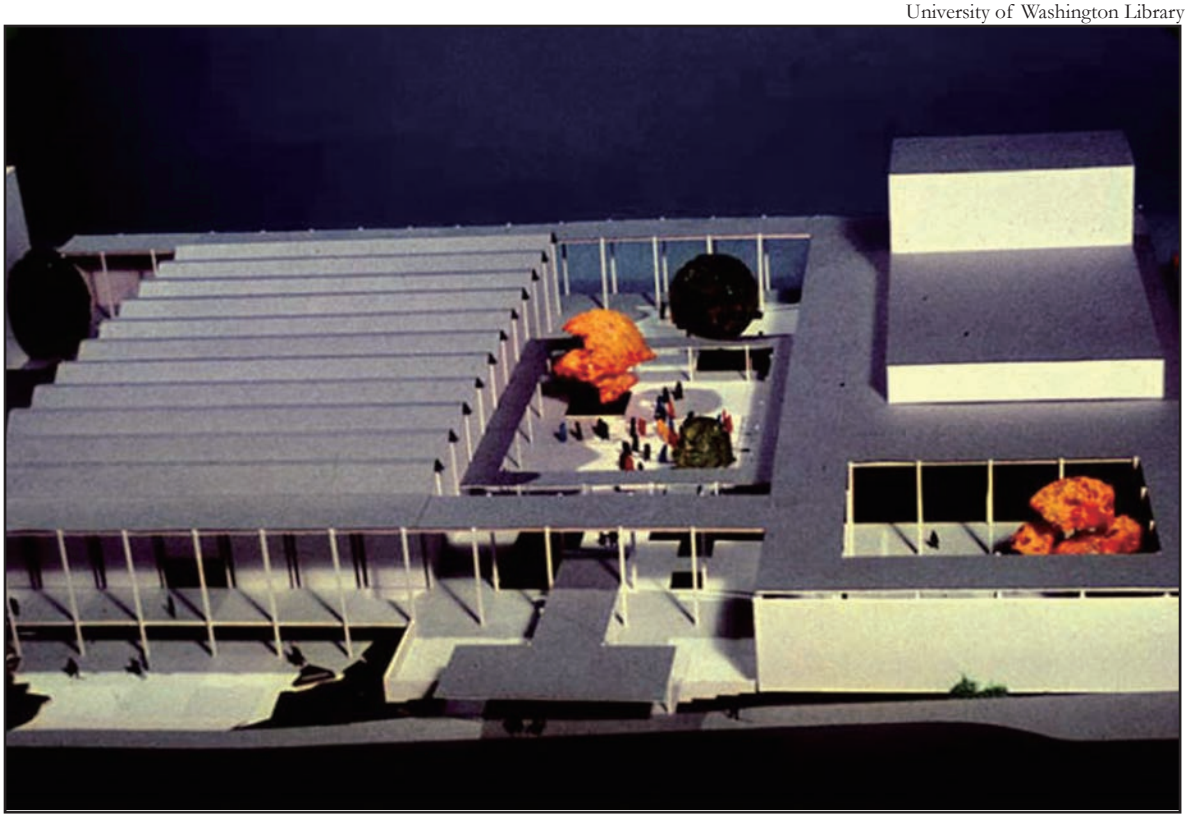


Figure 172 • Fine Arts Pavilion model by Paul Kirk, Seattle, 1963

George Pfoertner



Figure 173 • North Shore Congregation Israel by Minoru Yamasaki, Glencoe, IL, 1963

Carleton College



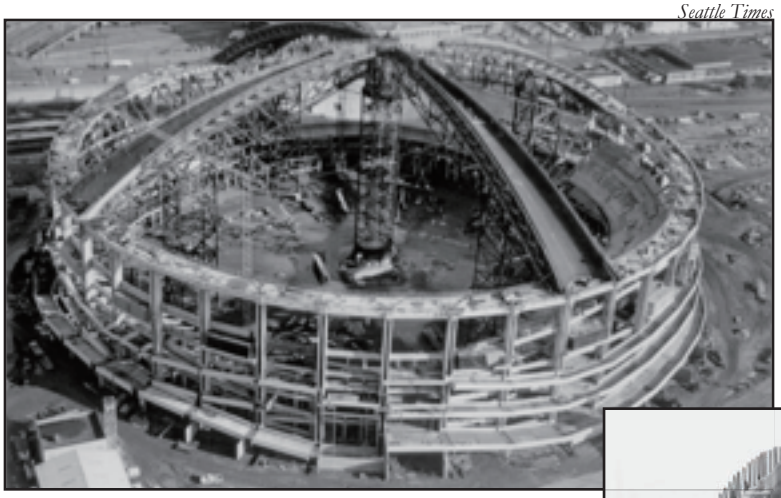
Figure 174 • Carleton College Gym and Pool by Minoru Yamasaki, Northfield, MN, 1965

Chas R. Pearson



Figure 175 • U.S. Pavilion (Expo '74) by NBBJ, Spokane, WA, 1974

Seattle Times



Seattle Times



Figure 176 • King County Stadium construction by NBBJ, Skilling & Praeger, Seattle, 1974

Washington State Archives



Figure 177 • King County Stadium construction by NBBJ, Skilling & Praeger, Seattle, 1974 (demolished)