



The City of Seattle

## Landmarks Preservation Board

Mailing Address: PO Box 94649, Seattle WA 98124-4649

Street Address: 600 4th Avenue, 4th Floor

**LPB 239/21**

### **STAFF REPORT: Asa Mercer Middle School – 1600 S Columbian Way**

#### Staff Recommendation

Staff does not recommend nomination of Asa Mercer Middle School at 1600 S Columbian Way as it does not appear to meet any of the designation standards.

*The Landmarks Board Coordinator acknowledges the cultural history associated with the school but believes this may not be embodied in the building itself. The Coordinator recognizes this building as a mid-century design but does not believe it rises to the level of a landmark. The subject building is by two notable Seattle designers, architect John Maloney and structural engineer Jack Christiansen, but it does not appear to be an outstanding work by either individual. This assessment was informed by a site visit and thorough review of the property on May 10, 2021.*

#### Approval of Nomination

If approved, a public meeting would be set for 30-60 days from nomination to consider the designation. During this time, the Board and staff may amend the nomination form. From the time of nomination, Subchapter VI of SMC 25.12 shall apply. This section requires a Certificate of Approval for alterations or significant changes to the features proposed for preservation. Following Board approval of the nomination (or designation) the owner may give written notice of a desire to confer and consult with the Board and Board staff to reach agreement on specific features to be preserved and methods to achieve such preservation. A timetable is established by Board, Board staff and the Owner. This written request by the Owner is the only procedure which may alter the time requirements or the public meeting on designation.

#### Disapproval of Nomination

If the Board fails to approve the nomination, no new proceeding may be commenced for a period of 10 years without the written agreement of the Owner.

### Deferral of Consideration

The Board may defer consideration. Adequate notice should be given to all parties about when the matter is to be reconsidered. Once nominated, the Board must follow the procedures of SMC 25.12 and approve or disapprove the designation.

### **Suggested Language for a Nomination Motion**

“I move that the Board approve the nomination of Asa Mercer Middle School at 1600 S Columbian Way for consideration as a Seattle Landmark; noting the legal description in the Nomination Form; that the features and characteristics proposed for preservation include: \_\_\_\_\_; that the public meeting for Board consideration of designation be scheduled for July 7, 2021; that this action conforms to the known comprehensive and development plans of the City of Seattle.”

### **Suggested Language for Disapproval of Nomination**

“I move that the Board not approve the nomination of Asa Mercer Middle School at 1600 S Columbian Way as a Seattle Landmark, as it does not meet any of the designation standards, as required by SMC 25.12.350. (or give other reasons)”

Issued: May 12, 2021