



The City of Seattle

Landmarks Preservation Board

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

Street Address: 600 4th Avenue, 4th Floor

LPB 351/23

REPORT ON DESIGNATION

Name and Address of Property: **Memorial Wall (on Memorial Stadium property)**
401 5th Avenue N

Legal Description: *Specific parcel where designated Memorial Wall features and site reside:*

Parcel B: (198820-0775)

Lots 1 through 12, Block 55, D. T. Denny's Home Addition, according to the plat thereof recorded in Volume 3 of Plats, page 115, records of King County, Washington; Together with the vacated alley within said block and vacated streets adjacent; Less that portion of vacated road as described in deed to the City of Seattle recorded under Recording No. 20000718000203.

At the public meeting held on October 4, 2023 the City of Seattle's Landmarks Preservation Board voted to approve designation of the Memorial Wall at 401 5th Avenue N as a Seattle Landmark based upon satisfaction of the following standard for designation of 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.*
- 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, or period, or of a method of construction.*
- E. *It is an outstanding work of a designer or builder.*

DESCRIPTION

The Setting and Surroundings

Memorial Stadium is located near the eastern edge of the Seattle Center and the southeastern foot of Queen Anne Hill and its Uptown neighborhood. The site is on the west side of 5th Avenue N, between vacated Harrison and Republican Streets, three blocks west of State Highway 99 (Aurora Avenue N), and one block south of Mercer Street. The stadium property is surrounded on three sides by the Seattle Center. The Experience Music Project, Artists Play Park, and Center House (the former Armory) are to the south, and Marion Oliver McCaw Hall, Mercer Arts Arena, and the KCTS building are to the north. In close proximity there is the Space Needle, and the Monorail and its Terminal Station to the south. The International Fountain and Climate Pledge Arena are to the west, both on the Seattle Center grounds. Across 5th Avenue N to the east is the private non-profit Gates Foundation headquarters. This street is lined by a series of mature London Plane trees.

In 1956 the surrounding Seattle Center site was selected by the City of Seattle's Civic Center Advisory Committee as the site for the Century 21 Exposition and as a future civic center. While some public parcels in this area had been acquired by the city in 1900, most of the property for the fairgrounds was assembled through condemnation in 1957, and the city demolished most of the preexisting buildings. The earlier Civic Auditorium (1921) was transformed into the Opera House (later McCaw Hall), and the National Guard Armory (1939) was rebuilt as the World's Fair Food Circus and later into the Center House. The early history of the immediate surrounding area is described in a 2001 historic survey of City-owned properties: "[In 1910] the City transferred the block-sized parcel, which is now site of the International Fountain, to the jurisdiction of the Parks Department, which developed it into Mercer Playground in 1910. Mercer Playground served both the surrounding residential neighborhood of mostly working class families and the Warren Avenue School located across the street to the west since 1902."

The surrounding area contains a number of historic and designated landmark properties that represent its early 20th century history and the mid-century legacy associated with the 1962 World's Fair. They include a number of designated landmarks within three to four blocks:

- The Space Needle, Coliseum/Climate Pledge Arena, Pacific Science Center, Northwest Rooms, International Fountain Pavilion, the Armory/Seattle Center House, the Horiuchi Mural, and the Seattle Monorail, all on the grounds of the Seattle Center, and the Monorail pylons along 5th Avenue N (1962). The Kobe Bell, gifted to Seattle and installed in 1962, is also a landmark.
- Broad Street Substation (1949), 319, 6th Avenue N
- Bressi Garage (1923), 226-232 1st Avenue N
- Seattle, Chief of Suquamish Statue (1912), Tillicum Place, 2701 5th Avenue
- Seattle First National Bank (1950), 566 Denny Way

The Site, Parking Lot, and Accessory Buildings

The Memorial Stadium site is an 8.97-acre, 390,680 square foot area made up by two adjoining parcels: Parcel 198820-0640, a 6.3 acre (274,344 square foot) area containing the stadium, and 198820-0775, a 2.67 acre (116,336 square foot) area the parking lot to the east of it. The property is an irregular shape with outer dimensions of 893 feet by 370+ feet, bounded on the east by 5th Avenue N, on the south by the vacated Harrison Street, on the west by the vacated 3rd Avenue N. On the north, Republican Street was partially vacated in 1961 when the World's Fair was developed. The former street right-of-way passes beneath the north grandstands and becomes a service road for the stadium, neighboring McCaw Hall, and the Mercer Arts Arena. Seattle Public Schools leases a 0.57 acre portion of this street.

The eastern portion of the site, approximately 225 by 360+ feet, consists largely of a paved parking lot, which was referred to as a plaza in some early design documents. This lot was assembled largely from vacated 4th Avenue N and the eight lots on the former block between 4th and 5th Avenues N. These lots appear vacant in a 1951 Sanborn map; historic photos indicate the parking plaza was built around that date.

Vehicle access to the parking lot is provided from an entry at the intersection of 5th Avenue N and Harrison and a drive aisle, parallel to the street, which separates it from the public sidewalk along 5th Avenue N. To the west of the drive, the grade slopes upward slightly from an approximate elevation 82 feet at 5th Avenue N to elevation 95 feet at the east stadium entry and elevation 100 at the vacated Harrison Street. While the grade change is gradual, there is a brick-clad concrete retaining wall along part of the north lot edge.

The stadium is built into the site on the north with a flat playfield and a landscaped bowl at its west end, which rises steeply to meet the vacated 3rd Avenue N on the Seattle Center grounds. While upper portions of the grandstand roof structure are visible from the west and south, views onto the playfield are obscured by landscaping or other structures and the backs of the grandstands. The surrounding buildings in the neighborhood outside of the Seattle Center contain retail, office, and residential buildings. The upper portions of the grandstands, the memorial wall and the parking lot are open to views from 5th Avenue N.

The stadium's front (east) setback from 5th Avenue N is used currently as a short-term vehicle parking lot and by crowds accessing the stadium and the Seattle Center. The lot contains two three-bay ticket kiosks. These approximately 10 by 40 foot, single story, cast-in-place reinforced concrete structures are set at 30-degree angles offset from the stadium. Each features a projecting flat slab roof, and a wide drive aisle between two enclosed booths. A tall light standard is placed aside of each kiosk, and tall letters reading "Public Parking" project from the eastern roof edge. Historic photos show the presence of these kiosks by 1961. The lot also contains a single brick-clad planter with landscaping, and a small, 1,803 square foot building at the southeast corner, which was constructed in ca. 1962 as a service building for the Century 21 World's Fair. This post and beam, flat roof structure currently provides office space for SPS athletic staff.

The original landscape design, by nurseryman John H. Pierce (born 1912, death date unknown), featured some formal plantings of trees and shrubs along the sides of the stadium scoreboard near the north and south concourse walls. Little of any formal planting design remains. The open west end of the stadium is flat and asphalt-paved to serve as a service drive between the lower levels of the grandstands; the west slope contains trees, shrubs, and groundcovers, some apparently volunteer species. The top of the slope is enclosed by a chain link fence, and bordered by a concrete wall along the east side of the Seattle Center's International Fountain site.

Stadium Grandstand, Concourse and Fieldhouse

The Grandstands

Two opposing grandstand structures are situated on the north and south sides of the stadium playfield. These are linked on the east by U-shaped, poured in place concrete headhouse structure and a continuous concourse. The grandstands contain reinforced concrete seating tiers, 41 total with 16 levels below and 25 levels above the concourse level.

The grandstand roof is a reinforced, poured-in-place concrete and steel structure supported by a framework of concrete columns and tie beams that sit on concrete spread footings. Concrete infill panels provide lateral stability to the frame, while the seating structure is laterally tied to the concrete frame at the concourse level. The rise and run of the seating tiers vary slightly with approximately 14 inch-tall risers and 30 inch-deep treads. Metal seating backers, with attached wood seat slats and back rests, are bolted to the front face of the risers. The seating sections are accessed at the concourse level by seven 6'-8"-wide enclosed corridors known as vomitorias. The floors of these corridors slope slightly downward toward the playing field from the concourse level. Adjacent steep stairs to the seating levels are cast into the risers with approximate 7"-tall steps inserted into each riser. The top row of seats is at elevation 144.5 feet, 67.5 feet above the playfield elevation. There are no handrails, making the access process vertiginous.

Two separate dugout seating spaces are provided for the teams, with one each centered on each side of the playfield. The athletes' spaces are set about a half-foot below the grade of the field, and they are sheltered by cantilevered concrete roofs.

Each of the grandstand roofs is approximately 3 to 6 feet-tall and 108.75 feet-deep, with the outermost 40.5 feet cantilevered. The plan of each follows the arch line of the playfield edge, and is supported by four octagonal, reinforced concrete columns, which penetrate the seating platform one seat level below the concourse level at each of the alternating vomitorias, to meet the grade level footings. The columns rise nearly 70 feet above the playfield grade, and are set at approximately 40.5 feet from the inside roof edge and 68 feet from the outer roof edge. The cantilevered roof structure is attached to a concrete wall above the uppermost grandstand seat riser.

The roof framework of concrete ribs and struts support a 3 inch-thick concrete slab on the bottom surface. The roof structural design incorporates a single, huge lateral reinforced concrete box beam, approximately 6'-wide and 8'-tall, which carries the roof loads to the row of columns. The roof structure, including the main lateral beam and ribs, is located on the top of the slab rather than the underside, such that only a smooth surface is visible to spectators in the stands. While the original roof had the structural ribs exposed to the sky, drainage was apparently problematic. The current roof condition, installed in 1999, features membrane roofing, with drainage sloping from the main box beam to a gutter at the rear of the roof and cricketed pipe drains at the front of the roof. Pop-ups on the roof surface provide access to interstitial cavities between ribs.

A single long enclosed press box sits at the center of the north grandstand, between two columns, where it is attached to the underside of the roof and supported by the central lateral beam. The press box features a canted glazed wall along its south face to allow views of the playfield. It is accessed by a stair from the top seating riser and an enclosed walkway suspended from the roof structure. The press box is not ADA accessible.

Concourse Interiors

Pedestrian concourses run continuously within the grandstand structures to provide access and assembly areas below the stands. The concourses, set some 25 to 27 feet above the playfield, are connected to the seating by the aforementioned vomitoria corridors. The concourse levels house a men's and a women's restroom, and concession and storage spaces on each side. The volume within the south grandstand concourse is naturally lit by a band of clerestory windows at the top of the south perimeter wall. Some natural light also comes through large openings between the framed structure on the north façade of the north concourse. Restrooms fitted below the seating areas are also lit by high clerestory windows. Enclosed spaces at the field level beneath the concourse and grandstand seating areas provide large storage rooms for the Seattle Center (below the south concourse) and McCaw Hall (below the north concourse).

Fieldhouse Building / Scoreboard / Entry Portals

The fieldhouse building (sometimes referred to as the Head House) sits at the east end of the stadium, where it serves as an open pedestrian concourse and connects the circulation between the two entry portals and the north and south grandstands. This low, flat roof building houses locker rooms with showers and dressing areas for the athletic teams and officiates, such as umpires, along with service functions. The fieldhouse contains an office above the locker rooms, and other spaces utilized for storage and mechanical and electrical rooms. The building's main floor elevation is slightly above the level of the playing field with team and service entries located at the building's north and south ends of the west facade. All original finishes within the fieldhouse are utilitarian, and most of the walls, ceiling and floors are exposed concrete.

The building is built partially into the grade, and an 8 inch-thick, 16 foot-tall, stepped concrete wall on the east serves as a retaining wall and site enclosure for the stadium (The Memorial was built in 1951 on the east side of this wall.) The east wall also includes two five-bay entry portals from the adjacent parking lot into the stadium at its north and at the south. These entry portals are off set at 30 degrees off of the stadium's north-south axis. They each feature a projecting flat concrete canopy supported by six canted concrete pilasters, and roll-down overhead steel security doors. Two wall-mounted flagpoles, detailed with decorative cast concrete spheres projecting from the walls, accentuate the outer sides of each entry. Additional flagpoles are situated on the interior of the stadium along the concourse. Letters attached above the east sides of the entry portal canopies read "NORTH STAND" and "SOUTH STAND."

A scoreboard is built above the fieldhouse structure, centered on the east/west axis of the field. Pedestrian circulation continues through a wide opening at the concourse level, below a small administrative office. The scoreboard features a projecting flat slab concrete roof with central flagpole. Photographs indicate that the original scoreboard, built in 1947, was replaced with a larger scoreboard in 1992.

The west facade of the fieldhouse faces toward the playing field. It features a band of 8-lite steel windows, their horizontal proportions emphasized by projecting concrete heads and sills, and by deep horizontal reveals in the concrete panels between the openings. These elements are suggestive of the Moderne style.

Proposed Future Plans in 1946

The initial plan for the High School Stadium show only the design of the stadium structure, with its headhouse, and grandstands with a total seating capacity of 11,928 seats. A potential expansion is indicated on the original drawings by continuation of the grandstands in a U-shape on the west end, noted as "Proposed."

The plaza space to the east of the stadium is identified on original plans with the entry portals, divided into student entrances and main entrances that led into the concourses, and two small, paired kiosks for general and reserved admission tickets. In the original drawing all seats are numbered and each grandstand is divided into six sections. Student seats are in the lower rows, and the reserved sections are centered in the four sections above. A drive aisle in the east plaza, parallel to 5th Avenue, is noted on the original site plan as a "Bus Lane." The only parking area was on the south side of the plaza, along Harrison Street, in a small 80-stall lot for reserved cars. It remains unclear if the eventual development of the large parking lot was anticipated.

The Memorial Wall

Planning and Construction of the Memorial Shrine

The concept of a "living memorial" in Seattle emerged several decades before the High School Stadium project, after World War I. Two different organizations—the Chamber of Commerce

and the Service Club of Washington—and University of Washington alumni called for the university to designate its 1920 stadium as a state memorial. This effort, while it was not successful, followed trends throughout the nation to associate stadium buildings with war memorials. Instead, the University recognized the sacrifice of former students with the line of London Plane trees planted on Memorial Way, the Olmsted-design boulevard at the north end of the campus.

Prior to the construction of Memorial Stadium there had been a growing movement underway to honor Seattle's World War II dead, which developed from a wartime, temporary shrine located downtown on University Street between 4th and 5th Avenues called Victory Square. Other memorials, and the naming of facilities as "living memorials," were planned by other local school districts, including those in Highline (Burien), Bellevue, Oak Harbor, Overlake, and Tacoma. In the 1950s the Seattle Catholic Memorial Field, a 5,000-seat stadium at 14th Avenue and E Jefferson Street, was dedicated by Bishop Connolly. In 1951 another shrine was constructed on what was called the War Memorial Plaza on the east side of the new Public Safety Building on 5th Avenue in downtown Seattle.

By that date there were numerous war memorials in the naming of institutional and government buildings, roads and highways, and structures dedicated to the country's dead soldiers from the two world wars. Athletic stadiums were particularly favored as their sports functions were seen as symbols of structured conflict with a peaceful means of resolution.

SPS held a competition among Seattle high school students in its fine arts, industrial arts, and creative writing programs to design a fitting "living memorial" as part of the stadium. The competition, announced at a School Board meeting in December 1948, resulted in 61 entries. Submitted sketches were shown to the Board in May 1949. Five submissions by students from Garfield, Lincoln and Franklin High Schools were chosen in June by the Board's Awards Committee for a final review and selection by members of the local chapter of the American Institute of Architects in June 1949. Final details and cost estimates were prepared by the Schools Maintenance Department following the general design by Garfield student Marianne Hanson.

The proposed design was described in a later School Board meeting of September 23, 1949, as "a shrine of cast stone with niches provided at each end with a fountain and colored lights. The main facade on which the inscription and names will be placed in bronze or similar metal is to be lighted from concealed lights below a low hedge at the head of the shrine." The report explains that the shrine was estimated to cost \$29,000. "There is reserved in the Building Fund \$21,411.37 for this purpose and by the end of the year's football season it is expected there will be ample funds available to construct the shrine."

The selected design was created by Marianne Hanson, a fine arts student at Garfield High School under the encouragement of her teacher. Hanson's design was described in a brochure of November 24, 1949, which was used for fundraising:

. . . the memorial shrine to be erected on the front wall of the stadium between the entrances in honor of the 700 World War II dead who attended the Seattle Public Schools. The huge plaque forming the central portion of the shrine will be of cast stone and the 700 names will appear beneath the inscription . . . Fountains illuminated by colored light, will border the plaque at either end, and a perpetual garden of flowers at the base is to be lighted. The shrine is a project of the maintenance department of the Seattle Schools District and is to be financed from the proceeds of the Annual Invitational Thanksgiving Day game. The estimated cost, over two-thirds of which has been raised to date, is \$29,000, and construction will begin as soon as the remaining funds are available.

The memorial wall was dedicated as a shrine on May 29, 1951, with presentations by the Franklin High School Band, and the Lincoln High School Chamber Choir; an explanation of the shrine's history by Franklin High School faculty member James Britain; the laying of wreaths by student representatives from nine high schools; and a Christian prayer reading. Attendees included Samuel E. Fleming, the SPS superintendent, along with the President of the Seattle Board of Education, and student representatives. The shrine was unveiled by Marianne Hanson.

The Design

The memorial wall, which is sometimes referred to as a shrine, is shown in four drawing sheets titled "War Memorial: Seattle School District No. 1, and dated March 16, 1950," which were developed by the District staff. The drawings show the concrete retaining wall structure, clad with cast stone. The structure is symmetrically composed and consists of an approximately 22 foot-tall and 176 feet-wide flat wall, set parallel with 5th Avenue. The commemorative section with lettering is held in the center on a 55-foot wide section of Indiana Limestone. The north and south ends of this section terminate in semi-circular fluted walls, approximately 18 feet-tall and partially recessed approximately 3 feet into the retaining wall. Each of the fluted ends partially encloses a 13 foot-wide circular concrete basin with a raised fountain element. The paved space in front of the structure is cited as an "esplanade" on the drawings, and it features stone set in a decorative diamond pattern and a concrete curb that separates it from the paved plaza/parking lot area to the east. An electrical drawing depicts the lighting that originally illuminated the wall at night.

The inscription incised across the top of the commemorative section reads, "Seattle High School Memorial Stadium" and "Youth Hold High Your Torch of Truth, Justice, and Tolerance Lest Their Sacrifice Be Forgotten." The names of 762 high school students and alumni lost in World War II are listed below this text in columns on 24 vertical panels. The names include those of students from some King County schools in addition to those who had attended Seattle schools. The decision to include these names resulted from a policy adopted by the School Board in October 1947.

At the dedication ceremony, a description by Queen Anne student Helen Horn was read that noted that the list contained "the names of 762 young men who did not live to accomplish the

things of which they dreamed.” A small inscription near the north end fountain credits Marianne Hanson. A row of hedge plantings runs across the front of the wall, obscuring some of its features. Nearby parked vehicles in the lot created from the original plaza also impact views and contemplation of the shrine.

Changes through Time

The timeline for the stadium property includes some specific events:

June 26, 1946	Groundbreaking ceremony
September 26, 1947	First event held at the stadium, the Seattle High Schools Football Jamboree
November 27, 1947	Memorial Stadium dedication, Thanksgiving football games
May 29, 1951	War Memorial Dedication
April 21 - Oct. 21, 1962	Century 21 Seattle World’s Fair

In 1962, the School District suspended its athletic activities at the stadium to allow for the Century 21 World’s Fair opening ceremonies, and for shows and other activities during the exhibition. The stadium also served as the venue for the closing of the Seattle World’s Fair, and afterward for Seattle Center events, such as concerts, assemblies, and celebrations, including school graduation ceremonies.

In 1964, a bond election for a new Civic Center failed by a vote of Seattle residents, and the Seattle Center continued to function as a recreation and cultural center with few changes for several decades, while the stadium continued to serve as a venue for sports, outdoor concerts, and ceremonies. In 1988, Walt Disney Imagineering, Inc. proposed a \$355 million plan that would involve demolition of the Seattle Center and Memorial Stadium. Veterans met with city council members, advocating for the stadium’s retention. The School Board and Seattle City Council turned down Disney’s plans, noting that the stadium could be demolished only if an equivalent, centrally located high school sports facility were developed. In 1990 the stadium was one venue for the Goodwill Games, and later the home to a local professional soccer team.

Astroturf, a synthetic surface material, was installed on the playfield in 1967, and later replaced in-kind. There appear to have been few other changes to the property. Deterioration is evident in much of the concrete, with spalling and cracks. At some unknown date, the lighting and fountains on the memorial wall were made inoperative, and the basins drained. The original scoreboard was replaced in 1992. As part of this project, the playfield was named the Leon H. Brigham Field in honor of the longtime and beloved Garfield High School coach and the District’s first athletic director, Leon H. Brigham (ca 1901 – 1987).

In addition, the stadium underwent a re-roofing project in 1999. In 1995, nylon netting had been installed to the underside of the roof to protect visitors in the stands from flaking concrete. The damage was due to water intrusion in the original concrete top but had been deemed a non-structural problem. In 1999, the original roof, which had structural members exposed to the sky,

was modified to accept membrane roofing. The work included repair of cracks and spalls in the concrete, and metal deck and roofing board installed on steel purlins between the original concrete ribs. Because of the cavities formed between ribs, numerous access hatches were installed, which remain visible in aerial photos.

Condition and Maintenance

Memorial Stadium has been maintained regularly by the School District, and the structure appears to be in fair condition. Consideration of a potential upgrade or replacement has been ongoing for the past decade along with a multidisciplinary master planning effort. This effort included a review of existing conditions and a structural evaluation undertaken by a Seattle structural engineering firm, PCS. The evaluation utilized an established assessment method, ASCE 41-13, "Seismic Evaluation and Retrofit of Existing Buildings" and checklists to identify the life safety performance of a Risk Category III building. The assessment report notes that, "the structural concerns noted for the systems are common for their age and type of construction..."

The report identifies the stadium as remaining "relatively unchanged since its original construction in 1947." The grandstand structure is described as a vertical load resisting system of cast-in-place concrete slabs, walls, and columns along with CMU partition walls within the concourse that appear unreinforced; and a lateral force resisting system of the concrete roof diaphragm. The fieldhouse and exterior concourse are built similarly, with the concrete decks acting as the lateral force resisting system.

The analysis concluded that the stadium does not show significant signs of structural distress or differential settlement although there are signs of structural deterioration with temperature and shrinkage in both walls and structural slabs evidenced by some unrepaired cracks and spalling concrete that have exposed the reinforcing steel, allowed water intrusion, and resulted in rust and ongoing corrosion. The wood-framed seating appears near the end of its useful life, and handrail connections to the concrete are deteriorated and corroding, and in some cases causing displacement.

The most significant existing condition concerns, however, "relate to the buildings' global lateral resisting systems, details of construction not consistent with current seismic detailing, and the general deterioration of the structural elements due to age and environmental factors ... Overall, the stadium appears to be adequately designed and detailed for the era in which it was constructed. However, the facility does not meet the strength and detailing requirements of a building designed to current code standards, and moderate to severe damage to (it) may occur in a seismic event."

In addition to the structural concerns, the stadium grandstands have had minimal upgrades over the years and it does not provide universal access to many areas, particularly the grandstand seating and press box. The shower and changing facilities in the field house appear worn, and lighting inadequate.

Maintenance of the memorial wall has been compromised by expanded use of the original plaza as a parking lot. Vehicles parked in close proximity to the wall obscure views from 5th Avenue N. The fountains are inoperative. Despite occasional cleaning, the basins are often filled with refuse.

SIGNIFICANCE

Denny Swale and Development of the Surrounding Neighborhood

Memorial Stadium is situated within the Seattle Center campus. The site is in the Uptown neighborhood, sometimes called Lower Queen Anne, at the base of the south slope of Queen Anne Hill. The specific site is part of a six city block area of less desirable low-lying land which had been farmed in the late 19th century by the pioneer Denny family, and was known as “Denny’s swale” or “Denny’s meadow.” The land—approximately the area between Mercer and Harrison Streets, and 3rd and 5th Avenues—was left undeveloped for decades by the Denny family as the neighborhood grew around it. Vacant, it was used occasionally for large events, games, traveling circuses, and the like. During the Spanish American War in 1898, the property was used as a large holding corral for horses and mules to be sent to the front in the Philippines, and later it became the site of the former Civic Stadium field.

The area was originally part of the lands inhabited by the Shilshole, Duwamish, and Suquamish Native Americans of the greater Coast Salish Peoples for over 10,000 years. In contrast to the mostly forested lands of early Seattle, lower Queen Anne was originally a relatively flat, open meadow at the base of the south slope of Queen Anne Hill and the northwest slope of Denny Hill (removed by the early 20th century). It was likely kept cleared by the Native Americans in order to snare low-flying waterfowl flying between Lake Union to the east and Elliott Bay to the west. The groups had hunting camps near the base of Queen Anne Hill, and permanent settlements to the south nearer today’s downtown.

In the early 1850s, as the first Euro-American settlers landed in the area (prompted by the creation of the Oregon Territory in 1848 and the Donation Land Claim Act of 1850), the US federal government began to negotiate forced treaties with the local Coast Salish tribes in order to consolidate land for white colonial settlers. At that time, the Duwamish gave up more than 54,000 acres (comprising much of today’s King County) in exchange for hunting and fishing rights, and agreed to remove to reservation land. By 1857, as pressure from white Euro-American settlers increased, the Duwamish and other indigenous people throughout the Duwamish/Lake Washington and Upper Puyallup River areas moved to the Port Madison Reservation in Kitsap County or to the Muckleshoot Reservation near present-day Auburn, although many Native people chose not to move and instead remained in Seattle.

In 1853, the new town of Seattle was platted. The Lower Queen Anne area was part of several pioneer donation land claims dating from the mid-1850s, by the Denny, Mercer, and Smith families, and others. David and Louisa Boren Denny’s 320 acre claim included the land south of today’s Mercer Street to Denny Way, from Lake Union to Elliott Bay, including the subject site.

Just to the north, Thomas Mercer's 320 acre claim encompassed the land north of Mercer Street to Highland Drive, from Lake Union to Queen Anne Avenue.

In the 1860s, a military road was cut through the area, following a trail used by Indigenous people that had wrapped around the east side of the hill (today's Dexter Avenue). However, the area was slow to develop. Seeking to prompt more growth, the Denny family began to subdivide their land—the first plat of what was to be Queen Anne—in 1869. More platting followed on the south slope of the hill, as Seattle's population grew steadily from 400 residents in 1867 to over 3,500 in 1880.

Residential construction by the 1880s on Queen Anne Hill was mainly located on Lower Queen Anne and the south slope, and were primarily single family houses. There was a concentration of modestly sized houses located between Mercer and Denny, between 4th Avenue N and Westlake Avenue, close to the southwest shore of Lake Union. Multifamily housing was uncommon, but some double or triple rowhouses were built, and were likely rentals. Large, impressive mansions with sweeping views were built higher up the south slope of the hill.

Institutional buildings such as wood frame churches began to appear. The Italian Renaissance-style Mercer School opened at 4th Avenue W and Valley Street in 1890, with a four-room addition in 1892. (It was demolished in 1948.) Later Warren School was built at 2nd Avenue and Republican Street in 1903 on a site two blocks west of the stadium site. This large wood structure and its Mercer Playground filled two city blocks bordered by Warren Avenue, 3rd Avenue N, Republican Street, and Harrison Street. The school remained present and visible in early photographs of the stadium in the 1940s and 1950s. The school was closed and building was demolished in 1959 in preparations for the World's Fair.

After 1890, Seattle's population grew exponentially, from 42,800 in 1890, to 80,600 in 1900, and to 237,200 in 1910 after annexation of several areas. Infrastructure continued to be developed as the Queen Anne neighborhood grew. The basic components of the transportation network were in place by 1905, including the counterweight-system cable car line under Queen Anne Avenue, which came to be known as the Counterbalance trolley. Around 1901, neighborhood improvement clubs and other public groups pressed for street improvements, sewer and water lines, and other neighborhood amenities. Streets were graded, and paved with brick, or after 1914, with concrete. Between 1908 and 1916, some of the Queen Anne hill perimeter boulevards were incorporated into the Olmsted parks and boulevards plan. The small private water supply companies on the hill were consolidated into a municipal service, with a prominent water tower constructed at the top of the hill at 1st Avenue N. and Lee Street.

Queen Anne's first real apartment house construction began around 1905. The 1909 Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition instigated the construction of several elegant structures, including the landmark Chelsea Family Hotel (1907, Harlan Thomas) and Kinnear Apartments (1907, W. P. White), both on W. Olympic Place; and the elaborate landmark DeLaMar Apartments (1909, Schack & Huntington) at 2nd Avenue W and W Olympic Place. More typical apartment buildings from the period were three- to four-story masonry structures with moderate architectural

detail, some which replaced late 19th century single family houses. During the 1890-1910s period, commercial growth in the neighborhood expanded rapidly, generally following streetcar lines. Businesses were typically housed in one- to two-story wood or brick buildings at key intersections.

During the 1920s through the early 1930s, patterns of development that had been established by the 1910s continued. In 1923, a new zoning code was enacted which allowed more intense development of apartment buildings and hotels in the lower south slope of Queen Anne Hill. The boom in multifamily housing in the mid-to-late 1920s created the dense urban fabric which characterizes the neighborhood today. In 1927, the city began the construction of the Civic Auditorium, Ice Arena, and Civic Field on the former Denny Swale property, following a voter-approved bond measure. By this date the area included the Veterans Hall, which was built to serve World War I veterans, and situated on a site directly west of the Memorial Stadium. This civic center complex was used for concerts, graduation ceremonies, football games, and in this way served as a gathering site for the entire city.

After decades of steady growth, Seattle's population began to level off, from approximately 327,000 in 1920 to 366,000 in 1930 and in the 1940s as well. World War II created a large number of jobs in the area, and postwar recovery saw the city's population begin to swell again, such that by 1950 the population was 467,500, and by 1960 it was 557,000.

Development in the lower Queen Anne neighborhood stalled during the Depression and prewar years of the 1930s to early 1940s, as it did elsewhere in the city, and larger houses in the neighborhood were sometimes subdivided into apartments. The only major building project was the 1939 construction of the enormous Washington State Armory at the civic center complex, directly south of the subject site. By the late 1940s, the area around the civic center had fallen into decay, particularly the Warren Avenue corridor to the west of it. Although not a slum, the area had a higher crime rate, higher unemployment, fewer owner-occupied homes, and generally older building stock than the average Seattle neighborhood. In some locations, these older buildings were demolished and replaced with new structures.

Most buildings constructed in the area after 1945 were Modern in style and saw increasing use of steel and glass, rather than traditional brick or wood, in some cases dramatically contrasting with the pre-existing neighborhood fabric. A particularly prominent example was the new Seattle Public Schools Administration Building, designed by J. Lister Holmes (1946-1948, demolished), four blocks north of the subject site where it filled an entire block bounded by Valley and Aloha Streets, Nob Hill, and 4th Avenues N.

The Century 21 Era

The most significant change to the lower Queen Anne area occurred in the late 1950s and early 1960s, with the planning and construction of the 1962 Seattle World's Fair/Century 21 Exposition. The existing 28-acre civic center site was selected as the location for the fair in the late 1950s, so that the existing auditorium, armory, and stadium could be adapted for the event.

Because the site was not sufficiently large, approximately 50 acres of existing residences and commercial buildings that were perceived to be “blighted” were condemned. This area was primarily south and west of the armory and auditorium, and included the Warren Avenue School and playground. The condemnation and demolition were controversial. In addition, several street rights were vacated in order to unify the area. A campus of futuristic, Modern style buildings were constructed, and the city received its most iconic and recognizable landmarks – the Space Needle, Monorail, and the Washington State Coliseum (Climate Pledge Arena). The fair, held from April 21 to October 21, 1962, attracted nearly ten million visitors. In 1963, the fairgrounds and buildings reverted to the city and state, and the site was refashioned as a park-like city center for arts, sports, recreation and other community and cultural events.

Since the 1970s lower Queen Anne has continued to develop into a dense and popular area, with the Seattle Center a major component impacting the neighborhood. Today, the Seattle Center is home to more than 30 cultural, education, sports, and entertainment organizations, with 12,000,000 visitors annually. Particularly since the 1990s, continuing development has increasingly tied the area to Belltown and to South Lake Union. In 1994, the Lower Queen Anne area was designated by city zoning the “Uptown Urban Center.” Bounded approximately by Denny Way, Aurora Avenue, Elliott Way, and Valley Street, it is a focused area for increased development and density.

Planning and Construction of the Stadium

The earliest venues for sports in Seattle were playing fields with only rudimentary accommodations for spectators. High school games were played at Denny Field, the original stadium on the University of Washington’s current campus, until the Civic Field opened on Mercer Street in 1927. West Seattle Stadium, completed in 1936, served West Seattle sports teams, but Civic Field was the only venue for high school football teams in other parts of the city. Civic Field offered spectators only “ramshackle wooden stands and a few select stumps on the west end of the field,” indicating the primitive nature of the facilities.

In 1944, Seattle Public Schools superintendent Worth McClure oversaw a study of population trends and future building needs of the school district. The study, presented to the Seattle School District Board, resulted in a proposal for modernization of all existing schools, acquisition of new land for playgrounds and new schools, and construction of a new administration building and high school football stadium. Tax levies and bond issues provided funding for the program. Although the district received levy funds for these projects, federal wartime restrictions delayed building construction. The government lifted these restrictions in 1946; that same year, voters approved additional funds for the program through a bond issue.

The 1944 study specifically identified the need for expanded athletic facilities. The initial bond issue included \$300,000 for a football stadium, but the Seattle School Board favored the creation of a large-scale athletic facility. In addition to the football stadium, various options discussed over the next few years included adding a track, baseball stadium, pool, and basketball courts. However, these multi-use recreation facilities were not built.

In early 1945, the City of Seattle offered the Civic Field site to the School District for a new football stadium, but without any additional land for other facilities. An alternate location at Woodland Park had been offered to the School District by the Parks Board, and it had been accepted, but the site was only 10 acres. The School Board instead requested 25 acres to accommodate all of the athletic facilities that they hoped to build. At a public forum held May 5, 1945, a number of people expressed varied opinions on where the new stadium should be sited. Discussions continued for months.

By November 1945, it was clear that many neighbors opposed the use of Woodland Park as the stadium site. In response, Seattle City Council again offered the Civic Field site. In addition, they offered to vacate 4th Avenue between Harrison and Republican Streets, to allow the stadium to infringe on the alley between the Civic Field and the Civic Ice Arena, which would help the School District obtain additional land for parking. In December 1945, fearing public backlash and additional delays, the Seattle School Board elected to abandon plans for a larger athletic facility and to accept the Civic Field site. The City of Seattle fulfilled a portion of the agreement by condemning fourteen lots in the block bounded by 4th Avenue N, Republican and Mercer Streets, and 5th Avenue N, in 1947. The east end of the present-day stadium now occupies a portion of this block, and the remainder serves as the parking lot.

In November 1945, the architecture firm George W. Stoddard and Associates was hired to design the new facility. In February 1946, the Seattle School Board officially adopted “Seattle High School Memorial Stadium” as the name for the new structure, in memory of the Seattle public school pupils who died in World War II. Later that month, the Civic Field site was formally transferred to the Seattle School District.

The project, as proposed, included “enlargement of the existing field in the old Civic [field], construction of new roofed concrete grandstands to replace wooden ones and the use of two square blocks to accommodate part of the expanded athletic field, ticket booths, and parking area.”

In February 1946, Stoddard offered an initial sketch of his stadium design to the School Board, and proposed phasing the work. The image showed only the first “unit” of seating which consisted of two opposing reinforced concrete roofed grandstands on opposite sides of the playfield, with a capacity for seating 10,800 spectators. The first phase also included ticket offices, two main gatehouses with turnstiles, athletic quarters for competing teams, and business offices. The proposed second and final “unit” was to be additional seating at the horseshoe-shaped west end of the field, with capacity for 24,000 persons. The design was technically in violation of the city’s building code, which did not address stadiums, so the city council approved ordinances that month allowing the structure.

Plans and specifications for the stadium were scheduled to be completed in March 1946, with a call for construction bids by April. However, the construction bids received in April 1946 turned out to be much higher than expected, and the School Board rejected all bid proposals. Stoddard

speculated the reason for the high bids was due to the post-war shortage of lumber and labor, as well as trepidation on the part of contractors to take on a large, relatively risky job on a lump-sum basis. Stoddard proposed instead that the work be performed on a cost-plus basis, with contractors submitting bids to handle the job and the Seattle School District buying the materials and the subcontracting work on bids. In May 1946, the construction contract for the stadium was awarded to the Puget Sound Bridge & Dredging Company. Work was scheduled to begin as soon as materials were available.

On June 25, 1946, groundbreaking ceremonies were held on the former Civic Field to mark the start of construction. Work continued through the fall and winter at a rapid pace, but by March 1947, construction costs had ballooned from the original estimate of \$300,000 to at least \$750,000. At that time, the Seattle School District decided that it preferred to spend any additional available funds on the schools rather than on the stadium. Thus the final phase of construction, to add additional seats on the west end for a total of 24,000 seats, was never completed.

Seattle High School Memorial Stadium opened on September 26, 1947, for its first event, the Seattle High Schools Football Jamboree. Official dedication of the stadium occurred two months later, on Thursday, November 27, 1947, in a 15-minute program preceding the Bremerton-Ballard High School football game. A Marine Corps color guard lowered the flag to half-mast to “remind spectators of the sacrifice made by those who gave their lives during the Second World War.” Officials invited to speak during the dedication included Governor Monrad C. Wallgren, Seattle mayor William F. Devin, state superintendent of public instruction Pearl A. Wanamaker, and Seattle School Board president James A. Duncan.

The Seattle High School Memorial Stadium was recognized as a noted example of architectural design at the time of its construction. In 1947 the Seattle-based design publication, *Pacific Builder and Engineer*, called the stadium “the most modern of its kind in the country,” and *Engineering News Record* noted that “maximum visibility for the spectator is provided and excellent architectural effect is achieved.” The unique roof design called for a 28,000 square foot concrete slab with a dramatic 40’ cantilever overhang, with all of the ribs and girders “hidden” on top, supported by an equally hidden 6’ by 8’ transverse reinforced concrete box beam. The result of the construction was that the bottom facing of the roof presented a smooth expanse of concrete, broken only by the four vertical columns which provide support. Besides providing a striking appearance, the design of the concrete structure was noted as being fireproof, and also for avoiding costly maintenance issues associated with nesting birds.

Living War Memorials and Memorial Stadiums

Many war memorial stadiums were built after the end of World War I, and there are others that commemorated the Civil War and other conflicts with additive elements. Like many late 19th and early 20th century memorials these monuments and shrines frequently used classical design features, and elements seen in cemeteries with the intention to recall ancient memorials and an effort to hold time still. In contrast, the concept of the living memorial, which emerged in the

20th century, was forward-looking, and an effort to build a future from the loss, to “displace that memory into activity in the present.”

America’s homeland experience during World War II was drastically different from that of World War I. It was made much more immediate through photographs, radio broadcasts, newsreels, and print media. Afterwards the symbols of ancient hierarchy and heroism seemed inadequate to commemorate the recent dead. Just as Modernism in architectural design embraced more functional forms to address real problems of the post-war period, many Americans sought different ways of recognizing community and individual sacrifice. “After World War II, no typology equivalent to the World War I doughboy arose. Aside from the memorials erected overseas by the American Battle Monuments Commission, few World War II memorials convincingly used the classical language of architecture (columns, plinths, obelisks, arches), which for generations had supplied artists and architects with their memorial vocabulary . . .”

Beginning In the mid-1940s, even before the end of the war, design periodicals, such as *Architectural Forums*, *Journal of the American Institute of Architects*, and *American City* carried the debate, with advocates of the “living memorial” citing it as means to promote democracy. The mainstream press, such as *New York Times*, publications such as *The Rotarian*, and traditional women’s magazines – such as *Better Homes and Gardens*, *Good Housekeeping*, and *Woman’s Home Companion* – began calling for more meaningful commemoration, specifically the construction of civic buildings. The trend proved powerful: In 1948, the Chamber of Commerce reported that in a survey of 265 communities, only 20 had constructed traditional memorials, while others had built “living memorials.” These included stadiums, auditoriums, community centers, recreational fields, pools, parks, hospitals, libraries, and other civic buildings.

Some stadium memorials are similar to Seattle’s with a decorated wall enclosure / retaining wall on one side or end of the structure serving as the memorial in the front. Others feature memorial walls along wide access corridors and concourses. Examples of named memorial stadiums include:

- Camp Randal Archway at the University of Wisconsin Stadium, Madison, 1912 (built to commemorate Civil War soldiers)
- Memorial Coliseum, Los Angeles, 1921
- Memorial Stadium, UC Berkeley, 1923
- Memorial Stadium, University of Illinois, Champaign-Urbana, 1923
- University of Nebraska Memorial Stadium, Lincoln, 1923
- Haskell Memorial Stadium at Haskell Institute, 1926 (associated with Jim Thorpe)
- War Memorial Stadium (Buffalo Bills Stadium), Buffalo, 1937-1989
- University of Arkansas, (Razorback Stadium), 1938
- Indiana University Memorial Stadium, Bloomington, 1925 – ca. 1958
- War Memorial Gymnasium at University of British Columbia in Vancouver BC (named in ca. 1946)
- Grand Island High School Memorial Stadium, 1947 (restored/renovated in 2018)

- Memorial Stadium, Baltimore (for both football and baseball, Colts and Orioles, \$6.5 M when built in 1950, demolished 2001)

In some structures, such as Seattle's, the memorial component is only visible from the outside or as part of a procession upon approaching or entering the stadium, while in others the occupants can see the "living memorial" during a sporting event, and it may be more integral to the event experience. Those that are external separate the devotional reflective space from the athletic space.

The Original Stadium and Memorial Designers, and the Original Builder

George W. Stoddard, the Stadium Architect

Memorial Stadium was designed in 1946 by George Wellington Stoddard (1896-1993), a prolific, white Seattle architect who was active from the 1920s to the 1960s.

Stoddard was born in Detroit, Michigan, and earned an architectural engineering degree from the University of Illinois in 1917. He later served in France with the U.S. Army during World War I. In 1920, Stoddard moved to Seattle and formed a practice with his father, Lewis Malcolm Stoddard, who was a civil engineer and naval architect. The firm, Stoddard & Son, operated between 1920 and 1929, designing a wide range of building types and following the historical revivalist styles popular at the time. Works by Stoddard & Son in Seattle during this period include the Park Court Apartments (1922); George A. Kribs residence (1922-23); Metropolitan Printing Press at 2107 3rd Avenue (1923, a designated Seattle landmark); Broadmoor entrance gate and caretaker's residence (1923-24); Stores for Henry Schuett at 2230 2nd Avenue (1924, also known as the Mama's Mexican Restaurant building, a designated Seattle landmark); Fox Garage at 600 Olive Way (1925, altered); and Dutton residence at 3355 East Laurelhurst Drive (1926). Outside of Seattle, a notable work during this period is the Winthrop Hotel at South Broadway and South 9th Street, Tacoma (1925).

Following his father's death in 1929, George Stoddard established his own firm, George Wellington Stoddard & Associates.

In the 1930s, Stoddard designed several Art Deco commercial buildings, including the second Metropolitan Printing Press building at 2603 Third Avenue (1931, altered); 777 Thomas Street garage building (1931, a designated Seattle landmark); and the Builder's Hardware building at 227 9th Avenue North (1931, altered). In the 1930s through the 1940s, Stoddard was well-known for his residential designs in planned Seattle area subdivisions, such as Blue Ridge or Sheridan Beach in North Seattle, as well as custom single-family residences, often in a Colonial Revival mode.

During the late 1930s and early 1950s, Stoddard moved away from historicist or revivalist styles, and embraced the Modern movement. His work at that time broadly included educational buildings, medical buildings, banks, stores, and apartment buildings. Projects were sometimes

innovative or experimental. For example, he invented the concept of a “transportable school” which featured a central core with classroom structures that could be added or removed as needed. Three were constructed in the Seattle area in 1949; they were believed to be the first of their kind in the nation. Other notable works from the 1930s to the 1950s include the low-cost pre-built “Quintec” homes (1938), Harbor Island Fire Station (1941-1942), Stoddard Terrace Apartments (1944, the Aloha Apartments), Renton Hospital (1946, demolished), Arbor Heights Elementary School (1948-1949, demolished), the Green Lake Aqua Theater (1950, demolished), and King County Youth Service Center (1951).

Beginning in the 1940s, Stoddard’s firm undertook the design of several sports facilities, besides the subject building in 1945-1946. In 1949, it designed the 15,000-seat South Stand Addition to Husky Stadium, which was constructed and completed the following year. The University of Washington structure was described in a 2010 landmark nomination:

In 1949, the Seattle architectural firm of George W. Stoddard & Associates was commissioned to design a large elevated upper deck stands to the south side of the stadium. The structural engineer for the project was S. (Sigmund) Ivarsson. The South Stands were completed in 1950 . . . raising the seating capacity of the stadium to 55,000, and also providing 21,000 covered or partially-covered seats. The stands featured a cantilevered roof utilizing nine large steel north-south trusses running upward from the north to support the stands and then turning back northward at the top to support the roof. Approximately 2,500 tons of steel were used in the construction. Pedestrian circulation was handled by a pair of helicoidal concrete ramps centrally placed within the massive blank concrete wall on the southern side of the stands. The cantilevered roof over the South Stands also held an overhead press-box, suspended from the roof trusses. The press-box held 75 people, and provided outstanding views of the track and field 185 feet below. Due to unanticipated excessive roof deflection, however, steel struts were added to the South Stands in 1951 . . .

In 1955, Stoddard formed a partnership with Francis E. Huggard, and named the firm George W. Stoddard-Huggard & Associates, Architects and Engineers. Although Stoddard retired a few years later in 1960, works from this period include Sand Point Elementary School (1957-1958), and several National Bank of Commerce branches, including one at 3rd and Battery Street (1955, demolished) and Westlake and Olive Street (1955).

Stoddard’s work was published repeatedly in the *Seattle Times* and *Seattle Post-Intelligencer*, the local *Pencil Points* architectural journal, the national trade magazine *Architectural Forum*, and other trade publications. He was also active in many professional and civic organizations, including the State Hospital Advisory Council Executive Committee (1948-1949), Seattle Civic Arts Committee (appointed as chairman in 1947), King County Educational Advisory Committee (1950-1951), King County Juvenile Advisory Committee (1952), Rainier Club, the Seattle Art Museum, the Seattle Chamber of Commerce, and the Municipal League. He also served on the board of the Seattle Symphony for many years. A member of the Washington State Chapter of

the American Institute of Architects since 1922, Stoddard served as president of the chapter in 1946-1947. He was also highly involved in the design of the downtown Seattle memorial in Victory Square.

George Wellington Stoddard and his wife Marjorie Schuett Stoddard resided from the early 1940s onward in a home of his design on the private Reed estate along the Lake Washington waterfront in the Madison Park neighborhood. Stoddard in 1935 had designed a mansion for Stimson lumber heir William Reed Sr., and in return, Reed offered the Stoddards a parcel on the property for them to build a house of their own. They lived there until Stoddard's death in 1967 at the age of 71. Marjorie died in Seattle in 1993 at age 94.

Peter H. Hostmark, the Structural Engineer for the Stadium

Architect George Stoddard worked with consulting structural engineer Peter H. Hostmark of Peter Hostmark & Associates, Seattle. Hostmark (1903-1968), a white man, was born and raised in Norway. He attended and graduated from the Norwegian Institute of Technology in 1927, and subsequently immigrated to Seattle. During World War II he served in the U.S. Army Air Force in 1943-1946, and then returned to the Northwest.

Hostmark provided the structural engineering for several schools after completing the work on the stadium, including Southgate Elementary (1950) and South Central Junior-Senior High School (1952). One of his other early projects with architect Paul Thiry resulted in the design of the Washington State Library/Prichard Building on the Olympia State campus (1959). What may be his most noteworthy work was the Washington State Coliseum (Climate Pledge Arena) and International Commerce and Industry Buildings (Northwest Rooms) and Swedish Pavilion (International Fountain Pavilion) designed with Thiry for the Century 21 Exposition (1962). The World's Fair projects on the Seattle Center grounds are designated city landmarks.

That same year he collaborated with Thiry on the Mercer Island Presbyterian Church. The two men designed St. Demetrious Greek Orthodox Church (1963) in the Montlake neighborhood. Hostmark was skilled with concrete structures as demonstrated by these projects. He also designed the Tropics Motor Hotel (1958), and several apartment buildings, including the Towne House, and the Panorama House on First Hill with architect George Bolotin (1961-1962). He later collaborated with architect Edward Mahlum on campus buildings for North Seattle Community College (1968-1970).

Well recognized in his field, Hostmark served as president of several professional engineering organizations in the late 1950s and early 1960s. He also developed new structural/seismic code sections for the City of Seattle Building Code. Hostmark was named Engineer of the Year in 1962 by the Consulting Engineers Association of Washington, and received awards from the American Iron and Steel Institute in 1965 and the federal Housing and Urban Development in 1968. An avid skier, he also co-founded the Pacific Northwest Ski Association.

Peter Hostmark died in June 1969 at the age of 65. After his death, his firm completed the engineering work on another project with Paul Thiry, the Christ Church Parish Episcopal Church in Tacoma.

The Memorial Designer, Marianne Hanson

Marianne Hanson (1932-2015), a white woman, was born the daughter of Swedish immigrant parents, and raised in Seattle. She attended Garfield High School when she entered the design competition sponsored by the School District to design the new memorial. Hanson received a national art scholarship after graduating from high school in 1950, but she dropped out of college to support her family. She later attended the University of Washington where she graduated with a bachelor's degree, magnum cum laude, from the School of Art. She and her husband, Milton Simons (1923-1973), a Black man, raised their son, Serge (b. 1962), in Seattle.

Hanson had multiple careers in graphic design, illustration, sculpture, theater costume design, and as an editorial and fiction writer. She also opened art galleries in several states. One of these was the Milann Gallery in Seattle, which Marianne and Milt Simons founded in August 1959. Milt Simons was a talented painter, dancer, musician, and reportedly the first Black art instructor in Washington State. (Marianne Hanson's obituary also described her as a painter and print-maker, but online images associated with her are limited to paintings by Simons.) The 800 square foot Milann Gallery operated as a co-op, and the space also served as an art studio where Simons taught painting and drawing, as well a venue for music, including performances for their jazz ensemble with which she played piano. The gallery, which closed in 1961, occupied a former bakery space on 34th Avenue in Madrona neighborhood, one of the city's first racially integrated neighborhoods. Later, in 1968, the same space became the Black Panther Party's local headquarters. In late 1970s the Simons opened another gallery, another gallery the Origin Arts Originals, at 321 E Pine Street, which showed Milt Simons work until 1973. He died in November of that year.

An interesting aspect of Hanson's design is its similarity to the primary facade of the Seattle Art Museum in Volunteer Park, designed by architect Carl F. Gould and built in 1932. The museum and the memorial wall designs share a tall, stepped wall with fluted end wall sections that partially surround fountain basins. Both designs, while based on classical forms, embody characteristics of the Art Deco and Moderne styles. No specific references to the museum have been discovered, but as an art student it is likely that Hanson had seen the building from repeated visits.

Puget Sound Bridge and Dredging, the General Contractor

The project was bid during the immediate post-war period when the bid climate was accelerated. Because of high bids the contract was awarded on a cost-plus basis to Puget Sound Bridge and Dredging Company (PSBD). This general contractor had prior experience in stadium construction, having built the south stands of the University of Washington stadium in 1920.

Puget Sound Bridge and Dredging was founded in 1889. The company was known also as Associated Shipbuilders, of which it was half-owner. Later, after being purchased in 1959 by Lockheed, it was renamed the Lockheed Shipbuilding and Construction Company. The company ceased operations in 1988 and closed in 1989. At its peak, however, the company was involved in major construction projects throughout the Pacific Northwest, Idaho, Alaska, Oregon, and California. As a shipyard it was responsible for building many ships, including naval vessels for World War II, ferries for the Washington State Ferry System, and tugboats, steam wheelers, dredges, mine sweepers, ice breakers and frigates for the Navy, Coast Guard, and the States of Alaska and Washington. Its shipyard output reportedly numbered over 2,000 vessels.

PSBD also undertook a number of unusual, technically demanding infrastructure projects, including the formation of Harbor Island (1909), the Umatilla Basin Project, a series of irrigation canals in northwest Oregon (1906); a steel cantilever bridge across the Snake River in Idaho (1927), the first Lake Washington Floating Bridge (1939-1940); Port of Port Townsend (1931); and the first Hood Canal Floating Bridge (1961). Later projects included the Grand Coulee Dam, the San Fernando Tunnel in California, and portions of the I-5 freeway and its overpasses in Seattle. As a general contractor, it was responsible for building the original King County Courthouse (1914), Dexter Horton Building (1924), and the original Husky Stadium (1920).

The company was led by Horace Winslow (H. W., known also as Mac) McCurdy (1899-1989), a white man, a significant builder and civil leader in Seattle, and a longtime supporter of civic cultural and educational institutions. Born in Port Townsend to a family of shipbuilders, McCurdy worked at his uncle's Seattle shipyard, the Madison Street Marine Ways, as a child and young man. In 1911, his father died. He continued to work as a pile driver while a student at Port Townsend High School from which he graduated in 1915.

McCurdy enrolled at the University of Washington, where he joined the crew team, at the age of 16. He subsequently served in the Navy during World War I. McCurdy returned to college after the war to attend MIT where he graduated in 1922 with a Bachelor's of Science degree in Engineering. He joined PSBD upon returning to Seattle, but his first project for the company was the dredging and construction of a hydraulic fill dam in Maybell, Texas. In 1923 he returned to the company's Seattle headquarters where he was made the manager of the dredging department in 1927, and vice president and general manager in 1929. He soon became the company president, a position that he retained until selling the company in 1959 to Lockheed. A member of the Rainier Club he served as its president in 1949. McCurdy served on the board of Lockheed Aircraft from that date until 1970 as well as boards of several national banks, and of the Museum of History and Industry in Seattle.

The Stadium as a Building Type

Design Features of the Type

Regardless of its era, the design feature of a stadium often vary depending on the specificity of a sport or its multi-use with other types of gatherings and events, as well as the level of play in

schools, colleges or professional leagues, and the number and needs of spectators. Seattle's Memorial Stadium, built on the grounds of the former Civic Field, was designed, and constructed primarily for high school football. This sport had its origins in colleges and universities, but it was increasingly popular as a spectator game in high schools by the mid-20th century.

Memorial Stadium fits within a type. The features of this type include consistent elements:

- The field, sized and laid out with identified boundary lines and goal and penalty areas set in accordance with standards established by associations or federations
- Grandstands encircling the field in whole or in part, such as a horseshoe shape, or set parallel to the field on opposing sides
- Team locker/changing rooms with showers and/or meeting areas
- Offices for facility and team managers, and officials
- A press box or boxes, and spaces for broadcasting and videography
- Restrooms for spectators
- Nearby parking for spectators, and drop-off areas for buses
- Outdoor lighting for evening and night-time use
- Optional facilities for high school stadiums include ticketing facilities and concession spaces

The most visible design variations occur in grandstand seating and the roof structure. The shape of the seating, laid out on risers, is typically rectangular, and set on sloped grade or supported by framing or retaining walls. Historically, the form consisted of raised seat rows of concrete and wood framing on flat sites, while changes in 20th century construction technologies include grandstand framing of wood and steel. (Bleachers, consisting of raised rows of bleachers, are much smaller and more basic than grandstands and more versatile as their lighter weight frames allow for portability and phased additions.) Stadiums provide stairways to access the horizontal rows at each stair step. The concourse and access element are often a unique design feature, such as the coil shaped ramps of the former UW Husky Stadium.

Grandstands may be single level, such as Memorial Stadium, or layered for greater seating capacity. Grandstands structures typically have columns to support a deep roof, open on the front and often the sides as well, but cantilever roofs are also common. Roof shapes are simple, most often single sheds, though some mid-century structures featured thin shells and vaults. While wood, wood trusses, and reinforced concrete are typical, many newer grandstands use steel open web trusses. While stand seats are standardized, but many consider lower-level or field level, mid-field locations as optimal for soccer, as well as seats near end goal nets, while the top of the lower level, below the concourse and closest to the 50-yard line are best for football.

Playfield and Grandstand Sizes

The field or pitch may appear to be a secondary element, but it is utmost for play. The size and shape in many high school stadiums accommodate track as well as football and soccer, the latter as it is increasingly popular. Fields may be turf or artificial turf. Some fields include running tracks, flat and banked, and built with special surfaces and subsurface for drainage. A standard

football field is 53.3 yards wide by 100 yards long with two 10 yard end zones for a total length of 120 yards. A standard soccer field is similar in length, at 100 to 130 yards long, but it is typically wider than a football field. (A FIFA soccer field dimensions are 110 to 120 yards by 70 to 80 yards.) Where soccer fields are smaller, the competition is reduced to 3, 5, 7 or 9 players on each side.

In terms of seating, Seattle's Memorial Stadium cannot compare to many recent high school stadiums, in other states. Nine of the ten largest high school stadiums in the country are in Texas. These include the 2014 Alamo Stadium near San Antonio, known as "The Rock Pile," for its limestone construction, which seats 23,000. Mesquite High School's 1976 Memorial Stadium was built with a seating capacity of 19,400. The 17,500-seat San Angelo Stadium, the fourth-largest high school football stadium in Texas was cited in a 1960s exhibit at New York's Museum of Modern Art as "an outstanding example of 20th century engineering." The Allen Eagle Stadium, in Allen, Texas, built in 2012, seats 18,000.

In terms of size there is also Bazemore-Hyder stadium in Valdosta, Georgia, built in 1922 and renovated in 2004 in a \$6.5 million project that included a synthetic turf surface, a two-story enclosed press box and new seats, entrances, restrooms, and concession facilities, and a 11,249 seating capacity. The \$11M, 1991 Edgar, Arizona Round Valley High School Stadium is the only domed high school football stadium in the U.S.

Evolution of the Football Stadium

A review of historic stadiums traces the materials and shapes of the building type from the Roman Coliseum through contemporary facilities. In contrast to those from ancient times, most facilities in the mid- to late-1800s were wood framed grandstands, typically rectilinear shaped structures, placed on opposing sides of a field. Construction of Harvard University's football stadium in 1903, with its seating capacity of over 30,000, revolutionized the type, and its construction indicates the popularity of this collegiate sport. When built, it pioneered the use of reinforced concrete in the construction of large structures. This horse shoe-shaped stadium not only had profound influence on the design of later stadiums, but on the game itself. After its construction, Harvard University's field served as the model for the established field size. Larger than many earlier fields it allowed more running distance than earlier fields, thus leading to the legal forward pass.

During the Depression there were many community-based recreation facilities built under federal relief programs, such as the Works Progress Administration (WPA). Over an eight year period the WPA alone built or renovated nearly 3,300 new stadiums, grandstands, and bleachers across the nation, in addition to over 5,000 athletic fields, tennis, and handball courts. The stadium grandstands were typically economic structures of wood framing that took advantage of the relatively simple construction skills of relief workers. Seattle's memorial Stadium was built in the post-war period which saw construction of many new public schools as well as their athletic facilities. These construction projects responded to the pent-up demand, following the Depression and World War II when the focus was on military production.

Historically Significant Stadiums

Many of the recognized historic stadiums are associated with the most tradition-bound sport of baseball – for example, Fenway Park, and Lambeau Field, Wrigley Field (all listed as National Historic Landmarks) – along with the National Register-listed League Park Baseball Stadium, Cleveland (1909, largely demolished), Hamtramck Stadium, Michigan (a National Negro League Ballpark, 1930), and Hinchliffe Stadium in Paterson, New Jersey (1933), an Art Deco style structure and home to the New York Black Yankees and New York Cubans.

Excluding these baseball stadiums, domed structures, such as the 1965 Houston Astrodome, and multi-use arenas used for hockey, and other sports and performances, there are an estimated 20 high school, civic, collegiate, or professional football stadiums recognized by National Register or National Historic Landmarks (NHL) listing. Notably, one of these is an important regional landmark – Tacoma's Stadium Bowl, built in 1910 in a natural bowl with a view of Commencement Bay and Puget Sound. This original stadium had a seating capacity of 32,000, subsequently reduced to 15,000. Other National Register listed football stadiums include others largely from the early decades of the 20th century, and WPA projects:

- Staff Field / Marshall Field, Chicago (1893-demolished 1957)
- Harvard University Stadium (1903)
- Tacoma Stadium Bowl (1910)
- Yale Bowl Stadium , New Haven, Connecticut (1913, the first bowl-shaped)
- Los Angeles Coliseum (1922-1923)
- Pasadena Rose Bowl (Myron Hunt, 1922, 1928, NHL)
- California Memorial Stadium, Berkeley (1923, demolished 2010)
- Grant Park / Soldier Field, Chicago (1924, altered 2002 and de-listed 2006)
- World War Memorial Stadium, a baseball park, Greensboro, N Carolina (1926, for football)
- Breese Stevens Municipal Athletic Field, a multi-purpose stadium, Madison, Wisconsin (1926)
- Duncan Park in Spartanburg, South Carolina (1926)
- Legion Field, Birmingham (1927)
- Fischer Field Stadium, Newton, Kansas (WPA, 1936)
- Bristol Municipal Stadium ("Stone Castle"), Bristol High School in Bristol, Tennessee. (WPA, 1936)
- Aztec Bowl football stadium, San Diego University (1936, WPA project, demolished)
- Eugene Civic Stadium (1938-2015)
- Fort Worth's 18,500-seat Farrington High School Stadium (1939, WPA project, pending listing)
- Alamo Stadium, San Antonio, "The Rock Pile" due to limestone construction (WPA, 1940)
- Watertown Stadium is a stadium in Watertown, South Dakota (WPA, 1940)
- Veterans Memorial Coliseum, Portland (1959-1960)

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The features of the Landmark to be preserved include: the memorial wall with associated steps, fountains and other integral features, all of the structural wall(s) and foundation(s) that physically support the memorial in situ, and the site area on which the memorial resides and relies upon for structural support, including 20' of space on all sides of the wall.

Issued: October 16, 2023



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