

History of South Park

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General Description

The South Park neighborhood is located in the Duwamish Valley on the left (west) bank of the Duwamish Waterway about five miles south of Seattle's central business district. It occupies Sections 29, 32 and 33 of Township 24 North, Range 4 East, Willamette Meridian.

At present South Park is bounded by State Route 509 (1st Avenue South) on the west, the Duwamish Waterway on the north and east, and by the city limits of Seattle on the southeast and south.

These generally accepted neighborhood boundaries coincide well with the boundaries of King County Census Tract 112, although the Census tract extends a short distance west of State Route 509 at the northwest corner of the neighborhood.¹

The topography of the community varies. The area north of S. Donovan Street is flat and slopes gently towards the Duwamish Waterway. This portion of South Park is underlain with sandy alluvial soil deposits extending to a depth of around 200 feet.²

The portion of the neighborhood to the south contains several small hills, the highest reaching an elevation of about 100 feet. These small hills are bedrock or have bedrock cores and this portion of the community is underlain by glacial soils.³

State Route 99 bisects the community diagonally from northwest to southeast and passes between two of the hills. The Concord School surmounts the hill to the west of State Route 99; the Sea-Mar Community Care Center has replaced Our Lady of Lourdes College (once known as the Brother's School) atop the hill immediately to the east. South Park's main commercial street, 14th Avenue South, separates the latter hill from a third hill further to the east, between the commercial district and the waterway.

¹ In 1940, South Park and Georgetown were grouped together in Census Tract R-1. The tract was divided along the line of the Duwamish Waterway for the 1950 Census, and the South Park component became Tract R-1B. In 1960, Tract R-1B became Census Tract 112.

² *Final Environmental Impact Statement: The South Park Neighborhood Improvement Plan* (Seattle: City of Seattle Department of Community Development, November 1978), p. 10.

³ *Final Environmental Impact Statement: The South Park Neighborhood Improvement Plan*, p. 10.

Initial Settlement on the Duwamish

In 1792, the British crew of HMS Discovery, under the command of Captain George Vancouver, made the first recorded visit to Puget Sound by people of European descent. The Pacific coast of the Oregon country, situated between Spanish California to the south and Russian Alaska to the north, had been visited by Spanish and Russian explorers, but by the beginning of the nineteenth century, Britain and the United States were the only states still vying for control of the region.

British traders associated with the Hudson's Bay Company and its rival, the Northwest Company, were joined in the Oregon country by American traders in the early years of the nineteenth century.

In the Anglo-American Convention of 1818, which settled most of the disputes connected with the War of 1812, the United States and Britain agreed to "joint occupancy" of the Oregon country, which included the regions now known as the American Pacific Northwest and the southern portion of British Columbia.⁴

The two British trading institutions merged about 1821 under the Hudson's Bay Company name. By 1824, the company's Oregon country headquarters were being relocated from Fort George (Astoria) to Fort Vancouver.⁵ The company established a trading post at Nisqually in 1833.⁶

The Duwamish River and the Indigenous People

On July 8, 1833, Dr. William Fraser Tolmie, an employee of the Hudson's Bay Company who had recently arrived at Nisqually, recorded a description of Elliott Bay and the Duwamish River in his diary while visiting what would later become known as Alki Point. Although he did not travel up the Duwamish River, he noted that the south side of the bay and river were

. . . inhabited by the Tuamish [Duwamish] Indians, of whom we saw several parties along the coast, miserably poor and destitute of firearms. The opposite coast of Sound is possessed by the warlike Soquamish [Suquamish] with whose chief all were on friendly terms.⁷

⁴ Clarence B. Bagley, *History of Seattle: Volume 1* (Chicago – Seattle: The S. J. Clarke Publishing Company, 1916), p. 7.

⁵ Bagley, *History of Seattle, Volume 1*, p. 7

⁶ Bagley, *History of Seattle, Volume 1*, pp. 8-9.

⁷ Bagley, *History of Seattle, Volume 1*, p. 10. See also Clarence B. Bagley, *History of King County Washington: Volume 1* (Chicago – Seattle: The S. J. Clarke Publishing Company, 1929), p. 29.

The Duwamish were not so poor as Tolmie imagined. Their material culture may have appeared unsophisticated to Tolmie, but the physical resources required by the Duwamish were abundant in the Puget Sound region, and their culture and technical skills allowed them to make the most of what nature had to offer. By the time European and American explorers and traders began appearing in the area, the Duwamish had been living on the shores of Elliott Bay, and along the Duwamish, Black, White and Green Rivers for at least a thousand years. They took fish from the rivers, grew potatoes, gathered bulbs and berries, and hunted game. Extended families lived in large cedar longhouses. They were part of a much larger Coast Salish community that spoke Lushootseed.

A number of Duwamish villages were located in the Duwamish Valley between the river's mouth and the end of the Waterway as it presently exists (about three-quarters of a mile south of present-day South Park).

Perhaps the most important of these was Herring's House (*Too7ool7altxW*).⁸ This village was located at the foot of a bluff on the west bank of the Duwamish River a short distance south of the present-day West Seattle Freeway.⁹

The village included at least four longhouses and an enormous potlatch house. Important figures residing here included a headman named Tsootsalpyud and a shaman named Bookelatqw. The village was occupied until it was set ablaze in 1893 in one of the few instances where the destruction of an indigenous Puget Sound settlement by Americans appears in the historical record.¹⁰ In recent years, the name "Herring's House" has been applied to a city park upriver from the location of the original village.

Another Duwamish settlement called Basketry Hat (*yuleeqWad*) was located some distance south of Herring's House. This site may have been used as early as the first century BCE, when it was an open, wet terrace above the river. Early, part-time residents are thought to have camped at the site during the spring to harvest fish and roots. An earthquake about 1000 CE altered the local landscape, resulting in a higher and drier site, and the encampment became a permanent settlement surrounded by forest.¹¹

⁸ Coll Thrush and Nile Thompson, "An Atlas of Indigenous Seattle," in Coll Thrush, *Native Seattle: Histories from the Crossing-Over Place* (Seattle: University of Washington Press, 2007), p. 234. Lushootseed place names are transcribed here using the orthography developed by Thrush and Thompson.

⁹ T. T. Waterman, "The Geographical Names Used by Indians of the Pacific Coast," *The Geographical Review*, April 1922, v. XII. See map in Fig. 1, p. 175, and the associated site description, p.188.

¹⁰ Thrush and Thompson, "An Atlas of Indigenous Seattle," in Thrush, p. 234.

¹¹ Thrush and Thompson, "An Atlas of Indigenous Seattle," in Thrush, pp. 236-237.

Muckleshoot informants in the 1920s recalled hearing of three houses located at this village, each 60 feet wide by 120 feet long; however, the site was abandoned by 1800, possibly as the result of epidemics that swept the Puget Sound region in the 1770s.¹²

The name may associate the village with a type of woven hat worn by Yakima women, suggesting a connection with trade networks extending across the Cascades,¹³ or it may indicate that a particular type of longhouse, having a roof shaped like the hat, was located at the site.¹⁴

Basketry Hat was near a place called Crying Face (*XaXaboos*), where a small creek, likely fed by springs “weeping” from the face of the hillside to the west, flowed across a small flat and into the Duwamish River.¹⁵

This latter Lushootseed expression has also been rendered as “Hala’pus,” “hah-AH-poos” or “ha³a’pus,” and may be a description of the site rather than the name of a village.¹⁶ However, the phrase has also been translated as “where there are horse clams,”¹⁷ and some writers appear to use the expression as another name for Basketry Hat, or for Herring’s House, or as the name of a distinct settlement.

A third village, known as Place of the Fishing Spear (*dxWqWeeTLtud*), was located very near present-day Georgetown and a short distance northeast of South Park at what is now the north end of Boeing Field. Before the Duwamish River was “straightened” to become

¹² Thrush and Thompson, “An Atlas of Indigenous Seattle,” in Thrush, p. 237. Thrush and Thompson cite Sarah K. Campbell, *The Duwamish No. 1 Site: A Lower Puget Sound Shell Midden* (Seattle: University of Washington Institute for Environmental Studies, Office of Public Archaeology, 1981) and the *The Duwamish No. 1 Site: 1986 Data Recovery* (Seattle: BOAS, 1987).

¹³ Thrush and Thompson, “An Atlas of Indigenous Seattle,” in Thrush, p. 237. Thrush and Thompson cite Sarah K. Campbell, *The Duwamish No. 1 Site: A Lower Puget Sound Shell Midden* (Seattle: University of Washington Institute for Environmental Studies, Office of Public Archaeology, 1981) and the *The Duwamish No. 1 Site: 1986 Data Recovery* (Seattle: BOAS, 1987).

¹⁴ Sarah K. Campbell, *The Duwamish No. 1 Site: A Lower Puget Sound Shell Midden* (Seattle: University of Washington Institute for Environmental Studies, Office of Public Archeology, 1981), p. 54.

¹⁵ Thrush and Thompson, “An Atlas of Indigenous Seattle,” in Thrush, p. 236.

¹⁶ Campbell, p. 54; Campbell cites Waterman as the source for the rendering “hala’pus;” however, a site identified by that name does not appear in Waterman’s article entitled “The Geographical Names Used by Indians of the Pacific Coast.” The rendering “hah-ah-poos” is found in *West Seattle Story* (Seattle: Robinson Newspapers, 1987), p. 16, where it is attributed to David Buerge. The rendering “ha³a’pus,” is included in an edited version of Waterman’s manuscript published as *Puget Sound Geography* (Vi Hilbert, Jay Miller and Zalmai Zahir, editors) (Federal Way, WA: Lushootseed Press/Zahir Consulting Services, 2001), pp. 62, 66.

¹⁷ Campbell, p. 54.

the Duwamish Waterway, this site was a large flat area enclosed within a bend of the river. A description of the town's site ('a large open space; a plain') was initially taken to be the meaning of its name.¹⁸ The town apparently included two large longhouses and was associated with the cultivation of several acres of potatoes. The villagers were said to be known as the "proud or confident people."¹⁹

To the west and south of Place of the Fishing Spear was a crescent-shaped body of water known to the Duwamish as Abandoned (*hLuwahLb*). This small oxbow lake had almost certainly been part of the river at some point, but had been separated from the main channel by some geological event.²⁰ The lake was filled in the early twentieth century, but the location of its southern and western shoreline is marked by Dallas Avenue South in South Park from about South Cloverdale Street north to the point where Dallas merges into 10th Avenue South, and from there north to about South Kenyon Street.

Between the south end of the oxbow lake and the river itself was a wide flat area known as Lift It Over (*xWaPeechHad*) that, judging from its name, may have been used as a portage.²¹

The area to the west of the oxbow lake – an expansive flat containing the three hills of the present-day South Park neighborhood – was known to the Duwamish as Beach Worm's Throat (*Qeeyawalapsub*).²²

The creature after which this site . . . is named was identified by local informants in two ways: as an eel or as a long green beach worm that inhabits driftwood and can be used as bait. The confusion may stem either from the superficial resemblance between the two animals or from an informant's not knowing the precise English term for an organism he of course knew well. The solution is found in a Suquamish place name, *sQuyawub*, which is based on *Quyaw* 'long green grubs' that are found in old logs. Candidate species include blennies of various genera and nereid worms (*nereis* spp.).²³

Sweat House (*gWuXW7altxW*) was the name given by the Duwamish to a small creek entering the Duwamish River south of South Park, likely the watercourse now known as Hamm Creek. "The Southern Puget Sound Salish, including the Duwamish, used sweat bathing for bodily cleanliness and to aid physical well-being, but not as a cure for any

¹⁸ Waterman, p. 193.

¹⁹ Thrush and Thompson, "An Atlas of Indigenous Seattle," in Thrush, p. 240.

²⁰ Thrush and Thompson, "An Atlas of Indigenous Seattle," in Thrush, p. 240.

²¹ Thrush and Thompson, "An Atlas of Indigenous Seattle," in Thrush, p. 240. Waterman (p. 193) translated the Lushootseed expression as "where one throws something," noting that he did not know the reason for the name.

²² Thrush and Thompson, "An Atlas of Indigenous Seattle," in Thrush, p. 241.

²³ Thrush and Thompson, "An Atlas of Indigenous Seattle," in Thrush, p. 241. The authors cite Warren Snyder, *Southern Puget Sound Salish*, p. 131.

serious ailment. This contrasts with the Northern Puget Sound Salish, who used it in preparation for spirit questing.”²⁴

Several additional Duwamish settlements were located a few miles to the south on the Black River, which no longer exists but once extended from the south end of Lake Washington to the north end of present-day Fort Dent Park, where it joined the White River (now the Green River).²⁵ This point, about a mile north and east of Southcenter, is where the Duwamish River begins.

Treaty with Britain (1846) and the Oregon Territory Established (1848)

Although British and American explorers and traders were clearly aware of their presence, the Duwamish, and their indigenous neighbors, were not consulted on the question of national sovereignty. Competition between Britain and the United States for control of the Oregon country continued into the 1840s. Americans were predominant in the Willamette Valley and other areas south of the Columbia River, but had a negligible presence to the north.²⁶

The ships of the Wilkes Expedition, formally known as the United States Exploring Expedition, arrived off the coast of Oregon in 1841. The extensive charts of the Puget Sound region and the accompanying descriptive materials prepared by Lieutenant Charles Wilkes and his corps of surveyors and scientists eventually played an important role in the final determination of the international boundaries.²⁷ However, the issue was not immediately resolved, and a provisional government for the Oregon country was established by American settlers in 1843, initially as a response to mundane problems such as dealing with probate issues and the prevention of wild animal predation, but also to avoid becoming subject to the authority of the Hudson’s Bay Company.²⁸

The issue of whether the Oregon country would become part of the United States or British North America was finally settled by the Oregon Treaty of 1846, which established the boundary at the 49th parallel. The Congress ratified the treaty June 18, 1846.²⁹

²⁴ Thrush and Thompson, “An Atlas of Indigenous Seattle,” in Thrush, p. 241. The authors cite Nile Robert Thompson and C. Dale Sproat, “The Use of Oral Literature to Provide Community Health Education on the Southern Northwest Coast.” *American Indian Culture and Research Journal* 28 no. 3 (2004), pp. 15-16.

²⁵ *The Green-Duwamish River: Connecting people with a diverse environment* (map). Seattle: Duwamish River Cleanup Coalition/TAG, c. 2008.

²⁶ Carlos A. Schwantes, *The Pacific Northwest: An Interpretive History* (Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1989), p. 98.

²⁷ Schwantes, p. 99.

²⁸ Schwantes, pp. 96-97.

²⁹ “Oregon boundary dispute,” *Wikipedia* (accessed September 13, 2009).

The Territory of Oregon was organized and incorporated August 14, 1848 by another act of Congress.³⁰ The territory included all of the land west of the Continental Divide between the 42nd and 49th parallels³¹ except for the southern end of Vancouver Island, which remained a part of British North America.

Early American Visitors to the Duwamish Valley (1848 - 1850)

Colonel Isaac N. Ebey (1818-1857) arrived in the Oregon Territory August 29, 1848³² and eventually, in 1850, settled on a claim on Whidbey Island.³³

Ebey was apparently the first American to explore what is now King County.³⁴ On September 1, 1850, Ebey responded to a request for information concerning the character of the land on the east side of Puget Sound.³⁵ In his letter of reply he briefly described what he had observed in the course of his travels on the Puyallup, Duwamish, and Black rivers, and on Lake Washington. According to Ebey, the Dewams (i.e. the Duwamish) emptied into a bay of the same name (now called Elliott Bay) about four miles in width and six miles in length and surrounded by woodland.³⁶

The river, for a distance of about twenty miles, has an average width of about forty yards, with a deep channel and placid current.

The river meanders along through rich bottom land, not heavily timbered, with here and there a beautiful plain of unrivalled fertility, peeping out through a fringe of vine maple, alder and ash, or baldly presenting a full view of their native richness and undying verdure. Other plains of more extensive character are represented as being near at hand, and of sufficient fertility to satisfy the most fastidious taste.

At a distance of about twenty miles from the bay, the river forks – the right fork bears the name of Dewams. It has its source about ten miles to the north in a large clear lake. This stream has an average width of about twenty yards. The country along its banks partakes of the same character as that lower down the river. A few miles of this stream will be found quite rapid, offering very fine opportunities for mill privileges. Sandstone of a good quality for building material makes its appearance along the stream . . .

³⁰ *Washington Territory Donation Land Claims* (Seattle: Seattle Genealogical Society, 1980), p. i; also see “Oregon Territory,” *Wikipedia* (accessed September 13, 2009).

³¹ *Washington Territory Donation Land Claims*, p. i.

³² *Washington Territory Donation Land Claims*, p. 33.

³³ Bagley, *History of King County Washington: Volume 1*, (Chicago – Seattle: The S. J. Clarke Publishing Company, 1929), p. 25

³⁴ Bagley, *History of King County Washington: Volume 1*, pp. 25-26.

³⁵ Bagley, *History of King County Washington: Volume 1*, p. 26. Bagley (p. 28) indicates that the letter was published in the *Oregon Spectator*, October 17, 1850 (v. 5, n. VI).

³⁶ Bagley, *History of King County Washington: Volume 1*, p. 27.

Of the left bank of the Dewams little is known, until you get into the region of country where the wagon road crosses the same. The Indians represent the character of the country above much the same as that already described.

Where the wagon road crosses the river, plains of unrivalled fertility are found, covered with the most luxurious growth of grass I have ever met with, a great deal of it being from three to four feet high, in which the red and white clover are found sprinkled with liberal hand.

The tide flows up this river a distance of more than twenty miles.³⁷

The date of Ebey's visit is not precisely known but must have occurred between his arrival in Oregon Territory on August 29, 1848 and the date of his letter, September 1, 1850. Bagley reports that Ebey joined the California gold rush in 1849 but does not indicate if he traveled to the Puget Sound region before heading south.³⁸ Ebey's letter includes an account of a visit to Snoqualmie Falls transcribed from an entry in the journal of Captain Fay dated September 21; however the year of the entry is not specified.³⁹

John C. Holgate arrived in Oregon Territory on August 9, 1847.⁴⁰ He spent several weeks in August and September 1850 exploring the east shore of Puget Sound.⁴¹ In the course of his visit, he paddled up the Duwamish with Indian guides and found a small prairie that appeared suitable for settlement. Whatever his intentions regarding the site, he did not establish a claim, and when he returned to the Puget Sound region some years later, Holgate discovered that the site had been settled by Luther M. Collins.⁴² Holgate was able to find another piece of land to his liking, however, and established himself on a donation land claim, located just south of David S. ("Doc") Maynard's claim, on June 21, 1853.⁴³

The Donation Land Claim Act (1850)

Although American immigrants had been settling on land in what would become the Oregon Territory since before the establishment of the provisional government in 1843, the legal framework for the claims was not firmly established until Congress passed the law informally known as the Donation Land Claim Act (or Donation Act) of 1850

In rearranging the landscape of the new Northwest in a geographic as well

³⁷ Ebey's letter of September 1, 1850 to M. T. Simmons, Esq., as quoted in Clarence B. Bagley, *History of King County Washington: Volume 1* (Chicago – Seattle: The S. J. Clarke Publishing Company, 1929), p. 27.

³⁸ Bagley, *History of King County Washington: Volume 1*, p. 25.

³⁹ Bagley, *History of King County Washington: Volume 1*, p. 28.

⁴⁰ *Washington Territory Donation Land Claims*, p. 77.

⁴¹ Myra L. Phelps, *Public Works in Seattle: A Narrative History, The Engineering Department 1875 – 1975* (Seattle: Seattle Engineering Department, 1978), p. 58.

⁴² Phelps, p. 58.

⁴³ *Washington Territory Donation Land Claims*, p. 77.

as political sense, few congressional enactments had greater impact than the Donation Land Claim Act of 1850. The measure recognized the generous claims established under Oregon's provisional government and set up a system for acquiring additional land. . . . In the eyes of the congressional supporters, [the Act] was a way to reward immigrants who had helped the United States win a very generous boundary settlement.⁴⁴

The Donation Act was approved on September 27, 1850. It established the position of Surveyor General for Oregon Territory and contained provisions for the donations of public lands to settlers.⁴⁵

Every male settler over 18 years of age who was a citizen or had declared intention to become one, who had been a resident of the territory before December 1, 1850 and who had lived on the land for four years could be granted 320 acres of land. If he was married, his wife could also receive 320 acres in her name. The Act also provided that any male citizen over 21 years of age who was a citizen or had declared his intention to become one, and who settled in the Territory between Dec. 1, 1850 and Dec. 1, 1853, was entitled to 160 acres and, if married, an additional 160 acres for his wife. The same provision was made for a male settler who became 21 or who married after his arrival in the Territory.⁴⁶

It is important to note that the land was given away free to white settlers before Indian title to it was extinguished.⁴⁷

On February 14, 1853, the federal government extended the provisions of the Donation Act until December 1, 1855 and revised the Act to permit a person who had claimed land to purchase it for \$1.25 an acre after two years residence. In 1854 the residence requirement was reduced to one year.⁴⁸

Initial Settlement in the Duwamish Valley (1851)

The first non-native settlers in the lower Duwamish Valley were Luther Collins and his family, Jacob Maple, Maple's adult son Samuel, and Henry Van Asselt. Together, these individuals comprised the Collins Party.

Jacob Maple, born May 9, 1798 at Green County, Pennsylvania,⁴⁹ and his son Samuel Maple, born December 11, 1827,⁵⁰ at Guernsey County, Ohio,⁵¹ crossed the plains to

⁴⁴ Schwantes, p. 103.

⁴⁵ *Washington Territory Donation Land Claims*, p. i.

⁴⁶ *Washington Territory Donation Land Claims*, p. i.

⁴⁷ Schwantes, p. 103.

⁴⁸ *Washington Territory Donation Land Claims*, p. i.

⁴⁹ Rhodes, p. 117. Rhodes cites *DAR WA Pioneers*, v. 26, p. 281.

⁵⁰ Rhodes, p. 117. Rhodes cites *DAR WA Pioneers*, v. 26, p. 281.

California in the spring of 1850 to take part in the gold rush. The two men failed to make much money in the mines.⁵² However, while in Northern California, they met Luther M. Collins, a visitor from the Puget Sound region.

Collins was born in 1814 at Oneida County, New York.⁵³ He married Dianna Borst (born in New York about 1820⁵⁴) on September 10, 1837, at Winnebago County, Illinois.⁵⁵ The couple had a daughter, Lucinda, born 1838 at Winnebago County, Illinois,⁵⁶ and a son, Stephen, born 1844 at Dubuque County, Iowa.⁵⁷

Collins had first arrived in Oregon Territory with his family October 20, 1847,⁵⁸ but after settling on the Nisqually, was apparently drawn south by the discovery of gold.

Henry Van Asselt, although single, followed a similar trajectory after his arrival in the Oregon Territory. Van Asselt was born April 11, 1817 at Zuider Zee, Holland.⁵⁹ He

⁵¹ *Washington Territory Donation Land Claims*, p. 104. This source gives the year of birth as 1830.

⁵² Eli Maple, "Eli Maple (or Maple): Pioneer Recollection, 1902," *HistoryLink.org* (Essay 2645; accessed February 22, 2008).

⁵³ *Washington Territory Donation Land Claims*, p. 117. See also Rhodes, p. 59.

⁵⁴ Rhodes, p. 59. Rhodes cites *Daily Intelligencer*, July 7, 1876, p. 3. The 1857 census of King County also indicates Borst was a native of New York (see Greg Lange, "1857 Census: King County Population By Name," *HistoryLink.org* (Essay 1920; accessed March 28, 3008)). However, the record for Stephen Collins in the 1880 U. S. Census K. C. WA p. 265, indicates that Borst was born in Pennsylvania (cited by Rhodes, p. 59, in entry for Stephen Collins).

⁵⁵ *Washington Territory Donation Land Claims*, p. 117. Rhodes (see p. 59) cites Prickett, v. 6.

⁵⁶ *Washington Territory Donation Land Claims*, p. 117. Rhodes (p. 59) cites Prickett, v. 6, Lucinda appears in the 1857 census as Merilet, age 19. (see Greg Lange, "1857 Census: King County Population By Name," *HistoryLink.org* (Essay 1920; accessed March 28, 3008)).

⁵⁷ *Washington Territory Donation Land Claims*, p. 117. Rhodes (p. 59) cites Prickett, v. 6, but also see the entry for Stephen Collins on the same page where Rhodes cites 1880 U. S. Census K. C. WA p. 265. The latter source indicates that Stephen was 38 at the time of the census, suggesting that he was born in 1842. A third option is offered by the 1857 census of King County which indicates that Stephen was 10 that year, suggesting a birth year of 1847; the latter source also suggests that he was born in Rockriver, Illinois, rather than in Iowa.

⁵⁸ *Washington Territory Donation Land Claims* (Seattle: Seattle Genealogical Society, 1980), p. 117.

⁵⁹ Rhodes, p. 185. Rhodes cites Prickett, v. 26. *Washington Territory Donation Land Claims*, p. 89, gives the year of birth as 1820, and the place of birth as Armela, Gelderland, Holland. Bagley, *History of Seattle*, v. 3, p. 310, gives the year of birth as 1807.

immigrated to the United States in 1847⁶⁰ and applied for citizenship March 1, 1849 at Muscatine County, Iowa.⁶¹ He left Iowa in 1850 to come west, reaching the Clackamas River near Oregon City on September 21, 1850.⁶² Soon after arriving Van Asselt made his way across the Willamette to the Tualatin River where he worked making shingles until the following spring.⁶³ In April 1851, he went to the gold fields of California where, over a five and a half week period, he and some others each made about \$1,000.⁶⁴

Van Asselt and some of his companions met Collins, the Maples, and Hill Harmon in Northern California in June 1851. The stories told by Collins of the game, climate and soil of the Puget Sound country induced several of the party to come north with him when he returned to his family on the Nisqually.⁶⁵

Public records indicate that the Maples first entered the Oregon Territory on July 1, 1851,⁶⁶ and it seems safe to assume that Collins and Van Asselt crossed into Oregon with the Maples on that date. Van Asselt spent July 4, 1851 with Collins in Oregon City and then left for St. Helens, located on the Columbia River about 30 miles north of Portland.⁶⁷ He had planned to cross the Columbia and immediately travel north to the Puget Sound region, but accidentally shot himself in the shoulder and had to remain for a month at St. Helens.⁶⁸ Those who were traveling with him at that point -- Jacob Maple and his son

⁶⁰ Bagley, *History of Seattle: Volume 3*, p. 310, and Rhodes, p. 185 (Rhodes cites Grant, p. 398).

⁶¹ *Washington Territory Donation Land Claims*, p. 89.

⁶² Rhodes, p. 185. Rhodes cites Grant, p. 398. Also see *Washington Territory Donation Land Claims*, p. 89.

⁶³ Bagley, *History of Seattle, Volume 3*, p. 310. Bagley calls the river "the Tualatin." Rhodes (p. 185), citing Grant (p. 398), indicates that Van Asselt "went to Tualatin." However, Rhodes also reports (p. 185), citing another source (Prickett, v. 26), that Van Asselt either 1) spent the winter of 1850-1851 near Oregon City with Robert Moore, or 2) at a farm near Oregon City, or 3) mining gold in California.

⁶⁴ Bagley, *History of Seattle, Volume 3*, p. 310. Rhodes (p. 185), citing Prickett, (v. 26), indicates that Van Asselt left for California in February 1851. Rhodes (p. 185), citing Grant (p. 398), repeats the account of Van Asselt's earnings.

⁶⁵ Thomas W. Prosch, *A Chronological History of Seattle from 1850 to 1897 Prepared in 1900 and 1901* (Seattle: Thomas W. Prosch (typescript), 1901), pp. 22-23, and Rhodes, p. 185 (Rhodes cites Grant, p. 398).

⁶⁶ This is the date of arrival reported by Samuel Maple when he filed his land claim (see *Washington Territory Donation Land Claims*, p. 104); however, some sources indicate that Samuel and Jacob Maple visited the Duwamish Valley with Luther Collins in late June, suggesting an earlier arrival date.

⁶⁷ Rhodes, p. 185. Rhodes cites Prickett, v. 26.

⁶⁸ Rhodes, p. 185. Rhodes cites Grant, p. 398. Prosch reports that Van Asselt remained in St. Helens for two months.

Samuel, Hill Harmon and a man named Ballard -- went on.⁶⁹ Van Asselt rejoined Collins and the others at Nisqually in August.⁷⁰

They were not so well pleased with the Nisqually as they had hoped. Upon so expressing themselves, Collins told them of a better country to the north, to which he would take them if they would pay the necessary expense.⁷¹

Accompanied by Samuel and Jacob Maple, Van Asselt and Collins started north on September 12, 1851 with an Indian in a canoe, and two days later, on September 14, they reached the mouth of the Duwamish.⁷²

⁶⁹ Prosch, p. 23.

⁷⁰ Prosch, p. 23, and Rhodes, p. 185 (Rhodes cites Grant, p. 398).

⁷¹ Prosch, p. 23.

⁷² Bagley, *History of Seattle, Volume 3*, p. 310, and Rhodes, p. 185 (Rhodes cites Grant, p. 398). There is disagreement among early writers concerning the composition of the party entering the river in mid September. Prosch (p. 23) indicates that Ballard was included in the party. Rhodes, (p.185), citing *History of the Pacific Northwest*, v.2, p. 612, suggests that Van Asselt entered the mouth of the Duwamish on September 15, 1851 with John Thornton, Charles Hendricks and Hill Harmon of New Tacoma (it should be noted that Bagley, *History of Seattle*, v. 3, p. 310, indicates that John and James Thornton and Charles Hendricks – note the different spelling – were among the settlers who traveled across the plains to Oregon with Van Asselt in 1850). However, Rhodes (p. 185), this time citing Grant, *History of Seattle, Washington* (New York: American Publishing and Engraving Company, 1891), p. 398, also seems to suggest that Van Asselt was traveling with Luther Collins, the Maples and Hill Harmon and possibly with four others. Calvin F. Schmidt, on page 5 of *Social Trends in Seattle* (Seattle: University of Washington Press, 1944), citing Clinton A. Snowden, *History of Washington* (New York: The Century History Company, 1909), v. III, pp. 103-119, indicates that on “. . . September 15, 1851, a canoe paddled by Indians and carrying timber-seeking men from Nisqually . . . entered the Duwamish Valley. In this party were Luther M. Collins, Henry Van Asselt, Jacob Maple, James Thornton, Charles Hendricks, and a Mr. Ballard.” Some writers have suggested that a few members of the party arrived in the area earlier. According to Eli Maple, his father Jacob, and brother Samuel, along with Luther Collins and Henry Van Asselt, settled their claims on June 22, 1851 (see Mapel, Eli, “A Short Autobiography of E. B. Mapel, [sic] of No. 216 Wall Street, Seattle, Washington, Who Was One of the First Settlers of Seattle or Puget Sound Country” reprinted in “Eli Mapel (or Maple): Pioneer Recollection, 1902,” *HistoryLink.org* (Essay 2645, accessed February 22, 2008) transcribed from a newspaper clipping dated by hand November 16, 1902 in Clarence Bagley Scrapbooks, Vol. 1, pp. 38-39). Roberta Frye Watt, on page 31 of *Four Wagons West: The Story of Seattle* (Portland: Binford & Mort Publishing, 1931), indicates that Collins, Van Asselt and the two Maples investigated the valley in June 1851, then “returned and staked their claims September 14, 1851.” However, the Maples did not enter the Oregon Territory until July 1, 1851 according to Samuel Maple’s land claim

They went up the river to the confluence of the White and Black rivers,⁷³ and are reported to have found seven hundred Indians at Duwamish Head and three hundred in the Duwamish Valley. On September 15th, Collins, Van Asselt, and the Maples determined to make their homes in the valley.⁷⁴ They selected their claims the following day, September 16, 1851.⁷⁵

About the same time, John N. Low and David T. Denny, together with a new acquaintance of theirs, Lee Terry, set out by boat from Olympia with Captain Robert C. Fay and “came down to the Duwamish River exploring.” On the 25th of September Low, Denny and Terry went up the river at least as far as where Van Asselt, Collins and the Maples had shortly before determined to locate,⁷⁶ then returned to the promontory where they had first landed and rejoined Captain Fay.⁷⁷

The promontory -- Duwamish Head -- was known to the Duwamish as Low Point (*sgWudaqs*).⁷⁸ The beach at this promontory was an important fishing site where Captain Robert Fay tried to establish a commercial fishery employing men recruited by Seeathl (Chief Seattle). According to Duwamish elder Alice Cross, there was once a large boulder covered with petroglyphs on the beach near the promontory, each carving

filings, and most sources locate Van Asselt south of the Columbia River until sometime in August 1851.

⁷³ Bagley, *History of Seattle, Volume 3*, p. 310.

⁷⁴ Prosch, p. 23. According to Prosch, Ballard bought Collins’s place on the Nisqually and returned there to live; however, it has not been possible to find a record of a land claim filed by Collins or Ballard on the Nisqually.

⁷⁵ Arthur Armstrong Denny, *Pioneer Days on Puget Sound* (Fairfield, WA: Ye Galleon Press, 1998), p.45, and “Chronological Notes,” signed January 1, 1880 by Henry Van Asselt, W. N. Bell, H. Yesler, David T. Denny, C. D. Boren and A. A. Denny, reprinted in *Pioneer Days on Puget Sound*, p. 85.

⁷⁶ A. A. Denny, p. 35. According to Watt (pp. 28-30), Low, Denny, Terry and Fay landed September 25th just east of Duwamish Head (at the place called “Skwudux” by the Duwamish) where they found “found a large number of Indians camped [and] fishing for salmon, among them Chief Seattle.” The next morning, Low, Denny and Terry hired two Duwamish guides to take them up river by canoe. Low and Terry debarked at a prairie along the river and set out to explore. When they had not returned by late afternoon, Denny assumed they had become disoriented and attempted, unsuccessfully, to signal to them by voice and rifle shot. As darkness fell, Denny moved downriver with his guides to make camp. The Indians took him back up the river to search for Low and Terry the following morning (September 27th); the two men were found traveling downriver in another Duwamish canoe. The entire party returned to the initial landing site near Duwamish Head later that day.

⁷⁷ Bagley, *History of Seattle*, p. 17.

⁷⁸ Thrush and Thompson, “An Atlas of Indigenous Seattle,” in Thrush, p. 233.

symbolizing a spirit power employed by local shaman.⁷⁹ Seattle area settlers later anglicized the Lushootseed name, and for a time the place was known as Skwudux or Sgwudux.

Collins bought a scow at Olympia to transfer his wife Diana, his daughter Lucinda and his son Stephen, together with their effects, to their new home. The family was accompanied by Henry Van Asselt, Jacob Maple and Samuel Maple. Three days later the party reached Duwamish Head, where they visited briefly with the Denny scouting party.⁸⁰ On the evening of the 27th, the scow came around the point and stopped at Sgwudux. Diana and Lucinda Collins conversed in Chinook jargon with Captain Fay, and after a brief visit, the members of the Collins party continued upriver to their claims, where they became the first permanent settlers in what is now King County.⁸¹

The following morning, September 28, Low, Denny and Terry moved west to Alki Point.⁸² Low and Terry decided to establish a town site at the new location, and Low hired Denny to remain with Terry and build a cabin while Low returned to Portland for his family. The cabin was begun that day.⁸³ The arrival of the “Denny Party” at this site the following November has often been regarded as the point at which the history of Seattle begins.

Claim of Luther M. Collins (1814-1862)

In papers filed to establish his Donation Land Claim with the General Land Office, Luther Collins stated that he settled on his claim October 5, 1851. This is probably the date he and his family were first able to move into their cabin.⁸⁴

In 1860, before the land patent for the claim was issued, Luther and Dianna Collins were divorced by act of the Legislative Assembly,⁸⁵ and Diana Collins married William Woodridge December 29, 1860.⁸⁶

⁷⁹ Thrush and Thompson, “An Atlas of Indigenous Seattle,” in Thrush, p. 233. The authors cite Marian Smith, *Petroglyph Complexes*, p. 315.

⁸⁰ Prosch, p. 23

⁸¹ Bagley, *History of Seattle, Volume 1*, p. 17. A. A. Denny appears to have agreed with this assertion, indicating that Van Asselt, Jacob Maple, Samuel Maple and Van Asselt “moved on to” their claims on September 27, 1851 (see *Pioneer Days on Puget Sound* (Fairfield, WA: Ye Galleon Press, 1998), p.85).

⁸² Bagley, *History of Seattle, Volume 1*, p. 17; and Watt, p. 32. According to Watt, Alki Point was known to the Indians as “Smaquamox.”

⁸³ A. A. Denny, p. 35.

⁸⁴ *Washington Territory Donation Land Claims*, p. 117. Also see Greg Lange, “Seattle's Early Donation Land Claims,” *HistoryLink.org*, (Essay 7045, September 26, 2004; accessed March 31, 2008). Lange cites National Archives, Washington Donation Land Claims, National Archives microfilm M615. (Washington D.C.: National Archives, National Archives and Records Service, 1970).

⁸⁵ Rhodes, p. 59. Rhodes cites *Pioneer & Democrat*, February 3, 1860, p. 2.

Luther Collins drowned in Snake River near Lewiston in June 1862.⁸⁷ Diana died July 6, 1876 at Duwamish.⁸⁸ Neither was living when the land patent (Document No. 521) was issued -- to Diana Collins and Luther M. Collins -- on May 14, 1877 at the Olympia Land Office for 644.04 acres under authority of the Donation Act of September 27, 1850 (9 Stat. 496).⁸⁹

Claim of Jacob Maple (1798-1884) and Eli Maple (1831-1911)

Jacob Maple would have been 53 when he traveled up the Duwamish with Collins in 1851. He probably began living on his claim sometime in October 1851, after staying with Luther Collins and his family for a time. (A more precise date cannot be established for Jacob Maple's settlement because there are no extant records of a claim associated with his name).⁹⁰

Jacob Maple left the claim and returned to the east in 1854.⁹¹ His purpose was to bring the rest of his family west, but he did not return until 1862.⁹² Because the General Land Office would have viewed so long an absence as an abandonment of the property, Jacob's son, Eli, filed the claim.⁹³

Eli B. Maple was born November 12, 1831,⁹⁴ and therefore would have been 19 in September 1851 when his father Jacob and brother Samuel arrived in the Duwamish Valley. Eli did not arrive in Oregon Territory until September 24, 1852.⁹⁵ He came to what is now the State of Washington on October 6, 1852 and settled on what had been his father's claim October 15, 1852.⁹⁶

⁸⁶ Rhodes, p. 59.

⁸⁷ Rhodes, p. 59. Rhodes cites Prickett, v. 6.

⁸⁸ Rhodes, p. 59. Rhodes cites *Daily Intelligencer*, July 7, 1876, p. 3. Also see Prosch, p. 242.

⁸⁹ Land Patent Details, Bureau of Land Management – General Land Office Records (www.glorerecords.blm.gov).

⁹⁰ Greg Lange, "Seattle's Early Donation Land Claims," *HistoryLink.org* (Essay 7045, September 26, 2004; accessed March 31, 2008). Lange cites National Archives, Washington Donation Land Claims, National Archives microfilm M615. (Washington D.C.: National Archives, National Archives and Records Service, 1970).

⁹¹ Greg Lange, "Seattle's Early Donation Land Claims."

⁹² Maple, "Eli Mapel (or Maple): Pioneer Recollection, 1902."

⁹³ Prosch, p. 23.

⁹⁴ Rhodes, p. 117. Rhodes cites *The Seattle Times*, July 21, 1911, p. 12, and *Washington Historical Quarterly*, v. 3, n. 4 (Oct 1912) p. 300. *Washington Territory Donation Land Claims* (Seattle: Seattle Genealogical Society, 1980), p. 94, indicates he was born 1832 or 1833 in Ohio.

⁹⁵ *Washington Territory Donation Land Claims*, p. 94.

⁹⁶ *Washington Territory Donation Land Claims*, p. 94.

A land patent (Document No. 429) was issued to Eli B. Mapel [sic] on August 27, 1871 at the Olympia Land Office for 157.18 acres under authority of the Donation Act of September 27, 1850 (9 Stat. 496).⁹⁷

Jacob Maple died September 2, 1884 at White River.⁹⁸

Although Eli Maple is sometimes described as one of the initial settlers of South Park, his claim was located about three-quarters of a mile north of South Park's northern-most point. Eli Maple sold his farm in 1888.⁹⁹ The area became the site of a settlement known for a time as "Dwamish"¹⁰⁰ but was later incorporated into Georgetown.

Eli Maple died July 19, 1911.¹⁰¹

Claim of Samuel Maple (1827-1880)

In papers filed to establish his Donation Land Claims with the General Land Office, Samuel Maple stated that he settled on his claim November 15, 1851. This is probably the date by which he had staked the boundaries of his claims, completed his cabin, and moved in to it.¹⁰²

Samuel Maple was born December 11, 1827¹⁰³ at Guernsey County, Ohio.¹⁰⁴

A land patent (Document No. 466) was issued to Samuel A. Maple on June 30, 1873 at the Olympia Land Office for 161.15 acres under authority of the Donation Act of September 27, 1850 (9 Stat. 496).¹⁰⁵

Samuel Maple died July 23, 1880.¹⁰⁶

⁹⁷ Land Patent Details, Bureau of Land Management – General Land Office Records (www.glorerecords.blm.gov).

⁹⁸ Rhodes, p. 118. Rhodes cites *Seattle Post-Intelligencer*, September 23, 1884, p. 2.

⁹⁹ Maple, "Eli Mapel (or Maple): Pioneer Recollection, 1902."

¹⁰⁰ See Redick H. McKee and Alexander M. Reynolds. *McKee's Correct Road Map of Seattle and Vicinity* (map) (Washington [State]: 1894).

¹⁰¹ Rhodes, p. 117. Rhodes cites *The Seattle Times*, July 21, 1911, p. 12, and *Washington Historical Quarterly*, v. 3, n. 4 (Oct 1912) p. 300.

¹⁰² Greg Lange, "Seattle's Early Donation Land Claims."

¹⁰³ Rhodes, p. 117. Rhodes cites DAR WA Pioneers, v. 26, p. 281, purportedly based on information recorded in the family bible. However, see the following note.

¹⁰⁴ *Washington Territory Donation Land Claims*, p. 104. The documentation submitted to establish the claim gave the year of birth as 1830.

¹⁰⁵ Land Patent Details, Bureau of Land Management – General Land Office Records (www.glorerecords.blm.gov).

¹⁰⁶ Prosch, p. 264. An article concerning the will of Samuel Maple is mentioned in Rhodes, p. 119. Rhodes cites *Daily Intelligencer*, August 27, 1881, p. 4.

The Maple family was large and its members were connected by marriage with several other pioneer families. The family's surname was often rendered as "Mapole" or "Mapel." The spelling is said to have been standardized as "Maple" by John Wesley Maple (1837-1902), another of Jacob's sons.¹⁰⁷

The Claim of Henry Van Asselt (1817-1902)

In papers filed to establish his Donation Land Claims with the General Land Office, Henry Van Asselt stated that he settled on his claim October 15, 1851. This is probably the date by which he had staked the boundaries of his claims, completed his cabin, and moved in to it.¹⁰⁸

Van Asselt was granted citizenship February 13, 1854 at Yesler's cookhouse¹⁰⁹ (the cookhouse served as King County's first courthouse).

In 1862, Van Asselt married Jane Maple, with whom he had four children.¹¹⁰ Catherine Jane Maple was a sibling of Samuel and Eli Maple. Her sister Lucinda married Daniel Schneider, an early South Park settler.¹¹¹

A land patent (Document No. 405) was issued to Henry Van Asselt on August 27, 1871 at the Olympia Land Office for 320.58 acres under authority of the Donation Act of September 27, 1850 (9 Stat. 496).¹¹²

In 1883, Van Asselt moved to Hood River but returned to Seattle in 1890.¹¹³ He died December 7, 1902.¹¹⁴ His widow, Catherine Jane Maple Van Asselt, died July 5, 1928.¹¹⁵

Collins Party Land Claims Made Part of Georgetown

Collins and his wife arrived in the Oregon Territory early enough to qualify for donation land claims of 320 acres each. Jacob Maple was not accompanied by his wife when he came west in 1851 and, in any case, did not stay long enough to prove his claim. His son Eli, who took over the claim, was unmarried and arrived after December 1, 1850, and

¹⁰⁷ Baughman, Miriam, et. al., *The Duwamish Diary* (Second Printing) (Seattle: Cleveland High School, 1949), p. 20.

¹⁰⁸ Greg Lange, "Seattle's Early Donation Land Claims."

¹⁰⁹ Rhodes, p. 185. Rhodes cites Prickett, v. 26.

¹¹⁰ Rhodes, p. 185. Rhodes cites Grant, p. 398.

¹¹¹ Rhodes, p. 185. Rhodes cites *Duwamish Valley News*, July 13, 1928, found in Meany Pioneer File.

¹¹² Land Patent Details, Bureau of Land Management – General Land Office Records (www.glorerecords.blm.gov).

¹¹³ Rhodes, p. 185. Rhodes cites Prickett, v. 26.

¹¹⁴ Rhodes, p. 185. Rhodes cites Prickett, v. 26.

¹¹⁵ Rhodes, p. 185. Rhodes cites *Duwamish Valley News*, July 13, 1928, found in Meany Pioneer File.

was thus only entitled to 160 acres. Samuel Maple was also unmarried and also arrived after December 1, 1850, limiting his claim to 160 acres as well. Van Asselt was unmarried when he settled his claim, but had arrived in Oregon Territory early enough to qualify for a grant of 320 acres.

The claims of L. M. Collins, Eli B. Maples, Samuel Maples, and Henry Van Asselt were all on the right bank of the river, north or east of present day South Park. The lands of Collins and the two Maples eventually became part of Georgetown when the town was incorporated in 1890.¹¹⁶ (The City of Seattle annexed Georgetown in 1910.)¹¹⁷

Julius Horton first came to the Duwamish valley in 1869 and initially bought a portion of William H Shoudy's claim. In 1871, he bought 160 acres of Luther Collins's donation land claim and enlarged his hop farm. Although apparently successful as a farmer, by 1880 he had platted the property and had begun to sell small acreages in order to get more people to settle in the area. Within another ten years, the area became known as Georgetown, after Horton's son George.¹¹⁸

¹¹⁶ Greg Lange, "Seattle's Early Donation Land Claims."

¹¹⁷ Phelps, p. 218.

¹¹⁸ *The Duwamish Diary*, p, 38.

The South Park Pioneers

Although Eli Maple is sometimes (and incorrectly) described as the initial settler of South Park, his claim was located about three-quarters of a mile north of South Park's northernmost point in an area bounded on the south by present day South Fidalgo Street and on the north by South Dawson Street. Maple's claim was on the right bank of the river west of Luther Collins's claim, and extended from the western edge of what is now Georgetown Playground to a line perhaps an eighth of a mile west of First Avenue South (this western boundary aligned approximately with what is now Colorado Avenue South several blocks to the north).

The first South Park settlers were George Holt, John Buckley and Augustus Hograve, who filed the initial donation land claims south and west of the Duwamish in what is now the South Park neighborhood. These three men were later joined by homesteader Daniel Schneider, and by William Dennis, A. W. Moore, and E. D. Boone, who purchased their claims from the government under the provisions of the Act of April 24, 1820.

George Holt (1815 - ?)

George Holt, a naturalized citizen of the United States, was born in England in 1815. He arrived in the Oregon Territory on September 23, 1851 and settled on his claim December 13, 1851.¹¹⁹ He was identified as an unmarried farmer in the census of 1857.¹²⁰

A land patent (Document No. 262) was issued to George Holt on March 6, 1866 at the Olympia Land Office for 161.81 acres under authority of the Donation Act of September 27, 1850 (9 Stat. 496).¹²¹

The date of Holt's death is not known.

On the north, Holt's claim extended to the original left bank of the Duwamish River, except at the northwest corner where the boundary was located approximately at the centerline of present day South Fontenelle Street. The claim was bounded on the west by present day 2nd Avenue South, on the south by the mid-block line between South Southern Street and South Rose Street, and on the east by a line a little less than two hundred feet west of present day 12th Avenue South.

¹¹⁹ *Washington Territory Donation Land Claims*, p. 57.

¹²⁰ Greg Lange, "1857 Census: King County Population By Name."

¹²¹ Land Patent Details, Bureau of Land Management – General Land Office Records (www.glorerecords.blm.gov).

John Buckley (1798-1874)

John Buckley was born in 1798 in Connecticut¹²² although he has also been described as a native of New York.¹²³ He married his first wife Eva Burget on April 20, 1827 at Callaway County, Missouri.¹²⁴ Eva was a native of that state.¹²⁵

Buckley arrived in the Oregon Territory October 20, 1846 and took up residence at his Duwamish claim on February 10, 1852.¹²⁶ Buckley was described as a farmer in the census of 1857.¹²⁷ He is said to have produced a turnip weighing 34 pounds, and some potatoes 10 to 12 inches long, in 1852.¹²⁸

His first wife Eva died in Seattle on April 26, 1865 at age 50, suggesting that she was born in 1814 or 1815 and was thus 17 or 18 years younger than her husband.¹²⁹

A land patent (Document No. 256) was issued to Eva Buckley and John Buckley on March 6, 1866 at the Olympia Land Office for 639.11 acres under authority of the Donation Act of September 27, 1850 (9 Stat. 496).¹³⁰

Buckley appears to have married Jane Keller January 18, 1865¹³¹ (the date of the marriage may be incorrectly recorded; Buckley's first wife apparently was still living at that date).

Buckley became the victim of an unusual assault when he had acid thrown in his face by Archibald Fox on October 23, 1867 in Seattle.¹³² Fox's lady friend had left him and moved in with Buckley.

At first Fox entertained the idea of throwing acid on her, but was talked out of it by one of his customers. Several days later, in the evening, he threw it on her paramour instead. For some days, Fox went through his usual routine of barbering and furnishing baths to townspeople while the whole town discussed the attack and the victim spoke freely of the identity

¹²² *Washington Territory Donation Land Claims*, p. 55. See also Greg Lange, "1857 Census: King County Population By Name."

¹²³ Rhodes, p. 48. Rhodes cites *Weekly Intelligencer*, January 31, 1874, p. 3.

¹²⁴ *Washington Territory Donation Land Claims*, p. 55.

¹²⁵ Greg Lange, "1857 Census: King County Population By Name."

¹²⁶ *Washington Territory Donation Land Claims*, p. 55.

¹²⁷ Greg Lange, "1857 Census: King County Population By Name."

¹²⁸ Rhodes, p. 48. Rhodes cites *The Columbian*, November 27, 1852, p. 2.

¹²⁹ Rhodes, p. 48. Rhodes cites *Seattle Gazette*, April 27, 1865, p. 3.

¹³⁰ Land Patent Details, Bureau of Land Management – General Land Office Records (www.glorerecords.blm.gov).

¹³¹ Rhodes, p. 48. Rhodes cites DAR WA Pioneers, v.28, p. 182: K. C. marriage certificate #53.

¹³² Rhodes, p. 48. Rhodes cites *Weekly Intelligencer*, February 24, 1868, p. 3.

of his attacker. Finally the newspaper called on authorities to do something in the interest of justice. Fox was brought to trial and sentenced to three months in the territorial jail at Steilacoom and a \$200 fine, plus court costs. Prior to this action he had borne a faultless reputation in Seattle and Victoria as some of the prominent members of the community testified, and it was “with regret” that the *Weekly Intelligencer* “published the trial and conviction of a man who allowed his passions to overcome his reason.” After his release Mr. Fox returned to Seattle, later expanded his business, and bought and sold real estate to his advantage.¹³³

Buckley married his third wife, Eliza Horton, on June 3, 1868.¹³⁴ She died May 26, 1871, age 70 or 71.¹³⁵ Buckley died January 31, 1874.¹³⁶

Augustus Hograve (1828-1857)

Augustus Hograve (1828-1857), a naturalized citizen of the United States, was born in Germany in 1828. (Hograve may be an anglicization of Hogleve, the name that appears on the land patent.) Hograve had apparently been a tailor before settling in King County. He arrived in the Oregon Territory August 2, 1851 and took up residence on his claim south and west of the Duwamish on September 21, 1852.¹³⁷

Hograve died intestate about June 1, 1857.¹³⁸ His death in mid 1857 may explain the fact that he was not listed in the census of King County made that year.¹³⁹ Hillory Butler was appointed administrator of the estate. Butler sold the land to James McKay on August 27, 1861 for \$660, and McKay received the donation claim certificate.¹⁴⁰

A land patent (Document No. 298) was issued to Augustus Estate Hogleve, James McKay on March 6, 1866 at the Olympia Land Office for 160 acres under authority of the Donation Act of September 27, 1850 (9 Stat. 496).¹⁴¹

¹³³ Esther Hall Mumford, *Seattle's Black Victorians 1852-1901*, (Seattle: Ananse Press, 1980), pp. 26-27.

¹³⁴ Rhodes, p. 48. Rhodes cites DAR WA Pioneers, v.28, p. 182: K. C. marriage certificate #78.

¹³⁵ Rhodes, p. 48. Rhodes cites *Territorial Dispatch*, May 29, 1871, p. 3, where Buckley's wife is named Amelia, age 71, and *Weekly Intelligencer*, May 29, 1871, p. 3, where his wife is called Eliza, age 70.

¹³⁶ Rhodes, p. 48. Rhodes cites *Weekly Intelligencer*, January 31, 1874, p. 3.

¹³⁷ *Washington Territory Donation Land Claims*, p. 64.

¹³⁸ *Washington Territory Donation Land Claims*, p. 64.

¹³⁹ Greg Lange, “1857 Census: King County Population By Name.”

¹⁴⁰ *Washington Territory Donation Land Claims*, p. 64.

¹⁴¹ Land Patent Details, Bureau of Land Management – General Land Office Records (www.glorerecords.blm.gov).

Hograve's rectangular claim abutted Holt's claim to the north and Buckley's claim to the east and south. The boundaries of his claim were located at present day 5th Avenue South on the west, South Director Street on the south, 12th Avenue South on the east, and the mid-block line between South Southern Street and South Rose Street on the north. The claim became the core of the South Park community when the parcel (together with an extension into Buckley's claim to the east) was platted in 1890 as the South Park Addition.

Daniel Schneider (c. 1825-1901)

Daniel Schneider (c. 1825-1901) was born in Germany (Bavaria). In the U. S. Census of 1870, his age was listed as 45, suggesting he was born in 1824 or 1825.¹⁴² He immigrated to the United States in 1840, moved to California in 1850, and came to King County in 1859.¹⁴³ Daniel Schneider may have immigrated with an older brother, Adain (age 50 at the time of the 1870 Census), also born in Bavaria and also a farmer.¹⁴⁴

David Wilma suggests that Daniel and "Adam" Schneider joined the Maple family on the Duwamish in 1853¹⁴⁵ and *The Duwamish Diary* reports Daniel and "Adam" Schneider arrived in 1853 and bought their property from "a lazy French homesteader."¹⁴⁶ However, neither Daniel nor Adam Schneider appears in the census of 1857.¹⁴⁷ In addition, Schneider filed his claim under the Homestead Act, which became law in 1862, rather than as a donation land claim, suggesting that he arrived after the "sunset" of the Donation Act.

Daniel Schneider married Lucinda E. Maple (also spelled Mapel; born 1842, daughter of Jacob Maple, sister of Eli B. and Samuel Maple,¹⁴⁸ and widow of Carel Magnus Larrson¹⁴⁹) on September 12, 1869.¹⁵⁰

A land patent (Document No. 44) was issued to Daniel Schneider on May 2, 1870 at the Olympia Land Office for 162.89 acres under authority of the May 20, 1862 Homestead Act (12 Stat. 392).¹⁵¹

¹⁴² Rhodes, p. 164. Rhodes cites 1870 U. S. Census, K. C. p. 117A.

¹⁴³ Rhodes, p. 164. Rhodes cites DAR WA Pioneers, v. 28, p. 183.

¹⁴⁴ Rhodes, p. 164. Rhodes cites DAR WA Pioneers, v. 28, p. 183.

¹⁴⁵ David Wilma, "Seattle Neighborhoods: South Park -- Thumbnail History," *HistoryLink.org* (Essay 2985, February 16, 2001; accessed March 5, 2008).

¹⁴⁶ *The Duwamish Diary*, p. 75.

¹⁴⁷ Greg Lange, "1857 Census: King County Population By Name."

¹⁴⁸ Rhodes, p. 117. Rhodes cites DAR WA Pioneers, v. 26, p. 281.

¹⁴⁹ Rhodes, p. 164. Rhodes cites DAR WA Pioneers, v. 28, p. 183.

¹⁵⁰ Rhodes, p. 164. Rhodes cites DAR WA Pioneers, v. 28, p. 183.

¹⁵¹ Land Patent Details, Bureau of Land Management – General Land Office Records (www.glorerecords.blm.gov).

Schneider's homestead abutted the west line of Hograve's claim and the south and west lines of Holt's property, and extended from what is now South Kenyon Street on the north to South Trenton Street on the south.

Daniel Schneider died in Seattle September 6, 1901.¹⁵²

Schneider's grandson, Frederick Grimes Schneider (b. 1907), lived at 523 Cloverdale Street in 1941.¹⁵³

William Dennis

The claim of William Dennis was located immediately north of Schneider's property and abutted the west and north lines of George Holt's donation land claim. The Dennis claim extended to the left (west) bank of the Duwamish at the property's northeast corner.

Dennis does not appear in the 1857 Census of King County.¹⁵⁴

A land patent (Document No. 262) was issued to William Dennis on October 10, 1866 at the Olympia Land Office for 149.35 acres under authority of the Act of April 24, 1820 (3 Stat. 566).¹⁵⁵

A. W. Moore

A. W. Moore does not appear in the 1857 Census of King County.¹⁵⁶

A land patent (Document No. 2664) was issued to A. W. Moore on October 10, 1871 at the Olympia Land Office for 40 acres under authority of the Act of April 24, 1820 (3 Stat. 566).¹⁵⁷

Moore's claim was situated between what is now 1st Avenue South on the west and 4th Avenue South on the east, and between South Trenton Street on the north and South Barton Street on the south. It was later platted as the Aberfeldy Estate Addition.

Edwin D. Boone

¹⁵² Rhodes, p. 164. Rhodes cites DAR WA Pioneers, v. 28, p. 183.

¹⁵³ Rhodes, p. 164. Rhodes cites Pioneer Membership, v. 4. Also see *Duwamish Diary*, p. 75.

¹⁵⁴ Greg Lange, "1857 Census: King County Population By Name."

¹⁵⁵ Land Patent Details, Bureau of Land Management – General Land Office Records (www.glorerecords.blm.gov).

¹⁵⁶ Greg Lange, "1857 Census: King County Population By Name." Lange does list an entry for C. W. More [or Moore], a unmarried sailor from Portland, Maine.

¹⁵⁷ Land Patent Details, Bureau of Land Management – General Land Office Records (www.glorerecords.blm.gov).

Moore's homestead (NW 1/4 of SW 1/4 of Section 32) abutted the south line of Schneider's property but was separated from the west line of Buckley's property by the homestead of Edwin D. Boone. As with Schneider and Dennis, Boone does not appear in the 1857 Census of King County.¹⁵⁸

A land patent (Document No. 4750) was issued to Edwin D. Boone on February 25, 1874 at the Olympia Land Office for 145.83 acres under authority of the Act of April 24, 1820 (3 Stat. 566).¹⁵⁹

Francis McNatt (1820-1901)

Francis McNatt did not settle in what is now South Park. His donation land claim was located south of Van Asselts claim just across the river. However, he appears to have acquired at least a portion of Buckley's claim after Buckley died in January 1874.

Francis McNatt was born April 15, 1820 in Tennessee and came to Oregon Territory in September 1852 from Missouri.¹⁶⁰ It appears he did not initially take up residence on the Duwamish.¹⁶¹ In fact, he did not settle on his claim there until July 17, 1855.¹⁶²

He was identified as an unmarried farmer from Rhone, Tennessee in the 1857 census.¹⁶³ McNatt married Mrs. Ann Burns July 29, 1860 at Maynard's house.¹⁶⁴ She was born May 15, 1822 at County Claire, Ireland and came to Washington June 1860 from New York.¹⁶⁵ Mrs. Burns, who was also known as Mrs. Ann Kelly, was living with L. C. and Margaret Harmon when the 1860 census was taken.¹⁶⁶ Ann Kelly was the sister of Mrs. Harmon.¹⁶⁷

¹⁵⁸ Greg Lange, "1857 Census: King County Population By Name."

¹⁵⁹ Land Patent Details, Bureau of Land Management – General Land Office Records (www.glorerecords.blm.gov).

¹⁶⁰ Rhodes, p. 129. Rhodes cites *Pioneer Membership*, v. 3. According to *Washington Territory Donation Land Claims* (p. 49), he did not arrive in Oregon Territory until October 1852.

¹⁶¹ Rhodes, p. 129. Rhodes cites *Post-Intelligencer*, June 22, 1901, p. 7, which indicates he first settled at Alki, and *Memoirs of Citizens of King County*, p. 514, which indicates he first settled at Salmon Bay.

¹⁶² *Washington Territory Donation Land Claims*, p. 49.

¹⁶³ Greg Lange, "1857 Census: King County Population By Name."

¹⁶⁴ Rhodes, p. 129. Rhodes cites *DAR WA Pioneers*, v. 28, pp. 167, 174.

¹⁶⁵ Rhodes, p. 129. Rhodes cites *Pioneer Membership*, v. 3.

¹⁶⁶ Rhodes, p. 129. Rhodes cites *DAR WA Pioneers*, v. 28, pp. 167, 174.

¹⁶⁷ Rhodes, p. 129. Rhodes cites *Post-Intelligencer*, June 22, 1901, p. 7.

A land patent (Document No. 224) was issued to Francis McKatt [sic] on January 11, 1866 at the Olympia Land Office for 162.6 acres under authority of the Donation Act of September 27, 1850 (9 Stat. 496).¹⁶⁸

After John Buckley died in 1874, McNatt filed a petition setting forth that John and Eva Buckley had made a contract in writing, December 17, 1861, conveying to McNatt the property known as the Buckley Donation Land Claim.¹⁶⁹ McNatt later developed portions of the Buckley claim.

Ann McNatt died December 7, 1899 at South Park, age 79.¹⁷⁰ Francis McNatt died June 21, 1901 at South Park, age 81.¹⁷¹ He was survived by two sons, William Francis and Robert Nathan, and a stepson, Michael Kelly, who became a deputy sheriff.¹⁷²

Other Early Duwamish Valley Settlers Near South Park

Other early Duwamish Valley settlers not located within the boundaries of present day South Park included:

Timothy Grow.

A land patent (Document No. 666) was issued to G. Timothy Grow on January 25, 1883 at the Olympia Land Office for 157.52 acres under authority of the Donation Act of September 27, 1850 (9 Stat. 496).¹⁷³ The claim was located on the east side of the river south of McNatt's claim.

John Thompson

Little land on the east bank of the Duwamish was available for homesteaders after the initial donation claims were filed. However, John Thompson was able to procure some acreage on the right bank of the river south of Luther Collins's property. Thompson's property abutted the south line of the Collins claim but was otherwise bounded entirely by the original course of the Duwamish River. It was located in what is now the triangle between the main channel of the Duwamish Waterway and Slip 4 south of what is now South Myrtle Street.

¹⁶⁸ Land Patent Details, Bureau of Land Management – General Land Office Records (www.glorerecords.blm.gov).

¹⁶⁹ Rhodes, p. 48. Rhodes cites a probate notice in *Puget Sound Dispatch* March 19, 1874, p. 2.

¹⁷⁰ Rhodes, p. 129. Rhodes cites *Post-Intelligencer*, December 8, 1899, p. 10.

¹⁷¹ Rhodes, p. 129. Rhodes cites *Post-Intelligencer*, June 22, 1901, p. 7.

¹⁷² Rhodes, p. 129. Rhodes cites *Post-Intelligencer*, June 22, 1901, p. 7.

¹⁷³ Land Patent Details, Bureau of Land Management – General Land Office Records (www.glorerecords.blm.gov).

The initial settler appears to have been the J. [John] Thompson identified in the 1857 census as an unmarried sailor from Sweden, age 31.¹⁷⁴

A land patent (Document No. 401) was issued to John Thompson on November 1, 1865 at the Olympia Land Office for 53 acres under authority of the Act of April 24, 1820 (3 Stat. 566).¹⁷⁵

Thompson's claim passed to the County when he died intestate.¹⁷⁶

William Ralston

William Ralston is mentioned in several sources as someone who settled in the South Park area about the same time as Holt and Hograve.¹⁷⁷ However, his name does not appear in the 1857 census list or in any land claim records for the area. This does not preclude the possibility that he was present at an early date but left before being able to legally establish a claim.

Initial Development

Farming was the obvious and most successful early industry on the Duwamish. In 1852, S. S. Grow visited the area and wrote a letter to the editor of the *Columbian*, saying :

“—A word to those who are desirous to settle themselves and obtain good locations in Northern Oregon.—You need not look further than the Duwamish River. The land on the River is mostly bottom land, covered with white maples, cottonwood, alder and crabapple, and is easily cleared. When once it is prepared for tilling it is worth twice as much as prairie land.—The river is navigable twelve miles from its mouth, and how much further I do not know. The water is excellent. The whole surrounding country will admit of a large settlement as Seattle is destined to rank high among towns of importance in Northern Oregon.—To those then that desire GOOD locations, permit me again to say, pass not by the Duwamish River.”¹⁷⁸

¹⁷⁴ Greg Lange, “1857 Census: King County Population By Name.”

¹⁷⁵ Land Patent Details, Bureau of Land Management – General Land Office Records (www.glorerecords.blm.gov).

¹⁷⁶ *Duwamish Diary*, pp. 60-61.

¹⁷⁷ See, for example, Bagley, *History of Seattle, Volume 1*, p. 20, or *Duwamish Diary*, p. 75.

¹⁷⁸ *The Duwamish Diary*, p. 74. This source cites the letter of S. S. Grow to the *Columbian*, December 25, 1852. The letter is also cited in David Wilma, “Seattle Neighborhoods: South Park -- Thumbnail History.”

In late 1853, *The Columbian* made note of the excellent vegetable crop grown by Collins, reporting that he had proceeds of \$5,000 for his crops that year.¹⁷⁹ On the fifth of October, 1855, Collins advertised in the *Puget Sound Courier* that he had apple, pear, peach, and cherry trees for sale at \$12.50 per hundred.¹⁸⁰

It was said that Collins had grown turnips as large as a half-bushel measure, weighing twenty five-pounds and more; potatoes weighing four pounds, and onions two pounds. His neighbors, the Maples, brought into town apples measuring more than sixteen inches in circumference.¹⁸¹

John Buckley's farm produced a turnip weighing 34 pounds and some potatoes ten to twelve inches in length.¹⁸²

George Holt, Francis McNatt, and John Buckley all built farms in the South Park area and are all described as farmers in the 1857 census.¹⁸³ August Hograve did not live to be counted, but had also farmed his claim.

The arrival of the American settlers did not put an end to the traditional economy of the local Indians. The Duwamish and their indigenous neighbors continued to utilize the resources of the valley as they had for centuries prior to American settlement. Salmon ran heavily in the Duwamish River in the fall of 1854, and Indians from throughout the area came to fish and dry their catch along the river where the settlers had staked their claims.¹⁸⁴

Establishment of King County (1852) and Washington Territory (1853)

The Oregon Territory Legislature created King County on December 22, 1852.¹⁸⁵ (The county was originally named for William R. King, then vice-president of the United States.¹⁸⁶) King County became part of Washington Territory when Congress created the Territory on March 2, 1853.

¹⁷⁹ Rhodes, p. 56. Rhodes cites *The Columbian*, November 19, 1853. p. 2.

¹⁸⁰ *The Duwamish Diary*, p. 9, citing *When Seattle Was a Village*.

¹⁸¹ *The Duwamish Diary*, pp. 9-10, citing Emily Inez Denny, *Blazing the Way* (Seattle: Rainier Publishing Company, 1969).

¹⁸² Rhodes, p. 48. Rhodes cites "Editor's Table," *The Columbian*, November 27, 1852, p. 2, col. 4.

¹⁸³ Greg Lange, "1857 Census: King County Population By Name."

¹⁸⁴ Mike Sato, *The Price of Taming a River: The Decline of Puget Sound's Duwamish/Green Waterway* (Seattle: The Mountaineers, 1997), p. 41.

¹⁸⁵ Phelps, p. 3.

¹⁸⁶ *The Duwamish Diary*, p. 8.

At a meeting on March 5, 1853, the newly seated County Commissioners (Luther Collins and A. A. Denny) ordered George Holt, Jacob Maple and Samuel Maple, among others, to serve on a grand jury, and Henry Van Asselt to serve with others on a petit jury.¹⁸⁷

The Mania for Roads

In the earliest days of settlement in the Seattle area, and particularly on the Duwamish, canoes and rowboats were sufficient to maintain communications between the various communities; however, the settlers recognized that a road system would not only facilitate travel, especially during periods of poor weather, but would also attract additional immigrants to the area.

Even before Washington Territory was separated from Oregon, an effort was initiated to build a road from Steilacoom to Seattle. Luther Collins was among the three “viewers” assigned to identify the route.¹⁸⁸ Shortly after the three men received their commission, the Oregon legislature carved Thurston County in several parts, including King and Pierce counties, and when the viewers attempted to collect their wages, they were told that the governments of the new counties had not authorized the work and would not pay for it.¹⁸⁹ It appears volunteer workers cleared a roadway along the identified route, but the Steilacoom – Seattle Road, and a road to Alki that met it on Collins’s claim, were rarely traveled and allowed to fall out of use for lack of maintenance.¹⁹⁰

In April 1853, the King County commissioners (Collins and Denny) divided the county into two road districts. The first was the area north of the Duwamish, the second was the region to the south. George Holt was appointed supervisor of the second district.¹⁹¹ Also that month, Luther Collins was granted the first ferry license for ferry service across the Duwamish River; the ferry apparently operated very near his home.¹⁹²

Money for construction of a military road from Walla Walla to Steilacoom was authorized by Congress in 1853.¹⁹³ Captain George B. McClellan was sent west to build the road in the summer of that year. However, he was unable to complete the project or even to locate a route through the mountains. Frustrated, the settlers of Olympia and Steilacoom took on the task of building the road themselves utilizing Naches Pass.¹⁹⁴

¹⁸⁷ *The Duwamish Diary*, p. 8.

¹⁸⁸ Roberta Frye Watt, *Four Wagons West: The Story of Seattle* (Portland: Binford & Mort Publishing, 1959), p. 79.

¹⁸⁹ Sophie Frye Bass, *When Seattle Was a Village* (Seattle: Lowman & Hanford Co., 1947), pp. 35-36.

¹⁹⁰ Watt, p. 150.

¹⁹¹ Watt, p. 109.

¹⁹² *The Duwamish Diary*, p. 9, and Watt, p. 109. It has not been possible to determine if this ferry was located at the point, mentioned by Ebey (see page 10 above), where a wagon road crossed the river in 1850.

¹⁹³ Bass, *When Seattle Was a Village*, p. 36.

¹⁹⁴ Watt, pp. 150-151.

Early in 1854, Henry Van Asselt was among the viewers assigned to identify a route for another road that would intersect the “emigrant road” (i.e., the military road between Walla Walla and Steilacoom) and direct some of those coming west on it into the Seattle area. Travelers on this connecting route would come down the left (south) bank of the Duwamish River, cross to the north side of the river at the claim of C. C. Lewis, some distance upriver from South Park, and then continue on to Van Asselt’s claim.¹⁹⁵

According to Myra Phelps, this route was called Road No. 1 of King County. North of Van Asselt’s claim, the road

. . . followed the line of Beacon Avenue from Chicago to Willow Streets, [then continued] to about Hanford Street on Beacon Avenue and along Cheasty Boulevard to Rainier Avenue and then around and between the hills until it reached Yesler Way and the waterfront.¹⁹⁶

In 1854, Luther Collins was appointed the first County Road District Supervisor.¹⁹⁷

The first coordinated scheme for a network of territorial roadways was developed in 1855, and the Washington Territorial Legislature passed acts locating several of the contemplated roads, including the route from Steilacoom to Seattle and the route from Seattle to the “immigrant trail.”¹⁹⁸ However, the effort to develop the road system had to be put on hold in the fall when it became clear that many of the Indians living in the territory were not going to give up their lands to the settlers without a fight.

The Point Elliott Treaty, the Indian War and Fort Duwamish (1855-56)

By most accounts, the early settlers received a great deal of assistance from the Duwamish and other Native Americans on Puget Sound. However, friction was not unknown:

The settlers were a good deal alarmed and disturbed by the Indians. One of the first troubles was at the place of a man named Loomis, at the river mouth in September of 1852. He was driven off and his house seized and held by an Indian commonly known as Grizzly. A little later the Pearce brothers’ house was robbed by Tom Pepper and other Indians, and then Samuel Maple’s house was plundered. Collins, Van Asselt, the Maples, Holt, Hograve and other white men promptly went after the thieves and recovered the stolen goods in each case. In these matters they were

¹⁹⁵ Watt, pp. 151-152.

¹⁹⁶ Phelps, p. 97.

¹⁹⁷ *The Duwamish Diary*, p. 8.

¹⁹⁸ Calvin F. Schmid, *Social Trends in Seattle* (Seattle: University of Washington Press, 1944), p. 7.

generally helped by well disposed Indians.¹⁹⁹

On January 22, 1855, Seeathl (Chief Seattle) and 81 other Puget Sound area Native American leaders signed a treaty with Territorial Governor Isaac Stevens (1818-1862) at Point Elliott (now Mukilteo). The Duwamish and Suquamish were among those who surrendered their lands for cash, relocation to reservations, and access to traditional fishing and hunting grounds. Governor Stevens later determined that there were 9,712 Native Americans living west of the Cascades. Only a few hundred white settlers occupied Puget Sound when the treaties were concluded. The agreements did not secure a durable peace, and the Puget Sound area experienced several bloody clashes over the next few years. Nine settlers were killed in the White River valley in October 1855 and Seattle itself was attacked on January 26, 1856.²⁰⁰

Fort Duwamish was built on Van Asselt's farm, which apparently extended onto Luther Collins's claim. The fort was located near the center of the Collins claim on an acre donated by Collins for the purpose of erecting the fort.²⁰¹

The war continued until the fall of 1856.²⁰²

After the war, white settlers and Indians moved back to their farms and rivers (although many of the settlers stayed away for some time and the Indians were supposedly prohibited from returning). The Duwamish fished the rivers and lived at the margins of the land, as they always had,²⁰³ and Duwamish habitation at Herring's House resumed.

The Military Road and the Beach Road

The Military Road Extended from Steilacoom to Seattle

An all-year road was built from Steilacoom to Seattle in the latter half of the 1850s. Between the Puyallup River and the Duwamish River, this road extended along the crest of the ridge that forms the western rim of the White/Green River Valley.²⁰⁴ According to Sophie Frye Bass,

¹⁹⁹ Prosch, pp. 23-24.

²⁰⁰ Walt Crowley, "Native American tribes sign Point Elliott Treaty at Mukilteo on January 22, 1855," *HistoryLink.org*, (Essay 5402, March 13, 2003; accessed March 31, 2008). For the text of the treaty see "Treaty of Point Elliott, 1855," *HistoryLink.org* (Essay 2629, January 1, 2000; accessed March 31, 2008).

²⁰¹ *The Duwamish Diary*, p. 32. *Diary* cites J. S. Whiting, *Forts of the State of Washington* (Seattle: 1946). According to *Diary*, the fort was located six feet east of the centerline of the Collins claim at a point about sixty feet south of the northeast corner of the present (1949) Puget Sound Power and Light Company plant.

²⁰² A. A. Denny, *Pioneer Days on Puget Sound*, p. 77.

²⁰³ Sato, p. 53.

²⁰⁴ Phelps, p. 98.

The road, which was called the “Military Road,” the “Immigrant Road” and the “Telegraph Road,” led from Main Street in Steilacoom over the prairie and passed through what is now McChord Field. Continuing, it crossed the Puyallup River, made its way past Five Mile Lake to Starr Lake, thence to the east side of Angle Lake, and on by way of Riverton down to what is South Park on the Duwamish. Here it crossed the river, running through what is Boeing Air Field to the foot of Beacon Hill, then north to the crest of the hill and on past the city reservoirs into what is Twenty-fourth Avenue South. From there it led down the east side of the hill, then turned west down its crooked way over Jackson, Main and Washington streets to Yesler’s Mill.²⁰⁵

Portions of this Steilacoom to Seattle route were later incorporated into the highway system extending between Seattle and Olympia, and the name “Military Road” can still be seen on road signs where parts of the old highway are utilized by travelers today. Daniel Bagley and his family, who came to Seattle in 1860, are said to have been the first immigrants to enter Seattle from the south on the Military Road.²⁰⁶

There is a street called Military Road South that climbs up Beacon Hill in the Van Asselt neighborhood; however, this street is too far east to have been part of the Steilacoom to Seattle road passing through South Park. Instead, it is almost certainly a vestigial component of the territorial road (Road No. 1 of King County) that once connected Seattle to the “immigrant trail” (i.e., the military road between Walla Walla and Steilacoom). Road No. 1 passed through Van Asselt’s claim, and the Seattle street called Military Road South appears to match the description of the portion of Road No. 1 that “followed the line of Beacon Avenue from Chicago to Willow Streets.”²⁰⁷

The Beach Road

By 1862, a new road was heading south from Main Street in Seattle along the beach at the base of Beacon Hill. It was known as the Beach Road and was the favored route of southbound and eastbound travelers for about twenty years.²⁰⁸ It passed along the western edge of the donation claims belonging to Doc Maynard, John Holgate, Edward Hanford, and J. J. Moss before it met

. . . the county road from Alki Point and then turned southerly to the

²⁰⁵ Bass, *When Seattle Was a Village*, p. 37. Star Lake is just southeast of the intersection of Military Road South and South 272nd Street. Angle Lake is just southeast of Seattle Tacoma International Airport. Military Road South forms the boundary between the Riverton Heights neighborhood, in Seatac, and Tukwila.

²⁰⁶ Phelps, p. 98

²⁰⁷ See pages 30 and 31 above.

²⁰⁸ Phelps, p. 98. The beach route may have been in use at an earlier date (see quote from Bass below). According to *The Duwamish Diary* (p. 64), Airport Way was originally an Indian trail.

Military Road, which was the route from Fort Steilacoom to Fort Walla Walla. For some reason Dr. Maynard was not in favor of this road and did what he could to delay it; but it was, nevertheless, finally approved.²⁰⁹

In fact, the Beach Road appears to have joined the Military Road (i.e., the road from Steilacoom to Seattle) where the latter dropped down the west side of Beacon Hill near what is now Columbia Way.²¹⁰

Construction of the Beach Road may have coincided with improvements to the Military Road where it passed through South Park. According to Myra Phelps, George Holt was paid \$100 for damages to his place when a road was opened across his property (the first recorded case of damages in consequence of road making in King County).²¹¹ The offending improvements were probably associated with the portion of the Steilacoom to Seattle route that later became known as Valley Road, made up, in part, of present day Dallas Avenue South and the small segment of 10th Avenue South immediately to its north.

The Beach Road provided a short cut into Seattle for those coming north on the Military Road, but it wasn't always passable.

My first recollection of the Beach or River Road is not a pleasant one for the road was muddy and bumpy, being in many places made of puncheon. It skirted the shore of the bay at the foot of the high Beacon Hill bluff, east of what is now Airport Way, and ran south along the Duwamish. The road has had many changes and in only a few places does it follow the original route. The old Beach Road, built in the early fifties, was a hard road to keep in good condition. Even after years of ditching and repairing, slides kept coming down from the bluff, especially during heavy rains.²¹²

To avoid the mud and the high water that apparently swept across the valley when the Duwamish River overflowed its banks, travelers would use one of the roads that had been cut through the heavy timber atop Beacon Hill (either the Military Road or Road No. 1 of King County).

It was a good stiff climb to the top of the hill and a steep drop to the valley below, making it hard going either way, and travelers, when they could, took the low road.²¹³

²⁰⁹ Phelps, p. 98.

²¹⁰ Frederica Merrell and Mira Latoszek, *Images of America: Seattle's Beacon Hill* (Charleston: Arcadia Publishing, 2003), p. 16.

²¹¹ Phelps, p. 98. Phelps appears to associate the payment of damages to Holt with construction of the Beach Road a few miles to the north.

²¹² Sophie Frye Bass, *Pig-tail Days in Old Seattle* (Portland: Metropolitan Press, Publishers, 1937), p. 98.

²¹³ Bass, *Pig-tail Days in Old Seattle*, p. 99.

The Grant Street Bridge

A large portion of the Beach Road was eventually replaced by a trestle.

... in 1886, a road was built on pilings over the mud flats a little west of the Beach Road to avoid the slides and floods. This street became known as the Grant Street Bridge.²¹⁴

The wood plank bridge deck was twenty four feet wide and extended over a mile from what is now South Dearborn Street and Eight Avenue South (at the southern edge of the International District) to South Hinds Street (a block north of South Spokane Street), where it reached solid ground.²¹⁵ The trestle remained one of the main thoroughfares south until the tideflats were filled. Later, the route became known as Seattle Boulevard, then Ninth Avenue South, and finally Airport Way.²¹⁶

Van Asselt School (1862)

Henry Van Asselt, Jacob Maple and Luther Collins erected the first school building in King County on Van Asselt's claim.²¹⁷ It was a very small structure accommodating only four benches and a small desk where John Wesley Maple (who came to the valley in 1862) taught.²¹⁸ The school's first class consisted of nine pupils.²¹⁹

The original building, completed in 1862, apparently survived until 1944.²²⁰ A second building was erected about 1865 near where the Boeing Field administration building stood in 1961.²²¹

²¹⁴ Bass, *Pig-tail Days in Old Seattle*, p. 99.

²¹⁵ Bass, *Pig-tail Days in Old Seattle*, p. 101.

²¹⁶ Phelps, p. 98, and Bass, *Pig-tail Days in Old Seattle*, p. 102.

²¹⁷ *The Duwamish Diary*, p. 15.

²¹⁸ *The Duwamish Diary*, pp. 14-15. According to another source, "Jacob Maple is believed to have been the teacher" (see "Van Asselt School," in *Histories of the Seattle Public Schools*). This is possible, for although Jacob Maple is believed to have abandoned his Duwamish Valley claim and returned to the east in 1854, at least one source indicates he returned to the Seattle area in 1862.

²¹⁹ "Van Asselt School," *Histories of the Seattle Public Schools* (Seattle: Seattle Public Schools, 1961), pages not numbered. The names of eight of the students are recorded in this source; the list includes Addie Van Asselt, Lissa Mercer, Tabitha Cavanaugh, Warren Maple, Samuel Maple, Mary Snyder, William Snyder, and Lucy Bird.

²²⁰ According to one account in *The Duwamish Diary* (p.15), the building simply fell apart in 1944. However, this source reports elsewhere (p. 51) that the building was torn down in 1944 to make way for buildings needed to further the war effort. The article entitled "Van Asselt School" in *Histories of the Seattle Public Schools* reports that the original school building was kept intact until the early 1940s, and that plans were being discussed at that time for its removal to the present day school grounds, but that the rapid

The present day Van Asselt School opened in 1950 on the west side of Beacon Avenue between South Myrtle Street and South Othello Street. It replaced the third school building, a portable set up at the site in 1907, and the fourth school building, which opened at the site during the 1909-10 school year.²²² It is said to be located on land donated by Henry Van Asselt,²²³ however, the current site was not part of the original Van Asselt Donation Land Claim.²²⁴

Other South Park Families

The Fentons and the Kellys (1865)

Fenton family arrived in Seattle in 1865. They “settled on a farm about ten miles out on the Military Road, but later moved to a smaller farm” in the South Park area.²²⁵ The Fenton girls walked three-and-a-half miles through what was then heavily wooded country to attend the Van Asselt School.²²⁶

Elizabeth Jane and Ella Fenton became teachers. Elizabeth Jane initially taught in the McNatt District (South Park), Ella at the Van Asselt School.²²⁷

Elizabeth Jane married Michael Kelly (the stepson of Francis McNatt) in May 1872. The ceremony started later than had been planned because Father Prefontaine and some of the wedding guests came upriver by steamer and had to accommodate themselves to its irregular schedule.²²⁸

The Kellys farmed, moving towards Olympia for a while but returning to settle in the South Park area. Mr. Kelly became a King County sheriff. He froze to death in 1916 after becoming lost in a storm while hunting. Mrs. Kelly died in 1932 at the home of her son who lived on Donovan Street in South Park.²²⁹

growth of the school population made it necessary to reserve all the available space at the present site for the building of portables. This is said to have made immediate restoration of the historic structure impossible, leading to its demolition.

²²¹ “Van Asselt School,” *Histories of the Seattle Public Schools*.

²²² Nile Thompson and Carolyn J. Marr, *Building for Learning: Seattle Public School Histories, 1862-2000* (Seattle: Seattle Public Schools, 2002), pp. 292-293.

²²³ “Van Asselt School,” *Histories of the Seattle Public Schools*.

²²⁴ The present school is located north of Van Asselt’s claim, the northern boundary of which coincides with present day South Austin Street (see Kroll Atlas).

²²⁵ *The Duwamish Diary*, p. 76.

²²⁶ *The Duwamish Diary*, pp. 76-77.

²²⁷ *The Duwamish Diary*, p. 77.

²²⁸ *The Duwamish Diary*, p. 78.

²²⁹ *The Duwamish Diary*, p. 79. Although *Diary* identifies Kelly as the first sheriff of King County, it was Carson Boren who initially held that office.

The McCallisters

Mrs. Frances Mercer McCallister lived at 7201 Detroit Street in 1949.²³⁰ She had come to South Park 65 years before (i.e., in 1884) to become the bride of John McCallister, who owned the first brickyard in Georgetown.²³¹

Frances McCallister's father settled for a time on the banks of the Duwamish next to the property originally settled by Jacob Maple (the Eli Maple Donation Land Claim). There were twelve children. The river once flooded and came up so fast that Mr. Mercer had to fire some shots so the Indians, who were his nearest neighbors, would come in canoes to rescue the marooned family.²³²

Indian Scares in 1864 and 1871

In 1864, two ranchers in Squak Valley (at the south end of Lake Sammamish where Issaquah is now located) were killed, raising great concern and causing preparations to be made among the Duwamish Valley settlers for gathering at the Jacob Maple claim in case of emergency.²³³ Another scare in 1871 caused several members of the Maple family to move away for a few years.²³⁴

Travel in the 1870s

Robert Maple arrived in Steilacoom by river from Oregon and then traveled to the Maple house along the "old" Military Road to attend the Maple family party in January 1866.²³⁵

By the mid 1870s, steamships were traveling as far up the Duwamish and White rivers as Kent. "The Comet and the Lilly were the two most popular boats, the Comet being especially successful for this trip because of its flat bottom . . ." ²³⁶

There was a reduction in river traffic after a railroad was built along the left (north and east) bank of the river between 1874 and 1887.²³⁷ However, many people still found it convenient to travel by water. Frances McCallister occasionally traveled to Seattle for supplies. Each trip was an all day excursion that began with a walk through the farms of

²³⁰ West of 1st Avenue S. and south of Marginal Way S.W.

²³¹ *The Duwamish Diary*, p. 79. *Diary* cites an interview with Mrs. Frances Mercer McCallister, December 1948.

²³² *The Duwamish Diary*, p. 80, citing interview with Mrs. Frances Mercer McCallister, December 1948. The nearest Indian settlement was probably Herring's House, directly across the river.

²³³ *The Duwamish Diary*, p. 75.

²³⁴ *The Duwamish Diary*, p. 17.

²³⁵ *The Duwamish Diary*, p. 25, quoting Mrs. Martin L. Cavanaugh, "Story of Pioneer Party in King County Forty Years Ago." *Seattle Post-Intelligencer*, January 21, 1906.

²³⁶ *The Duwamish Diary*, pp. 34-38.

²³⁷ *The Duwamish Diary*, pp. 34-38.

her neighbors to get to the ferry at South Park. This took her to Georgetown where she boarded a steamboat that eventually landed at the foot of Yesler Way. It was customary to get a month's housekeeping supplies at a time. Sometimes the trip was made by rowboat.²³⁸

Stage service from Georgetown to Seattle became available in the 1870s.²³⁹

Farming

Throughout the 19th century, agriculture remained the primary focus of Duwamish Valley landowners. Spring floods brought rich soils to the valley, and the farms in the area were very productive. Most South Park area farmers were able to grow "luscious" garden produce for sale at markets in Seattle.²⁴⁰

²³⁸ *The Duwamish Diary*, p. 79, citing interview with Mrs. Frances Mercer McCallister, December 1948.

²³⁹ *The Duwamish Diary*, p. 38.

²⁴⁰ *The Duwamish Diary*, p. 80.

South Park Becomes a Town

Platting Activity Begins (1890)

Local property owners began the process of developing their rural farming community into a small town in 1890. This began with the platting of the South Park Addition by I. William Adams and his wife, Frances C. Adams (described in the dedication of the plat as being “of Helena City, Lewis and Clark County, Montana”).²⁴¹ Some sources indicate that Mr. and Mrs. Adams purchased the property in 1889, when it was known as the Donovan farm.²⁴² The property included the entirety of what had been Hograve’s donation land claim as well as an extension to the east onto what had been Buckley’s claim. Hograve and Buckley were no longer living when the plat for South Park was filed on January 18, 1890.²⁴³

It appears that ownership of Buckley’s claim may have passed to Francis McNatt about fifteen years earlier. McNatt had filed a petition shortly after Buckley’s death in 1874 “setting forth the fact that John and Eva Buckley had made a contract in writing, Dec[ember] 17, 1861, conveying to McNatt the property known as the Buckley donation land claim.”²⁴⁴ McNatt himself filed a plat for South Park Heights on May 31, 1892²⁴⁵ and another for the McNatt Addition to South Park Heights on May 14, 1894.²⁴⁶

A plat of the property purchased from the government by A. W. Moore, entitled the Aberfeldy Estate Addition, was filed April 5, 1890.

George Holt’s entire claim was included in the plat for River Park filed on February 2, 1891 by Alexander and Jane Prentice, husband and wife, who are described in the dedication of the plat as the owners in fee simple of the property.²⁴⁷

Additional platting activity continued until 1908, although portions of the South Park neighborhood, including much of Daniel Schneider’s homestead and most of E. D. Boone’s property, remain unplatted in 2008.

²⁴¹ King County Recording Office, Page 87, Volume 4 of Plats.

²⁴² David Wilma, “Seattle Neighborhoods: South Park -- Thumbnail History.”

Wilma appears to rely on the account of this initial platting activity in *The Duwamish Diary*, p. 80.

²⁴³ For filing date, see King County Recording Office, Page 87, Volume 4 of Plats. Hograve died in 1857, Buckley in 1874.

²⁴⁴ Rhodes, p. 48.

²⁴⁵ King County Recorder’s Office, Page 52, Volume 8 of Plats.

²⁴⁶ King County Recorder’s Office, Page 9, Volume 9 of Plats.

²⁴⁷ King County Recorder’s Office, Page 41, Volume 7 of Plats

SUMMARY OF PLATS IN SOUTH PARK NEIGHBORHOOD²⁴⁸

Name	Vol.	Page	Date Filed
South Park Addition (Name: I. William Adams and Francis C. Adams)	004	087	01/18/1890
Aberfeldy Estate Addition (Name: Paul Henderson)	005	045	04/05/1890
Portland & Puget Sound Ry Addition (Name: Harry White)	005	074	05/01/1890
River Park (Name: Jane Prentice)	007	041	02/02/1891
South Park Heights (Name: Francis McNatt)	008	052	05/31/1892
1 st Addition to River Park (Name: Reliance Loan Trust)	008	065	10/25/1892
Excelsior Acre Tracts (Name: E. Demanez)	008	093	11/22/1893
McNatt Addition to South Park Heights (Name: Francis McNatt)	009	009	05/14/1894
Moore's Five Acre Tracts (Name: Moore Investment Co)	009	028	11/05/1898
Excelsior Acre Tracts No. 2 (Name: Northern Counties Investment Trust Ltd)	009	048	05/02/1900
Replat of South Park Reserve (Name: Frances C. Adams)	011	016	10/20/1903
Abram's Addition (Name: Robert Abrams)	011	030	01/04/1904
East South Park (Name: Orr Company Inc.)	014	013	11/10/1906
Replat Blocks 13 & 14 (Name: Herberger Inc.)	016	069	02/04/1908
Sea King Industrial Park Condominiums (Name: SKIP Inc)	069	050	04/25/1984
Replat of South Park (Concord School)		NO DATA	

²⁴⁸ King County Recorder's Office

South Park Post Office (1892)

The South Park Post Office opened on June 25, 1892. George W. Brown was the first postmaster. On October 31, 1908, the post office became a branch of the Seattle Post Office.²⁴⁹

The Brothers School and Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church

Father Emmanuel Demanez, the Belgian assistant of Father Prefontaine (the pastor of Seattle's first Catholic church), agitated for a second parish in the Seattle area to serve Catholics in the outlying areas. Though Father Demanez was unsuccessful in this effort, the Brothers of Our Lady of Lourdes, based in Oostakker, Belgium, were persuaded to establish a Catholic school in South Park.²⁵⁰

Brother Callixtus and Brother Henry came to Seattle in 1890 and quickly acquired land for the school from I. William Adams (the developer who had just filed the South Park Plat).²⁵¹ The property, situated atop the tallest of South Park's three hills at the southeast corner of the former Hograve claim, included the entire block now bounded on the south by South Henderson Street, on the west by 10th Avenue South, on the north by South Trenton Street, and on the east by 12th Avenue South.

The school opened in 1892 and consisted of three large buildings and several smaller ones. One of the large building contained a dormitory, a library, and a chapel, Another housed the refractory and the kitchen, and the third had classrooms, a study hall, and a dormitory.²⁵²

The school became known as the College of Our Lady of Lourdes²⁵³ and the hill became known as College Hill.²⁵⁴

The two brothers returned to Belgium in 1919. Shortly after their departure, the Brothers School was closed and several of the buildings were torn down. One of the structures was remodeled to become what some South Park residents remember as "the old church," a

²⁴⁹ Greg Lange, "Seattle beginnings: South Park Post Office opens on June 25, 1892," *HistoryLink.org* (Essay 536, December 13, 1998; accessed March 4, 2008). Lange cites Guy Reed Ramsey, "Postmarked Washington, 1850-1960," Microfilm (Olympia: Washington State Library, February, 1966), 640-641.

²⁵⁰ Amanda Zahler, Anna Marti, and Gary Thomsen, *Images of America: Seattle's South Park* (Charleston, SC: Arcadia Publishing, 2006), p. 17.

²⁵¹ Zahler, Marti and Thomsen, p. 17

²⁵² Zahler, Marti and Thomsen, p. 17

²⁵³ See Kroll Atlas, 1950 (Seattle Public Library).

²⁵⁴ David Wilma, "Seattle Landmarks: Concord Elementary School (1914), South Park," *HistoryLink.org* (Essay 3167, April 6, 2001; accessed March 5, 2008). Wilma cites Patricia C. Erigero, *Seattle Public Schools Historic Building Survey Report - 1990* (Seattle: Historic Seattle Preservation and Development Authority, 1990).

modest white building with a high steeple that was used until the 1970s.²⁵⁵

South Park School (1892)

The first public school in South Park, called the South Park School, was built in 1891 or 1892.²⁵⁶ The little two-room shack accommodated 60 pupils, a principal (Albert M. Lingenfelter, the brother of a future mayor of South Park) and one teacher.²⁵⁷

South Park was growing, however, and soon a new South Park School, a two-story, wooden building housing all eight grades, was built.²⁵⁸ It was located on the east side of 12th Avenue South, occupying the western portion of the triangular block bounded by 12th on the west, by South Sullivan Street on the south, and by Dallas Avenue South on the northeast.²⁵⁹ The oxbow lake known as Abandoned by the Duwamish would have been visible across Dallas, still called Valley Road in the early years of the 20th century.²⁶⁰

Among the hazards the children daily encountered on their way to school were deep drainage ditches filled with fast flowing water bridged only by narrow, rail-less planks.²⁶¹

The first Commencement of the South Park School was held at the Methodist Church, May 23, 1900.²⁶² “Every graduate and a number of citizens took part. Mr. G. C.

²⁵⁵ Zahler, Marti and Thomsen, p. 17

²⁵⁶ According to *The Duwamish Diary* (p.86), the South Park School was built about 1892; however, on the page where this is reported, there is a photograph of several students in front of a small school building over a caption reading “Teacher, Albert M. Lingenfelter, South Park School, 1891.” A listing for South Park School appears in the 1893 edition of Polk’s *Seattle City Directory* (p. 847), although the location of the school is not precisely given. There is no listing for the school in the directories for 1890, 1891 and 1892.

²⁵⁷ “Concord School,” *Histories of the Seattle Public Schools* (Seattle: Seattle Public Schools, 1961), pages not numbered. *The Duwamish Diary* (p. 86) indicates that the first school building was located at Twelfth and Sullivan and had eight rooms, but this is more likely a description of the second building (see below).

²⁵⁸ “Concord School,” *Histories of the Seattle Public Schools*. It is not known precisely when the new building was erected. However, the school was served by a principal (G. C. Lingenfelter) and three teachers (Laura Cade, Agnes McGinnis and Pearl Concannon) in 1899 according to Polk’s *Seattle City Directory* for that year (p. 48), suggesting that the new building was in operation by that date.

²⁵⁹ See Baist Maps for 1908 and 1912, and Kroll Atlases for 1920 and 1928. Note that “Concord School,” *Histories of the Seattle Public Schools*, incorrectly locates the new school on the west side of 12th Avenue S.

²⁶⁰ Polk’s *Seattle City Directory* (1905), p. 1126, locates the South Park School at “S 10th cor Valley rd, S Park.” S.10th later became 12th Avenue South.

²⁶¹ “Concord School,” *Histories of the Seattle Public Schools*.

Lingenfelter was the principal, and the class members were: Olive McCallister, Louis Hensen, Leah Kelly, Irving Coates, Mabel Gifford, Eben Kelly, Lissa Coates, John Thorp, Imogene Goodson, and Eddie Hack.²⁶³

The South Park School continued in operation until the early 1930s.²⁶⁴

Small Towns on the Lower Duwamish

South Park was one of several small communities situated along the lower Duwamish River in the final decade of the 19th Century. Others included Dwamish (not “Duwamish”) and South Seattle. Vanasselt stood on the edge of Beacon Hill nearby.²⁶⁵ The Georgetown community also began to coalesce in this period.

The South Park community had previously been known by several different names including South Duwamish Station, Station South, McNatt Place, and Donovan Place.²⁶⁶ After the initial platting, “South Park” and “River Park” were the names most commonly employed, although these two names were sometimes used as if they applied to two distinct communities.

These small towns remained distinct from Seattle and from each other until the tide flats along Elliott Bay were filled in during the early years of the 20th Century.²⁶⁷

Farming and Industry in the Duwamish Valley in the Late Nineteenth Century

The valleys of the Duwamish and White rivers were subjected to a “hops craze” in the last 15 years of the nineteenth century. The hops were sold to local breweries (such as the Bayview Brewery located just within the Seattle city limits along the tideflats north of South Seattle, and the Braun Brewery, on the Duwamish River just south of the Vanasselt community) or exported to markets around the world. The hops were initially harvested by Indians who came to the farms by canoe or on foot, later by train. By the early 1890s,

²⁶² *The Duwamish Diary*, p. 86. *Diary* cites “Program of the First Commencement of the South Park Public Schools,” owned by Mrs. Libbie Lingenfelter, wife of the first principal.

²⁶³ *The Duwamish Diary*, p. 86. Listings for George C. Lingenfelter in the city directories suggest he was principal at South Park School from at least 1898 until 1901 (see Polk’s *Seattle City Directory* for 1898, p. 607; 1899, p. 606; and 1901, p. 737). He is not listed in the directories prior to the 1898 edition, and is listed as an officer or employee of Seattle Preserving Company in the 1902 edition.

²⁶⁴ “Concord School,” *Histories of the Seattle Public Schools*.

²⁶⁵ “McKee’s Correct Road Map of Seattle and Vicinity” (Washington [State], U.S.A., 1894).

²⁶⁶ *The Duwamish Diary*, p. 80.

²⁶⁷ Roger Sale, *Seattle Past to Present* (2nd Printing), (Seattle: University of Washington Press, 1982), p. 60.

Japanese and Chinese immigrant laborers were bringing in the harvest. The boom ended with the 1893 depression and a “hops louse” (aphid) infestation.²⁶⁸

The hop farms were replaced by dairy farms serving a national market for condensed milk, which was produced at plants operated by Carnation and Borden into the late 1920s.²⁶⁹

Japanese farmers leased land for potatoes, or bought land to grow berries, participate in the dairying boom, or operate vegetable truck farms.²⁷⁰

In addition to the breweries, industrial concerns in the valley included the Newell Saw Mill in South Seattle and the Denny Pottery facility in Vanasselt.²⁷¹

The Bridge at Myrtle Street

From no later than 1894 until about 1912 a bridge spanned east and west over the original course of the Duwamish Rive from the present-day intersection of South Myrtle Street and Ellis Avenue South to what is now the north end of King County Airport.²⁷² The bridge connected South Myrtle Street to Riverside Drive. The latter street (which is no longer extant east of the Duwamish Waterway) ran south and west along the original left bank of the Duwamish River, intersecting what is now 10th Avenue South in South Park, where the traffic turned south. A few blocks further south the traffic veered southeast on present-day Dallas Avenue South, which ran along the west and south shore of the oxbow lake called Abandoned by the Duwamish, and then continued south along the left bank of the river. Some of these streets were part of the Valley Road, and most were also part of the Military Road between Steilacoom and Seattle as well.

South Myrtle Street marks the southern boundary of Luther Collins’s donation land claim and separates it from the parcel settled by John Thompson.

Arrival of the Street Railway and the Eighth Avenue Bridge

In the early 1890s, a wooden drawbridge was built over the Duwamish River at 8th Avenue South in order to extend Seattle’s patchwork street railway system into South Park.²⁷³ The trestle began at Kenyon Street extended across the River to Myrtle Street.²⁷⁴

²⁶⁸ Sato, pp. 42-44. The breweries identified are those shown on “McKee’s Correct Road Map of Seattle and Vicinity” (Washington [State], U.S.A., 1894).

²⁶⁹ Sato, p. 45.

²⁷⁰ Sato, p. 31.

²⁷¹ “McKee’s Correct Road Map of Seattle and Vicinity”

²⁷² This bridge appears on “McKee’s Correct Road Map of Seattle and Vicinity” and is shown on the Baist Maps published in 1908 and 1912.

²⁷³ David Wilma, “Seattle Neighborhoods: South Park -- Thumbnail History.” The bridge is shown on the Baist Maps published in 1908 and 1912.

The bridge was a component of the South Park Electric Railway (initially known as the Valley Street Railway), a line built by the Valley Street Railway Company under a King County franchise. Before cars could begin operating on the line, the South Park Electric Railway was purchased by Fred E. Sander and made a part of his Grant Street Electric Railway, which originated at Second Avenue South and Yesler Way in Seattle and extended south along Grant Street (now Airport Way) to Seattle's southern boundary (which, at that time, was located just a few blocks south of what is now the Spokane Street Viaduct). There the Grant Street Railway tracks connected with the South Park Electric Railway tracks, which continued south and west to Caledonia Avenue (now South Kenyon Street) and South Eighth Street (now 8th Avenue South) in the River Park Addition. The entire system was completed and opened to traffic late in January 1892. The powerhouse was located in Georgetown.²⁷⁵

In its initial configuration, the Grant Street Electric Railway utilized an unusual narrow gauge system;²⁷⁶ however, when the Grant Street Electric Railway Company became part of Seattle Electric Company on April 26, 1900, the railway was redesignated the South Seattle Line and its tracks were widened to standard gauge.²⁷⁷

On November 1, 1909, the South Seattle Line was cut back and a new South Park Line took over service to South Park. This new line commenced at the corner of Occidental Avenue and Yesler Way in Seattle and shared trackage with the Puget Sound Electric Railway from there to South Vale Street in Georgetown. From that point the cars made their way over a route comprising South Vale Street, 12th Avenue South, South Bailey Street, Carleton Avenue South, 8th Avenue South, and South Cloverdale Street, to a wye at 14th Avenue South and South Cloverdale Street.²⁷⁸

Oxbow Bend Bridged at South Michigan Street

For people living in Seattle during the latter part of the 1890s, the nearest bridge over the Duwamish providing access to West Seattle crossed the river at what was known as the Oxbow Bend. This bridge served South Michigan Street and was located just west of that roadway's present-day intersection with Corson Avenue South.²⁷⁹

South Park Becomes a Town (1902)

²⁷⁴ *The Duwamish Diary*, p. 88. See quotation from THE NEW BRIDGE, OFFICIAL DEDICATION, pamphlet, March 21, 1931.

²⁷⁵ Leslie Blanchard, *The Street Railway Era in Seattle: A Chronicle of Six Decades* (Forty Fort PA: Harold E. Cox, 1968), p. 37.

²⁷⁶ Blanchard, p. 37.

²⁷⁷ Blanchard, p. 67.

²⁷⁸ Blanchard, pp. 67-68.

²⁷⁹ Phelps, p. 35. This bridge does not appear on "McKee's Correct Road Map of Seattle and Vicinity" (Washington [State], U.S.A., 1894) but is shown on the Baist Maps published in 1908 and 1912.

The platting of the South Park area, the bridging of the Duwamish, the arrival of the streetcar line, the opening of the post office, and the construction of the South Park School all made the area feel like more than just a collection of small farms. Locals began to think that the district should be organized as a town, so a petition was circulated to determine the wishes of area residents.²⁸⁰ As a result, the Town of South Park was incorporated December 9, 1902, and the Town Council held its first meeting on December 23rd.²⁸¹

The Town of South Park was served by three mayors in its four-and-one-half years of existence. These mayors were S. J. Bevan (1902-1903), G. C. Lingenfelter (1903-1905), and A. G. Breidenstein (1906-1907). Bevan resigned for unknown reasons after serving less than ten months.²⁸²

South Park was plagued by problems in securing adequate city services. Particularly vexing was the inability to obtain a decent water supply. Although the City of Georgetown owned mains that ran through South Park, the former refused to supply water to the latter, occasioning a bitter court battle over legal rights to the water.²⁸³ South Park's town council explored the possibility of getting its water from nearby farms, but was unable to develop a viable option.²⁸⁴ In 1905-1906, the town contracted with an independent water company; however, in April 1906 the water supplied was found to be contaminated because South Park did not have a sewer system. The Town Council petitioned Seattle to run Cedar River mains to the edge of the town.²⁸⁵

South Park was also having difficulty in securing electrical service. As the community continued to grow, it was clear that these problems would only become more acute.²⁸⁶ Sentiment grew for annexation to the City of Seattle.

Annexation (1907)

The proponents of annexation employed the method most commonly used at the time to accomplish their purpose. A petition was prepared describing the area to be annexed.

²⁸⁰ *The Duwamish Diary*, p. 81.

²⁸¹ "Guide to the Town of South Park Records 1902-1907," *Northwest Digital Archives* (nwda-db.wsulibs.wsu.edu/findaid/ark:/80444/xv77300; accessed September 18, 2009).

²⁸² "Guide to the Town of South Park Records 1902-1907." Note that *The Duwamish Diary* (p. 81) incorrectly lists the first mayor as George C Lingenfelter, and identifies those who followed him in office as A. G. Breidenstein, and S. J. Bevan.

²⁸³ "Guide to the Town of South Park Records 1902-1907."

²⁸⁴ Allen Stein (Marie McCaffrey, Designer; Priscilla Long, Editor), "South Park: Seattle's Backyard Garden," one panel of several comprising a series entitled *From Many, One: 1907-2007 Seattle Centennial Project*. Seattle: History Ink/HistoryLink.org, 2007.

²⁸⁵ "Guide to the Town of South Park Records 1902-1907."

²⁸⁶ Stein, "South Park: Seattle's Backyard Garden."

This petition

. . . had to contain valid signatures of at least 20 per cent of the electors who had voted in the last general election in the area, and [incorporate] a request that an election be held. This petition was then filed with the City Council of the annexing city. If the Council approved the election, the petition was filed with the County Commissioners, who then checked the validity of the signatures. If enough of them were valid, a hearing was held and an election followed. If the majority of the voters in the election favored the annexation, the voting record was filed with the City Council, which could [then] accept or reject the annexation.²⁸⁷

In October of 1906, the South Park electorate voted 131 to 59 for annexation to Seattle.²⁸⁸ However, the vote appears to have been premature because South Park – separated from Seattle by the City of Georgetown to the north, and bordered on the west by the City of West Seattle, on the south by unincorporated King County, and on the east by the Town of Southeast Seattle and the unincorporated Rainier Beach community -- was not contiguous with the City of Seattle, as was required by law.²⁸⁹

This situation changed when Southeast Seattle was annexed by the City of Seattle on January 7, 1907.²⁹⁰ Two and a half months later, on March 23, 1907, a second vote to annex South Park was passed 181 to 36,²⁹¹ and on May 3, 1907 South Park became the subject of the City's tenth annexation when Ordinance 15917 was approved.²⁹²

At the time of annexation, South Park had a population of about 1,500.²⁹³ However, “[o]nly 217 votes were cast in the annexation election, partly because then, as now, some citizens were careless of their right to vote, but mostly because woman suffrage had not yet become a law.”²⁹⁴

South Park (0.87 sq. mi.) was one of six incorporated areas annexed in 1907. The other incorporated areas were Southeast Seattle (5.73 sq. mi.), Ravenna (0.62 sq. mi.), Columbia (1.12 sq. mi.), Ballard (3.71 sq. mi.), and West Seattle (16.34 sq. mi.). The unincorporated portion of King County known as Rainier Beach (3.62 sq. mi) was annexed in this period as well. Together, these annexations nearly doubled the land area of Seattle from 35.09 square miles to 67.10 square miles.²⁹⁵

²⁸⁷ Phelps, p. 218.

²⁸⁸ “Guide to the Town of South Park Records 1902-1907.”

²⁸⁹ See map entitled “Seattle Annexations to 1975” in Phelps, p. 224.

²⁹⁰ Phelps, p. 222.

²⁹¹ “Guide to the Town of South Park Records 1902-1907.”

²⁹² Phelps, p. 222.

²⁹³ *The Duwamish Diary*, p. 82.

²⁹⁴ *The Duwamish Diary*, p. 82.

²⁹⁵ Phelps, p. 222.

By joining the city, the former citizens of South Park gained access to Cedar River water, a good sewer system and electrical utilities.

In addition, the South Park School became part of the Seattle School District.²⁹⁶ The large number of annexations that year resulted in the “most significant single addition to Seattle schools” bringing large area into the district (including the southern portion of the Rainier Valley, the city of Ballard, and West Seattle) as well as 6,000 students, a number of inadequate buildings and \$100,000.00 in debt.²⁹⁷ South Park contributed its eight room wooden building and about 300 students.²⁹⁸

All of the platted portions of South Park added to the City of Seattle became part of Seattle’s 12th Ward, which also included the recently annexed communities of Southeast Seattle, Columbia City and Rainier Beach. The Schneider claim and most of the Dennis claim became part of the 14th Ward, along with the City of West Seattle when it was annexed July 24th, 1907.²⁹⁹ The city of Georgetown, north of South Park, also became part of the 14th Ward when it was annexed April 4, 1910.³⁰⁰

The Renaming of the Streets (1907)

Ordinance 17213, enacted October 1907, “had the task of altering, defining and establishing the names of streets, avenues, ways and places as platted or existing” in the portions of Seattle that had formerly been part of the City of Columbia, the town of South Park, and the city of Southeast Seattle.³⁰¹

Library Services

The new Seattle residents petitioned for a branch library in 1908, but a library did not materialize. Instead, from time to time, pharmacies and grocery stores served as book deposit sites and readers could check out the few volumes available there.³⁰²

²⁹⁶ See “Chronological List of Seattle Public School Buildings” in *Histories of the Seattle Public Schools*.

²⁹⁷ Patricia C., Erigero, “Historic Building Survey Summary Report,” *Seattle Public Schools Historic Building Survey* (Seattle: Historic Seattle Preservation and Development Authority, 1990), pp. 13-14.

²⁹⁸ Erigero, p. 46.

²⁹⁹ See *Ward Map of the City of Seattle* (January 1910) and Polk’s *Seattle City Directory* (Seattle: 1910), p. 104. Phelps (p. 218) notes that the Town of South Park, the Town of Southeast Seattle, and the City of Columbia all became part of the 12th Ward in 1907. Schmid (p.72) and Phelps (p. 222) note the date of West Seattle’s annexation.

³⁰⁰ Phelps, pp. 218, 222; Schmid, p. 72.

³⁰¹ Phelps, p. 230.

³⁰² David Wilma, “South Park Branch of The Seattle Public Library opens on September 9, 2006,” *HistoryLink.org* (Essay 8031, December 17, 2006; accessed May 4, 2008).

Fire Department

The Seattle Fire Department's first South Park facility was a wood structure built in 1910 to house Hose Company #26 at 8201 10th Avenue South.

The original wood building was replaced by Fire Station #26, a new brick structure designed by City Architect Daniel R. Huntington and built in the period from 1920-22.

Character of the Immigrant Population in the early 1900s

In the early 1900's the Duwamish Valley became home for immigrants representing several nationalities. “. . . Germans and Belgians came to work in the Brewery, and the Italians and Japanese to farm. The Germans lived in Georgetown; the Belgians in what used to be called South Seattle; the Italians in South Park, and the Japanese along the banks of the river toward Kent.”³⁰³

³⁰³ *The Duwamish Diary*, p. 48.

The Waterway

The Great Flood of 1906 and the Effort to Control Flooding

As the turn of the twentieth century approached, the Duwamish River looked much as it had when American settlers first began arriving in the middle of the nineteenth century.

In 1854, the Duwamish River meandered across its valley and entered Elliott Bay through three main distributary channels. A broad intertidal area extended bayward beyond the marshlands near the river mouth to near the northern edge of the present day Harbor Island.³⁰⁴

Although the wetlands existing in 1854 were not mapped beyond a point about two miles upstream from the river mouth, marshland probably continued upstream some additional distance.³⁰⁵

A canoe moving down the Duwamish from the confluence of the White and Black rivers at the northernmost point of present day Fort Dent Park in 1854 would have had to travel 20 miles before reaching the river's debouchment into Elliott Bay.

At the time, the Duwamish was the outlet for the White River and its tributary, the Green River, as well as the Black River and its tributary, the Cedar River. The Black River also emptied Lake Washington, Lake Sammamish and their tributaries. Altogether, the Duwamish River drained at least 1,400 square miles of Western Washington between Everett and Mount Rainier.³⁰⁶

The area where the Black joined the White became known as Black River Junction, a name that refers to a nearby railroad facility rather than the confluence of the two rivers (the railroad junction control tower is within a quarter mile of the former point of confluence).³⁰⁷

Perennial flooding steadily worsened in the watershed of the Duwamish in the late 1800s.

³⁰⁴ G. C. Bortleson, M. J. Chrzastowski, and A. K. Helgerson, *Historical Changes of Shoreline and Wetland at Eleven Major Deltas in the Puget Sound Region, Washington* (U. S. Geological Survey, 1980).

³⁰⁵ Bortleson, *et. al.*

³⁰⁶ Estimates of the area drained by the Duwamish prior to 1906 vary. According to Phelps (p. 59), the drainage basin covered about 2,000 square miles, although this estimate may include some areas drained by the Stuck and Puyallup rivers. Sato (p. 26) states that the Duwamish drained 1,400 square miles of Western Washington from south of Everett to Mount Rainier. An interpretive map entitled *The Green-Duwamish River: Connecting people with a diverse environment* (Seattle: Duwamish River Cleanup Coalition/TAG, c. 2008) indicates that the river drained an area of 1,640 square miles.

³⁰⁷ Phelps (p. 59) indicates that the tower is 1/4 to 1/2 mile away.

Floods had been less frequent in the early days of American settlement, when the slopes were heavily timbered, but as the population and the clearing of the land increased, so did the flood damage.³⁰⁸

The Territorial Legislature enacted the first law concerning drainage and flood control in 1858. However, this law was designed to enable the digging of ditches for the purpose of draining marshes and swamp lands rather than controlling flooding.³⁰⁹

The Flood of 1906

Unusually mild weather in November 1906 caused the October snows to melt, resulting in extensive flooding.³¹⁰ From Kent north to where the White River (now the Green River) river passes through a neck on its way to Puget Sound, the river was as much as 2 miles wide and 24 feet deep.³¹¹

Civic leaders throughout the region began to feel that the river system needed to be brought under control.³¹² A series of steps were taken to reduce the danger of flooding in the years that followed.

Diversion of the White River

Prior to 1906, the White River forked southeast of Auburn, sending part of its water north through Kent to its confluence with the Black River. The remainder of its flow went south in the channel of the Stuck River to join the Puyallup River east of Tacoma.

The Stuck and the White flowed practically side by side for about one-and-a-half miles below the fork, but during the flood of November 1906, a drift barrier (i.e., a logjam) accumulated in the north channel, turning the White River across the neck of land separating the two rivers and sending the entire volume of the White down the Stuck and into the Puyallup.³¹³ Despite the accidental diversion, flooding to the north was severe, leading many to conclude that allowing the White River to return to its former channel would risk an even greater catastrophe in the future. A levee was constructed in 1911 to make the change of course permanent.³¹⁴ The natural drift barrier that had previously existed between the White and Stuck Rivers was reinforced and a concrete diversion dam was built so that the White could no longer break back into its former channel.³¹⁵

³⁰⁸ Phelps, p. 58

³⁰⁹ Phelps, p. 58.

³¹⁰ Sato, p. 25.

³¹¹ Sato, p. 26.

³¹² Sato, p. 13.

³¹³ Phelps, p. 59

³¹⁴ *The Green-Duwamish River: Connecting people with a diverse environment* (map).

³¹⁵ Phelps, p. 59

After this change, the White River no longer flowed in its old streambed through Auburn, and the Green River -- which had previously joined the White north of Auburn -- took over the White River's channel from the point where the two rivers had previously joined to the confluence with the Black River at the head of the Duwamish.

Rerouting of the Cedar River

Before 1916, Lake Washington emptied into the Black River at a point near the north end of what is now the Renton Municipal Airport. The Black was joined by the Cedar River south of the airport, and then joined the White (later the Green) River at the north end of present-day Fort Dent Park. When the rivers were at flood level, the Black River typically overflowed its banks and reversed course so that it carried water into, rather than out of, Lake Washington.³¹⁶

The Cedar River flooded in the winter of 1910-11, causing the evacuation of Renton.³¹⁷ On the west side of the city, the high water was made worse by the "backlash" from the Black and Duwamish rivers.³¹⁸ Renton's citizen immediately began searching for ways to reduce the threat of flooding. Waterway District No. 2 was quickly organized and its first meeting was held December 14, 1910. By the summer of 1912, a new channel 80 feet wide and more than 2,000 feet long had been dug through the city, providing the Cedar with a direct path to the lake, allowing it to be "disconnected" from the Black.³¹⁹

The Black River Disappears

In 1916, as the Lake Washington Ship Canal neared completion, the level of Lake Washington was lowered to that of Lake Union. The canal provided a new outlet to Puget Sound for the waters of the lake.³²⁰ As a result, the Black River -- no longer fed by Lake Washington and its tributaries (by then including the Cedar River) -- simply dried up.

No End to Flooding

The diversion of the White River, the rerouting of the Cedar River, and the provision of a new outlet for Lake Washington reduced the watershed of the Duwamish to an area of less than 500 square miles,³²¹ about one-third of its size before November 1906. Despite

³¹⁶ Sato, p. 51.

³¹⁷ Sato, p. 53.

³¹⁸ Morda C Slauson, *Renton - From Coal to Jets* (Renton: Renton Historical Society, 2006), p. 87.

³¹⁹ Slauson, p. 88. The new channel runs along the eastern edge of Renton Municipal Airport.

³²⁰ Phelps, p. 59.

³²¹ *The Green-Duwamish River: Connecting people with a diverse environment* (map). Sato (p. 31) indicates that the area of the watershed was reduced to 474 square miles by the changes.

these dramatic changes to the drainage basin, the Green and Duwamish rivers continued to flood the area from Auburn to South Park approximately every two years.³²²

From Duwamish River to Duwamish Waterway (1895 – 1920?)

Modifications to the channel of the Duwamish River had been urged upon state and national governments for some years prior to the severe flooding of 1906, and some work was already underway at the mouth of the river when the flood occurred. Although many of the changes proposed were expected to assist with flood control, the proponents of the work were focused on improving the navigability of the river and on increasing its value as an industrial waterway.

The Territorial Legislature memorialized Congress a number of times for money to make the Duwamish/White River navigable for 35 to 40 miles from Seattle.³²³

R. H. Thomson, who served as City Engineer for most of the period from 1892 to 1911, saw the Duwamish Valley as a site for industrial growth. The valley floor offered flat lands able to accommodate the spatial needs of rapidly expanding factories, and the river offered an inexpensive mode of transportation. He was convinced that while the anticipated Lake Washington Ship Canal -- connecting Lake Union to Salmon Bay and Lake Washington -- would be of benefit to the City, the more lasting good would come from improvements made along the Duwamish. He envisioned removal of the bends in the river, deepening of the channel, and filling of the low shorelands.³²⁴

The Town of South Park joined the chorus of those lobbying for improvements to the river on October 19, 1903, when it sent the following resolution to Congress:

Whereas the Duwamish River was formerly a navigable stream and
Whereas by reason of the formation of debris and sand bars where the said river empties into Elliott bay, it is no longer feasible for vessels to enter the said river as formerly and
Whereas the said obstructions have shut the Town of South Park out of an otherwise natural water connection with the commerce of Puget Sound (thereby preventing the establishment in said Town of industries dependent upon water connections)
Now be it resolved by the Council of the Town of South Park Wash that the Congress of the United States be and it is hereby respectfully petitioned to cause said river to be dredged or said obstructions otherwise removed so as to restore the former navigability of the same.

The resolution was signed by the mayor, G. C. Lingenfelter, and attested by

³²² Sato, p. 31.

³²³ Phelps, pp. 58-59.

³²⁴ Phelps, p. 61.

Henry B. Green, Clerk.³²⁵

Work at the Mouth of the River

Dredging of the East Waterway at the mouth of the river began July 29, 1895.³²⁶ The spoils were deposited as fill over a wide area of what today is Harbor Island.³²⁷ The work continued until the company organized to undertake the project failed two years later.³²⁸

The original plan for the East Waterway anticipated that it would be connected to the South Canal, a channel that was supposed to be extended to Lake Washington through Beacon Hill along the line of Hanford Street.³²⁹

From 1901 to 1904, several thousand cubic meters of material were removed from Beacon Hill and deposited in the intertidal area by hydraulic sluices.³³⁰ Adjacent lands were also filled with material from the Jackson Street Regrade and sanitary fills.³³¹

Eventually, the South Canal was abandoned, partly due to problems with slides, which were causing added costs,³³² but perhaps also because the scheme attracted significant political opposition from the proponents of the Lake Washington Ship Canal. In 1906, the South Canal right of way was returned to the county.³³³

By 1917, the East and West Waterways had been formed at the mouth of the Duwamish and more than 2.2 square miles of intertidal area had been filled, largely by deposition of dredge spoil from the two waterways. Almost all the former marsh was filled or converted to urban land use.³³⁴

Staightening of the River

In 1904 and 1908, R. H. Thomson went to Europe to study methods used to straighten rivers; he discovered that the recess method was almost universally employed.³³⁵ Thompson “determined the size of the waterway, its course, and estimated the cost of

³²⁵ Zahler, Marti and Thomsen, p. 70.

³²⁶ Phelps, p. 62.

³²⁷ Bortleson, *et. al.* Bortleson cites Allan Hyunding, *The Public Life of Eugene Semple* (Seattle: Univeristy of Washington Press, 1973), p. 149.

³²⁸ Phelps, p. 62.

³²⁹ Phelps, pp. 61-62

³³⁰ Bortleson, *et. al.*

³³¹ Phelps, p. 62.

³³² Phelps, p. 62.

³³³ Phelps, p. 62.

³³⁴ Bortleson, *et. al.* Bortleson cites Allan Hyunding, *The Public Life of Eugene Semple* (Seattle: Univeristy of Washington Press, 1973), pp. 157-162.

³³⁵ *Duwamish Diary*, p. 67.

purchasing the land to be condemned. He figured out the amount of dredging necessary and provided for the disposal of silt dredged from the channel.”³³⁶

The formation of Commercial Waterway District No. 1 was enabling by an act of the 1909 Legislature for the purpose of maintaining and policing the Duwamish River.³³⁷ By 1910 riverside property owners had voted to create the Duwamish Commercial Waterway District to dredge and straighten the river.³³⁸

Other local property owners along the river bitterly fought right-of-way condemnations in the courts.³³⁹

A dredge was purchased to deepen and widen the channel. It was anticipated that the work might extend as far south as South 112th Street.³⁴⁰ Dredging began October 14, 1913 near the old County Poor Farm.³⁴¹ This was a large tract owned by King County situated west of Corson Avenue along the right bank of the oxbow bend, one of the large river meanders that would later be filled; The new waterway was cut through the westernmost projection of this parcel about where the First Avenue South Bridge crosses the waterway today.

Dredge spoils were distributed on lands along the new waterway beginning in 1914 and continuing until 1918.³⁴² The abandoned meanders of the river were filled in 1918.³⁴³

By 1918, the lowest 13.5 miles of the river had been replaced by a waterway 4.5 miles long in an operation that cut about 9 miles of meanders out of the main channel and reduced the overall length of the river from about 20 miles to approximately 11 miles.³⁴⁴

³³⁶ *Duwamish Diary*, pp. 67–68, quoting “Duwamish Waterway Made Possible Industrial Area,” *Seattle Star*, November 1935.

³³⁷ Phelps, p. 62.

³³⁸ Sato, p. 35. *Duwamish Diary* (p. 67) reports that the four original members of the Duwamish Waterway Commission were Fred A. Newell, Frank A. Powell, John B. Shorett, and Dietrich Hamm; however, it is not clear if this group is identical with the Commercial Waterway District No. 1.

³³⁹ Sato, p. 36.

³⁴⁰ Phelps, pp. 62-63.

³⁴¹ *Duwamish Diary*, p. 69.

³⁴² Harper-Owes, *Duwamish Ground Water Studies Waste Disposal Practices and Dredge and Fill History* (1985). See “FIGURE 4. Major Dredge and Fill Construction of the Duwamish Waterway (adapted from Seattle Urban Design, 1971).”

³⁴³ Harper-Owes. See “FIGURE 4.”

³⁴⁴ Both Phelps (p. 63) and *Duwamish Diary* (p. 68) report that the effected portion of the river was shortened from 13.5 to 4.5 miles. The map entitled *Green-Duwamish River: Connecting people with a diverse environment* locates River Mile 0 near the southern end of the West Waterway adjacent to Harbor Island and locates River Mile 11 at the north end of Fort Dent Park. The figures provided by Bortleson, *et. al.*, appear to agree with those provided by Phelps and *Diary*; see “Summary of Environmental Changes and Some

When completed, the Duwamish Waterway stretched from Harbor Island to a turning basin at about 103rd Street a short distance upriver from South Park. From that point to Black River Junction, the river was left in its original channel.

In 1917, additional improvements were planned but could not be implemented until 1920, when the waterway channel was made deeper in an effort to maintain at least thirty feet of depth at mean low tide.³⁴⁵

Effect on South Park

South Park was greatly affected by the construction and dredging of the Duwamish Waterway. Most of the oxbow lake along the eastern edge of the neighborhood was filled, and the parts that were not filled (the ends of the crescent shaped lake) became part of the new waterway channel.

A number of people in South Park were relieved to have the lowlands at the north end of the neighborhood “built up to 2 feet above sea level, City Datum.”³⁴⁶ Most of the fill required to accomplish this was placed in 1916, though the areas either side of present-day State Route 509 west of 2nd Avenue South were not filled until 1918.³⁴⁷

The developing road and river transportation system gave some local property owners hope that R. H. Thomson’s vision for industrialization of the Duwamish Valley would be realized.³⁴⁸ Factories began to grow up almost at once on the Oxbow fill.³⁴⁹

Immediately after the filling the city condemned for street purposes the rights of way of both East and West Marginal Ways.³⁵⁰ The building of the East and West Marginal Way would eventually make South Park more accessible.³⁵¹ However, within South Park, the first traces of West Marginal Way did not appear until about 1940.³⁵²

The areas between the waterway and these two new streets were to be reserved for the

Planning Considerations” in Bortleson, *et. al.*, where the authors state that “Channel straightening has been substantial. About 15 km [i.e., about 9.3 miles] of the former river channel has been filled and replaced by a channel 7 km [i.e., about 4.4 miles] in length to create the Waterway.” Measurements of the river’s length made by applying a scale to maps available to the author yield slightly varying results.

³⁴⁵ *Duwamish Diary*, p. 72.

³⁴⁶ Phelps, p. 62.

³⁴⁷ Harper-Owes. See “FIGURE 4.”

³⁴⁸ Phelps, p. 62.

³⁴⁹ *The Duwamish Diary*, p. 88. *Diary* cites “Adding Twelve More Miles to Seattle’s Waterfront,” *Seattle Daily Times*, April 19, 1914.

³⁵⁰ Phelps, p. 62

³⁵¹ *Duwamish Diary*, p. 88.

³⁵² See Kroll Atlas, 1939 and 1950.

railroads.³⁵³ Trackage eventually appeared along East Marginal Way, and spurs were extended from this line into the industrial sites along the right (north or east) bank of the waterway; however, South Park appears to have remained undisturbed by rail lines other than the street railway.

As a result of the project, marshes and swamps disappeared, and creeks were diverted, piped through conduit, or filled over.³⁵⁴

Salmon returning to Lake Washington now had to pass through the Chittenden locks,³⁵⁵ and salmon returning to the Duwamish found that industry and housing development had changed the smell of the river.³⁵⁶

Channel straightening, bulkheads, and dikes reduced the frequency of flooding from upriver; however, the lower reaches of the waterway remained susceptible to occasional coastal flooding.³⁵⁷ Dredging to form the Duwamish Waterway created a channel deeper than the former natural channel and lengthened the landward incursion of salt water.³⁵⁸

New Bridges Over the Waterway

The bridges at Michigan Street and Myrtle Street were no longer needed after the river meanders they were built to cross were filled.

Oxbow Bridge (1911) becomes First Avenue South Bridge (1916)

One of the first three permanent steel bridges to be constructed in Seattle was put over the Duwamish River at First Avenue South just north of South Michigan Street.³⁵⁹ It was a low level swing span. The Federal permit was secured from the War Department in 1909 but it was 1911 before the bridge, known as the “Oxbow Crossing,” or Oxbow Bridge, was completed. King County and a real estate company shared the cost of the structure with the City.³⁶⁰

³⁵³ Phelps, p. 62

³⁵⁴ Sato, p. 37.

³⁵⁵ Sato, p. 37.

³⁵⁶ Sato, p. 38.

³⁵⁷ “Summary of Environmental Changes and Some Planning Considerations” in Bortleson, *et. al.*

³⁵⁸ Bortleson, *et. al.*

³⁵⁹ Phelps, p. 36. A Baist Map published in 1912 shows the bridge crossing the original channel of the Duwamish north of Michigan Street. To the south of Michigan Street in 1912, First Avenue South shifted to the west for a short distance to pass through the base of the oxbow without intersecting the river, then shifted back to continue its original north-south line. According to Phelps, the other two first permanent steel bridges were those at “Twelfth Avenue over Dearborn Street” and at “Yesler over Fifth Avenue South.”

³⁶⁰ Phelps, p. 49.

Construction of the Duwamish Waterway “short-circuited” the river’s oxbow bend, making the bridge unnecessary at its original location. However, the new waterway had opened a gap in First Avenue to the south of its intersection with South Michigan Street, so the bridge was shifted in 1916 to cross the new channel.³⁶¹

The washing of the current against the pilings and the onslaught of the teredos, even in the partly fresh water, were sources of constant trouble; however, intermittent repairs and installation of machinery in 1929 kept the bridge in operating condition.³⁶² It was replaced by a new First Avenue South Bridge in the mid 1950s.

A New Bridge at Eighth Avenue South (1915 to 1937)

A new drawbridge was built over the Duwamish Waterway in 1914-15 at Eight Avenue South. It appears to have replaced the street railroad bridge that had crossed the river at this point before construction of the Waterway. Alterations to the Duwamish channel required rebuilding of the piers in 1923 and the ravages of the sea worms made repairs necessary in 1925.³⁶³

The bridge initially crossed the waterway at an angle, following the north-south line of Eighth Avenue South. However, it appears the structure was adjusted to make a perpendicular crossing at some point between 1924 and 1930, resulting in tight sinuous approaches at the ends of the bridge where the it had to connect with 8th Avenue South to the north and south of the waterway channel.³⁶⁴

The proximity of the bridges at First Avenue South and Eight Avenue South gave rise to a couple of amusing stories:

A newspaper clipping of 1953 indicated that the bridge tender of both the First Avenue South and Eighth Avenue South bridges lived near the First Avenue South Bridge. He would close the First Avenue South Bridge after letting a ship through and then ride his bicycle along its path to the Eighth Avenue South Bridge, sometimes racing the boat.

Another day a house floated down the stream towards the First Avenue South Bridge. There was nobody about and no identification. The tender didn’t stand on formalities but opened the bridge and let the unusual customer through. He never found out where it went, who owned it, or whence it came.³⁶⁵

³⁶¹ Phelps, p. 49.

³⁶² Phelps, p. 49.

³⁶³ Phelps, p. 50.

³⁶⁴ Compare the orientation of the bridge shown in the Kroll Atlas of 1924 with the orientation shown in the Kroll Atlas of 1930.

³⁶⁵ Phelps, p. 50.

The End of the Street Railway and the Closure of the Eighth Avenue South Bridge

The South Park line of Seattle's street railway system ceased to exist on December 8, 1935, although rail service to South Cloverdale Street and 14th Avenue South was provided by the South Seattle – Nickerson Street line until June 15th of the following year, when through operation to South Park was discontinued and the street railway was replaced by bus service.³⁶⁶

The Eighth Avenue South Bridge was permanently closed July 11, 1937³⁶⁷ and was no longer extant by 1939.³⁶⁸

Concord School (1914)

Despite the inconveniences caused by construction of the waterway, the South Park neighborhood continued to develop, and increases in the population made it necessary to erect another school building.³⁶⁹

In 1909, the district purchased twenty lots in Block 2 of the South Park Reserve Addition, some blocks south and west of the South Park School.³⁷⁰

In 1912 the school board voted to build a new, modern, fireproof building on the site, located at Concord Street between Seventh and Eighth Avenues South. Construction was commenced in 1913, and Concord School was completed and accepted by the School Board on Wednesday, January 21, 1914, at a total cost of \$83,937.50.³⁷¹

Concord is one of three similar school buildings – the others are McGilvra (originally called Lake) and McDonald -- designed by school architect Edgar Blair during a period of moderate growth within the system. An increasing consciousness of school building safety prompted the construction of brick 'fireproof' buildings, of which these were among the first. According to Blair, the three structures represented “. . . the latest ideas in school construction, being erected of steel, concrete and brick with the exceptions of the roofs, which are of heavy mill construction covered with asbestos shingles. The aim is to make these structures substantial and safe from fire.”³⁷²

The designs of the three buildings were based on a nine-room model school plan developed by Blair's predecessor, James Stephen, and first utilized by Seattle Schools in 1909. The scheme featured a “centered entry hall leading to a wide corridor on a perpendicular axis. The basement contained playrooms, toilets, and mechanical

³⁶⁶ Blanchard, p. 135.

³⁶⁷ Phelps, pp. 34, 50.

³⁶⁸ The bridge does not appear in the Kroll Atlas of 1939.

³⁶⁹ *The Duwamish Diary*, p. 87.

³⁷⁰ Erigero, p. 46.

³⁷¹ “Concord School,” *Histories of the Seattle Public Schools*.

³⁷² Erigero, p. 46.

equipment. The first floor featured narrow offices on either side of the entry hall, each flanked by a classroom; the opposite side of the corridor had two classrooms flanked by bathrooms, with stairwells in each corner. The second floor repeated the first floor plan, with the ninth classroom located above the first floor entry hall and offices.”³⁷³

In January of 1914, when the building was ready for occupancy, all the children who were to attend marched with their teachers from the old South Park School to the new Concord School. The grounds of the new building were not landscaped, and when the flag raising ceremony was held, all in attendance found themselves standing in a thick layer of mud.³⁷⁴ The first principal was Mr. F. C. Jackson, who was supported by eight teachers, all unmarried women.³⁷⁵ There were 240 children.³⁷⁶

In 1928, the district purchased several additional lots adjacent to the Concord School site in order to expand the playfield. Another eleven lots were acquired in 1945.³⁷⁷

The old South Park School continued in operation until 1932 when the School Board recommended that the building be eliminated because it was old and in need of repair. It was thought that it would be more economical to send the pupils to Concord School.³⁷⁸ The South Park School was closed later that year.³⁷⁹

Truck Farmers and the Pike Place Market (1925)

The world famous Pike Place Market has its roots in the South Park community. It was the South Park farmers who took their produce down the Duwamish for sale to Seattleites at the Market. Joe Desimone, a South Park area truck farmer, was one of the individuals who made his living this way. In 1925, he and Arthur Goodwin bought out the old market company and formed the Pike Place Public Markets, Incorporated.³⁸⁰

Library Service Between the Wars

A bookmobile began serving West Seattle and some of the Boeing Airplane Company facilities located near South Park in 1931, but within a short time the onset of the Great Depression caused this service, and the South Park deposit stations, to be suspended. Bookmobiles reappeared in the late 1940s “and South Park enjoyed weekly visits by vans

³⁷³ Erigero, pp. 18-19.

³⁷⁴ *The Duwamish Diary*, p. 87; and Erigero, p. 46.

³⁷⁵ Erigero, p. 46.

³⁷⁶ *The Duwamish Diary*, p. 88.

³⁷⁷ Erigero, p. 46.

³⁷⁸ *The Duwamish Diary*, p. 86.

³⁷⁹ See “Chronological List of Seattle Public School Buildings” in *Histories of the Seattle Public Schools*.

³⁸⁰ *The Duwamish Diary*, p. 80, citing THE PUBLIC MARKET, a pamphlet.

nicknamed Molly and Benny and Ramona.” South Park’s library services continued to be provided on wheels until the 21st century.³⁸¹

South Park Bridge (1931)

In 1931, a new movable bridge was built over the Duwamish at 14th Avenue South. This bascule type bridge is unique, representing a distinct engineering contribution to the development of bridge technology in Washington. Erected at a cost of \$1.1 million, the 14th Avenue South Bridge (or South Park Bridge) is Washington’s only Scherzer rolling-lift structure. The span features two 95-foot draw leaves that rotate while rolling on horizontal tracks, providing greater navigation clearance than a fixed trunnion bascule. The structure was designed by the Scherzer Rolling Lift Bridge Company of Chicago.³⁸²

The bridge was dedicated March 21, 1931.³⁸³

The approach road at the north end of the bridge connects the structure to 16th Avenue South rather than 14th Avenue South, and runs along the western elevation of Boeing Plant Number Two.³⁸⁴ The approach road at the south end of the bridge takes southbound traffic directly into South Park’s commercial district.

“The bridge helped relieve traffic congestion, allowing easier passage for some 600 cars a day.³⁸⁵

Although it is not located within the boundaries of the City of Seattle, the 14th Avenue South Bridge connects two Seattle neighborhoods, Georgetown and South Park.³⁸⁶ As a key part of the Seattle-Des Moines-Tacoma highway, the bridge also connects Seattle to large residential areas south of the city.³⁸⁷ The highway also maintains South Park’s connection with Military Road South.

³⁸¹ Wilma, David, “South Park Branch of The Seattle Public Library opens on September 9, 2006.”

³⁸² Craig Holstine and Richard Hobbs, *Spanning Washington: Historic Highway Bridges of the Evergreen State* (Pullman WA: Washington State University Press, 2005), pp. 155-156). These authors cite W. D. Barkhuff, “City of Seattle’s Bridge Program,” *Pacific Municipalities*, March 1929, 107; W. C. Morse, City Engineer, letter to *Western Construction News*, April 26, 1928, copy in “Spokane Street/Duwamish” OAHF file; Phelps, *Public Works*, 41-42; Thomas D. Hunt, “Fourteenth Avenue South Bridge, Seattle,” *Western Construction News*, June 10, 1931, 287. Also cited is Kevin A. Palmer and Christine Savage Palmer, “14th Avenue Bridge South,” King County Landmark Registration Form, 1996.

³⁸³ *The Duwamish Diary*, p. 88.

³⁸⁴ *The Duwamish Diary*, p. 88.

³⁸⁵ Holstine and Hobbs, pp. 155-156.

³⁸⁶ *The Duwamish Diary*, p. 88.

³⁸⁷ Holstine and Hobbs, pp. 155-156.

When the bridge was dedicated, a speaker made several observations concerning the history of the South Park community:

Thirty years ago South Park was confined to a small area, very sparsely settled. The streets were wagon trails that often wound around huge blackberry bushes and stumps. When the first street cars came the terminus was Eighth and Kenyon. A trestle beginning at Kenyon Street extended across the River to Myrtle Street. Later the cars were run to Eighth and Cloverdale, and finally to their present terminus. The opening of the fieldhouse and playground, the straightening of the river, and the building of Concord School were other steps in the development of South Park.

With the pavement and sewers came a definite turning point for the beautification of South Park. It will be a long time before the tall trees of Kenyon Street or the spreading of maples on Eight Avenue will be forgotten, but the parking strips that take their place will soon be valuable assets to the beauty of the district.³⁸⁸

Presently (in 2009), the northeastern half of the Fourteenth Avenue South Bridge is in Tukwila, the southwestern half is in unincorporated King County. An annexation under consideration would bring the southwestern half of the bridge into the City of Seattle.

Although it is not a designated Seattle landmark, the structure is listed on the National Register of Historic Places in Washington State.³⁸⁹

Declining Health of the River

In the 19th and early 20th centuries, the Green River salmon and steelhead runs were among the best in the Puget Sound region. However, these fisheries were declining dramatically by the late 1930s due to unrestricted commercial harvesting and increasing sewage and industrial waste.³⁹⁰

Up until the 1920s, cities and towns dumped their raw sewage into Lake Washington and the Duwamish and Green Rivers.³⁹¹ In 1922 the State Department of Health ordered that no more untreated sewage could be discharged into Lake Washington or into the Duwamish River.³⁹² After that, cities treated the sewage, and then dumped it.³⁹³

³⁸⁸ *The Duwamish Diary*, pp. 88-89. *Diary* cites “The New Bridge: Official Dedication,” pamphlet, March 21, 1931.

³⁸⁹ Holstine and Hobbs, p 243.

³⁹⁰ Sato, p. 71.

³⁹¹ Sato, p. 63.

³⁹² Phelps, p. 192.

³⁹³ Sato, p. 63.

The worsening water quality was also associated with changing land use patterns.³⁹⁴

The Second World War and South Park

With World War II came a number of changes along the banks of the Duwamish. Suddenly, across the river in Georgetown, more people were employed than in any other part of the state; people had come from all over the country to work in the defense industries located there.³⁹⁵ These industries included the Boeing Airplane Company and local shipyards.

South Park Courts (1945)

The sudden influx of workers during the war created an acute housing shortage in the Seattle area and led to new development in South Park. The King County Housing Authority arranged for the construction of the South Park Courts, which opened in August 1945.³⁹⁶ The complex was located just outside the city limits on a parcel bounded on the north by South Director Street (which coincides with Seattle's southern boundary), on the west by 14th Avenue South, and on the south by South Barton Street (now South 93rd Street).

The Courts consisted of 256 separate units. Each unit contained a living room, bedroom, bath and kitchen. The complex also included a central community building for the use of the tenants. This building had facilities designed for recreation, including a gymnasium. There was also a large central playground for children. Rent, which includes light, heat, water, and garbage disposal, was thirty-nine dollars a month. The complex housed approximately 780 people.³⁹⁷

The structures comprising the courts may have been among the earliest Seattle area buildings to be clad with aluminum siding.³⁹⁸

This project was designed as a temporary wartime facility and was supposed to be torn down six months after the President declared the end of the war.³⁹⁹ However, it appears the complex survived into the late 1960s.⁴⁰⁰ The Courts were no longer extant by 1977 or

³⁹⁴ "Summary of Environmental Changes and Some Planning Considerations" in Bortleson, *et. al.*

³⁹⁵ *The Duwamish Diary*, p. 72.

³⁹⁶ *The Duwamish Diary*, p. 89.

³⁹⁷ *The Duwamish Diary*, p. 89.

³⁹⁸ *The Duwamish Diary*, p. 89.

³⁹⁹ *The Duwamish Diary*, p. 89.

⁴⁰⁰ See Kroll Atlas, 1966.

1978,⁴⁰¹ and the property was replatted as the Sea King Industrial Park Condominium in 1984.⁴⁰²

Post War Highways

Although the extension of West Marginal Way through South Park was anticipated by the designers of the Duwamish Waterway, the road itself was yet to materialize in 1939.⁴⁰³ A small portion of its diagonal route through the neighborhood had been cleared and improved by 1946, however,⁴⁰⁴ and West Marginal Way was fully developed as a surface street by 1950.⁴⁰⁵

State Route 509, a limited access highway following the line of 1st Avenue South along the western edge of South Park,, was in place by 1960.⁴⁰⁶ By 1966, West Marginal Way had also become a limited access highway;⁴⁰⁷ it now serves State Route 99 and State Route 599.

First Avenue South Bridge (1956)

By the early 1950s, industrial development in the Duwamish Valley and increasing travel between Seattle and the many communities situated to the south made it necessary to build a modern bridge where First Avenue South crosses the Waterway, and in 1953, work began on a new concept in bascule bridge design for use at this location.⁴⁰⁸

When the First Avenue South Bridge was completed, it made engineering design history. The bridge employs floating piers to support the double-leaf, trunnion bascule.⁴⁰⁹ Ports in the lower level of each pier flood during a rising tide. As the tide flows out, the impounded water drains away to maintain the 85% buoyancy upon which the design is based.⁴¹⁰ The flooding of the counterweight pits balances the tendency of rising waters to

⁴⁰¹ Zahler, Marti and Thomsen report (p. 75) that the South Park Courts were demolished in 1978; however, the complex has been replaced by the Sea King Industrial Park Condominium in the 1977 Kroll Atlas.

⁴⁰² King County Recorder's Office, Page 50, Volume 69 of Plats

⁴⁰³ Kroll Atlas, 1939.

⁴⁰⁴ See aerial photograph credited to the Army Corps of Engineers in Zahler, Marti and Thomsen, p. 113.

⁴⁰⁵ Kroll Atlas, 1950.

⁴⁰⁶ See Kroll Atlas, 1960. *The Duwamish Diary* (p. 89) reported that in 1949, when *Diary* was published, a new highway was being built from West Marginal Way by Boeing Plant Number One to Tacoma Highway 99 on the south side of the Duwamish. However, *Diary* does not identify the highway.

⁴⁰⁷ See Kroll Atlas, 1966.

⁴⁰⁸ Phelps, p. 49.

⁴⁰⁹ Holstine and Hobbs, p. 156.

⁴¹⁰ Phelps, p. 49.

lift the piers. The design prevents the structure from sinking into the river's unstable mud.⁴¹¹

The piers were constructed in dry dock, and then towed by tugboat to the bridge site.⁴¹² The cellular reinforced concrete piers are connected at the bottom of the channel by two reinforced concrete struts.⁴¹³

The design of these floating piers is credited to Bruce V. Christy, Project Engineer, and the Seattle Engineering Department. It is believed that the principle had not been adapted in the same fashion for any other structure prior to its use for the First Avenue South Bridge.⁴¹⁴ In 2005, this was still the only "floating pier" bridge in the world.⁴¹⁵

The bridge provides a channel width of 150 feet, with a vertical clearance of 40 feet for shipping.⁴¹⁶ It is 23 feet higher than the 1911 bridge it replaced and, for this reason, does not need to be opened as often.⁴¹⁷ The four-lane bridge cost \$6.5 million.⁴¹⁸ It was opened on September 22, 1956, and has become part of the State Highway system.⁴¹⁹

The 1956 structure was the longest bascule span in Washington until surpassed in 1996 by a 294-foot bridge built directly adjacent to it. The two noteworthy structures rank among the longest bascule spans in North America.⁴²⁰

The First Avenue South Bridge carries traffic south to Burien and Seatac via State Route 509, and to Seatac and Tukwila via State Route 99 and State Route 599. Although the bridge marks the northernmost point of the South Park neighborhood, South Park itself is served only indirectly by the bridge and the associated limited access highways.

Hamm Creek

Since at least the mid nineteenth century, Hamm Creek has flowed past South Park on its way from White Center to the Duwamish. It was named for Dietrich Hamm, one of the first commissioners of the waterway district.⁴²¹

Today the two remaining forks of Hamm Creek flow into the Duwamish just south of Seattle's city limits and the South Park neighborhood. The north fork of the creek skirts

⁴¹¹ Holstine and Hobbs, p. 156.

⁴¹² Holstine and Hobbs, p. 156.

⁴¹³ Phelps, p. 49.

⁴¹⁴ Phelps, p. 49.

⁴¹⁵ Holstine and Hobbs, p. 156.

⁴¹⁶ Holstine and Hobbs, p. 156.

⁴¹⁷ Phelps, p. 51.

⁴¹⁸ Holstine and Hobbs, p. 156.

⁴¹⁹ Phelps, p. 49.

⁴²⁰ Holstine and Hobbs, p. 156.

⁴²¹ Sato, p. 38.

past the southern boundary of South Park in underground pipes and enters the Duwamish Waterway at South 93rd Street. The south fork enters the Duwamish at the Hamm Creek Estuary, a restoration site along the west bank of the Duwamish east of West Marginal Way and south of South 96th Street.⁴²²

Creek restoration has been a project of John Beal, a Viet Nam veteran whose efforts have steadily attracted others to his cause. Salmon still brave the Duwamish in order to get to their spawning grounds, which include Hamm Creek,⁴²³ and restoration creek has been possible even though it flows through one of the most polluted parts of the Duwamish/Green River valley.⁴²⁴

Last Steps to Control Flooding on the Green and Duwamish Rivers (1948 – 1962)

Despite all the work completed between 1895 and 1920, flooding in the Green river system remained a problem through the middle of the twentieth century.

Giving the White River to Tacoma, sending Lake Washington and the Cedar River out through the Chittenden locks in 1916, and starting the rechanneling of the Duwamish River in 1912, wasn't enough to tame the river. Almost every two years, the Green River, now reduced to draining only a 474-square-mile watershed, flooded the farm land and residences from Auburn and Kent to Orillia, Allentown and South Park.⁴²⁵

The floods of 1917, 1933 and 1946 were particularly severe. 11,600 acres flooded in 1933, at a cost of \$1.75 million, and 12,000 acres flooded in 1946 at a cost of \$1.3 million.⁴²⁶ The annual floods interfered with transportation, and by 1948, industrial development in the Duwamish Valley began to fall off.⁴²⁷ The most viable solutions proposed were a reservoir and rechannelization.⁴²⁸

Construction of flood control dams had been discussed as early as 1928, but no further steps were taken at the time.⁴²⁹ However, in 1948, the Green River Flood Control Committee appeared before the U. S. Army Board of Engineers in Washington, D. C., to present their case for further flood control efforts. Their proposal subsequently received the Board's approval, and construction of a flood control dam on the Green River was authorized by the Army Corps of Engineers later that year.⁴³⁰

⁴²² *The Green-Duwamish River: Connecting people with a diverse environment* (map)(Seattle: Duwamish River Cleanup Coalition/TAG, c. 2008)

⁴²³ Sato, p. 39.

⁴²⁴ Sato, p. 40.

⁴²⁵ Sato, p. 31.

⁴²⁶ Sato, p. 31.

⁴²⁷ Phelps, p. 60.

⁴²⁸ Sato, pp. 31 - 32.

⁴²⁹ Sato, p. 86.

⁴³⁰ Phelps, pp. 60-61.

Another severe flood occurred February 1951.⁴³¹

Work on the new dam was begun in 1958.⁴³² In November 1959, as the work proceeded, another flood occurred. However, this was the last Green River flood.⁴³³ The new facility, which cost \$37 million, began operations on Christmas 1961. After that date, the first seven miles of the Green River above the dam, and four miles of the river's North Fork, would become lakes at when the river threatened to flood.⁴³⁴

Even after the completion of the Howard Hanson Dam, the "river continued to erode its banks in its lower reaches and the City found it more and more difficult to keep its bridge piers from being undermined. Land that should have been returning a profit was inundated periodically."⁴³⁵

While the Howard Hanson Dam restrained flow in the Green River during flood season, all the small streams below the dam continued to run "bank full" and when this increased flow reached the channel of the Duwamish, and the former channel of the Black, there wasn't enough room between the banks to carry all the water, and so the associated lowlands were still periodically inundated. The governments of King and Pierce counties have attempted to address these problems by using the inter-county fund for flood control enable by the Legislature in 1913.⁴³⁶

Industrialization and Farming

In 1954, a "need" for 4,000 acres of industrial land was identified by local governments; 1,500 of these acres were located along the Duwamish River, and another 2,500 acres were situated along the Green River north of 180th Street (near Orillia). By 1957, the King County Planning Commission had determined that 180th would be the southern limit of industrial expansion.⁴³⁷

Dredging and rechanneling of the Duwamish helped make Elliott Bay one of the busiest ports in the world; however, it was also making the valleys of the Green and Duwamish rivers too expensive to farm.⁴³⁸

The flood control program facilitated this industrial development but has also led to the rapid disappearance of truck farming in the Green River Valley, to be replaced by

⁴³¹ Phelps, p. 61.

⁴³² Sato, p. 86.

⁴³³ Phelps, pp. 60-61.

⁴³⁴ Sato, p. 86.

⁴³⁵ Phelps, p. 61.

⁴³⁶ Phelps, p. 60.

⁴³⁷ Sato, p. 45.

⁴³⁸ Sato, pp 14 – 15.

industrial plants, shopping centers, and residential subdivisions.⁴³⁹

In 1979, after two unsuccessful tries, King County voters approved a \$50 million farmland preservation bond measure for the purpose of purchasing the development rights for 1,000 acres in the lower valley, and 900 acres in the upper valley. By 1980, only 6,755 acres of farmland were left and some of those acres were slated for development. Farmland preservation was viewed as a “Seattle thing.”⁴⁴⁰

⁴³⁹ Phelps, p. 61.

⁴⁴⁰ Sato, pp. 47-48.

Modern South Park

The Long Road of South Park Planning

In 1972, the South Park neighborhood embarked upon a long and difficult neighborhood planning process. Over a twelve-year period, several competing neighborhood plans were produced as South Park residential, commercial and industrial interests struggled to develop a vision for neighborhood development that could be shared by all.

On December 17, 1984, the Seattle City Council was finally able to adopt *The South Park Neighborhood Plan* developed by the South Park Negotiation Committee (made up of representatives of the South Park Area Redevelopment Committee (SPARC), the South Park Community Club, the Greater South Park Association (GSPA), and the Seattle-King County Municipal League). The plan was reviewed and endorsed by several city department heads and recommended by Mayor Charles Royer.⁴⁴¹

Pollution Control and Clean-up

By 1980, pollution-control measures were put into effect along the Duwamish Waterway. Industrial activities, including shipping were determined to present the greatest potential for water-quality degradation in the delta area.⁴⁴²

The U. S. Environmental Protection Agency listed the lower Duwamish as a superfund site on September 13, 2001.⁴⁴³

The Concord School Since 1970

In 1970, a pavilion housing a gymnasium/multi purpose room, designed by the Seattle architectural firm of Shavey & Schmidt, was built at the east end of the original school.⁴⁴⁴

The Concord School was designated a Seattle Landmark in 1998.

The school was closed in 1999 and remodeled. Portions of the existing facility were demolished, the original brick structure was renovated, and an addition containing a gym/multipurpose room and several classrooms, designed by the Tsang Partnership, was appended.⁴⁴⁵ The school was reopened in 2000.⁴⁴⁶ A high percentage of the students at Concord are Hispanic.⁴⁴⁷

⁴⁴¹ *The South Park Neighborhood Plan*, Seattle: Seattle City Council, 1984 (adopted by City Council Resolution 27188).

⁴⁴² "Summary of Environmental Changes and Some Planning Considerations" in Bortleson, *et. al.*

⁴⁴³ Zahler, Marti and Thomsen, p. 67.

⁴⁴⁴ Erigero, p. 46.

⁴⁴⁵ Thompson and Marr, p. 65.

The Brothers School Site

Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church

Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church continued in the remodeled chapel at the old Brothers School site until the 1970s. The building was torn down in 1983 and the property sold to Sea Mar in the 1990s.⁴⁴⁸ The parish has moved south to a newer building at 10240 12th Avenue South.

Sea Mar Community Care Center

The Sea Mar Community Care Center, a “100-bed Intergenerational residence home with designated Alzheimer’s Living Center” at 1040 South Henderson Street, and a condominium development now occupy the former site of the Brothers School.

Recent Changes and Additions to South Park Institutions

South Park Community Center

In 1989, the old South Park Field House was torn down and replaced by the South Park Community Center. The replacement structure stands along the northern edge of the South Park Playground (located at the northwest corner of South Sullivan Street and 8th Avenue South).⁴⁴⁹

Fire Station #26

A new fire station was completed at the southeast corner of 8th Avenue South and South Cloverdale Street in 1972.⁴⁵⁰ Once the new station was occupied, the old station became available for other uses.

South Park Neighborhood Center

The old brick fire station at 8201 10th Avenue South became the South Park Neighborhood Center in 1976 after being used for a few years by the *South Park News* and the South Park Area Redevelopment Committee.⁴⁵¹ Ground was broken for an addition to the south of old firehouse in 1983.⁴⁵²

⁴⁴⁶ Wilma, “Seattle Landmarks: Concord Elementary School (1914), South Park.”

⁴⁴⁷ Thompson and Marr, p. 65.

⁴⁴⁸ Zahler, Marti and Thomsen, p. 18. Note, however, that on p. 19, this source indicates the church was not torn down until 1992.

⁴⁴⁹ Zahler, Marti and Thomsen, p. 105.

⁴⁵⁰ Zahler, Marti and Thomsen, p. 58.

⁴⁵¹ Zahler, Marti and Thomsen, p. 58.

⁴⁵² Zahler, Marti and Thomsen, p. 60.

Parks

The Duwamish Waterway Park appeared at 10th Avenue South and South Kenyon Street in 1978. Cesar Chavez Park, at Seventh Avenue South and South Cloverdale Street was dedicated in 2008.⁴⁵³

South Park Library

In 1998, there were 22 branch libraries in Seattle, but South Park's library services were still provided by librarians on wheels. That year, Seattle voters approved the Libraries for All levy which provided \$196.4 million to build a new central library, to remodel all 22 of the existing branches, and to provide five new branches. South Park was not on the original list of neighborhoods to receive a new library, but a Citizens Review Panel set aside \$2.5 million to build one of the new branches there. Seattle Public Library Trustee Linda Larsen served as the project's special steward.⁴⁵⁴

The new South Park Branch opened on September 9, 2006. First day visitors heard from a mariachi band and signed up for more than 100 new library cards in the first hour.⁴⁵⁵

The modern 5,000 square foot structure was designed by Johnston Architects (of Seattle) and was built by Cope Construction for \$2.94 million. The building holds 19,000 books, about one third of which are in Spanish to serve the predominantly Hispanic population of the area. It is located at 8604 8th Avenue South (at the southeast corner of 8th Avenue South and South Cloverdale Street).⁴⁵⁶

⁴⁵³ Zahler, Marti and Thomsen, p. 105.

⁴⁵⁴ Wilma, "South Park Branch of The Seattle Public Library opens on September 9, 2006."

⁴⁵⁵ Wilma, "South Park Branch of The Seattle Public Library opens on September 9, 2006."

⁴⁵⁶ Wilma, "South Park Branch of The Seattle Public Library opens on September 9, 2006."

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Appendix A: Census Data

South Park: King County Census Tract 112

In 1940, South Park and Georgetown were grouped together in Census Tract R-1. The tract was divided along the line of the Duwamish Waterway for the 1950 Census, and the South Park tract was named Tract R-1B. In 1960, Tract R-1B became Tract 112.

	1950	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000
White	3042	3311	2854	2258	1874	1626
Black	22	16	43	58	238	312
American Indian / Eskimo /Aleut	--	--	--	66	96	74
Asian Alone	--	--	--	--	--	524
Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	--	--	--	--	--	51
Pacific Islander / Asian	--	--	--	90	365	--
Other	44	75	84	82	236	916
Two or more races	--	--	--	--	--	214
Total	3108	3402	2981	2554	2809	3717
Housing Units	1054	1267	1305	1265	1230	1304

(--) Indicates data not reported

Bold Italic Indicates number calculated from reported figures.

Appendix B: Landmarks in South Park

Concord Elementary School

723 South Concord Street
(Ordinance 120918, 09-16-02)

Querio House

9326 7th Avenue South (since moved)