



Gym - 64' x 32'
1930

9.87 Acres (Incl. 2.3 Ac. shorel.)

Purch. 1972: by City \$430,000 = Model Cities
Deed accepted "...for park, rec. + open space purp."
Ord. auth. purch. + jurisd. in 1973

6612 - 57th Ave. S.

MARTHA WASHINGTON SCHOOL SITE

062973

M. WASHINGTON SCHOOL SITE - History

Seattle Times & P.I. The pioneer claim for the land in this area was E. A. Clark, who became the third teacher in the town of Seattle. He later changed to photography. In 1852 he sold out to David Graham, who after 10 years traded acreage with his brother Walter. Walter had come to Seattle by way of the California gold fields to work in Yesler's sawmill and to achieve fame as an athlete and participant in the "Battle of Seattle". He married one of the "first voyage" Mercer Girls. Graham planted a large orchard in this "uplands" area but excluded "Graham's Peninsula" (Seward Park) because of the presence of poison oak. (Graham Street honors Walter's memory.) Asa Mercer bought this (park site) portion from Graham, but was forced to relinquish it the next year as payment for a loan made to him when he went bankrupt in San Francisco with his second "cargo of maidens". The loan was made by a passenger, John Wilson, a farmer from Massachusetts. So in 1866, Wilson built a home near the center of the (park) site and dug a well near a large willow tree (30" diameter in 1919).

A Yale Law School graduate, Everett T. Smith, just arrived in Seattle, bought the land from Wilson in 1889 and platted it in 1892. He served as a clerk with Judge Burke, went into practice for himself and then as a Superior Court Judge for 22 years. His interest in youth went beyond his service on the Juvenile Court bench, for he established, in cooperation with the YMCA, the "Huskookum Camp" (from Indian: "abundant strength") on this site (ref: 1919 survey map) making good use of the abundant orchard: apple, plum, cherry, pear and chestnut; and built a "stairway" into the 72" diameter Madrona. Judge Smith was an honored member of Plymouth Church and the School Board, a civic and business leader in Seattle and Tacoma (1862-1933).

School In 1920 the judge sold this site to the School District as a new site for Martha Washington School for Girls. The school had been founded in 1900 by Major and Mrs. Cicero Newell in the Queen Anne area, known as the Parental School for Boys and Girls. It moved in 1903 to Mercer Island, back to Seattle in 1914, and to this site in 1921. The State of Washington assumed operation from 1957 to 1971, when the property was sold to the City. The school built a classroom-dorm building in 1921 which was enlarged with a dorm addition and a separate gym building in 1930. A greenhouse, boathouse and caretaker residence were retained by the school in 1920 (demolished in 1973) but the Wilson farmhouse was demolished after 1919.

DS:d
2/7/75