



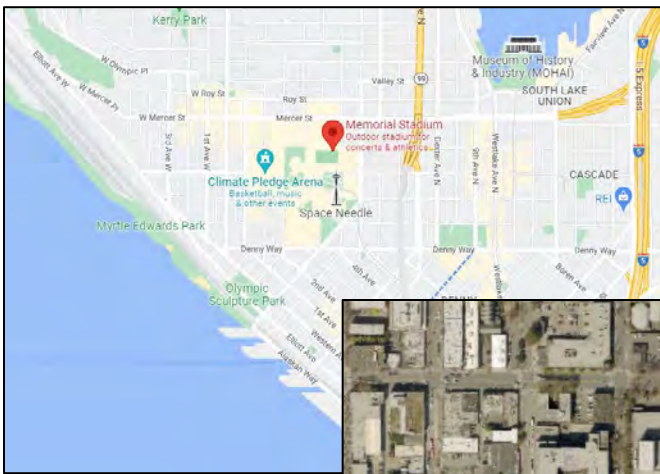
Seattle Public Schools
Memorial Stadium
Seattle Landmark Nomination

August 16, 2023 presentation to the
Seattle Landmarks Preservation Board



BOLA Architecture + Planning
Seattle

David Peterson
historic resource consulting



Current location at the Seattle Center





Historic views of the Denny Swale in 1895, the 1902 Warren School, 1928 Civic Center, Auditorium, and Civic Field



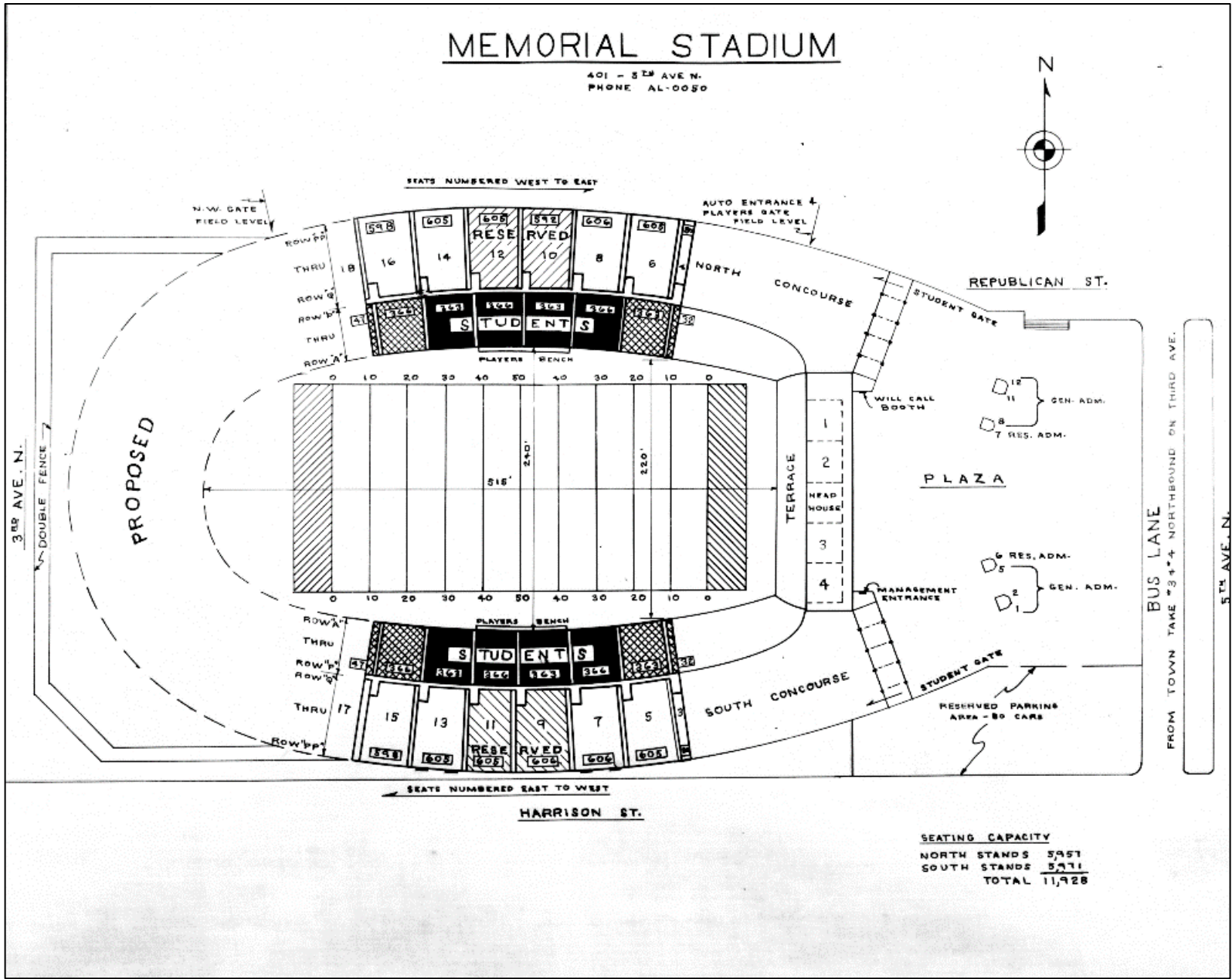
The Civic Playfield in 1928, 1936 and ca 1940



Original stadium plan, 1946

MEMORIAL STADIUM

401 - 3RD AVE. N.
PHONE AL-0050



SEATS NUMBERED WEST TO EAST

SEATS NUMBERED EAST TO WEST

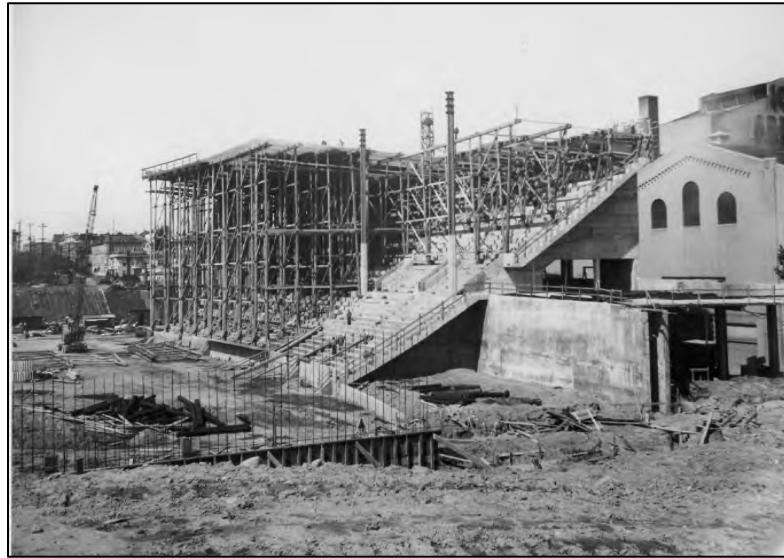
SEATING CAPACITY

NORTH STANDS	5,957
SOUTH STANDS	5,771
TOTAL	11,728

George Stoddard's original stadium design, 1946



Stadium construction: Groundbreaking in June 1946, completion in 1947

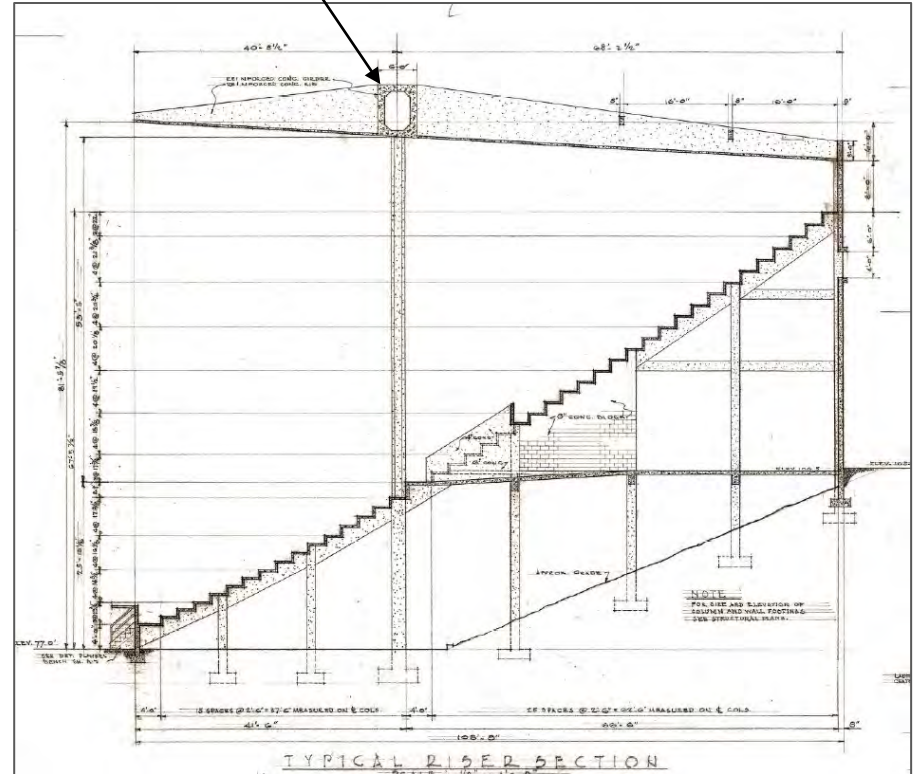


“Here’s a ground view of one of the two huge seat sections being built in Seattle’s new High School Memorial Stadium. The two sections will seat nearly 11,000 persons. If the seats were built clear around one end of the stadium, as many persons are urging, the bowl would seat more than 25,000.” - *Seattle Times*, April 6, 1947



The Grandstand Structure

6' x 8' reinforced concrete box beam



HIGH SCHOOL JAMBOREE SET FOR TOMORROW NIGHT

LOWER DIVISION QUESTION MARK IN COAST RACE

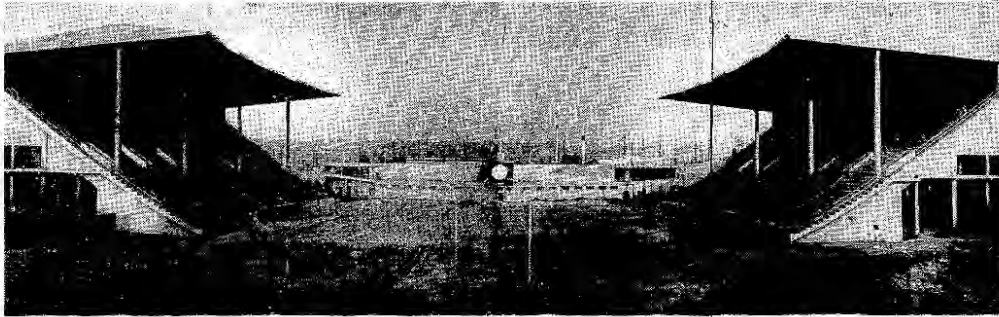
By Associated Press.

The first division in the Pacific Coast League race was decided today, but San Francisco, Los Angeles, Portland and Oakland, now in that order, may be shuffled about come Sunday and the end of the long regular season.

The Seals and Angels have clinched first and second places, but San Francisco is only one game ahead and there are five to play, so anything can still happen.

Similarly, Portland and Oakland have sewed up the third and fourth spots, but they, too, are only a game apart with five each to go. However, neither Portland nor Oakland can overtake either Los Angeles or San Francisco, a situation which slightly simplifies a

MILLION-DOLLAR STADIUM READY FOR PREP OPENER



Viewed above is the new million-dollar Memorial Stadium, which will be used for the first time for the big high-school jamboree, scheduled for 8 o'clock tomorrow evening. The new stadium will seat 12,800 fans, and school officials expect a capacity crowd for tomorrow night's show. The city has been divided into two sections, East and West, with every high school team in the city slated to see action. The game will be played in full 5-minute periods, with a kick-off beginning each quarter. Many of last year's stars and plenty of new ones will be seen in action. —Times staff photo by Larry Dion.

Eight High Schools To See Action In Memorial Stadium

By JIM DUFF

Several hundred thousand taxpayers will take a quiet little bow tomorrow night around 8 o'clock, when Seattle's new million-dollar Memorial Stadium makes a rather informal debut before those lucky enough to gain admission.

We say informal, because the actual dedication of the magnificent structure won't come off until it has been completed down to the finest detail.

But the 12,800 fans, who will crowd in tomorrow night to witness the opening of the 1947 high-school football season, with the gala jamboree, certainly can say that they were on hand to see the first action in the new stadium.

And squad members of all eight high schools will be able to tell their grandchildren about the night they played in the opening of the Memorial Stadium.

Today In Majors

NATIONAL LEAGUE

GIANTS WIN AS MIZE HITS 51ST



First TV broadcast in Seattle at Thanksgiving 1947 game

MANY football fans are clamoring for a switch for the Ballard-Bremerton game Thanksgiving Day from Memorial Stadium to the University Stadium, where 40,000 seats will be available, as compared to the 13,000 seats in Memorial Stadium. But the high school authorities say: No.

The Thanksgiving Day game was arranged as the feature for the dedication ceremonies of Memorial Stadium, and even though many thousand fans will be disappointed by not being able to attend the game because of the limited capacity of the stadium, the game will not be switched.

But the complaint of the fans brings out the necessity of enlarging the new stadium, even before it has been dedicated.

WHAT HOLDS IT?

BIRD'S-EYE VIEW
No 'sky hooks' are visible

FAN'S-EYE VIEW

SLENDER COLUMNS AT MEMORIAL STADIUM
The fan gets an erroneous impression

IMPORTANT STADIUM ROOF SUPPORT SEEN FROM AIR
No 'sky hooks' are visible

By JOHN BIGELOW

"DOUBTING Thomases," who wonder why the massive concrete roofs at the Seattle High School Memorial Stadium don't fall, should relax.

From the fan's-eye view the only support for the giant slabs overhead are four slender columns to each roof, stuck a long ways back of the edge where they normally would be found. But the roofs, each weighing about 900 tons, are in no danger of falling, even in an earthquake. There is plenty of support for them, and that doesn't mean "sky hooks." It means engineering.

The stadium ranks as a fine example of modern architecture combining beauty and utility, but the reaction of numerous spectators has been:

"It's pretty, all right, and visibility is wonderful, but what holds the roof up?"

ABOUT 40 feet back from the leading edge of each roof is a concrete box girder, eight feet high, six feet wide and running 240 feet the length of the roof.

This box girder rests on the four supporting columns which are visible to the fans. Each column is made of two wide-flange steel beams anchored about 12 feet in the ground and extending 76 feet from ground to roof.

The box girder, which is one of those engineering pieces of magic which sound like things yourself by your bootstraps, in turn supports concrete ribs which cantilever out 40 feet supporting the leading edge of the roof. These ribs, which run the 60-foot width of the roof, are stiffeners to help keep them rigid.

The stadium is attracting attention in engineering circles because the roof supports are on top, because it is almost entirely of concrete and therefore fire-proof and will require virtually no maintenance, and because of its versatility. The stadium will be used for football and many other school and civic events.

The designers thought of almost everything. They even asked football experts: "How high is a punt?"

Then they made the front edge of each roof high enough to permit a spectator sitting in the top row to see the highest punt, which they were told was likely to be about 80 feet in the air.

F. E. Hugard, associate architect in the firm of George W. Stoddard & Associates, who was one of the principal designers and supervisors of construction, said the stadium incorporates recognized engineering principles into a specific structure designed for the comfort and convenience of spectators and versatility of use.

It was on the drawing board two years ago when Seattle felt a sharp quake. It reminded the designers to add extra earthquake stress to the structure. As it stands, it will last indefinitely.



High school football at the stadium

Below, Ballard football teams in 1903, 1954 and 1958



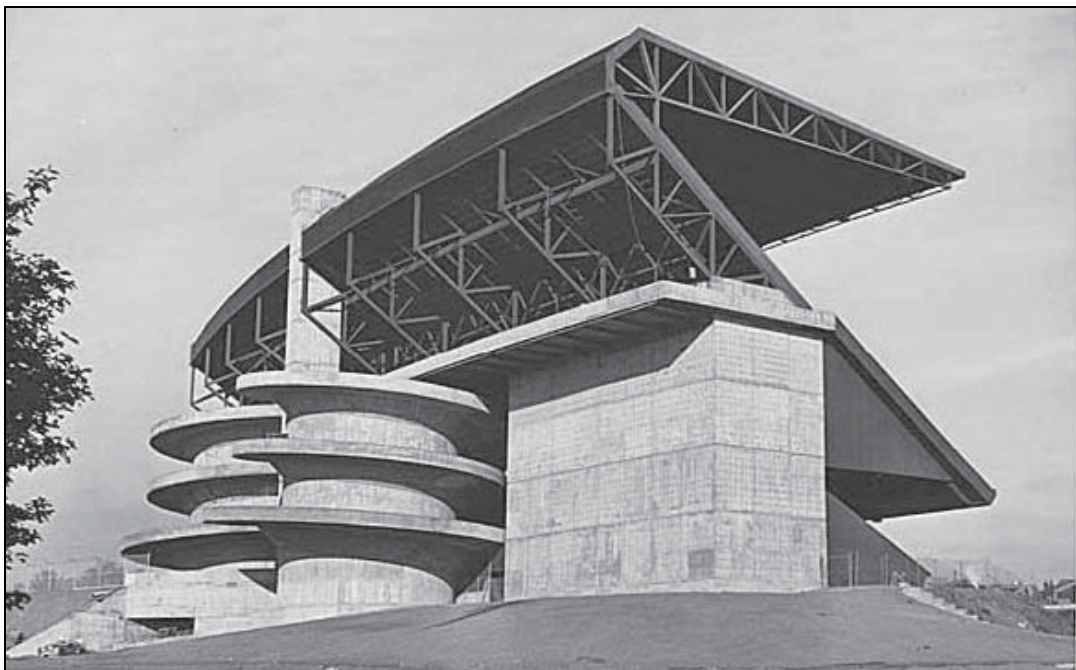


Post-war high school stadiums

- Far left, Highline Memorial Field, 1947
- Left, Bellevue HS Stadium, 1951, design by George Stoddard
- Middle left, Sumner Sunset Stadium, 1959
- Lower left and right, Renton Memorial Stadium, ca 1948
- Below, Port Townsend Memorial Athletic Field, 1948



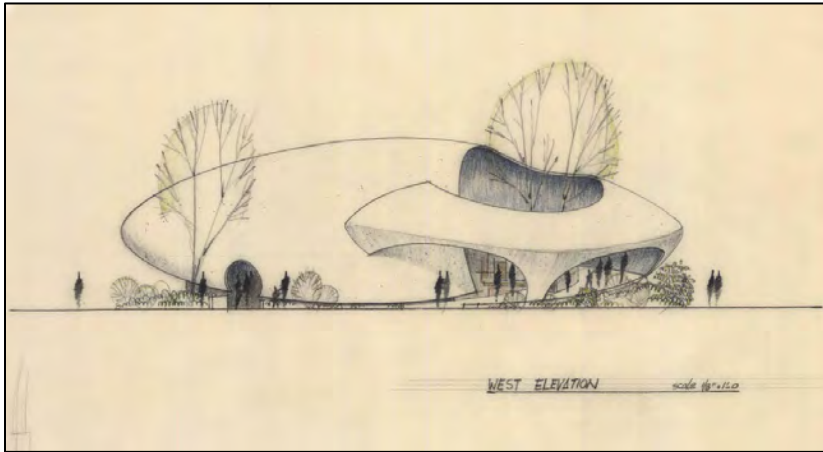
Architect George Stoddard (1896 – 1993)



Select Projects by George Stoddard

- Winthrop Hotel, Tacoma, 1925
- Metropolitan Press, 1931
- 777 Thomas Street, 1931
- Builder's Hardware, 1931
- William's Potato Chip Co., 1932
- Manufactured "Quintec" homes, 1938
- Harbor Island Fire Station, 1942
- Aloha Apartments/Stoddard Apts., 1944
- Victory Square Memorial Pylon, 1944
- Renton Hospital, 1946
- Arbor Heights Elementary (experimental school design), 1949
- UW Husky Stadium South Stands, 1950, with structural engineer Peter Hostmark
- Green Lake Aqua Theater, 1950
- Bellevue High School Stadium, 1951
- NBC, Westlake & Battery Branch Banks, 1956

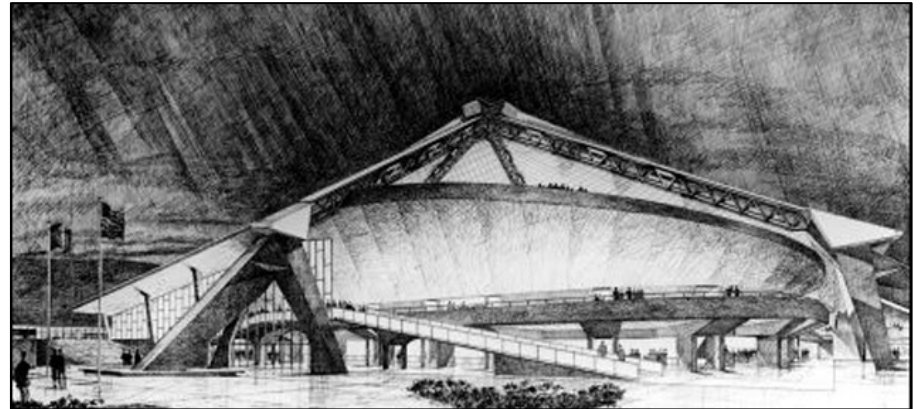
Structural Engineer
Peter H. Hostmark (1917– 1969)



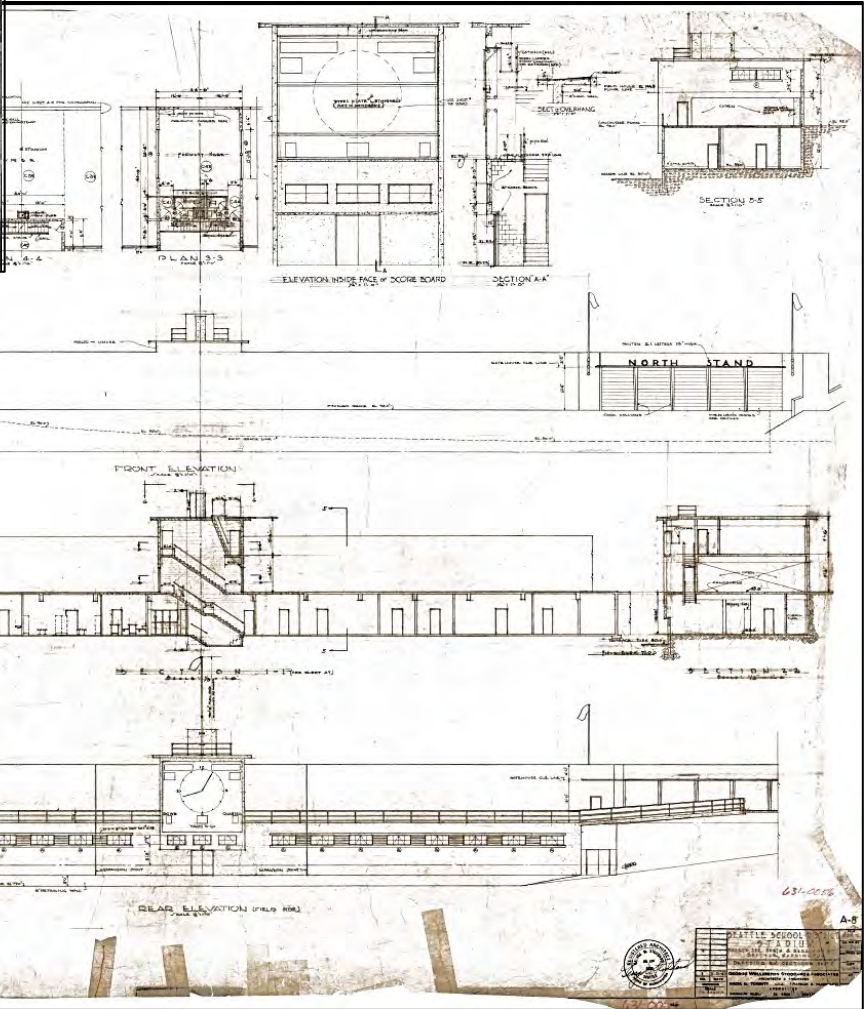
Select Projects

- Washington State Library, 1959
- Washington State Coliseum / Climate Pledge Arena, 1962
- Nalley Fine Foods Pavilion, Seattle Worlds Fair, 1962
- St. Demetris Greek Orthodox Church, 1963
- Christ Church Episcopal Sanctuary, Tacoma, 1969

President, The Structural Engineers Hall of Fame, 1957-1969



Evolution of the Memorial Design



The original field house elevations,
August 21, 1947.

Evolution of the Memorial Design

1944

- SPS study of several possible sites for a new high school stadium.
- Victory Square activities downtown on Univ. St. between 4th & 5th Aves.

1945

- Civic field selected by SPS for new stadium; Architect Stoddard hired.
- (Sept) WWII ends.

1946

- Wartime building restrictions lifted.
- (Feb) The name “Seattle High School Memorial Stadium” approved by SPS in honor of public school students who died in WWII.
- (Feb) Stoddard unveils first sketches of design.
- (Feb) Contract awarded to builder, Puget Sound Bridge & Dredging Co.
- (May) Groundbreaking for Memorial Stadium.
- (Sept) Stoddard proposes a 150’ concrete and stone pylon with bronze plaques honoring all Seattle’s war dead at Memorial Stadium.

Mid-1946 – Late 1947

- *Ongoing controversy: SPS, mayor, and city committees, regarding where the deteriorating Victory Square pylon monument should be relocated. Should a new memorial list all war dead, or just students?*

1947

- (Sept) The completed Memorial Stadium opens for first event, the High Schools Jamboree football games.
- (Nov) Memorial Stadium dedication ceremonies at Thanksgiving game.

1948

- (Dec) SPS announces a student competition to design a “living memorial” for SPS students who died in WWII.

1949

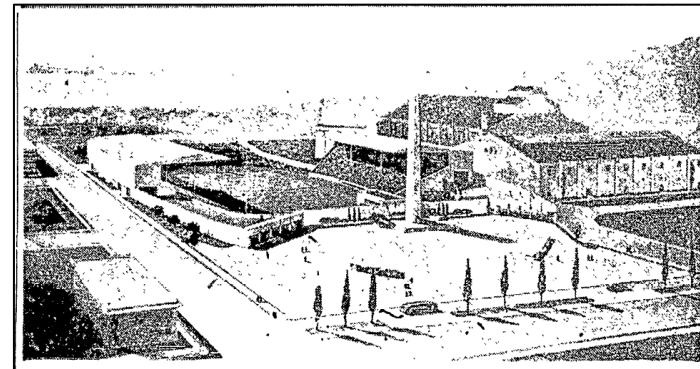
- (June) The winning design by Marianne Hanson is selected.

1951

- (Jan) A separate WWII memorial, “War Memorial Plaza,” dedicated at the Seattle Public Safety Building, honoring 2,488 Seattle service men and women who died in WWII.
- (May) Marianne Hanson’s memorial dedicated at Memorial Stadium, honoring “the 700 war dead who attended Seattle Public Schools.”



Victory Plaza during WWII with replica of Monticello and the “Pylon”

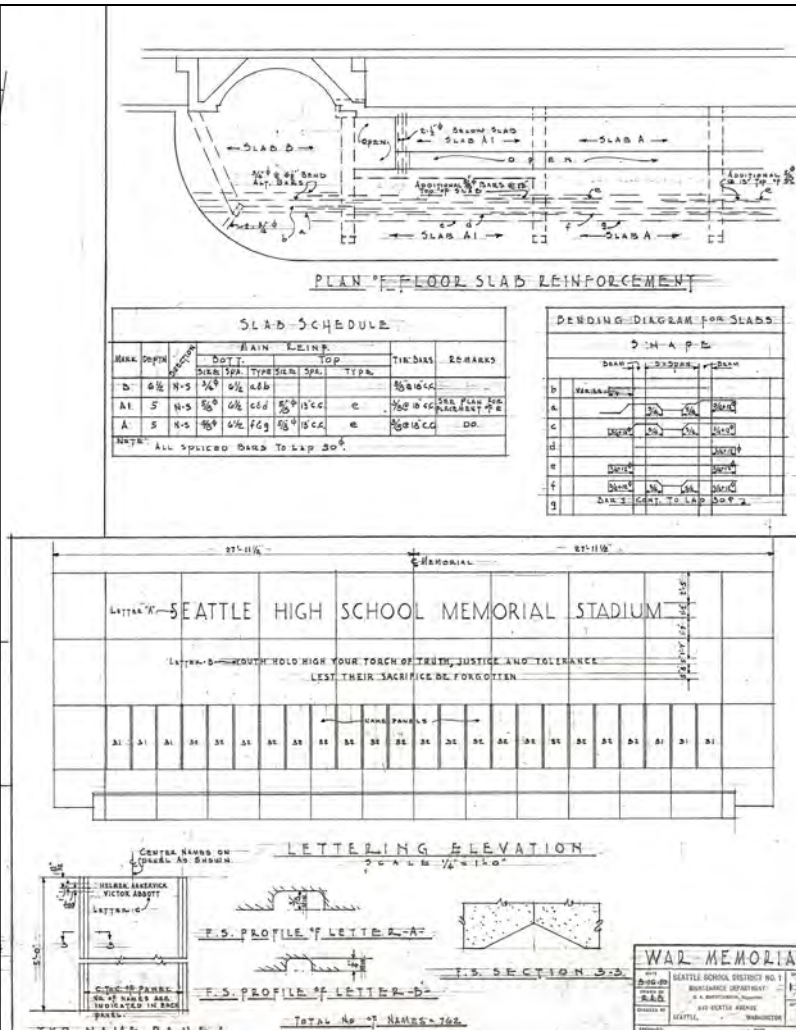


George W. Stoddard’s 1946 proposal to replicate the “pylon” at Memorial Stadium



War Memorial Plaza at the Public Safety Building in Seattle (NBBJ and Marcus Priteca, 1951)

The Memorial Concept design by Marianne Hanson (1932 – 2015)
 Construction design by Seattle Public Schools



Seattle Art Museum (1933)

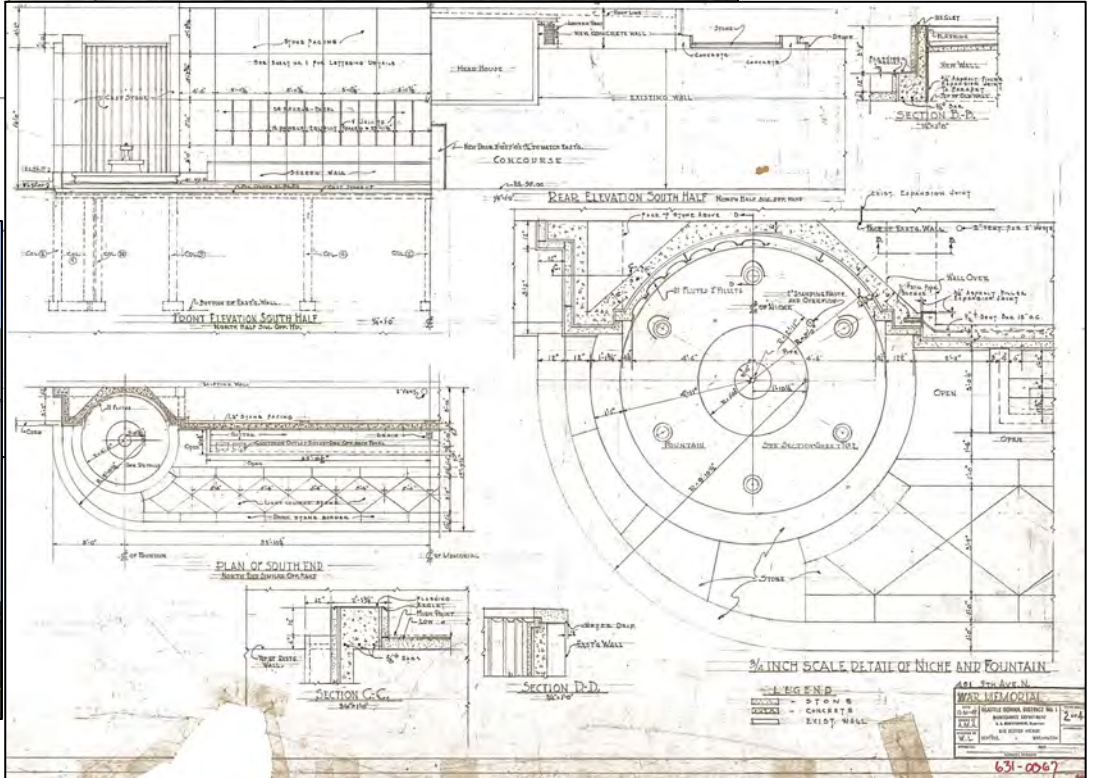
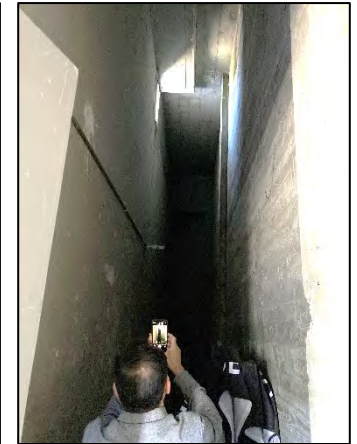
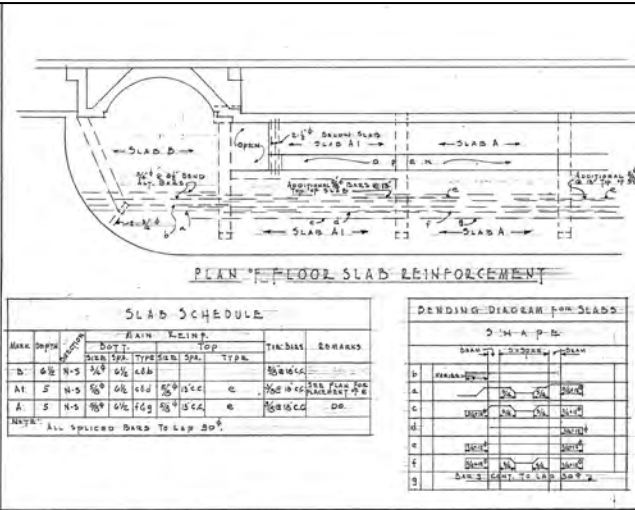
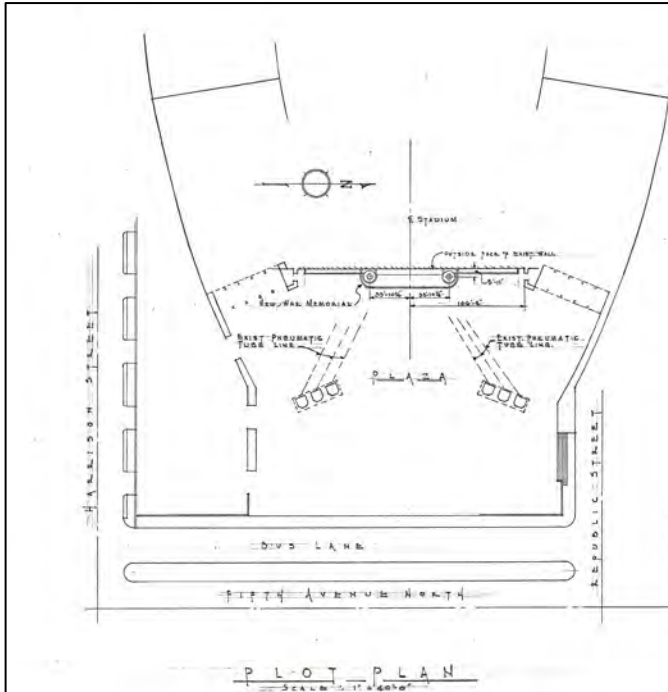


*"Seattle High School Memorial Stadium
 Youth Hold High Your Torch of Truth, Justice and Tolerance
 Lest Their Sacrifice Be Forgotten"*



Memorial Wall

Details of the Memorial Construction, 1951

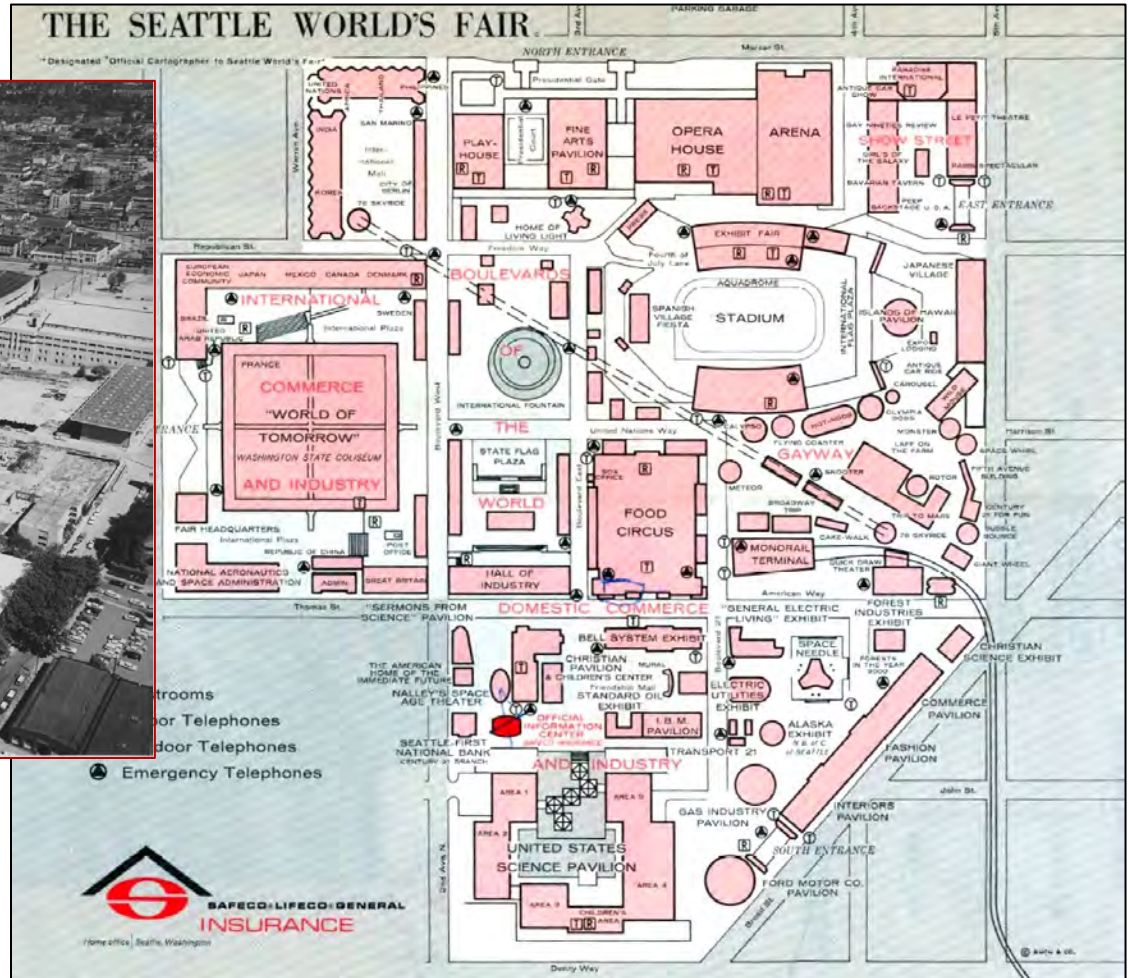
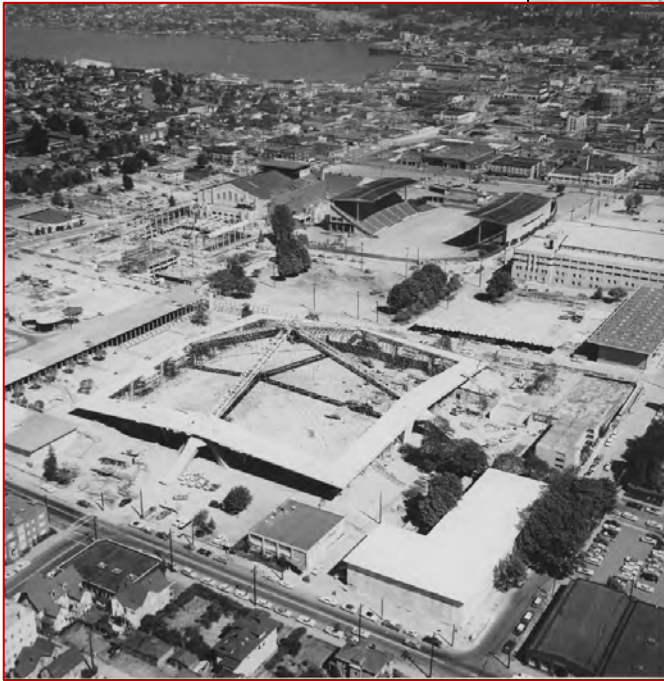


The Memorial Plaza in 1948 to 1961





The Century 21 Era



The Stadium and the World's Fair, 1962



The Seattle Center after the World's Fair



1967

Other Activities at the Stadium



Other Sports & Other Use of the Stadium



Seattle Sounders, NASL, 1974–75
Seattle Sounders A-League, 1994–97,
2001–02
Seattle Majestics, IWFL, 2007–09
Seattle Reign FC, NWSL, 2014–18
Seattle Tempest, WUL, 2020 - present
Seattle Cascades, AUDL, 2015–present



Concerts in the Stadium

- Screaming Trees / Built to Spill, June 25, 2000
- EMP Grand Opening with Metallica, Dr Dre, Snoop Dog, Eminem, Red Hot Chili Peppers, Kid Rick & Filter, June 23, 2000
- Pearl Jam / The Wallflowers / Zeke, July 21, 1998
- Blues Traveler / Beck / Foo Fighters / Sonic Youth / Sky Cries Mary / Supersonic Soul Pimps, August 29 – Sept. 1, 1997 Bumbershoot
- The Grateful Dead, May 24, 26 & 26, 1995
- Mel Torme, September 3, 1995
- Metallica /Suicidal Tendencies / Candlebox, July 19, 1994
- The Grateful Dead, June 13 & 14, 1994
- Bumbershoot performances
- Beach Boys, Kinks, June 16, 1978

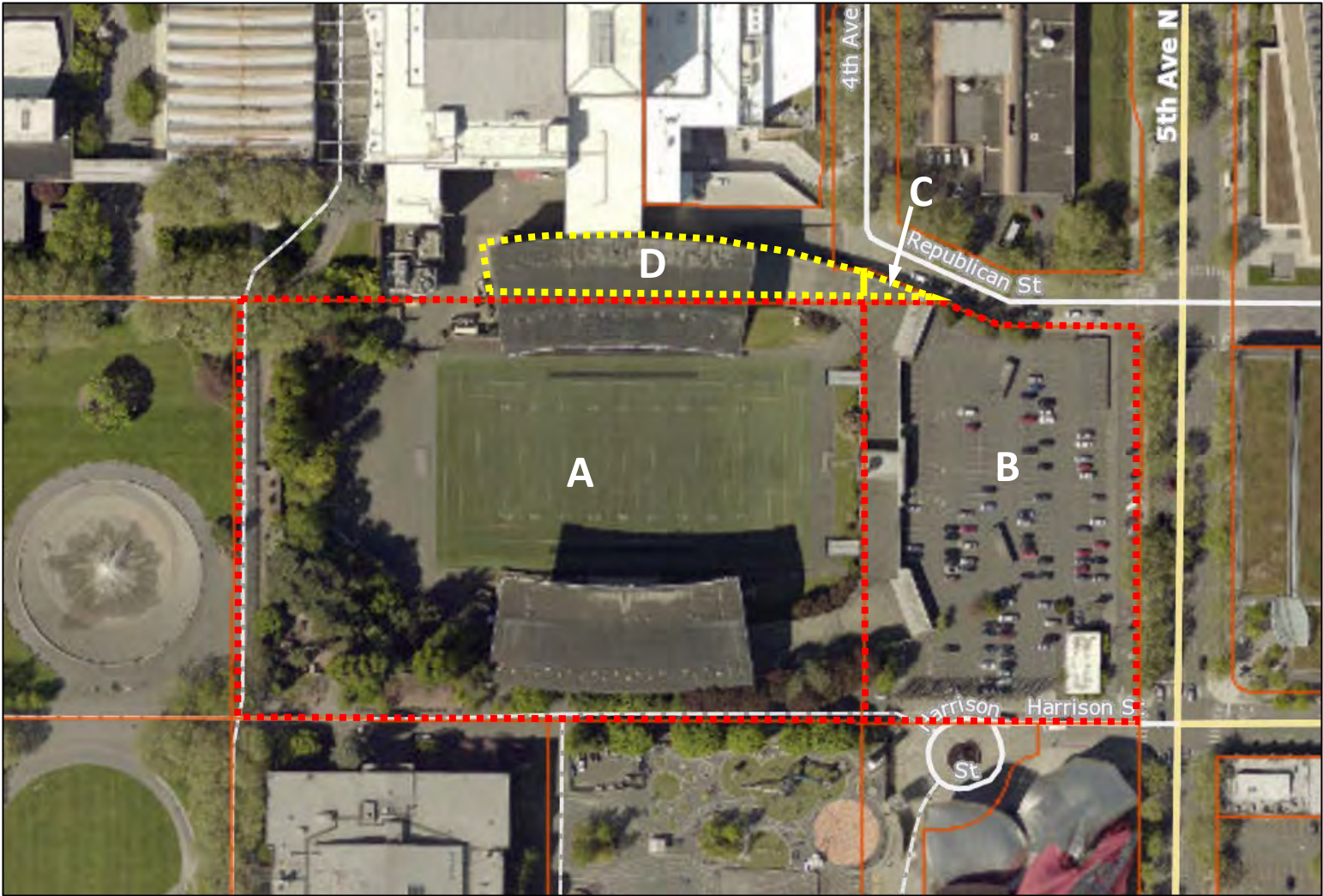
<https://www.concertarchives.org/venues/seattle-memorial-stadium>

Other Seattle Concert Venues: Mountaineers Club in 1955, Sick's Stadium in 1957, Eagles Auditorium, the Coliseum, Moore Theater in the 1960s & 1970s; Paramount, Hec Ed, the Kingdome, Parkers, Mercer Arena, Exhibition Hall and the Opera House, 5th Avenue Theater in the 1980s, and later Chateau San Michelle, Marymoor Park, Concerts at the Zoo and on the Pier; and the clubs: Omni Room, Rainbow, Metropolis, Vogue, Graceland, El Corazon, Gorilla Gardens, Moe's , RKCNDY, Central Tavern, Tractor Tavern, Crocodile Cafe, ReBar, Off-Ramp, Showbox ...

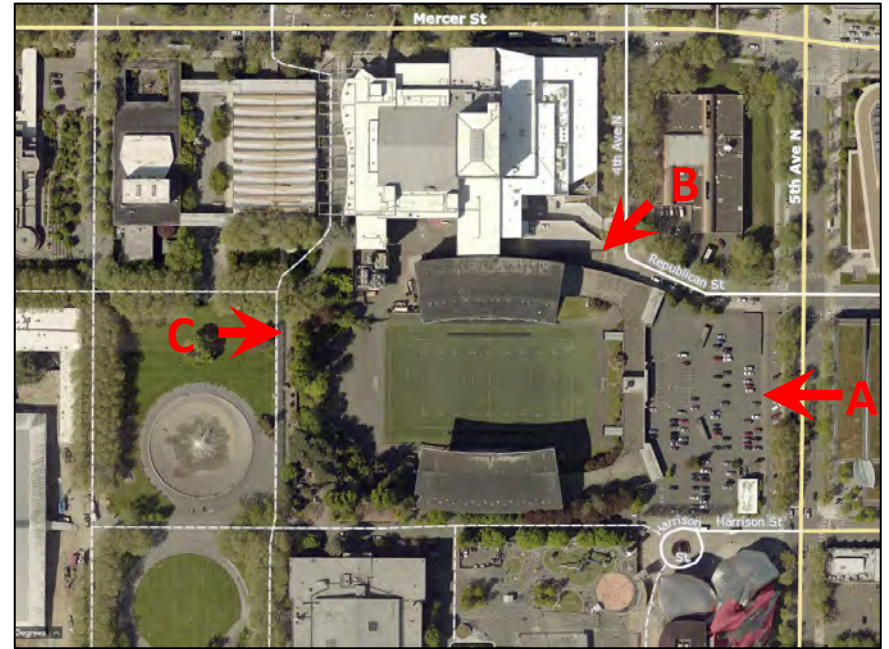
("Curators of grunge: Seattle music venues," rainydayhistory.org)



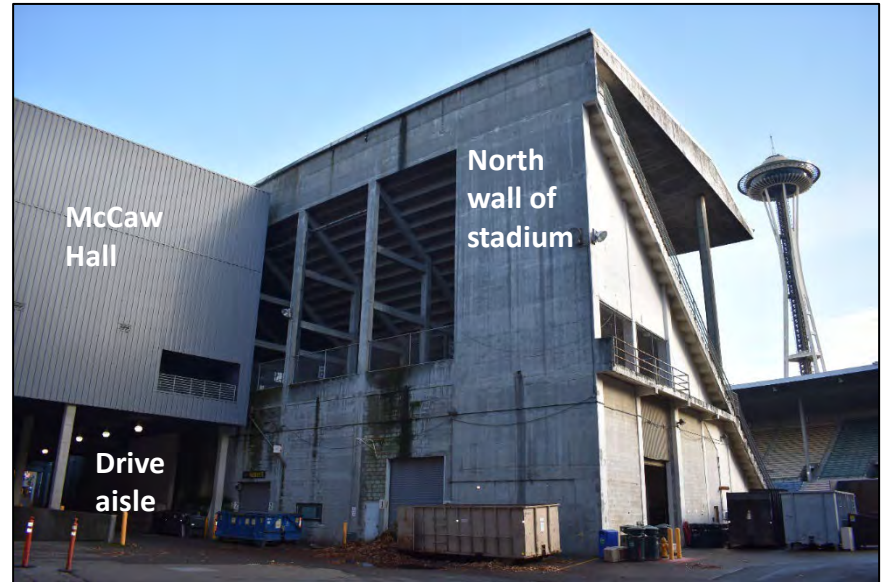
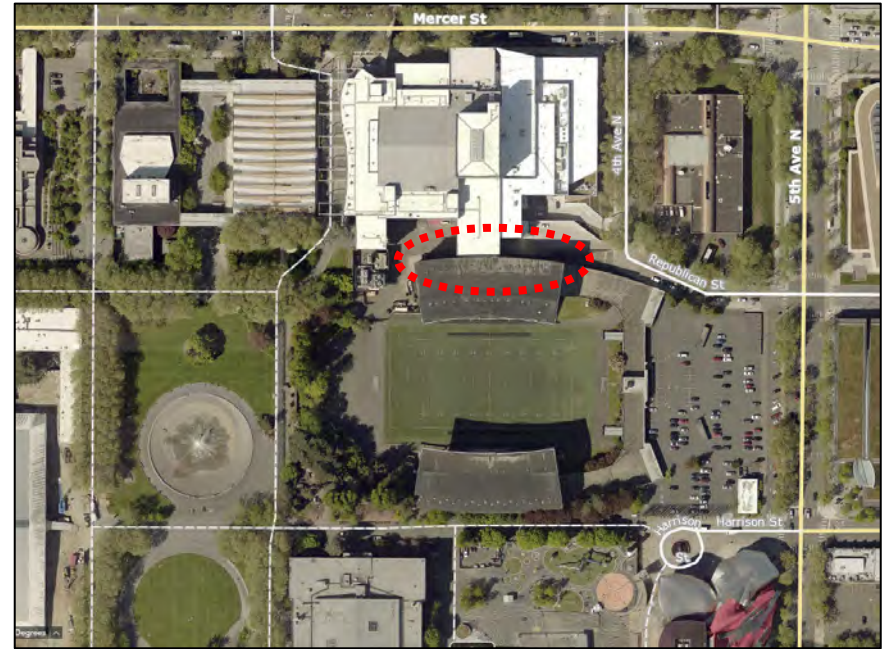
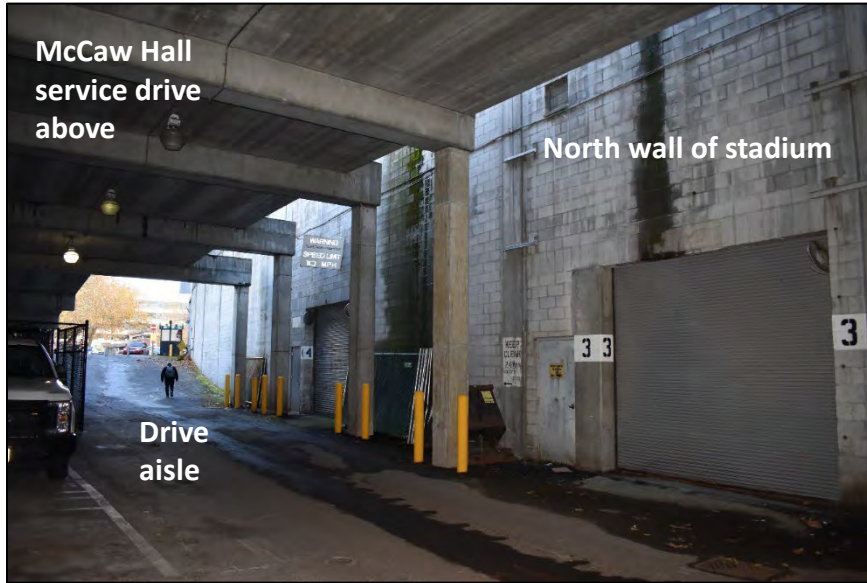
Tax Parcels (A, B) and Easements (C, D)



Current Views to the Site



Current Condition at the Easement





The Current Field House



Field House and Concourses



North Grandstand

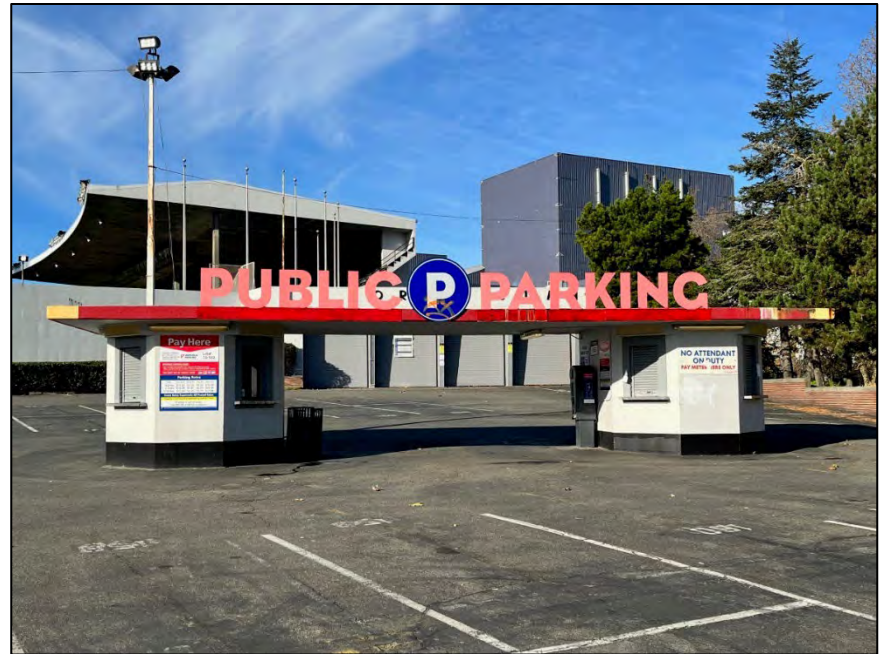


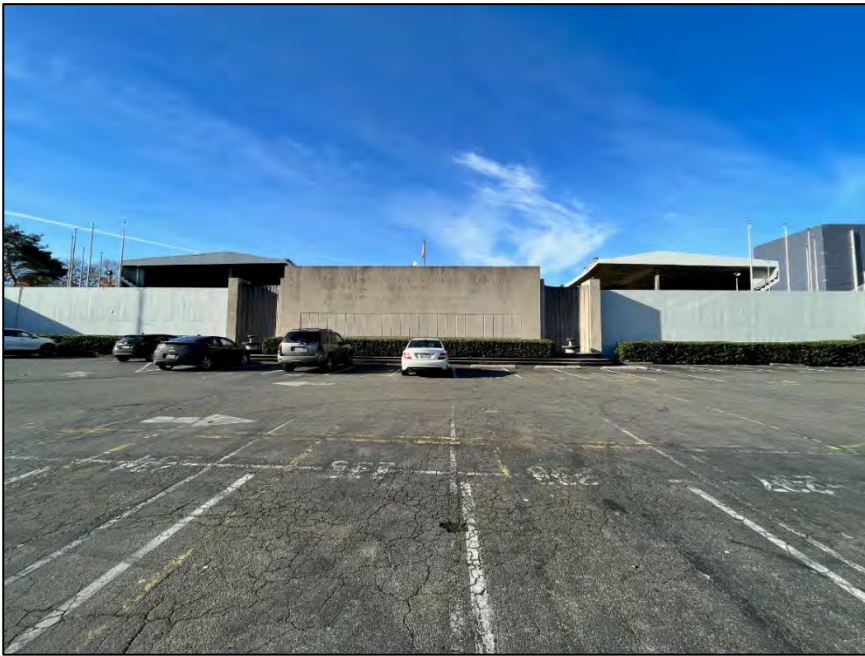
South Grandstand

View East to Field House



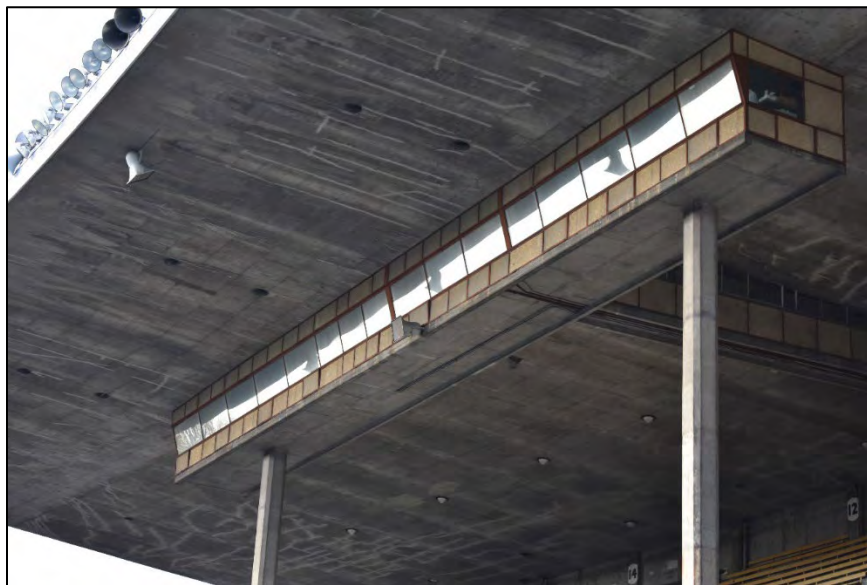
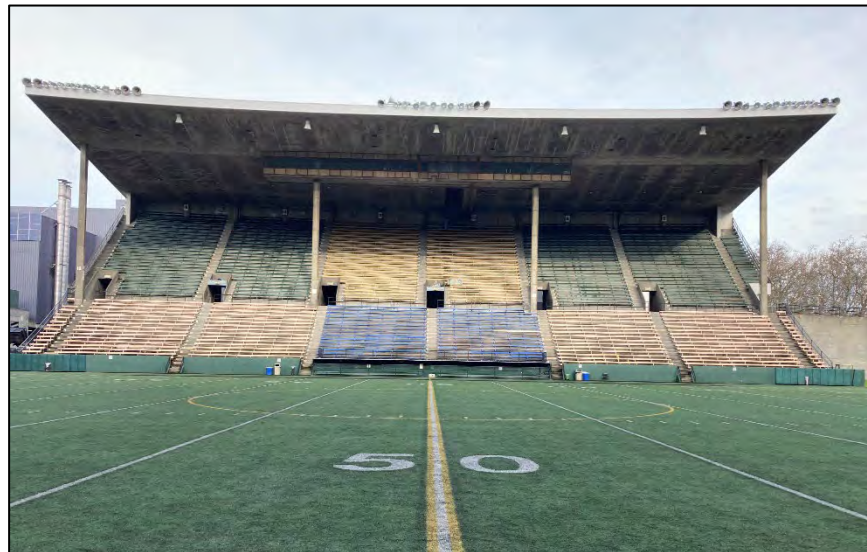
View West from Field House





The Memorial

The Press Box



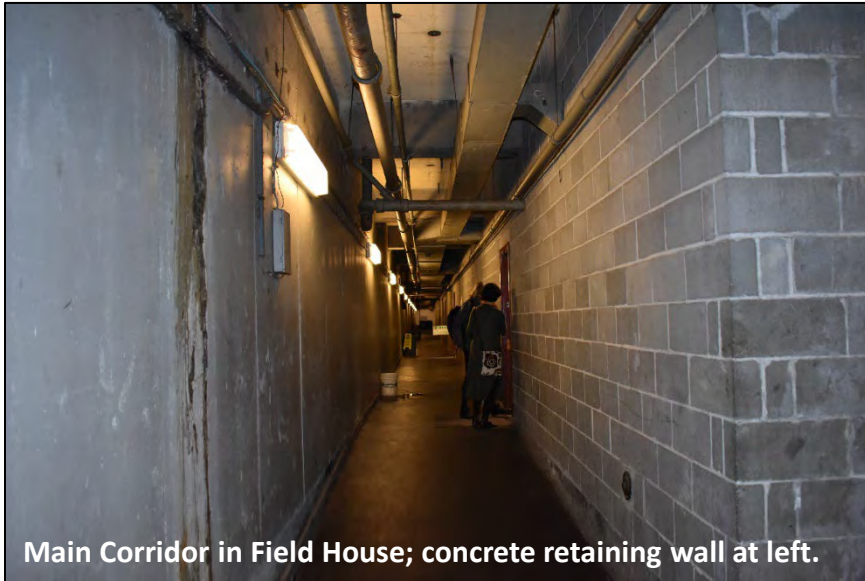
Current Views, Seating & Dugout



Current Views, Underside of Grandstands (Concourse)



Current Field House Interiors



Main Corridor in Field House; concrete retaining wall at left.

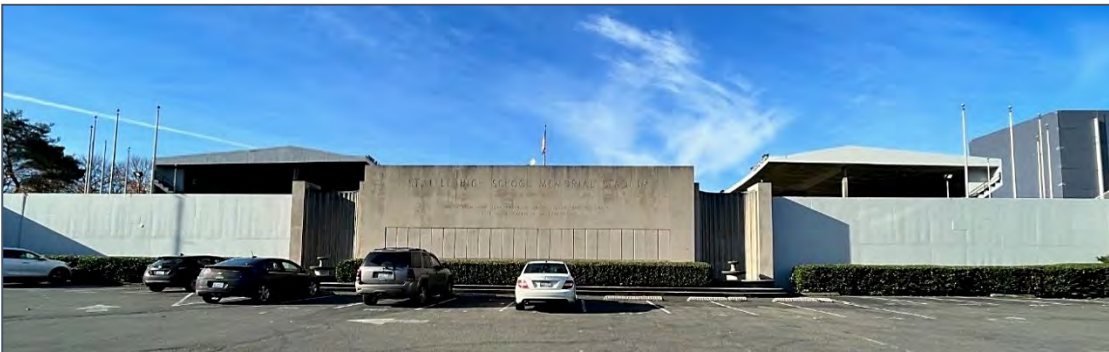


Press Office in Field House upper floor over concourse



Locker Rooms in Field House; concourse roof above.





Landmark Designation Criteria

Seattle Ordinance SMC 25.12.350 requires a landmark property to be more than 25 years old and “have significant character, interest or value, as part of the development, heritage or cultural characteristics of the City, State or Nation.” The property meet one or more designation criteria.

A - *It is the location of, or is associated in a significant way with, an historic event with a significant effect upon the community, City, state, or nation.*

B - *It is associated in a significant way with the life of a person important in the history of the City, state, or nation.*

C - *It is associated in a significant way with a significant aspect of the cultural, political, or economic heritage of the community, City, state, or nation.*

D - *It embodies the distinctive visible characteristics of an architectural style, or period, or of a method of construction.*

E - *It is an outstanding work of a designer or builder.*

F - *Because of its prominence of spatial location, contrasts of siting, age, or scale, it is an easily identifiable visual feature of its neighborhood or the City and contributes to the distinctive quality or identity of such neighborhood or the City.*