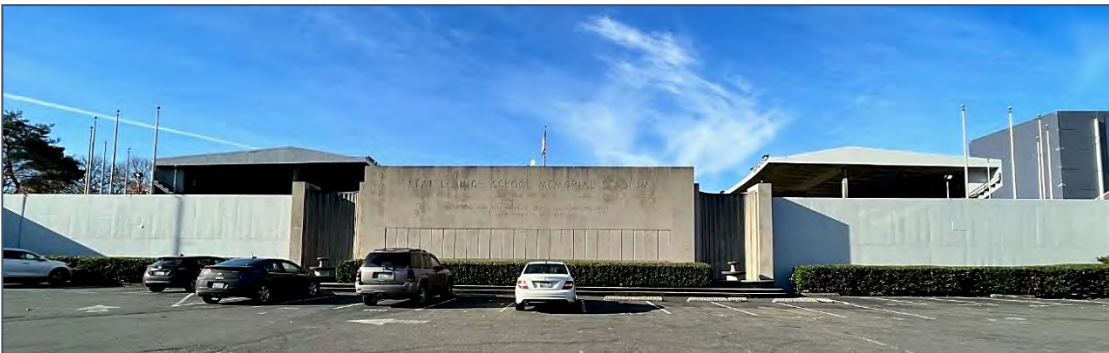




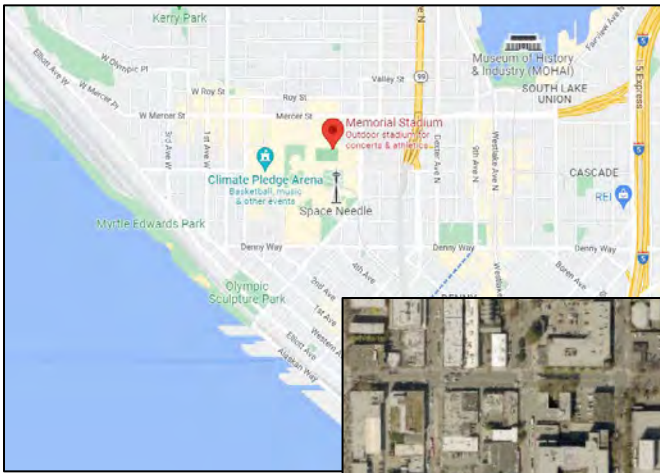
Seattle Public Schools  
**Memorial Stadium**  
Seattle Landmark Designation

October 4 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



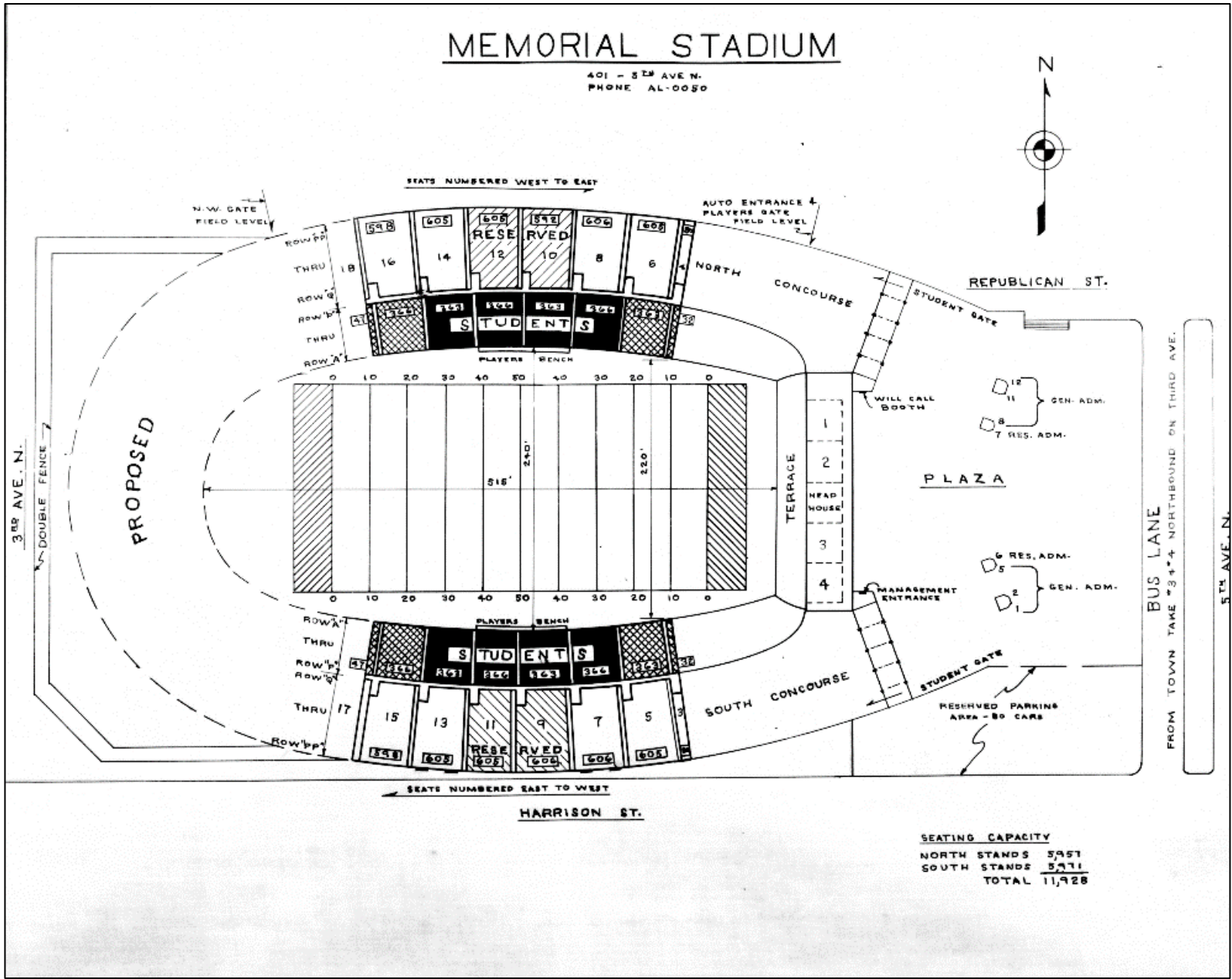
The Civic Playfield in 1928, 1936 and ca 1940



Original stadium plan, 1946

# MEMORIAL STADIUM

401 - 3<sup>RD</sup> AVE. N.  
PHONE AL-0050



SEATS NUMBERED WEST TO EAST

SEATS NUMBERED EAST TO WEST

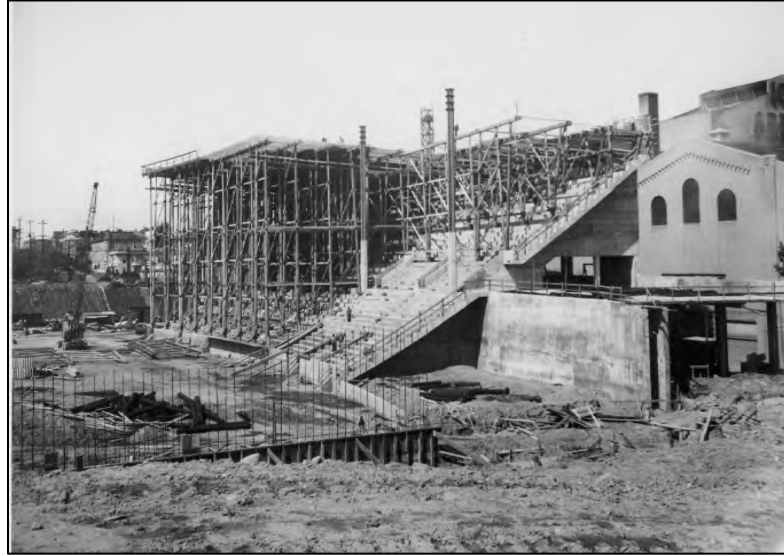
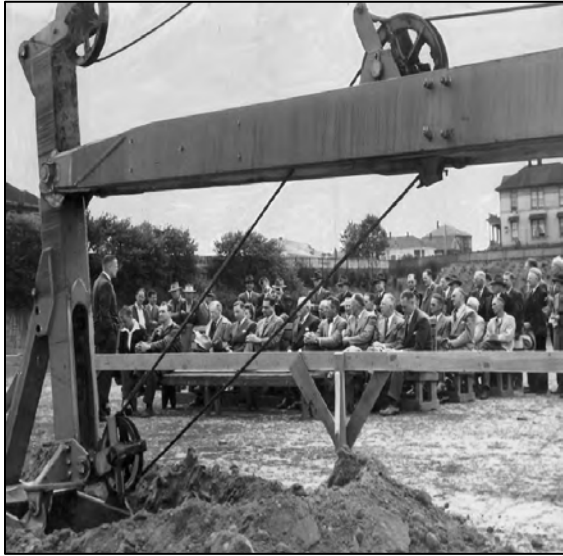
**SEATING CAPACITY**

NORTH STANDS	5,957
SOUTH STANDS	5,971
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>11,928</b>

George Stoddard's original stadium design, 1946



Stadium construction: Groundbreaking in June 1946, completion in 1947

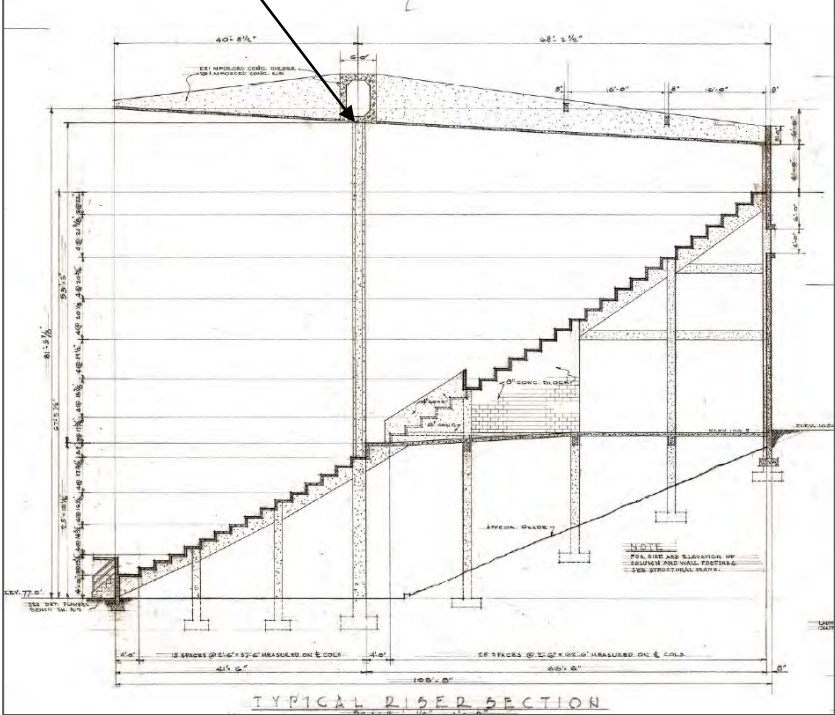


“Here's a ground view of one of the two huge seat sections being built in Seattle's new High School Memorial Stadium. The two sections will seat nearly 11,000 persons. If the seats were built clear around one end of the stadium, as many persons are urging, the bowl would seat more than 25,000.” - *Seattle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



6' x 8' reinforced concrete box beam

The Grandstand Structure





# HIGH SCHOOL JAMBOREE SET FOR TOMORROW NIGHT

## LOWER DIVISION QUESTION MARK IN COAST RACE

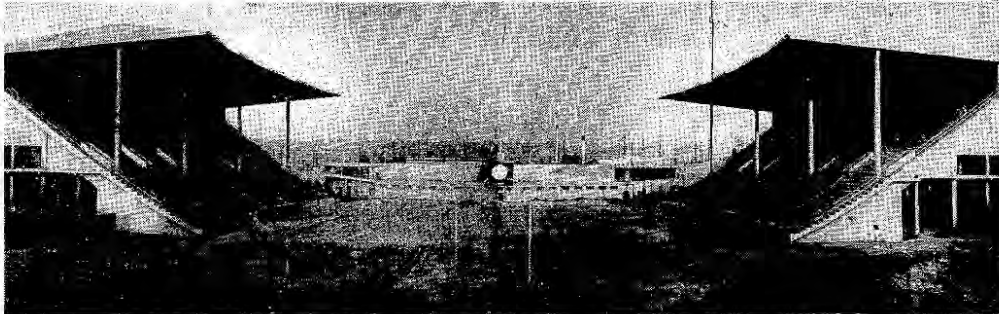
By Associated Press.

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 15-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.

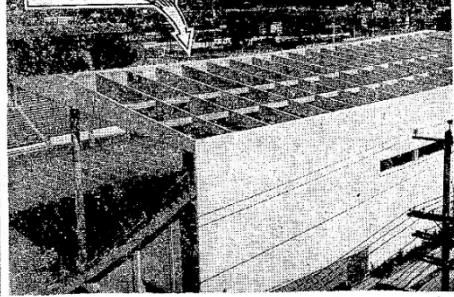
## WHAT HOLDS IT? Roof on High-School Stadium A Masterpiece of Engineering



SLENDER COLUMNS AT MEMORIAL STADIUM The fan gets an erroneous impression



### BIRD'S-EYE VIEW



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 sup-

port 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 biting 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 at-

tention 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



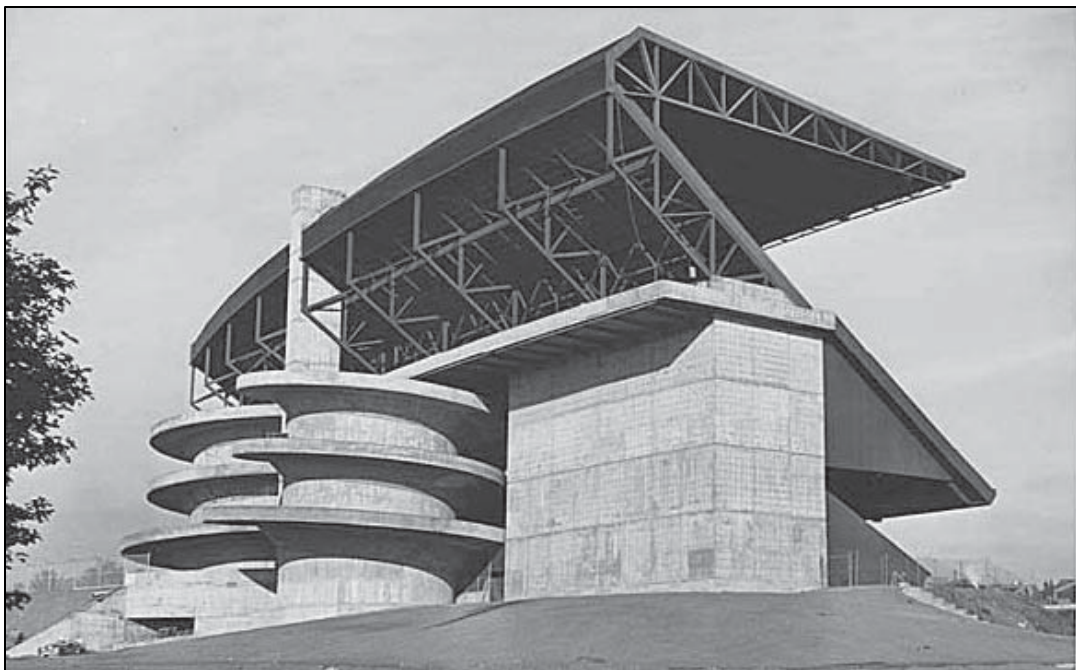


## Post-war high school stadiums

- 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



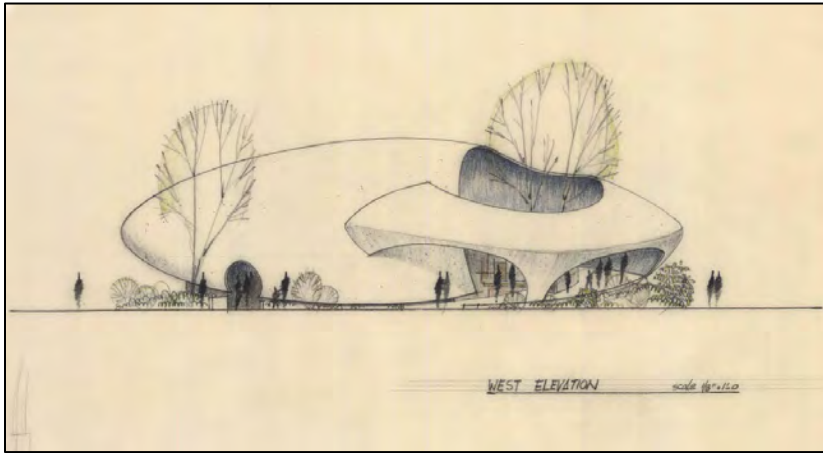
## Architect George Stoddard (1896 – 1993)



### 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

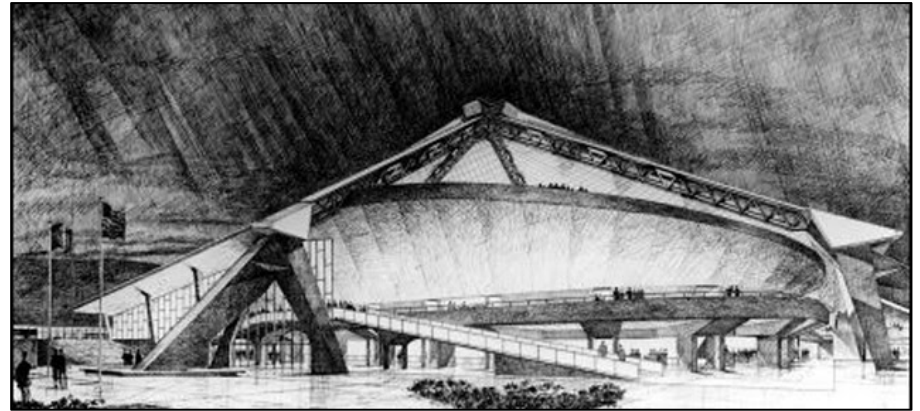
**Structural Engineer  
Peter H. Hostmark (1917– 1969)**



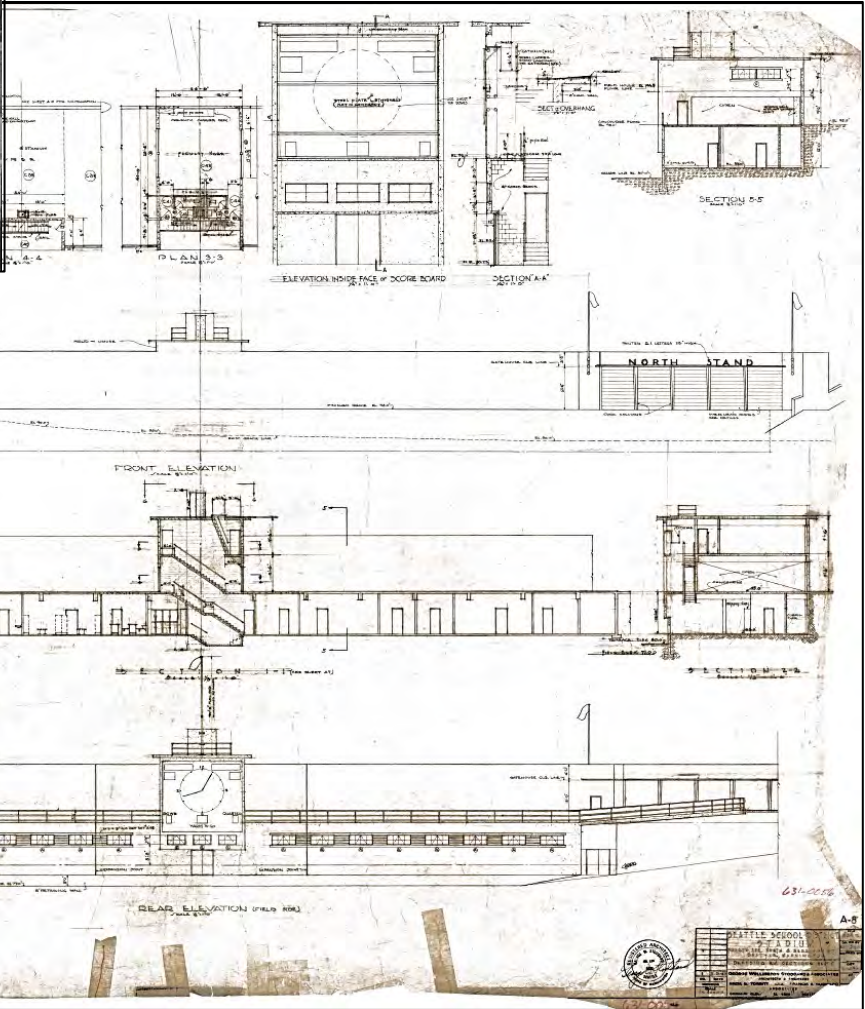
**Select Projects**

- 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 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> 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

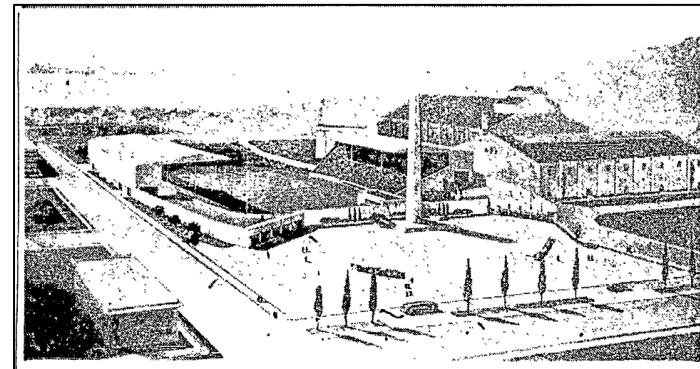
- (June) The winning design by Marianne Hanson is selected.

### 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”

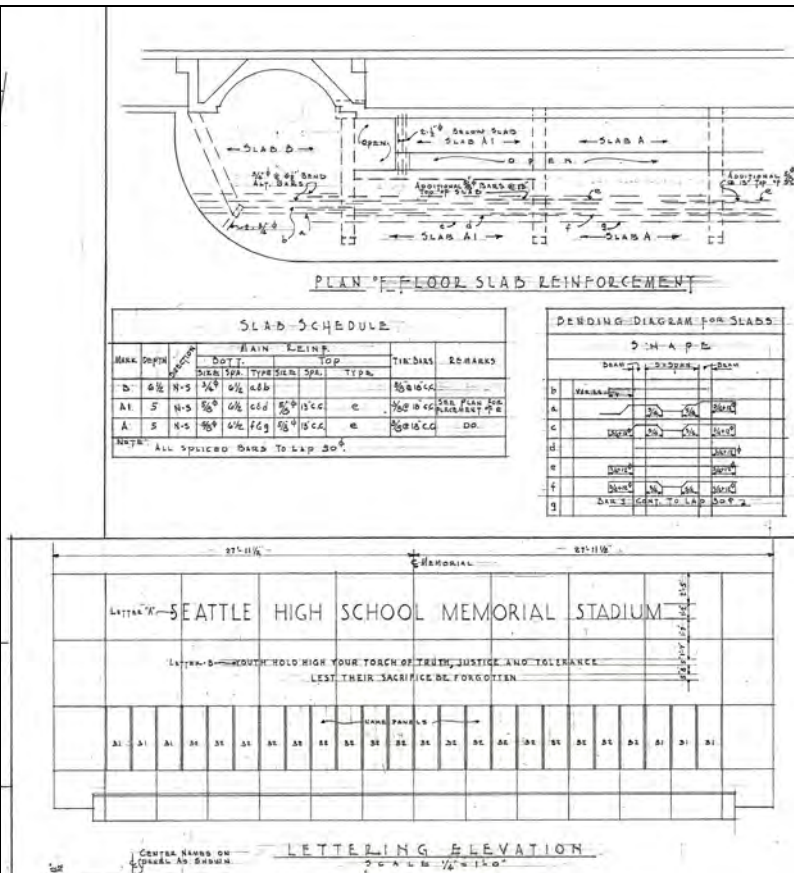


George W. Stoddard’s 1946 proposal to replicate the “pylon” at Memorial Stadium



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



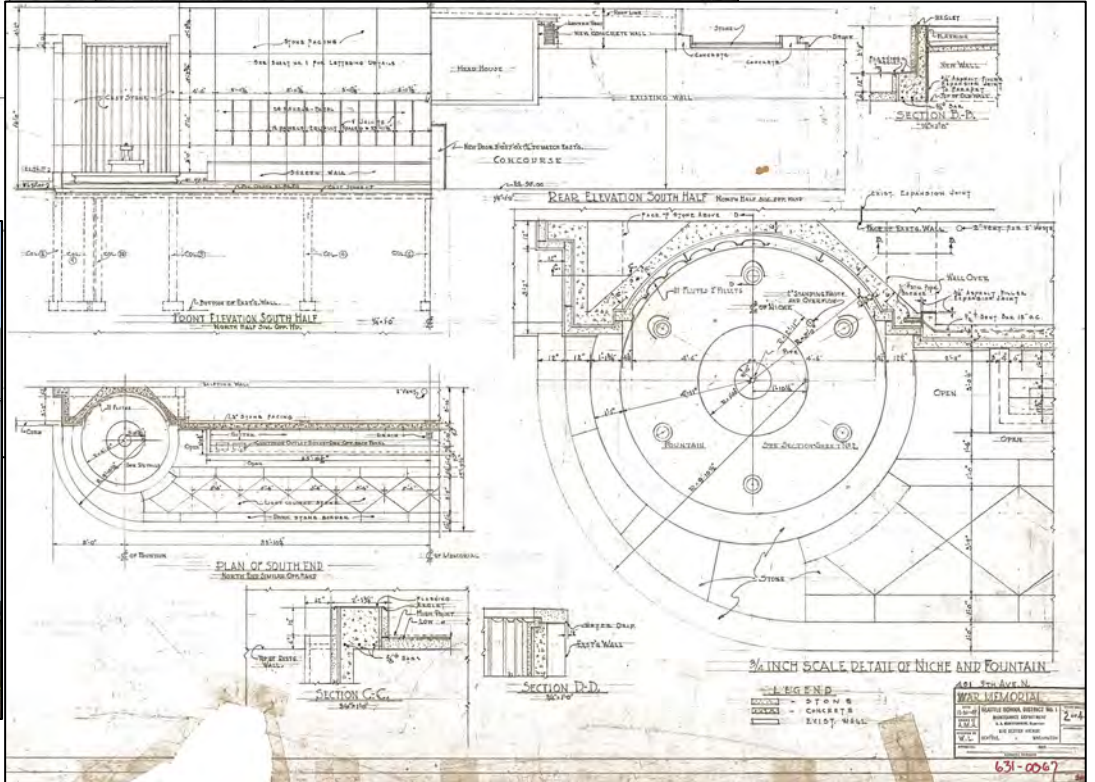
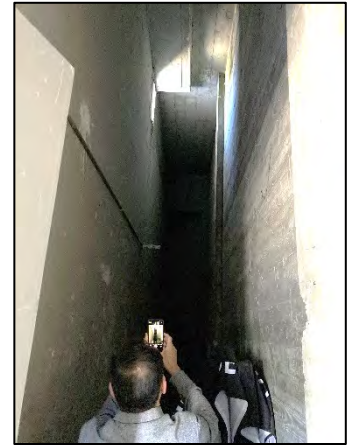
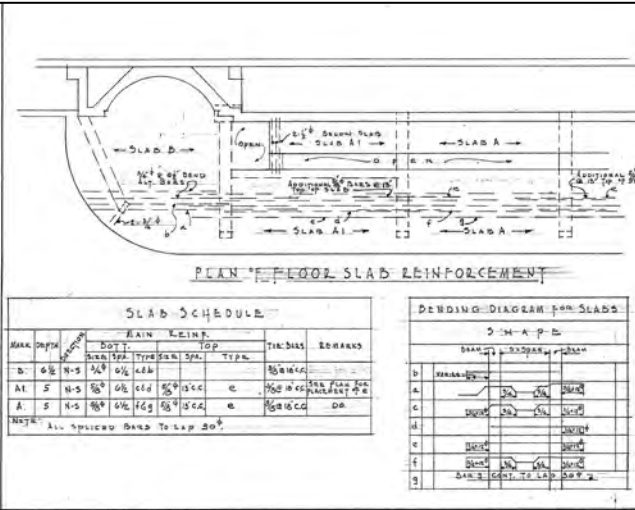
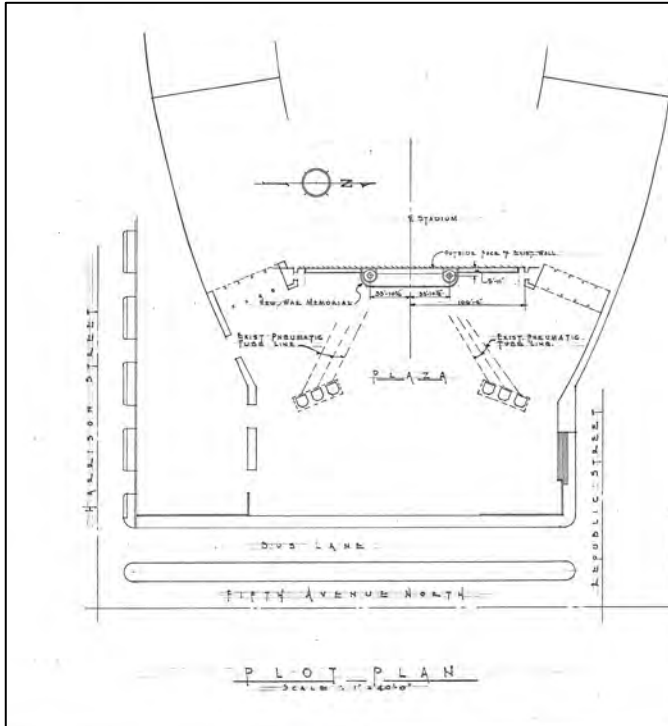
ADAPTED FROM  
THE WINNING DESIGN OF  
MARIANNE HANSON  
GARFIELD HIGH SCHOOL  
1950



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



# Details of the Memorial Construction, 1951

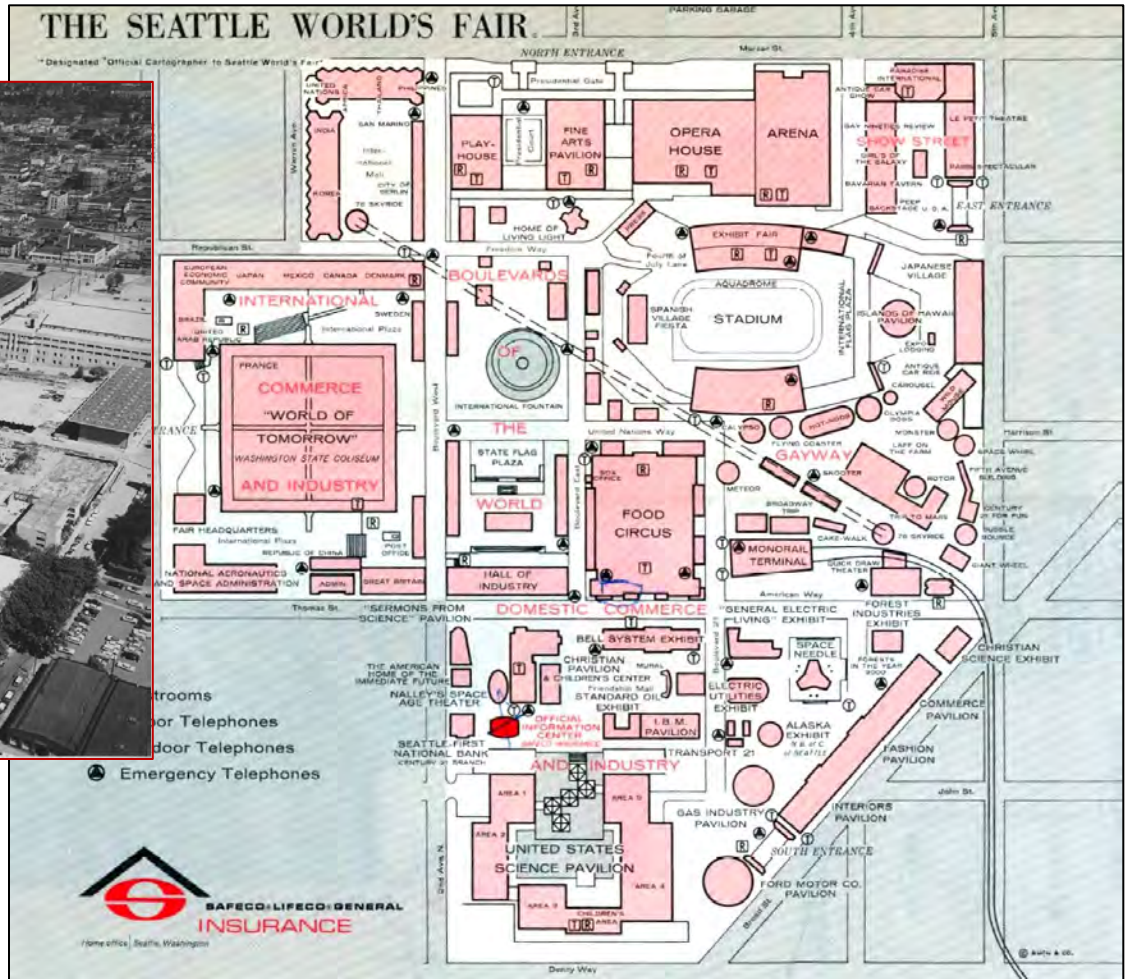
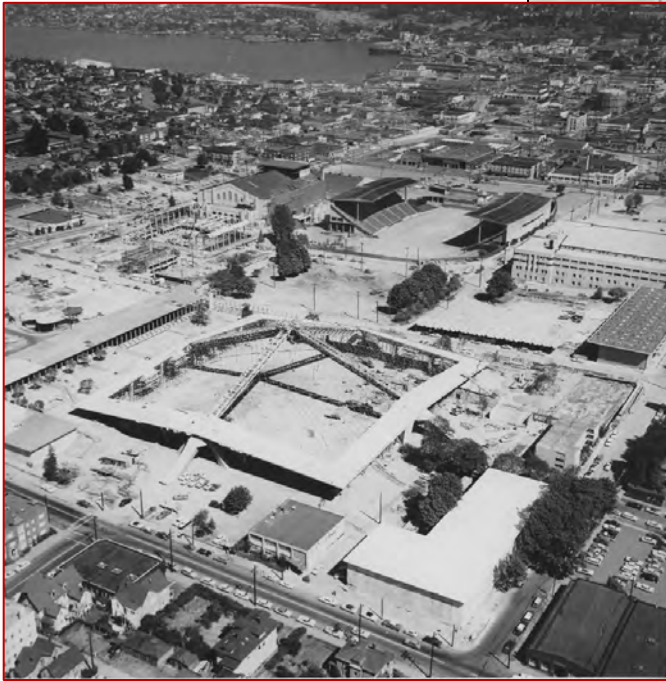


The Memorial Plaza in 1948 to 1961





## The Century 21 Era



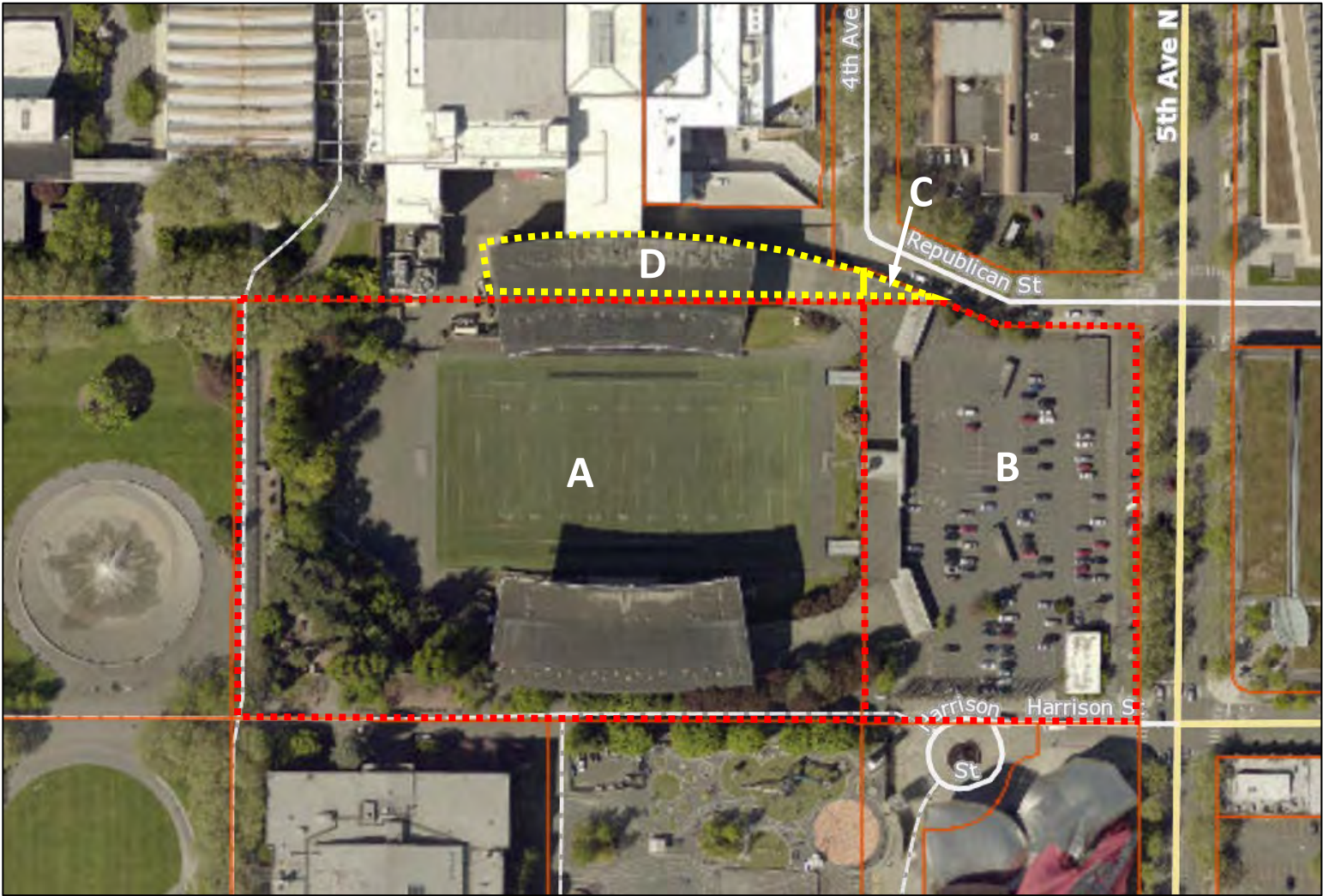
The Stadium and the World's Fair, 1962



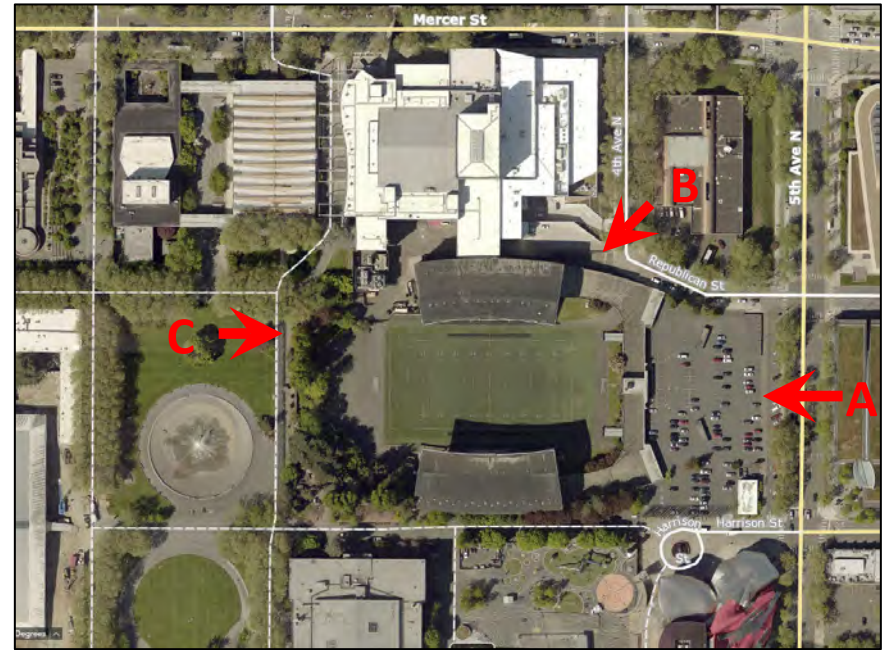
Other Activities at the Stadium



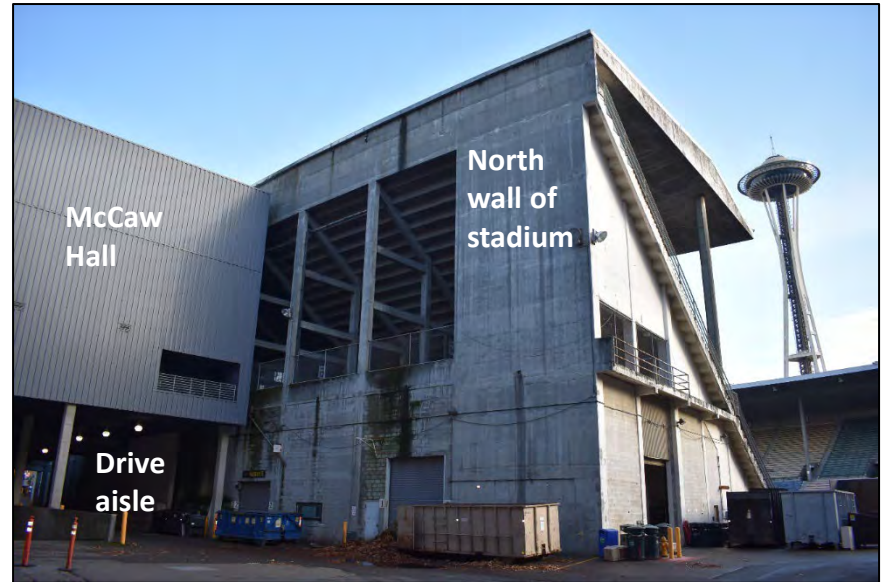
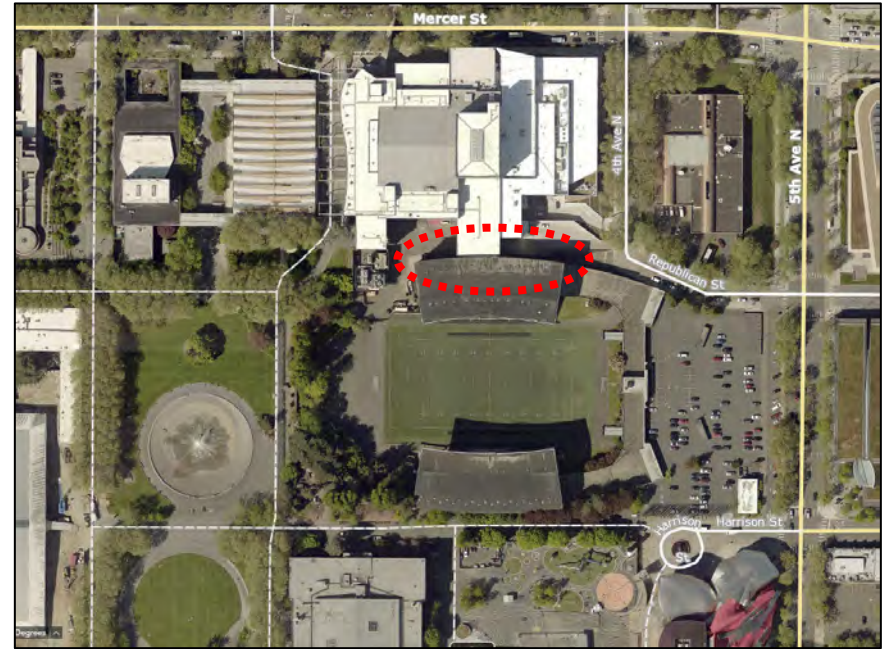
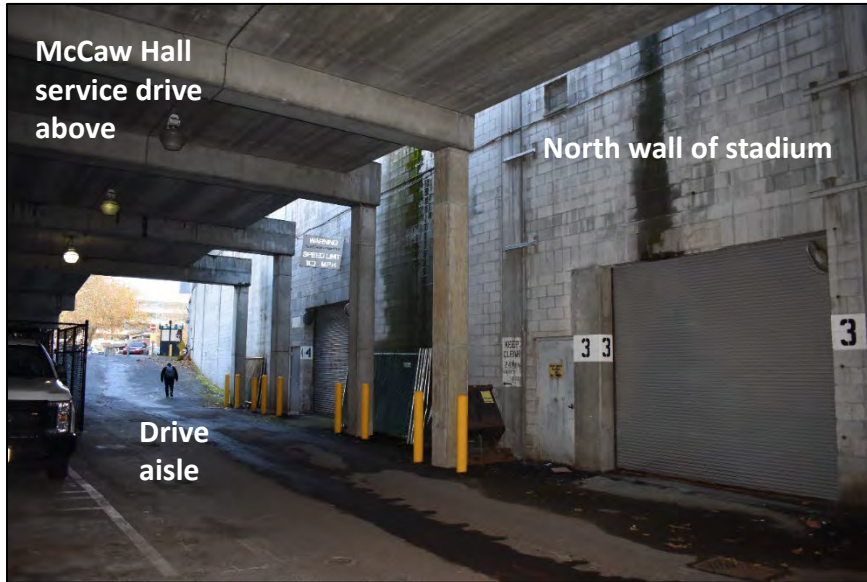
Tax Parcels (A, B) and Easements (C, D)



# Current Views to the Site



# Current Condition at the Easement







North Grandstand



South Grandstand

View East to Field House



1967 – REPLACE WITH CURRENT ROOF VIEW



North Grandstand from Concourse



South Grandstand



North Grandstand

View West from Field House



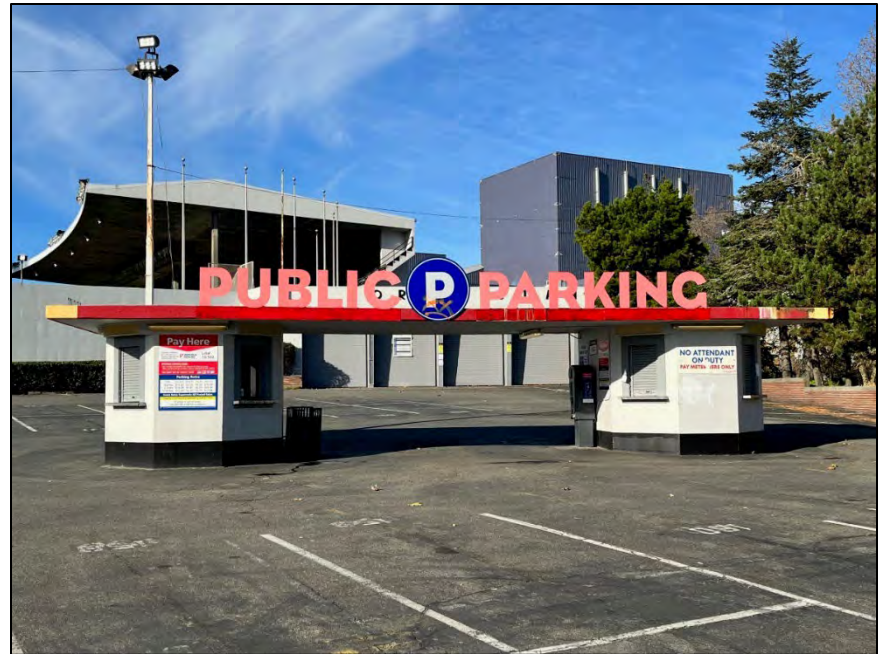
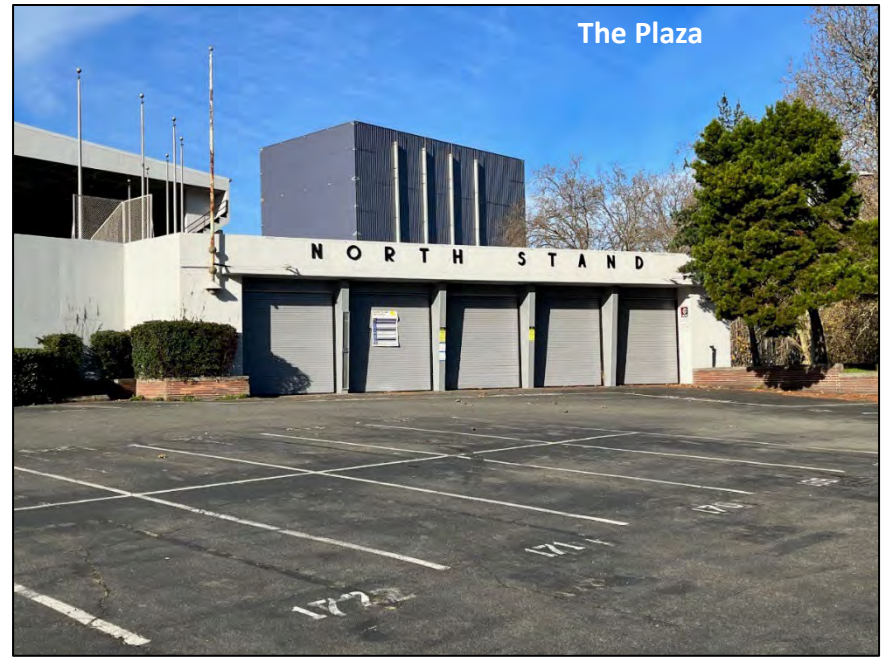
**Field House and Concourses**

Current Views, Seating & Dugout





The Field House





**The Memorial**



The wood-framed West Seattle Stadium (1938)



The composite structure of Sick's Stadium (1938-79)

## The Grandstands Type – Both Covered and/or Uncovered



UW Husky Stadium Addition (George W. Stoddard, 1949-50), expressive concrete



The wood-framed Dugdale Park Stadium (1920)



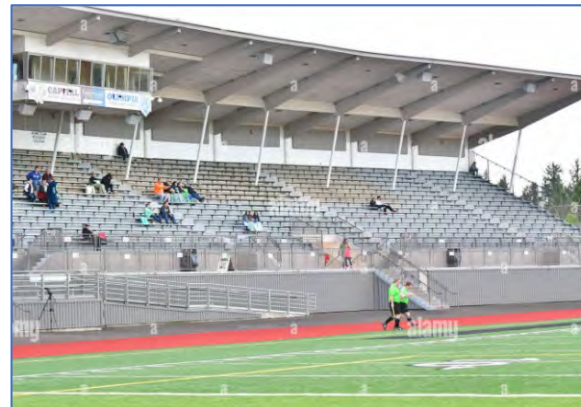
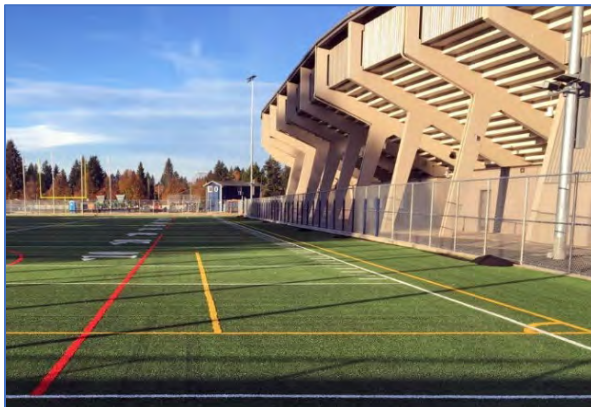
## Concrete Grandstand Roof Structure



**Florence Municipal Stadium, 1930-1931**, left, a 35,000 seat facility, with reinforced concrete bifurcating cantilevered beams. Right, the **Olympic Flaminio Stadium, Rome (1957-1959)**, with 45,000 seats, with prefabricated concrete beams and corrugated cantilevered concrete roof. Both were influential designs by Pier Luigi Nervi.



Innovative examples of thin-shell concrete stadiums in Washington State include the **Grant County Stadium (1963)**, left, designed by Jack Christenson, structural engineer, and his **Bainbridge Island High School Stadium (1990)**, right.



Both photos, the concrete frame **Ingersoll Stadium, Olympia School District (1968)**, designed by Don Avery.



President Harry Truman made a speech at Memorial Stadium in 1948 on the topic of "Reclamation." Henry A. Wallace, the Progressive Party candidate and former Vice President under Franklin D. Roosevelt's third term, made a campaign speech in 1948. General Dwight D. Eisenhower made a speech next door at the Seattle Arena in 1952; overflow crowds were accommodated in Memorial Stadium where the speech was broadcast over speakers.

The Boeing Aero Mechanics Union held at least three union meetings in the Stadium in 1958 and 1963.

Memorial Stadium was the location of sunrise Easter services sponsored by the Seattle Evangelical Union, and other church groups, from 1948 until at least 1969.



Billy Graham held daily revivals for 5 weeks in the Stadium in 1951, and again for one day in 1962 during the World's Fair. Later appearances in the region required larger venues, such as the King Dome.

## Public Gatherings



Memorial Stadium was used as the ending location for the SeaFair Torchlight Parade's "Fiesta of Floats" from 1954 to 1977

The stadium has been a gathering/prep space or ending location for some public marches, such as a parade honoring the Order of Eagles National Convention in 1951, a memorial march for Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. following his assassination in 1968, a Right to Life political march in 1974, and an AIDS Walkathon fundraiser in 1988. These marches typically moved through downtown. **Public views of these marches occurred as they proceeded on public streets and through the media.**



A Right to Life political march in 1974.



On November 30, 1999 a march protesting the World Trade Organization (WTO) meeting in Seattle and its free-trade policies started with a rally and speeches in Memorial Stadium attended by an estimated 12,000 people. The march, with up to 40,000 attendees, became known as the "Battle for Seattle" for its confrontation with the police and damage to downtown retail businesses.

## Other Sporting Events at the Stadium



Some national and minor league soccer teams played in the stadium in 1974-75, 1994-97, 2001-02, 2007-09, and 2014-18, along with Ultimate Frisbee leagues in 2015 & 2020-22.

**Seattle Sounders of the North American Soccer League (NASL), 1974–1975**

**Seattle Sounders of the American Professional Soccer League (APSL) , 1994–1997, and 2001–2002**

(The major league team, Seattle Sounders FC, debuted in 2009 but never played in Memorial Stadium.)

**Seattle OL Reign FC of the National Women's Soccer League (NWSL), 2014–18** (later Cheney Stadium, Lumen Field)

**Seattle Majestics, International Women’s Football League (IWFL), 2007–09**

**Seattle Tempest of Women’s Ultimate League (WUL), 2020– 2023**

**Seattle Cascades of the American Ultimate Disc League (AUDL), 2015–present**

**Bumbershoot, 1971 – 2019, 2023**

Most concerts in Memorial Stadium are associated with Bumbershoot. **Bumbershoot concerts occurred on multiple indoor and outdoor stages throughout the Seattle Center.**

Bumbershoot Concert Musicians	Date
Black Sabbath / Blue Oyster Cult / Molly Hackett / Riot	July 19, 1980
Mel Torme	Sept. 3, 1995
George Clinton and the P-Funk Allstars / Joan Jett and the Blackhearts	Sept. 4, 1995
Reverend Horton Heat / You Am I / Soundgarden / Screaming Trees	Aug. 13, 1994
Sonic Youth / Built to Spill / Sleater-Kinney / Sheryl Crow / Wilco	Aug. 30-31, 1997
Blues Revelers / Beck / Foo Fighters / Sonic Youth / Sky Cries Mary / Supersonic Soul Pimps	Aug. 29 – Sept. 1, 1997
REM / Young Fresh Fellows / Saltine / The Picketts	Sept. 2, 1999
Savage Garden	Sept. 2, 2000
Everclear / Sonic Youth / Modest Mouse / Lifehouse	Sept. 1, 2002
Evanescence / Cold Play	Aug. 31, 2003
Elvis Costello / Puddle of Mud	Sept. 4, 2005
Steve Miller Band	Sept. 2, 2006
Melanie Martinez / Tame Impala	Sept. 4, 2016
X Ambassadors / Odessa / Solange / LEON	Sept. 13, 2017

Independent concerts Date

An estimated one to three independent concerts have used the stadium each year, such as:

Jerry Garcia Band	August 7, 1993
Grateful Dead	June 13-14, 1994
Metallica / Suicidal Tendencies / Candlebox	July 19, 1994
The Grateful Dead	May 24-25-26-27, 1995
Pearl Jam / Rickenbacker / Sean Ono Lennon / Wallflowers	July 21-22, 1998
EMP Opening Festival with Red Hot Chili Peppers / Metallica / Eminem / Snoop Dogg / Kid Rock / Filter / Dr. Dre	June 23, 2000
Screaming Trees	June 25, 2000
Pearl Jam / The Wallflowers / Zeke	July 21, 2008

Sicks Stadium (1938-1979) was sometime used as concert venue – Elvis played there in 1957, the Youngblood and Janis Joplin on July 5, 1970 and Jimi Hendricks along with Cat Mother and the Newsboys, Steve Miller Band and others in a “marathon concert” on July 26, 1970.



Other Seattle Concert Venues: Mountaineers Club, Sick's Stadium, 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)



## 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.*

