

Landmarks Preservation Board

Nomination Form

NAME (present) University Arboretum Aqueduct
 (historic) _____

ADDRESS _____

NOMINATION AS:

- ☐ Building
☐ Site
☒ Structure
☐ District
☐ Object

DEC 13 1974

OFFICE OF HISTORIC
PRESERVATION

NOMINATED UNDER CRITERIA (ORDINANCE 102229)

☐ (1) has significant character, interest or value, as part of the development, heritage or cultural characteristics of the City, State or Nation; or is associated with the life of a person significant in the past; or

☐ (2) is the site of an historic event with a significant effect upon society; or

☐ (3) exemplifies the cultural, political, economic, social or historic heritage of the community; or

☐ (4) portrays the environment in an era of history characterized by a distinctive architectural style; or

☒ (5) embodies those distinguishing characteristics of an architectural-type or engineering specimen; or

☒ (6) is the work of a designer whose individual work has significantly influenced the development of Seattle; or

☒ (7) contains elements of design, detail, materials or craftsmanship which represent a significant innovation; or

☐ (8) by being part of or related to a square, park or other distinctive area, should be developed or preserved according to a plan based on a historic, cultural or architectural motif; or

☐ (9) owing to its unique location or singular physical characteristic, represents an established and familiar visual feature of the neighborhood, community or city; or

☐ (10) has yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in pre-history or history.

NOMINEE Earl D. Layman HPO
 address Office of Urban Conservation
 phone 583-4479

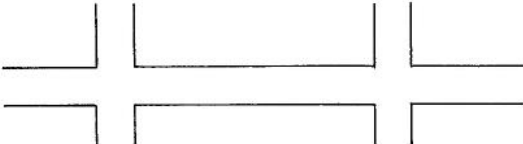
NOMINATION DATE November 27, 1974

Reviewed [Signature]
 Historic Preservation Officer
 date 12/13/74

BOARD SPONSOR [Signature]
Earl D. Layman
 date 12/24/74

Landmarks Preservation Board

Seattle Historic Building Data Sheet

1. Name (common or present and/or historic) ARBORETUM AQUEDUCT
2. Street and Number WASHINGTON PARK Block _____ Lot _____ Year Built ca 1913
3. Present Owner City of Seattle (METRO) Present Use Same
4. Interim Owner(s) _____ Interim Use(s) Same
5. Original Owner City of Seattle Original Use Sewer viaduct/foot path
6. Architect Willcox & Sayward Builder _____
7. Assessed Value: Building _____ Land _____ Assessors File No. _____
8. Classification:
- | | | | |
|--|--|---|--|
| ☐ Building | ☒ Public | ☐ Occupied | Open to Public:
☒ Yes
☐ No
Hours _____ |
| ☐ Site | ☐ Private | ☐ Unoccupied | |
| ☒ Structure | ☐ Both | ☐ Preservation work
in progress | |
| ☐ Object | | ☐ Threatened by
demolition | |
| ☐ Other
<u>Viaduct</u> | | ☐ Unknown | |
9. Neighborhood Information:
- A. Compatibility With Neighborhood
- Structure Yes X No _____
- Use Yes X No _____
- B. Importance to Neighborhood
- Great X _____
- Moderate _____
- Minor _____
- C. Architecturally Strong Neighborhood
- Comments Wooded Arboretum-Park/
Structure crosses Lake Washington Blvd.
(a well laid out winding road through the
Park).
10. Special Research Sources (Be Specific, list name or item and where found)
- Drawing available through the Engineering Department (1 sheet).
11. Cross Street Reference
- 
12. Photos Attached & Photographer _____

13. Physical Description

A. Style of Architecture

Wrightian

B. Construction Material

Reinforced concrete w/
decorative brickwork.

C. No. of Stories

23' to top of railing.
9'-6" clearance above roadway.

D. Condition

Excellent _____
Good X
Fair _____
Poor _____

E. Exterior Desecration of
Original Design

None or little X
Moderate amount _____
Considerable _____

F. Architectural worth at
Example of Its Style

Exceptional X
Excellent _____
Good _____
Fair _____
Poor _____

G. Notable Features: (Be specific, i.e., detailing, craftsmanship, proportions, materials, colors, interior, etc.
Refer to Guidelines of Landmarks Preservation Board).

The ARBORETUM AQUEDUCT is functionally a viaduct carrying a pipe, North Trunk Sewer, for the Lake Washington District. The sewer system is a gravity flow system. This basic requirement established a fixed height at which the pipe crossed the ravine in which Lake Washington Blvd. is located. The pipe is well integrated into a handsomely designed footbridge. The footbridge crosses the ravine in an east-west direction. The total length, 180' is divided into six equal arched spears supported by single 5' x 10' piers. The piers and arches are of reinforced concrete supporting the pipe and 7' wide walkway above. Above the arches the concrete sides are revealed and infilled with red brick creating a 9 vertical bands of brickwork between each pier. These bands are left open above the footpath except for a single stack of bricks in the center creating an open brick and concrete railing capped with concrete. The bridge piers are bricked in a similar manner. The two piers on each side of the central pier originally contained cast iron lamp posts with a single globe light.

Lake Washington Blvd. passes under the second arch from the east end of the Aqueduct. It is speculated that the exceptionally low clearance for the roadway (9'-6") was brought about because the Aqueduct was added after the road. The pipes carried by the Aqueduct had to be of a certain elevation in order for the sewer to work thus creating the low clearance.

14. Significance

A. Major Significance

- ☒ Historical
- ☐ Architectural
- ☒ Engineering
- ☐ Cultural
- ☐ Geographical
- ☐ Archaeological

B. Level of Significance

- ☐ National
- ☐ State
- ☐ Community

C. Statement of Significance (Be specific, history, personages, events, etc.)

The numbers below correspond to criteria of the Landmarks Ordinance 102229, Section 6., numbers not listed do not significantly apply to this nomination.

SECTION 6 (5) - The Arboretum Aqueduct represents an extremely successful attempt to make a sewer line innocuous as it passes exposed over one of the more beautiful drives in Seattle, Lake Washington Blvd., through the Arboretum (Washington Park). The Aqueduct with its attractive brickwork adds to the picturesque quality of the drive and via its footpath creates an interesting entrance to the park.

SECTION 6 (6) - The Aqueduct was the work of Walter W.R.B. Willcox who practiced architecture in Vermont and elsewhere in the East prior to coming to Seattle and establishing a practice here.

In 1914 Mr. Willcox was invited by Dean Ellis Fuller Lawrence to chair the Department of Architecture in the new School of Architecture and Allied Arts at the University of Oregon. Mr. Willcox was personally acquainted with Louis Sullivan and Frank Lloyd Wright, and their philosophies thoroughly pervaded his with respect to his architectural practice and especially his teaching philosophy. In the position which he assumed at the University and retained until his death about 1948, he developed a school which became nationally and inter-nationally known for its policies and attitudes. This school was the second in the United States (the first was Harvard) to break away from Beaux-Arts system of design. All work in all the creative disciplines was pursued on an individual development basis. Eventually grades were abolished from all creative courses and much to the surprise of the University administrators the quality of work rose rather than declined as they had anticipated. This was a real break-through against the out-moded grading and jury systems which still prevail in most architectural schools in this country.

Mr. Willcox, familiarly known as "W.R.B.", through his teaching and philosophy was influential in the molding of architects and architecture throughout the Northwest and indeed throughout the country. Locally such outstanding architects as Ibsen Nelsen and George Bartholick and Earl Layman, Historic Preservation Officer, are graduates of this school.

Surveyor Signature _____

Date 04/01/75

Reviewed: _____

Historic Preservation Officer

04/01/75

Date