NPS Form 10-900
(Rev. 10-90)

OMB No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name GAS WORKS PARK

other names/site number SEATTLE LIGHTING CO., SEATTLE GAS COMPANY LAKE STATION

2. Location

street & number 2000 NORTH NORTHLAKE WAY not for publication ____

city or town SEATTLE vicinity ____

state WASHINGTON code WA county KING code 033 zip code 98103

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this ____ nomination ____ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X meets ____ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant X nationally ___ statewide ___ locally. (___ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official — Date: 6/26/02

WASHINGTON STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ____ meets ____ does not meet the National Register criteria.
(___ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official — Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

____ entered in the National Register
___ See continuation sheet.
____ determined eligible for the National Register
___ See continuation sheet.
____ determined not eligible for the National Register
____ removed from the National Register
____ other (explain): _____

Signature of Keeper: Date of Action:

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)
___ private
_X_ public-local
___ public-State
___ public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)
___ building(s)
_X_ district
___ site
___ structure
___ object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
3		buildings
1		sites
5		structures
2		objects
11		Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.) N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register
None

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)
Cat: Industry/processing/extraction
Sub: Energy facility

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)
Cat: Landscape
Sub: Park

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)
Other- Post Industrial

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)
foundation concrete and steel
roof steel, wood trusses/metal roofing
walls steel, wood
other

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

See Continuation Sheet

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

_X__ **A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.

_____ **B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.

_X__ **C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.

____ **D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations
(Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

___ **A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.

___ **B** removed from its original location.

___ **C** a birthplace or a grave.

___ **D** a cemetery.

___ **E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.

___ **F** a commemorative property.

_X_ **G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions)
___Industry _____
___Landscape Architecture_____
_____

Period of Significance
_____1906-56 _____
_____1970-78 _____
_____

Significant Dates
_____1906, 1937, 1947, 1956_____
_____1970, 1973, 1975 _____
_____

Significant Person
(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)
_____
_____

Cultural Affiliation
_____ N/A

Architect/Builder
___Haag,Richard (Landscape Architect) ___
__Jefferies-Norton Corp (Gas Separation System)
_____
_____

Narrative Statement of Significance
(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)
See Continuation Sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography
(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):
___ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
___ previously listed in the National Register
___ previously determined eligible by the National Register
___ designated a National Historic Landmark
___ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
___ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary Location of Additional Data:
___ State Historic Preservation Office
___ Other State agency
___ Federal agency
___ Local government
___ University
___ Other
Name of repository:
_____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property ____20.5 acres _____

UTM References
(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	10	549859	5277053
2	10	540215	5277053
3	10	540215	5276820
4	10	549859	5276820

___ See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description
(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)
See Continuation Sheet

Boundary Justification
(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)
See Continuation Sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title _Patricia Tusa Fels/Architect and Christy Edstrom O'Hara _____

organization___Friends of Gas Works Park _____ date_ April 2, 2002 __

street & number___30002 Issaquah-Fall City Rd. _____ telephone__425-222-0744 ___

city or town_____Fall City _____ state_WA zip code ____98024

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO

name Seattle Department of Parks and Recreation

street & number 800 Maynard Ave. South telephone 206-684-4155

city or town Seattle state WA zip code 98134

Narrative Description:

Summary

Gas Works Park occupies a 20.5-acre promontory with 1900 feet of Lake Union shoreline in Seattle, Washington. The site is bordered by Northlake Avenue at the north and abuts Lake Union on the East and South, between the northwest and northeast arms of Lake Union (Figures 1, 2, and 3). To the north of the park is the predominantly residential neighborhood of Wallingford. Immediately adjacent to the park are remnants of the industrial development of the area, which today is being rapidly replaced by retail development.

The Gas Works Park was formed from the remnants of a turn of the century gas manufacturing plant, called Lake Station, which was operated by the Seattle Lighting Company. Today, much of the former industrial site remains including steel towers, concrete railroad trestles and several buildings. First built in 1906 and subsequently altered in the 30's and 40's, the gas works functioned at this location until 1956.

Abandoned for 6 years, the gas-production plant and its land were purchased by the City of Seattle in 1962. In 1970 the commission hired Richard Haag Associates, Landscape Architects to complete the design for a new park. Gas Works Park (GWP) opening to the public with fan fair in 1975.

PRESENT APPEARANCE AND CHARACTERISTICS

The park can be entered two ways: through a landscaped parking area or through the Burke-Gilman Trail, a bike and walking path which connects Puget Sound to Lake Washington. Dividing the parking area from the park is a grassy berm and rows of trees demarcating the old railroad right-of-way.

The park is comprised of nine designed areas, which incorporate numerous structures and objects both from the turn-of-the-century gas works and new park development. These nine areas include: 1) the Earth Mound, 2) the Prow, 3) the North lawn, 4) South lawn 5) Picnic Lawns, 6) the Towers, 7) a Picnic Shelter, 8) the Play Barn and 9) the adjacent Playground. The Earth Mound, Prow, and Lawns are open areas intended for passive and active recreation, offering magnificent views of downtown Seattle and Lake Union.

The groups of gas processing towers have always been the distinguishing feature of the gas works; and through their retention today, they remain a prominent feature in the park. The only major structures removed in the creation of the Gas Works Park were large oil tanks and city gas holders, all of which were located to the West of the Towers. The functioning parts of the gas complex all remain today: including the plethora of towers, tanks and pumps, and the shells of two major buildings.

Narrative Description: (cont'd)

1) The Earth Mound

The Mound 1978
Contributing Resource: Site

Sundial 1978
Contributing Resource: Object

Initially a slagheap, this contributing hill is 35 feet high and is known today as the "Great Mound." It was created when the city haphazardly dumped excavated materials from a construction site. As part of turning the industrial site into a park, Landscape Architect Richard Haag added 20,000 cubic yards of oxides, arsenic and lamp-black gathered from the site and then covered it with fresh topsoil. Today the mound is now completely covered in field grass with paths that spiral around the mound, allowing places for kite flying, boat watching or stargazing.

At the top of the mound is a sundial created by Seattle artists, Chuck Greening and Kim Lazare, in 1978. Formed out of concrete and delineated with rocks, shells, glass, bronze and many other materials, the auto-gnomonic sundial tells time by using the body of the visitor as a stylus. The viewer's shadow tells the time of day and the season.

2) The Prow

Concrete Platform 1936 / 1975
Contributing Resource: Structure

Originally built in 1936, this concrete platform was used as an oil unloading area for tankers from Lake Union. In 1975 the platform was integrated into the park design by placing benches and handrails at the lakeside edges and building steps to the water at the East. Today it is known as the Prow.

3), 4) & 5) The North and South Lawns, and Picnic Lawn

Concrete train trestles (10 Piers): 1906
Contributing Resource: Structure

Restrooms/Concession Stand 1975
Contributing Resource: Building

These three large lawn areas have soil that has been bio-remediated with 18" of sewage sludge and sawdust. This innovative process decontaminated the soil from past industrial pollution, allowing for the growth of field grass. In 2001 a new cleanup plan was initiated by the City of Seattle in the SE area of the Park. An invisible air sparging

Narrative Description: (cont'd)

system has been set up in this area, along with a new 12" layer of soil cover.

On the north lawn at the park entrance, are the remnants of a concrete train trestle. These ten concrete piers were part of the original 1906 gas plant railroad, which ran along the north side of the Office and Laboratories Building (demolished). The piers and accompanying berm reveal where the railroad tracks into the plant and where coal was delivered to the gas works plant. Coal cars would travel up the trestles and release coal into hoppers parked under the trestles. The perimeter of the railroad path is lined on both sides by trees, and divides the parking lot from a grassy berm, hence delineating the edges of the park.

At the edge of the North lawn, between the North Lawn and Picnic lawn is a Restroom / Concession Stand. Built in 1978, this contributing one-story structure was built as part of park construction. This concrete block structure has a hip roof clad with corrugated metal.

6) The Towers

Towers 1 and 2 1937-38
Contributing Resource: Structure
Synthetic natural gas generator towers with their attendant processing towers, Waste heat boiler, Wash boxes, and Scrubbers.

Towers 3-6 1947
Contributing Resource: Structure
Synthetic natural gas generator towers with their attendant processing towers, Wash boxes, Scrubbers, and Secondary scrubbers.

Light oil absorber, Oil cooler & Foamite Control Shed 1938
Contributing Resource: Structure

Built in 1937-38, Towers 1 and 2 are the largest towers and are Semet-Solvay-type generators (see figures 6 & 7). Each has a single outer shell made of welded steel lined inside with refractory brick. Tower 1 is 80 feet tall; Tower 2 is 75 feet tall. At their peak they could manufacture 6 million cubic feet of gas a day.

Newer to the site, Towers 3-6 were built in 1947. They have the same brick inner shell and welded-steel outer shell construction as Towers 1 and 2, but are smaller. All four towers have an outer diameter of 22 feet, are 50 feet tall, and rest on concrete pedestals. The brick liner has an inside diameter of 20 feet and is 33.5 feet high. The outer shells are equipped with nozzles for pipe and instrument connections, access doors, air blast doors, gas outlets, and sight holes. (Blueprints, 1945-46).

Narrative Description: (cont'd)

Wash boxes and scrubbers associated with generators 3-6 were also built in 1946-47. Next to each generator are the wash boxes, which look like small tanks, measuring 10 feet in diameter by 11 feet tall, each mounted on three supporting legs. For each pair of wash boxes there is one primary scrubber that rests on a concrete pedestal; it stands 48 feet tall and has an 11.5-foot diameter. The output from the two primary scrubbers goes into the single secondary scrubber of welded steel construction (measuring 12 feet in diameter, 68 feet tall). Farthest from the generators are two small tanks (about 20 feet tall) that were the original secondary scrubbers. All piping that connects these towers is of 3/16-inch plate steel. (Blueprints, 1945-46)

Towers 1-6 are presently enclosed by a chain link fence erected by the Seattle Parks Department. Inside the fence, to the SE of the towers, lays one large smoke stack. This was taken down by the Parks Department in 1978, but the foundation still remains.

Between the generators and the Play Barn stand two more steel tower-like structures that are the Light oil absorber (80 feet tall) and Oil cooler (40 feet tall). The cooling tower lowered the temperature of the light oil-gas mixture from the scrubbers; then the oils were separated from the gas in the oil absorber tower. Light oils such as benzene, toluene and solvent naphtha were the secondary products. Adjacent to these towers sits a small brick building, the only remaining Foamite Control Shed. Originally one of four identical buildings, these buildings were used for fire control.

7) Picnic Shelter, 8) Play Barn, and 9) Playground

Picnic Shelter 1910
Contributing Resource: Building
Original Function: Boiler House (including Boiler #11 shipped to Seattle in 1941)
Current Function: Picnic Shelter

Play Barn 1910
Contributing Resource: Building
Original Function: Pump House/Exhauster House (including Pumps, Compressors, Piping, Gas Exhausters, Air Separator & Electrostatic precipitators).
Current Function: Playbarn

Playground 1935
Contributing Resource: Object
Smoke arrestor hood

These buildings date back to the original coal-gas facility (ca. 1910) and were constructed of wood. The Pump

Narrative Description: (cont'd)

House (also known as the Exhauster House) which today is called the Play Barn, is about 7,340 sq ft (48 feet x 153 feet) and the Boiler House, today the Picnic Shelter, is about 5,720 sq ft (40 feet x 143 feet). The heavy timber wood frames of both buildings remain intact, and are set on concrete slab foundations.

The Boiler House, now the Picnic Shelter, originally housed two boilers. One provided steam for the gasification process; the other (#11) provided steam for the steam engines that powered the Pump House compressors. The tubes from boiler #11 remain in place at the eastern end of the building and are an impressive display of seldom-seen industrial technology. The building has a monitor style roof and is clad with a combination of corrugated metal and wood clapboard.

The Pump House is now the Play Barn where most of the pumps, compressors, and piping are still in place. The 3000 hp compressor's 10 ton fly-wheel ran continuously to keep the plant running 24 hours a day. In this building, air was compressed for the oxygen-extraction process; the oxygen was then pumped to the generators for the first stage of gas manufacturing, and the final product was compressed and pumped to either the storage tank or down the lines of main to customers. South of the Play Barn sits another boiler and two tanks that were electrostatic tar precipitators. These tanks removed tar from the gas. All of this monumental machinery is preserved, repainted in bright primary colors so that all can see and touch it, while providing a critical display of Seattle's industrial history. As part of the park design, the sides of the building have been opening with triangular and rectangular voids. This siding is now sheathed in diagonally laid weatherboard.

Outside the Play Barn, further to the south, is a Playground that encompasses the sole surviving smoke arrestor hood which has been refurbished as a play structure for climbing. Designed and built by the Seattle Gas Company in 1935, three were installed in order to reduce pollutant emissions. The Playground uses remnants of the original footprint of buildings and underground piping to provide stairs and seating.

Narrative Statement of Significance:

Gas Works Park is historically significant under Criterion C as a seminal work of landscape architecture by the noted landscape architect Richard Haag. His work at gracefully transforming a former gas works industrial site into a first rate urban park was groundbreaking for its era and preserved a distinctive type of industrial process. As such, Gas Works Park is also historically significant under Criterion A as the last remaining gas works plant facility in the United States. Additional the plant has a direct association with the development and evolution of energy supply in Seattle.

Gas Works Park meets the eligibility threshold established by Criteria Consideration G as a precedent setting adaptive reuse of a former industrial site and is a pivotal landscape project by noted landscape architect, Richard Hagg.

Introduction

The American Industrial Revolution, and Seattle's own early growth and success, were based on having an abundant supply of energy. One of the most important forms was gas. Light and heat for American cities was produced by illuminating gas, a man-made product derived from coal or oil. In the U.S. there were over 1,400 plants producing such gas, and from 1880-1930 they fueled America's growth. Today the gas works plant remnants show the processes that set the stage for our present life style (and Seattle's prosperity). The original structures form an industrial archaeology and are the last remaining examples of a lost technology. Although the Gas Works on Lake Union were integrated into a new City of Seattle Park, the key components of transforming coal or oil into gas are still in place. Except for the large oil storage tanks which were demolished when the Park was constructed, the physical evidence of the many facets of the gasification process are intact and can be viewed at the Park (see figures 4 & 5).

Gas Works Park is of exceptional importance nationally and internationally for its design innovations in landscape architecture. Beginning in 1970, landscape architect Richard Haag ingeniously adapted the former gas works site, by selectively transforming the industrial remnants into a new park. He anticipated the sustainability movement through an innovative method called bioremediation to naturally clean the polluted soil. His re-use of industrial remnants reflected not only Seattle's industrial past, but influenced other designs across the globe from Granville Island, Vancouver to Slater Mill in Pawtucket, Rhode Island, and abroad to parks in France and Germany. Richard Haag's work at the Park was considered radical for its time; however, the intervening 30 years have fostered an understanding and appreciation of his insights. Haag's park design changed people's perceptions of former industrial sites, redefining what was "beautiful," improving the health of the polluted sites, and reincorporating the sites back into the community.

As a gifted landscape architect, Richard Haag is the only person to ever win two of the prestigious ASLA President's Award of Excellence: one for Gas Works Park and the second for Bloedel Reserve in Bainbridge

Narrative Statement of Significance: (cont'd)

Island, Washington. Born in 1923 in Louisville, Kentucky, Richard Haag moved to Seattle via San Francisco. He had previously received his Bachelors in Landscape Architecture from UC Berkeley, and a Master of Landscape Architecture from Harvard in 1952. After his master's program, Hagg was awarded a Fulbright Fellowship and spent two years studying in Japan. After his move to Seattle in 1958, Hagg began to change local landscape architecture in profound ways. Haag established the Landscape Architecture Department at University of Washington in 1964 where he taught until 1999. He is now professor emeritus. Gas Works Park is his masterwork in Seattle, a project that has brought him international acclaim.

Gas Works Parks has two periods of significance. The first, 1906 to 1956, covers the time in which the gas works plant was in operation. The second period of significance , 1970-1978, spans the planning and construction period for the conversion of the gas works plant to a park.

Pre-History

Because of the ideal location of Gas Works Park, many inhabitants have used the place. Little is known of pre-Euro-American site history, but there were Native American settlements such as Kah-chug, Tenas Chuck, and Xa'ten around Lake Union. Thomas Mercer named the site "Lake Union" in the mid-1800s in expectation of future canals linking it to Puget Sound and Lake Washington. At that time, dense forests extended to the water's edge and the lake drained into Salmon Bay through a stream "full of windfalls and brush, impassable even for a canoe." (Bass, 1947) Lake Union in the 1860-70's was a popular vacation spot with Seattle residents for summer house-boating and picnicking.

Industrial Development

Several sawmills were operating on Lake Union's shore by the 1850s, taking advantage of the dense forests. Beginning in 1872, Seattle Coal and Transportation Company ferried coal from its Renton Hill mines across the lake for portage to Puget Sound. The 1880s brought further industry to the south end of Lake Union with the Denny sawmill, brick manufacturing, shipbuilding, a tannery, and iron works. Canals with small locks were cut in 1885 from Lake Washington to Lake Union, and from Lake Union to Salmon Bay. The arrival of the Seattle, Lake Shore and Eastern Railroads in 1887 ensured that Lake Union would continue to be a focus for industrial development.

In 1900 the Seattle Gas Light Company began to purchase lots at the present Gas Works Park site (Secrist, Title Search). Despite the fact that the land was being acquired by the gas company, the Olmsted Brothers in 1903 recommended that "...the point of land between the northeast and northwest arms of Lake Union and the railroad should be secured as a local park, because of its advantages for commanding views over the lake and for boating, and for a playground." (Olmsted Brothers, 1903) When the Company opened a gas plant in 1906 it was "the only

Narrative Statement of Significance: (cont'd)

enterprise of its kind west of the Mississippi River and the second of its kind built in the United States." (Seattle Post-Intelligencer, 9-27-14)

In 1911, Virgil Bogue produced a civic master plan for Seattle's Municipal Plans Commission in which he promoted the idea of Lake Union as an industrial area: "The fact that [Lake Union] is located in the very heart of the city indicates that if properly developed it will become a most important factor in the commercial and business activities of the city." (Seattle Municipal Plans Commission, 1911) Completion of the Lake Washington Ship Canal and Ballard locks in 1917 guaranteed the success of shipping and ship-building industries on Lake Union, despite the fact that the Bogue plan had been defeated by voters.

In the early 1900s, the gas manufacturing plant on Lake Union, called Lake Station, was the largest private utility existing in Seattle. Eventually the municipally owned Seattle City Light would overtake the private utility and hydro-electricity would prove less costly. But for the next fifty years the Lake Station provided gas for many of Seattle's citizens.

The Seattle Gas Light Company was founded in 1873 by two of Seattle's foremost pioneers, Arthur A. Denny and Dexter Horton, along with J. Collins. In 1894 Sam Hill, son-in-law of James J. Hill, the railroad empire builder, bought controlling interests in the company. In 1904 the Company was consolidated to become the Seattle Lighting Company. When Lake Station opened, it was operated by the "Seattle Lighting Company". In 1930 the name was changed to "Seattle Gas Company" (Gasco). In the 1940's, customer demand for natural gas increased and in 1955 Seattle Gas Company merged with Washington Gas and Electric (Washington Natural Gas). In the 1990's, Washington Natural Gas was folded into Puget Sound Energy.

Throughout the first half of this century the Seattle Gas Company was a significant participant in and contributor to the growth of Seattle and adjoining communities. During a time of growing urbanization, Seattle, like cities throughout the U.S. needed an affordable source of energy. The primary product of the Lake Station was illuminating gas manufactured from coal. Not only was the illuminating gas used for lighting, but later also used for cooking, refrigeration, heating homes and water. Illuminating gas was known as "city gas" to distinguish it from natural gas. The gas was made from coal until 1937 when the high cost of operating the old coke oven and coal-gas generating sets forced a substitution to oil. A pair of oil-to-gas generators were built at the site in 1937 and the old coal-gas facilities were disassembled. In 1946-47, two more oil gas generator pairs were constructed to maintain demand for gas.

The plant also manufactured other basic products necessary for urban growth: tar for roofing; lampblack for pigment in tires and ink; charcoal briquets for odor-free and efficient home heating. Since by-products from gas manufacturing had strong markets of their own, new equipment was installed in the 1930's and 40's to produce Gasco charcoal briquets, toluene, solvent naphtha, sulfur, xylene, and resin tar. The solvent Toluene was in high

Narrative Statement of Significance: (cont'd)

demand during World War II for making TNT and various types of gunpowder. Through all of these products, the gas works contributed in an integral way, not only to daily commercial and domestic life in Seattle, but to interests at a national level.

Primary manufacturing and support facilities consisted of storage tanks, boiler house, pump and compressors house, offices, and laboratories. On-site support included electrical, carpentry, machine, blacksmith, and welding shops. Additional facilities included a stable, first aid stations, and foamite houses for storing fire control materials. Running through the north portion of the site was Burlington Northern Railroad's 50 ft. wide right-of-way. Train trestle piers from the coal days are still in place.

By 1954, the Lake Station plant utilized 1,071 miles of gas main to serve Seattle, Renton, Kent and Tukwila, Washington. Approximately 43,198 customers were served in 1940, decreasing to 36,200 in 1954. The Gas Company averaged about 130 employees, with four crews of 23 men per shift, rotating 24 hours a day on a 7-day run. Production of city gas ended at the site in 1956 when Seattle converted to natural gas. In 1962 the abandoned buildings and manufacturing structures were still intact when the City of Seattle began purchase of the gas works. During this period there was considerable public discussion about whether the site should be developed or made into a park. Park advocates led by Myrtle Edwards, City Councilwoman and chair of the Parks committee, prevailed. In 1970, Richard Haag Associates (RHA) was retained by the Seattle Park Board to complete an analysis and Master Plan (see figure 8) for a new park at the former gas plant site.

Richard Haag's Master Plan: Innovation in Adaptive Reuse and Bioremediation

Richard Haag opened an on-site office to research and analyze the industrial site, thus searching, like his philosophical guide Frederick Law Olmsted, for its *genius loci* (Campbell, 1973). Haag and his staff began a complete study of the Lake Union basin and neighborhoods that the park would serve. This study included an analysis of existing and proposed parks, land forms and soils, population and zoning, open space, history of the gas plant, including functions of each structure, surface covers, microclimate, plant life and visual experience to fully understand the sense of place (Ibid.)

Seattle has a rich heritage of post-Victorian parks designed in the early 1900s—all for passive recreation designed within a picturesque landscape. In contrast, Gas Works Park was designed to be an urban, intensively used pleasure ground utilizing unique structures. Haag explicitly described this new approach to park design in his Master Plan:

> "The traditional escape from the city into the sylvan settings of remote areas has changed for many people into a seeking of a more active encounter. Introspection and retreat are easily accomplished without physical isolation, but facilities for social interaction with persons other than intimate friends are more scarce with respect to population growth. ...new sites should be offered in a vast and varied park system to accommodate experimentation and innovation in both design and

Narrative Statement of Significance: (cont'd)

program." (Master Plan, 1971)

Haag's unique design for Gas Works Park created a reformulation of park design in landscape architecture throughout the globe. He challenged the orthodox view of a park, reaching beyond the 19th Century Olmstedianprototypes, thus shedding the preconceptions of landscape architectural design (Abitare, 1984). Haag called his new design the "park of the future." (Campbell, 1973) Through an understanding of the site and its unique features, he changed the traditional design viewpoint of what could be done to the landscape, to what could be done with the landscape (Weston, 1987).

Richard Haag realized that the site contained the last gas works plant in the U.S. and that he had a unique opportunity for preservation not only of Seattle's industrial past, but for the "esthetic and utilitarian value" of the remnants as well. (Master Plan, April 1971) His adaptive reuse showed the beauty in industrial forms while removing it's negative associations. With innovation, Haag saw the towers from the gas plant as sculptural art, "iron Gothic" structures, what he called "irreplaceable and significant totemic artifacts that would fascinate future generations." (Brynolson, 1977) He compared removing some of the gas plant structures, while retaining others, to "selective pruning in a forest." Foreseeing the impact of the design, he predicted that this would give Seattle the only park in the world which would incorporate any aspect of industrial age. (Weems, 1980) Upon completion of the Park, The New York Times (8/30/75) lauded the design as "Seattle's pre-eminent piece of public sculpture."

When the city of Seattle purchased the site in 1962, the original intention was to raze the site and create a forested setting, naming it after the late Mrs. Myrtle Edwards. Intense public controversy erupted over the proposed design, arguing for an against it in both major Seattle newspapers. The design was debated in editorials and letters to the editor. The plan was attacked at public hearings as "hideously ugly" and an "environmental intrusion" (Goldberger, 1975). After an intense appeal to convince the public of the value of the plant, the Seattle City Council unanimously approved Haag's 1971 Master Plan for an industrial preservation park. Outraged by the plan, in November 1972, Myrtle Edwards' family declined having the park named after her.

The Master Plan proposed recycling the buildings, production structures, machinery and even the grounds themselves. Research found that the soil was so polluted (contaminated for 15 feet down to the water table according to Brynolson) through 60 years of industrial use that it could not be planted like a traditional park. Typical park vegetation such as trees would not grow in this kind of soil. Officials became convinced when an engineer descended into a drilled hole and had to be hauled back up after fainting from the fumes. (Brynolson, 1977) Haag's vision included a "minimum of traditional green" beginning a new campaign in environmental education. He called this facet of the design his"Clean and Green Scheme," not only for its color but for its environmental elements. The process of bioremediation was to detoxify oil-soaked soil.

Narrative Statement of Significance: (cont'd)

His plan came twenty years before the EPA decreed land farming (bioremediation) to be a viable option for the healing of contaminated sites. Haag immediately began working the site by bringing in sawdust and primary treated sewage, topsoil and grass seed. This mix established nutrients and oxygen for bacteria to "farm" the toxins. Through bioremediation, the toxins would be eaten by tiny microorganisms and transformed into harmless elements. (Fels, 2000) Conventional methods of the day were to "cap and cover" or haul away toxins to contaminate another site. Haag anticipated the sustainability movement in this natural, slow process of allowing the site to heal itself.

Historic Context of Landscape Architecture in the 1960s-1970s

The 1960s were a time of experimentation and concern for the environment, providing the setting for the design of Gas Works Park.

At the National Conference on Instruction of Landscape Architecture in 1957, landscape architect Ian McHarg emerged as the spokesman for environmental values in practice. The conference sought to find ways to give social function as much validity as to the art of design and brought an awakening of ecological approach in design. (Walker, 1994)

The 1960s proved to be a volatile decade of great change. The environmental movement became a strong force, viewing environmental degradation in new and profound ways. Technical innovations following World War II, such as advances in metallurgy, welding techniques and pipe rolling, changed energy production from coal driven processes to a cleaner natural gas. The switch to natural gas throughout the world made gas-manufacturing plants obsolete. During this same decade, Rachel Carson's 1962 book Silent Spring, described for the first time the threat of pesticides and other synthetic chemicals to all life on earth. These new values ultimately culminated in the passage of the National Environmental Policy Act in 1969, mandating environmental impact statements for a wide range of projects.

During the 1960s, nature was brought into urban settings in abstracted forms and was more experimental in design (Walker, 1994). Experimentation was also accomplished in new settings, such as the first major institutional roof garden at the Oakland Museum (1962-1969) by Dan Kiley and Geraldine Knight Scott. Landscape architect Lawrence Halprin's experimentalism in design married dance choreography to landscape design, trying to stretch the boundaries of creative process. Richard Haag was a member of this generation of landscape architects and through his work with Lawrence Halprin, he brought ideas of experimentalism to Seattle.

Also during the era, significant pieces of state environmental legislation were passed in the state of Washington due to the burgeoning environmental movement of the 1960s. In Seattle, a regional agency called Metro was created in order to deal with rapid transit, sewage and the provision of a large-scale open space system. (Streatfield,

Narrative Statement of Significance: (cont'd)

1988) The failure to create an effective metropolitan planning agency led to the passage in 1968 of a large bond called a Forward Thrust for the purpose of creating a large number of public parks in Seattle and King County. Gas Works' purchase price of $1,340,000 was paid through Forward Thrust bonds and H.U.D monies.

Historic Context within Richard Haag's Work:

Richard Haag's first major design in the Seattle area was for the Seattle Center following the World's Fair in 1962. His design used earth mounds to create topographic interest as well as provide a cheap way to hide the foundations of razed buildings from the World Fair. However, it was not until his visit to Sweden in 1963 when he saw Gunnar Asplund and Sigurd Lewerentz's "Woodland Cemetery" and its use of earth mounds that he understood the power of the simple mounds' scale, siting and form.

Similar in several ways to Gas Works Park and immediately predating it, the 1970 design of Jordan Park in Everett, Washington, combined light industry, commercial and marine-oriented activities. Five earth mounds with a delineation of trees at the perimeter, simple ground cover, and a widow's walk similar to the Prow, were early forms that would be repeated with new meaning at GWP.

In 1986 Richard Haag won his second ASLA President's Award for Excellence for Bloedel Reserve in Bainbridge Island, Washington (1969-1984). In contrast to GWP, the pristine reserve comprised approximately 150 acres surrounding an estate owned by Prentice Bloedel. Haag's design concept for the Master Plan was the Chinese Stroll Garden from Tao philosophy. There in a series of gardens, Haag designed different "rooms" each providing a unique experience, from the Depression (a circular canal surrounded by grasses), to a pool ruin (vegetation that would take over site to become a ruin), to abstract triangular hills. Simple, abstract forms coupled with guidance from the natural environment and its processes describe the design at Bloedel Reserve. Like his work at GWP, Haag saw Bloedel Reserve as a great earth sculpture and was a mature continuation of many of his previous ideas. (Rozdilsky, 1991)

Precedents and Influences in Adaptation of Industrial Sites

In 1970 there were no precedents for Haag's proposal. In fact, while the Park Commission accepted Richard Haag's conceptual idea of recycling the industrial elements from the gas works, it was suggested that he look for international precedents for the actual design as way of validating these new ideas.

Taking a sabbatical, Haag traveled to Europe and was only able to find one similar project: a gas works in Berne, Switzerland which had adapted gas tanks to a skating rink and youth hostel. Haag was aware of the adaptation of slag heaps to designed earth mounds in Europe and visited Stoke-on-Trent observing the combination of tourism and museums at industrial sites. However, with the one example of Berne, there were no precedents for industrial

Narrative Statement of Significance: (cont'd)

remnants incorporated into a designed landscape. He returned to Seattle and had to develop a new type of landscape. The idea of industrial site adaptation was profound, one which would be copied and reinterpreted over the next 30 years at a regional, national and international level, changing the perception of industrial sites as usability places.

The regional influence of GWP can be seen at Granville Island (1973) in Vancouver and Dickman Mill (1993) in Tacoma, Washington. They adapt former industrial settings incorporating heavy industry and the retained skeleton of a lumber mill, respectively, into mixed-use complexes. Dickman Mill, like GWP, uses natural methods in restoration of the highly degraded salt marsh.

At a national level, Haag's concept was followed in a large number of obsolete industrial sites including: Slater Mill, Pawtucket, Rhode Island (museum and park), Museum of Textile History, Lawrence, Massachusetts (museum), Georgetown Foundry, Washington, D.C. (office building), Cannery Row, Monterey, California (mixed use) and Danbury Mill, Danbury, Connecticut (housing). Lowell, Massachusetts, also developed in the 1970s, was an attempt to revitalize the city based on its industrial and ethnic heritage. (Penrose, 1991) Haag's validation of vernacular industrial elements influenced designers and developers to look at sites as important remnants of history and culture. Their reuse was not only economical and environmentally appropriate, but saved an important part of many regions' industrial past.

Through the design of GWP, Haag also foresaw the implementation of today's multimillion-dollar brownsfield projects, which restore sites polluted by remnants of our industrial past. His influential design changed perceptions from viewing these sites as ugly and unusable. As recently as 1996, the New York Clean Water/Clean Air Bond Act envisioned thousands of former industrial sites as potential for new development or use as parks because of their existing infrastructure and convenient locations to transportation routes.

Modern designers continue to seek biological treatment systems like those used by Haag at GWP that are self-sustaining and cheaper than chemical treatment. Recently, Ford Motor Company and Rouge Steel's 1000-acre River Rouge complex sought this natural type of design, the result being restoration for a new wildlife habitat. Another contemporary example is Blacklick Creek in Pennsylvania, a former mining site that "celebrates" industrial pollution combining tree colors that mimic the golden polluted runoff; ultimately this site will also heal itself through designed natural processes.

GWP's influence internationally, especially in France and Germany, has been the strongest. While most American projects concentrated on industrial building adaptation, European design has more innovatively adapted both buildings and landscape, in a closer alignment with Haag's idea. One outstanding example is Parc Georges Brassens (1984) in Paris in which the new park design integrated some of the most striking architectural components of the original 1884 slaughterhouses into the gardens. Like GWP, concrete remnants of the

Narrative Statement of Significance: (cont'd)

foundations remained and served as the framework for the design. As at GWP, Haag's seminal ideas revealed beauty in industrial forms while removing the negative associations of places.

The contemporary landscape architect, Peter Latz of Germany, has built a practice adapting former industrial sites to new use incorporating sustainability into his landscapes. His best known project is Duisberg Nord, Duisberg, Germany--a park built on an abandoned blast furnace, replete with slag heaps, abandoned ore bunkers and elevated rails. Acknowledging the lead that Europe has taken since GWP's design in industrial site adaptation, Anne Raver of the New York Times wrote:

> "Americans have been late to see their industrial wastelands not only as potential public parks, but also as repositories of their history: the precedent was Gas Works Park in Seattle, which embraces the heroic structure and history of an old gas plant." (Raver, 2000)

Exceptional Qualities

Gas Works Park is an exceptional and ground-breaking work, thus qualifying the site as a significant resource under 50 years of age. The structures and machinery standing in GWP today are remnants of the Industrial Revolution that transformed the face of the world. It is the sole survivor of gas works from that era in the United States. Preserved as a public park, it is the only site that can be documented with most of the generating equipment intact. These form a unique and dramatic collection of a pioneering technology from the industrial revolution era. As UW Professor of Anthropology Kenneth Read eloquently expressed:

> "History sits on this little wasteland, not only the parochial history of a given city, but also a fragment of the chronicle of world and culture. It is certainly as valuable a document as anything preserved in the Museum of History and Industry." (Read, 1969)

The impact of Gas Works Park on land reclamation and industrial preservation attitudes and techniques extends far beyond Seattle. GWP has gained national and international attention as a prototype for industrial site conversions. It is studied, cited as an exemplary model, and referenced in educational textbooks and scholarly works. (See list of awards and exhibitions in Appendix A; a selected bibliography of works on the topic of GWP in Appendix B.) Since its opening in 1975, GWP has won numerous awards for design excellence, vision, and innovation. The jury for the ASLA President's Award of Excellence stated:

> "A remarkably original and attractive example of how to reclaim a seemingly hopeless and obsolete industrial installation. Instead of being destroyed or disguised, it has been transformed into a lighthearted environment ... A project of historical significance for the community. A symbol of American technology preserved."

> While its influential design acknowledges its exceptional quality, there is also a sense of urgency in GWP's preservation. As an industrial remnant, GWP was listed as one of the most vulnerable American sites in a Report

Narrative Statement of Significance: (cont'd)

to the President and the Congress of the United States in 1984:

> "Because of recent economic problems and changes in technology, a variety of industrial structures and paraphernalia have become expendable and vulnerable. Blast furnaces, copper smelters, coal mines and the like are threatened because they are nearly impossible to reuse and restoring them for museum use can be prohibitively expensive. Besides the difficulty in explaining the significance of these industrial dinosaurs, these vestiges often carry with them the stigma of past failures. Companies do not want them around as reminders of obsolescence and inactivity, employees have bad feelings about places that remind them of hard work followed by loss of employment, and others view them as unimportant, ungainly and unsafe."

The possibility for national recognition was recognized as early as 1971 by the noted Seattle preservationist, the late Professor Victor Steinbrueck, when he inventoried the gas works plant. Eric DeLony, then National Park Service Acting Supervisor at the Historic American Engineering Record (HAER), commented in a letter of April 15, 1971:

> "I am pleased to receive the inventory form, photographs, and personal evaluation on the Lake Station Gas Works of Seattle. I concur with your belief that the plant is an interesting industrial complex and that it's local significance will certainly be enhanced if plans to incorporate many of the structures into a public park are carried forth. I have never heard such a proposal ever considered seriously. If successful, the Lake Station Gas Works Park will not only be a unique first in the United States, if not the world, but will set an important precedent for the future preservation of industrial structures through an imaginative plan for adaptive use."

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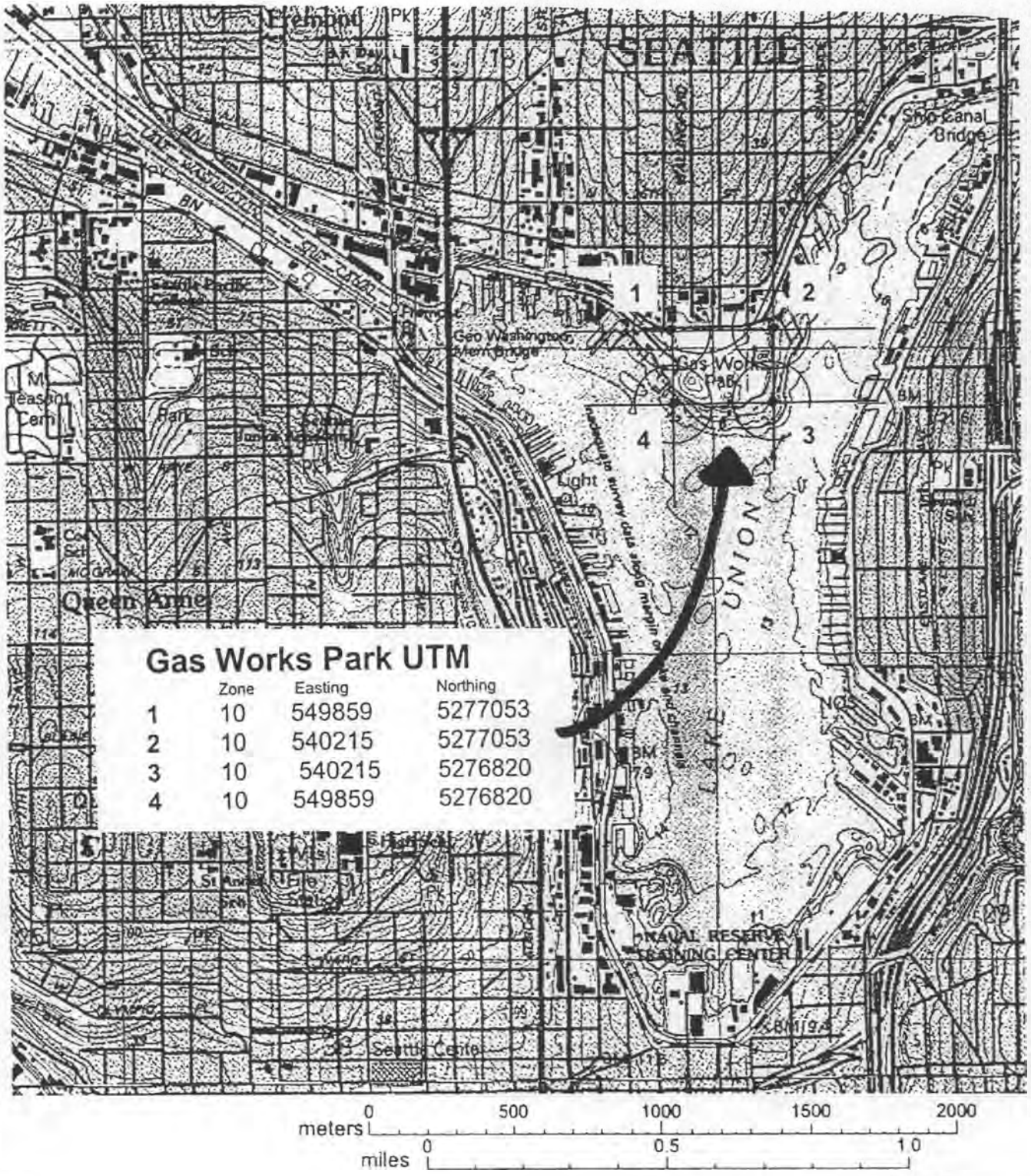
Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

The nominated area is located on the north shore of Lake Union at the southern trip of the Wallingford neighborhood. The park encompasses several lots within Burkes First Addition and Lake Union Shore Lands subdivision (see figure 3 for a complete legal description).

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

The nominated property encompasses the entire Gas Works Park boundaries which is approximately 20.5 acres.


SEATTLE
Ship canal Bridge
Geo Washington Memorial Bridge
Gas Works Park
Queen Anne
LAKE UNION
NAVAL RESERVE TRAINING CENTER
Seattle Center
1
2
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Gas Works Park UTM
Zone Easting Northing
1 10 549859 5277053
2 10 540215 5277053
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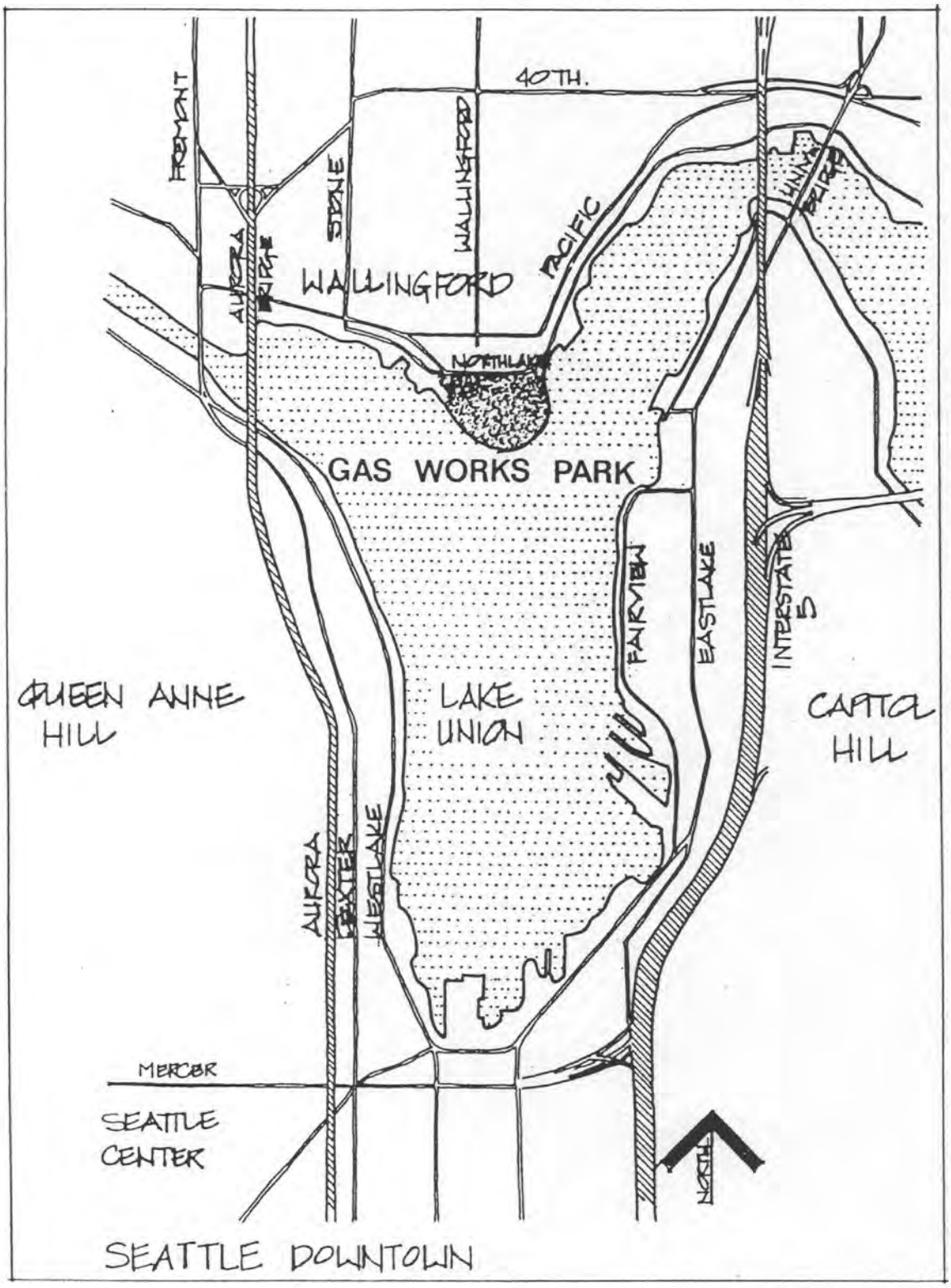

Figure 1: Context map showing Gas Works Park, Lake Union, and surroundings.

Landmark Nomination: APPENDIX A

Awards and Exhibitions
GAS WORKS PARK, SEATTLE, WASHINGTON

AWARDS

Date	*Organization*	*Award*
1993	The Waterfront Center	Excellence on the Waterfront International Honor Award
1981	American Society of Landscape Architects	President's Award of Design Excellence
1980	Print Casebooks 4	Certificate of Design Excellence, Environmental Design
1980	Urban Environmental Design National Awards	Special Mention Award, Project Design (Open Spaces)
1980	Shoreline Design Awards	First Award, Adaptive Re-Use
1979	Washington Chapter ASLA	Honor Award
1976	Seattle-King County Board of Realtors	Award for Excellence
1975	Design and Environment	Award for Excellence

EXHIBITIONS - NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL

1996 XIX Congress of the International Union of Architects (UIA Barcelona 96) "Present and Futures. Architecture in Cities", features Gas Works Park as part of "Terrain Vague", Barcelona, Spain.

1996 Harvard University Graduate School of Design, Gund Hall Gallery

1995 "Gasworks as Parks" Exhibition with the Port of Phillip, St. Kilda Victoria, Australia.

1993-94 University of Pennsylvania, Arthur Ross Gallery in Philadelphia, entitled, "Creative Solutions to Ecological Issues".

1993 "Recontres D' Automne" for the International Conservatoire of Parks, Gardens and Landscapes at their international conference in Paris, France to address "Imagination in Crisis".

Landmark Nomination: APPENDIX B

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LEGAL DESCRIPTION

Beginning at the Northeast corner of Lot 1, Block 42, Lake Union Shore Lands; thence south 23° 06' 21.7" East along the southwesterly line of Waterway No. 19, a distance of 557.843 feet, thence south 22° 27' 54.3" west, a distance of 224.922 feet, then south 70° 23' 49.8" west, a distance of 381.54 feet; thence north 89° 46' 15.2" west, a distance of 537.658 feet to the most southerly corner of Lot 2, Block 44, Lake Union Shore Lands; thence north 48° 26' 05.3" west along the southwesterly line of said Block 44 to the most westerly corner of Lot 1, said block; thence continuing north 48° 26' 05.3" west along the southwesterly line of Block 45, Lake Union Shore Lands to the most westerly corner of Lot 5, said block; thence northeasterly along the northwesterly lines of Lot 5, Block 45 and Lot 5, Block 8, Burke's First Addition to the City of Seattle according to plat thereof recorded in Volume 1 of plats page 236, in King County, Washington; thence southeasterly along the northeasterly line of said Block 8 projected, to point of intersection with a line connecting the most northerly corner of Block 44, Lake Union Shore Lands to the southwesterly corner of Lot 6, Block 6, Burke's First Addition; thence northerly to said southwesterly corner of Lot 6, Block 6; thence north along the west line of said Block 6 and same produced north and along the west line of Block 3, Supplemental Plat of Block 3, Burke's Addition to the City of Seattle as recorded in Volume 2 of Plats page 109, to the southerly line of the Burlington Northern's railway right of way; thence westerly along said southerly line to the east line of Block 2, said Burke's First Addition; thence south along said east line to a point thereon distant 60 feet north of the southeast corner therefrom; thence along a curve to the right having a uniform radius of 796.82 feet to a point on the southwesterly line of Lot 8, said Block 2, distant 25 feet southeasterly of its intersection with the west line of said Lot 8; thence northwesterly along said southwesterly line to the west line of said Lot 8; thence north along said west line to its intersection with the northerly line of said railway right of way; thence westerly along said northerly line to its intersection with the westerly line of said Block 1; thence northerly along said westerly line to the south line of Northlake Way North as established by Ordinance No. 33626; thence east along said south line to the beginning; together with vacated streets therein; except any portion therein lying within the Burlington Northern railway right of way.

Figure 3: Legal description of site (Source: City of Seattle, Dept. of Parks and Recreation, Site Plan, 1975).

STATE OF WASHINGTON
OFFICE OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY & HISTORIC PRESERVATION
1063 S. Capitol Way, Suite 106 • Olympia, Washington 98501
(Mailing Address) PO BOX 48343 • Olympia, Washington 98504-8343
Phone (360) 586-3065 FAX (360) 586-3067 Web Site: www.oahp.wa.gov

June 26, 2002

Carol D. Shull
Keeper of the National Register
National Register of Historic Places
Main Interior
1849 "C" Street NW, NC 400
Washington, D.C. 20240

RE: **Washington State NR Nominations**

Dear Ms. Shull:

Please find enclosed completed National Register nominations for the following properties:

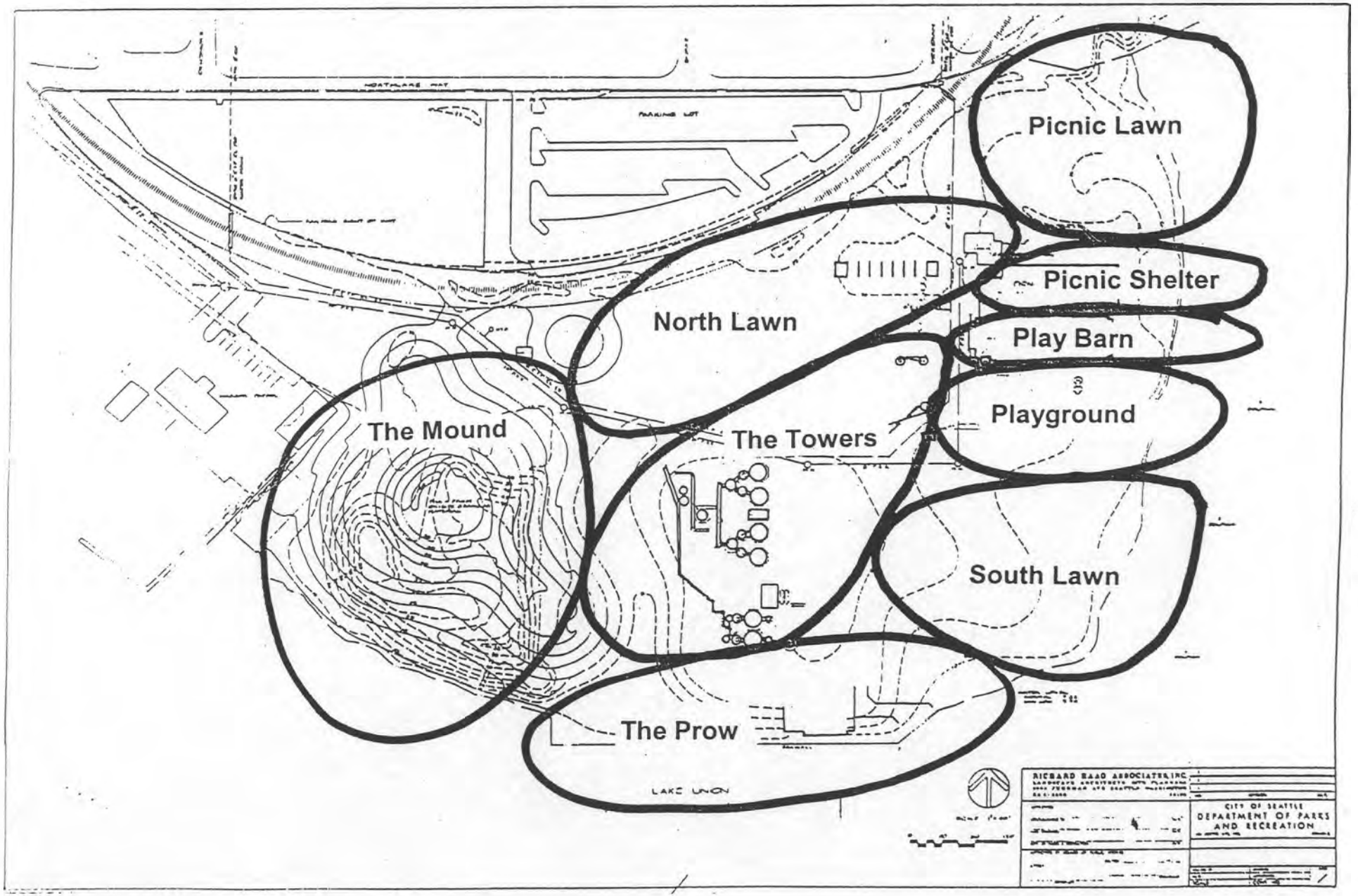
- **Rector Hotel, King County, WA**
- **Luigi & Aurora Pagani House, King County, WA**
- **Gas Works Park, King County, WA**
- **Hillyard Historic Business District, Spokane County, WA**

Please note that these are new nominations for the National Register.

Should you have any questions about any of these nomination please contact me anytime at (360) 586-3076.

Sincerely,

Michael Houser
Architectural Historian
OAHP
E-Mail: michaelh@cted.wa.gov


Picnic Lawn
Picnic Shelter
North Lawn
Play Barn
Playground
The Mound
The Towers
South Lawn
The Prow
LAKE UNION
RICHARD HAAG ASSOCIATES, INC.
CITY OF SEATTLE
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS
AND RECREATION

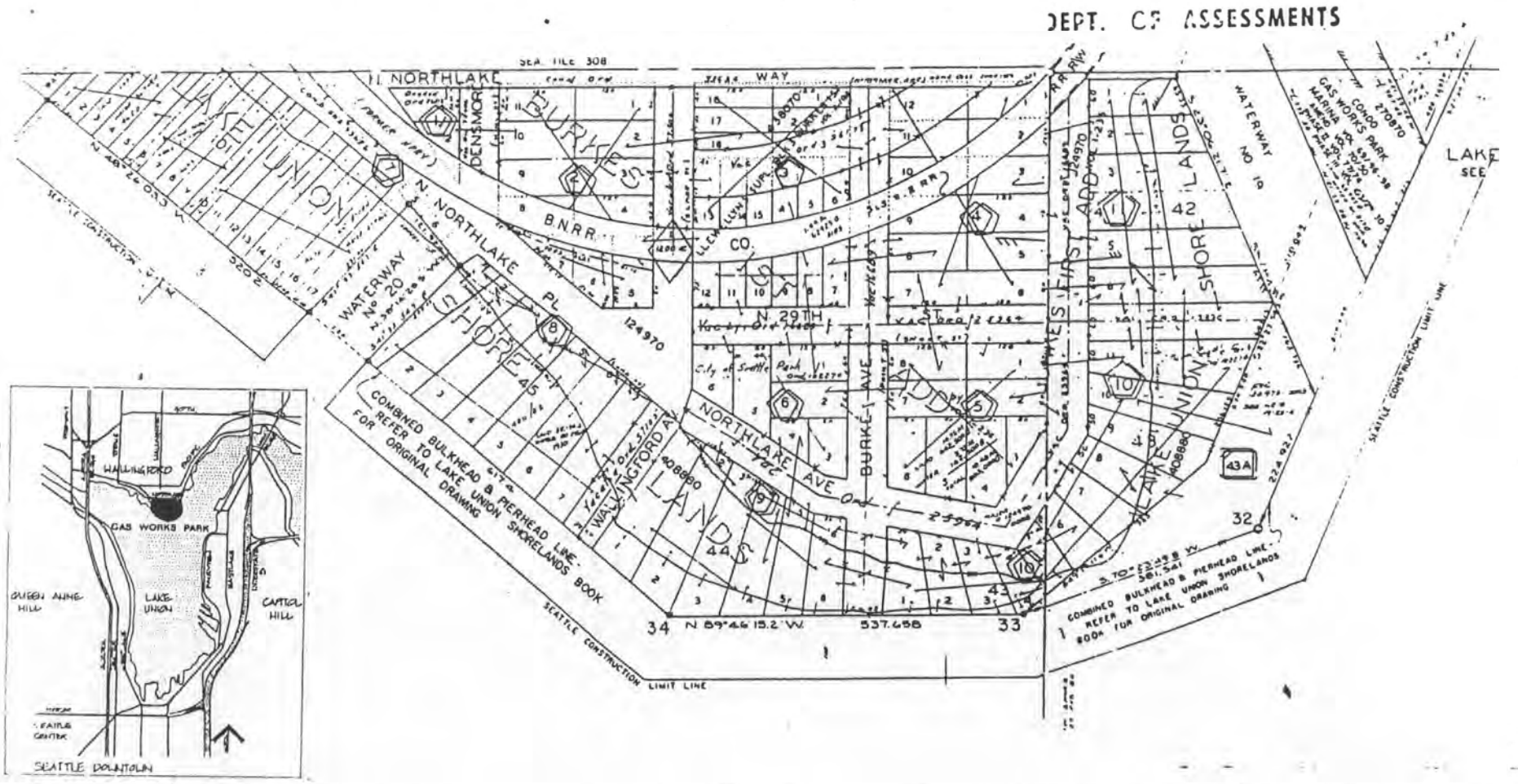


Figure 2: Burkes First Addition and Lake Union Shore Lands, originally platted circa 1906.

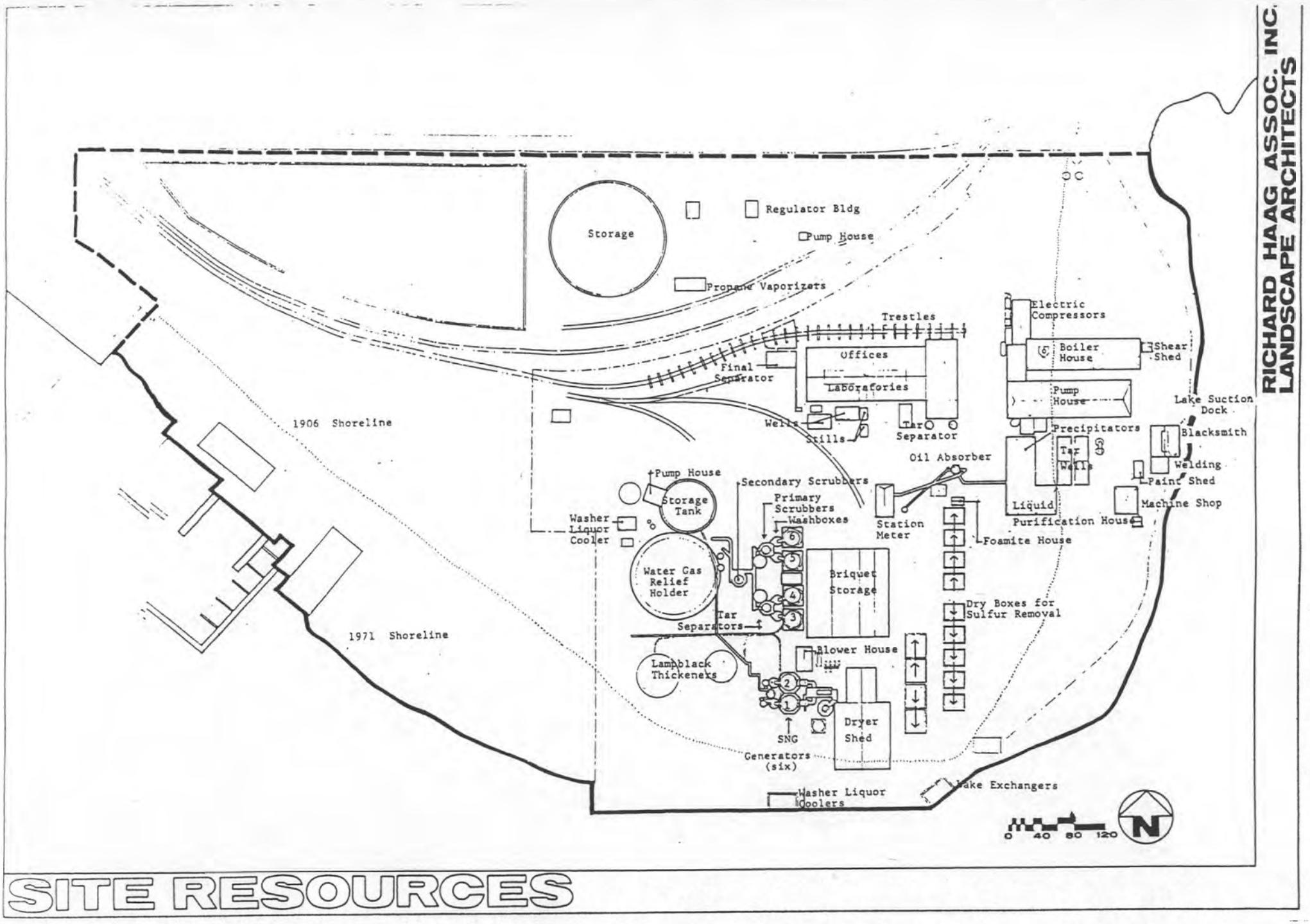


Figure 4: Plan showing original buildings, structures, and shorelines of 1906 (dotted) and 1971.

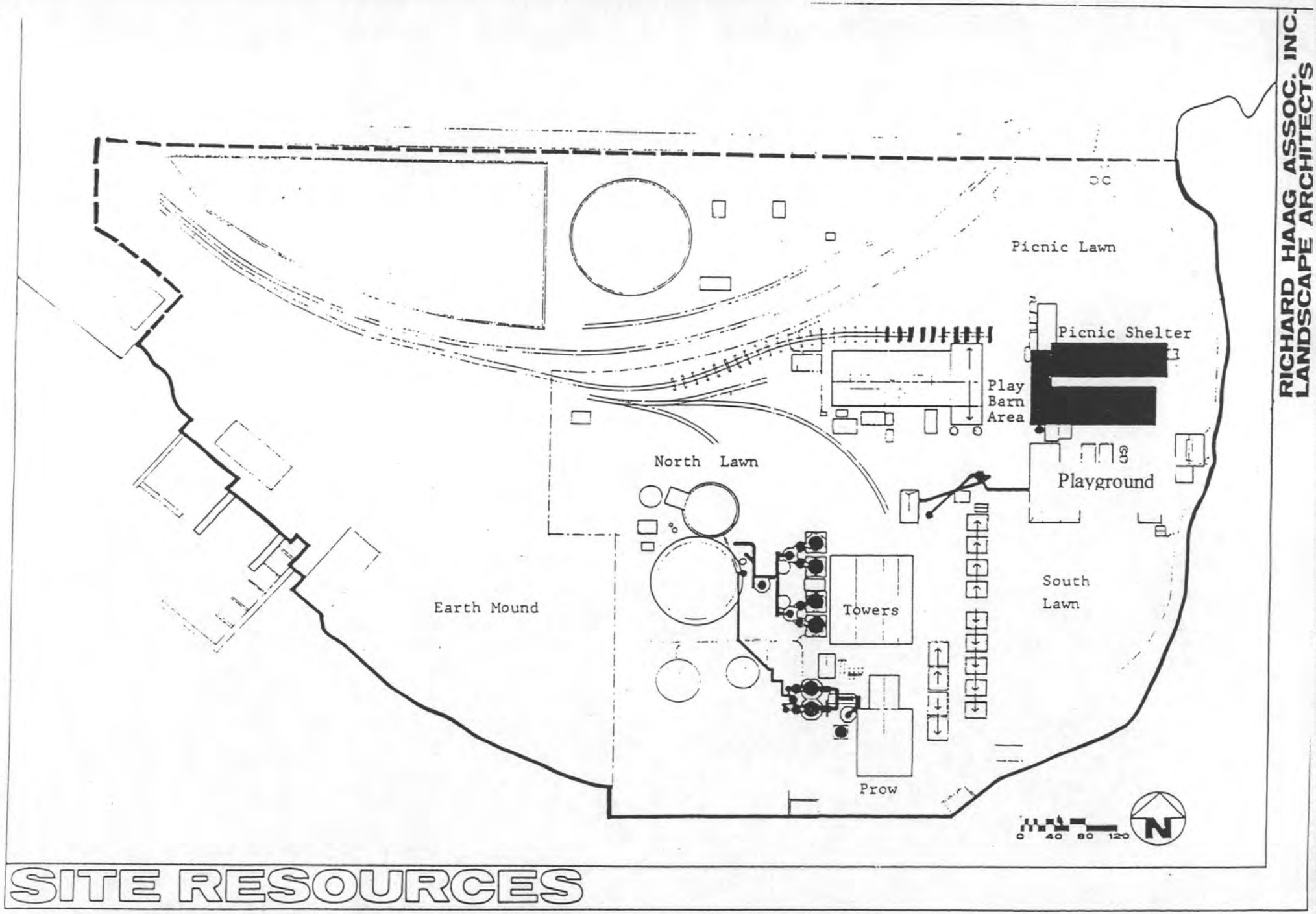


Figure 5: Plan showing preserved structures shaded in black and names of park areas.

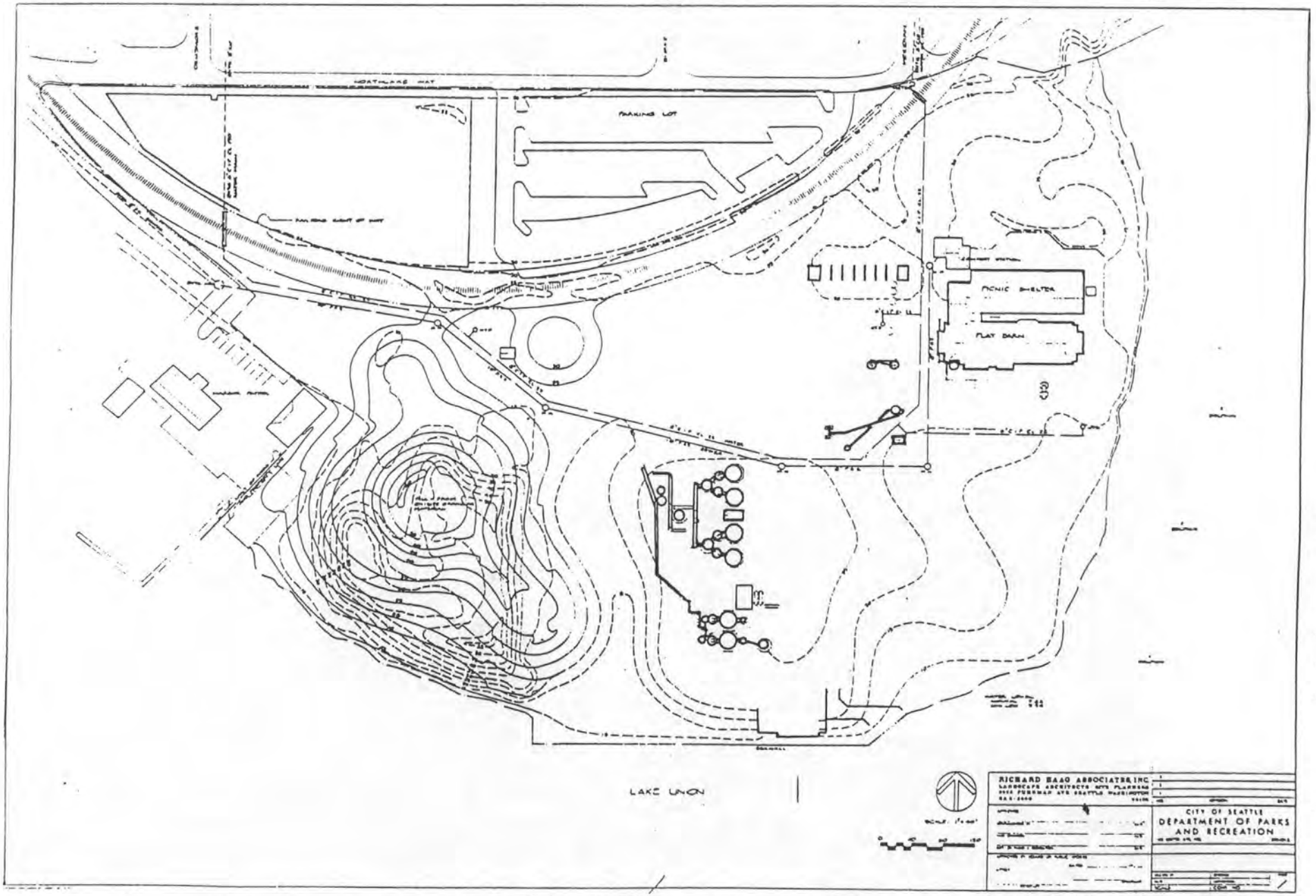


Figure 6: Plan showing topography of the park site and preserved structures.

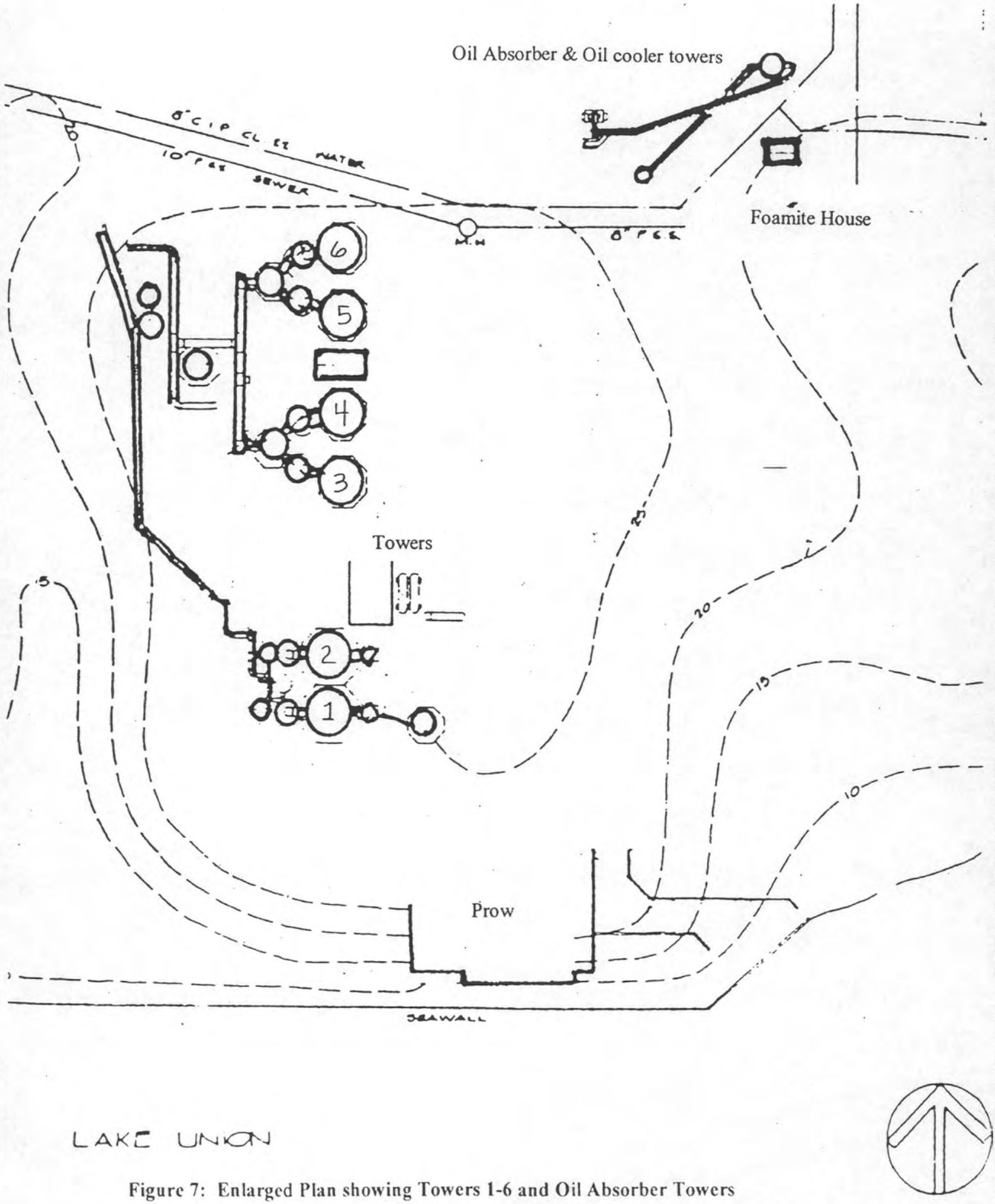


Figure 7: Enlarged Plan showing Towers 1-6 and Oil Absorber Towers

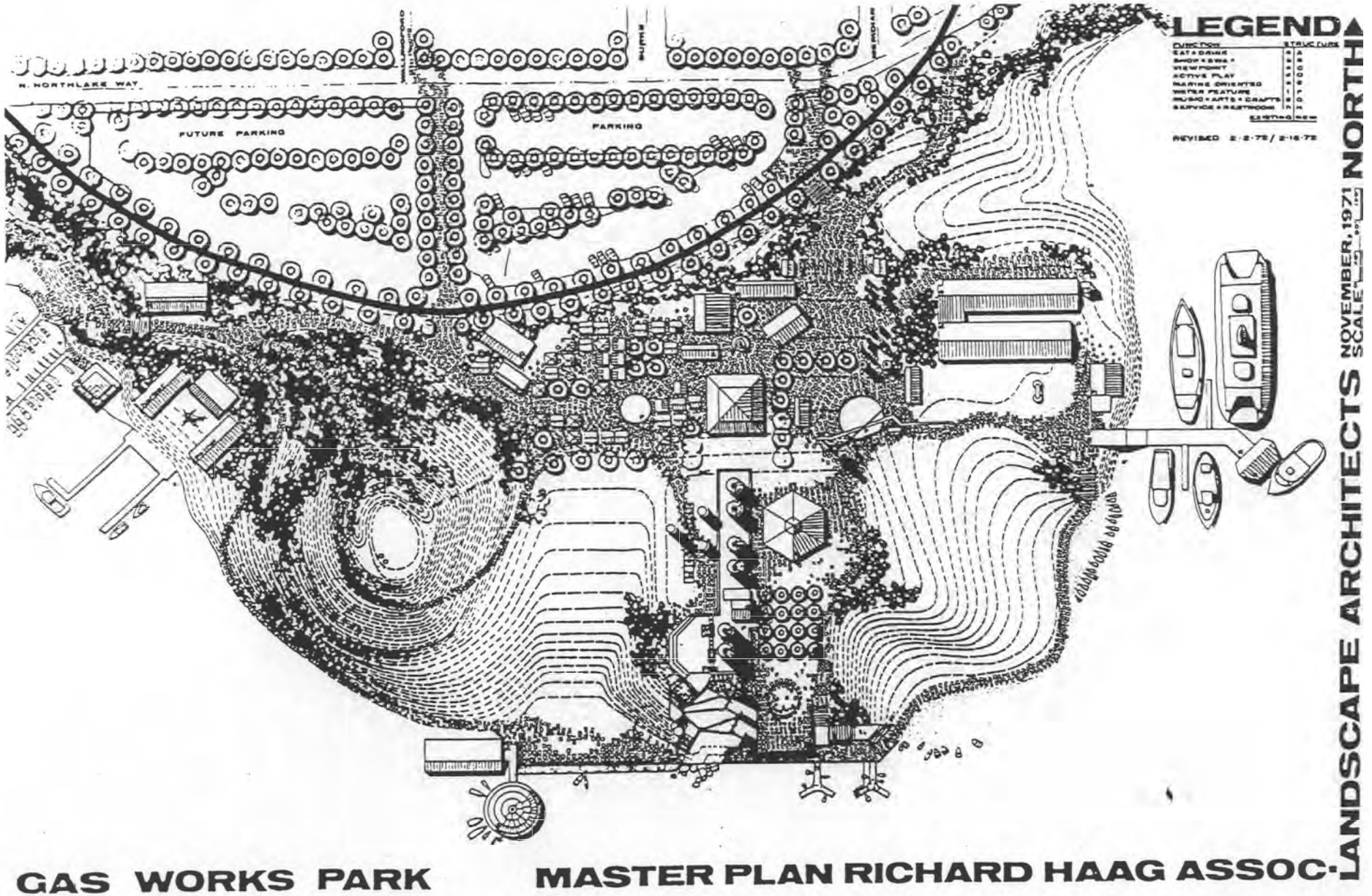


Figure 8: Master Plan for Gas Works Park as originally proposed in 1971.

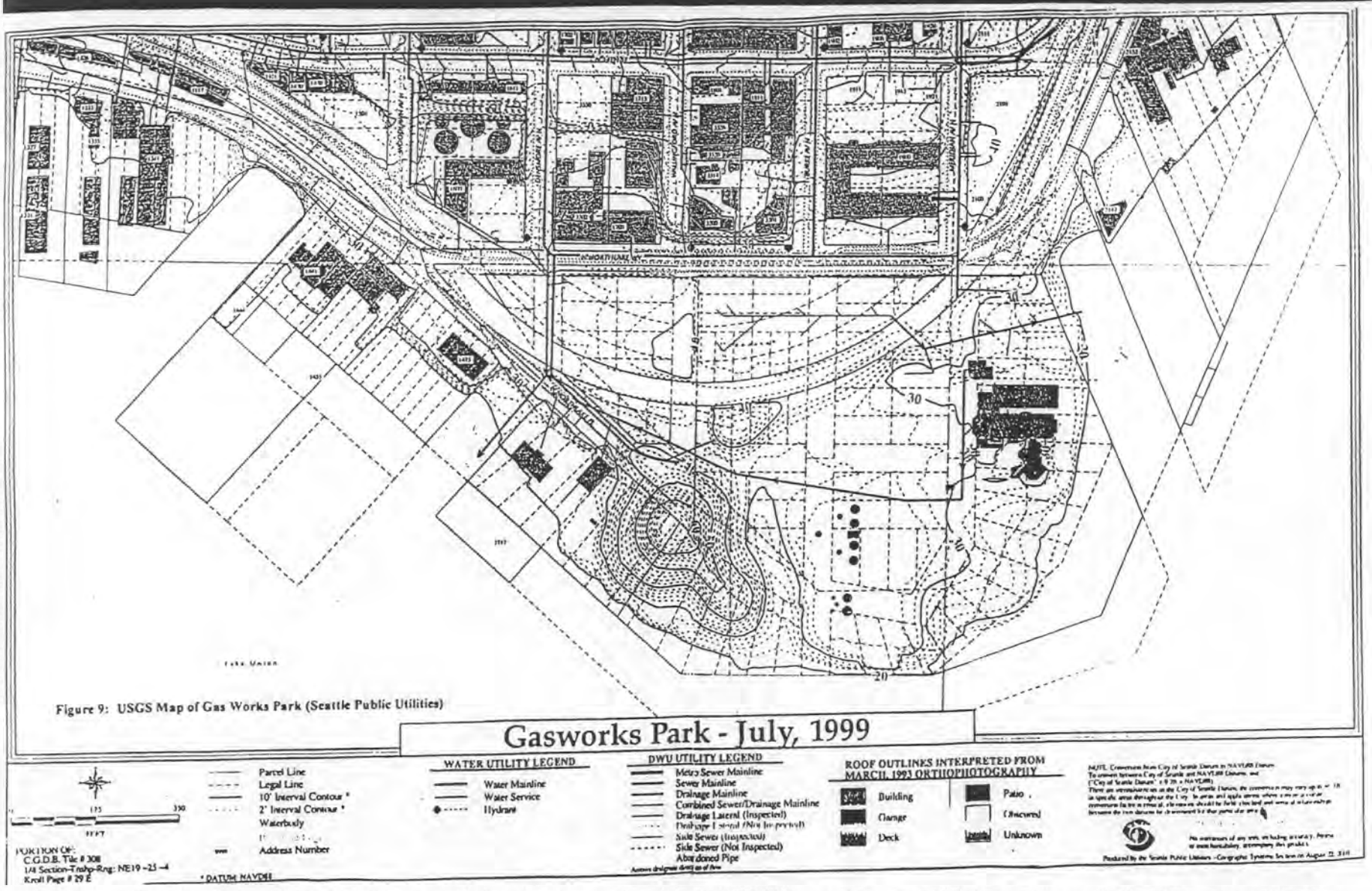


Figure 9: USGS Map of Gas Works Park (Seattle Public Utilities)

United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240

IN REPLY REFER TO:
21 May 2002

Michael Houser, *Director*
National and State Register Program
Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation
P.O. Box 48343
Olympia, WA 98504-8343

Dear Mr. Houser:

It is with great enthusiasm that I submit this letter of support for The National Register nomination prepared by Patricia Fels, on behalf of the Friends of Gas Works Park (FoGWP) and Christine Edstrom O'Hara, MLA candidate, University of Washington.

As the Coordinator of the National Park Service Historic Landscape Initiative, I have witnessed the goal of nominating works of modern landscape architecture to the National Register as one of the great challenges we have as preservation professionals, historians and landscape architects. As I was organizing a conference in 1995 at Wave Hill, titled, *Preserving Modern Landscape Architecture*, (later published by Spacemaker Press in 1999), there was not a single post-World War II landscape honored in the United States with that distinction. This was all the more troublesome when we note that during the same period there were over 1,000 buildings from the recent past that had thus far been honored.

More recently, the situation has slowly improved. This is perhaps the result of two benchmark listings that happened in 2000. First, the General Motors Technical Facility in Macomb, Michigan was listed on March 23, 2000 with "Significance under Landscape Architecture, Transportation, Engineering and Architecture." Just four days later, on March 27, the National Historic Landmark multiple property listing of Eliel Saarinen and Dan Kiley's contributions to Columbus, Indiana titled, "Modernism in Architecture, Landscape Architecture, Design, and Art in Bartholomew County, Indiana, 1942-1965, National Historic Landmark Theme Study," was approved. These first two nominations represent a first, giant step in reversing the invisibility of these landscapes to date. Of specific import to the current nomination under consideration, Dan Kiley (b.1912) is still practicing in Charlotte, Vermont much of his work is less than 50 years of age.

To date, much has been written about Gas Works and this nomination surely reflects a deep understanding of its social and cultural import as a bold and pioneering work of modern landscape architecture. The nomination, accurately credits the impact of Gas Works Park on land reclamation and industrial preservation attitudes and techniques extending far beyond Seattle. It also recognizes that the park has gained national and international standing as a prototype for industrial site conversions, and has been cited as an exemplary model, and referenced in educational textbooks and scholarly works. I think that the nomination has addressed this aspect of the design and has placed it well within the necessary historical context and therefore I will not address this topic, but will endorse the narrative summary provided.

I would however like to take this research summary a little further as a way of supporting this nomination. First, to recognize collective assessments of the work by contemporary scholars and peers and second to address the designer's intent and recognize its unique philosophical underpinning and what it means to professional practitioners today.

In my considerable research on the modern landscape movement, Gas Works Park is without question recognized as an iconic design in virtually every single scholarly publication dedicated to

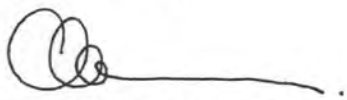
this era. Representative examples include Peter Walker and Melanie Simo's *Invisible Gardens: The Search for Modernism in the American Landscape* (1994, p. 220-21); and the first Landscape Views in the Princeton Architectural Press Series, *Richard Haag: Bloedel Reserve and Gas Works Park* (1998) edited by William S. Saunders – both included in the bibliography to the National Register nomination. However, Haag's import is noted in *Modern Landscape Architecture: A Critical Review* edited by Marc Treib (1993); *Modern Landscape Architecture: Redefining the Garden* by Felice Frankel and Jory Johnson (1991, p. 198-207) and *100 Years of Landscape Architecture: Some Patterns of A Century* by Melanie Simo (1999, p. 222-23)

Perhaps equally important, Gas Works Park accomplishes something that none of the other celebrated works of this period achieves – it does not approach the landscape with a clean slate. So for example, unlike Kiley's design for the Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs or Halprin's design for Ira's Fountain in Portand (two future NHL candidates) – there is a discourse here with the city's industrial past. Unlike virtually every public project from this era, most often products of urban renewal, Haag understood change and continuity. If only more recent waterfront revitalization projects that have occurred since Seattle's Gas Works Park, in Newark, Louisville, Pittsburgh, Cleveland or Providence had forged such a powerful interface, perhaps we would not be eradicating our Industrial heritage and removing character-defining industrial landscape features from our waterfront cityscapes. This aspect of the design is a first-ever in the United States and perhaps internationally.

At Gas Works Park, Richard Haag not only created a modern masterwork of landscape architecture he articulated a nature-culture ethic that is in itself, equally bold and pioneering. It is this dual vision that allows the park design to transcend other works of this period and those that have followed. From my perspective as a preservation professional and landscape architect, Haag's design ethos is above all, revolutionary in that his approach suggests a professional ethic for practice that embodies the Secretary Standards for Rehabilitation. We could all learn much from Haag's vision. I applaud the efforts of the State Historic Preservation Office for taking a leadership role and considering this challenging nomination and whole-heartedly support this worthy designation.

Please feel free to contact me if I can be of further assistance.

Yours sincerely,



Charles A. Birnbaum, FASLA
Coordinator, Historic Landscape Initiative
National Park Service

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charles_birnbaum@nps.gov

cc. Friends of Gas Works Park (FoGWP)

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109 Hills North
111 Infirmary Way, Ofc 1
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Landscape Architecture
and Regional Planning

voice: 413.545.2255
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May 11. 2002

Michael Houser, Director
National and State Register Program
Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation
P.O. Box 48343
Olympia, WA 98504-8343

Dear Mr. Houser:

I am writing to give the strongest possible recommendation in support of the nomination of Richard Haag's Gasworks Park to the State and National Registers of Historic Places. While less than fifty years old Gasworks Park has already established itself as one of the most significant landscape designs in history. A seminal work comparable in importance to such recognized historic landscapes as Central Park, Versailles or Ryoan-ji, Gasworks Park is acknowledged by most scholars to be an indispensable part of the cannon of landscape architecture history. Like these other projects, Gasworks Park gives clear evidence of an approach to design that both reflects and shapes its times.

What is most historic about this remarkable project is nothing less than its attitude towards history itself. Haag's recycling of historic images and artifacts from Seattle's (and America's) industrial past represents an important departure from the trivializing, rationalizing or over-sentimentalizing that previously characterized approaches to such projects, frequently resulting in the obliteration of genuinely historic landscapes in favor of artificial re-creations of an idealized past. That remnants of the Lake Station gas manufacturing plant were incorporated into Haag's early 1970s design established an important precedent that has been built upon in numerous subsequent industrial reclamation projects throughout the world, such as Duisberg Nord in Germany and Parc Georges in France.

This approach to cultural history combined with Gasworks Park's innovative bio-remediation techniques have made it the model not only for a generation of industrial reclamation projects that followed, but for the entire paradigm of sustainable design. Richard Haag is an acknowledged master of landscape architecture, as evidenced by his numerous awards and publications and Gasworks Park is his *Magnus opus*, a work of great cultural importance. Unlike Central Park, Versailles and Ryoan-ji, Gasworks Park does not, as yet, have the protection it needs to assure its availability to future generations. It is for these reasons I urge acceptance of its nomination in the strongest possible terms.

Sincerely,

Dean Cardasis

Dean Cardasis, FASLA
Professor of Landscape Architecture
Director of the James Rose Center for Landscape Architecture Research and Design

SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE
THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN

Office of the Dean
Goldsmith Hall • Austin, Texas 78712-1160 • (512) 471-1922 • FAX (512) 471-0716

May 20, 2002

Michael Houser, Director
National and State Register Program
Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation
P.O. Box 48343
Olympia, WA 98504-8343

Dear Mr. Houser:

A handful of projects stand out in each generation for their impact on how we perceive the world. Such projects differ from everything that went before and influence what follows. As the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial altered how we view memorials, Gas Works Park has changed both how we view parks and how we view our industrial heritage.

The notion that a former industrial site could be fun to visit is audacious. Gas Works Park is indeed fun but it is also educational and beautiful. Can one imagine Seattle without it? Gas Works Park helps define the urban fabric of the city. It has also redefined aesthetics in our culture.

Richard Haag, himself a Seattle treasure, put in motion a new movement on how we adaptively reuse degraded landscapes and, in the process, begin to heal our planet. I wholeheartedly support the Historic Registration of Gas Works Park to recognize the landmark 1972 park design.

Sincerely,

Frederick Steiner
Dean

FS:mw

R^MHanna ■ *Landscape Architects*

landscape architecture
urban design
architecture

Mr. Michael Houser, Director
National and State Register Program
Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation
PO Box 48343
Olympia, WA 98504-8343

13 May 2002

Dear Mr. Houser:

I am writing in support of the nomination of Gas Works Park for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places. Since its opening in 1975 this highly original work has been a model for similar projects in America and abroad. In its contrast to Seattle's many traditional picturesque, passive parks, it has also been a source of discovery, excitement and a new kind of communal, urban social life for an appreciative public.

Having grown up in the city and attended the University of Washington, I am very familiar with the Gas Works, which operated until my junior year at the College of Architecture. I also worked for Richard Haag Associates and lived on Lake Union for three years before leaving Seattle in 1966. The hulking, blackened forms of the works and their spidery catwalks were graven into my memory as arresting and fascinating, though vaguely troubling, images.

I learned of the city's acquisition of the property and intention to develop it as a park after I left Seattle. Because of Haag's long interest in the site and its potential, I was pleased to hear of his selection to design it. Knowing something of his vision, which seemed radical for its time, I feared his ideas would never gain acceptance. Focusing on his desire to save the infrastructure to the greatest possible extent, I was oblivious to his other challenge, that of remediating the poisonous site itself. Haag's remarkable tenacity, wisdom and understanding over many years proved me, and other skeptics, embarrassingly short sighted.

Gas Works Park is clearly a seminal work, combining landscape architecture and historic preservation. I have emulated it in smaller ways on two recent projects including the University of Washington Tacoma, which received a National Trust Award in 1999. Gas Work's once grim and forbidding presence has become an icon of the wonder and beauty of America's industrial heritage to Seattlites and others who have seen it. Though less glamorous, Haag's pioneering use of slow, organic methods to enable the site to heal itself through a natural process of bioremediation is an equally important contribution.

Richard Haag has given a number of public lectures at the University of Pennsylvania's Graduate School of Fine Arts. While all were insightful and enlightening, one on the incredible story of Gas Works Park, remains most memorable and inspiring. I can think of no more deserving candidate for inclusion on the National Register.

Sincerely,

Robert M. Hanna
Lecturer in Urban Studies,
Professor of Landscape Architecture 1969-2000, University of Pennsylvania

324 South 21st Street Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103 Telephone: 215 985 1847 Facsimile: 215 985.1825

Cliff Garten and Associates, Inc.	4212 1/2 Glencoe Avenue	
310.827.4372 TEL	Los Angeles	U S A
310.827.4362 FAX	California	90292

May 25, 2002

Mr. Michael Houser, Director
National and State Register Program
Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation
P.O. Box 48343
Olympia, WA 98504-8343

Dear Mr. Houser,

It is with great excitement and pleasure that I write this letter in support of the nomination of Richard Haag's Gas Works Park for the National and State Register Program. Mr. Haag's long and distinguished career represents the very best of aesthetic, social and ecological concerns in the profession of landscape architecture. Gas Works Park exemplifies these concerns, their interdisciplinary mastery and a social strategy for land reclamation and social change.

Attached to this proposal you will find a draft of my essay on *terrain vague* which outlines the current professional theory surrounding the reclamation and reuse of abused industrial sites referred to in European theoretical circles as *terrain vague*. Many projects suppose to act as a catalyst of this theory, but very few can demonstrate continued social and ecological success over a thirty-year period, as has Gas Works Park. Your selection of this Landmark is not only important as a national model for adaptive reuse, site reclamation and reconstitution of the urban ground of the city, but as a global model of the significance of landscape design for social change.

The memory of The Seattle Gas Company goes back to 1906 when it began to operate on the shore of Lake Union. The company processed coal into gas until the 1930s when, in response to severe complaints from the city, it switched to processing crude oil. The plant closed in 1956 when natural gas began to be imported from the Southwest. The city of Seattle decided to purchase the site in 1962 with the intention of making it a park. Kenneth Read, Chairman of the University of Washington's Department of Anthropology, first suggested that the cracking towers of the gas works be preserved as ruins. "History sits on this little wasteland," he argued poetically, "not only the parochial history of a given city, but also a fragment of the chronicle of world culture. It is certainly as valuable a document as anything preserved in the Museum of History and Industry." [1] As poignant as this observation was it was only the first step towards the more important task of the social reconciliation of irresponsible actions toward the landscape. The uncompromising vision of Richard Haag and his physical plans surrounding the site formed the fulcrum for leveraging the discussion controversy and decisions, which are now the legacy of Gas Works Park.

[1] Weems, Sally, "Gasworks Park", p.24.

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In 1970 the parks department commissioned Richard Haag and Associates to prepare a master plan for the site. From the outset there was strong community interest in the land. As often happens when such blighted and abused parcels are brought to the public's attention, the site became the locus of discussion for a variety of previously hidden economic and community concerns. Uncovering layers of this contested ground became both method and subject for Haag. He saw from the outset that Gasworks Park would serve as a location over which people would come together, work out their differences, and arrive at agreements. By 1971 Haag had set up a temporary office on the site to work more closely with community members. Haag's process and his resulting design were rooted in a belief that the integrity of Gasworks' future would be contained in what was visible as well as what was hidden, the social process as well as the aesthetic result. The complex social history that this project embraced, including the exhaustive community work Richard Haag undertook to include, communicate with, educate, and unify the community surrounding the site, has not been adequately covered in discussions of his work.

The process itself was ongoing and periodically interrupted. When Haag's plan was published in 1971, community controversy erupted. The source of disagreement was not the traditional functions of the park, but the retention of the cracking towers as mnemonic devices in the landscape. Haag argued, as had others, that the memory of the industrial past was the power of the site. Further, if the land could be reclaimed and recycled into an active part of community life, then the park could function as reconciliation with that past and a point of healing. Yet the rusted cracking towers looming in the landscape were a memory of industrial blight, economic depression, and ecological decay that at least half the community would have preferred to have erased.

Retaining the familiar forms of the cracking towers was not merely an aestheticization of the Gasworks failed past, but the creation of a public space, which recognized the "uncanny" [2] quality of huge rusted machinery as a permanent fixture in the landscape of the metropolitan community. Their familiarity within the memory of how the site had been defiled for the production of materials for social use was the source of community contempt. Haag's strategy to build the park around this hulking shard of industrial memory was bolstered, however, by economic strategy: the proposal gave maximum effect with minimum intervention and minimum cost. The project might have remained, however, within the realm of cultural anthropology had it not taken a further step: a commitment to rectify the damaged ecological structure of the site. Again it is the weaving of disciplines, Haag's alchemy of science, anthropology and art, which stirred and then undermined the arguments against his and his community's progress.

In the aqueous soil near the edge of Lake Union, a plume of benzene, arsenic, xylene, cadmium, cyanide and other heavy metals was working its way toward the lake. Haag developed a strategy for bioremediation with soil expert Richard Brooks. "Brooks told Haag

[2] Garten, Cliff, "Terrain Vague, Investigations Into Incompleteness", p. 2-5.

Cliff Garten and Associates, Inc.	4212 1/2 Glencoe Avenue	
310.827.4372 TEL	Los Angeles	U S A
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that, while surface and subsoil layers were indeed contaminated, they were rich in minerals and saturated with life-giving bacteria. The soil would have to be tilled a number of times, and after each tilling, treated sewage sludge, lawn clippings, oil-eating enzymes and other organic materials would have to be infused into the soil." [3] This tilling was performed several times in the beginning of the project with positive results, but questions remain as to whether or not the biotic remediation will neutralize the ground pollutants before the toxic plume reaches the waters of Lake Union. Haag's work is based in a confidence that nature will do its job and the remediation will be successfully completed; the process is ongoing.

By addressing the ground of *terrain vague* and the remains of its industrial past—not only aesthetically, but also socially and biologically—Haag has unflinchingly confronted the subsurface activity of the site as well as the collective repression of the surrounding community's unconscious. By working across disciplines—from political organizing to chemical engineering—Haag accomplished a holistic remediation, from the ground to the mind, that is from the site of social and ecological disturbance to the social engagement of the anger people feel over our abusive practices towards our home, the earth.

The structures in the soft landscape around the cracking towers act as a fulcrum for our imagination. Elizabeth Meyer suggests "Haag's works exemplify a postmodern sublime in their attempt to represent the unpresentable, the invisible of the site." [4] Meyer is correct in her definition of a landscape aesthetic that alters with a changing "nature." Yet this "postmodern sublime" also answers the invitation to remediate the earth and to reconcile our problematic actions in our relationship to it. By preserving the image of the towers on the site Haag has called to our memory the problem with our actions in the past and by digging into the earth he has also asked us to dig into our own lives and to be ever conscious of our actions in the future. The community discussions and professional discourse, which have taken place over this national monument, are as important as the physical catalyst Mr. Haag has provided for us in Gas Works Park.

In theoretical terms, Gas Works Park offers the opportunity to re-construct the identity of the alienated self— in this case, to reconstruct the identity of a community and its alienated web of relations to the earth. In more simple terms Gas Works is the physical embodiment of the hope of healing the earth and ourselves. The cultural and biological remediation of the site is life affirming. Mr. Haag's work presents a cross-disciplinary aesthetic and a design ethos that are conceptually consistent and rigorously put into practice. I strongly urge your selection panel to elect Gasworks Park to the National Register.

Sincerely,

Cliff Garten, President, Cliff Garten and Associates Inc.

[3] Thompson, William, J., "Landscape of Dream, Warrior of Vision", p. 85.
[4] Meyer, Elizabeth, "Terrible Beauty", p.28.

Bassetti Design

Michael Houser, Director
National and State Register Program
Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation
PO Box 48343
Olympia, WA 98504-8343

Dear Mr. Houser:

Seattle's Gas Works Park clearly deserves recognition as a National Historic Place. There are several reasons for this, but primarily because it joins past and present in a forceful yet gentle way. It's a landmark of mutual respect between old and new.

To the public's great appreciation hard and soft elements are treated with equal sensitivity, each reinforcing the other to a degree that has made Gas Works Park an Icon.

Mr Haag's concept and its faithful realization against the odds have given Seattle its most significant recreational area. I urge favorable action.

Respectfully,

Fred Bassetti

April 18, 2002

Fred Bassetti, FAIA

3146A Portage Bay Place East
Seattle, WA. - 206 324 2323
e-mail: gwenfredb@attbi.com

Nick Licata
Seattle City Councilmember

Wednesday, May 22, 2002

Michael Houser, Director
National and State Register Program
Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation
P.O. Box 48343
Olympia, WA 98504-8343

Dear Mr. Houser:

I am writing to express my strong support for Seattle's Gas Works Park being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places as well as to the — Washington State Advisory Council on Historic Preservation.

Gas Works Park is unique in the United States. It is one of the first adaptive reuses of industrial sites. It was designed to naturally and slowly heal itself through bioremediation. And, it has overcome negative associations of industrial sites by revealing the inherent beauty of industrial forms.

A historic registration of Gas Works Park would recognize the important contribution that this 1972 park design has made to our understanding of reclaiming industrial sites for public use. Also, it would be the first time a living landscape architect's work was listed as being historically relevant. I believe it is critical that we, as public servants, assure protective review of Gas Works Park should a proposed action involving the park present a potential adverse effect to the property's historic values.

Sincerely,

Nick Licata

1100 Municipal Building, 600 Fourth Avenue, Seattle, WA 98104-1876
(206) 684-8803, Fax: (206) 684-8587, TTY: (206) 233-0025, E-Mail Address: nick.licata@ci.seattle.wa.us Internet Address: http://www.pan.ci.seattle.wa.us/leg/licata/licata.htm

City of Seattle
Gregory J. Nickels, Mayor

Seattle Department of Parks and Recreation
Kenneth R. Bounds, Superintendent

RECEIVED
MAY 16 2002
Archaeology and
Historic Preservation

May 13, 2002

Log #2211

Dr. Allyson Brooks, Historic Preservation Officer
Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation
1063 South Capitol Way, Suite 106
Olympia, Washington 98504

Subject: Friends of Gasworks Park Nomination of Gasworks Park to the National Register of Historic Places

Dear Dr. Brooks:

I am writing to endorse the Friends of Gasworks Park nomination of Gasworks Park in Seattle, Washington to the National Register of Historic Places.

Gasworks Park is a scenic, 20-acre park on the north shore of Lake Union, in the heart of metropolitan Seattle. The local gas company ran a plant on the site from 1906 to 1956. The property sat idle for many years until it was acquired by the Seattle Parks and Recreation Department as a park site in 1962. A Master Plan for the park was approved in 1971 and Gasworks Park was dedicated in the fall of 1973.

This park is one of the first "brown field" park ventures. Several methods to detoxify the soil have been used, including adding oil-degrading enzymes and some areas of natural attenuation. Later, soil covers were added, the most recent and extensive of which was completed in July, 2001 in response to a Department of Ecology Consent Decree mandate.

Several of the old plant towers have been retained and reused in the park setting, including the old machinery in the exhauster-compressor building, now a brightly painted "play barn." In addition, a few cracking towers have been retained, called by some "a rusting sentinel keeping watch over the Seattle skyline."

The park is a beloved place for Seattle citizens. It annually hosts a huge Fourth of July bash with fireworks above Lake Union, as well as countless weddings, birthdays and other celebrations throughout the year. After the events of September 11, 2001, Gasworks Park was one of the first places people began to gather to mourn and comfort one another.

Gasworks Park is a jewel in Seattle's park system. It is made unique by the way it uses and surrounds the remnants of its industrial past. The historic towers remind people how important it is to preserve and protect an environment that can seem robust, but is actually quite fragile. They stand as a tribute to Seattle's past and a warning of the work and cost involved in recovering our precious environment. As well as being an amazing environmental educational resource, the park also serves as a rich tourist attraction and a cultural expression honoring our great city's history.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak on behalf of the Gas Works Park nomination. I join the voices of others in our community to urge the U.S. Department of the Interior and the National Park Service to include Gasworks Park in the National Register of Historic Places.

Sincerely,

Kenneth R. Bounds
Superintendent

cc: Erin Devoto, Director, Planning & Development Division

RECEIVED
JUN 12 2002
Archaeology and
Historic Preservation

STATE OF WASHINGTON

DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

Northwest Regional Office • 3190 160th Avenue SE • Bellevue, Washington 98008-5452 • (425) 649-7000

June 11, 2002

Ms. Allyson Brooks
State Historic Preservation Officer
Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation
PO Box 48343
Olympia, WA 98504-8343

Dear Ms. Brooks,

The Department of Ecology has recently become aware of the possibility that Gas Works Park could be given an historic designation or placed on a list of historic places in Washington State. The Department is concerned about anything that could affect on our ability to protect the health and safety of the people of Washington State and its environment.

Gas Works Park is a cleanup site under the Model Toxics Control Act Chapter (MTCA) 173-340 WAC. The site is contaminated as a result of the operation of a municipal gas works from 1906 to 1956. The primary constituents of concern are the carcinogens benzene which is found primarily on the east side of the park, south of the play barn and multi-ring persistent aromatic hydrocarbons (PAH), located throughout the park.

Under the supervision of the Department of Ecology, the City of Seattle, and Puget Sound Energy are in the process of remediating the site. Current remediation measures consist of groundwater aeration called sparging for the benzene and monitored natural attenuation for the PAHs. Gasworks Park also contains areas under what Chapter 173-340 WAC calls institutional control. These are areas where because, of the nature of the contamination or of the site, active cleanup was considered impractical. The fenced area around the old gasification reactors (crackers) is one of these. Offshore sediments around Gas Works Park are contaminated and the Department will be starting the legal processes required to remediate these sediments, shortly.

Ecology understands that historical designation will have little effect on the Gas Works Park cleanup. In particular, designation does not require approval to continue our ongoing cleanup efforts, or to institute new measures should the need arise. The Department also understands that historical designation will not interfere with the removal of site structures if needed for the cleanup, or require the maintenance or preservation of these structures, which could be a dangerous activity. If Ecology's understanding is in error please let us know.

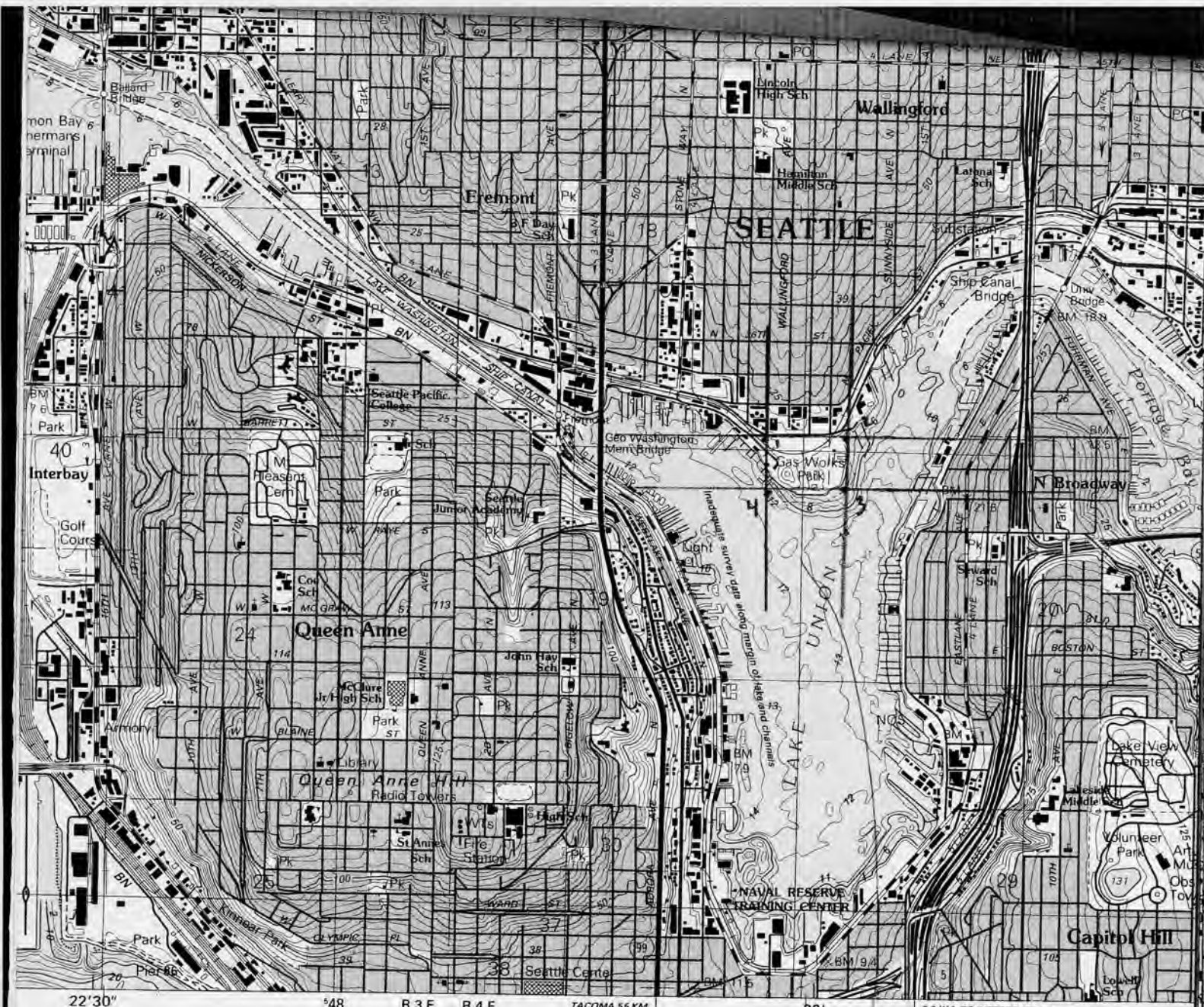
Ecology would like to be placed on any mailing list you may have for Gas Works Park.

If you have any questions or comments please give me a call at (425) 649-7052

Sincerely,

John Keeling
Toxic Cleanup Program

Cc.	Michael Houser	Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation
	Colleen Browne	Seattle Parks and Recreation
	Steve Secrist	Puget Sound Energy



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H-5710	1936
H-5711	1935
H-5724	1935
H-5846	1935
H-7076	1946
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H-9742	1978
H-9747	1978

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GAS WORKS PARK

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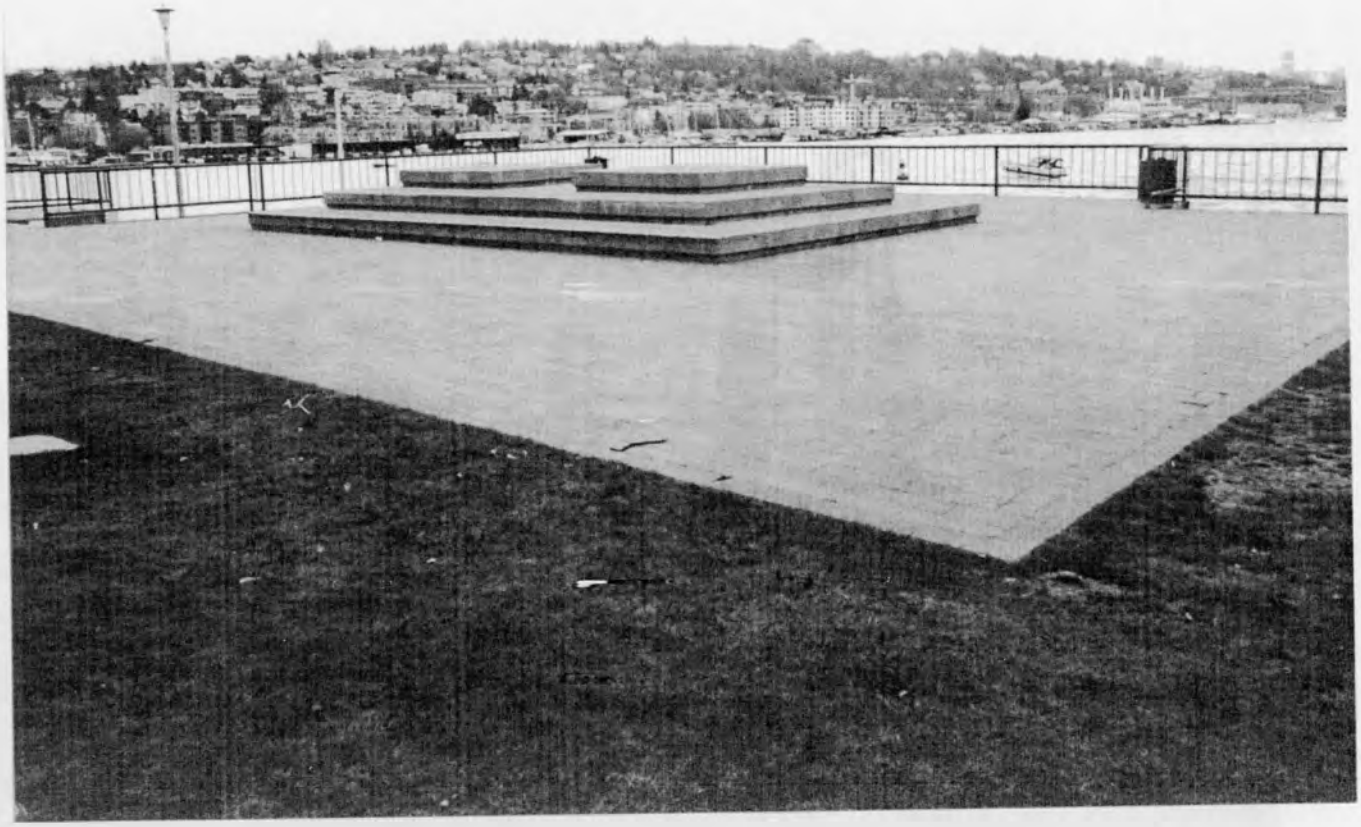

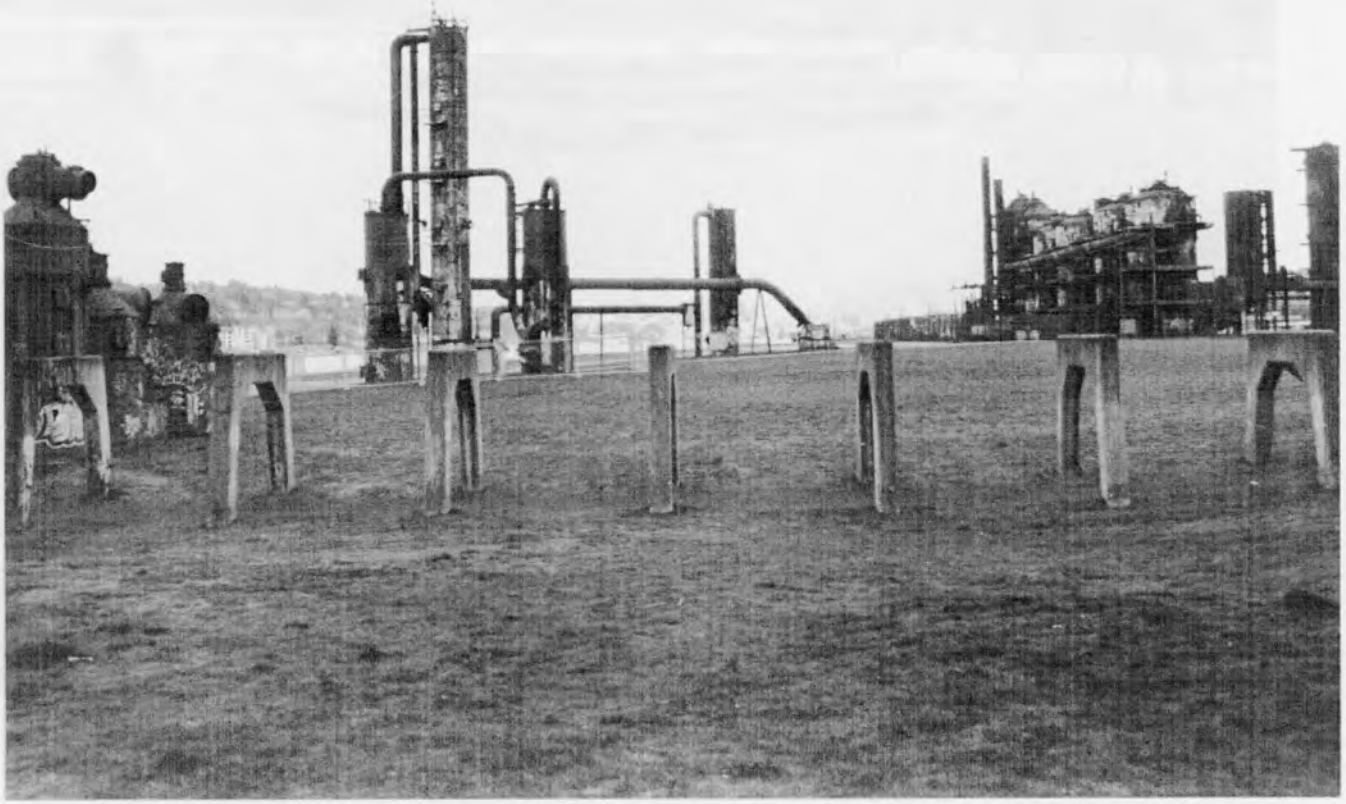

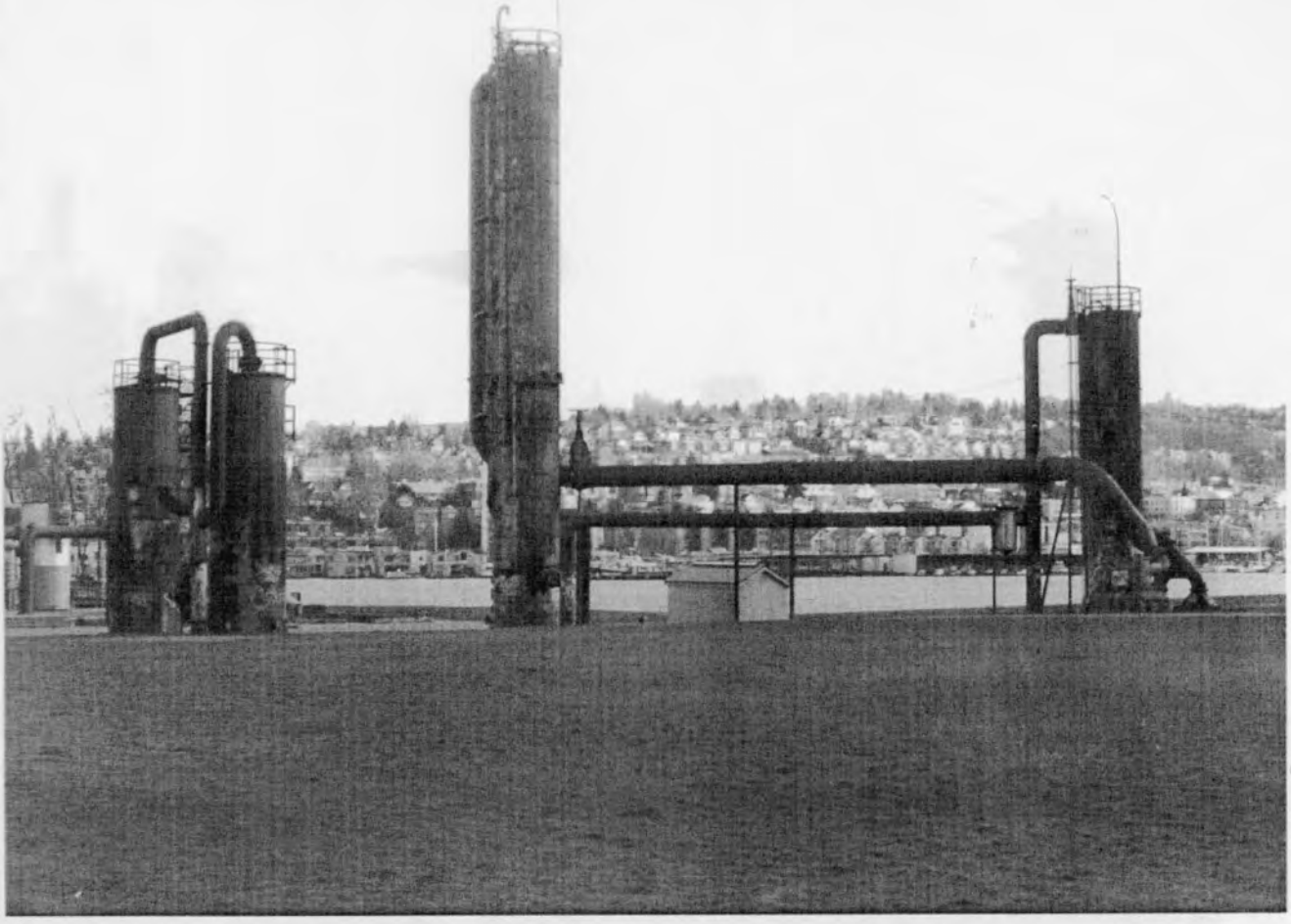

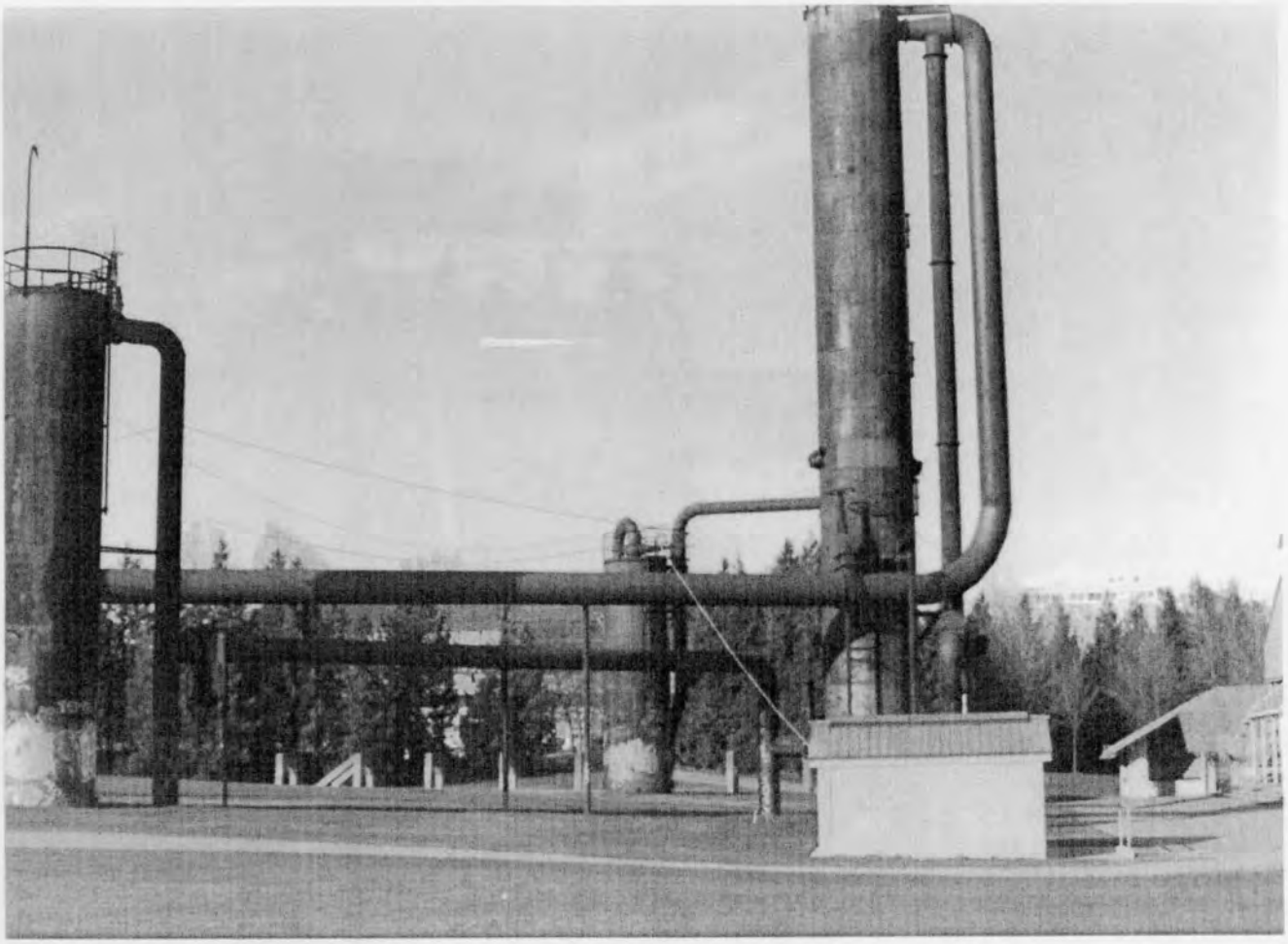

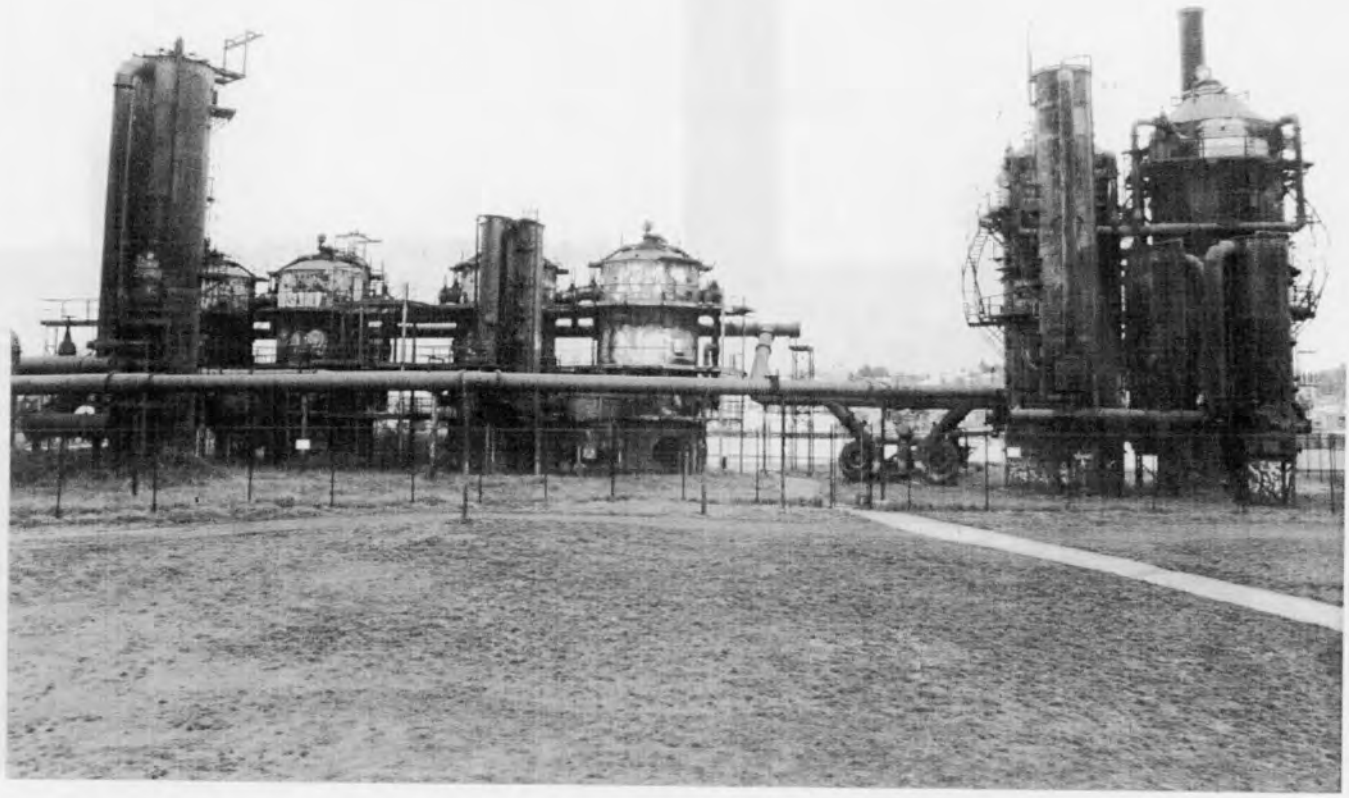

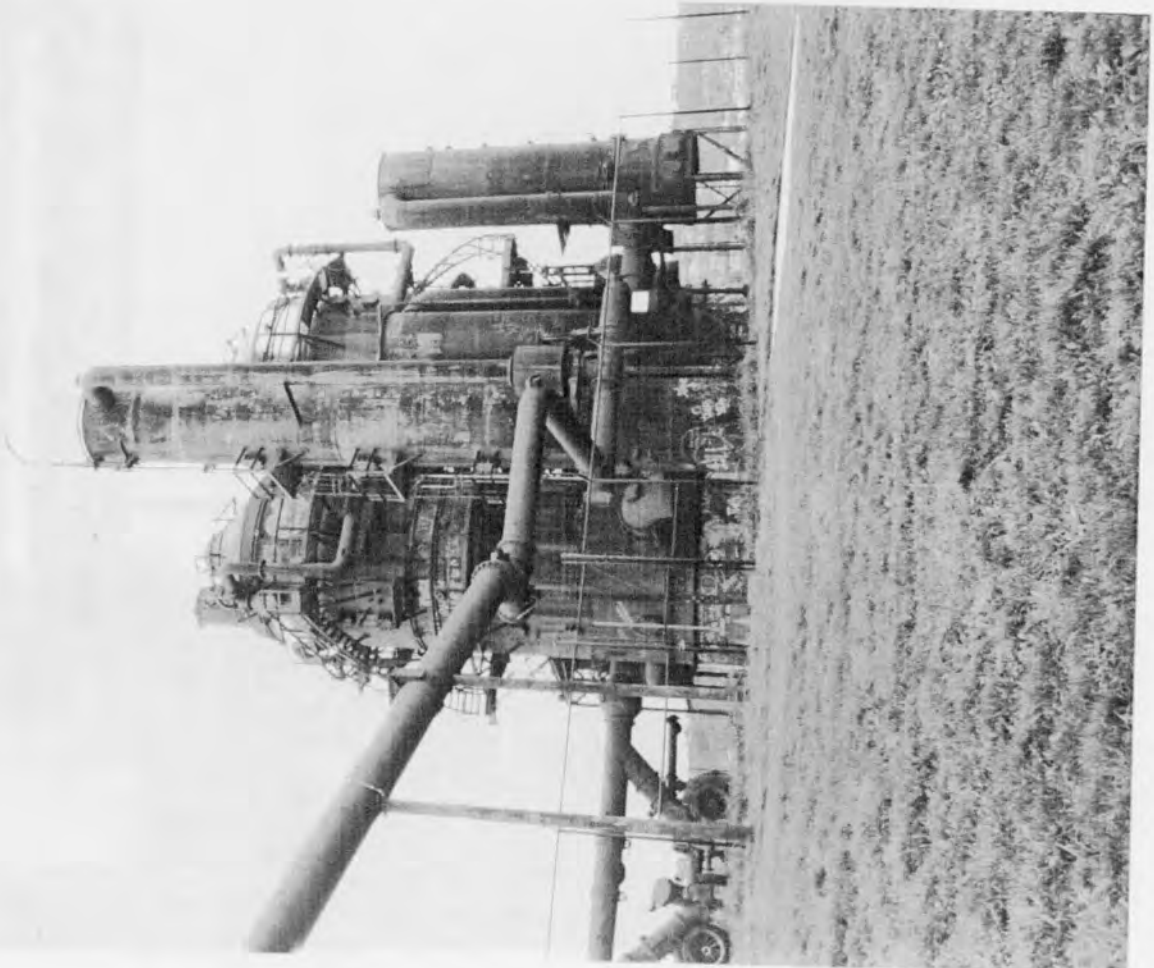

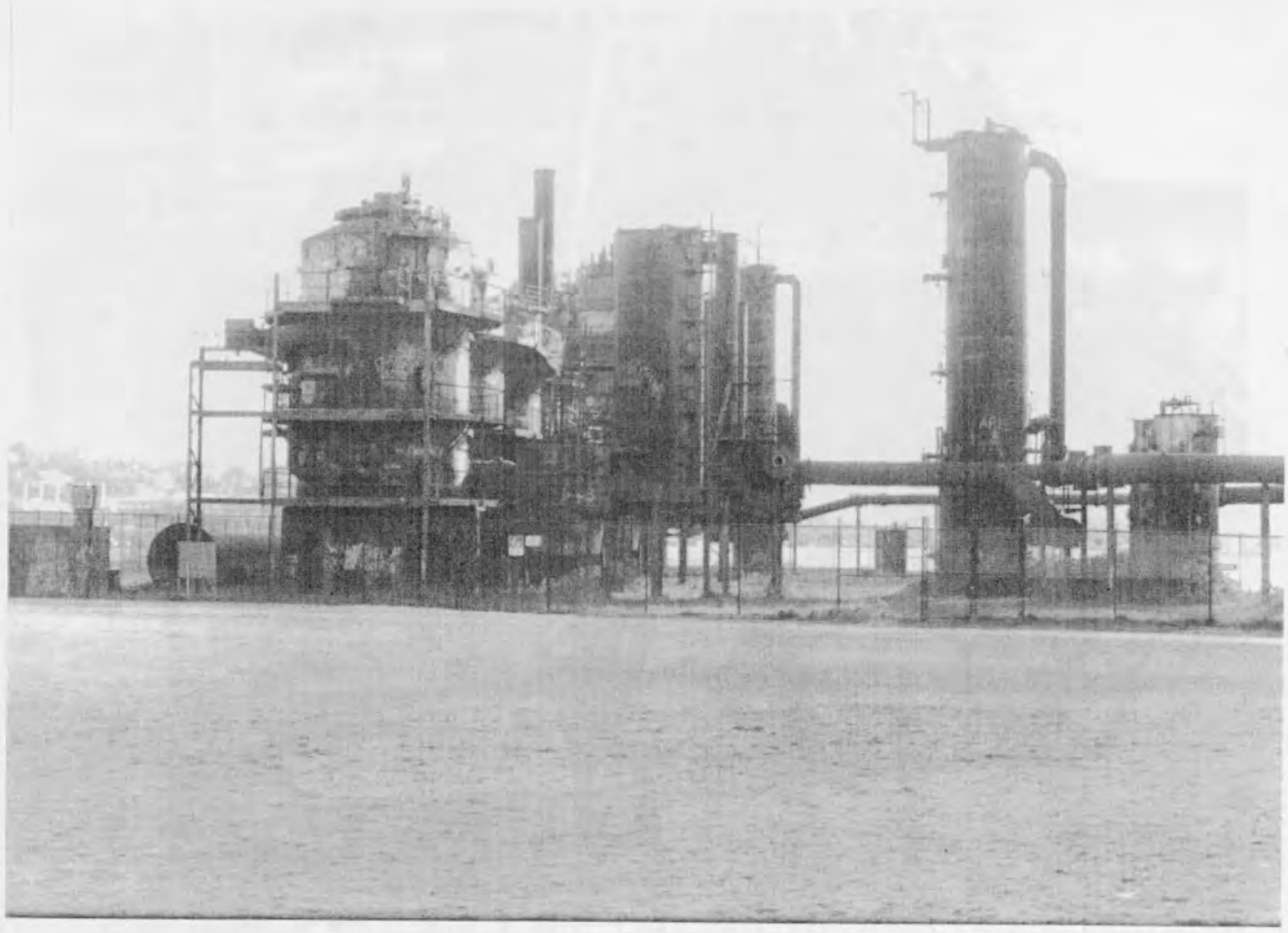


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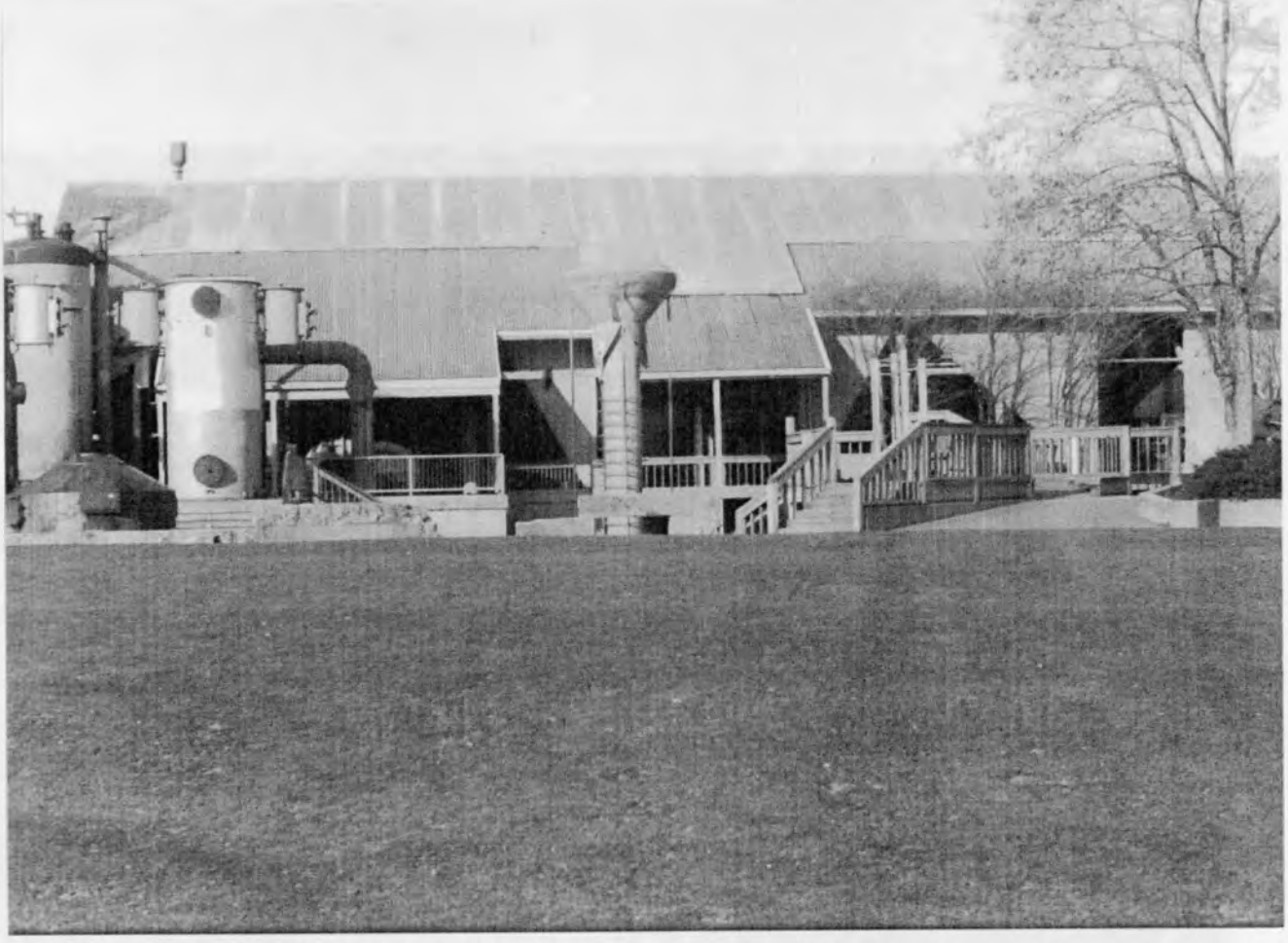

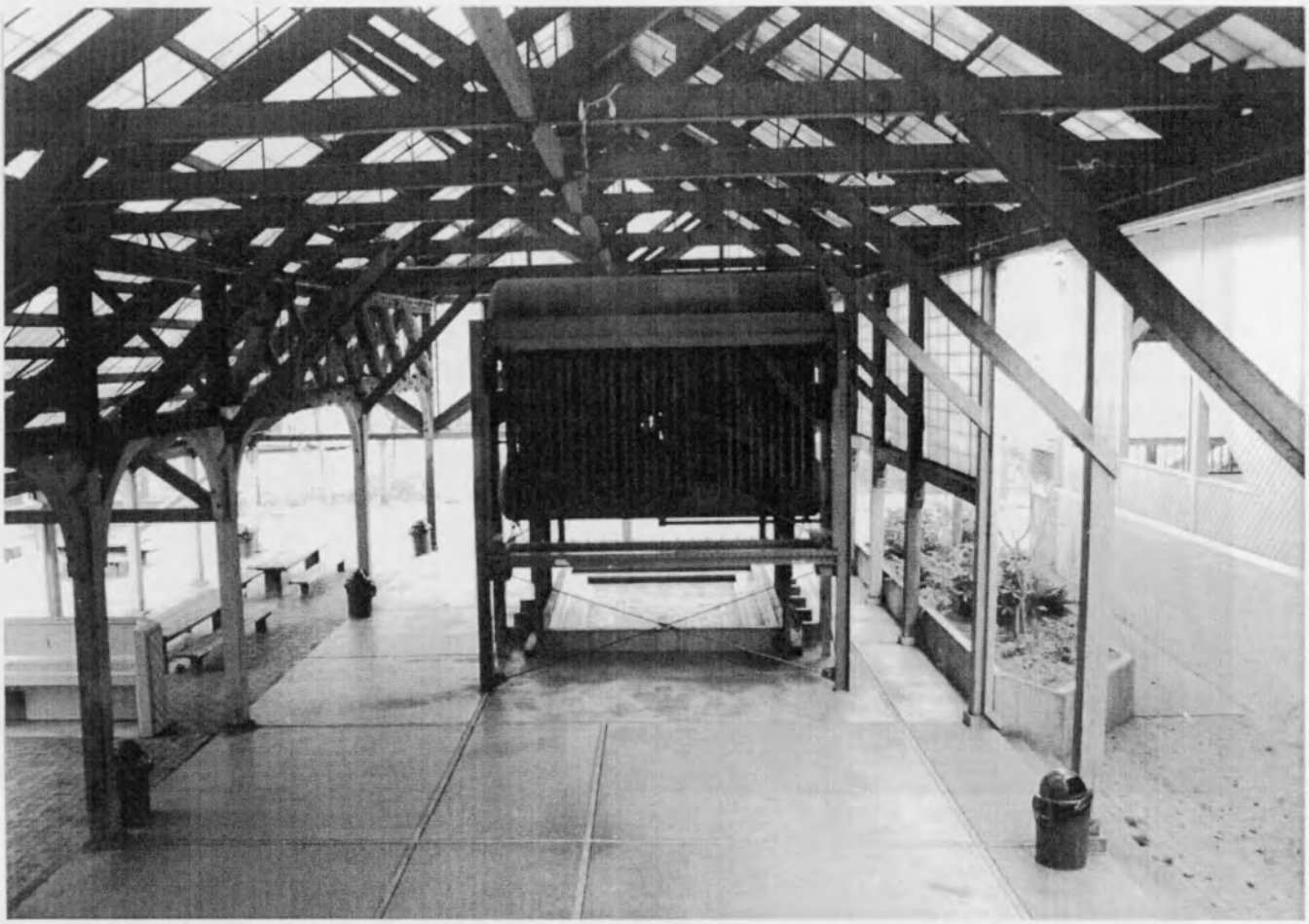

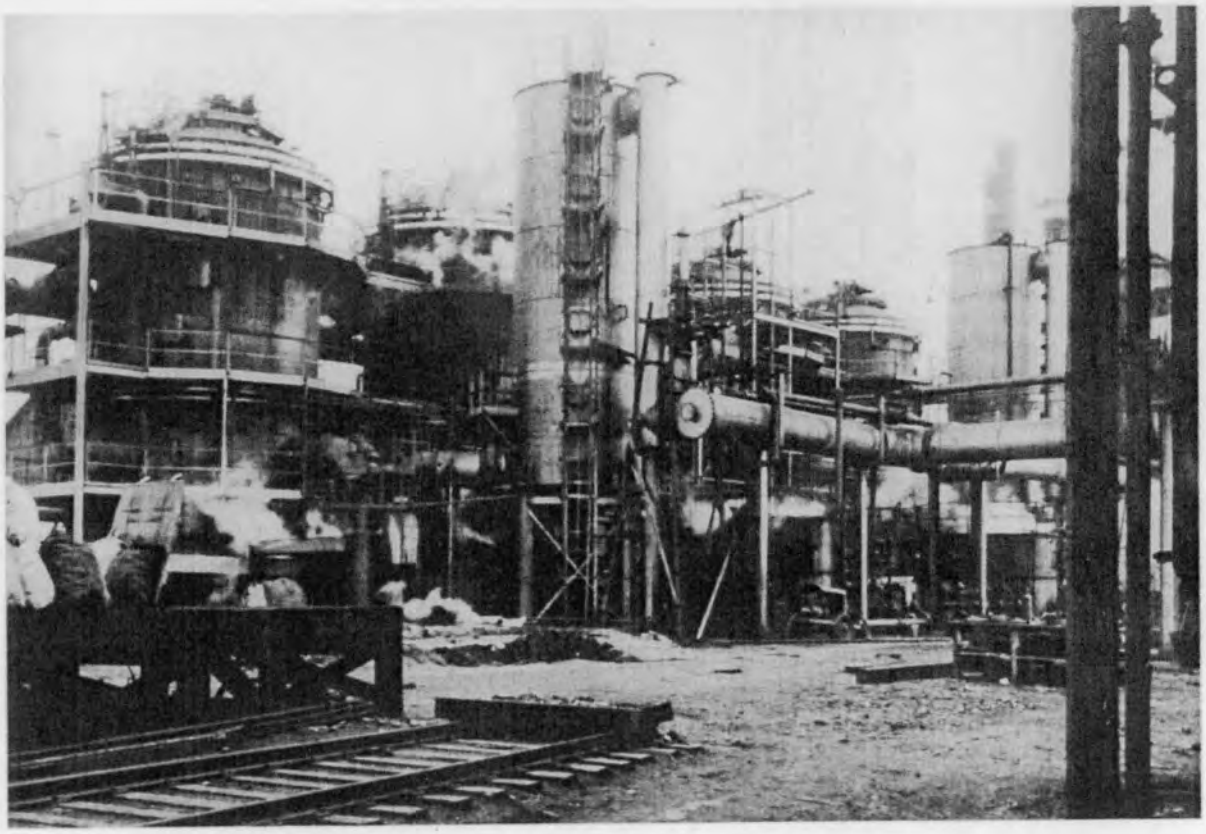

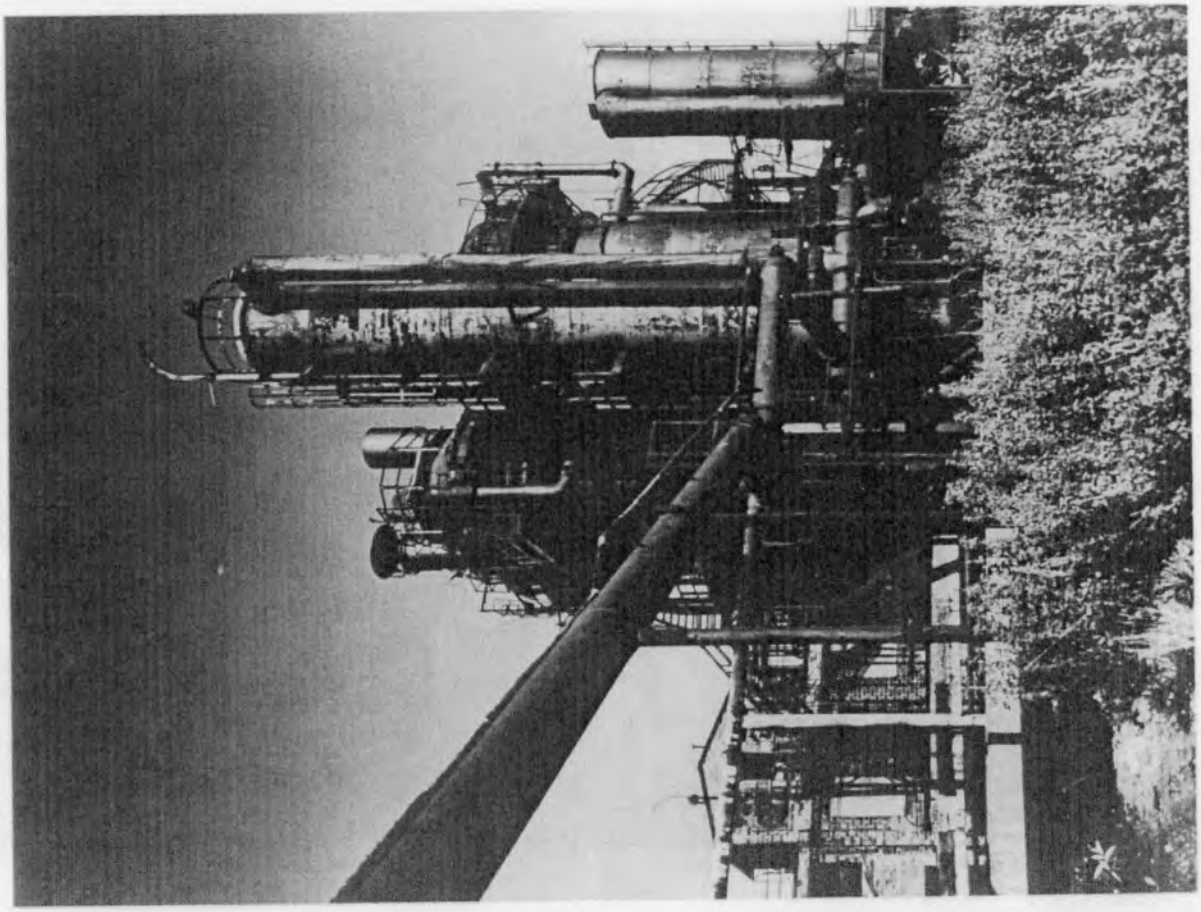

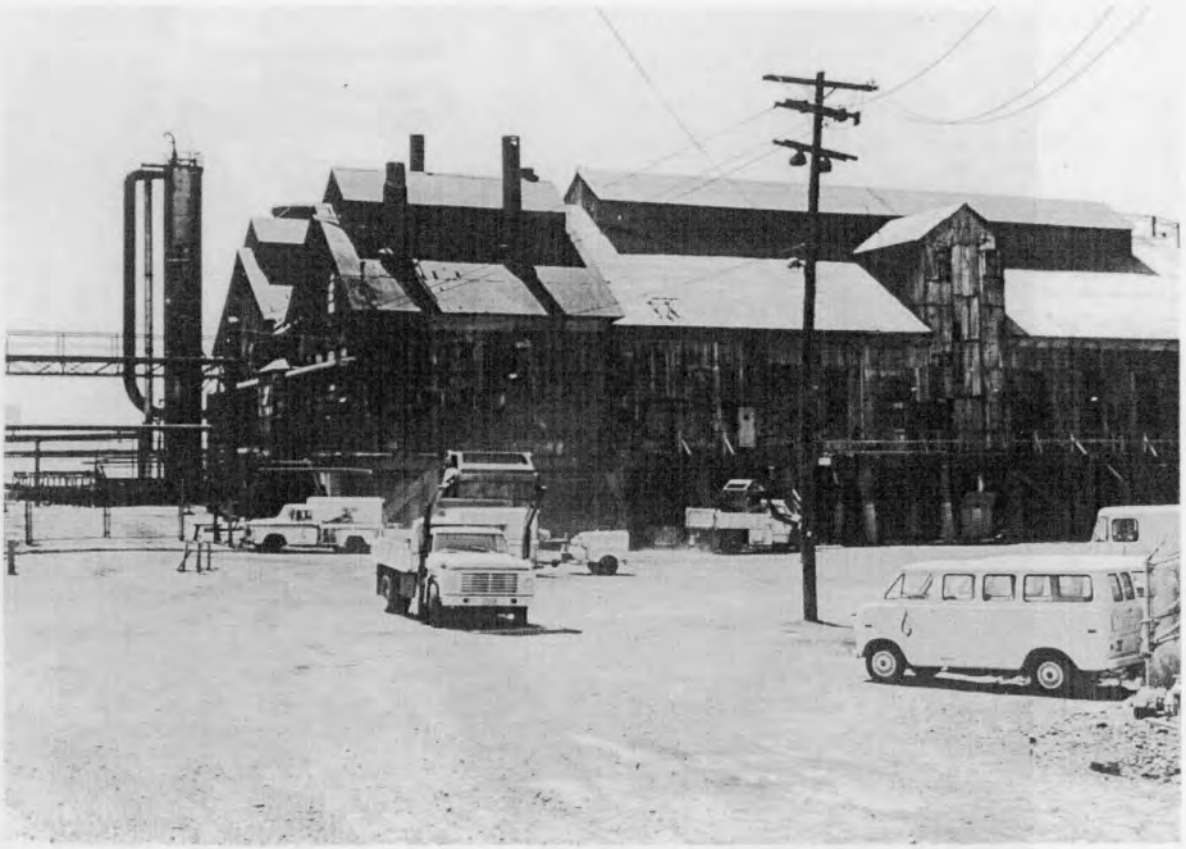

National Index By Name
National Register of Historic Places 08/28/2002 18:01:39

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Row	STATE	COUNTY	RESOURCE NAME	ADDRESS	CITY	LISTED	MULTIPLE
11	CA	Alameda	Pacific Gas & Electric Company Building	1625 Clay and 551 Seventeenth Sts.	Oakland	1986-07-17	
12	CA	Del Norte	Gasquet Ranger Station Historic District	10600 CA 199	Gasquet	1998-03-26	
13	CA	Orange	Southern Counties Gas Co.	207 W. 2nd St.	Santa Ana	1983-07-28	
14	CA	San Diego	Gaslamp Quarter Historic District	Bounded by RR tracks, Broadway, 4th, and 6th Sts.	San Diego	1980-05-23	
15	CA	San Francisco	Pacific Gas and Electric Company General Office Building and Annex	245 Market St.	San Francisco	1995-11-29	
16	CA	San Francisco	Pacific Gas and Electric Company Substation J	565 Commercial and 568 Sacremento Sts.	San Francisco	1986-12-29	
17	CA	Stanislaus	Shell Gas Station	Yosemite Blvd.	La Grange	1979-08-24	La Grange MRA
18	CO	Pueblo	Gast Mansion	1801 Greenwood St.	Pueblo	1982-06-03	
19	DE	Sussex	Georgetown Coal Gasification Plant	N. Railroad Ave.	Georgetown	1985-09-30	
20	FL	Dade	Atlantic Gas Station	668 N.W. 5th St.	Miami	1988-12-29	Downtown Miami MRA

National Index By Name
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Row	STATE	COUNTY	RESOURCE NAME	ADDRESS	CITY	LISTED	MULTIPLE
31	IN	St. Joseph	Northern Indiana Gas and Electric Company Building	221 N. Michigan	South Bend	1985-06-05	Downtown South Bend Historic MRA
32	IN	Wayne	Richmond Gas Company Building	100 E. Main St.	Richmond	1981-08-25	
33	KY	Harrison	Spur Gasoline Station	201 E. Bridge St.	Cynthiana	1987-04-27	
34	LA	St. John The Baptist	Dugas House	LA 18	Edgard	1989-08-31	
35	MA	Bristol	Attleborough Falls Gasholder Building	380 Elm St.	North Attleborough	1996-08-01	
36	MA	Middlesex	Arlington Gaslight Company	Grove St. Town Yard	Arlington	1985-04-18	Arlington MRA
37	MA	Middlesex	Colonial Beacon Gas Station	474 Main St.	Stoneham	1984-04-13	Stoneham MRA
38	MA	Middlesex	Waltham Gas and Electric Company Generating Plant	96 Pine St.	Waltham	1989-09-28	Waltham MRA
39	MA	Middlesex	Waltham Gas Light Company	2 Cooper St.	Waltham	1989-09-28	Waltham MRA
40	MA	Norfolk	Smith, A. C., & Co. Gas Station	117 Beale St.	Quincy	1994-02-23	Quincy MRA

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Row	STATE	COUNTY	RESOURCE NAME	ADDRESS	CITY	LISTED	MULTIPLE
31	IN	St. Joseph	Northern Indiana Gas and Electric Company Building	221 N. Michigan	South Bend	1985-06-05	Downtown South Bend Historic MRA
32	IN	Wayne	Richmond Gas Company Building	100 E. Main St.	Richmond	1981-08-25	
33	KY	Harrison	Spur Gasoline Station	201 E. Bridge St.	Cynthiana	1987-04-27	
34	LA	St. John The Baptist	Dugas House	LA 18	Edgard	1989-08-31	
35	MA	Bristol	Attleborough Falls Gasholder Building	380 Elm St.	North Attleborough	1996-08-01	
36	MA	Middlesex	Arlington Gaslight Company	Grove St. Town Yard	Arlington	1985-04-18	Arlington MRA
37	MA	Middlesex	Colonial Beacon Gas Station	474 Main St.	Stoneham	1984-04-13	Stoneham MRA
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39	MA	Middlesex	Waltham Gas Light Company	2 Cooper St.	Waltham	1989-09-28	Waltham MRA
40	MA	Norfolk	Smith, A. C., & Co. Gas Station	117 Beale St.	Quincy	1994-02-23	Quincy MRA

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Row	STATE	COUNTY	RESOURCE NAME	ADDRESS	CITY	LISTED	MULTIPLE
61	NY	Erie	Buffalo Gas Light Company Works	249 W. Genesee St.	Buffalo	1976-09-01	
62	NY	Erie	Liebler--Rohl Gasoline Station	5500 Broadway	Lancaster	1999-11-30	Lancaster, New York MPS
63	NY	Rensselaer	Troy Gas Light Company	NW corner of Jefferson St. and 5th Ave.	Troy	1971-02-18	
64	NY	Saratoga	Pure Oil Gas Station	65 Spring St.	Saratoga Springs	1978-10-18	
65	NY	Saratoga	Saratoga Gas, Electric Light and Power Company Complex	Excelsior Ave.	Saratoga Springs	2001-05-01	
66	OH	Clermont	Gaskins-Malany House	726 Bradbury Rd.	Withamsville	1975-10-29	
67	OH	Columbiana	Gaston's Mill-Lock No. 36, Sandy And Beaver Canal District	About 1 mi. S of Clarkson in Beaver Creek State Forest	Clarkson	1974-05-23	
68	OH	Hamilton	Cincinnati Street Gas Lamps	1109 Street lamps at various locations throughout Cincinnati	Cincinnati	1978-12-22	
69	OH	Lorain	Oberlin Gas Lighting Company Gasholder House	291 S. Main St.	Oberlin	1998-11-19	
70	OH	Mercer	Gast, Matthias, House and General Store	OH 119	Maria Stein	1978-12-29	

The Gas Works Park is significant under National Register Criterion C in the area of Landscape Architecture. The park represents a seminal work by master designer Richard Haag, combining modern landscape architecture and historic preservation. Haag's innovative work helped redefine modern landscape design during a period of substantial experimentation in the 1960s and 1970s, particularly in association with the melding of environmental concerns, historic preservation, industrial archeology, and urban park design.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Gas Works Park

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: WASHINGTON, King

DATE RECEIVED: 7/01/02 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 7/18/02
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 8/03/02 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 8/15/02
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 02000862

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL:	N	DATA PROBLEM:	N	LANDSCAPE:	N	LESS THAN 50 YEARS:	Y
OTHER:	N	PDIL:	N	PERIOD:	N	PROGRAM UNAPPROVED:	N
REQUEST:	N	SAMPLE:	N	SLR DRAFT:	N	NATIONAL:	Y

COMMENT WAIVER: N

___ACCEPT ___RETURN ___REJECT _____DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

RETURN

(See attached comment sheets)

RECOM./CRITERIA Return

REVIEWER Paul R. Lusignan DISCIPLINE Historian

TELEPHONE 202.354.2229 DATE 8/15/02

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments (Y)/N see attached SLR Y/N

GAS WORKS PARK
King County, Washington

National Register of Historic Places - Return Comments:

The current nomination is being returned for consideration of the substantive and technical issues outlined below. In our opinion the current documentation represents an excellent effort at describing and justifying the unique context for this distinctive work of modern landscape design, and the property is likely eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. The National Register's evaluation comments focus on two aspects of the current nomination: 1) dealing with the issue of the work of a living artist/designer, and 2) justifying the eligibility of the property under Criterion A in the area of industry at the national level.

Significance

The National Register listing of properties associated with individuals still living is highly discouraged in order to avoid the use of the National Register listing to endorse the work or reputation of a living person (or firm). On rare occasions, however, when sufficient scholarship and evidence of historical perspective exist in association with a living person whose active life in the field is substantially over, such listings may be considered. The revised nomination should *directly* address this concern by elaborating on Mr. Haag's current working status and by re-emphasizing the unlikely situation that he would produce additional works of such exceptional importance which would require a major reevaluation of his contributions to landscape design. (This should not be interpreted as a slight on Mr. Haag's continuing contributions to his field.) [For additional guidance on this issue please see National Register Bulletin 22, *Guidelines for Evaluating and Nominating Properties that Have Achieved Significance Within the Past Fifty Years*, p. 9, and National Register Bulletin 32, *Guidelines for Evaluating and Documenting Properties Associated with Significant Persons*, p. 12.]

With regard to the significance of the property under industrial history, the current documentation fails to adequately address the national comparative context or the integrity issues related to the ruinous nature of the industrial site. The majority of the nomination rightly focuses on the national significance of the park within the context of modern landscape design. This is clearly the strongest aspect of the property's importance as it relates to National Register listing and should remain the pivotal focus of the nomination. There are still several unresolved questions, however, regarding the significance of the property as an illustration of American industrial history. Most of the current background discussion regarding the history of the property deals with its local context only, failing to truly establish the "national" importance of the site within the theme outlined. In several instances the documentation states that this property is the "last remaining gas works plant facility in the United States," but no citations are given regarding the basis for these claims. Has there been a comprehensive survey of gas works in the United States? What of the other National Register-listed properties associated with gas production? If the basis for industrial significance lies on the rarity of the property type, then the revised nomination should better elaborate on the research and analysis undertaken to identify the lack of comparable extant examples.

With regard to potential significance under Criterion A, the nomination should also directly address the issue of the physical integrity of the extant resources and their ability to convey the significant themes identified. While the integrity of the site as an urban recreational park dating from the 1970s is solid, the integrity of the site as an intact industrial operation has been highly compromised. In numerous places, the documentation refers to the extant industrial resources as ruins, remnants, and "mnemonic devices." Such terms would appear to call into question the ability of the site to adequately convey its full original historic character. This fact, matched with the numerous alterations undertaken by Haag in his transformation of the site into a park, begs the question of whether or not this site adequately reflects a true illustration of early twentieth century industrial development. In addressing the integrity issue the revised nomination should directly justify the reasons why this site should be considered a significant illustration of historic gas works plant technology despite the considerable number of missing elements and the sometime odd juxtapositions of park and industrial features.

Geographical References

The easting values for U. T. M. Coordinates # 2 and #3 should be revised to read 550215 instead of 540215.

If you have any questions regarding these comments, please feel free to contact me directly at (202) 354-2229. We look forward to reviewing the revised documentation.

Signature: _____ Date: 8/15/02

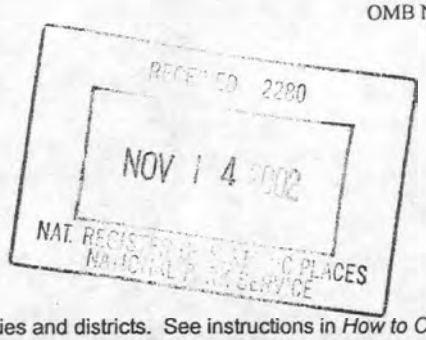
Paul R. Lusignan
National Register of Historic Places
National Park Service

c:\gas

NPS Form 10-900
(Rev. 10-90)

OMB No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name GAS WORKS PARK

other names/site number SEATTLE LIGHTING CO., SEATTLE GAS COMPANY LAKE STATION

2. Location

street & number 2000 NORTH NORTHLAKE WAY not for publication

city or town SEATTLE vicinity

state WASHINGTON code WA county KING code 033 zip code 98103

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this ____ nomination ____ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X meets ____ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant X nationally ___ statewide ___ locally. (___ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official — Date: 11/8/02

WASHINGTON STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ____ meets ____ does not meet the National Register criteria.
(___ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official — Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

____ entered in the National Register
___ See continuation sheet.
____ determined eligible for the National Register
___ See continuation sheet.
____ determined not eligible for the National Register
____ removed from the National Register
____ other (explain): _____

Signature of Keeper: Date of Action:

NPS Form 10-900
(Rev. 10-90)

OMB No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM

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State or Federal agency and bureau

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___ See continuation sheet.
____ determined eligible for the National Register
___ See continuation sheet.
____ determined not eligible for the National Register
____ removed from the National Register
____ other (explain): _____

Signature of Keeper: Date of Action:

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)
___ private
_X_ public-local
___ public-State
___ public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)
___ building(s)
_X_ district
___ site
___ structure
___ object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
3		buildings
1		sites
5		structures
2		objects
11		Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.) N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register
None

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)
Cat: Industry/processing/extraction
Sub: Energy facility

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)
Cat: Landscape
Sub: Park

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)
Other- Post Industrial

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)
foundation concrete and steel
roof steel, wood trusses/metal roofing
walls steel, wood
other

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

See Continuation Sheet

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

_X__ **A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.

_____ **B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.

__X__ **C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.

_____ **D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations
(Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

___ **A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.

___ **B** removed from its original location.

___ **C** a birthplace or a grave.

___ **D** a cemetery.

___ **E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.

___ **F** a commemorative property.

_X_ **G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions)
___ Landscape Architecture _____
___ Industry _____
_____

Period of Significance
_____1906-56 _____
_____1970-78 _____
_____

Significant Dates
_____1906, 1937, 1947, 1956 _____
_____1970, 1973, 1975 _____
_____

Significant Person
(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)
_____
_____

Cultural Affiliation
_____ N/A

Architect/Builder
___Haag,Richard (Landscape Architect) ___
__Jefferies-Norton Corp (Gas Separation System)
_____
_____

Narrative Statement of Significance
(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)
See Continuation Sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

___ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
___ previously listed in the National Register
___ previously determined eligible by the National Register
___ designated a National Historic Landmark
___ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
___ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary Location of Additional Data:

___ State Historic Preservation Office
___ Other State agency
___ Federal agency
___ Local government
___ University
___ Other
Name of repository:
_____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property ____20.5 acres _____

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	10	549859	5277053
2	10	550215	5277053
3	10	550215	5276820
4	10	549859	5276820

___ See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

See Continuation Sheet

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

See Continuation Sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title _Patricia Tusa Fels/Architect and Christy Edstrom O'Hara _____

organization___Friends of Gas Works Park _____ date_ Oct., 2002 __

street & number___30002 Issaquah-Fall City Rd. _____ telephone__425-222-0744 ___

city or town_____Fall City _____ state_WA zip code ____98024

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO

name Seattle Department of Parks and Recreation

street & number 800 Maynard Ave. South telephone 206-684-4155

city or town Seattle state WA zip code 98134

Narrative Description:

Summary

Gas Works Park occupies a 20.5-acre promontory with 1900 feet of Lake Union shoreline in Seattle, Washington. The site is bordered by Northlake Avenue at the north and abuts Lake Union on the East and South, between the northwest and northeast arms of Lake Union (Figures 1, 2, and 3). To the north of the park is the predominantly residential neighborhood of Wallingford. Immediately adjacent to the park are remnants of the industrial development of the area, which today is being rapidly replaced by retail development.

The Gas Works Park was formed from the remnants of a turn of the century gas manufacturing plant, called Lake Station, which was operated by the Seattle Lighting Company. Today, much of the former industrial site remains including steel towers, concrete railroad trestles and several buildings. First built in 1906 and subsequently altered in the 30's and 40's, the gas works functioned at this location until 1956.

Abandoned for 6 years, the gas-production plant and its land were purchased by the City of Seattle in 1962. In 1970 the commission hired Richard Haag Associates, Landscape Architects to complete the design for a new park. Gas Works Park (GWP) opening to the public with fan fair in 1975.

PRESENT APPEARANCE AND CHARACTERISTICS

The park can be entered two ways: through a landscaped parking area or through the Burke-Gilman Trail, a bike and walking path which connects Puget Sound to Lake Washington. Dividing the parking area from the park is a grassy berm and rows of trees demarcating the old railroad right-of-way.

The park is comprised of nine designed areas, which incorporate numerous structures and objects both from the turn-of-the-century gas works and new park development. These nine areas include: 1) the Earth Mound, 2) the Prow, 3) the North lawn, 4) South lawn 5) Picnic Lawns, 6) the Towers, 7) a Picnic Shelter, 8) the Play Barn and 9) the adjacent Playground. The Earth Mound, Prow, and Lawns are open areas intended for passive and active recreation, offering magnificent views of downtown Seattle and Lake Union.

The groups of gas processing towers have always been the distinguishing feature of the gas works; and through their retention today, they remain a prominent feature in the park. The only major structures removed in the creation of the Gas Works Park were large oil tanks and city gas holders, all of which were located to the West of the Towers. The functioning parts of the gas complex all remain today: including the plethora of towers, tanks and pumps, and the shells of two major buildings.

Narrative Description: (cont'd)

1) The Earth Mound

The Mound 1978
Contributing Resource: Site

Sundial 1978
Contributing Resource: Object

Initially a slagheap, this contributing hill is 35 feet high and is known today as the "Great Mound." It was created when the city haphazardly dumped excavated materials from a construction site. As part of turning the industrial site into a park, Landscape Architect Richard Haag added 20,000 cubic yards of oxides, arsenic and lamp-black gathered from the site and then covered it with fresh topsoil. Today the mound is now completely covered in field grass with paths that spiral around the mound, allowing places for kite flying, boat watching or stargazing.

At the top of the mound is a sundial created by Seattle artists, Chuck Greening and Kim Lazare, in 1978. Formed out of concrete and delineated with rocks, shells, glass, bronze and many other materials, the auto-gnomonic sundial tells time by using the body of the visitor as a stylus. The viewer's shadow tells the time of day and the season.

2) The Prow

Concrete Platform 1936 / 1975
Contributing Resource: Structure

Originally built in 1936, this concrete platform was used as an oil unloading area for tankers from Lake Union. In 1975 the platform was integrated into the park design by placing benches and handrails at the lakeside edges and building steps to the water at the East. Today it is known as the Prow.

3), 4) & 5) The North and South Lawns, and Picnic Lawn

Concrete train trestles (10 Piers): 1906
Contributing Resource: Structure

Restrooms/Concession Stand 1975
Contributing Resource: Building

These three large lawn areas have soil that has been bio-remediated with 18" of sewage sludge and sawdust. This innovative process decontaminated the soil from past industrial pollution, allowing for the growth of field grass. In 2001 a new cleanup plan was initiated by the City of Seattle in the SE area of the Park. An invisible air sparging

Narrative Description: (cont'd)

system has been set up in this area, along with a new 12" layer of soil cover.

On the north lawn at the park entrance, are the remnants of a concrete train trestle. These ten concrete piers were part of the original 1906 gas plant railroad, which ran along the north side of the Office and Laboratories Building (demolished). The piers and accompanying berm reveal where the railroad tracks into the plant and where coal was delivered to the gas works plant. Coal cars would travel up the trestles and release coal into hoppers parked under the trestles. The perimeter of the railroad path is lined on both sides by trees, and divides the parking lot from a grassy berm, hence delineating the edges of the park.

At the edge of the North lawn, between the North Lawn and Picnic lawn is a Restroom / Concession Stand. Built in 1978, this contributing one-story structure was built as part of park construction. This concrete block structure has a hip roof clad with corrugated metal.

6) The Towers

Towers 1 and 2 1937-38
Contributing Resource: Structure
Synthetic natural gas generator towers with their attendant processing towers, Waste heat boiler, Wash boxes, and Scrubbers.

Towers 3-6 1947
Contributing Resource: Structure
Synthetic natural gas generator towers with their attendant processing towers, Wash boxes, Scrubbers, and Secondary scrubbers.

Light oil absorber, Oil cooler & Foamite Control Shed 1938
Contributing Resource: Structure

Built in 1937-38, Towers 1 and 2 are the largest towers and are Semet-Solvay-type generators (see figures 6 & 7). Each has a single outer shell made of welded steel lined inside with refractory brick. Tower 1 is 80 feet tall; Tower 2 is 75 feet tall. At their peak they could manufacture 6 million cubic feet of gas a day.

Newer to the site, Towers 3-6 were built in 1947. They have the same brick inner shell and welded-steel outer shell construction as Towers 1 and 2, but are smaller. All four towers have an outer diameter of 22 feet, are 50 feet tall, and rest on concrete pedestals. The brick liner has an inside diameter of 20 feet and is 33.5 feet high. The outer shells are equipped with nozzles for pipe and instrument connections, access doors, air blast doors, gas outlets, and sight holes. (Blueprints, 1945-46).

Narrative Description: (cont'd)

Wash boxes and scrubbers associated with generators 3-6 were also built in 1946-47. Next to each generator are the wash boxes, which look like small tanks, measuring 10 feet in diameter by 11 feet tall, each mounted on three supporting legs. For each pair of wash boxes there is one primary scrubber that rests on a concrete pedestal; it stands 48 feet tall and has an 11.5-foot diameter. The output from the two primary scrubbers goes into the single secondary scrubber of welded steel construction (measuring 12 feet in diameter, 68 feet tall). Farthest from the generators are two small tanks (about 20 feet tall) that were the original secondary scrubbers. All piping that connects these towers is of 3/16-inch plate steel. (Blueprints, 1945-46)

Towers 1-6 are presently enclosed by a chain link fence erected by the Seattle Parks Department. Inside the fence, to the SE of the towers, lays one large smoke stack. This was taken down by the Parks Department in 1978, but the foundation still remains.

Between the generators and the Play Barn stand two more steel tower-like structures that are the Light oil absorber (80 feet tall) and Oil cooler (40 feet tall). The cooling tower lowered the temperature of the light oil-gas mixture from the scrubbers; then the oils were separated from the gas in the oil absorber tower. Light oils such as benzene, toluene and solvent naphtha were the secondary products. Adjacent to these towers sits a small brick building, the only remaining Foamite Control Shed. Originally one of four identical buildings, these buildings were used for fire control.

7) Picnic Shelter, 8) Play Barn, and 9) Playground

Picnic Shelter 1910

Contributing Resource: Building
Original Function: Boiler House (including Boiler #11 shipped to Seattle in 1941)
Current Function: Picnic Shelter

Play Barn 1910

Contributing Resource: Building
Original Function: Pump House/Exhauster House (including Pumps, Compressors, Piping, Gas Exhausters, Air Separator & Electrostatic precipitators).
Current Function: Playbarn

Playground 1935

Contributing Resource: Object
Smoke arrestor hood

These buildings date back to the original coal-gas facility (ca. 1910) and were constructed of wood. The Pump

Narrative Description: (cont'd)

House (also known as the Exhauster House) which today is called the Play Barn, is about 7,340 sq ft (48 feet x 153 feet) and the Boiler House, today the Picnic Shelter, is about 5,720 sq ft (40 feet x 143 feet). The heavy timber wood frames of both buildings remain intact, and are set on concrete slab foundations.

The Boiler House, now the Picnic Shelter, originally housed two boilers. One provided steam for the gasification process; the other (#11) provided steam for the steam engines that powered the Pump House compressors. The tubes from boiler #11 remain in place at the eastern end of the building and are an impressive display of seldom-seen industrial technology. The building has a monitor style roof and is clad with a combination of corrugated metal and wood clapboard.

The Pump House is now the Play Barn where most of the pumps, compressors, and piping are still in place. The 3000 hp compressor's 10 ton fly-wheel ran continuously to keep the plant running 24 hours a day. In this building, air was compressed for the oxygen-extraction process; the oxygen was then pumped to the generators for the first stage of gas manufacturing, and the final product was compressed and pumped to either the storage tank or down the lines of main to customers. South of the Play Barn sits another boiler and two tanks that were electrostatic tar precipitators. These tanks removed tar from the gas. All of this monumental machinery is preserved, repainted in bright primary colors so that all can see and touch it, while providing a critical display of Seattle's industrial history. As part of the park design, the sides of the building have been opening with triangular and rectangular voids. This siding is now sheathed in diagonally laid weatherboard.

Outside the Play Barn, further to the south, is a Playground that encompasses the sole surviving smoke arrestor hood which has been refurbished as a play structure for climbing. Designed and built by the Seattle Gas Company in 1935, three were installed in order to reduce pollutant emissions. The Playground uses remnants of the original footprint of buildings and underground piping to provide stairs and seating.

Narrative Statement of Significance:

Gas Works Park is historically significant under Criterion C as a seminal work of landscape architecture by the noted landscape architect Richard Haag. His work at gracefully transforming a former gas works industrial site into a first rate urban park was groundbreaking for its era and preserved a distinctive type of industrial process. As such, Gas Works Park is also historically significant under Criterion A as the last remaining gas works plant facility in Washington state. Additionally the plant has a direct association with the development and evolution of energy supply in Seattle.

Gas Works Park also meets the eligibility threshold established by Criteria Consideration G as a precedent setting adaptive reuse of a former industrial site and is a pivotal landscape project by noted landscape architect, Richard Hagg.

Introduction

The American Industrial Revolution, and Seattle's own early growth and success, were based on having an abundant supply of energy. One of the most important forms was gas. Light and heat for American cities was produced by illuminating gas, a man-made product derived from coal or oil. In the U.S. there were over 1,400 plants producing such gas, and from 1880-1930 they fueled America's growth. Today the gas works plant remnants show the processes that set the stage for our present life style (and Seattle's prosperity). The original remaining structures form an industrial archaeology and are some of the last remaining examples of a lost technology according to a comprehensive survey of gas work plants conducted by the Environmental Protection Agency. Furthermore a search of over 50,000 historic site files in the state of Washington has resulted in the gas works plant in Seattle as being the only known extant resource of its type in the state. Although the Gas Works on Lake Union were integrated into a new City of Seattle Park, the key components of transforming coal or oil into gas are still in place.

Dr. Daniel Eggers in his pamphlet on *Gas Works Park,* describes how all the essential parts of the gassification process still remain at the Gas Works (see figure 10). This diagram shows that once the oil left the tanks and reached the gas generator towers all of the components of transforming it into gas still remain in the reconfigured park. Once the oil had become gas it went to a relief holder or large city holder. These holders have also been removed. Thus the storage containers at the beginning and the end of the process are gone, but the steps of the transformation are all intact and, with more interpretation planned at the park, they should become clear to a future visitor.

While the industrial archaeology of the site is of importance, Gas Works Park is of exceptional significance nationally and internationally for its design innovations in landscape architecture. Beginning in 1970, landscape architect Richard Haag ingeniously adapted the former gas works site, by selectively transforming the industrial remnants into a new park. He anticipated the sustainability movement through an innovative method called

Narrative Statement of Significance: (cont'd)

bioremediation to naturally clean the polluted soil. His re-use of industrial remnants reflected not only Seattle's industrial past, but influenced other designs across the globe from Granville Island, Vancouver to Slater Mill in Pawtucket, Rhode Island, and abroad to parks in France and Germany. Richard Haag's work at the Park was considered radical for its time; however, the intervening 30 years have fostered an understanding and appreciation of his insights. Haag's park design changed people's perceptions of former industrial sites, redefining what was "beautiful," improving the health of the polluted sites, and reincorporating the sites back into the community.

As a gifted landscape architect, Richard Haag is the only person to ever win two of the prestigious ASLA President's Award of Excellence: one for Gas Works Park and the second for Bloedel Reserve in Bainbridge Island, Washington. Born in 1923 in Louisville, Kentucky, Richard Haag moved to Seattle via San Francisco. He had previously received his Bachelors in Landscape Architecture from UC Berkeley, and a Master of Landscape Architecture from Harvard in 1952. After his master's program, Hagg was awarded a Fulbright Fellowship and spent two years studying in Japan. After his move to Seattle in 1958, Hagg began to change local landscape architecture in profound ways. Haag established the Landscape Architecture Department at University of Washington in 1964 where he taught until 1999. He is now professor emeritus. Gas Works Park is his masterwork in Seattle, a project that has brought him international acclaim.

In 2003 Richard Haag will be 80 years old. All of the archives from his firm, Richard Haag & Associates, are now part of the University of Washington's Special Collections. The archives include drawings and notes from RHA projects spanning over forty years. Today Haag continues to run a small office from which he consults, primarily on private garden projects. Due to his age, health and size of his practice, it is highly unlikely that Hagg will produce another seminal and groundbreaking work, such as Gas Works Park.

Gas Works Parks has two periods of significance. The first, 1906 to 1956, covers the time in which the gas works plant was in operation. The second period of significance, 1970-1978, spans the planning and construction period for the conversion of the gas works plant to a park.

Pre-History

Because of the ideal location of Gas Works Park, many inhabitants have used the place. Little is known of pre-Euro-American site history, but there were Native American settlements such as Kah-chug, Tenas Chuck, and Xa'ten around Lake Union. Thomas Mercer named the site "Lake Union" in the mid-1800s in expectation of future canals linking it to Puget Sound and Lake Washington. At that time, dense forests extended to the water's edge and the lake drained into Salmon Bay through a stream "full of windfalls and brush, impassable even for a canoe." (Bass, 1947) Lake Union in the 1860-70's was a popular vacation spot with Seattle residents for summer house-boating and picnicking.

Narrative Statement of Significance: (cont'd)

Industrial Development

Several sawmills were operating on Lake Union's shore by the 1850s, taking advantage of the dense forests. Beginning in 1872, Seattle Coal and Transportation Company ferried coal from its Renton Hill mines across the lake for portage to Puget Sound. The 1880s brought further industry to the south end of Lake Union with the Denny sawmill, brick manufacturing, shipbuilding, a tannery, and iron works. Canals with small locks were cut in 1885 from Lake Washington to Lake Union, and from Lake Union to Salmon Bay. The arrival of the Seattle, Lake Shore and Eastern Railroads in 1887 ensured that Lake Union would continue to be a focus for industrial development.

In 1900 the Seattle Gas Light Company began to purchase lots at the present Gas Works Park site (Secrist, Title Search). Despite the fact that the land was being acquired by the gas company, the Olmsted Brothers in 1903 recommended that "...the point of land between the northeast and northwest arms of Lake Union and the railroad should be secured as a local park, because of its advantages for commanding views over the lake and for boating, and for a playground." (Olmsted Brothers, 1903) When the Company opened a gas plant in 1906 it was "the only enterprise of its kind west of the Mississippi River and the second of its kind built in the United States." (Seattle Post-Intelligencer, 9-27-14)

In 1911, Virgil Bogue produced a civic master plan for Seattle's Municipal Plans Commission in which he promoted the idea of Lake Union as an industrial area: "The fact that [Lake Union] is located in the very heart of the city indicates that if properly developed it will become a most important factor in the commercial and business activities of the city." (Seattle Municipal Plans Commission, 1911) Completion of the Lake Washington Ship Canal and Ballard locks in 1917 guaranteed the success of shipping and ship-building industries on Lake Union, despite the fact that the Bogue plan had been defeated by voters.

In the early 1900s, the gas manufacturing plant on Lake Union, called Lake Station, was the largest private utility existing in Seattle. Eventually the municipally owned Seattle City Light would overtake the private utility and hydro-electricity would prove less costly. But for the next fifty years the Lake Station provided gas for many of Seattle's citizens.

The Seattle Gas Light Company was founded in 1873 by two of Seattle's foremost pioneers, Arthur A. Denny and Dexter Horton, along with J. Collins. In 1894 Sam Hill, son-in-law of James J. Hill, the railroad empire builder, bought controlling interests in the company. In 1904 the Company was consolidated to become the Seattle Lighting Company. When Lake Station opened, it was operated by the "Seattle Lighting Company". In 1930 the name was changed to "Seattle Gas Company" (Gasco). In the 1940's, customer demand for natural gas increased and in 1955 Seattle Gas Company merged with Washington Gas and Electric (Washington Natural Gas). In the 1990's, Washington Natural Gas was folded into Puget Sound Energy.

Narrative Statement of Significance: (cont'd)

Throughout the first half of this century the Seattle Gas Company was a significant participant in and contributor to the growth of Seattle and adjoining communities. During a time of growing urbanization, Seattle, like cities throughout the U.S. needed an affordable source of energy. The primary product of the Lake Station was illuminating gas manufactured from coal. Not only was the illuminating gas used for lighting, but later also used for cooking, refrigeration, heating homes and water. Illuminating gas was known as "city gas" to distinguish it from natural gas. The gas was made from coal until 1937 when the high cost of operating the old coke oven and coal-gas generating sets forced a substitution to oil. A pair of oil-to-gas generators were built at the site in 1937 and the old coal-gas facilities were disassembled. In 1946-47, two more oil gas generator pairs were constructed to maintain demand for gas.

The plant also manufactured other basic products necessary for urban growth: tar for roofing; lampblack for pigment in tires and ink; charcoal briquets for odor-free and efficient home heating. Since by-products from gas manufacturing had strong markets of their own, new equipment was installed in the 1930's and 40's to produce Gasco charcoal briquets, toluene, solvent naphtha, sulfur, xylene, and resin tar. The solvent Toluene was in high demand during World War II for making TNT and various types of gunpowder. Through all of these products, the gas works contributed in an integral way, not only to daily commercial and domestic life in Seattle, but to interests at a national level.

Primary manufacturing and support facilities consisted of storage tanks, boiler house, pump and compressors house, offices, and laboratories. On-site support included electrical, carpentry, machine, blacksmith, and welding shops. Additional facilities included a stable, first aid stations, and foamite houses for storing fire control materials. Running through the north portion of the site was Burlington Northern Railroad's 50 ft. wide right-of-way. Train trestle piers from the coal days are still in place.

By 1954, the Lake Station plant utilized 1,071 miles of gas main to serve Seattle, Renton, Kent and Tukwila, Washington. Approximately 43,198 customers were served in 1940, decreasing to 36,200 in 1954. The Gas Company averaged about 130 employees, with four crews of 23 men per shift, rotating 24 hours a day on a 7-day run. Production of city gas ended at the site in 1956 when Seattle converted to natural gas. In 1962 the abandoned buildings and manufacturing structures were still intact when the City of Seattle began purchase of the gas works. During this period there was considerable public discussion about whether the site should be developed or made into a park. Park advocates led by Myrtle Edwards, City Councilwoman and chair of the Parks committee, prevailed. In 1970, Richard Haag Associates (RHA) was retained by the Seattle Park Board to complete an analysis and Master Plan (see figure 8) for a new park at the former gas plant site.

Narrative Statement of Significance: (cont'd)

Richard Haag's Master Plan: Innovation in Adaptive Reuse and Bioremediation

Richard Haag opened an on-site office to research and analyze the industrial site, thus searching, like his philosophical guide Frederick Law Olmsted, for its *genius loci* (Campbell, 1973). Haag and his staff began a complete study of the Lake Union basin and neighborhoods that the park would serve. This study included an analysis of existing and proposed parks, land forms and soils, population and zoning, open space, history of the gas plant, including functions of each structure, surface covers, microclimate, plant life and visual experience to fully understand the sense of place (Ibid.)

Seattle has a rich heritage of post-Victorian parks designed in the early 1900s—all for passive recreation designed within a picturesque landscape. In contrast, Gas Works Park was designed to be an urban, intensively used pleasure ground utilizing unique structures. Haag explicitly described this new approach to park design in his Master Plan:

> "The traditional escape from the city into the sylvan settings of remote areas has changed for many people into a seeking of a more active encounter. Introspection and retreat are easily accomplished without physical isolation, but facilities for social interaction with persons other than intimate friends are more scarce with respect to population growth. ...new sites should be offered in a vast and varied park system to accommodate experimentation and innovation in both design and program." (Master Plan, 1971)

Haag's unique design for Gas Works Park created a reformulation of park design in landscape architecture throughout the globe. He challenged the orthodox view of a park, reaching beyond the 19th Century Olmstedianprototypes, thus shedding the preconceptions of landscape architectural design (Abitare, 1984). Haag called his new design the "park of the future." (Campbell, 1973) Through an understanding of the site and its unique features, he changed the traditional design viewpoint of what could be done to the landscape, to what could be done with the landscape (Weston, 1987).

Richard Haag realized that the site contained the last gas works plant in the U.S. and that he had a unique opportunity for preservation not only of Seattle's industrial past, but for the "esthetic and utilitarian value" of the remnants as well. (Master Plan, April 1971) His adaptive reuse showed the beauty in industrial forms while removing it's negative associations. With innovation, Haag saw the towers from the gas plant as sculptural art, "iron Gothic" structures, what he called "irreplaceable and significant totemic artifacts that would fascinate future generations." (Brynolson, 1977) He compared removing some of the gas plant structures, while retaining others, to "selective pruning in a forest." Haag's "pruning" was extremely selective and knowledgeable. His research into the gas works made clear to him the sequence of the technology and the importance of maintaining the rationale of the gassification process. By removing the two large oil tanks and two gas holders he removed bulky out-of-scale pieces that were not key to the refining technology. Haag's other pruning was of pipes and catwalks which provided a safety hazard, and the removal of several large metal sheds to open up the site to the views of the Lake

Narrative Statement of Significance: (cont'd)

and the City. Foreseeing the impact of the design, he predicted that this would give Seattle the only park in the world which would incorporate any aspect of industrial age. (Weems, 1980) Upon completion of the Park, The New York Times (8/30/75) lauded the design as "Seattle's pre-eminent piece of public sculpture."

When the city of Seattle purchased the site in 1962, the original intention was to raze the site and create a forested setting, naming it after the late Mrs. Myrtle Edwards. Intense public controversy erupted over the proposed design, arguing for an against it in both major Seattle newspapers. The design was debated in editorials and letters to the editor. The plan was attacked at public hearings as "hideously ugly" and an "environmental intrusion" (Goldberger, 1975). After an intense appeal to convince the public of the value of the plant, the Seattle City Council unanimously approved Haag's 1971 Master Plan for an industrial preservation park. Outraged by the plan, in November 1972, Myrtle Edwards' family declined having the park named after her.

The Master Plan proposed recycling the buildings, production structures, machinery and even the grounds themselves. Research found that the soil was so polluted (contaminated for 15 feet down to the water table according to Brynolson) through 60 years of industrial use that it could not be planted like a traditional park. Typical park vegetation such as trees would not grow in this kind of soil. Officials became convinced when an engineer descended into a drilled hole and had to be hauled back up after fainting from the fumes. (Brynolson, 1977) Haag's vision included a "minimum of traditional green" beginning a new campaign in environmental education. He called this facet of the design his"Clean and Green Scheme," not only for its color but for its environmental elements. The process of bioremediation was to detoxify oil-soaked soil.

His plan came twenty years before the EPA decreed land farming (bioremediation) to be a viable option for the healing of contaminated sites. Haag immediately began working the site by bringing in sawdust and primary treated sewage, topsoil and grass seed. This mix established nutrients and oxygen for bacteria to "farm" the toxins. Through bioremediation, the toxins would be eaten by tiny microorganisms and transformed into harmless elements. (Fels, 2000) Conventional methods of the day were to "cap and cover" or haul away toxins to contaminate another site. Haag anticipated the sustainability movement in this natural, slow process of allowing the site to heal itself.

Historic Context of Landscape Architecture in the 1960s-1970s

The 1960s were a time of experimentation and concern for the environment, providing the setting for the design of Gas Works Park.

At the National Conference on Instruction of Landscape Architecture in 1957, landscape architect Ian McHarg emerged as the spokesman for environmental values in practice. The conference sought to find ways to give social

Narrative Statement of Significance: (cont'd)

function as much validity as to the art of design and brought an awakening of ecological approach in design. (Walker, 1994)

The 1960s proved to be a volatile decade of great change. The environmental movement became a strong force, viewing environmental degradation in new and profound ways. Technical innovations following World War II, such as advances in metallurgy, welding techniques and pipe rolling, changed energy production from coal driven processes to a cleaner natural gas. The switch to natural gas throughout the world made gas-manufacturing plants obsolete. During this same decade, Rachel Carson's 1962 book Silent Spring, described for the first time the threat of pesticides and other synthetic chemicals to all life on earth. These new values ultimately culminated in the passage of the National Environmental Policy Act in 1969, mandating environmental impact statements for a wide range of projects.

During the 1960s, nature was brought into urban settings in abstracted forms and was more experimental in design (Walker, 1994). Experimentation was also accomplished in new settings, such as the first major institutional roof garden at the Oakland Museum (1962-1969) by Dan Kiley and Geraldine Knight Scott. Landscape architect Lawrence Halprin's experimentalism in design married dance choreography to landscape design, trying to stretch the boundaries of creative process. Richard Haag was a member of this generation of landscape architects and through his work with Lawrence Halprin, he brought ideas of experimentalism to Seattle.

Also during the era, significant pieces of state environmental legislation were passed in the state of Washington due to the burgeoning environmental movement of the 1960s. In Seattle, a regional agency called Metro was created in order to deal with rapid transit, sewage and the provision of a large-scale open space system. (Streatfield, 1988) The failure to create an effective metropolitan planning agency led to the passage in 1968 of a large bond called a Forward Thrust for the purpose of creating a large number of public parks in Seattle and King County. Gas Works' purchase price of $1,340,000 was paid through Forward Thrust bonds and H.U.D monies.

Historic Context within Richard Haag's Work:

Richard Haag's first major design in the Seattle area was for the Seattle Center following the World's Fair in 1962. His design used earth mounds to create topographic interest as well as provide a cheap way to hide the foundations of razed buildings from the World Fair. However, it was not until his visit to Sweden in 1963 when he saw Gunnar Asplund and Sigurd Lewerentz's "Woodland Cemetery" and its use of earth mounds that he understood the power of the simple mounds' scale, siting and form.

Similar in several ways to Gas Works Park and immediately predating it, the 1970 design of Jordan Park in Everett, Washington, combined light industry, commercial and marine-oriented activities. Five earth mounds with a delineation of trees at the perimeter, simple ground cover, and a widow's walk similar to the Prow, were early

Narrative Statement of Significance: (cont'd)

forms that would be repeated with new meaning at GWP.

In 1986 Richard Haag won his second ASLA President's Award for Excellence for Bloedel Reserve in Bainbridge Island, Washington (1969-1984). In contrast to GWP, the pristine reserve comprised approximately 150 acres surrounding an estate owned by Prentice Bloedel. Haag's design concept for the Master Plan was the Chinese Stroll Garden from Tao philosophy. There in a series of gardens, Haag designed different "rooms" each providing a unique experience, from the Depression (a circular canal surrounded by grasses), to a pool ruin (vegetation that would take over site to become a ruin), to abstract triangular hills. Simple, abstract forms coupled with guidance from the natural environment and its processes describe the design at Bloedel Reserve. Like his work at GWP, Haag saw Bloedel Reserve as a great earth sculpture and was a mature continuation of many of his previous ideas. (Rozdilsky, 1991)

Precedents and Influences in Adaptation of Industrial Sites

In 1970 there were no precedents for Haag's proposal. In fact, while the Park Commission accepted Richard Haag's conceptual idea of recycling the industrial elements from the gas works, it was suggested that he look for international precedents for the actual design as way of validating these new ideas.

Taking a sabbatical, Haag traveled to Europe and was only able to find one similar project: a gas works in Berne, Switzerland which had adapted gas tanks to a skating rink and youth hostel. Haag was aware of the adaptation of slag heaps to designed earth mounds in Europe and visited Stoke-on-Trent observing the combination of tourism and museums at industrial sites. However, with the one example of Berne, there were no precedents for industrial remnants incorporated into a designed landscape. He returned to Seattle and had to develop a new type of landscape. The idea of industrial site adaptation was profound, one which would be copied and reinterpreted over the next 30 years at a regional, national and international level, changing the perception of industrial sites as usability places.

The regional influence of GWP can be seen at Granville Island (1973) in Vancouver and Dickman Mill (1993) in Tacoma, Washington. They adapt former industrial settings incorporating heavy industry and the retained skeleton of a lumber mill, respectively, into mixed-use complexes. Dickman Mill, like GWP, uses natural methods in restoration of the highly degraded salt marsh.

At a national level, Haag's concept was followed in a large number of obsolete industrial sites including: Slater Mill, Pawtucket, Rhode Island (museum and park), Museum of Textile History, Lawrence, Massachusetts (museum), Georgetown Foundry, Washington, D.C. (office building), Cannery Row, Monterey, California (mixed use) and Danbury Mill, Danbury, Connecticut (housing). Lowell, Massachusetts, also developed in the 1970s, was an attempt to revitalize the city based on its industrial and ethnic heritage. (Penrose, 1991) Haag's validation of

Narrative Statement of Significance: (cont'd)

vernacular industrial elements influenced designers and developers to look at sites as important remnants of history and culture. Their reuse was not only economical and environmentally appropriate, but saved an important part of many regions' industrial past.

Through the design of GWP, Haag also foresaw the implementation of today's multimillion-dollar brownsfield projects, which restore sites polluted by remnants of our industrial past. His influential design changed perceptions from viewing these sites as ugly and unusable. As recently as 1996, the New York Clean Water/Clean Air Bond Act envisioned thousands of former industrial sites as potential for new development or use as parks because of their existing infrastructure and convenient locations to transportation routes.

Modern designers continue to seek biological treatment systems like those used by Haag at GWP that are self-sustaining and cheaper than chemical treatment. Recently, Ford Motor Company and Rouge Steel's 1000-acre River Rouge complex sought this natural type of design, the result being restoration for a new wildlife habitat. Another contemporary example is Blacklick Creek in Pennsylvania, a former mining site that "celebrates" industrial pollution combining tree colors that mimic the golden polluted runoff; ultimately this site will also heal itself through designed natural processes.

GWP's influence internationally, especially in France and Germany, has been the strongest. While most American projects concentrated on industrial building adaptation, European design has more innovatively adapted both buildings and landscape, in a closer alignment with Haag's idea. One outstanding example is Parc Georges Brassens (1984) in Paris in which the new park design integrated some of the most striking architectural components of the original 1884 slaughterhouses into the gardens. Like GWP, concrete remnants of the foundations remained and served as the framework for the design. As at GWP, Haag's seminal ideas revealed beauty in industrial forms while removing the negative associations of places.

The contemporary landscape architect, Peter Latz of Germany, has built a practice adapting former industrial sites to new use incorporating sustainability into his landscapes. His best known project is Duisberg Nord, Duisberg, Germany--a park built on an abandoned blast furnace, replete with slag heaps, abandoned ore bunkers and elevated rails. Acknowledging the lead that Europe has taken since GWP's design in industrial site adaptation, Anne Raver of the New York Times wrote:

> "Americans have been late to see their industrial wastelands not only as potential public parks, but also as repositories of their history: the precedent was Gas Works Park in Seattle, which embraces the heroic structure and history of an old gas plant." (Raver, 2000)

Narrative Statement of Significance: (cont'd)

Exceptional Qualities

Gas Works Park is an exceptional and ground-breaking work, thus qualifying the site as a significant resource under 50 years of age. The structures and machinery standing in GWP today are remnants of the Industrial Revolution that transformed the face of the world. It is the sole survivor of gas works from that era in the United States. Preserved as a public park, it is the only site that can be documented with most of the generating equipment intact. These form a unique and dramatic collection of a pioneering technology from the industrial revolution era. As UW Professor of Anthropology Kenneth Read eloquently expressed:

> "History sits on this little wasteland, not only the parochial history of a given city, but also a fragment of the chronicle of world and culture. It is certainly as valuable a document as anything preserved in the Museum of History and Industry." (Read, 1969)

The impact of Gas Works Park on land reclamation and industrial preservation attitudes and techniques extends far beyond Seattle. GWP has gained national and international attention as a prototype for industrial site conversions. It is studied, cited as an exemplary model, and referenced in educational textbooks and scholarly works. (See list of awards and exhibitions in Appendix A; a selected bibliography of works on the topic of GWP in Appendix B.) Since its opening in 1975, GWP has won numerous awards for design excellence, vision, and innovation. The jury for the ASLA President's Award of Excellence stated:

> "A remarkably original and attractive example of how to reclaim a seemingly hopeless and obsolete industrial installation. Instead of being destroyed or disguised, it has been transformed into a lighthearted environment ... A project of historical significance for the community. A symbol of American technology preserved."

While its influential design acknowledges its exceptional quality, there is also a sense of urgency in GWP's preservation. As an industrial remnant, GWP was listed as one of the most vulnerable American sites in a Report to the President and the Congress of the United States in 1984:

> "Because of recent economic problems and changes in technology, a variety of industrial structures and paraphernalia have become expendable and vulnerable. Blast furnaces, copper smelters, coal mines and the like are threatened because they are nearly impossible to reuse and restoring them for museum use can be prohibitively expensive. Besides the difficulty in explaining the significance of these industrial dinosaurs, these vestiges often carry with them the stigma of past failures. Companies do not want them around as reminders of obsolescence and inactivity, employees have bad feelings about places that remind them of hard work followed by loss of employment, and others view them as unimportant, ungainly and unsafe."

The possibility for national recognition was recognized as early as 1971 by the noted Seattle preservationist, the late Professor Victor Steinbrueck, when he inventoried the gas works plant. Eric DeLony, then National Park

Narrative Statement of Significance: (cont'd)

Service Acting Supervisor at the Historic American Engineering Record (HAER), commented in a letter of April 15, 1971:

> "I am pleased to receive the inventory form, photographs, and personal evaluation on the Lake Station Gas Works of Seattle. I concur with your belief that the plant is an interesting industrial complex and that it's local significance will certainly be enhanced if plans to incorporate many of the structures into a public park are carried forth. I have never heard such a proposal ever considered seriously. If successful, the Lake Station Gas Works Park will not only be a unique first in the United States, if not the world, but will set an important precedent for the future preservation of industrial structures through an imaginative plan for adaptive use."

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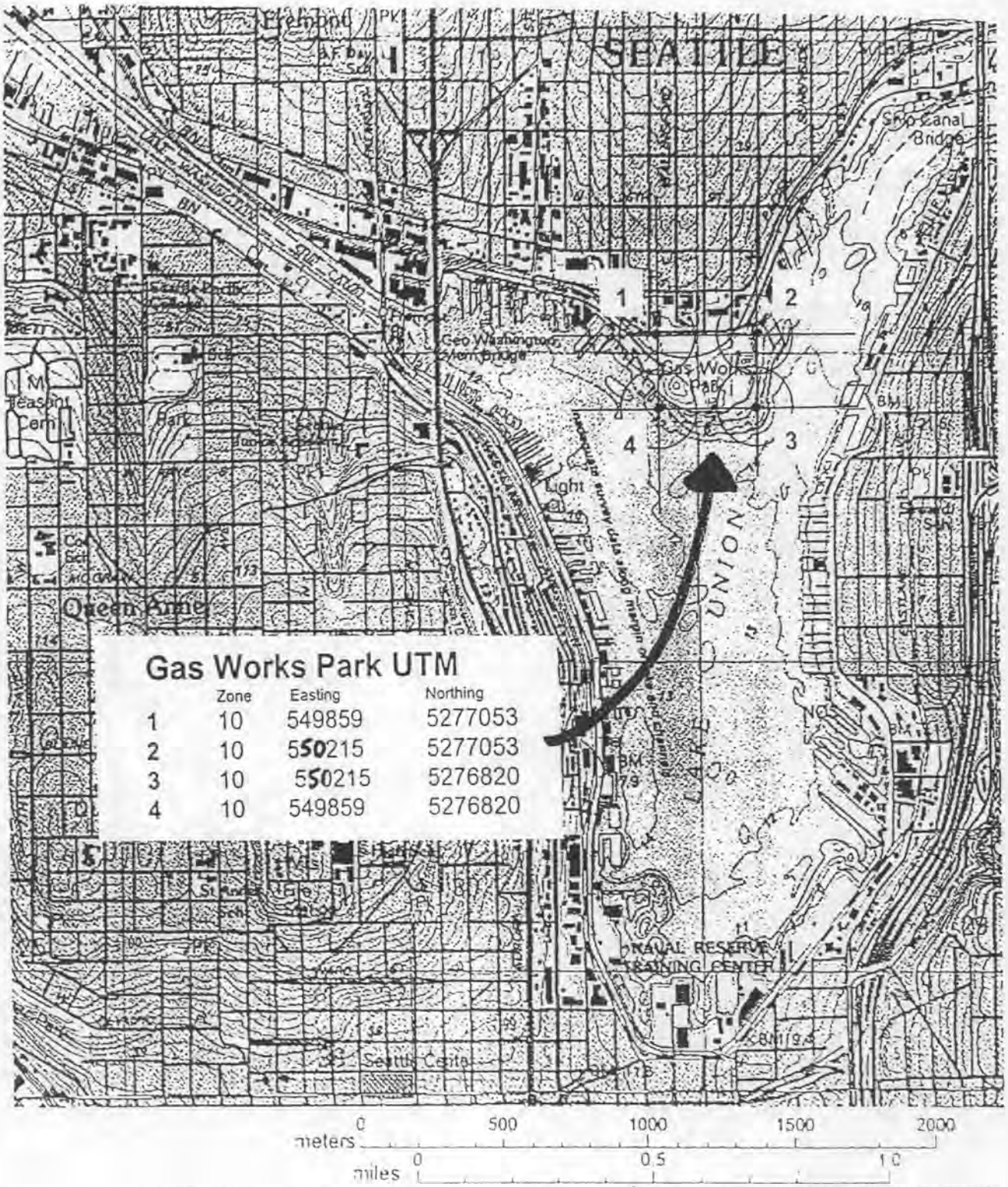
Olmsted Brothers, report of Olmsted Brothers Adopted by the City Council, (Oct 19, 1903), Frayn Printing Co., Seattle WA

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

The nominated area is located on the north shore of Lake Union at the southern trip of the Wallingford neighborhood. The park encompasses several lots within Burkes First Addition and Lake Union Shore Lands subdivision (see figure 3 for a complete legal description).

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

The nominated property encompasses the entire Gas Works Park boundaries which is approximately 20.5 acres.



Gas Works Park UTM

	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	10	549859	5277053
2	10	550215	5277053
3	10	550215	5276820
4	10	549859	5276820

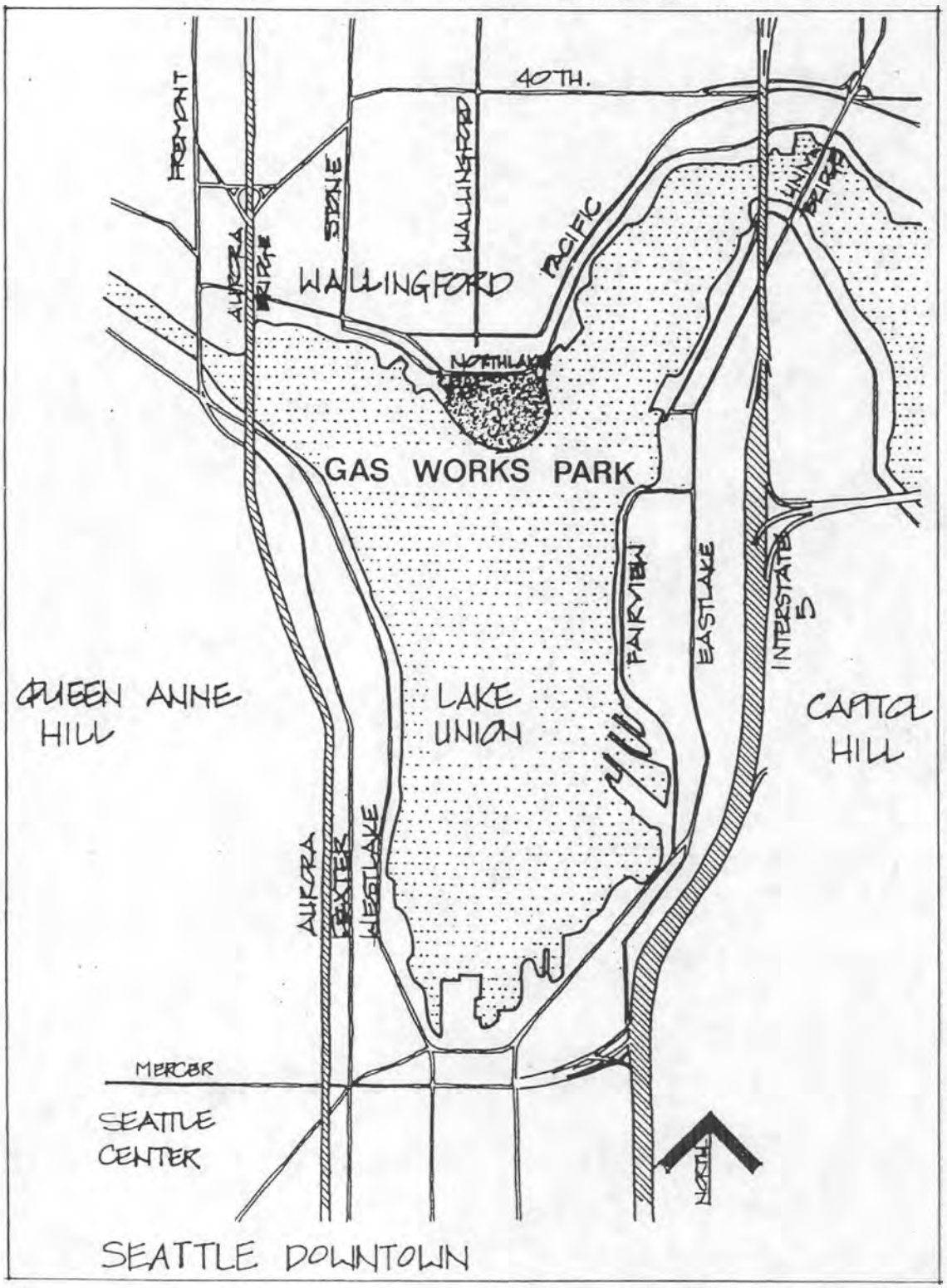


Figure 1: Context map showing Gas Works Park, Lake Union, and surroundings.

Landmark Nomination: APPENDIX A

Awards and Exhibitions
GAS WORKS PARK, SEATTLE, WASHINGTON

AWARDS

Date	*Organization*	*Award*
1993	The Waterfront Center	Excellence on the Waterfront International Honor Award
1981	American Society of Landscape Architects	President's Award of Design Excellence
1980	Print Casebooks 4	Certificate of Design Excellence, Environmental Design
1980	Urban Environmental Design National Awards	Special Mention Award, Project Design (Open Spaces)
1980	Shoreline Design Awards	First Award, Adaptive Re-Use
1979	Washington Chapter ASLA	Honor Award
1976	Seattle-King County Board of Realtors	Award for Excellence
1975	Design and Environment	Award for Excellence

EXHIBITIONS - NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL

1996 XIX Congress of the International Union of Architects (UIA Barcelona 96) "Present and Futures. Architecture in Cities", features Gas Works Park as part of "Terrain Vague", Barcelona, Spain.

1996 Harvard University Graduate School of Design, Gund Hall Gallery

1995 "Gasworks as Parks" Exhibition with the Port of Phillip, St. Kilda Victoria, Australia.

1993-94 University of Pennsylvania, Arthur Ross Gallery in Philadelphia, entitled, "Creative Solutions to Ecological Issues".

1993 "Recontres D' Automne" for the International Conservatoire of Parks, Gardens and Landscapes at their international conference in Paris, France to address "Imagination in Crisis".

Landmark Nomination: APPENDIX B

Selected Bibliography

GAS WORKS PARK, SEATTLE, WASHINGTON

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"Usine a Gaz Reconvertie, Seattle, Washington." *L'Architecture d'Aujourdhui* (France) 204 (September 1979): 74-75.

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LEGAL DESCRIPTION

Beginning at the Northeast corner of Lot 1, Block 42, Lake Union Shore Lands; thence south 23° 06' 21.7" East along the southwesterly line of Waterway No. 19, a distance of 567.843 feet, thence south 22° 27' 54.3" west, a distance of 224.922 feet, then south 70° 23' 49.8" west, a distance of 381.54 feet; thence north 89° 46' 15.2" west, a distance of 537.658 feet to the most southerly corner of Lot 2, Block 44, Lake Union Shore Lands; thence north 48° 26' 05.3" west along the southwesterly line of said Block 44 to the most westerly corner of Lot 1, said block; thence continuing north 48° 26' 05.3" west along the southwesterly line of Block 45, Lake Union Shore Lands to the most westerly corner of Lot 5, said block; thence northeasterly along the northwesterly lines of Lot 5, Block 45 and Lot 5, Block 8, Burke's First Addition to the City of Seattle according to plat thereof recorded in Volume 1 of plats page 236, in King County, Washington; thence southeasterly along the northeasterly line of said Block 8 projected, to point of intersection with a line connecting the most northerly corner of Block 44, Lake Union Shore Lands to the southwesterly corner of Lot 6, Block 6, Burke's First Addition; thence northerly to said southwesterly corner of Lot 6, Block 6; thence north along the west line of said Block 6 and same produced north and along the west line of Block 3, Supplemental Plat of Block 3, Burke's Addition to the City of Seattle as recorded in Volume 2 of Plats page 109, to the southerly line of the Burlington Northern's railway right of way; thence westerly along said southerly line to the east line of Block 2, said Burke's First Addition; thence south along said east line to a point thereon distant 60 feet north of the southeast corner therefrom; thence along a curve to the right having a uniform radius of 796.82 feet to a point on the southwesterly line of Lot 8, said Block 2, distant 25 feet southeasterly of its intersection with the west line of said Lot 8; thence northwesterly along said southwesterly line to the west line of said Lot 8; thence north along said west line to its intersection with the northerly line of said railway right of way; thence westerly along said northerly line to its intersection with the westerly line of said Block 1; thence northerly along said westerly line to the south line of Northlake Way North as established by Ordinance No. 33626; thence east along said south line to the beginning; together with vacated streets therein; except any portion therein lying within the Burlington Northern railway right of way.

Figure 3: Legal description of site (Source: City of Seattle, Dept. of Parks and Recreation, Site Plan, 1975).

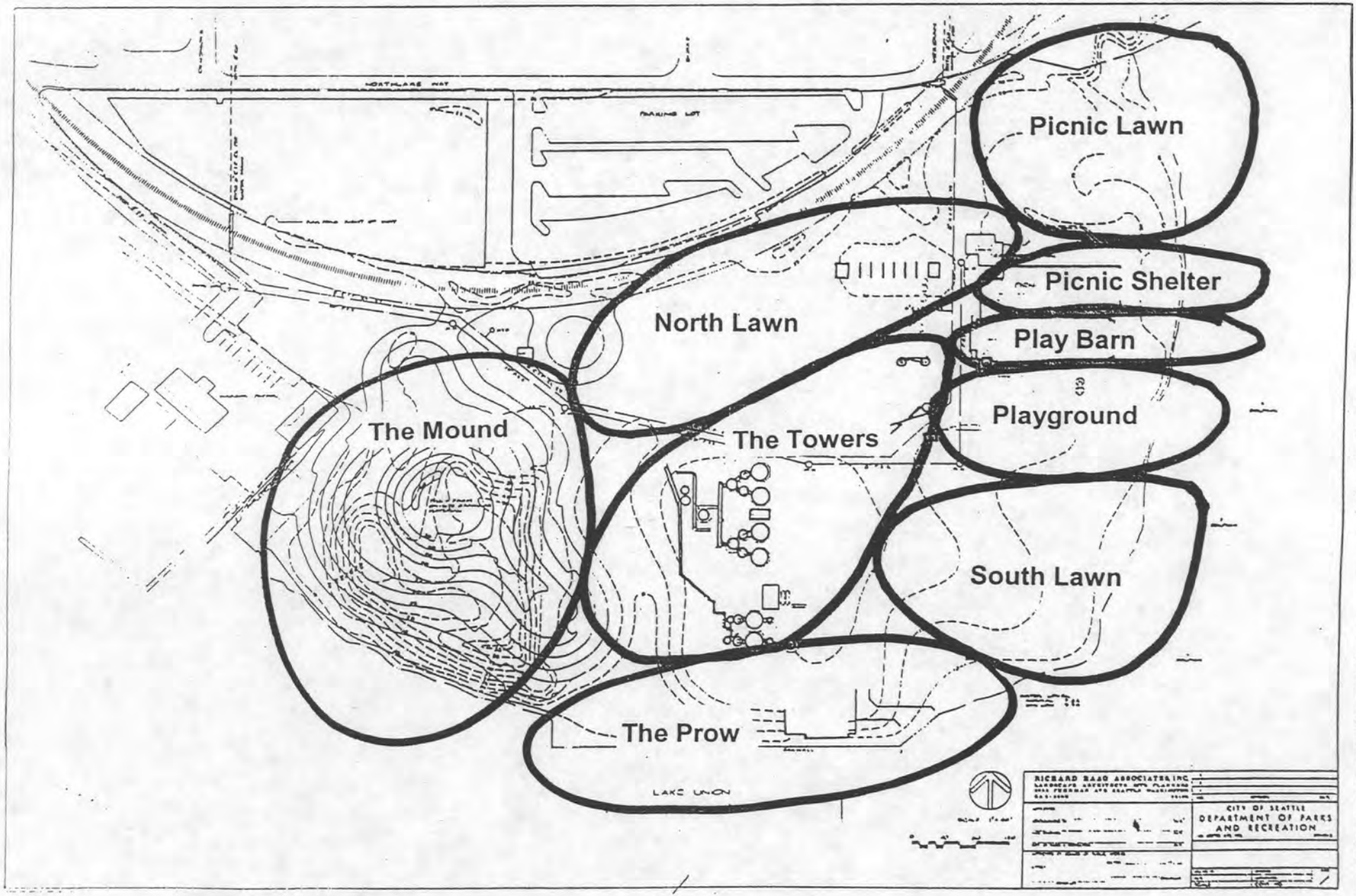

Picnic Lawn
Picnic Shelter
North Lawn
Play Barn
Playground
The Mound
The Towers
South Lawn
The Prow
LAKE UNION
CITY OF SEATTLE
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS
AND RECREATION

Figure 2: Burkes First Addition and Lake Union Shore Lands, originally platted circa 1906.

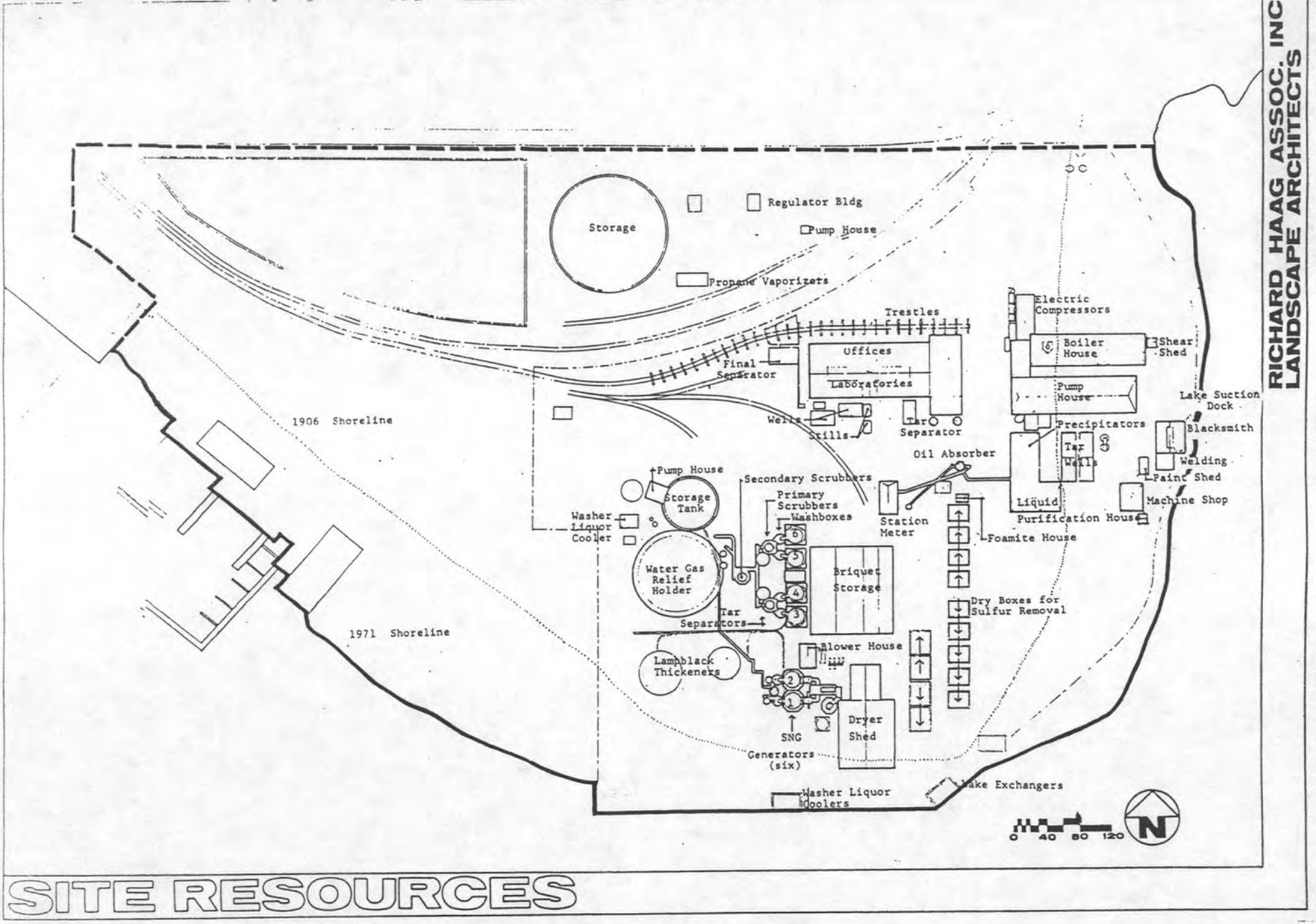


Figure 4: Plan showing original buildings, structures, and shorelines of 1906 (dotted) and 1971.

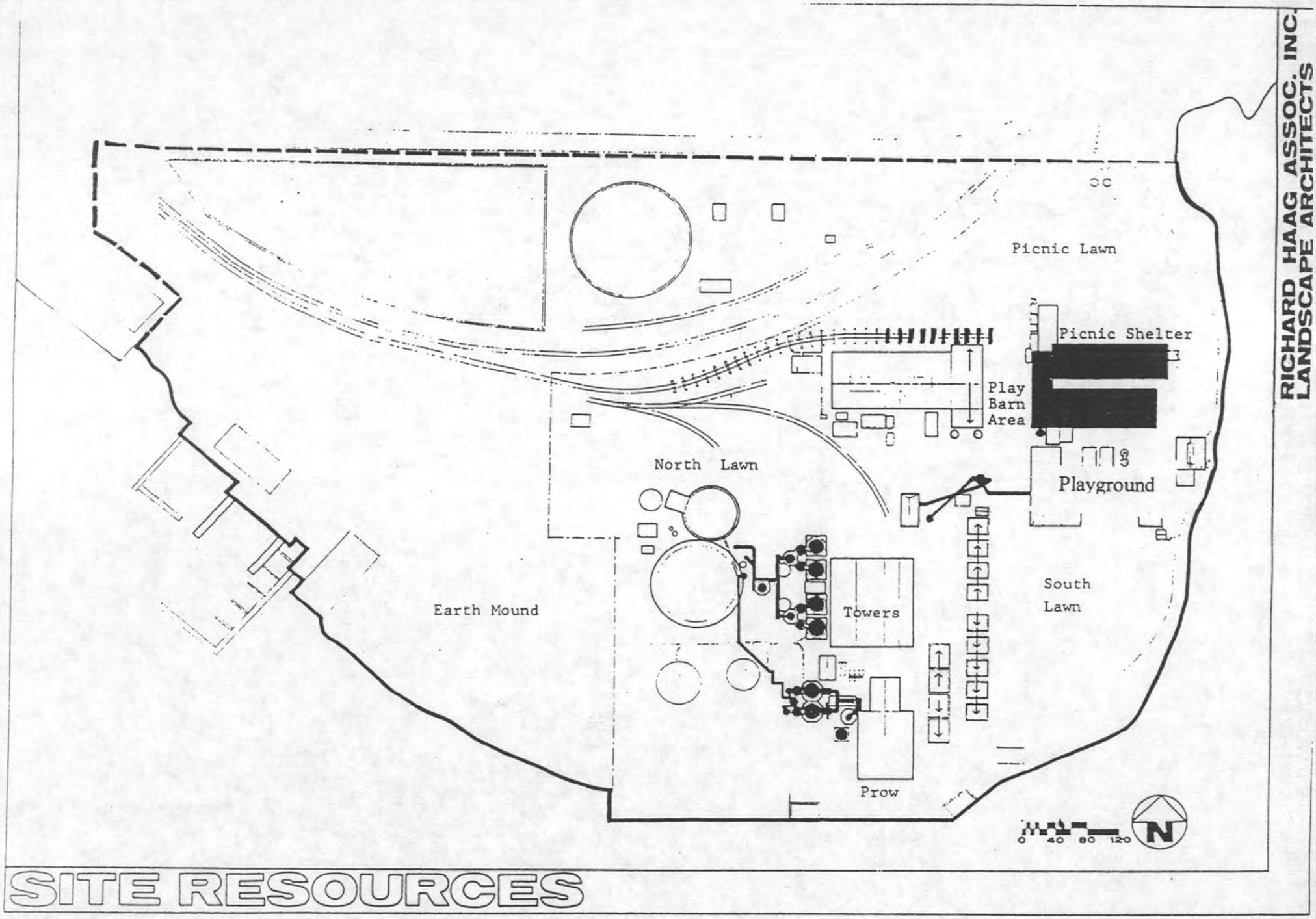


Figure 5: Plan showing preserved structures shaded in black and names of park areas.

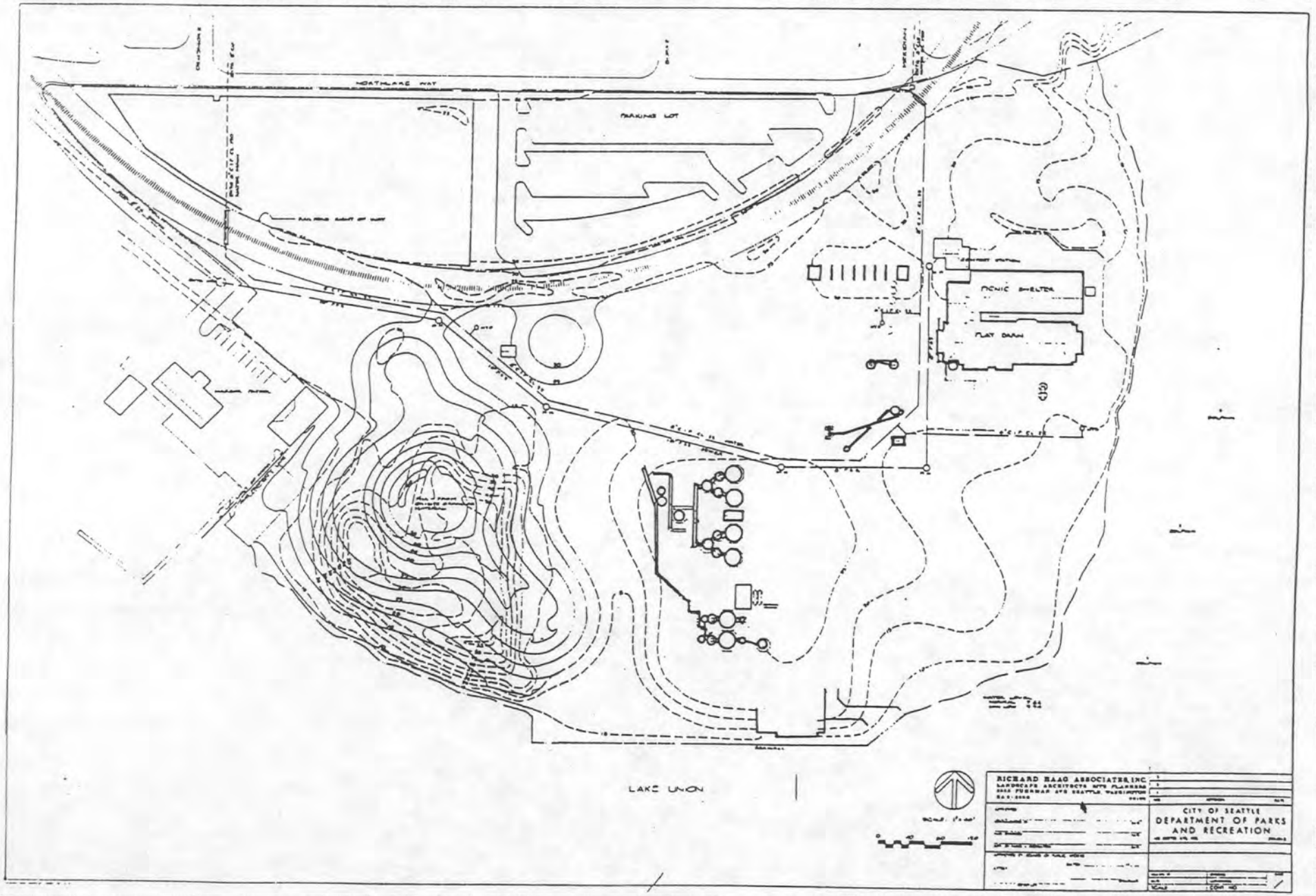


Figure 6: Plan showing topography of the park site and preserved structures.

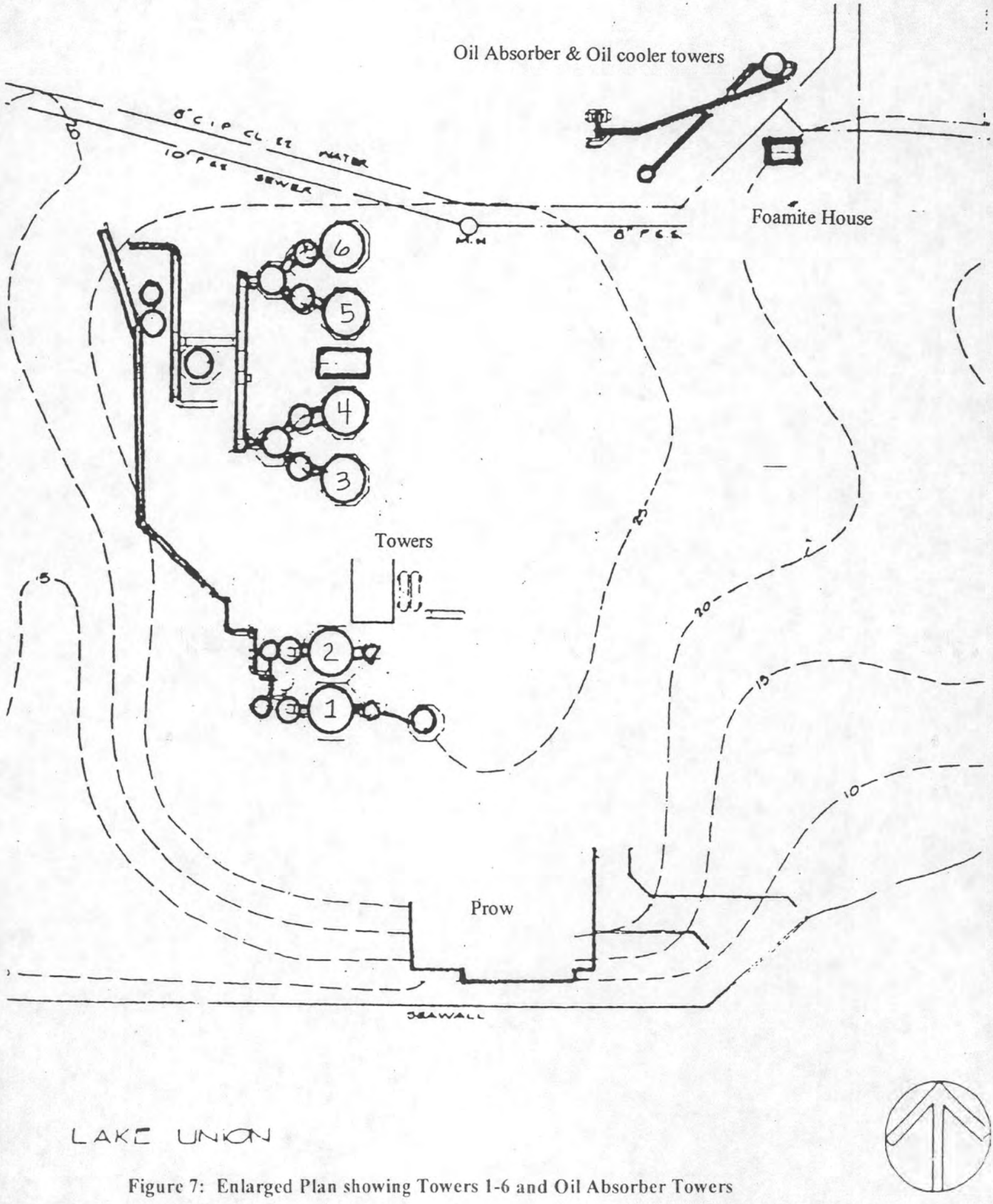


Figure 7: Enlarged Plan showing Towers 1-6 and Oil Absorber Towers

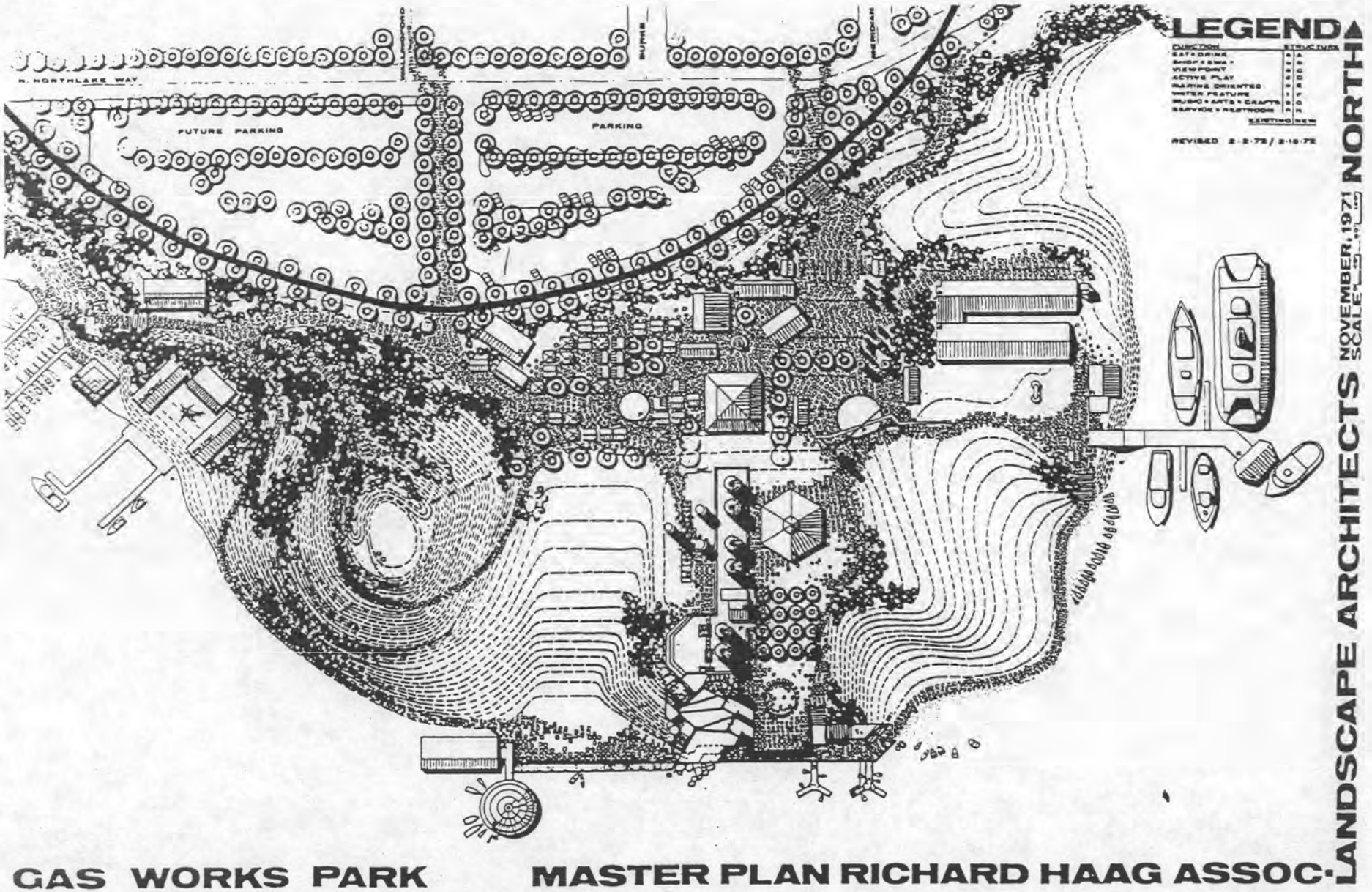


Figure 8: Master Plan for Gas Works Park as originally proposed in 1971.

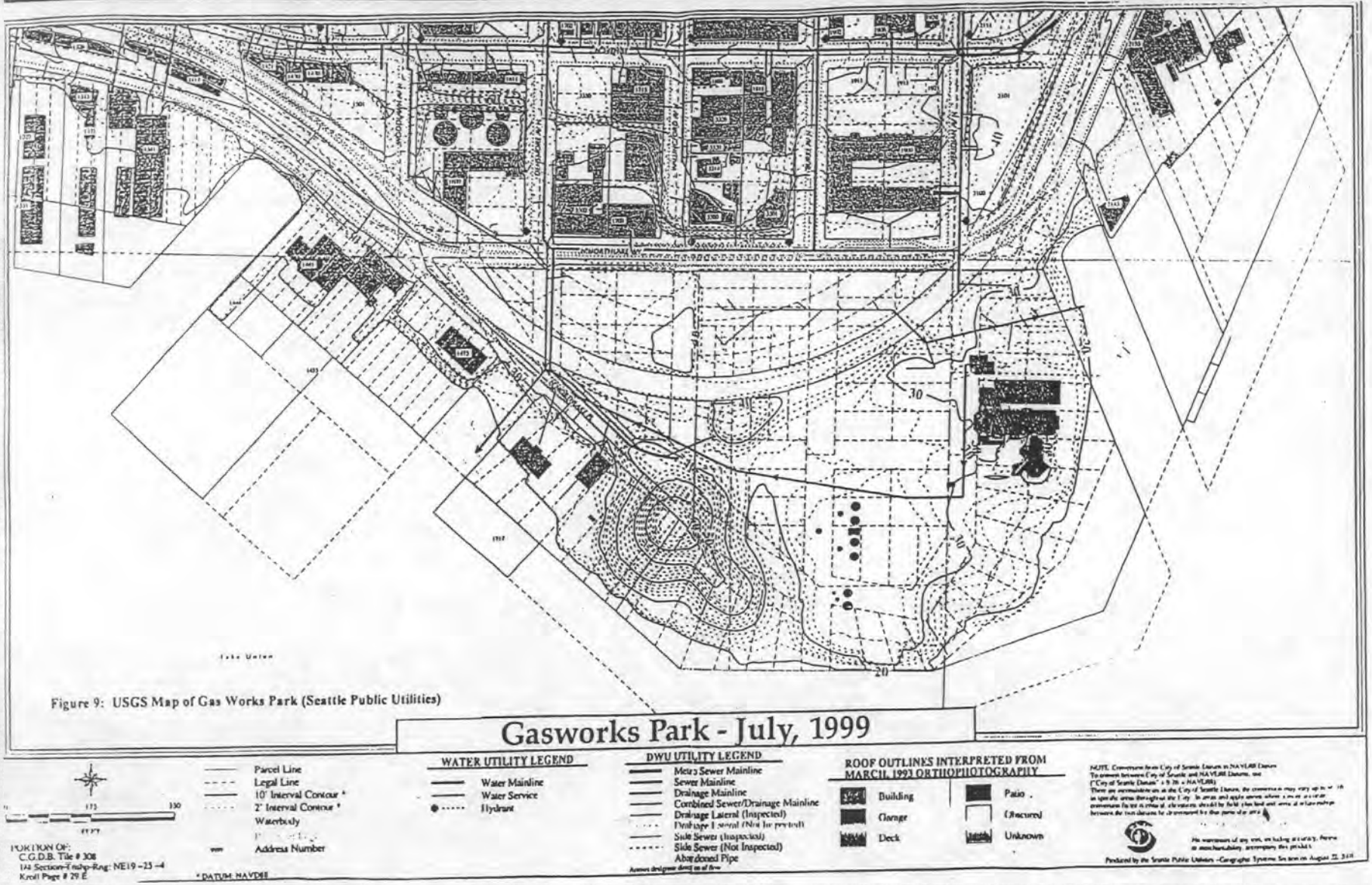
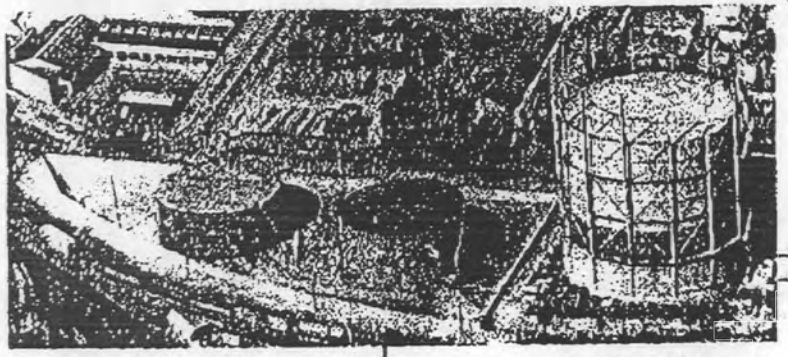


Figure 9: USGS Map of Gas Works Park (Seattle Public Utilities)

Gas Works Park –
A photographic tour



1, 2 Oil tanks

17 City holder

7 Relief holder

1, 2 55,000 barrel oil tanks
3 Small oil tank
4 Oil heaters
5 Waste heat boiler
6 Play Barn (See Fig. 7)
7 Relief gas holder
8 Gas exhauster (tar extractor)
9 Electrostatic tar precipitator
10 Cooler
11 Light oil absorber
12 Station meters
13 Dry boxes (sulfur removal)
14 Lake heat exchanger
15 XPV gas compressor
16 Intercooler
17 City gas holder
18 High BTU water gas set

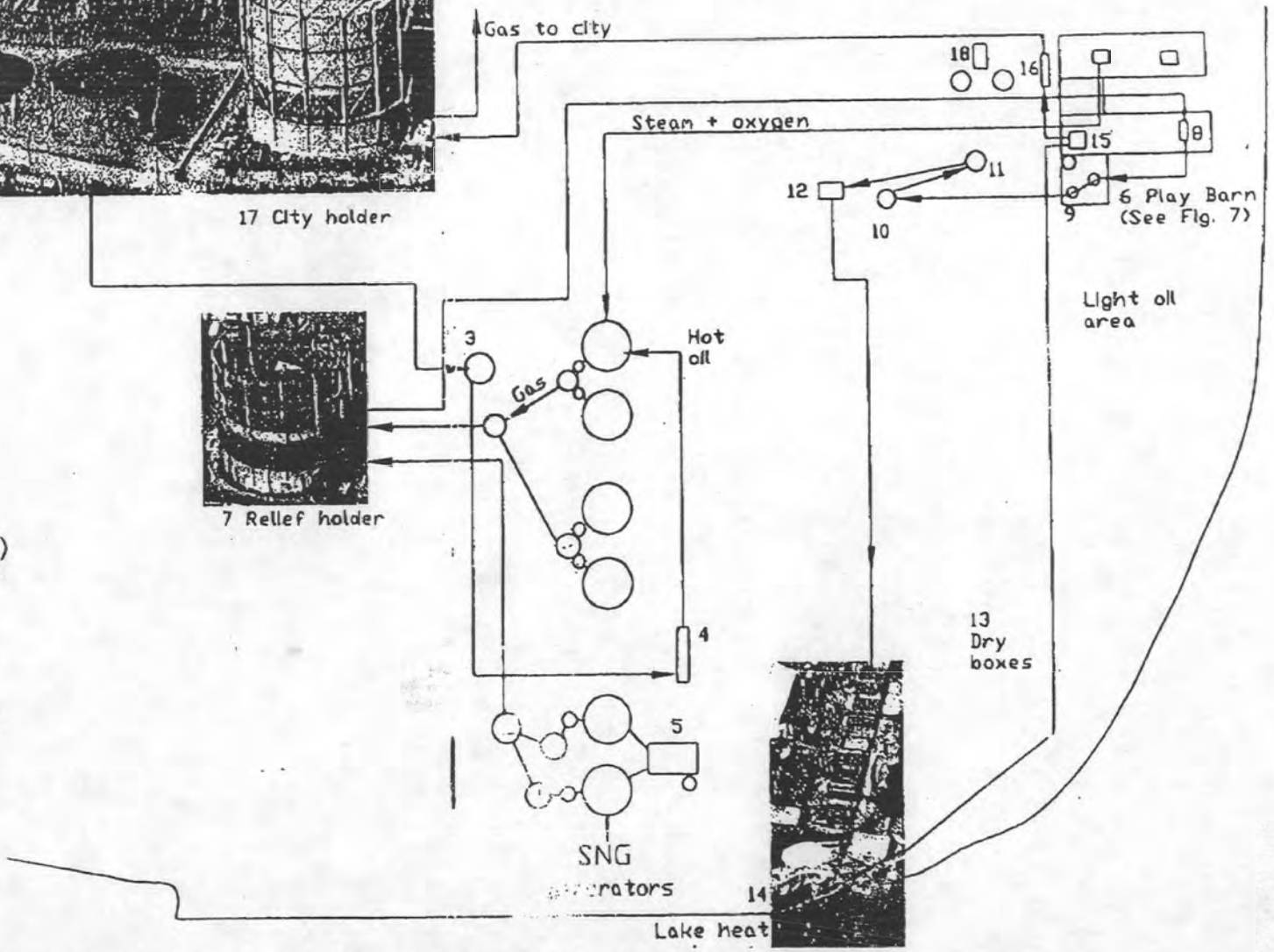


Figure 10: The Making of Gas at Gas Works Park – from Oil Tanks to City Gas

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: RESUBMISSION

PROPERTY NAME: Gas Works Park

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: WASHINGTON, King

DATE RECEIVED: 11/15/02 DATE OF PENDING LIST:
DATE OF 16TH DAY: DATE OF 45TH DAY: 12/31/02
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 02000862

DETAILED EVALUATION:

___ACCEPT ___RETURN ___REJECT _____DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

RETURN

The nomination of properties associated with living persons is discouraged in order to avoid the use of the National Register to endorse the work or reputation of a living person. The integrity of the National Register as a reference list of historic properties depends upon the professional objectivity with which each nomination is evaluated. If the National Register were to become a means of honoring living figures, the function of the National Register would be substantially changed; the impossibility of maintaining historical perspective in the listing process would ultimately have the effect of devaluing the recognition afforded by listing in the National Register.

In special circumstances, where sufficient scholarship and historical perspective exist, sites associated with living individuals can be listed if that person's active life in their field is demonstrably over. From the documentation provided in this nomination, that does not appear to be the case with Mr. Haag, whose active design career continues. As a practicing landscape architect and educator, albeit at a reduced level, Mr. Haag has not ceased to make contributions to his field of achievement. As a result, in keeping with National Register policy regarding practicing professionals and properties associated with living persons, the Gas Works Park does not appear to meet the criteria for evaluation for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places at this time and is not eligible for listing for its associations with Mr. Haag in the field of landscape design.

RECOM./CRITERIA Return

REVIEWER Paul R. Lusignan DISCIPLINE Historian

TELEPHONE 202·354·2229 DATE 12/30/02

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form.* If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. **Place additional certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).**

1. Name of Property

historic name **Gas Works Park**

other names/site number Seattle Gas Company - Lake Station, Seattle Lighting Company

2. Location

street & number 2000 N. Northlake Way ☐ not for publication

city or town Seattle ☐ vicinity

state Washington code WA county King code 033 zip code 98103

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this **X** nomination ___ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property **X** meets ___ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

X national **___ statewide** **___local**

Signature of certifying official/Title — Date: 11-15-12

Washington SHPO
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official — Date

Title — State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

X entered in the National Register

___ determined eligible for the National Register

___ determined not eligible for the National Register

___ removed from the National Register

___ other (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper — Date of Action: 1/2/2013

GAS WORKS PARK
Name of Property

KING COUNTY, WA
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- [ ] private
- [x] public - Local
- [ ] public - State
- [ ] public - Federal

Category of Property
(Check only **one** box.)

- [ ] building(s)
- [x] district
- [ ] site
- [ ] structure
- [ ] object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
4		buildings
		district
6		site
6		structure
4		object
20		**Total**

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

NONE

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

INDUSTRY/PROCESSING/EXTRACTION:
Energy Facility

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

LANDSCAPE: Park

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions.)

NO STYLE

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: CONCRETE
walls: METAL: Steel, WOOD, CONCRETE
roof: METAL: Steel
other:

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance of the property. Explain contributing and noncontributing resources if necessary. Begin with **a summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, setting, size, and significant features.)

Summary

Gas Works Park occupies a 20.5-acre promontory point with 1,900 feet of shoreline on the north shore of Lake Union in Seattle, Washington. The site is bordered by Northlake Way at the north and abuts Lake Union on the East, West and South sides. To the north of the park is the predominantly residential neighborhood of Wallingford. Immediately adjacent to the park are remnants of the industrial development of the area, with the industrial dominance being rapidly replaced by retail development.

The Park was originally a gas manufacturing plant, called Lake Station, and was operated by the Seattle Lighting Company. Parts of the former industrial site remains, including steel towers, concrete railroad trestles and several buildings. First built in 1906 and subsequently altered in the 30's and 40's, the gas works functioned at this location until 1956.

Abandoned for 6 years, the gas-production plant and its land were purchased by the City of Seattle in 1962. The commission for the design of a new park was awarded to Richard Haag Associates, Landscape Architects in 1970, with Gas Works Park (GWP) opening to the public in phases from 1973 to 1978.

Present Appearance and Characteristics

The park can be entered two ways: through a landscaped parking area or through the Burke-Gilman Trail, a bike and walking path which connects Puget Sound to Lake Washington. Dividing the parking area from the park is a grassy berm and rows of trees demarcating the old railroad right-of-way.

The park is composed of ten designed areas which have been broken into 20 separate contributing resources. The ten areas of the park include: 1) Earth Mound, 2) Prow, 3) North Lawn, 4) South Lawn, 5) Picnic Lawn, 6) The Towers, 7) Picnic Shelter, 8) Play Barn, 9) Playground and 10) the Parking area. The Earth Mound, Prow, and Lawns are open areas intended for passive and active recreation, offering magnificent views of downtown Seattle and Lake Union.

The groups of gas processing towers were always the distinguishing feature of the gas works; through their retention the present Gas Works Park retains the feeling of an industrial complex. The major structures removed in the design of the Park include the large oil tanks and city gas holders, all located to the west and north of the Towers.

The Earth Mound

1) Mound area: Site 1973
2) Sundial: Object 1978

Initially a slagheap, this hill is 35 feet high and is known today as the "Great Mound." It was created

when the city haphazardly dumped excavated materials from a construction site. As part of turning the industrial site into a park, Haag added 20,000 cubic yards of oxides, arsenic and lamp-black gathered from the site then covered it with fresh topsoil. It is now completely covered in field grass with paths that spiral around the mound, allowing places for kite flying, boat watching or stargazing.

At the top of the mound is a 28ft sundial created by two Seattle artists, Chuck Greening and Kim Lazare, in 1978. Formed out of concrete and delineated with rocks, shells, glass, bronze and many other materials, the auto-gnomonic sundial tells time by using the body of the visitor as a stylus. The viewer's shadow tells the time of day and the season. Reportedly, the sundial was a gift to the city from an anonymous donor. The sundial was restored in June 1998.

The Prow

3) The Prow/Oil Loading Platform: Structure 1936/1975
4) Lake Condenser: Object 1936

The Prow consists of a concrete platform was built in 1936 as an oil/coal unloading area for tankers. The platform was integrated into the park design by placing benches and handrails at the lakeside edges and building steps to the water at the East.

Also at the site, immediately adjacent to the east of the loading platform are remnants of the "Lake Condenser", a structure which was designed to release moisture from the gas as it passed from structures called dryboxes into Lake Union. Haag playfully referred to the Lake Condenser as a "submarine pen." The thought was that in the summer months, the small pools of water would make a perfect wading area for toddlers.

The North Lawn

5) Open Lawn area: Site 1975
6) Concrete Railroad trestles: Structure 1906
7) Hi BTU Gas Plant Tanks: Object 1906
8) Oxygen Gas Scrubbers: Object 1906
9) Restrooms: Building 1975

This large lawn area has soil that has been bio-remediated with 18" of sewage sludge and sawdust. This innovative process decontaminated the soil from past industrial pollution, allowing for the growth of field grass. In 2001 a new cleanup plan was initiated by the City in the SE area of the Park. An invisible air sparging system has been set up in this area, along with a new 12" layer of soil cover.

Ten Concrete Railroad trestles frames now form a part of the park entrance, bordering the North Lawn. They were part of the original 1906 gas plant RR Siding and ran along the north side of the Office and Laboratories Building (now demolished). The trestles reveal where a train track spur ended and coal was delivered to fire the steam powered generators in the boiler house (now covered picnic area). Coal cars would ride up the trestles and release coal into hoppers parked under the trestles.

Originally located inside of the Laboratory Building, were the Hi BTU Gas Plant Tanks and the Oxygen Gas Scrubbers. The High BTU Gas Plant tanks, located immediately south of the concrete

RR trestle frames, produced a rich gas used to bring low quality gas from the oil gas generators up to the standard 550 BTU's per cubic foot of fuel.

The Oxygen Gas Scrubbers, located further to the south, at the SE corner of the north lawn. The tanks were used to remove tar from the gas when it was forced through columns of cascading water.

Also in this area is a one-story restrooms/concession stand building. Designed and built as part of the as part of park construction in 1975, Haag conceived this building to look like part of the original gas works facility. The building is concrete block, and has hipped roof with exposed rafter tails covered in corrugated metal to match the existing picnic and play barn structure. The southwest corner of the roof is notched out to indicate the entrance to the concession and restroom area. The facility was designed by the architectural firm of Olson-Walker & Associates whom had a contract with Seattle Parks to provide restroom facilities for the entire park system during the 1970s.

The South Lawn

10)Open Lawn area: Site 1975

This large lawn area has soil that has been bio-remediated with 18" of sewage sludge and sawdust. This innovative process decontaminated the soil from past industrial pollution, allowing for the growth of field grass. In 2001 a new cleanup plan was initiated by the City. An invisible air sparging system has been set up in this area, along with a new 12" layer of soil cover. The south lawn was site to the original blacksmith shop and the light oil plant. Haag used the blacksmith shop as his headquarters for the "save-the-gas-works" campaign in 1971 and 1972. To demonstrate that the old gas plant could be saved cost effectively, the shop was cleaned, painted and put to use as a showpiece office. At the light oil plant, light oils were removed from the gas in a scrubber. The south lawn was also the location of the gas plant "dry boxes," structures designed to filter sulfur from the gas before it was released into Lake Union via a condenser. Here, two rows of 10+ concrete boxes contained a four to five foot layer of iron-oxide coated wood chips. The blacksmith shop, the light oil plant or the "dry boxes" made its way into the master plan and were demolished.

The Picnic Lawn

11)Open Lawn area: Site 1975

This large lawn area has soil that was bio-remediated with 18" of sewage sludge and sawdust. This innovative process decontaminated the soil from past industrial pollution, allowing for the growth of field grass. This area was originally the site of the water gas building which was demolished as part of the park redevelopment project by Richard Haag.

Towers

11) Towers 1 and 2: Structures 1937-38
Synthetic natural gas generator towers with their attendant processing towers (2), Waste heat boiler, Wash boxes (3), and Scrubbers (2)

12) Towers 3-6: Structures 1947
Synthetic natural gas generator towers with their attendant processing towers (4),

Wash boxes (4), Scrubbers (2), and Secondary scrubbers (3)

13) Light oil absorber, and Oil cooler : Structures 1938

14) Foamite House: Building 1938

Built in 1937-38, Towers 1 and 2 are the largest towers and are Semet-Solvay-type generators. Each has a single outer shell made of welded steel lined inside with refractory brick. Tower 1 is 80 feet tall; Tower 2 is 75 feet tall. At their peak they could manufacture 6 million cubic feet of gas a day. A 2002 structural analysis of Gas Works Towers 1 & 2 conducted for the City of Seattle revealed that the Towers are structurally sound. The only elements that needed structural work were the catwalks and several braces, all were repaired in 2006.

Newer to the site, Towers 3-6 were built in 1947. They have the same brick inner shell and welded-steel outer shell construction as Towers 1 and 2, but are smaller. All four towers have an outer diameter of 22 feet, are 50 feet tall, and rest on concrete pedestals. The brick liner has an inside diameter of 20 feet and is 33.5 feet high. The outer shells are equipped with nozzles for pipe and instrument connections, access doors, air blast doors, gas outlets, and sight holes. (Blueprints, 1945-46).

Wash boxes and scrubbers associated with generators 3-6 were also built in 1946-47. Next to each generator are the wash boxes, which look like small tanks, measuring 10 feet in diameter by 11 feet tall, each mounted on three supporting legs. For each pair of wash boxes there is one primary scrubber that rests on a concrete pedestal; it stands 48 feet tall and has an 11.5-foot diameter. The output from the two primary scrubbers goes into the single secondary scrubber of welded steel construction (measuring 12 feet in diameter, 68 feet tall). Farthest from the generators are two small tanks (about 20 feet tall) that were the original secondary scrubbers. All piping that connects these towers is of 3/16-inch plate steel. (Blueprints, 1945-46)

Towers 1-6 are presently enclosed by a chain link fence erected by the Seattle Parks Department. Inside the fence, to the SE of the towers, lays one large smoke stack. This was taken down by the Parks Department in 1978, but the foundation still remains.

Between the generators and the Play Barn stand two more steel tower-like structures that are the Light oil absorber (80 feet tall) and Oil cooler (40 feet tall). The cooling tower lowered the temperature of the light oil-gas mixture from the scrubbers; then the oils were separated from the gas in the oil absorber tower. Light oils such as benzene, toluene and solvent naphtha were the secondary products.

Adjacent to these towers sits a small brick building, the only remaining Foamite Control House/Shed. Originally one of four identical buildings, these buildings were used for fire control. When a fire broke out in a generator or scrubber, machines in the Foamite House automatically mixed dry chemicals and water to produce a fire retardant. The foam was then pumped to the location of the fire and used to extinguish the flames. The building has a front facing gable roof clad in standing seam metal. The building has one solid core metal door on the east façade and no windows. Evidence of window openings is indicated by brick header courses on the north, south and west facades.

Picnic Shelter

15) Picnic Shelter/ Boiler House: Building 1910/1975

The Picnic Shelter originally served as the main boiler house for the gas works facility. It originally housed two boilers. One provided steam for the gasification process; the other provided steam for the steam engines that powered the pump house compressors. Since the gas plant depended on steam for continued operation, the boilers were never shut down. The tubes from second boiler (known as Boiler No.11) remain in place at the eastern end of the building and are an impressive display of seldom-seen industrial technology. This boiler was installed in 1941.

The building dates back to the original coal-gas facility (ca. 1910) and was constructed of a heavy-timber frame. The structure is approximately 40ft. x 143ft. and rests on a concrete foundation. The 1.5 story building has a gable roof covered in corrugated translucent panels and open truss work. On the north side, steel buttress-like supports extend into a brick paved picnic area defined by low concrete retaining walls. On the west end of the structure is a raised roof portion, sporting a small monitor. Inside the building is a loft space for seating, picnic bench, a community sink and open fire place. The building remains open except for a few panels of translucent material on the north and south facades, located above the first floor line. Michael G. Ainsley, an architect with Richard Haag's office, oversaw the reconfiguration of this building.

Playbarn

16) Playbarn / Pump House/Exhauster House: Building 1910/1975

The Play Barn was originally built as a Pump House / Exhauster House and holds a variety of pumps, compressors, gas exhausters, air separators, electorostaic precipitators and piping; all painted in a variety of bright colors. Originally a 3,000 hp compressor ran a 10 ton fly-wheel continuously to keep the plant running 24 hours a day. In this building, air was compressed for the oxygen-extraction process; the oxygen was then pumped to the generators for the first stage of gas manufacturing, and the final product was compressed and pumped to either the storage tank or down the lines of main to customers.

The building dates back to the original coal-gas facility (ca. 1910) and was constructed of wood and steel. The building is about 7,340 sq ft (48 feet x 153 feet) and has a side facing gable roof covered in translucent panels. On the west and east ends are shed roof extensions. The walls are rendered with angular T&G siding punctuated by triangular openings. The building has an open truss work, some of which is infilled with panels of brightly painted geometric murals. The building rests on a raised poured concrete foundation open at ground level on the south and west elevations.

Michael G. Ainsley, an architect with Richard Haag's office, oversaw the reconfiguration of this building.

Just outside the Play Barn, to the south, sits another boiler and two tanks that were electrostatic tar precipitators. These tanks removed tar from the gas. .

Playground

17) Playground: Objects 1935/1975

Outside the Play Barn, further to the south, is a Playground area that encompasses a variety of industrial tanks, pipes and building foundations and new concrete walls. Within the area is the sole surviving smoke arrestor hood which has been refurbished as a play structure for climbing. Haag referred to this as the "Children's Space Needle." It was designed and built by the Seattle Gas Company in 1935, three were installed in order to reduce pollutant emissions. Foundations of buildings and underground piping provide stairs and seating and the top of a liquid purification system scrubber serves as a low metal "fort". Also in the playground area are remnants of a Kelly Filter. This device filtered sulfer from fluid used in the liquid purification system. As preserved, the filter is open as it was during cleaning. At the east and south areas of playground are new concrete walls and steps forming small rooms, an amphitheater and various siting areas. A wooden deck and railing system serves as an overlook point for parents.

Parking Area

18) Railroad Path: Site 1906/1975
19) Parking Lot: Site 1976
20) Compost Area: Structure 1940/1976

Dividing the active portion of the park is the original Northern Pacific Railroad line. While the tracks themselves have been removed, this perimeter path is lined on both sides by trees and low berms of soil. The RR line has been converted into an 18 mile trail. Known as the Burke Gilman Trail, the trail starts west of Gas Works Park and makes its way to the City of Kenmore.

The parking lot is defined by mature trees and landscape strips and is accessed directly from N. Northlake Way. Immediately to the west of the parking lot is an area Haag defined as the "compost area". This large open area is enclosed by the remains of an approximately 5' high concrete wall which originally enclosed two large holding tanks. The walls, flat on the outside have an angular profile on the inside (purpose unknown). The walls have been removed/cut in some areas to allow access to the inside which sports small rolling hills and some trees.

GAS WORKS PARK
Name of Property

KING COUNTY, WA
County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria
(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

[x] A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.

[ ] B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.

[x] C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.

[ ] D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations
(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

[ ] A Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.

[ ] B removed from its original location.

[ ] C a birthplace or grave.

[ ] D a cemetery.

[ ] E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.

[ ] F a commemorative property.

[X] G less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions.)

ENTERTAINMENT/RECREATION
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1973-1978

Significant Dates

1975

Significant Person
(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Richard Haag Associates, Inc. (Landscape Architect)
Daviscourt Construction Co. (Builder)
Olson-Walker & Associates (Architect)

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

(Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance and applicable criteria.)

Gas Works Park in Seattle, Washington is historically significant under criterion "A" for its direct association with serving the broad recreational needs of the citizens of Seattle and for its radical reformation of what was considered a park. The design conserved a part of Seattle's industrial heritage along with introducing a groundbreaking experiment in bioremediation into urban life. The Park is also nationally significant under criterion "C" as a project the represents the work of master landscape architect Richard Haag and as a resource that embodies the distinctive characteristics of landscape architecture in the 1970s. Despite the young age of the park, Gas Works Park also meets criteria consideration "G" as a property that has achieved significance within the past 50 years. In fact, creation of the park set a new precedent in landscape design, both nationally and internationally. The award winning project has been featured in hundreds of scholarly studies, reports, articles and books since its opening.

The period of significance for the park begins in 1973, the date the first portion of the park opened, and ends in 1978, the date of the last major project in the park related to its original design.

One of the unique aspects of the design of Gas Works Park is the preservation of selective industrial elements which interpret the nation's last remaining gas works facility. Haag ingeniously adapted the former gas works site, by selectively transforming the industrial remnants into a new park. He anticipated the sustainability movement through an innovative method called bioremediation to naturally clean the polluted soil. His re-use of industrial remnants reflected not only Seattle's industrial past, but influenced other designs across the globe from Granville Island, Vancouver to Slater Mill in Pawtucket, Rhode Island, and abroad to parks in France and Germany. Richard Haag's work at the Park was considered radical for its time; however, the intervening 40+ years have fostered an understanding and appreciation of his insights. Haag's park design changed people's perceptions of former industrial sites, redefining what was "beautiful," improving the health of the polluted sites, and reincorporating the sites back into the community.

The American Industrial Revolution, and Seattle's own early growth and success, were based on having an abundant supply of energy. One of the most important forms was gas. Light and heat for American cities was produced by illuminating gas, a man-made product derived from coal or oil. In the U.S. there were over 3,500 plants producing such gas, and from 1880-1930 they fueled America's growth. Today, only Gas Works Park in Seattle remains relatively intact, showing the processes that set the stage for our present life style and Seattle's prosperity. Gas work plant researcher, Dr. Allen Hatheway states that *"there are no other gasworks in America currently standing that have as much gas manufacturing and processing equipment remaining as can be seen at Gasworks Park."* (Hatheway, 2010). The original structures form sort of an industrial archaeology as the last remaining examples of a lost technology. Although the Gas Works on Lake Union were integrated into a new City of Seattle park, the key components of transforming coal or oil into gas are still in place.

History of Site

Little is known of specific pre-Euro-American contact at the site of Gas Works Park but there were Native American settlements such as Kah-chug, Tenas Chuck, and Xa'ten that have been

found around Lake Union. Thomas Mercer named the body of water "Lake Union" in the mid-1800s in expectation of future canals linking it to Puget Sound and Lake Washington. At that time, dense forests extended to the water's edge and the lake drained into Salmon Bay through a stream "full of windfalls and brush, impassable even for a canoe." (Bass, 1947) Lake Union in the 1860-70's was a popular vacation spot with Seattle residents for summer house-boating and picnicking.

By the 1850's several sawmills were operating on Lake Union's shore, taking advantage of the dense forests. Beginning in 1872, Seattle Coal and Transportation Company ferried coal from its Renton Hill mines across the lake for portage to Puget Sound. The 1880s brought further industry to the south end of Lake Union with the Denny sawmill, brick manufacturing, shipbuilding, a tannery, and iron works. Canals with small locks were cut in 1885 from Lake Washington to Lake Union, and from Lake Union to Salmon Bay. The arrival of the Seattle, Lake Shore & Eastern Railroads in 1887 ensured that Lake Union would continue to be a focus for industrial development.

In 1900 the Seattle Gas Light Company began to purchase lots on the nominated promontory (Secrist, Title Search). Despite the fact that the land was being acquired by the gas company, the Olmsted Brothers in their 1903 Parks Plan for the City of Seattle recommended that *"...the point of land between the northeast and northwest arms of Lake Union and the railroad should be secured as a local park, because of its advantages for commanding views over the lake and for boating, and for a playground."* (Olmsted Brothers, 1903) Despite the plan, acquisition of the property by the company continued and they opened a gas plant (called Lake Station) on the point in 1906. At the time it was reported as *"the only enterprise of its kind west of the Mississippi River and the second of its kind built in the United States."* (Seattle Post-Intelligencer, 9-27-14)

In 1911, planner Virgil Bogue produced a civic master plan for Seattle's Municipal Plans Commission in which he promoted the idea of Lake Union as an industrial area: *"The fact that [Lake Union] is located in the very heart of the city indicates that if properly developed it will become a most important factor in the commercial and business activities of the city."* (Seattle Municipal Plans Commission, 1911) Completion of the Lake Washington Ship Canal and Ballard locks in 1917 guaranteed the success of shipping and ship-building industries around the gas plant and the rest of Lake Union, despite the fact that the Bogue plan was defeated by voters.

By the early 1900s, the Lake Station gas manufacturing plant on Lake Union was the largest privately owned utility in Seattle. Eventually the municipally owned Seattle City Light would overtake the private utility as hydro-electricity proved less costly. But for the next fifty years the Lake Station facility provided gas for cooking, heating and lighting for many of Seattle's citizens.

The Seattle Gas Light Company was founded in 1873 by two of Seattle's foremost pioneers, Arthur A. Denny and Dexter Horton, along with John Collins. The gas was manufactured from coal and distributed to the company's limited customers through hollowed-out fir logs, a rudimentary system that, nevertheless, effectively carried what was considered to be a quality of gas equal to the fuel distributed by more sophisticated systems in the western United States.

Seattle Gas grew over the years, adding customers who could afford the luxury of gas lighting and collecting revenues from supplying the gas to light Seattle's streets. In 1889, a new form of energy attracted the attention of Seattle Gas' founders, as Seattle became the fourth city in the world to operate an electric streetcar system. Horton, Denny, and Collins foresaw the possibilities in electricity

for Seattle and created another utility company, Seattle Gas and Electric Light Company, which generated electricity from steam.

Shortly after the creation of Seattle Gas and Electric Light, an enormous blaze, the Great Seattle Fire of 1889, swept through the city, consuming nearly every building and residence and destroying the electric and gas facilities used by the two utilities. After the fire, the founders of the two companies created a new utility, with the somewhat unwieldy name of Seattle Gas, Electric Light and Motor Company. This newly formed utility operated until 1892, when investors from the East purchased a controlling interest in the utility's stock and reorganized it as Seattle Gas and Electric Light Company. By this time the utility served roughly 1,200 customers and produced 96,000 cubic feet of gas per day--a small amount of fuel compared to the 525 million cubic feet the company's successor would distribute in one day nearly a century later--but as the uses of gas multiplied, Seattle Gas' volume of gas increased. As Seattle's residents celebrated the arrival of a new century, gas was used not only to fuel lamps, but also to power appliances and heat water. Gas was heralded as the energy source of the modern age, and many Seattle residents responded by equipping their homes with machines that relied on gas.

Gas continued to attract customers until the mid-1930s when high manufacturing costs increased the competition between Seattle Gas and alternative energy source utilities. One such energy source, natural gas, had begun to entice utility companies in other parts of the country as a cheaper, more profitable fuel to distribute, the availability of which had been made easier by the development of thin-walled, large-diameter steel pipe. The advent of the steel pipe encouraged business leaders and public officials to initiate a campaign in the early 1950s to bring natural gas to the Pacific Northwest. In anticipation of the fuel's arrival, in 1955 Seattle Gas & Electric Light Company, which by this time had been renamed Seattle Gas Company (GASCO), merged with Washington Gas & Electric Co., a utility based in Tacoma, Washington, to form Washington Natural Gas Company.

The following year, when the two merged gas manufacturers completed the conversion of their facilities to distribute natural gas, the new fuel was brought to the Pacific Northwest through a pipeline operated by Pacific Northwest Pipeline Co. With 48,500 customers and revenues of $7 million, Washington Natural Gas entered a new era of business, confident that natural gas would generate greater revenues and attract more customers. In the 1990's, Washington Natural Gas was folded into Puget Sound Energy.

Throughout the first half of this century the Seattle Lighting Company was a significant participant in and contributor to the growth of Seattle and adjoining communities. During a time of growing urbanization, Seattle, like cities throughout the U.S. needed an affordable source of energy. The primary product of the Lake Station was illuminating gas manufactured from coal. Later it was used for cooking, refrigeration, and for heating homes and water. Illuminating gas was known as "city gas" to distinguish it from natural gas. At the site, the gas was made from coal until 1937 when the high cost of operating the old coke oven and coal-gas generating sets forced a substitution to oil. A pair of oil-to-gas generators was built at the site in 1937 and the old coal-gas facilities were disassembled. In 1946-47, two more oil gas generator pairs were constructed to maintain demand for gas.

The plant also manufactured other basic products necessary for urban growth: tar for roofing; lampblack for pigment in tires and ink; charcoal briquets for odor-free and efficient home heating. Since by-products from gas manufacturing had strong markets of their own, new equipment was installed in the 1930's and 40's to produce Gasco charcoal briquets, toluene, solvent naphtha, sulfur, xylene, and resin tar. The solvent Toluene was in high demand during World War II for making TNT

and various types of gunpowder. Through all of these products, the gas works contributed in an integral way, not only to daily commercial and domestic life in Seattle, but to interests at a national level.

Primary manufacturing and support facilities consisted of storage tanks, boiler house, pump and compressors house, offices, and laboratories. On-site support included electrical, carpentry, machine, blacksmith, and welding shops. Additional facilities included a stable, first aid stations, and foamite houses for storing fire control materials. Running through the north portion of the site was Burlington Northern Railroad's 50 ft. wide right-of-way. Train trestle piers from the coal days are still in place in front of the laboratories and office buildings.

By 1954, the Lake Station plant used 1,071 miles of gas main to serve Seattle, Renton, Kent and Tukwila, Washington. Approximately 43,198 customers were served in 1940, decreasing to 36,200 in 1954. The gas company averaged about 130 employees, with four crews of 23 men per shift, rotating 24 hours a day on a 7-day run. Production of city gas ended at the site in 1956 when Seattle converted to natural gas. The abandoned buildings and manufacturing structures were still intact in 1962 when the City of Seattle purchased the site.

During this period there was considerable public discussion about whether the old gas facility site should be developed or made into a park. Park advocates led by Myrtle Edwards, City Councilwoman and chair of the Parks Committee, prevailed. Actual planning and construction of the park was facilitated by H.U.D. and a large public bond, called "Forward Thrust." The bond consisted of twelve different propositions and one transit administration referendum totaling $815.2 million. Aspects of the measure ranged in scope from funding for a youth center, a multipurpose stadium, community centers, and highway construction, to fire protection measures, sewer infrastructure improvements and a large park and recreation bond. Voters approved seven of the propositions worth $333.9 million on February 13, 1968. One Hundred and eighteen million dollars were approved for the creation of several new parks.

With money in hand, and voter approval, in 1969 the landscape architecture firm of Richard Haag Associates (RHA) was retained by the Seattle Park Board to complete a site analysis and master plan for a new park at the gas plant site.

Master Plan: Innovation in Adaptive Reuse and Bioremediation

At the time, Richard Haag was already beginning to make a name for himself in the architectural community as an innovator who designed unique award winning projects. Haag opened an on-site office at the former gas works facility to research and analyze the industrial site, thus searching, like his philosophical guide Frederick Law Olmsted, for its *genius loci* (Campbell, 1973). Haag and his staff then began a complete study of the Lake Union basin and neighborhoods the park would serve. This study included an analysis of existing and proposed parks, land forms and soils, population and zoning, open space, history of the gas plant, including functions of each structure, surface covers, microclimate, plant life and visual experience to fully understand the sense of place (Ibid.)

The expected solution was a variation on the traditional civic arboretum landscape following a massive detoxification of the ground. At the time Seattle had a rich heritage of post-Victorian parks designed in the early 1900s—all for passive recreation designed within a picturesque landscape. Haag developed a completely different approach to the site. He designed Gas Works Park to be an urban, intensively used pleasure ground utilizing some of the existing structures and machinery.

Haag explicitly described this new approach to park design in his Master Plan:

> *"The traditional escape from the city into the sylvan settings of remote areas has changed for many people into a seeking of a more active encounter. Introspection and retreat are easily accomplished without physical isolation, but facilities for social interaction with persons other than intimate friends are more scarce with respect to population growth. ...new sites should be offered in a vast and varied park system to accommodate experimentation and innovation in both design and program." (Master Plan, 1971)*

The master plan proposed recycling the buildings, production structures, machinery and even the grounds themselves. Research found that the soil was so polluted (contaminated for 15 feet down to the water table) through 60 years of industrial use that it could not be planted like a traditional park. Typical park vegetation such as trees would not grow in this kind of soil. Officials became convinced when an engineer descended into a drilled hole and had to be hauled back up after fainting from the fumes. (Brynolson, 1977) Haag's vision included a "minimum of traditional green" beginning a new campaign in environmental education. He called this facet of the design his "Clean and Green Scheme," not only for its color but for its environmental elements. The process of bioremediation was to detoxify oil-soaked soil.

Haag's unique design for Gas Works Park created a reformulation of park design in landscape architecture throughout the globe. He challenged the orthodox view of a park, reaching beyond the 19th Century Olmstedian prototypes, thus shedding the preconceptions of landscape architectural design (Abitare, 1984). Haag called his new design the "park of the future." (Campbell, 1973) Through an understanding of the site and its unique features, he changed the traditional design viewpoint of what could be done to the landscape, to what could be done with the landscape (Weston, 1987).

Haag also realized that the site contained the last gas works in the U.S. and that he had a unique opportunity for preservation not only of Seattle's industrial past, but for the "esthetic and utilitarian value" of the remnants as well. (Master Plan, April 1971) His adaptive reuse showed the beauty in industrial forms while removing negative associations. With innovation, Haag saw the towers from the gas plant as sculptural art, "iron Gothic" structures, what he called "irreplaceable and significant totemic artifacts that would fascinate future generations." (Brynolson, 1977) He compared removing some of the gas plant structures, while retaining others, to "selective pruning in a forest." Foreseeing the impact of the design, he predicted that this would give Seattle the only park in the world which would incorporate any aspect of industrial age. (Weems, 1980)

Haag's "pruning" was extremely selective and knowledgeable. His research into the gas works made clear to him the sequence of the technology and the importance of maintaining the rationale of the gasification process. By removing the two large oil tanks and two gas holders he removed bulky out-of-scale pieces that were not key to the refining technology. Haag's other pruning was of pipes and catwalks which provided a safety hazard, and the removal of several large metal buildings/sheds to open up the site to the views of the Lake and the City.

Haag's proposals for the site first created an uproar in Seattle, relentlessly published by both major newspapers. Several editorials and letters to the editor followed the unveiling of his plan for the site as well as competing ideas of what to do with the land. One proposal, by the self-proclaimed "Save Our Ships" group, was to turn the property into a tourist oriented maritime museum. In fact, Haag's

plans became so controversial that the family of Myrtle Edwards declined to have the new park named in her honor. Haag was committed to his vision of the park. Reportedly he spent $6,000 of his own money to renovate the former blacksmith shop at the site in order to show the public that the structures were worth preservation. Following extensive public relations and consultation exercises, which Haag himself masterminded, the city decided to go ahead with the scheme, phased in over a number of years. The Seattle Park Board unanimously approved Haag's master plan on February 17th, 1971 followed by the City Council unanimous decision to move forward in March of 1972.

The first stage of the project involved trucking out the worst of the surface material, selectively removing pipes and gas-making equipment, and importing uncontaminated earth from a nearby construction site. It was believed that the deeper contamination of benzene and xylene could only be steamed out of the ground at a great expense. But Haag argued that the better solution was to take advantage of the minerals and bacteria present in the subsoil and other organic matter in a series of deep tillings. These were carried out progressively with the addition of sewage sludge, grass clippings and compostable waste material. Their most important effect was to encourage soil and other bacterial to eat pollutants. This has remained a controversial solution and only time will tell how completely successful it is as a soil regeneration technique. ICONCO Inc. was hired to do the site work under a $228,000 contact. In total they removed 35,000 cubic yards of tar, benzene and oil-soaked soil, and pulled more than 10 miles of oil filled pipe out of the ground.

The first portion of the park (the large mound), which Haag called Stage 1 of Phase 1, opened to the public on August 30, 1973. According to Park's Department project manager Ernie Ferrero, the mound would serve as "*a grandstand from which citizens may observe the metamorphosis of an ugly gas plant into a healthy green 20 acre park.*" The rest of the park remained closed behind a chain link fence while workers continued the transformation of the rest of the facility. Funding for continued conversion of the gas plant to a park was further enhanced by the State Bureau of Outdoor Recreation which provided a matching grant for $196,099 in 1974.

Stage 1 of Phase 2 revolved around the reworking of the boiler house and exhauster house buildings into a picnic and play area. Michael G. Ainsley, an architect with Haag's office, oversaw the remodeling of these buildings. With noticeable work progressing at the park, the city was awarded a $340,000 Community Block Development Grant in April 1975. The Daviscourt Construction Company was hired to clean up the two buildings and carry out Haag and Ainsley's planned adjustments to the buildings. Both buildings were cleaned up and reroofed with light giving translucent panels. Each building was resided using geometric planes of tongue & groove siding. Inside the old gas exhauster building, which was filled with giant engines, pumps and flywheels, the equipment was waterblasted and repainted in bright colors to serve as an industrial jungle-gym for kids. Decorative geometric murals were installed within portions of the roof truss work. The boiler house was converted into a covered picnic shelter, by removing nearly all its equipment. The open sided structure housed picnic tables, and an open fireplace and sink. Some loft areas for seating were also installed to provide a vast open out-of-the-weather eating area that opened to the lake on the east and out to an outdoor picnic area on the north. To the northwest corner of the buildings a new freestanding concrete block comfort station and concession stand was built. Designed to blend with the industrial flavor of the site, the comfort station was designed by the architectural firm of Olson/Walker & Associates who was under contract with the City Parks & recreation board to provide restroom facilities in other city parks. Structural engineering work was provided by Arnold, Arnold & Associates, and Miskimen Associates served as the mechanical engineers. The Picnic Shelter, Playbarn and restrooms opened to the public in September of 1975.

During the construction of the park, concern over the safety of the remaining industrial elements appeared often in the local newspapers. Despite being fenced off, in July of 1975 after a 10-year old boy was injured in a fall from the gasification towers. Seattle Parks Superintendent David Towne ordered a chain-link and barbed wire fence installed around the structures. Haag's master plan for the towers included conversion of the towers into a vertical museum and a giant camera obsura; but funds for the project did not materialize and the fence installed in 1975 around the tower complex remains.

Phase 3 included the installation of irrigation system, hydroseeding, landscape completion of the "Prow" promenade area and renovation of the six gas towers. Work continued on regrading the earth mound, landscaping the picnic area, construction of the parking lot and safety improvement for the six towers. This phase of the construction was completed by Gary Merlino Construction Co. under a $205,200 contract.

Reportedly, the Parks Department continued to apply for more Community Block Grants for work on the outdoor play area, the concrete bulkhead south of the towers and more landscaping. By November of 1976, about $360,000 in federal community-development money was left for design work, development and other undisclosed costs. Projects covered by the money included development of the Prow area adjacent to the lake, a stairway to connect with the promenade along the water, landscaping and benches. The federal money also paid for the outdoor play area south of the playbarn, and play equipment inside the barn.

By April 1976 the Seattle Times reported that the Park was tentatively scheduled to open in July, however indication of any type of formal opening ceremony has not been found. Instead, since the park was developed/opened in phases, the park was just slowly absorbed into the fabric of its citizens as a place to recreate, rest and relax; just as Haag had envisioned in his 1971 master plan. Early events included hosting the annual Dixie Picnic, a summer concerts series, and a solar energy festival.

The last major project at the park involved the installation of a sundial at the top of the great mound in 1978. Here the viewer acts as the stylus of this unique timepiece with his or her shadow telling the time of day, the season, and the sun's movement through the phases of the Zodiac. The sundial, constructed of concrete, aggregate and bronze, was created by Seattle artist Chuck Greening and Kim Lazare.

With funding running out, Haag's other plans for the park were put on hold. Ideas for further development of the facility included a moat around the towers, a marine museum, a floating restaurant and a small boat dock on the eastern shore. Additionally landscaping was proposed at the northwestern side of the great mound and several other small structures were to be located near the railroad trestles.

From an environmental perspective, Haag's experiment at Gas Works was some twenty years before the EPA decreed land farming (bioremediation) to be a viable option for the healing of contaminated sites. The plan was to work the site by bringing in sawdust and primary treated sewage, topsoil and grass seed. This mix established nutrients and oxygen for bacteria to "farm" the toxins. Through bioremediation, the toxins would be eaten by tiny microorganisms and transformed into harmless elements. (Fels, 2000) Conventional methods of the day were to "cap and cover" or haul away toxins to contaminate another site. Haag anticipated the sustainability movement in this natural, slow

process of allowing the site to heal itself.

Richard Haag

A native of Louisville, Kentucky, Richard Haag was born on October 23, 1923. The son of a nurseryman, Haag excelled in horticultural studies. As a youth, he was a prodigy who could name many varieties of trees and shrubs and perform plant grafts at the age of four. He began his formal studies at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign.

Haag transferred to the University of California Berkeley where he received his Bachelor of Landscape Architecture degree in 1950. He worked for Sasaki during the summers of 1949 and 1950 and for Dan Kiley in Vermont during the summer of 1951. Haag then attended Harvard, receiving a Master of Landscape Architecture degree in 1952. After graduation he relocated to San Francisco, but soon learned that he won a Fulbright Scholarship to study in Kyoto, Japan from 1954 to 1955. The influence of this time in Japan, both visually and philosophically, can be seen in his subsequent design work; and the principles and spiritual tenets of Zen Buddhism and Taoism deeply inform his work.

Returning the United States, Haag went to work for Lawrence Halprin in San Francisco (1956-57). In 1957 he left Halprin's office to establish his own practice in the Bay area, producing several award-winning projects. In 1958, landscape architect Thomas Church recommended Haag to the University of Washington, where the college of Architecture and Urban Planning intended to create a landscape architecture department. Haag accepted a job offer and moved to Seattle to join the faculty at the University of Washington. Within a short time he changed local landscape architecture in profound ways. As a teacher and designer, Haag emphasized direct contact with sites and informed intuition. Deeply committed to ecological precepts, he also expressed interest in the social and psychological impact of a site. The Landscape Architecture Department at University of Washington was formally founded in 1964, and Haag remained a pivotal teacher in the program until 1999. While teaching at the University, Haag operated a landscape architecture firm on the side.

Since 1958, Haag has maintained a small professional office that is an intense and lively studio enterprise. Preparing numerous landscape master plans and district plans, Haag proposed designs with tree-lined pedestrian ways, squares, and quadrangles. Faced with limited budgets, he employed ordinary materials and simple furnishings, insuring pragmatic but effective horticulture as well as long-term strategies for structuring the landscape and spaces of these campuses. With his quiet manner, Haag convinced architects and clients to invest their small budgets into long-term landscape solutions that often appeared simple and sparse in their early stages. Years later, strong masses and ranks of trees characterize these sites, giving them a handsome quality.

Between 1958 to 2000 Haag participated in over 500 built projects, the majority of which are located in the Pacific Northwest. His two most prominent projects are Gas Works Park and the Bloedel Reserve on Bainbridge Island in Puget Sound, both national award winning projects.

All of the archives from his firm, Richard Haag & Associates (RHA), are now a part of the University of Washington's Special Collections. The archives include drawings and notes from RHA projects spanning over forty years. As of 2012, Haag age 89, continues to run a small office from which he consults, primarily on private garden projects and he continues to teach and lecture internationally, participating in design award and competition juries.

As a teacher and as a designer, Haag places a great emphasis upon spirit, feeling, direct contact with sites, and informed intuition. His design vocabulary is a self-imposed limited one. Haag's frustrations with the commercial nursery industry led him to begin his own nursery in the 1980s. The most fundamental aspect of his work has consistently been a concern for landform and sculpting of the land. His predilection is for prime forms, clarity of shape, and simple and direct plan organization, as well as a Modernist abstract imagery. He combines simple and direct plan organization with an encyclopedic knowledge of plants and horticulture. In some projects, he juxtaposes native flora with contrasting Asian or other ornamental species. Emphasizing the natural and physical dynamics at work in the world and on his sites, Haag realizes that his works are cultural productions, made by and for society.

Haag is a Fellow of the American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA), an Honorary Member of the American Institute of Architects, and a Resident of the American Academy in Rome. He is the only person ever to have received two Presidential Awards for Design Excellence from the ASLA, one for Gas Works Park, the other for the Bloedel Reserve. In 2003, he received the ASLA's Medal for lifetime achievements and contribution to the profession. He was honored by the Harvard University Graduate School of Design with a symposium and exhibition in 1996 followed by the publication of the book Richard Haag: Bloedel Reserve and Gas Works Park.

Landscape Architecture in the 1960s-1970s

The 1960s were a time of experimentation and concern for the environment, providing the setting for the design of Gas Works Park. In 1957 participants at the National Conference on Instruction of Landscape Architecture sought to find ways to give social function as much validity as to the art of design and brought an awakening of ecological approach in design. (Walker, 1994) Landscape architect Ian McHarg emerged as the spokesman for environmental values in practice and his 1969 book, Design with Nature, pioneered the concept of ecological planning.

The decade of the 1960s also proved to be a volatile time of great change. The environmental movement became a strong force, viewing environmental degradation in new and profound ways. Technical innovations following World War II, such as advances in metallurgy, welding techniques and pipe rolling, changed energy production from coal driven processes to a cleaner natural gas. The switch to natural gas throughout the world made gas-manufacturing plants obsolete. During this same decade, Rachel Carson's 1962 book Silent Spring, described for the first time the threat of pesticides and other synthetic chemicals to all life on earth. These new values ultimately culminated in the passage of the National Environmental Policy Act in 1969, mandating environmental impact statements for a wide range of projects.

During the 1960s, nature was brought into urban settings in abstracted forms and was more experimental in design (Walker, 1994). Experimentation was also accomplished in new settings, such as the first major institutional roof garden at the Oakland Museum (1962-1969) by Dan Kiley and Geraldine Knight Scott. Landscape architect Lawrence Halprin's experimentalism in design married dance choreography to landscape design, trying to stretch the boundaries of creative process. Richard Haag was a member of this generation of landscape architects and through his work with Lawrence Halprin brought ideas of experimentalism to Seattle.

Also during this time, significant pieces of local and state environmental legislation were passed in the state of Washington. In Seattle, a regional agency called METRO (the Municipality of Metropolitan Seattle) was created (1958) in order to deal with rapid transit, sewage and the provision

of a large-scale open space system. (Streatfield, 1988) The failure to create an effective metropolitan planning agency led to the formation of a civic organization in 1966 whom put forth their "Forward Thrust" bond package to voters in 1968 which created Gas Works Park and other parks in the city of Seattle and King County.

Historic Context within Richard Haag's Work

Haag was no stranger to large commissions. As his practice grew, he worked on fewer and fewer residential projects and became more involved with larger corporate and community projects. Early recognition came to him with an award-winning submission for the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial Competition in 1960 with architect Abraham Geller.

Haag's early Seattle projects included work on the World's Fair site. A seminal piece by Haag at the fair was the "Sunken Council Ring" with its surrounding circle of locust trees (1963). After the fair, Haag was selected as the Seattle Civic Center planner (1962 – 1964 and 1978). His work at the northeast corner of the Center grounds used several large truncated pyramidal earth mounds to create topographic interest as well as to provide a cheap way to hide the foundations of razed buildings from the World's Fair. However, it was not until his visit to Sweden in 1963 when he saw Gunnar Asplund and Sigurd Lewerentz's Woodland Cemetery and its use of earth mounds that he understood the power of simple mounds' scale, siting and form.

Haag was particularly productive during the 1960s and his work was well recognized during this period. Thirteen of his projects dating from 1964 – 1969 received AIA awards, including a Merit Award from the local AIA chapter for his design at the Seattle Battelle Research campus in the late 1960s. At the Battelle campus, Haag created a pond from swampy ground, and used lush hills and mounds to separate spaces and to create visual interest. The effect is a feeling of a private "room" for quiet introspection.

Similar in several ways to Gas Works Park and immediately predating it, Haag's 1970 design of Jordan Park in Everett, Washington, combined light industry, commercial and marine-oriented activities. At the park, five earth mounds with a delineation of trees at the perimeter, simple ground cover, and a widow's walk, were early forms that would be repeated with new meaning at Gas Works Park.

In 1970 there were no precedents for Haag's proposal at Gas Works Park. While Seattle was in the process of making payments to acquire the land for a park, Haag submitted the site as a design problem in a national competition in landscape architecture for undergraduate students in 1963. The fact that not one of the 130 proposed designs involved saving the plant's old towers reflects the prevailing mindset at that time: everyone assumed the structures would be demolished and the site restored to a conventional, "natural" state. Even though the Seattle Park Commission accepted Haag's conceptual idea of recycling the industrial elements from the gas works, it was suggested that he look for international precedents for the actual design as way of validating these new ideas.

Taking a sabbatical, Haag traveled to Europe and was only able to find one similar project: a gas works in Berne, Switzerland had adapted gas tanks to a skating rink and youth hostel. Haag was aware of the adaptation of slag heaps to designed earth mounds in Europe and visited Stoke-on-Trent observing the combination of tourism and museums at industrial sites. However, with the one example of Berne, there were no precedents for industrial remnants incorporated into a designed landscape. He returned to Seattle and had to develop a new type of landscape. The idea of

industrial site adaptation was profound, one which would be copied and reinterpreted over the next 30 years at a regional, national and international level, changing the perception of industrial sites' to usable and unique spaces for public enjoyment.

Precedents and Influences in Adaptation of Industrial Sites

Gas Works Park is an exceptional and ground-breaking work, thus qualifying the site as a significant resource under special criteria consideration "G" for a property that has achieved significance in less than 50 years. The idea of landscape architecture as site interpretation rather than design on the land is a common practice in landscape architecture school today. But Haag's design work at Gas Works Park was initially under-recognized in the 1970s. Instead it was primarily defined by many as either an act of industrial heritage preservation and aesthetic conscious raising or an act of reclamation. Regardless study, review and assessment of the project came even before its completion. The project was featured in *Landscape Architecture* magazine as early as July of 1973 while it was still in the planning stages. Upon completion of the park it received numerous studies and attention in the press. An August 30, 1975 article in The New York Times lauded the design as "Seattle's pre-eminent piece of public sculpture." Other articles followed in such magazines as the *Smithsonian* (Nov 1977), *Sunset* (Aug. 1977), *Trends* (Mar 1977), *L'Architectura* (April 1978), *View Northwest* (Sept 1976), *Atlantic Monthly* (April 1976), *L'Architecture d'Aujourdhui* (Sept 1979) and *Progressive Architecture* (Nov 1978).

The direct regional influence of Gas Work Park can be seen at Granville Island (1973) in Vancouver and Dickman Mill (2001) in Tacoma, Washington. They adapt former industrial settings incorporating heavy industry and the retained skeleton of a lumber mill, respectively, into mixed-use complexes. Dickman Mill, like Gas Works Park, uses natural methods in restoration of the highly degraded salt marsh.

At a national level, Haag's concept was followed in the conversion of a large number of obsolete industrial sites including: Slater Mill, Pawtucket, Rhode Island (museum and park), Museum of Textile History, Lawrence, Massachusetts (museum), Georgetown Foundry, Washington, D.C. (office building), Cannery Row, Monterey, California (mixed use) and Danbury Mill, Danbury, Connecticut (housing). Lowell, Massachusetts, also developed in the 1970s, was an attempt to revitalize the city based on its industrial and ethnic heritage. (Penrose, 1991) Haag's validation of vernacular industrial elements influenced designers and developers to look at sites as important remnants of history and culture. Their reuse was not only economical and environmentally appropriate, but saved an important part of many regions' industrial past.

Through the design of Gas Works Park, Haag also foresaw the implementation of today's multimillion-dollar brownsfield projects, which restore sites polluted by remnants of our industrial past. His influential design changed perceptions from viewing these sites as ugly and unusable. As recently as 1996, the New York Clean Water/Clean Air Bond Act envisioned thousands of former industrial sites as potential for new development or use as parks because of their existing infrastructure and convenient locations to transportation routes.

Modern designers continue to seek biological treatment systems like those used by Haag at Gas Works Park that are self-sustaining and cheaper than chemical treatment. Recently, Ford Motor Company and Rouge Steel's 1000-acre River Rouge complex sought this natural type of design, the result being restoration of new wildlife habitat. Another contemporary example is Blacklick Creek in

Pennsylvania, a former mining site that "celebrates" industrial pollution combining tree colors that mimic the golden polluted runoff; ultimately this site will also heal itself through designed natural processes.

Gas Works Park's influence internationally, especially in France and Germany, has been the strongest. While most American projects concentrated on industrial building adaptation, European design has more innovatively adapted both buildings and landscape, in a closer alignment with Haag's idea. One outstanding example is Parc Georges Brassens (1984) in Paris in which the new park design integrated some of the most striking architectural components of the original 1884 slaughterhouses into the gardens. Like Gas Works Park, concrete remnants of the foundations remained and served as the framework for the design. As at Gas Works Park, Haag's seminal ideas revealed beauty in industrial forms while removing the negative associations of places.

The contemporary landscape architect, Peter Latz of Germany, has built a practice adapting former industrial sites to new use incorporating sustainability into his landscapes. His best known project is Duisberg Nord, Duisberg, Germany--a park built on an abandoned blast furnace, replete with slag heaps, abandoned ore bunkers and elevated rails. Acknowledging the lead that Europe has taken since GWP's design in industrial site adaptation, Anne Raver of the New York Times wrote:

"Americans have been late to see their industrial wastelands not only as potential public parks, but also as repositories of their history: the precedent was Gas Works Park in Seattle, which embraces the heroic structure and history of an old gas plant." (Raver, 2000)

The impact of Gas Works Park on land reclamation and industrial preservation attitudes and techniques extends far beyond Seattle. Gas Works Park has gained national and international standing as a prototype for industrial site conversions. It has been studied, cited hundreds of times in numerous publications as an exemplary model. The park is also referenced in a variety of educational textbooks and scholarly works on landscape architecture. Since opening, Gas Work Park has also won numerous awards for design excellence, vision, and innovation. Among them the top award in the field of landscape architecture, the Presidential Award of Excellent. The jury for the ASLA President's Award of Excellence stated:

"A remarkably original and attractive example of how to reclaim a seemingly hopeless and obsolete industrial installation. Instead of being destroyed or disguised, it has been transformed into a lighthearted environment ... A project of historical significance for the community. A symbol of American technology preserved."

Conclusion

Since its opening, Gas Works Park has received eight different awards, culminating in the Presidential Award of Design Excellence from the American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA) in 1981. As a gifted landscape architect, Richard Haag is the only person to ever win two of the prestigious ASLA President's Award of Excellence: a second for Bloedel Reserve on Bainbridge Island, Washington. Haag's vision for Gas Works Park literally transformed the public's affection of relics of industrial America and his innovative concept of natural bio-remediation set a new tone for how to cleanup former industrial waste sites. As such, the park holds a unique place in the history of landscape design and is a symbol of our lost industrial heritage.

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GAS WORKS PARK
Name of Property

KING COUNTY, WA
County and State

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

___preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67 has been requested)
___previously listed in the National Register
___previously determined eligible by the National Register
___designated a National Historic Landmark
___recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #_____
___recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____
___recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

___State Historic Preservation Office
___Other State agency
___Federal agency
___Local government
___University
___Other
Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 20.5 acres
(Do not include previously listed resource acreage.)

UTM References
(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
1	10	549859	5277053	3	10	550215	5276820
2	10	550215	5277053	4	10	549859	5276820

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The nominated district is located in Township 25N Range 4 E, Sections 17 and 18, in King County, Washington. The park lies directly south of N Northlake Way and defines a promontory point generally between Woodlawn Avenue to the west and Bagley Avenue to the east on the north shore of Lake Union in Seattle, WA.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The nominated boundary reflects the current property defined as Gas Works Park by the City of Seattle Parks & Recreation Department. See attached map.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title PATRICIA TUSA FELS & CHRISTY EDSTROM O'HARA (Revised by DAHP Staff)
organization FRIENDS OF GAS WORKS PARK date APRIL 2012
street & number 30002 ISSAQUAH – FALL CITY RD. telephone (425) 222-0744
city or town FALL CITY state WA zip code 98024
e-mail TUSAFELS@CENTURYTEL.NET

GAS WORKS PARK
Name of Property

KING COUNTY, WA
County and State

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

  A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.

- **Continuation Sheets**

- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

Photographs:

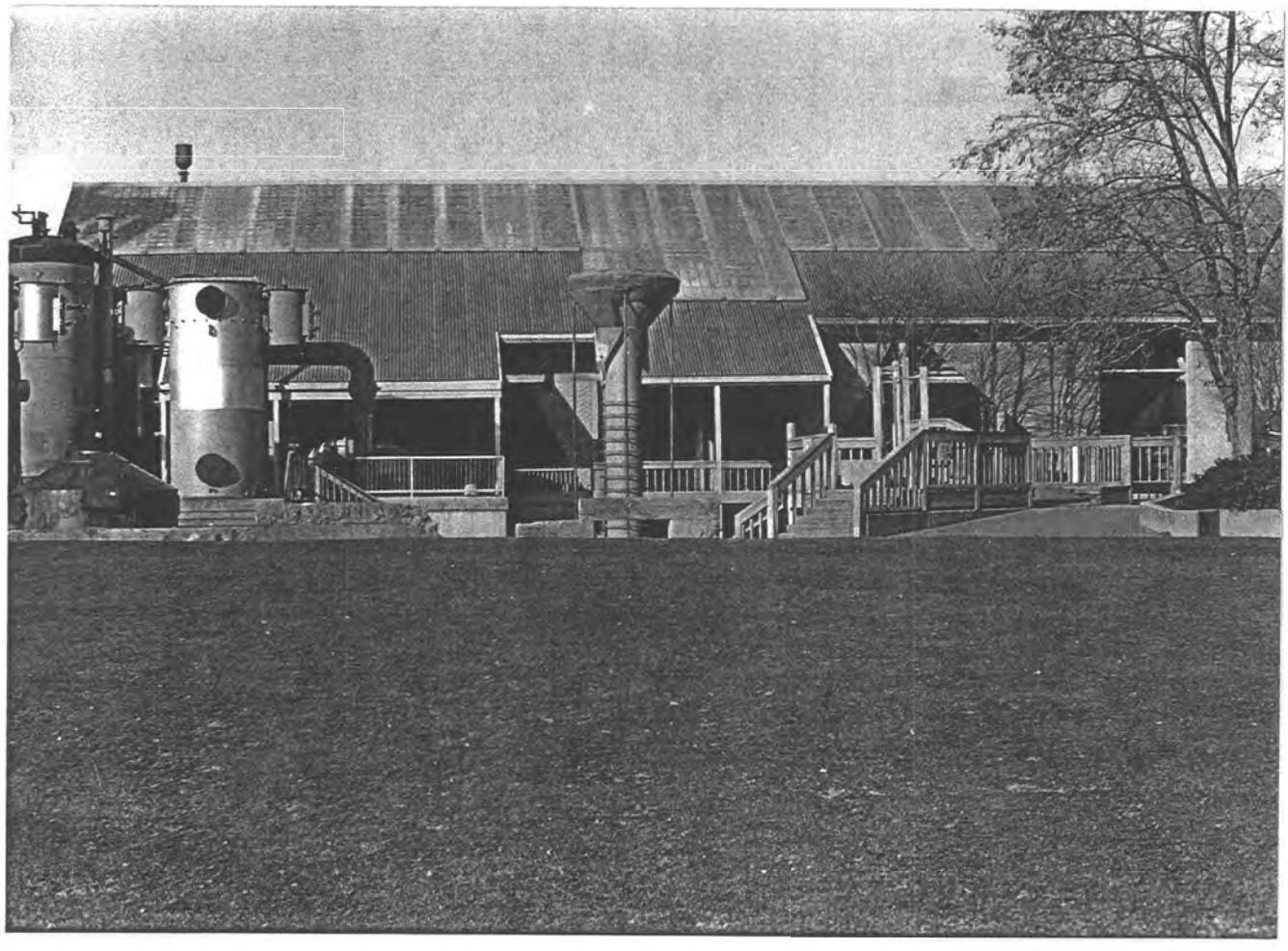
Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map.

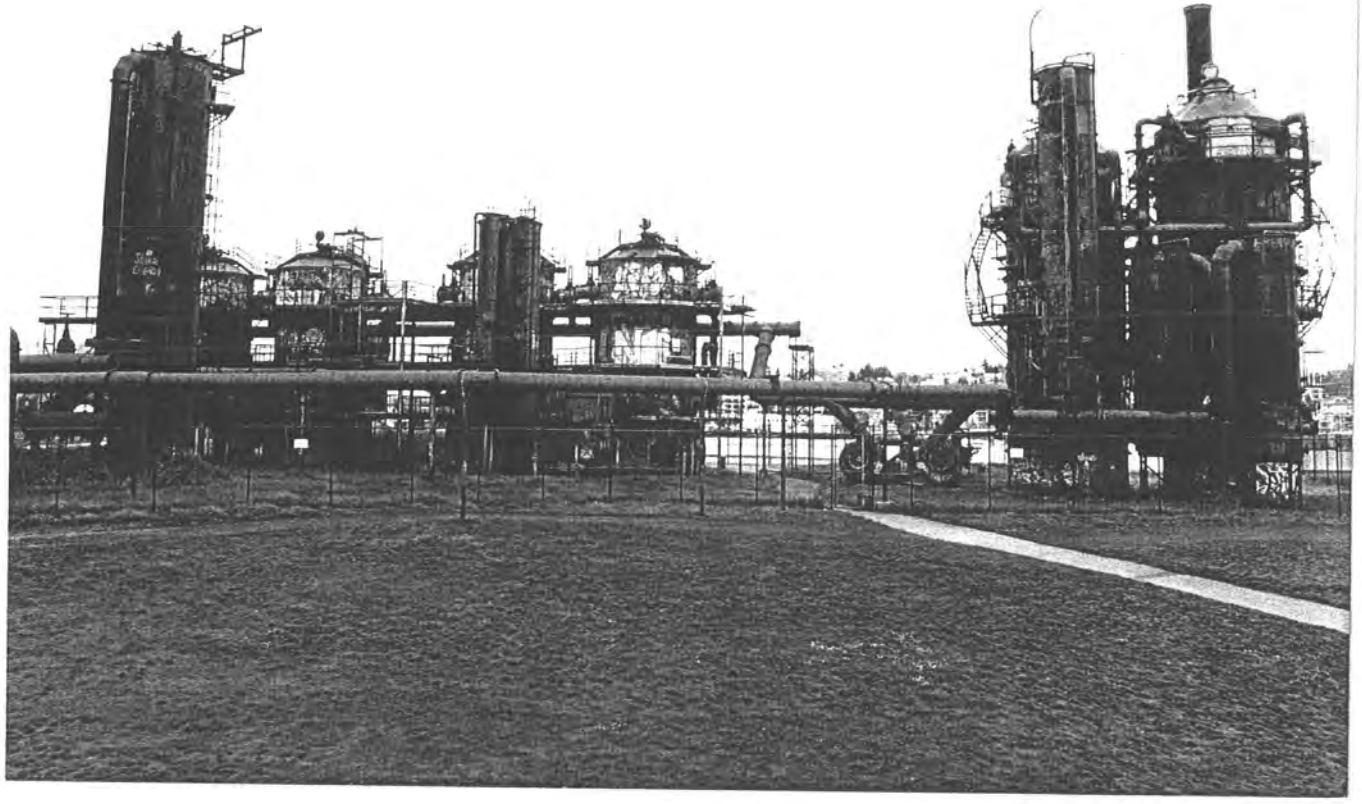
Property Owner: (Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

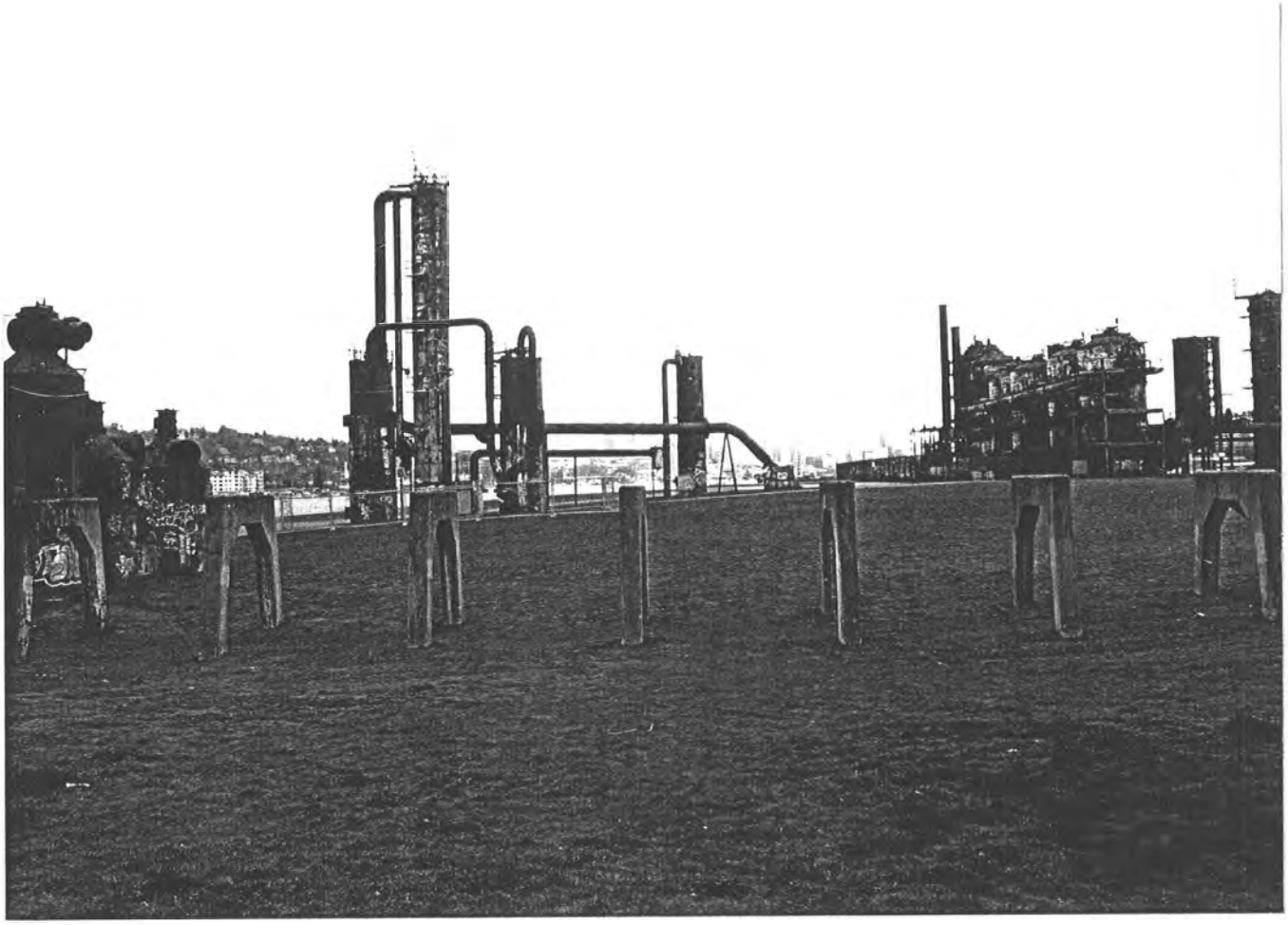
name SEATTLE DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION: co: Christopher Williams, Acting Superintendent

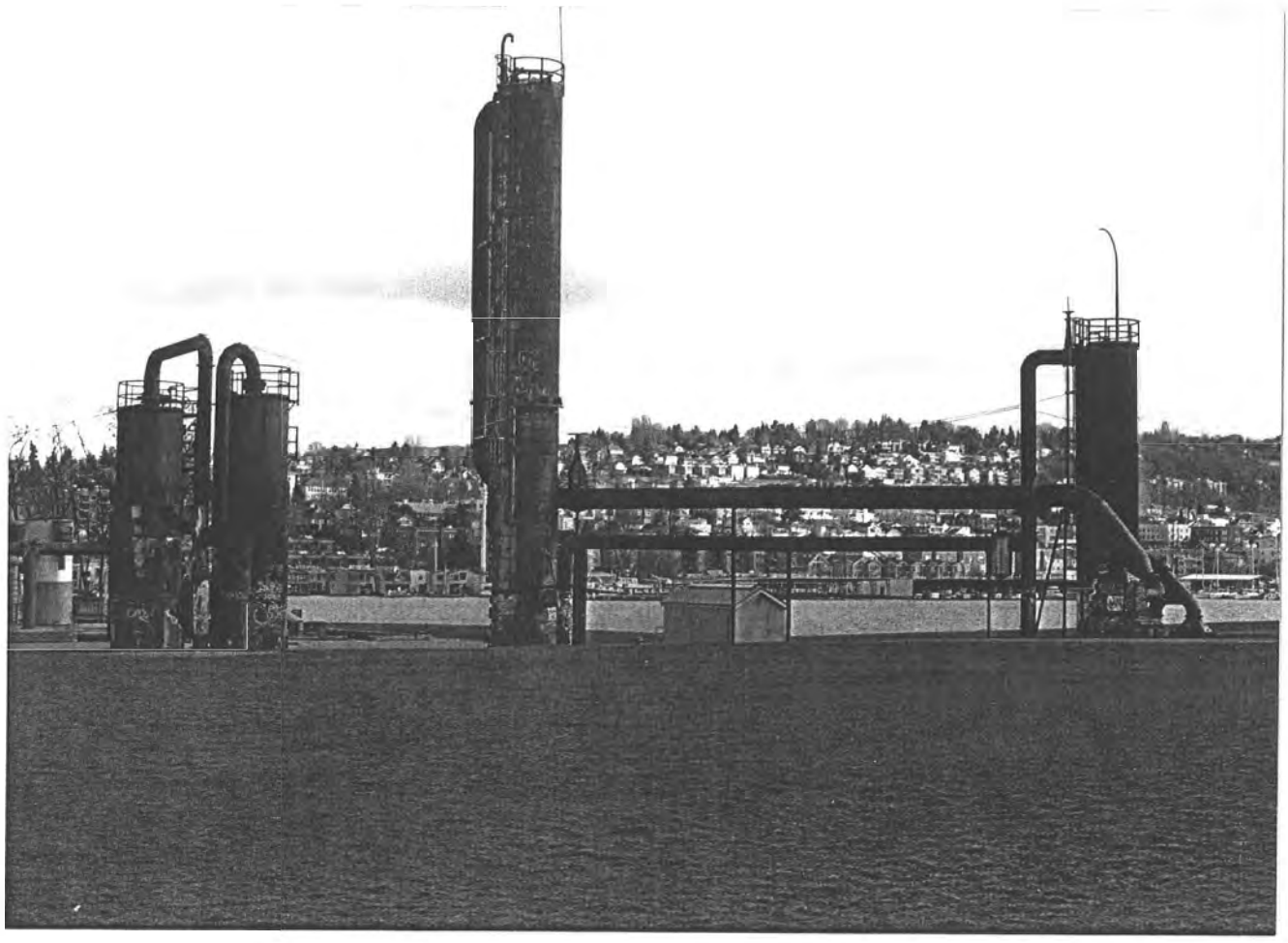
street & number 800 MAYNARD AVE. S. telephone (206) 684-4155

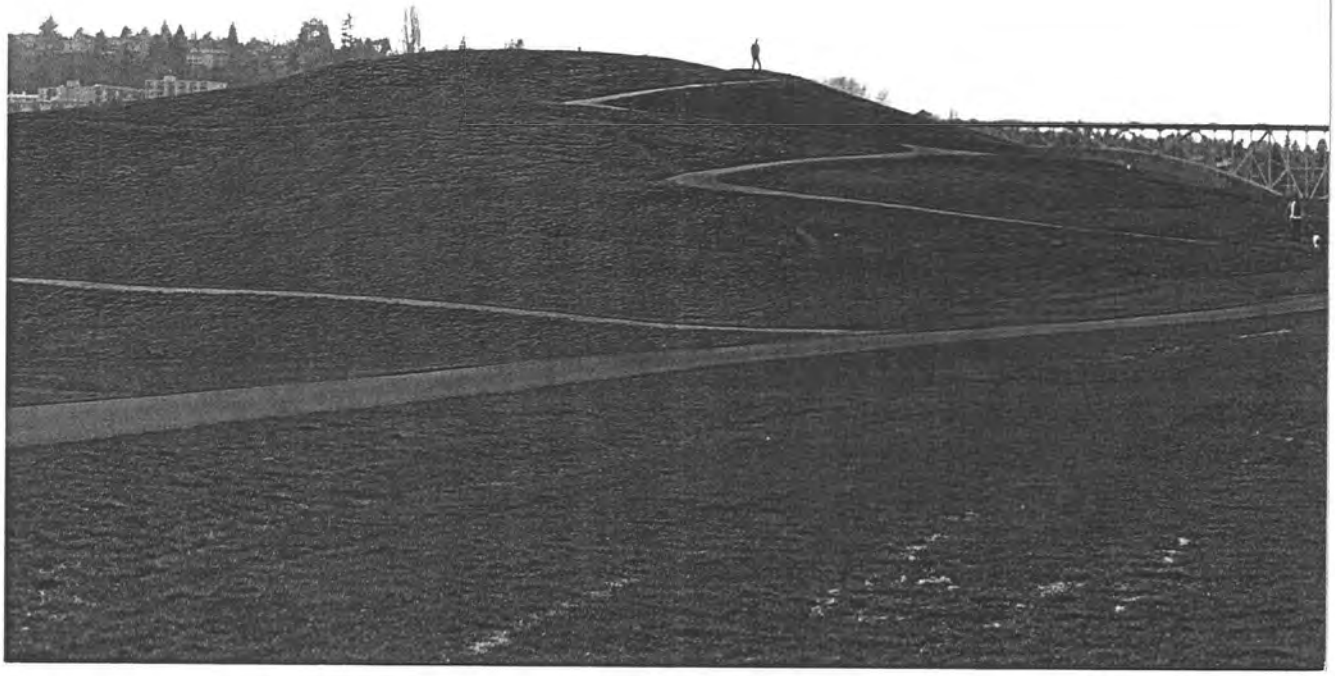
city or town SEATTLE state WA zip code 98134

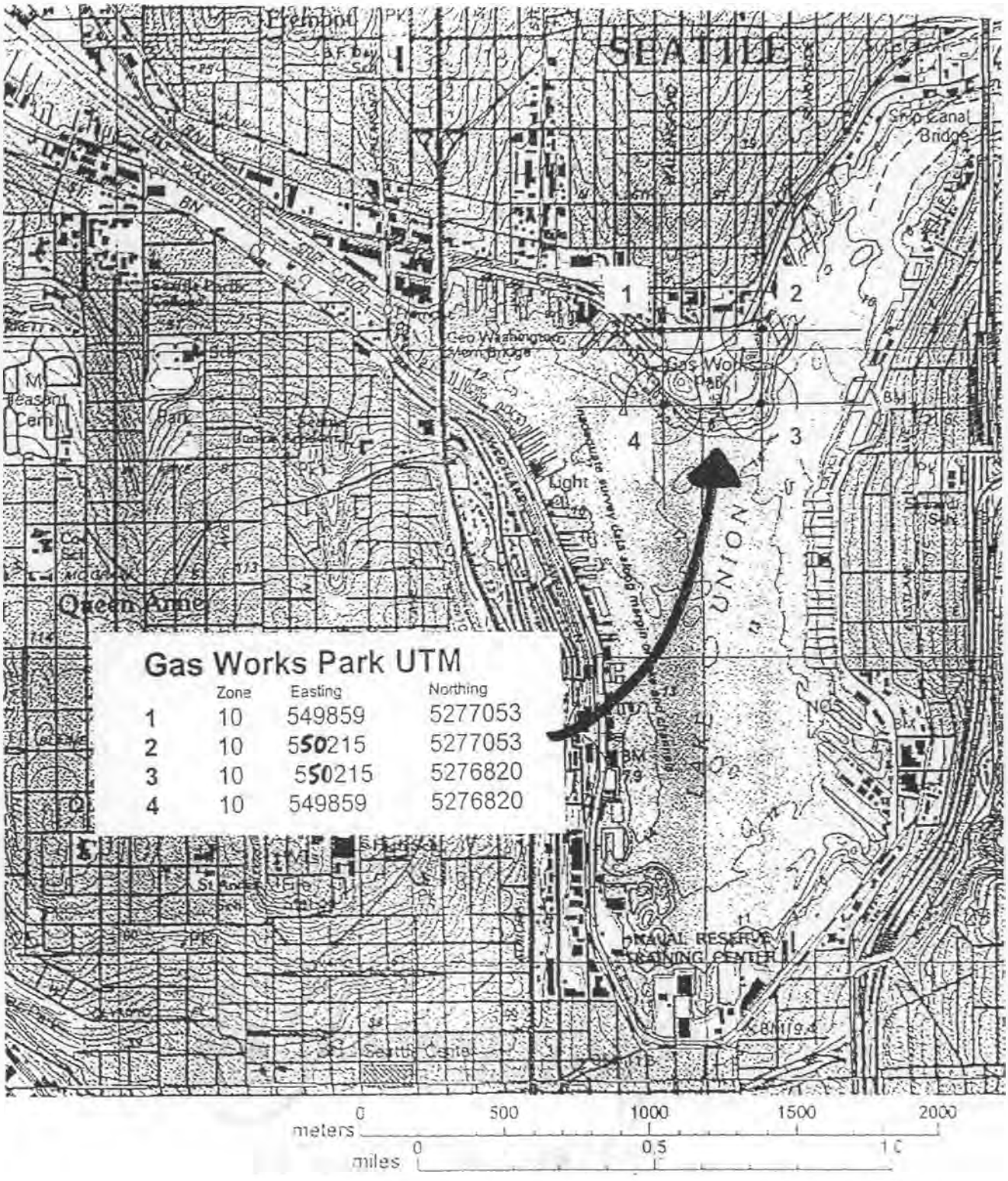











SEATTLE
Ship Canal Bridge
1
2
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Gas Works Park
Geo Washington Memorial Bridge
Light
UNION
Queen Anne
NAVAL RESERVE TRAINING CENTER
Seattle Center
Gas Works Park UTM
Zone Easting Northing
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2 10 550215 5277053
3 10 550215 5276820
4 10 549859 5276820
0 500 1000 1500 2000
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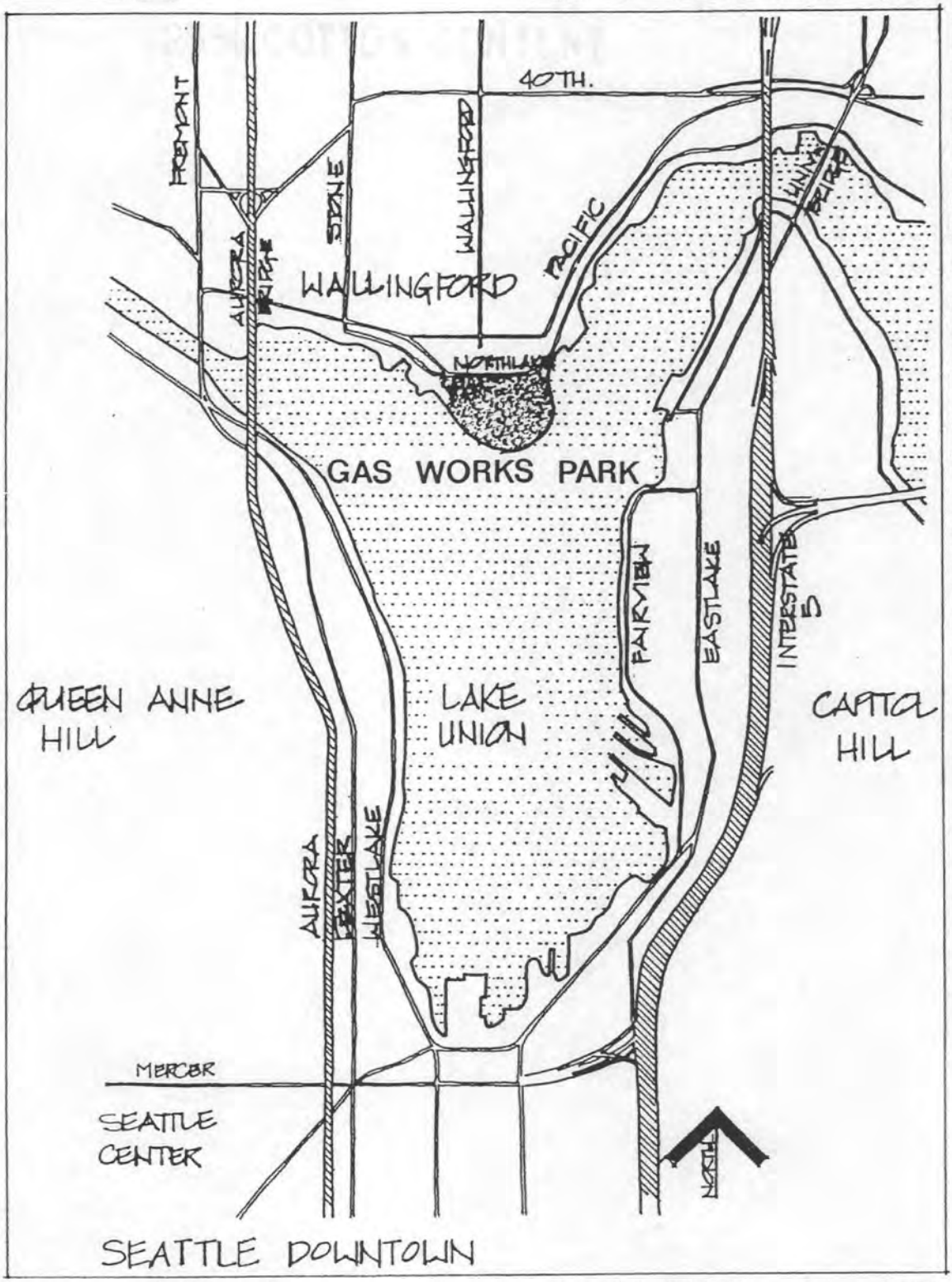
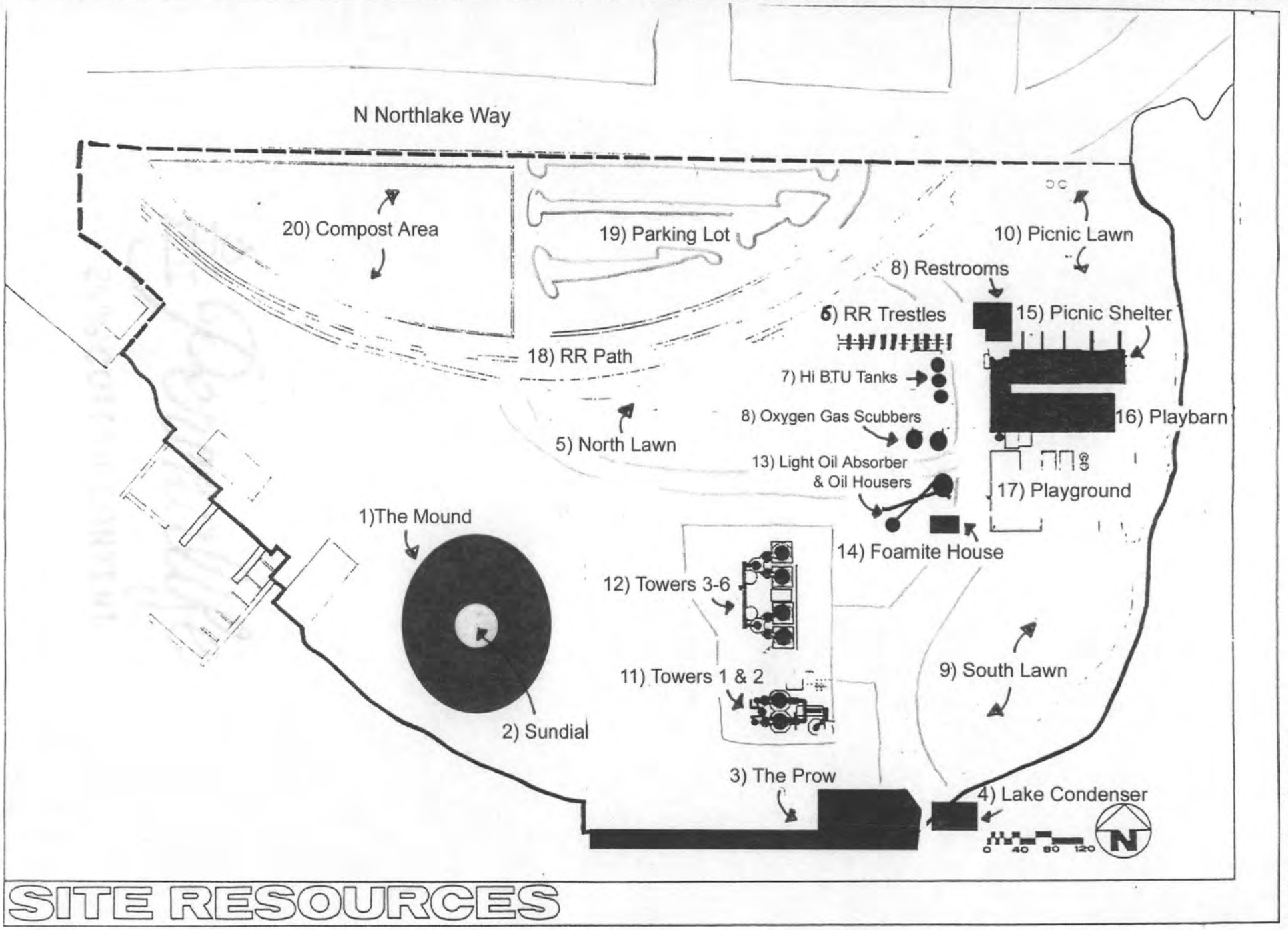
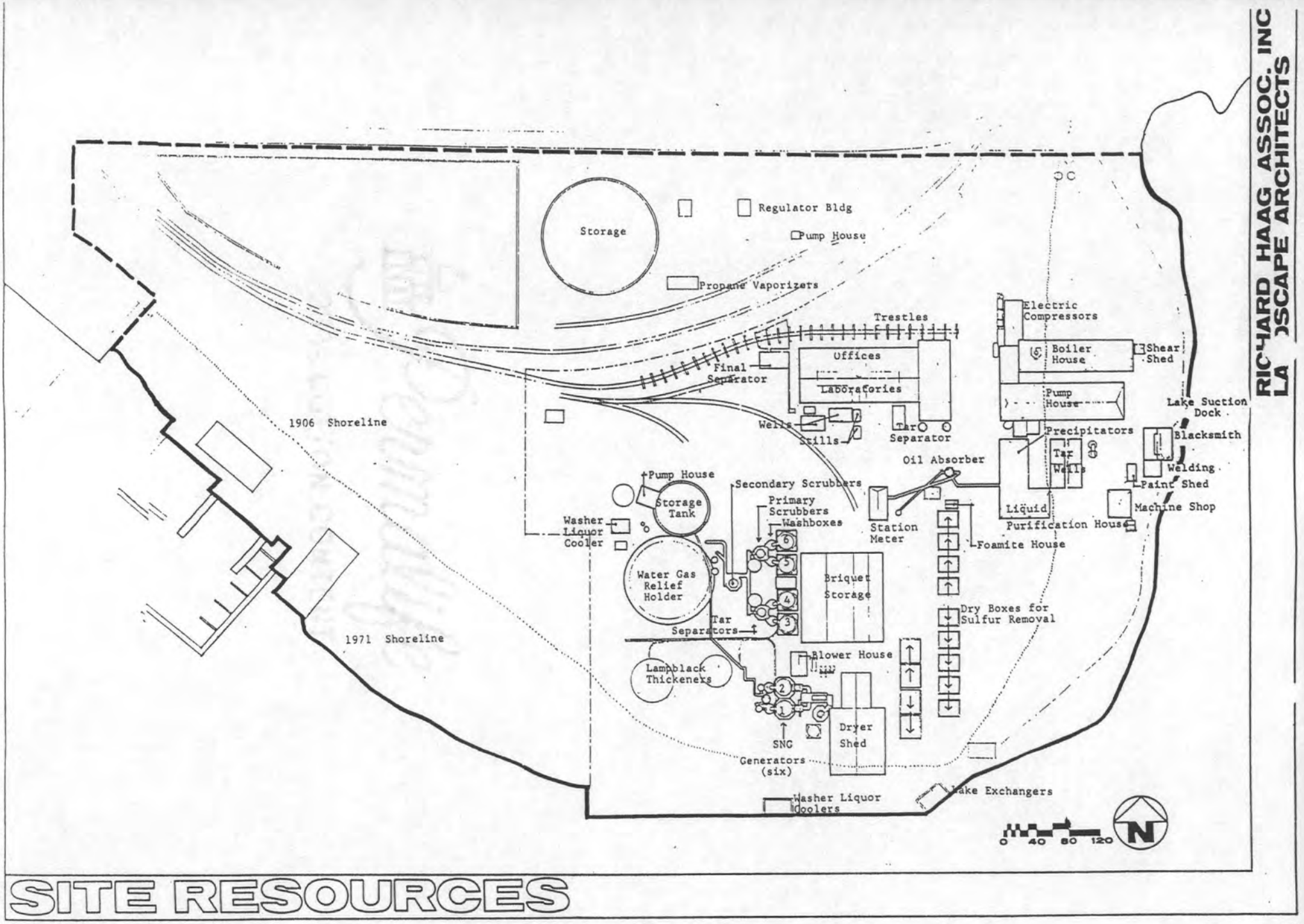


Context map showing Gas Works Park, Lake Union, and surroundings.



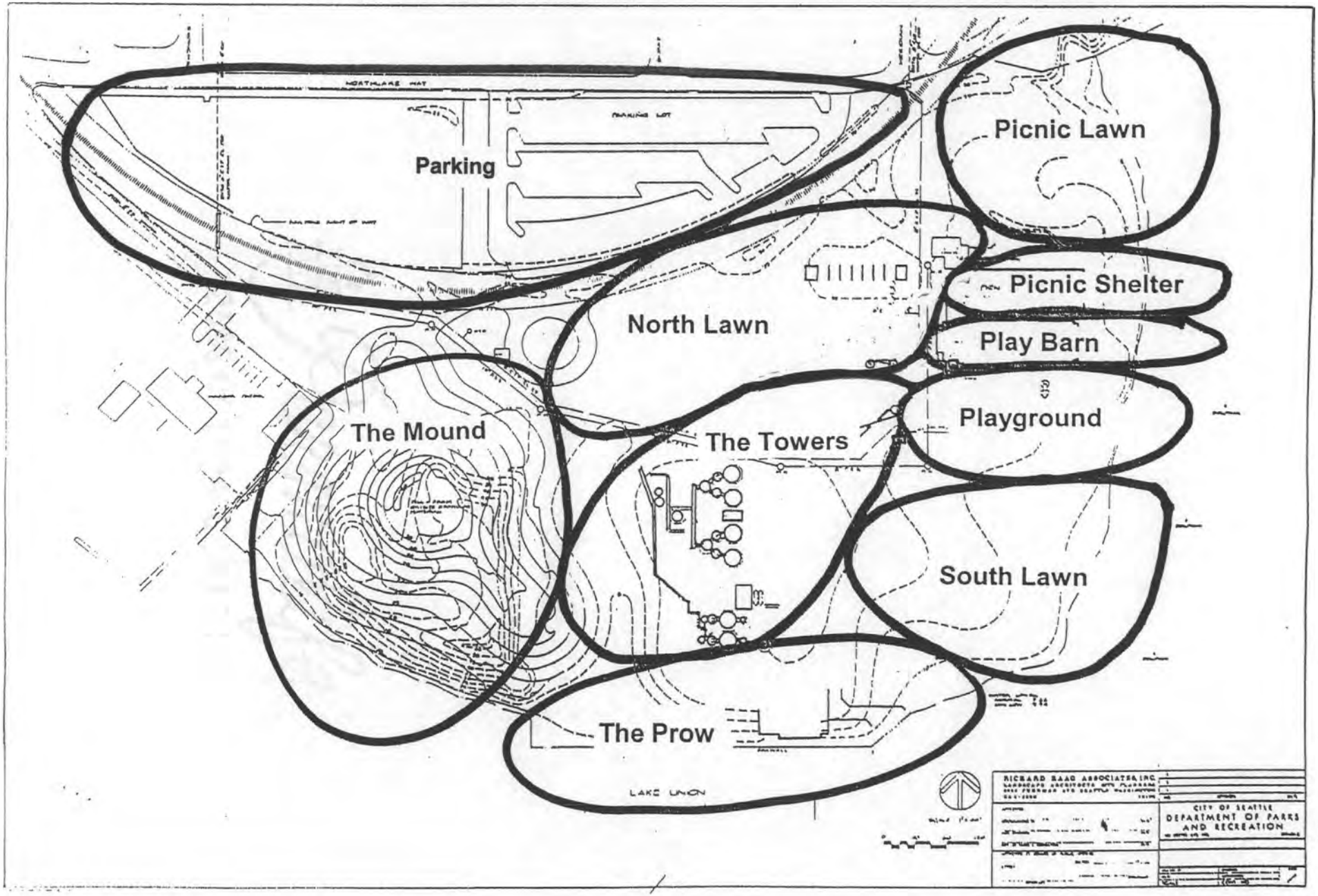
SITE RESOURCES

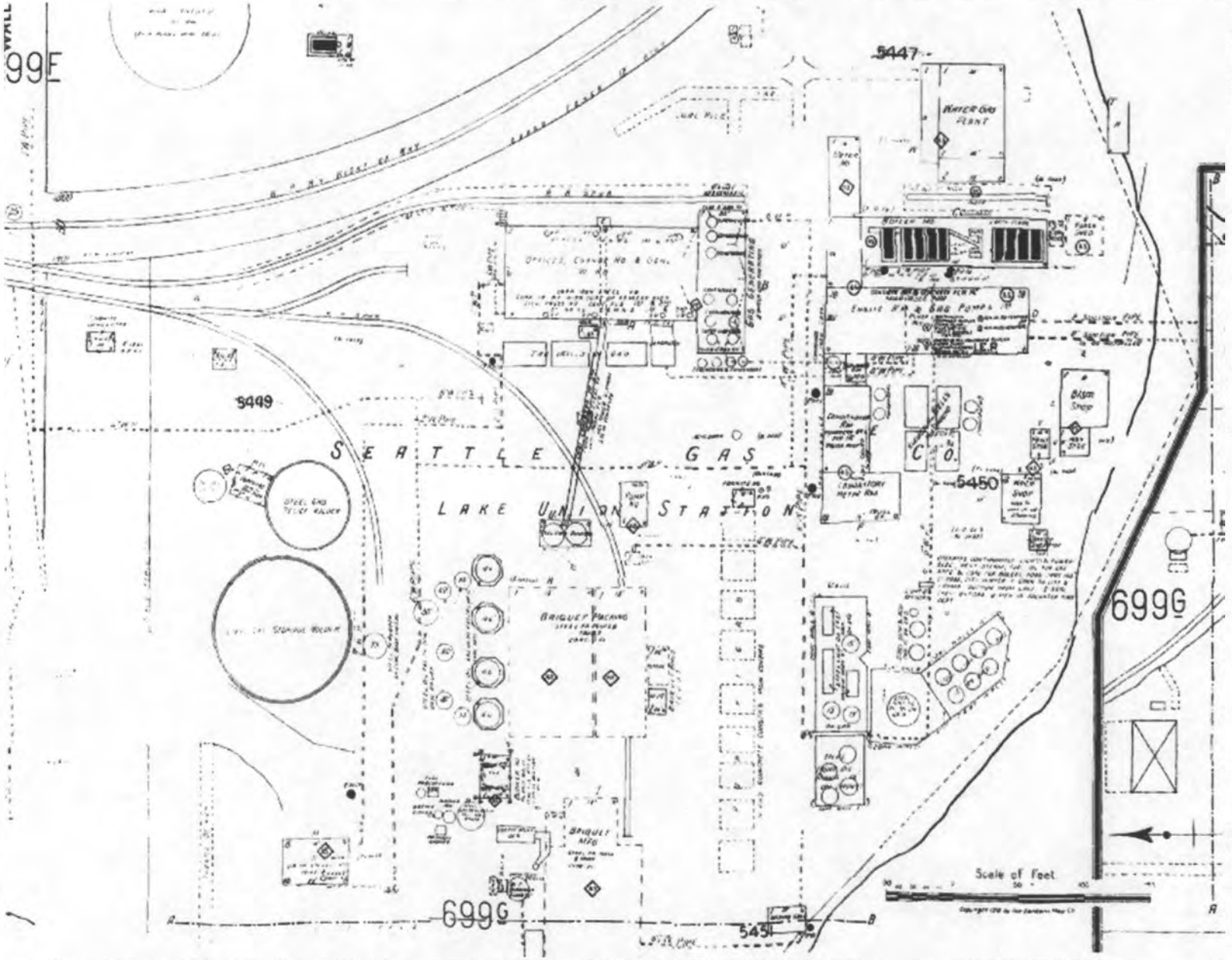


SITE RESOURCES

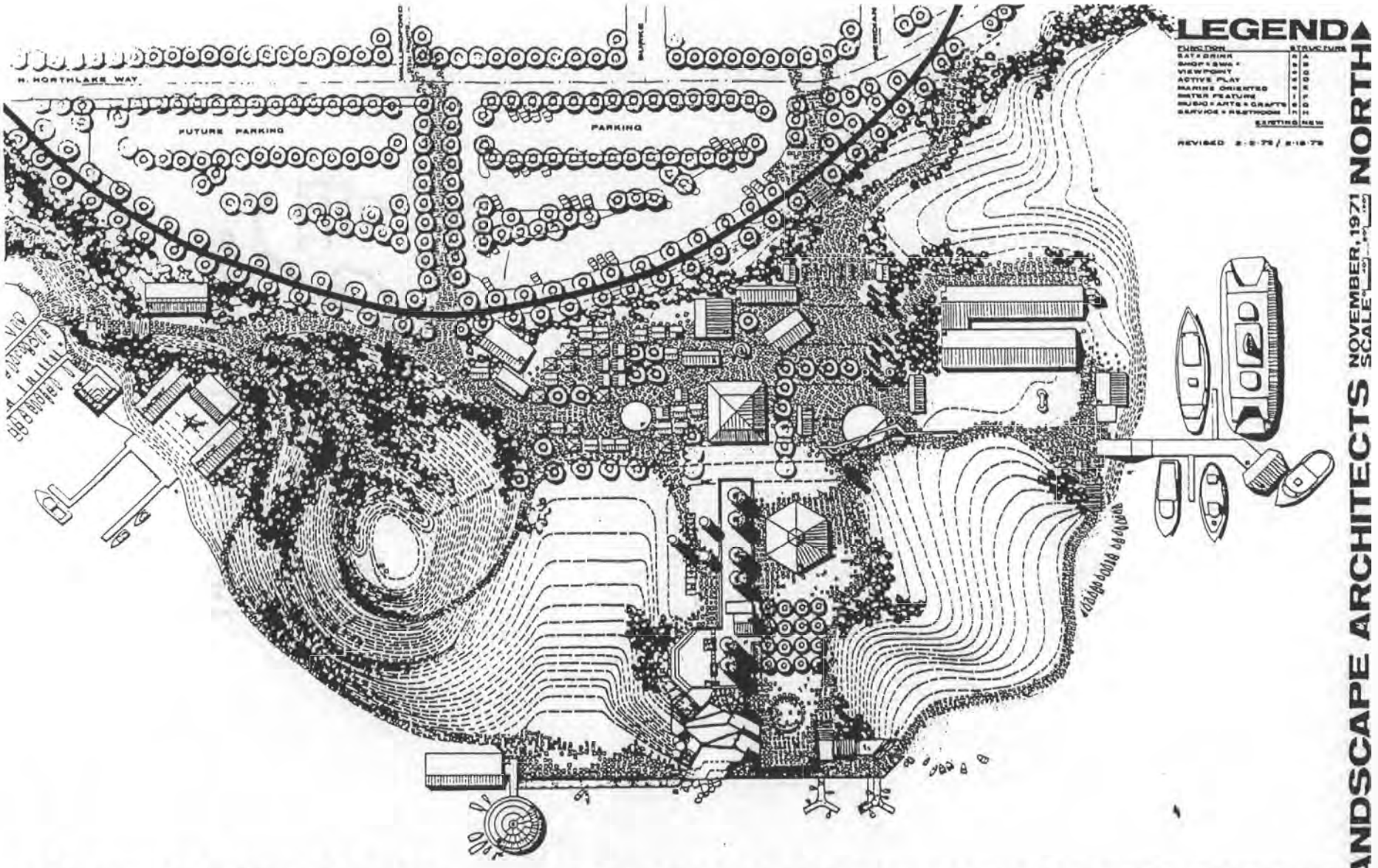
Plan showing original buildings, structures, and shorelines of 1906 (dotted) and 1971.

Nomination Boundaries


Parking
Picnic Lawn
Picnic Shelter
North Lawn
Play Barn
Playground
The Mound
The Towers
South Lawn
The Prow
LAKE UNION
CITY OF SEATTLE
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS
AND RECREATION



Sanborn Map - Seattle 1905-Mar. 1951 vol. 6, 1919-Sept. 1950, Sheet 699g



Master Plan for Gas Works Park as originally proposed in 1971.

RICHARD HAAG, FELLOW ASLA, HON. AIA, PROFESSOR EMERITUS,

Landscape Architect, educator, pioneer of adaptive reuse, naturalist, innovator, and scientist are terms expressed in more than 600 built projects. Richard Haag was educated at University of Illinois, University of California at Berkeley (B.L.A.), Harvard University Graduate School of Design (M.L.A.), awarded a Fulbright in Japan for two years and was Resident at the American Academy in Rome. Luca Maria Francesco Fabris' *La natura come amante/Nature as a Lover* is a monogram of Haag's seminal work published by Maggioli Editore 2010. Harvard University Graduate School of Design honored Mr. Haag with a symposium and exhibition entitled *Exploring the Landscape Architecture of Richard Haag*, followed with the book Richard Haag: Bloedel Reserve and Gas Works Park. Richard Haag twice received the American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA) Presidents Award for Design Excellence: Gas Works Park, Seattle, WA and The Sequence of Gardens at Bloedel Reserve, Bainbridge Island, WA. He is Founder and Professor Emeritus of the Department of Landscape Architecture at the University of Washington, and the Richard Haag Endowed Scholarship was instituted in his honor. Haag is a national/international lecturer and juror. Haag received the ASLA Medal for 2003, a lifetime achievement award and the highest honor given to a Landscape Architect by his peers and the 2007 ASLA Design Medal. He received the First Waterfront Cultural Heritage Award in 2009 for Gas Works Park from The Waterfront Center and The Cultural Landscape Foundation.

AWARDS/HONORS/AFFILIATIONS (selected)
Featured Article: *The Wall Street Journal* "Stark Inside, Wild Outside" June, 2009;
Most recent profiles: Landscape Architecture Magazine, November 2009 and 2007, May 2005;
Cultural Landscape Foundation Stewardship Excellence Award for Gas Works Park, 2004;
Honorary Member, American Institute of Architects, 1999;
Distinguished Alumni, College of Environmental Design, University of California, Berkeley 1999;
American Horticultural Society's Landscape Design Award, 1996;
CELA Council of Educators of Landscape Architecture Outstanding Educator Award;

JUROR COMPETITIONS (selected)
Environmental Design Research Association International Competition—Great Places 2012;
Design Waller Creek, Austin, Texas, 2012;
Vancouver Connector Competition, Vancouver, Washington, 2009;
Spreckels Crossing, Salinas, California, 2007;
Flight 93 Memorial, Pennsylvania, 2005;
ASLA National Award Committee, Washington, D.C. 1988, 2004;
Pleasanton Central Park Design Competition, Pleasanton, CA 2004;
Gainesville Eco-history Trail Design Competition, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL, 2002;
Santa Fe Railyard Park and Plaza Design Competition, Santa Fe, NM 2002;
Taipei "Central Park" Competition, Taipei, Taiwan, 1998, one of 6 professional jurors;
Oklahoma City Memorial International Design Competition (2 phases), Oklahoma City, OK, 1997;
West Coast Gateway, Los Angeles, CA, 1988.

LECTURER (selected)
Key Note Speaker, 2nd Blu+Verde International Congress, Milan, Italy, 2008 & 2006;
Key Note Speaker, Annual British Columbia Association of Landscape Architects Conference, Vancouver, Canada, 2008;
Guest Lecturer, Utah State University, Logan, Utah, Colorado State University, Fort Collins, Colorado, 2008;
Guest Lecturer, University of California at Berkeley, Department of Landscape Architecture and Environmental Planning, Berkeley, CA, 2006 & 2002;
Invited participant, 70 acre mixed use development Charrette, Calistoga, CA, 2005;
Guest Lecturer, Harvard GSD, Boston, MA 2004, 2002 & 2000;
Guest Lecturer, National Building Museum, Washington, D.C. 2005 & 2001;
Guest Lecturer, Beijing Forestry University, Tong Ji University, Nanking University, China, 2003;
Key Note Speaker/Workshop leader, Vth Spanish Architectural Biennial -Public Open Spaces, University of Alcala, Madrid, Spain, autumn 1999;
Key Note Speaker, Retrospective, American Academy in Rome, Italy; University of Naples, Italy, 1998;
Guest Lecturer, "American Leaders and Visions: Creating a New Frontier in Landscape Architecture", A Symposium celebrating the founding of the Awaji Institute Landscape Horticulture, Japan, 1997;
Guest Lecturer, "Parks & Their Cities", American Center in Paris, France, 1994;
Guest Lecturer, "Rencontres d'Automne", Festival International des Jardins, Chaumont-sur-Loire, France, 1993;

PUBLICATIONS
"Trees In The City", Environscape A Manifesto, 2nd blu+green International Congress, Milan, Italy, 2008;
Guest Critic of Eco-Revelatory Design: Nature Constructed/Nature Revealed, 1998 [published in Landscape Journal];
"Nourishing the Human Gene Pool: Let Us Make and Preserve a Legacy of Landscape Architecture". Treatise from "Preserving Modern Landscape Architecture", a national conference at Wave Hill, NY [Treatise published in 2000];
"Edible Landscape", Landscape Architecture Magazine, November 1980;

BOOKS ABOUT RICHARD HAAG
Saunders, William S. Richard Haag: Bloedel Reserve And Gasworks Park. Princeton Architectural Press. 1997.
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GAS WORKS PARK, Seattle, Washington
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113 Okada, Masaaki. "Pioneer of Reusing Technoscape – Gas Works Park in Seattle". Special Issue on Industrial Landscapes. Japan Society of Civil Engineering, January 2009: 10-19.

112 Weilacher, Uto. "Syntax of Landscape", Birkhauser (Berlin). 2008:107-9

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107 Pirzio-Biroli, Lucia. "Working Landscapes". Arcade. Winter 2004: 29.

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105 Maryman, Bryce and Scott Melbourne. "Gas Works Park". Urban Beaches. 2006

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103 Scigliano, Eric. "Shaping the City". The Seattle Times Magazine. Nov. 10, 2002: 14-5

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100 Russell, James. "Landscape Urbanism". Architectural Record. Aug. 2001: 72.

99 Fels, Patricia Tusa. "Gas Works at Work". Arcade. 19.4 Spring 2001.

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97 Cortesi, Isotta. "Gas Works Park". Area [Italy], July/Aug 1999: 78-87

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93 Spirn, Anne Whiston. The Language of Landscape.Thomson-Shore Inc. 1998. 262-263.

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8 Casey, Charlotte. "The Gas Works." Washington Purchaser Apr. 1973.

7 Chapman, Bruce K. "The Gas Works: A New Look at an Old Eyesore." Northwest Today in Seattle P-I 14 May 1972.

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AWARDS

Date	Organization	Award
2009	The Waterfront Center jointly with The Cultural Landscape Foundation	Waterfront Cultural Heritage Award (the first of its kind ever awarded)
2004	Cultural Landscape Foundation	Stewardship Award
2002	State of WA National and State Historic Preservation Board	State Historic Registration
1999	City of Seattle Landmark Board	Historic Landmark Status
1997	Friends of GWP Founded by Cheryl Trivison	501 (c) 3
1993	Waterfront Center	Excellence on the Waterfront International Honor Award
1981	American Society of Landscape Architects	President's Award of Design Excellence
1980	Print Casebooks 4	Certificate of Design Excellence, Environmental Design
1980	Urban Environmental Design National Awards	Special Mention Award for Project Design (Open Spaces)
1980	Shoreline Design Awards	First Award, Adaptive Re-Use
1979	Washington Chapter ASLA	Honor Award
1976	Seattle-King County Board	Award for Excellence of Realtors
1975	Design and Environment	Award for Excellence

EXHIBITIONS

2003 University of Washington

1998 Harvard School of Design

1998 American Academy in Rome, Annual Exhibition

1993 XiX Congress of International Union of Architecture (UIA Barcelona 96) "Present and Futures. Architecture in Cities features Gas Works Park as part of Terrain Vague, Barcelona, Spain.

TV/ VIDEO/ INTERVIEWS/ EXHIBITS

Virtual Tour of Gas Works Park:
http://www.vrseattle.com/pages/browse.php?cat_id=802

Raymond, Vaun. Lake Union Virtual Museum,
http://web.mac.com/vaunraymond/museum/Video,_Gasworks_Park.html

Center for Creative Land Recycling (CCLR) Online Exhibit:
Design+Remediation: http://www.cclr.org/case-studies/design-remediation

Okada, Masaaki. Interview. 2008

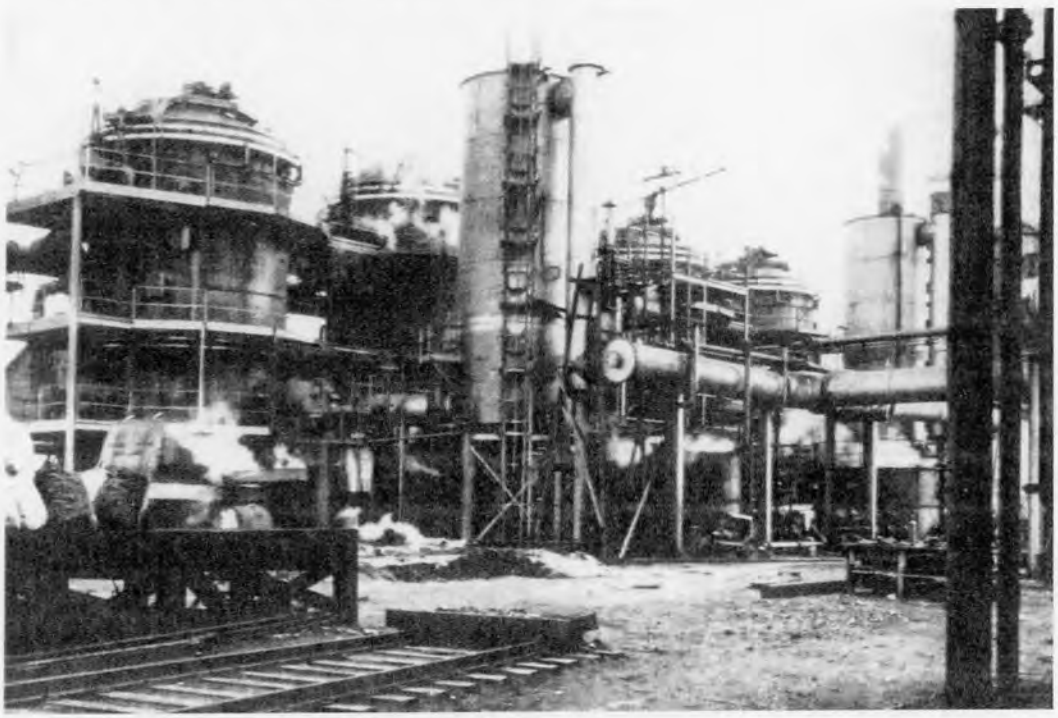
Seoul, Korea. TV Interview. 2008

LECTURES

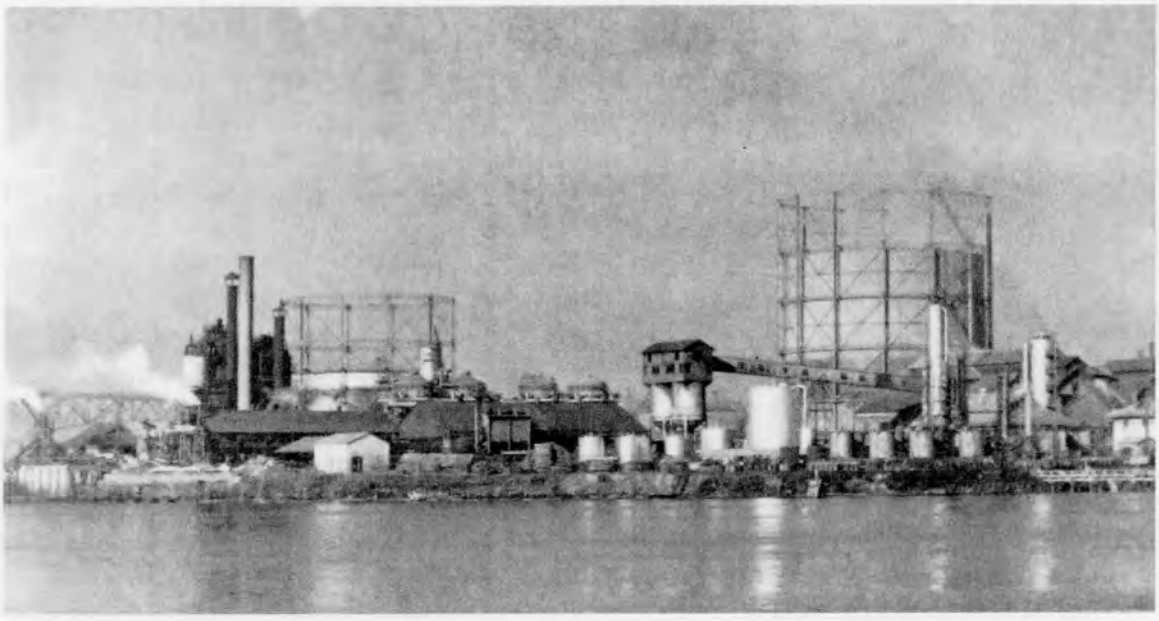
Haag, Richard. Professor Emeritus, Landscape Architect, Designer of Gas Works Park, has given nearly 100 lectures about the park.

To become a member of Friends of Gas Works Park, mail check ($10 dollars or more) to FoGWP Park, PO Box 95354, Seattle, WA 98145-0843. To contact Friends: FriendsofGWP@gmail.com

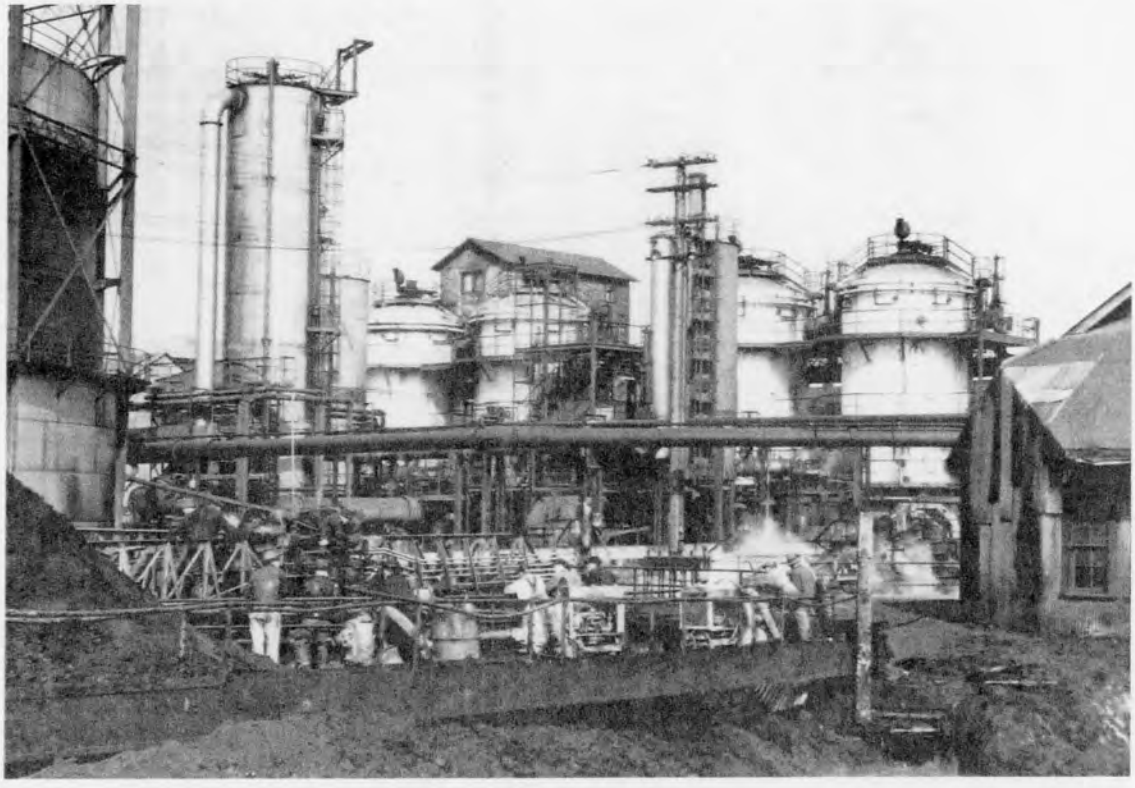
Gas Works Park – Bird's Eye view of Seattle Gas Co. Lake Station – c.1910
Image courtesy of Friends of Gas Works Park



Gas Works Park – Generator Towers 3-6 in operation – 1947
Image courtesy of Friends of Gas Works Park

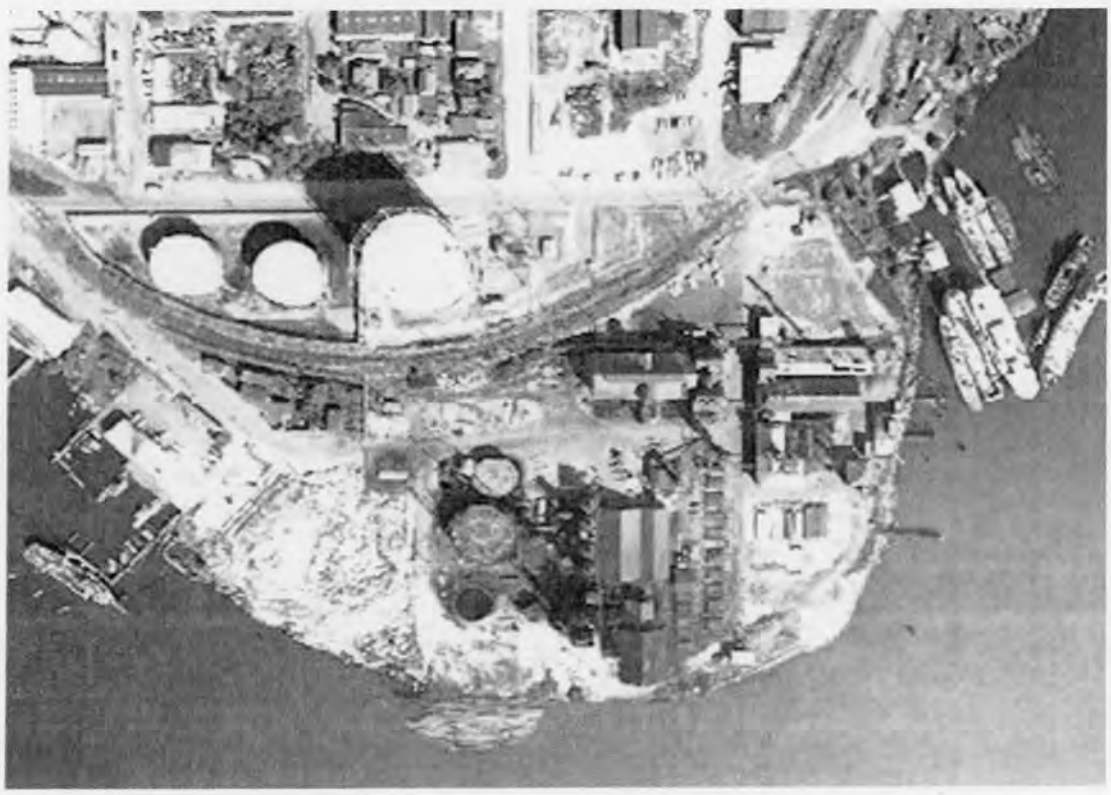


Gas Works Park – Seattle Gas Co . Lake Station view from Lake Union – 1949
Image courtesy of Cecil Clark



Gas Works Park- (Left to right: gas relief holder tank , water cooling tower,
4 oxygen-gas generator towers) – 1949
Image courtesy of Cecil Clark

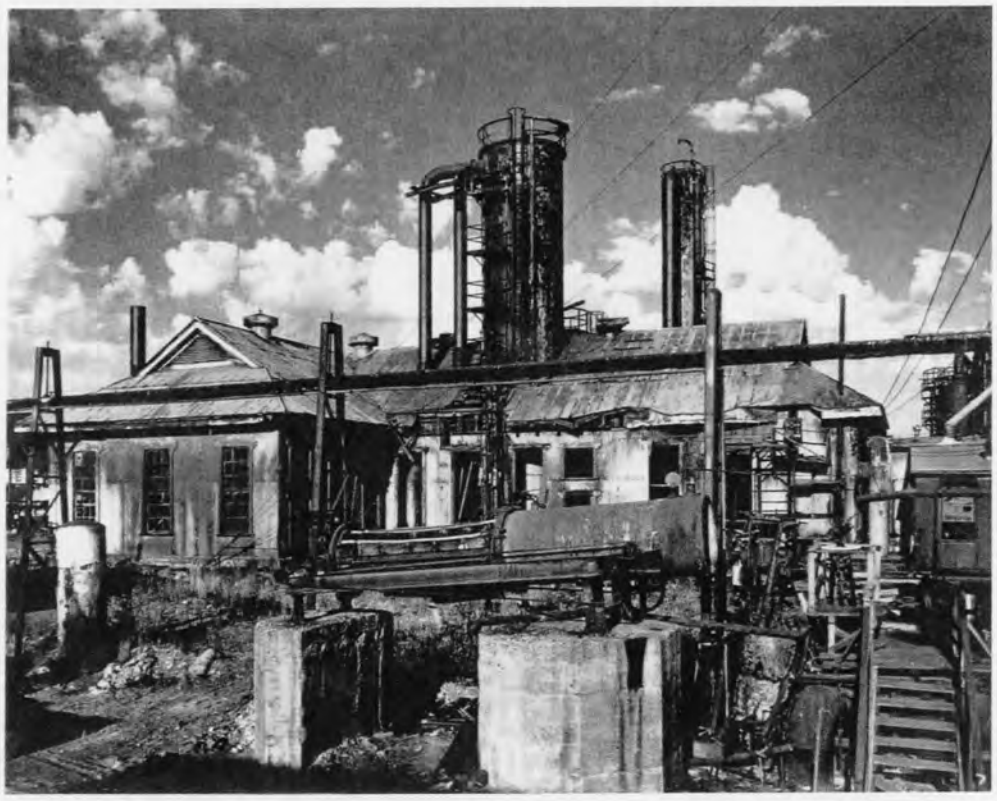
Gas Works Park Bird's Eye View – 1966
Image courtesy of Seattle Municipal Archives - No. 29073



Gas Works Park Aerial view – Sept 23, 1965
Image courtesy of Seattle Municipal Archives - No. 29073

Gas Works Park – Office & Laboratory Building – c.1970
Image courtesy of Friends of Gas Works Park

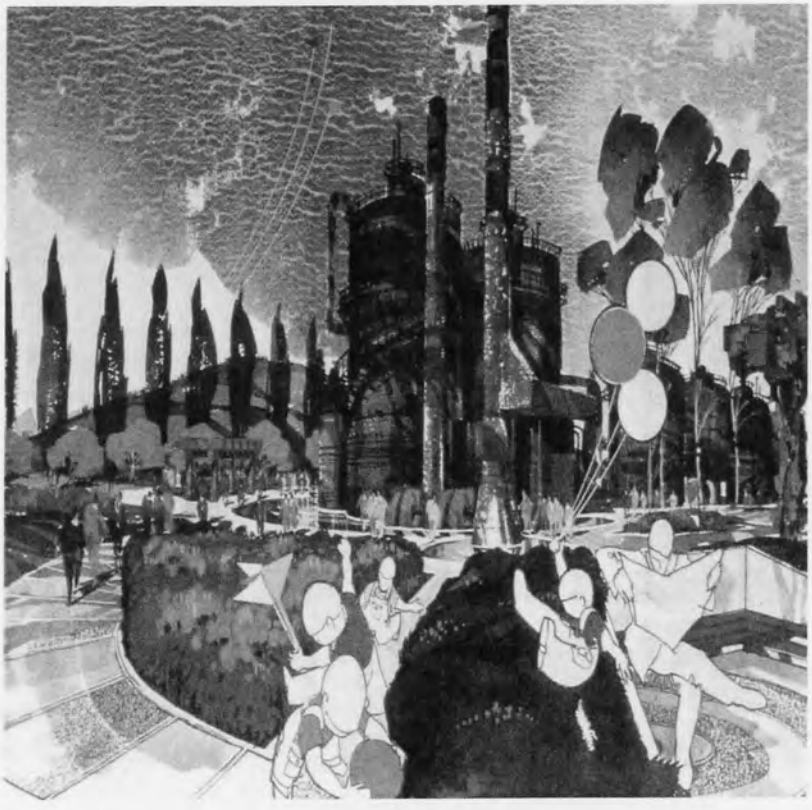
Gas Works Park – Panorama View of building and structures just prior to demolition – 1970
Image courtesy of Friends of Gas Works Park



Gas Works Park – Kelly Filter – 1971
Image courtesy of Richard Haag & Associate, photographer Don Hale

Gas Works Park – Oxygen-Gas generator towers with Foamite Fire control station on right – 1971
Image courtesy of Richard Haag & Associate, photographer Don Hale

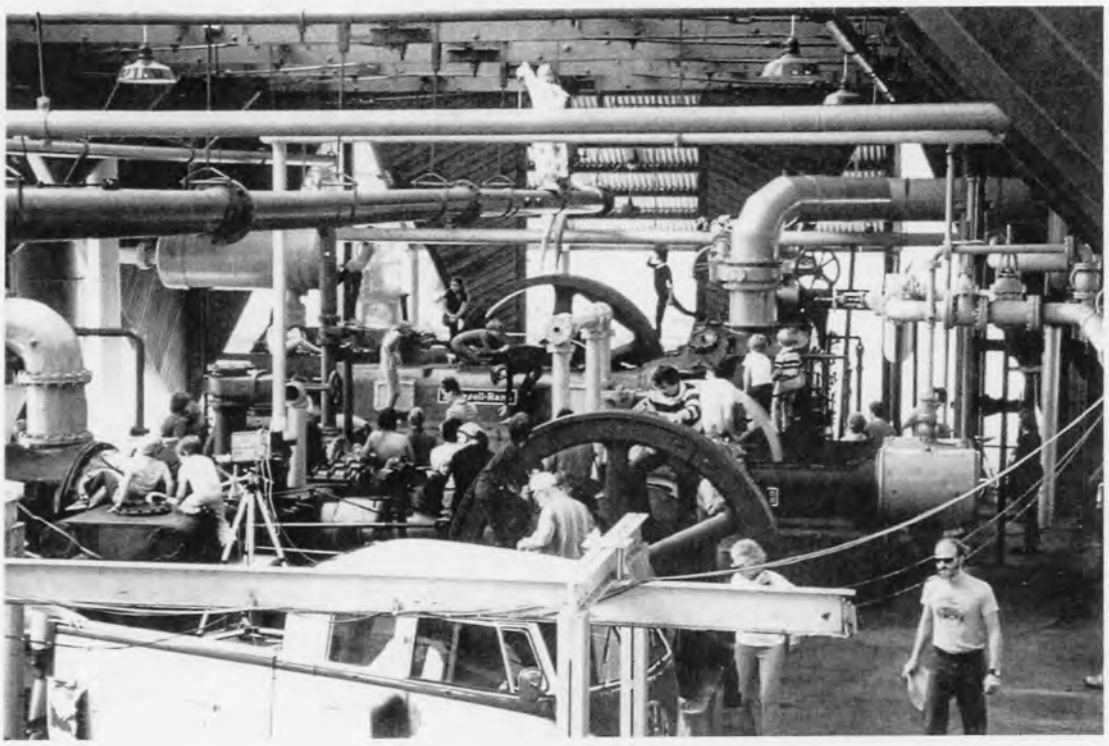
Gas Works Park Bird's Eye View – 1973
Image courtesy of Seattle Municipal Archives - No. 76260



Gas Works Park Artist Rendering – 1973
Image courtesy of Seattle Municipal Archives - No. 76263

Gas Works Park – Shortly after reopening as a park (note size of trees) – 1975
Image courtesy of Friends of Gas Works Park

Gas Works Park – Shortly after reopening as a park – 1975
Image courtesy of Friends of Gas Works Park



Gas Works Park – Playbarn / Pumphouse after reopening as a park – 1976
Image courtesy of Richard Haag & Associates

Gas Works Park – Picnic Shelter / Boiler House after reopening as a park – 1976
Image courtesy of Richard Haag & Associates

Gas Works Park – Exterior view of Picnic Shelter and Playbarn looking east after reopening as a park – 1976
Image courtesy of Richard Haag & Associates

Gas Works Park – Exterior view of Playbarn and playground looking north after reopening as a park – 1976
Image courtesy of Richard Haag & Associates

Gasworks Park 'Opening Day'

THE FIRST portion of Seattle's Lake Union Park, being built on the site of an abandoned gas plant, was opened to the waiting public yesterday, and P-I Reporter Susan Chadwick easily found a vantage point for her observations. It was only an observation point that opened yesterday. The rest of the 20-acre site will be cleared of oil-soaked soil by year's end, and during the following year workmen will remove some of the old gas plant equipment, leaving the rest to stand as stark sculpture in a field of green on the north shores of Lake Union. For Susan Chadwick's story, and a glimpse of the other citizenry who turned out for "opening day," turn to Page A-3. — P-I Photo by Tom Barlet.

Seattle Post Intelligencer – August 31, 1973

Gas Works Park set to open in July

Gas Works Park on Lake Union is tentatively scheduled to open in July, Ernie Ferrero, project manager, said.

Work is continuing on the large earth mound at the south end of the park, on the east half of the parking lot next to North Northlake Way, landscaping of the picnic area and on the six cracking towers.

More trees will be planted in the fall.

The department has applied for more block-grant funds for work on the outdoor play area, the concrete bulkhead south of the cracking towers and more landscaping.

Seattle Times – April 16, 1976

NPS Form 10-900a
(8-86)

OMB No. 1024-0018

?United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section _____ Page ___

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SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 02000862 **Date Listed: 1/02/2013**

Gas Works Park — Property Name
King — County
WA — State

N/A — Multiple Name

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

Signature of the Keeper — Date of Action: 1/2/13

==========

Amended Items in Nomination:

Historic Function:
The *Historic Function* is amended to add: *Landscape / Park*

Description:
The *Architectural Classification* is amended to add: *Modern Movement / Mid-Twentieth Century* and *Other / Urban Park.*

These clarifications were confirmed with the WA SHPO office.

DISTRIBUTION:
National Register property file
Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: RESUBMISSION

PROPERTY NAME: Gas Works Park

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: WASHINGTON, King

DATE RECEIVED: 11/16/12 DATE OF PENDING LIST:
DATE OF 16TH DAY: DATE OF 45TH DAY: 1/02/13
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 02000862

DETAILED EVALUATION:

___ACCEPT ___RETURN ___REJECT _____DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Gas Works Park (1973-1978) is significant under National Register Criteria A and C in the areas of Entertainment/Recreation and Landscape Architecture. The park represents a seminal work by master designer Richard Haag, combining modern landscape architecture and historic industrial preservation. Haag's innovative work (along with other contemporaries such as Kiley, Halprin, Eckbo, and McHarg) helped redefine modern landscape design during a period of substantial experimentation in the 1960s and 1970s. Deftly melding environmental concerns, historic preservation, industrial archeology, and urban park design, Haag created with Gas Works Park a bold and innovative plan now widely recognized as an iconic example of late-twentieth-century, modernist landscape design. The nomination (through citation of a comprehensive bibliography, excerpts from articles on the design and designer, evidence of prizes, awards and exhibitions, and letters from scholars and experts) demonstrates that Haag's Gas Works Park has been the subject of significant scholarly assessment for some time now and has been evaluated as an exceptional work of national (and international) importance.

While still active in design, Richard Haag has ceased his involvement with large public commissions such as Gas Works Park. It is unlikely that he would produce additional works at the scale of Gas Works Park that would require a major reevaluation of his recognized contributions to twentieth century landscape architecture. The critical acclaim accorded to Gas Works Park provides evidence that sufficient time has elapsed to allow Haag's early works to be assessed with clear historic perspective.

RECOM./CRITERIA Accept Criteria A+C

REVIEWER Paul R. Lusignan DISCIPLINE Historian

TELEPHONE _____ DATE 1/2/13

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR (Y)/N

GAS WORKS PARK

Seattle
King County, Washington

National Significance / Criteria Consideration G

Recommendation: Accept Criteria A and C and Criterion Consideration G

Gas Works Park (1973-1978) is significant under National Register Criteria A and C in the areas of Entertainment/Recreation and Landscape Architecture. The park represents a seminal work by master designer Richard Haag, combining modern landscape architecture and historic industrial preservation. Haag's innovative work (along with other contemporaries such as Kiley, Halprin, Eckbo, and McHarg) helped redefine modern landscape design during a period of substantial experimentation in the 1960s and 1970s.

The 20-acre park on the northern shores of Lake Union in Seattle is exceptionally important not only as the work of highly respected landscape architect Richard Haag (1923--), but also for its bold and innovative incorporation of non-traditional materials, radical land remediation practices, and industrial site preservation. Designed for passive uses such as strolling or flying a kite, and community gatherings at various scales, the Park was originally the site of a gas manufacturing plant, remnants of which Haag deftly incorporated into his park master plan. The adaption of such unused industrial relics was highly unusual at the time and marked an important aspect of the Park's unique contributions to modern design theory and preservation. The Park is composed of ten designed areas some intended for passive recreation (Great Earth Mound) and others for more active use (Playbarn). With its emphasis on sculptural land forms, a hallmark of Haag's mature landscape work, the site offers unrivaled panoramic views of the lake and downtown skyline.

The park's designer, Richard Haag, has described his work at Gas Works Park as "thinning the forest," a reflection of how he edited the conglomeration of industrial towers, stacks, pipes, and sheds. A central feature, the boiler house, was converted to a picnic shelter complete with tables and fire grills, while a former exhauster-compressor building was transformed into an open-air play barn, housing a maze of brightly painted machinery for children. This groundbreaking project has been celebrated for its ability to garner public support and shift public perceptions of post-industrial landscapes.

The Park plan was also considered revolutionary for its reclamation of polluted soils using the natural processes of bioremediation. Rather than mandating the wholesale removal of the toxic soils left behind by the gas manufacturing process, Haag designed an innovative program of biological soil remediation that implemented cutting edge and sometimes untested environmental engineering practices. The park's ground-breaking experimental bioremediation efforts garnered significant recognition within the then evolving environmental engineering field.

Haag's radical departure from the pattern of normal park development in Seattle that typically involved working from a blank canvas to create a picturesque natural pleasure

ground, marked his work for wide public and professional exposure at the local and national level at the time of construction and in later years. The resulting park succeeded in reincorporating a relic of Seattle's industrial past as a vibrant element of modern city life and set out patterns of modern park design that would be studied, copied and reinvented across the country.

The park is being listed at the national level of significance due to its excellent representation of the principles of modern landscape design and the innovative mix of historic preservation, environmental remediation, and adaptive reuse. The nomination does an excellent job of detailing Haag's career, listing his awards, and establishing his stature as one of the nation's most accomplished late twentieth century landscape architects. In a period of enormous change and experimentation in the field of landscape design, Haag's work significantly added to the theoretical discussion and evolution of the field. His completed works (most notably Gas Works Park and the Bloedel Reserve) served as important milestones in the evolution of modernist landscape design theory in the post-World War II period, significantly influencing later regional, national and international landscape design.

Deftly melding environmental concerns, historic preservation, industrial archeology, and urban park design, Haag created with Gas Works Park a bold and innovative plan now widely recognized as an iconic example of late-twentieth-century, modernist landscape design. The nomination (through citation of a comprehensive bibliography, excerpts from articles on the design and designer, evidence of prizes, awards and exhibitions, and letters from scholars and experts) demonstrates that Haag's Gas Works Park has been the subject of significant scholarly assessment for some time now and has been evaluated as an exceptional work of national (and international) importance.

While still active in design, 89-year old Richard Haag has ceased his involvement with large public commissions such as Gas Works Park. Haag still operates a small 1-2 person office focusing largely on smaller residential commissions, and lectures at local universities. It is unlikely that he would produce additional works at the scale of Gas Works Park that would require a major reevaluation of his recognized contributions to twentieth century landscape architecture. The critical acclaim accorded to Gas Works Park provides evidence that sufficient time has elapsed to allow Haag's early works to be assessed with clear historic perspective.

Paul Lusignan
Historian, NRHP
2013

CERTIFIED LOCAL GOVERNMENT NATIONAL REGISTER NOMINATION EVALUATION REPORT FORM

RECEIVED
JUN 14 2012
DEPT. OF ARCHAEOLOGY & HISTORIC PRESERVATION

If a nomination falls within the jurisdiction of a Certified Local Government, review is required by the local landmark commission or historic review board before any nomination to the National Register is heard by the State Advisory Council on Historic Preservation as per the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 and the CLG program requirements as amended in 1993. This form must be received by OAHP five days in advance of the State Advisory Council meeting. By law the CLG has 60 days to review the NR nomination form. If the commission and the chief local elected official recommend that a property not be nominated to the NR, the SHPO will take not further action on the application unless an appeal is filed.

Property Name: __Gas Works Park
Address: ___2000 N. Northlake Way
Certified Local Government Name: __City of Seattle
Date of public meeting in which nomination was reviewed _N/A

Applicable Criteria: (Please Check the Appropriate Box)

☒Criterion A (Historical Events) ☒Criterion C (Architecture)
☐Criterion B (Important Person) ☐Criterion D (Archaeological)

Please check the following box that is appropriate to the nomination.

☒The Commission recommends that the property or properties should be listed on the National Register of Historic Places.
☐The Commission recommends that the property or properties should not be listed in the National Register for the following reasons:

___

☐The Commission chooses not to make a recommendation on this nomination for the following reasons: ___

The Commission would like to make the following recommendations regarding the nomination: (use additional sheets if necessary)

_____

Note that both signatures required below

Landmarks Commission/Historic Review Board Chair or Representative

Print Name: _Karen Gordon for Landmarks Preservation Board
Approved ☒ **Not Approved** ☐

Signature: Karen Gordon

Elected Official/Designee

Print Name: __Karen Gordon for Mayor Mike McGinn
Approved ☒ **Not Approved** ☐

Gas Works Park
Seattle, Washington
Photo # 5

GAS WORKS PARK
SEATTLE, WA

PATRICIA FELS
MAY 2002

" THE EARTH MOUND FROM NE looking SOUTH. "

1 OF 15

Gas Works Park
Seattle, Washington
[illegible] #

GAS WORKS PARK
SEATTLE, WA
[illegible]
PATRICIA FOLS
MAY 2002
"THE PROW"

Gas Works Park
Seattle, Washington
Photo # 7

GAS WORKS PARK
SEATTLE, WA

PATRICIA FELS
MAY 2002

"CONCRETE TRAIN PIERS LOOKING E TO PICNIC SHELTER"

3 OF 15

Gas Works Park
Seattle, Washington
Photo # 15

GAS WORKS PARK
SEATTLE, WA

PATRICIA FELS
MAY 2002

"SOUTHWARD VIEW THROUGH TRAIN TRESTLE TOWARDS OLD TOWERS"

4 OF 15

Gas Works Park
Seattle, Washington
Photo # 11

GAS WORKS PARK
SEATTLE, WA

PATRICIA FELS
MAY 2002

"OIL ABSORBER & OIL COOLER TOWERS"

5 OF 15

Gas Works Park
Seattle, Washington
Photo # 12

GAS WORKS PARK
SEATTLE, WA

PATRICIA FELS
MAY 2002

"OIL ABSORBENT & OIL COOLER TOWERS & FAMILY HOUSE LOOKING NORTH"

6 OF 15

Gas Works Park
Seattle, Washington
Photo # 14

GAS WORKS PARK
SEATTLE, WA

PATRICIA FELS
MAY 2002

"GENERATION TOWERS 1-6"

7 OF 15

Gas Works Park
Seattle, Washington
Photo # 16

GAS WORKS PARK
SEATTLE, WA

PATRICIA FELS
MAY 2002

"WEST SIDE OF GENERATOR TOWERS 1 & 2"

8 OF 15

Gas Works Park
Seattle, Washington
Photo # 18

GAS WORKS PARK
SEATTLE WA

PATRICIA FELS
MAY 2002

"WEST SIDE OF GENERATION TOWERS 3-6"

9 OF 15


CONSUMELESSLIVEMORE

Gas Works Park
Seattle, Washington
Photo #19

GAS WORKS PARK
SEATTLE, WA

PATRICIA FELS
MAY 2002

"EAST SIDE OF
GENERATION TOWERS 3-6"

10 OF 15

Gas Works Park
Seattle, Washington
Photo # 207

GAS WORKS PARK
SEATTLE, WA

PATRICIA FELS
MAY 2002

"CLOSE-UP OF SOUTH SIDE OF TOWER 1 W/ WASH BOX TO LEFT"

11 OF 15

~~Gas Works Park~~
~~Seattle, Washington~~
~~Photo #~~ 21

GAS WORKS PARK
2[illegible] NORTHLAKE WAY
SEATTLE, WA

PATRICIA FELS
MAY 2002

"WEST FACADE OF
PICNIC SHELTER & PLAY BARN"

12 OF 15

Gas Works Park
Seattle, Washington
Photo # 22

GAS WORKS PARK
2000 NORTHLAKE WAY
SEATTLE, WA

PATRICIA FELS
MAY 2002

"S. FACADE OF PLAY BARN WITH PLAYGROUND IN FOREGROUND"

13 of 15

Gas Works Park
Seattle, Washington
Photo # 23

GAS WORKS PARK
2000 NORTHLAKE WAY
SEATTLE, WA

PATRICIA FELS
MAY 2002

"INTENION OF PLAY BARN."
(OLD PUMP HOUSE)

14 OF 15

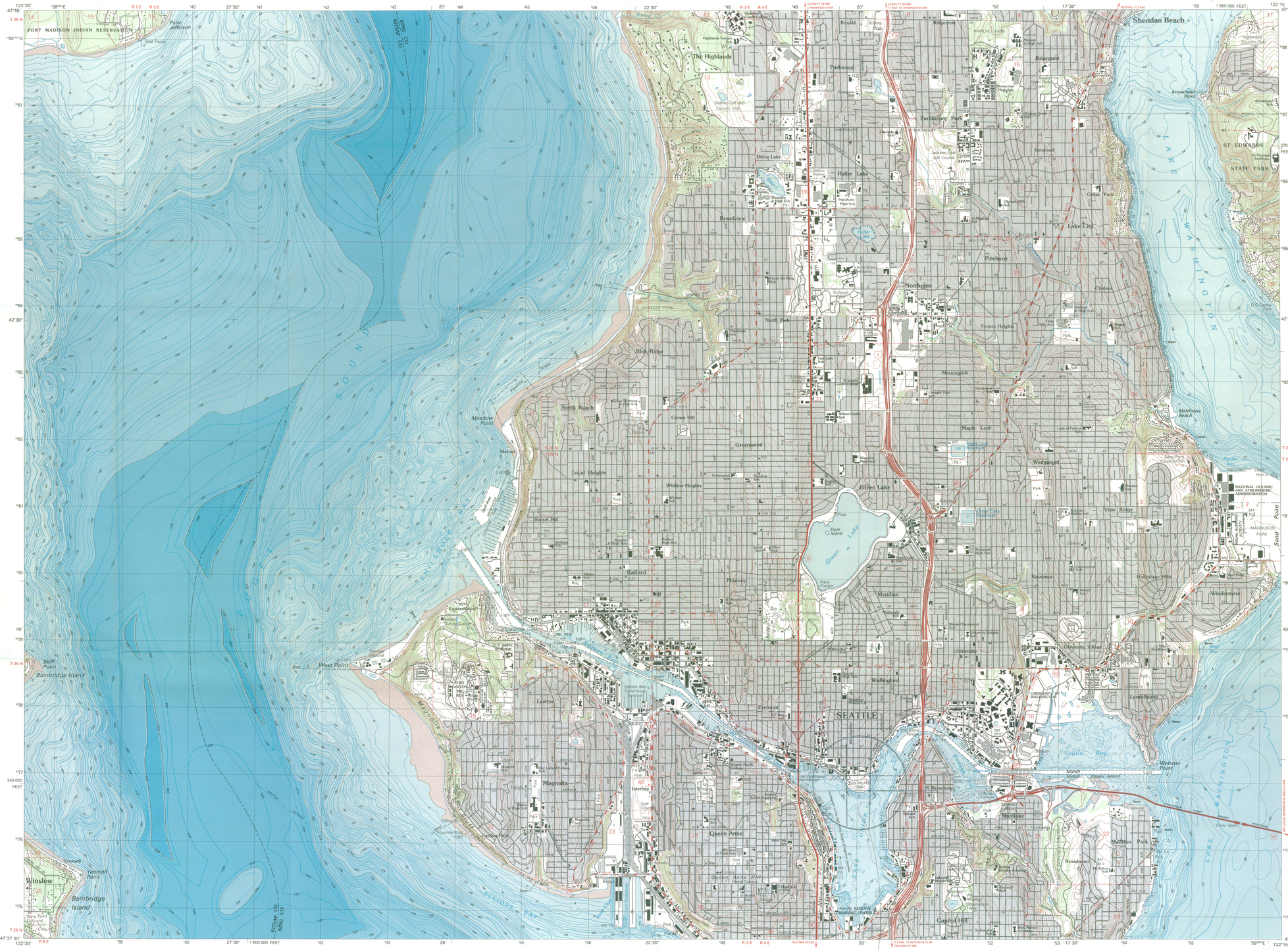
Gas Works Park
Seattle, Washington
Photo # 24

GAS WORKS PARK
2000 NORTHLAKE WAY
SEATTLE, USA

PATTICIA FELS
MAY 2002

"INTERIOR OF PICNIC SHELTER (OLD BOILER HOUSE)"

15 OF 15



SEATTLE NORTH, WASHINGTON

7.5X15 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC-BATHYMETRIC)

SCALE 1:25 000
1 CENTIMETER ON THE MAP REPRESENTS 250 METERS ON THE GROUND
CONTOUR INTERVAL 5 METERS

INTERIOR—GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA—1983

SEATTLE NORTH, WASHINGTON
N4737.5—W12215/7.5X15
1983

1:25 000-scale *metric*
topographic-bathymetric map of

Seattle North
WASHINGTON

7.5 X 15 MINUTE QUADRANGLE SHOWING

Contours and elevations in meters
Highways, roads and other manmade structures
Water features
Woodland areas
Geographic names
Bathymetric contours in meters

U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
NATIONAL OCEAN SURVEY

1983

Produced by the United States Geological Survey and the National Ocean Survey

Control by USGS, NOS/NOAA, USCE and King Co. Engineer Office

Compiled by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs taken 1977. Field checked 1979. Map edited 1983
Supersedes Shilshole Bay and Seattle North 1:24 000 scale maps dated 1949

Bathymetry compiled by the National Ocean Survey from tide-coordinated hydrographic surveys. This information is not intended for navigational purposes

Mean lower low water (dotted) line and mean high water (heavy solid) line compiled by NOS from tide coordinated aerial photography updated through 1977

Projection and 1000-meter grid, zone 10, Universal Transverse Mercator
10,000-foot grid ticks based on Washington coordinate system, north zone
1927 North American Datum
To place on the predicted North American Datum 1983 move the projection lines 23 meters north and 93 meters east as shown by dashed corner ticks

Grey tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown

There may be private inholdings within the boundaries of the National or State reservations shown on this map

CONTOUR INTERVAL 5 METERS
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929
BATHYMETRIC CONTOUR INTERVAL 2 METERS WITH SUPPLEMENTARY 1 METER CONTOURS-DATUM IS MEAN LOWER LOW WATER. DATUM OF LAKE WASHINGTON IS LOW WATER WHICH IS 20 FEET ABOVE THE PLANE OF MEAN LOWER LOW WATER IN PUGET SOUND
THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE TWO DATUMS IS VARIABLE

CONTROL ELEVATIONS SHOWN TO THE NEAREST 0.1 METER
OTHER ELEVATIONS SHOWN TO THE NEAREST METER

BASE MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS BATHYMETRIC SURVEY DATA COMPLIES WITH INTERNATIONAL HYDROGRAPHIC ORGANIZATION (IHO) SPECIAL PUBLICATION 44 ACCURACY STANDARDS AND/OR STANDARDS USED AS OF THE DATE OF THE SURVEYS

CONVERSION TABLE

Meters	Feet
1	3.2808
2	6.5617
3	9.8425
4	13.1234
5	16.4042
6	19.6850
7	22.9659
8	26.2467
9	29.5276
10	32.8084

To convert meters to feet multiply by 3.2808
To convert feet to meters multiply by 0.3048

DECLINATION DIAGRAM

UTM grid convergence (GN) and 1983 magnetic declination (MN) at center of map
Diagram is approximate

ADJOINING MAPS

1	2 (A, B)	3
4		5
6	7	8

1 Port Gamble*
2A Edmonds West*
2B Edmonds East*
3 Bothell*
4 Suquamish*
5 Bellevue North
6 Bremerton East*
7 Seattle South
8 Bellevue South
*1:24 000

ISBN 0-607-57905-6

Topographic Map Symbols

- Primary highway, hard surface
- Secondary highway, hard surface
- Light-duty road, hard or improved surface
- Unimproved road; trail
- Route marker: Interstate; U. S.; State
- Railroad: standard gage; narrow gage
- Bridge; drawbridge
- Footbridge; overpass; underpass
- Built-up area: only selected landmark buildings shown
- House; barn; church; school; large structure
- Boundary:
  - National, with monument
  - State
  - County, parish
  - Civil township, precinct, district
  - Incorporated city, village, town
  - National or State reservation; small park
  - Land grant with monument; found section corner
  - U. S. public lands survey: range, township; section
  - Range, township; section line: location approximate
- Fence or field line
- Power transmission line, located tower
- Dam; dam with lock
- Cemetery; grave
- Campground; picnic area; U. S. location monument
- Windmill; water well; spring
- Mine shaft; prospect; adit or cave
- Control: horizontal station; vertical station; spot elevation
- Contours: index; intermediate; supplementary; depression
- Distorted surface: strip mine, lava; sand
- Bathymetric contours: index; intermediate
- Perennial lake and stream; intermittent lake and stream
- Rapids, large and small; falls, large and small
- Swamp; marsh
- Submerged marsh; land subject to controlled inundation
- Woodland; scattered trees
- Scrub; mangrove
- Orchard; vineyard

A pamphlet describing topographic maps is available on request

FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY,
P.O. BOX 25286, DENVER, COLORADO, 80225

GAS WORKS PARK
① 10 549859 5277053
② 10 550215 5277053
③ 10 550215 5276820
④ 10 549859 5276820

HYDROGRAPHIC SURVEY INFORMATION

SURVEY NUMBER	SURVEY DATE	SURVEY SCALE	SURVEY LINE SPACING (NAUT. MILES)
H-2608	1902	1:10,000	.02–.14
H-2609	1902	1:10,000	.06–.25
H-5709	1934–35	1:20,000	.05–.25
H-5710	1936	1:10,000	.10–.10
H-5711	1935	1:10,000	.02–.12
H-5724	1935	1:10,000	.02–.06
H-5846	1935	1:5,000	.01–.07
H-7076	1946	1:1,200	.10 –.02
H-9167	1970	1:5,000	.02–.05
H-9742	1978	1:10,000	.03–.10
H-9747	1978	1:5,000	.01–.03

NOS CHART 18446 1:25,000 1978 NOS CHART 18447 1:10,000 1981

HYDROGRAPHIC SURVEY INDEX

Photographic copies of the above and prior surveys may be obtained, at the cost of reproduction, by addressing the Director (C-353) National Ocean Survey, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Rockville, Maryland 20852

Bassetti Design

Michael Houser, Director
National and State Register Program
Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation
PO Box 48343
Olympia, WA 98504-8343

Dear Mr. Houser:

Seattle's Gas Works Park clearly deserves recognition as a National Historic Place. There are several reasons for this, but primarily because it joins past and present in a forceful yet gentle way. It's a landmark of mutual respect between old and new.

To the public's great appreciation hard and soft elements are treated with equal sensitivity, each reinforcing the other to a degree that has made Gas Works Park an Icon.

Mr Haag's concept and its faithful realization against the odds have given Seattle its most significant recreational area. I urge favorable action.

Respectfully,

Fred Bassetti

April 18, 2002

Fred Bassetti, FAIA

3146A Portage Bay Place East
Seattle, WA. - 206 324 2323
e-mail: gwenfredb@attbi.com

UNIVERSITY of
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109 Hills North
111 Infirmary Way, Ofc 1
Amherst, MA 01003-9328

Landscape Architecture
and Regional Planning

voice: 413.545.2255
fax: 413.545.1772

May 11. 2002

Michael Houser, Director
National and State Register Program
Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation
P.O. Box 48343
Olympia, WA 98504-8343

Dear Mr. Houser:

I am writing to give the strongest possible recommendation in support of the nomination of Richard Haag's Gasworks Park to the State and National Registers of Historic Places. While less than fifty years old Gasworks Park has already established itself as one of the most significant landscape designs in history. A seminal work comparable in importance to such recognized historic landscapes as Central Park, Versailles or Ryoan-ji, Gasworks Park is acknowledged by most scholars to be an indispensable part of the cannon of landscape architecture history. Like these other projects, Gasworks Park gives clear evidence of an approach to design that both reflects and shapes its times.

What is most historic about this remarkable project is nothing less than its attitude towards history itself. Haag's recycling of historic images and artifacts from Seattle's (and America's) industrial past represents an important departure from the trivializing, rationalizing or over-sentimentalizing that previously characterized approaches to such projects, frequently resulting in the obliteration of genuinely historic landscapes in favor of artificial re-creations of an idealized past. That remnants of the Lake Station gas manufacturing plant were incorporated into Haag's early 1970s design established an important precedent that has been built upon in numerous subsequent industrial reclamation projects throughout the world, such as Duisberg Nord in Germany and Parc Georges in France.

This approach to cultural history combined with Gasworks Park's innovative bio-remediation techniques have made it the model not only for a generation of industrial reclamation projects that followed, but for the entire paradigm of sustainable design. Richard Haag is an acknowledged master of landscape architecture, as evidenced by his numerous awards and publications and Gasworks Park is his *Magnus opus*, a work of great cultural importance. Unlike Central Park, Versailles and Ryoan-ji, Gasworks Park does not, as yet, have the protection it needs to assure its availability to future generations. It is for these reasons I urge acceptance of its nomination in the strongest possible terms.

Sincerely,

Dean Cardasis

Dean Cardasis, FASLA
Professor of Landscape Architecture
Director of the James Rose Center for Landscape Architecture Research and Design

City of Seattle
Gregory J. Nickels, Mayor

Seattle Department of Parks and Recreation
Kenneth R. Bounds, Superintendent

RECEIVED
MAY 16 2002
Archaeology and
Historic Preservation

May 13, 2002

Log #2211

Dr. Allyson Brooks, Historic Preservation Officer
Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation
1063 South Capitol Way, Suite 106
Olympia, Washington 98504

Subject: Friends of Gasworks Park Nomination of Gasworks Park to the National Register of Historic Places

Dear Dr. Brooks:

I am writing to endorse the Friends of Gasworks Park nomination of Gasworks Park in Seattle, Washington to the National Register of Historic Places.

Gasworks Park is a scenic, 20-acre park on the north shore of Lake Union, in the heart of metropolitan Seattle. The local gas company ran a plant on the site from 1906 to 1956. The property sat idle for many years until it was acquired by the Seattle Parks and Recreation Department as a park site in 1962. A Master Plan for the park was approved in 1971 and Gasworks Park was dedicated in the fall of 1973.

This park is one of the first "brown field" park ventures. Several methods to detoxify the soil have been used, including adding oil-degrading enzymes and some areas of natural attenuation. Later, soil covers were added, the most recent and extensive of which was completed in July, 2001 in response to a Department of Ecology Consent Decree mandate.

Several of the old plant towers have been retained and reused in the park setting, including the old machinery in the exhauster-compressor building, now a brightly painted "play barn." In addition, a few cracking towers have been retained, called by some "a rusting sentinel keeping watch over the Seattle skyline."

The park is a beloved place for Seattle citizens. It annually hosts a huge Fourth of July bash with fireworks above Lake Union, as well as countless weddings, birthdays and other celebrations throughout the year. After the events of September 11, 2001, Gasworks Park was one of the first places people began to gather to mourn and comfort one another.

Gasworks Park is a jewel in Seattle's park system. It is made unique by the way it uses and surrounds the remnants of its industrial past. The historic towers remind people how important it is to preserve and protect an environment that can seem robust, but is actually quite fragile. They stand as a tribute to Seattle's past and a warning of the work and cost involved in recovering our precious environment. As well as being an amazing environmental educational resource, the park also serves as a rich tourist attraction and a cultural expression honoring our great city's history.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak on behalf of the Gas Works Park nomination. I join the voices of others in our community to urge the U.S. Department of the Interior and the National Park Service to include Gasworks Park in the National Register of Historic Places.

Sincerely,

Kenneth R. Bounds
Superintendent

cc: Erin Devoto, Director, Planning & Development Division

R^M Hanna ■ *Landscape Architects*

landscape architecture
urban design
architecture

Mr. Michael Houser, Director
National and State Register Program
Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation
PO Box 48343
Olympia, WA 98504-8343

13 May 2002

Dear Mr. Houser:

I am writing in support of the nomination of Gas Works Park for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places. Since its opening in 1975 this highly original work has been a model for similar projects in America and abroad. In its contrast to Seattle's many traditional picturesque, passive parks, it has also been a source of discovery, excitement and a new kind of communal, urban social life for an appreciative public.

Having grown up in the city and attended the University of Washington, I am very familiar with the Gas Works, which operated until my junior year at the College of Architecture. I also worked for Richard Haag Associates and lived on Lake Union for three years before leaving Seattle in 1966. The hulking, blackened forms of the works and their spidery catwalks were graven into my memory as arresting and fascinating, though vaguely troubling, images.

I learned of the city's acquisition of the property and intention to develop it as a park after I left Seattle. Because of Haag's long interest in the site and its potential, I was pleased to hear of his selection to design it. Knowing something of his vision, which seemed radical for its time, I feared his ideas would never gain acceptance. Focusing on his desire to save the infrastructure to the greatest possible extent, I was oblivious to his other challenge, that of remediating the poisonous site itself. Haag's remarkable tenacity, wisdom and understanding over many years proved me, and other skeptics, embarrassingly short sighted.

Gas Works Park is clearly a seminal work, combining landscape architecture and historic preservation. I have emulated it in smaller ways on two recent projects including the University of Washington Tacoma, which received a National Trust Award in 1999. Gas Work's once grim and forbidding presence has become an icon of the wonder and beauty of America's industrial heritage to Seattlites and others who have seen it. Though less glamorous, Haag's pioneering use of slow, organic methods to enable the site to heal itself through a natural process of bioremediation is an equally important contribution.

Richard Haag has given a number of public lectures at the University of Pennsylvania's Graduate School of Fine Arts. While all were insightful and enlightening, one on the incredible story of Gas Works Park, remains most memorable and inspiring. I can think of no more deserving candidate for inclusion on the National Register.

Sincerely,

Robert M. Hanna
Lecturer in Urban Studies,
Professor of Landscape Architecture 1969-2000, University of Pennsylvania

324 South 21st Street Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103 Telephone: 215 985 1847 Facsimile: 215 985.1825

SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE
THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN

Office of the Dean
Goldsmith Hall • Austin, Texas 78712-1160 • (512) 471-1922 • FAX (512) 471-0716

May 20, 2002

Michael Houser, Director
National and State Register Program
Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation
P.O. Box 48343
Olympia, WA 98504-8343

Dear Mr. Houser:

A handful of projects stand out in each generation for their impact on how we perceive the world. Such projects differ from everything that went before and influence what follows. As the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial altered how we view memorials, Gas Works Park has changed both how we view parks and how we view our industrial heritage.

The notion that a former industrial site could be fun to visit is audacious. Gas Works Park is indeed fun but it is also educational and beautiful. Can one imagine Seattle without it? Gas Works Park helps define the urban fabric of the city. It has also redefined aesthetics in our culture.

Richard Haag, himself a Seattle treasure, put in motion a new movement on how we adaptively reuse degraded landscapes and, in the process, begin to heal our planet. I wholeheartedly support the Historic Registration of Gas Works Park to recognize the landmark 1972 park design.

Sincerely,

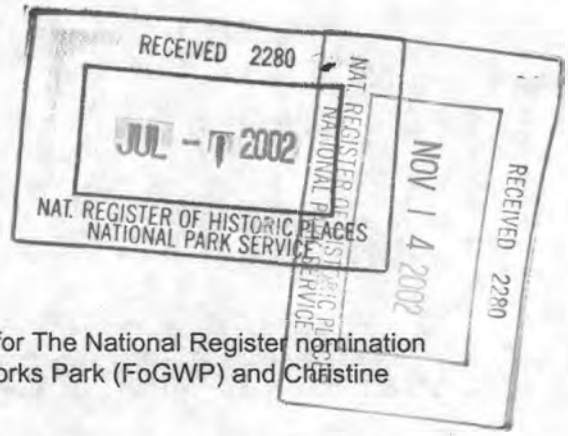
Frederick Steiner
Dean

FS:mw

United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240

IN REPLY REFER TO:
21 May 2002



Michael Houser, *Director*
National and State Register Program
Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation
P.O. Box 48343
Olympia, WA 98504-8343

Dear Mr. Houser:

It is with great enthusiasm that I submit this letter of support for The National Register nomination prepared by Patricia Fels, on behalf of the Friends of Gas Works Park (FoGWP) and Christine Edstrom O'Hara, MLA candidate, University of Washington.

As the Coordinator of the National Park Service Historic Landscape Initiative, I have witnessed the goal of nominating works of modern landscape architecture to the National Register as one of the great challenges we have as preservation professionals, historians and landscape architects. As I was organizing a conference in 1995 at Wave Hill, titled, *Preserving Modern Landscape Architecture*, (later published by Spacemaker Press in 1999), there was not a single post-World War II landscape honored in the United States with that distinction. This was all the more troublesome when we note that during the same period there were over 1,000 buildings from the recent past that had thus far been honored.

More recently, the situation has slowly improved. This is perhaps the result of two benchmark listings that happened in 2000. First, the General Motors Technical Facility in Macomb, Michigan was listed on March 23, 2000 with "Significance under Landscape Architecture, Transportation, Engineering and Architecture." Just four days later, on March 27, the National Historic Landmark multiple property listing of Eliel Saarinen and Dan Kiley's contributions to Columbus, Indiana titled, "Modernism in Architecture, Landscape Architecture, Design, and Art in Bartholomew County, Indiana, 1942-1965, National Historic Landmark Theme Study," was approved. These first two nominations represent a first, giant step in reversing the invisibility of these landscapes to date. Of specific import to the current nomination under consideration, Dan Kiley (b.1912) is still practicing in Charlotte, Vermont much of his work is less than 50 years of age.

To date, much has been written about Gas Works and this nomination surely reflects a deep understanding of its social and cultural import as a bold and pioneering work of modern landscape architecture. The nomination, accurately credits the impact of Gas Works Park on land reclamation and industrial preservation attitudes and techniques extending far beyond Seattle. It also recognizes that the park has gained national and international standing as a prototype for industrial site conversions, and has been cited as an exemplary model, and referenced in educational textbooks and scholarly works. I think that the nomination has addressed this aspect of the design and has placed it well within the necessary historical context and therefore I will not address this topic, but will endorse the narrative summary provided.

I would however like to take this research summary a little further as a way of supporting this nomination. First, to recognize collective assessments of the work by contemporary scholars and peers and second to address the designer's intent and recognize its unique philosophical underpinning and what it means to professional practitioners today.

In my considerable research on the modern landscape movement, Gas Works Park is without question recognized as an iconic design in virtually every single scholarly publication dedicated to

this era. Representative examples include Peter Walker and Melanie Simo's *Invisible Gardens: The Search for Modernism in the American Landscape* (1994, p. 220-21); and the first Landscape Views in the Princeton Architectural Press Series, *Richard Haag: Bloedel Reserve and Gas Works Park* (1998) edited by William S. Saunders – both included in the bibliography to the National Register nomination. However, Haag's import is noted in *Modern Landscape Architecture: A Critical Review* edited by Marc Treib (1993); *Modern Landscape Architecture: Redefining the Garden* by Felice Frankel and Jory Johnson (1991, p. 198-207) and *100 Years of Landscape Architecture: Some Patterns of A Century* by Melanie Simo (1999, p. 222-23)

Perhaps equally important, Gas Works Park accomplishes something that none of the other celebrated works of this period achieves – it does not approach the landscape with a clean slate. So for example, unlike Kiley's design for the Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs or Halprin's design for Ira's Fountain in Portand (two future NHL candidates) – there is a discourse here with the city's industrial past. Unlike virtually every public project from this era, most often products of urban renewal, Haag understood change and continuity. If only more recent waterfront revitalization projects that have occurred since Seattle's Gas Works Park, in Newark, Louisville, Pittsburgh, Cleveland or Providence had forged such a powerful interface, perhaps we would not be eradicating our Industrial heritage and removing character-defining industrial landscape features from our waterfront cityscapes. This aspect of the design is a first-ever in the United States and perhaps internationally.

At Gas Works Park, Richard Haag not only created a modern masterwork of landscape architecture he articulated a nature-culture ethic that is in itself, equally bold and pioneering. It is this dual vision that allows the park design to transcend other works of this period and those that have followed. From my perspective as a preservation professional and landscape architect, Haag's design ethos is above all, revolutionary in that his approach suggests a professional ethic for practice that embodies the Secretary Standards for Rehabilitation. We could all learn much from Haag's vision. I applaud the efforts of the State Historic Preservation Office for taking a leadership role and considering this challenging nomination and whole-heartedly support this worthy designation.

Please feel free to contact me if I can be of further assistance.

Yours sincerely,

Charles A. Birnbaum, FASLA
Coordinator, Historic Landscape Initiative
National Park Service

(202) 343.9597
charles_birnbaum@nps.gov

cc. Friends of Gas Works Park (FoGWP)

Nick Licata
Seattle City Councilmember

Wednesday, May 22, 2002

Michael Houser, Director
National and State Register Program
Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation
P.O. Box 48343
Olympia, WA 98504-8343

Dear Mr. Houser:

I am writing to express my strong support for Seattle's Gas Works Park being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places as well as to the — Washington State Advisory Council on Historic Preservation.

Gas Works Park is unique in the United States. It is one of the first adaptive reuses of industrial sites. It was designed to naturally and slowly heal itself through bioremediation. And, it has overcome negative associations of industrial sites by revealing the inherent beauty of industrial forms.

A historic registration of Gas Works Park would recognize the important contribution that this 1972 park design has made to our understanding of reclaiming industrial sites for public use. Also, it would be the first time a living landscape architect's work was listed as being historically relevant. I believe it is critical that we, as public servants, assure protective review of Gas Works Park should a proposed action involving the park present a potential adverse effect to the property's historic values.

Sincerely,

Nick Licata

1100 Municipal Building, 600 Fourth Avenue, Seattle, WA 98104-1876
(206) 684-8803, Fax: (206) 684-8587, TTY: (206) 233-0025, E-Mail Address: nick.licata@ci.seattle.wa.us Internet Address: http://www.pan.ci.seattle.wa.us/leg/licata/licata.htm

Cliff Garten and Associates, Inc.	4212 1/2 Glencoe Avenue	
310.827.4372 TEL	Los Angeles	U S A
310.827.4362 FAX	California	90292

May 25, 2002

Mr. Michael Houser, Director
National and State Register Program
Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation
P.O. Box 48343
Olympia, WA 98504-8343

Dear Mr. Houser,

It is with great excitement and pleasure that I write this letter in support of the nomination of Richard Haag's Gas Works Park for the National and State Register Program. Mr. Haag's long and distinguished career represents the very best of aesthetic, social and ecological concerns in the profession of landscape architecture. Gas Works Park exemplifies these concerns, their interdisciplinary mastery and a social strategy for land reclamation and social change.

Attached to this proposal you will find a draft of my essay on *terrain vague* which outlines the current professional theory surrounding the reclamation and reuse of abused industrial sites referred to in European theoretical circles as *terrain vague*. Many projects suppose to act as a catalyst of this theory, but very few can demonstrate continued social and ecological success over a thirty-year period, as has Gas Works Park. Your selection of this Landmark is not only important as a national model for adaptive reuse, site reclamation and reconstitution of the urban ground of the city, but as a global model of the significance of landscape design for social change.

The memory of The Seattle Gas Company goes back to 1906 when it began to operate on the shore of Lake Union. The company processed coal into gas until the 1930s when, in response to severe complaints from the city, it switched to processing crude oil. The plant closed in 1956 when natural gas began to be imported from the Southwest. The city of Seattle decided to purchase the site in 1962 with the intention of making it a park. Kenneth Read, Chairman of the University of Washington's Department of Anthropology, first suggested that the cracking towers of the gas works be preserved as ruins. "History sits on this little wasteland," he argued poetically, "not only the parochial history of a given city, but also a fragment of the chronicle of world culture. It is certainly as valuable a document as anything preserved in the Museum of History and Industry." [1] As poignant as this observation was it was only the first step towards the more important task of the social reconciliation of irresponsible actions toward the landscape. The uncompromising vision of Richard Haag and his physical plans surrounding the site formed the fulcrum for leveraging the discussion controversy and decisions, which are now the legacy of Gas Works Park.

[1] Weems, Sally, "Gasworks Park", p.24.

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In 1970 the parks department commissioned Richard Haag and Associates to prepare a master plan for the site. From the outset there was strong community interest in the land. As often happens when such blighted and abused parcels are brought to the public's attention, the site became the locus of discussion for a variety of previously hidden economic and community concerns. Uncovering layers of this contested ground became both method and subject for Haag. He saw from the outset that Gasworks Park would serve as a location over which people would come together, work out their differences, and arrive at agreements. By 1971 Haag had set up a temporary office on the site to work more closely with community members. Haag's process and his resulting design were rooted in a belief that the integrity of Gasworks' future would be contained in what was visible as well as what was hidden, the social process as well as the aesthetic result. The complex social history that this project embraced, including the exhaustive community work Richard Haag undertook to include, communicate with, educate, and unify the community surrounding the site, has not been adequately covered in discussions of his work.

The process itself was ongoing and periodically interrupted. When Haag's plan was published in 1971, community controversy erupted. The source of disagreement was not the traditional functions of the park, but the retention of the cracking towers as mnemonic devices in the landscape. Haag argued, as had others, that the memory of the industrial past was the power of the site. Further, if the land could be reclaimed and recycled into an active part of community life, then the park could function as reconciliation with that past and a point of healing. Yet the rusted cracking towers looming in the landscape were a memory of industrial blight, economic depression, and ecological decay that at least half the community would have preferred to have erased.

Retaining the familiar forms of the cracking towers was not merely an aestheticization of the Gasworks failed past, but the creation of a public space, which recognized the "uncanny" [2] quality of huge rusted machinery as a permanent fixture in the landscape of the metropolitan community. Their familiarity within the memory of how the site had been defiled for the production of materials for social use was the source of community contempt. Haag's strategy to build the park around this hulking shard of industrial memory was bolstered, however, by economic strategy: the proposal gave maximum effect with minimum intervention and minimum cost. The project might have remained, however, within the realm of cultural anthropology had it not taken a further step: a commitment to rectify the damaged ecological structure of the site. Again it is the weaving of disciplines, Haag's alchemy of science, anthropology and art, which stirred and then undermined the arguments against his and his community's progress.

In the aqueous soil near the edge of Lake Union, a plume of benzene, arsenic, xylene, cadmium, cyanide and other heavy metals was working its way toward the lake. Haag developed a strategy for bioremediation with soil expert Richard Brooks. "Brooks told Haag

[2] Garten, Cliff, "Terrain Vague, Investigations Into Incompleteness", p. 2-5.

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that, while surface and subsoil layers were indeed contaminated, they were rich in minerals and saturated with life-giving bacteria. The soil would have to be tilled a number of times, and after each tilling, treated sewage sludge, lawn clippings, oil-eating enzymes and other organic materials would have to be infused into the soil." [3] This tilling was performed several times in the beginning of the project with positive results, but questions remain as to whether or not the biotic remediation will neutralize the ground pollutants before the toxic plume reaches the waters of Lake Union. Haag's work is based in a confidence that nature will do its job and the remediation will be successfully completed; the process is ongoing.

By addressing the ground of *terrain vague* and the remains of its industrial past—not only aesthetically, but also socially and biologically—Haag has unflinchingly confronted the subsurface activity of the site as well as the collective repression of the surrounding community's unconscious. By working across disciplines—from political organizing to chemical engineering—Haag accomplished a holistic remediation, from the ground to the mind, that is from the site of social and ecological disturbance to the social engagement of the anger people feel over our abusive practices towards our home, the earth.

The structures in the soft landscape around the cracking towers act as a fulcrum for our imagination. Elizabeth Meyer suggests "Haag's works exemplify a postmodern sublime in their attempt to represent the unpresentable, the invisible of the site." [4] Meyer is correct in her definition of a landscape aesthetic that alters with a changing "nature." Yet this "postmodern sublime" also answers the invitation to remediate the earth and to reconcile our problematic actions in our relationship to it. By preserving the image of the towers on the site Haag has called to our memory the problem with our actions in the past and by digging into the earth he has also asked us to dig into our own lives and to be ever conscious of our actions in the future. The community discussions and professional discourse, which have taken place over this national monument, are as important as the physical catalyst Mr. Haag has provided for us in Gas Works Park.

In theoretical terms, Gas Works Park offers the opportunity to re-construct the identity of the alienated self— in this case, to reconstruct the identity of a community and its alienated web of relations to the earth. In more simple terms Gas Works is the physical embodiment of the hope of healing the earth and ourselves. The cultural and biological remediation of the site is life affirming. Mr. Haag's work presents a cross-disciplinary aesthetic and a design ethos that are conceptually consistent and rigorously put into practice. I strongly urge your selection panel to elect Gasworks Park to the National Register.

Sincerely,

Cliff Garten, President, Cliff Garten and Associates Inc.

[3] Thompson, William, J., "Landscape of Dream, Warrior of Vision", p. 85.
[4] Meyer, Elizabeth, "Terrible Beauty", p.28.

BRENDA BROWN
LANDSCAPE DESIGN ART RESEARCH

June 10, 2002

Mr. Michael Houser, Director
National and State Register Program
Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation
P. O. Box 48343
Olympia, Washington 98504-8343

Dear Mr. Houser:

I am writing in support of Gas Works Park's inclusion in the National Historic Register.

Richard Haag's Gas Works Park is a hallmark of 20th century landscape architecture, a groundbreaking, watershed work in terms of creative adaptive use of urban industrial sites and their remediation. It presaged and paved the way for works such as the 15 that were included in the *Eco-Revelatory Design: Nature Constructed/Nature Revealed* exhibit that opened at the University of Illinois in 1998 and closed at the National Building Museum in 2000. Indeed, because of Gas Works Park, Haag was one of seven invited to contribute an essay to that exhibit's catalog, and other essayists cited Gas Work's Park as a earlier eco-revelatory landscape project concerned with interacting human and natural systems.

In fact, Haag's design is often cited by writers, designers, educators and others concerned with landscape ecosystem remediation, revelation and interpretation. It is a very important, influential and good work, and it and its story deserve the protection and attention National Registration would bring.

Sincerely,

Brenda Brown

Brenda Brown
Chair- Committee for Eco-Revelatory Design

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PHONE: 352 337-9149 • FAX: 352 337-1848 • E-MAIL: brenbrow@yahoo.com

RECEIVED
JUN 12 2002
Archaeology and
Historic Preservation

STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY
Northwest Regional Office • 3190 160th Avenue SE • Bellevue, Washington 98008-5452 • (425) 649-7000

June 11, 2002

Ms. Allyson Brooks
State Historic Preservation Officer
Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation
PO Box 48343
Olympia, WA 98504-8343

Dear Ms. Brooks,

The Department of Ecology has recently become aware of the possibility that Gas Works Park could be given an historic designation or placed on a list of historic places in Washington State. The Department is concerned about anything that could affect on our ability to protect the health and safety of the people of Washington State and its environment.

Gas Works Park is a cleanup site under the Model Toxics Control Act Chapter (MTCA) 173-340 WAC. The site is contaminated as a result of the operation of a municipal gas works from 1906 to 1956. The primary constituents of concern are the carcinogens benzene which is found primarily on the east side of the park, south of the play barn and multi-ring persistent aromatic hydrocarbons (PAH), located throughout the park.

Under the supervision of the Department of Ecology, the City of Seattle, and Puget Sound Energy are in the process of remediating the site. Current remediation measures consist of groundwater aeration called sparging for the benzene and monitored natural attenuation for the PAHs. Gasworks Park also contains areas under what Chapter 173-340 WAC calls institutional control. These are areas where because, of the nature of the contamination or of the site, active cleanup was considered impractical. The fenced area around the old gasification reactors (crackers) is one of these. Offshore sediments around Gas Works Park are contaminated and the Department will be starting the legal processes required to remediate these sediments, shortly.

Ecology understands that historical designation will have little effect on the Gas Works Park cleanup. In particular, designation does not require approval to continue our ongoing cleanup efforts, or to institute new measures should the need arise. The Department also understands that historical designation will not interfere with the removal of site structures if needed for the cleanup, or require the maintenance or preservation of these structures, which could be a dangerous activity. If Ecology's understanding is in error please let us know.

Ecology would like to be placed on any mailing list you may have for Gas Works Park.

If you have any questions or comments please give me a call at (425) 649-7052

Sincerely,

John Keeling
Toxic Cleanup Program

Cc.	Michael Houser	Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation
	Colleen Browne	Seattle Parks and Recreation
	Steve Secrist	Puget Sound Energy

PATTY MURRAY
WASHINGTON

COMMITTEES:
APPROPRIATIONS
BUDGET
HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR AND PENSIONS
VETERANS' AFFAIRS

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510–4704

June 16, 2003

Ms. Carol Schull
Chief of National Register of Historic Places
National Register of Historic Places
National Park Service
1201 Eye St., NW
8th Floor (MS 2280)
Washington, D.C. 20005

Dear Ms. Schull:

Enclosed are copies of correspondence I received from Ms. Patricia Fels, regarding your rejection of the nomination for Seattle's Gas Works Park to be honored on the National Register. These documents clearly state Ms. Fels' concerns.

I also, am curious of the criteria used to determine National Register status, and how Gas Works Park failed to meet them. I would appreciate your looking into this matter and reporting your findings to me in my Seattle office.

Thank you for your time and consideration regarding this matter.

Sincerely,

Patty Murray

Patty Murray
United States Senator

PM\ad

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EVERETT, WA 98201–4107
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e-mail: senator_murray@murray.senate.gov
Internet: http: //murray.senate.gov

P T F A R C H I T E C T S

FAX

TO: Senator Patty Murray
206-553-0891

FROM: Patricia Fels

DATE: 6/9/03

PAGES (including cover sheet): 2

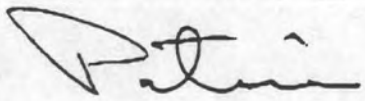
PROJECT: Gas Works Park

Dear Senator Murray,

I fear that the attached letter regarding Gas Works Park was lost in email ether. I am an architect and King County Landmarks Commissioner, and wrote the Gas Works Park nomination, along with a landscape architect. Local and national experts agree that Gas Works Park is a unique and pivotal design and deserves to be on the National Register. Staff at the National Register stated that the nomination was complete and that the Park merited national landmark status - and then denied the application because the architect is still alive!

There are no stipulations against living architects in all the literature from the National Parks Service. Letters of support from national experts have been sent to NPS, but we have received no response. A letter from you to NPS would be extremely helpful. You can stress the importance of recognizing this site - for you, our Senator, and for the State.

Many thanks for your help. Please contact me if you have any questions.



30002 Issaquah-Fall City Rd. * Fall City, Washington 98024
425-222-0744 * Fax 425-222-4169 * Email: ptfels@nwlink.com

Main Identity

From: Richard Haag <rhaag@richhaagassoc.com>
To: <senatormurray@murray.senate.gov>
Cc: <ptfels@nwlink.com>; <jcbain@earthlink.net>; <ctrivison@richhaagassoc.com>; <rhaag@richhaagassoc.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 20, 2003 3:48 PM
Subject: National Historic Registration of Seattle's Gas Works Park

Dear Senator Murray:
I am writing on behalf of the Friends of Gas Works Park, a non profit organization who's mission is to 'promote' the acclaimed park design of Richard Haag and interpret the Gas Works Park industrial past...We need your help.
Gas Works Park received Seattle Landmark Status in 1999 and State Historic Registration in 2002 and at that same time was nominated for National Registration by the State Council on Historic Registration. Jack Williams, President of Washington State Advisory Council on Historic Preservation stated in the June 14, 2002 Council meeting that he wished he: "could nominated Gas Works Park for International Historic Registration but the Council's scope was limited to the state and national level."
Carol Schull, Keeper of the National Register at NPS, NRHP has denied registration because Richard Haag (b 1923), the designer, is still alive.
Gas Works Park is an extremely important work of modern landscape design by a living landscape architect. An important irreplaceable example of the architect's design intent. Dan Kiley (b 1912) is the only living landscape architect to have a landscape design bestowed with National Historic Landmark status. In fact there are over 1,000 modern works of architecture listed on the National Register of Historic Places.
Mr. Haag just received the ASLA (American Society of Landscape Architects) Medal for 2003. This is the highest honor bestowed upon a Landscape Architect by his peers.

The Friends of Gas Works Park feel that Ms. Schull's decision is inexplicable seeing as there are other live designers of projects on the National Register. Can you help us? Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Cheryl Trivison
President of Friends of Gas Works Park
May 21, 2003

DRAFT

Honorable Jim McDermott
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. McDermott:

This letter responds to your correspondence of June 20, 2003, regarding the National Register of Historic Places nomination for Gas Works Park in Seattle, Kings County, Washington.

The National Park Service reviewed the nomination for Gas Works Park submitted by the Washington State Historic Preservation Officer on November 15, 2002. On December 30, 2002 the Keeper determined that the property did not meet the Criteria for Evaluation and returned the nomination to the State. A copy of our return comments are attached.

In evaluating the eligibility of Gas Work Parks, the National Register felt that the nomination materials did an excellent job of documenting the unique nature of Gas Works Park's landscape design, including significant ties between twentieth century modern landscape design, historic preservation and environmental conservation. The National Register of Historic Places, however, has had a longstanding policy regarding listing resources associated with living individuals, particularly practicing architects, artists, and designers. Properties associated with living persons generally are not considered eligible for inclusion in the National Register. While the designer of Gas Works Park—Mr. Richard Haag—has limited his work in recent years, he still maintains a working office, lectures widely, and actively participates in landscape design projects.

The nomination of properties associated with living persons is discouraged in order to avoid the use of the National Register to endorse the work or reputation of a living person. The integrity of the National Register as a reference list of historic properties depends upon the professional objectivity with which each nomination is evaluated. If the National Register were to become a means of honoring living figures, the function of the National Register would be substantially changed; the impossibility of maintaining historic perspective in the listing process would ultimately have the effect of devaluing the recognition afforded by listing in the National Register. This policy has been reiterated through program guidelines and directives since the early establishment of the National Register program.

Thank you for your interest in the historic preservation programs of the National Park Service. If you have any additional questions, please feel free to contact Paul Lusignan of the National Register staff at (202) 354-2229.

Sincerely,

Carol D. Shull
Keeper of the National Register of Historic Places
National Register, History and Education

enclosure

cc: WA SHPO

n:\nr\mcdermottgaswork.ltr

DRAFT

Honorable Patty Murray
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510-4704

Dear Senator Murray:

This letter responds to your correspondence of June 16, 2003, on behalf of Ms. Patricia Fels, regarding the National Register of Historic Places nomination for Gas Works Park in Seattle, Kings County, Washington.

The National Park Service reviewed the nomination for Gas Works Park submitted by the Washington State Historic Preservation Officer on November 15, 2002. On December 30, 2002 the Keeper determined that the property did not meet the Criteria for Evaluation and returned the nomination to the State. A copy of our return comments are attached.

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The nomination of properties associated with living persons is discouraged in order to avoid the use of the National Register to endorse the work or reputation of a living person. The integrity of the National Register as a reference list of historic properties depends upon the professional objectivity with which each nomination is evaluated. If the National Register were to become a means of honoring living figures, the function of the National Register would be substantially changed; the impossibility of maintaining historic perspective in the listing process would ultimately have the effect of devaluing the recognition afforded by listing in the National Register.

In special circumstances, where sufficient scholarship and historical perspective exists, properties associated with living individual have been listed where the documentation reveals that the person's active life and contributions in their respective field are demonstrably over. From the documentation provided in this nomination, that does not appear to be the case with Mr. Haag, whose active design career continues.

This policy has been reiterated through program guidelines and directives since the early establishment of the National Register program, including *National Register Bulletin: Guidelines for Evaluating and Documenting Properties Associated with Significant Persons* and *National Register Bulletin: Guidelines for Evaluating and Nominating Properties That Have Achieved Significance Within the Last Fifty Years,* and *National Register Bulletin: Nomination of Properties Significant for Association with Living Persons* (out of print).

Thank you for your interest in the historic preservation programs of the National Park Service. If you have any additional questions, please feel free to contact Paul Lusignan of the National Register staff at (202) 354-2229.

Sincerely,

Carol D. Shull
Keeper of the National Register of Historic Places
National Register, History and Education

enclosure

cc: WA SHPO

n:\nr\murraygas.ltr

PNC
6/26/03

H34(2280)

JUN 27 2003

Honorable Patty Murray
United States Senator
2988 Jackson Federal Building
915 2nd Avenue
Seattle, Washington 98174-1003

Dear Senator Murray:

This letter responds to your correspondence of June 16, 2003, on behalf of Ms. Patricia Fels, regarding the National Register of Historic Places nomination for Gas Works Park in Seattle, Kings County, Washington. The nomination for Gas Works Park submitted to the National Register by the Washington State Historic Preservation Officer was returned to the State on December 30, 2002.

As you may know, Gas Works Park was completed in 1978. In evaluating the eligibility of Gas Works Park, the National Register staff felt that the nomination materials did an excellent job of documenting the unique nature of Gas Works Park's landscape design, including significant ties between twentieth century modern landscape design, historic preservation and environmental conservation. The National Register of Historic Places, however, has had a longstanding policy regarding listing resources associated with living individuals still practicing in the field for which the property is nominated, including the works of practicing architects, artists, and designers. Such properties generally are not considered eligible for inclusion in the National Register. According to the nomination, while the designer of Gas Works Park—Mr. Richard Haag—has limited his work in recent years, he still maintains a working office, lectures widely, and actively participates in landscape design projects. The nomination of properties associated with living persons is discouraged in order to avoid the use of the National Register to endorse their work or reputation in their field. Once a person's career is over and with the passage of time, it is possible to more objectively evaluate the body of work of any individual.

In special circumstances, where sufficient scholarship and historical perspective exist, properties associated with living individuals have been listed where the documentation reveals that the person's active life and contributions in their respective field are demonstrably over. From the documentation provided in this nomination, that does not appear to be the case with Mr. Haag, whose active design career continues.

This policy has been reiterated through program guidelines and directives since the early establishment of the National Register program, including *National Register Bulletin: Guidelines for Evaluating and Documenting Properties Associated with Significant Persons* and *National*

Register Bulletin: Guidelines for Evaluating and Nominating Properties That Have Achieved Significance Within the Last Fifty Years.

We appreciate the interest of the Friends of Gas Works Park and others in the park and recommend that the nomination be resubmitted to the National Register for evaluation once Mr. Haag has retired. Thank you for your interest in the historic preservation programs of the National Park Service. If you have any additional questions, please feel free to contact Paul Lusignan of the National Register staff at 202/354-2229.

Sincerely,

Carol D. Shull

Carol D. Shull
Keeper of the National Register
of Historic Places

cc: Dr. Allyson Brooks, SHPO
Ofc of Archeology & Historic Preservation
P.O. Box 48343
420 Golf Club Road, SE, Suite 201, Lacey
Olympia, Washington 98504-8343

bcc: 0001
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2250
NPS Congressional Liaison
Basic File Retained In 2280
FNP:PLusignan:OP:06/27/03:f:\nr\murraygaswork.ltr

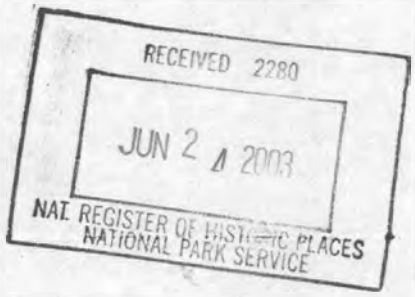
COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
SUBCOMMITTEE ON HEALTH
SUBCOMMITTEE ON HUMAN RESOURCES

JIM McDERMOTT
7TH DISTRICT, WASHINGTON

CHAIRMAN
CONGRESSIONAL TASK FORCE ON
INTERNATIONAL HIV/AIDS

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

20 June 2003



Carol Schull
Keeper of the National Register
National Register of Historic Places
1201 I Street NW 8th Floor
Washington DC 20005

Dear Ms. Schull:

I am writing to express my support for placement of Seattle's Gas Works Park on the National Register of Historic Places.

This twenty-acre site on the north shore of Lake Union was developed in 1906 as a plant to manufacture gas from coal to fuel our young and developing city. For more than 50 years, until cheaper natural gas rendered the facility impractical financially, the plant powered Seattle's homes and industries.

The people of Seattle saw a brighter future for this remarkable lakeside site after the plant was decommissioned and, with the help of bold landscape architects, created a public park to preserve our city's past within view of today's skyline. The polluted soil was rehabilitated, the plant's boiler was converted to a picnic shelter and the compressor building became a play barn. Today, canoeists, picnickers, kite fliers, and sunbathers enjoy the shores of the park on Lake Union, a busy thoroughfare for industrial and recreational watercraft.

Gas Works Park received City of Seattle Landmark Status in 1999 and Washington State Historic Registration in 2002. Its inclusion in the National Register will complete the recognition this unique landmark deserves.

Thank you for your consideration of this important part of our heritage. Please do not hesitate to contact me at my district office at 1809 7th Avenue # 1212, Seattle WA 98101-1399, if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Jim McDermott

JIM McDERMOTT
Member of Congress

1035 LONGWORTH BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515–4707
(202) 225–3106

http://www.house.gov/mcdermott

1809 7TH AVENUE, SUITE 1212
SEATTLE, WA 98101–1399
(206) 553–7170

PNC 6/24/03

JUN 27 2003

H34(2280)

Honorable Jim McDermott
Member, United States House of Representatives
1809 7th Avenue #1212
Seattle, Washington 98101-1399

Dear Mr. McDermott:

This letter responds to your correspondence of June 20, 2003, regarding the National Register of Historic Places nomination for Gas Works Park in Seattle, Kings County, Washington. The nomination for Gas Works Park submitted to the National Register by the Washington State Historic Preservation Officer was returned to the State on December 30, 2002.

As you may know, Gas Works Park was completed in 1978. In evaluating the eligibility of Gas Works Park, the National Register staff felt that the nomination materials did an excellent job of documenting the unique nature of Gas Works Park's landscape design, including significant ties between twentieth century modern landscape design, historic preservation and environmental conservation. The National Register of Historic Places, however, has had a longstanding policy regarding listing resources associated with living individuals still practicing in the field for which the property is nominated, including the works of practicing architects, artists, and designers. Such properties generally are not considered eligible for inclusion in the National Register. According to the nomination, while the designer of Gas Works Park—Mr. Richard Haag—has limited his work in recent years, he still maintains a working office, lectures widely, and actively participates in landscape design projects. The nomination of properties associated with living persons is discouraged in order to avoid the use of the National Register to endorse their work or reputation in their field. Once a person's career is over and with the passage of time, it is possible to more objectively evaluate the body of work of any individual.

In special circumstances, where sufficient scholarship and historical perspective exist, properties associated with living individuals have been listed where the documentation reveals that the person's active life and contributions in their respective field are demonstrably over. From the documentation provided in this nomination, that does not appear to be the case with Mr. Haag, whose active design career continues.

This policy has been reiterated through program guidelines and directives since the early establishment of the National Register program, including *National Register Bulletin: Guidelines for Evaluating and Documenting Properties Associated with Significant Persons* and *National Register Bulletin: Guidelines for Evaluating and Nominating Properties That Have Achieved Significance Within the Last Fifty Years.*

We appreciate the interest of the Friends of Gas Works Park and others in the park and recommend that the nomination be resubmitted to the National Register for evaluation once Mr. Haag has retired. Thank you for your interest in the historic preservation programs of the National Park Service. If you have any additional questions, please feel free to contact Paul Lusignan of the National Register staff at 202/354-2229.

Sincerely,

Carol D. Shull

Carol D. Shull
Keeper of the National Register
of Historic Places

cc: Dr. Allyson Brooks, SHPO
Ofc of Archeology & Historic Preservation
P.O. Box 48343
420 Golf Club Road, SE, Suite 201, Lacey
Olympia, Washington 98504-8343

bcc: 0001
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2250
NPS Congressional Liaison
Basic File Retained In 2280

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Paul Lusignan

01/21/03 10:13 AM EST

To: Charles Birnbaum/WASO/NPS@NPS
cc:
Subject: NPS policy on "living architects"

Hi Charles,

Thank you for your response regarding the Haag Gas Works Park nomination. When I was reviewing the Seattle nomination I too was interested in seeing how we approached similar "living designer" issues and whether or not we were consistent.

I looked quite closely at all of the same examples you noted, and in fact came away with a much better feeling about our consistency in dealing with the issues. In the case of the Rothko Chapel, our evaluation and listing of the property formally dropped "Architecture" as an area of significance for this building. The Supplementary Listing Record specifically noted that the design team still maintained an active architectural practice and that to be consistent with our NR policy we could not list the property for those associations. The nomination's listing relied on the significance of the property under Art alone in association with the collection and collector and not the more obvious architectural design elements.

In the case of the New Harmony Historic District, both the Roofless Church and the Atheneum building (less than 50 year buildings associated with living designers) were specifically changed from contributing to non-contributing resources through a Supplementary Listing Record addendum, again citing NR policy issues.

The only property that seemed to go directly against the policy was the Glass House by Johnson. In that situation, however, I think we simply admitted to the overriding scholarly appreciation and almost ubiquitous nature of the resource in every architectural guide book, style book, or survey class. Designated as an NHL, the volume of documentation was probably overwhelming.

Just thought you would like to know we did consider the issue carefully before making our decision. If you would like to discuss the nomination further, please let me (or Carol) know.

Paul

Paul R. Lusignan
National Register of Historic Places
National Park Service

Charles Birnbaum
01/16/03 12:11 PM EST

To: Paul Lusignan/WASO/NPS@NPS, Carol Shull/WASO/NPS@NPS
cc: Bryan Mitchell/WASO/NPS@NPS
Subject: Re: Gas Works Park

Dear Carol:

Thank you for having Paul respond regarding Rich Haag and the Gas Works Park nomination. I was familiar with the National Register's philosophy of "discouraging" nominations of living designers but was unaware that the Register recognizes that, "In special circumstances, where sufficient scholarship and historical perspective exist, sites associated with living individuals can be listed if that person's active life in the field is demonstratably over."

In the case of Rich Haag's career, his enormously influential and formative work was completed into the early 1980s. I think that it is safe to assume that his influence has been felt, his work recognized by scholars and the highest honors in the field have been bestowed on a few significant works, most important, Gas Works Park and the Bloedel Reserve. After receiving Paul's communication, I telephoned Mr. Haag (who spoke at our 1995 Wave Hill Conference, Preserving Modern Landscape Architecture) to get a better understanding of his office and practice today. It appears that his office today is "just dribbling along with one associate who comes in three days a week."

With this stated, I must raise the concern about the "old double standard" between architecture and landscape. A quick review of the National Register Database under the heading of Philip Johnson reveals the following properties listed:

- The Glass House, New Canaan, CT, designed in 1949, listed in 1997
- The Roofless Church, New Harmony, IN, designed in 1960, listed in 2000
- The Rothko Chapel, Houston, TX, dedicated in 1971, listed in 2000

When reviewing Johnson's career, without question, he continues to be prolific for a man of 96 years of age. Recent, highly publicized works in which he has been directly involved include: Amon Carter Museum Addition, Fort Worth, TX (1997-98); Cathedral of Hope, Dallas, TX (1996-98); St. Basil Chapel, Houston, TX (1997) and Da Monsta, New Canaan, CT (1995). In the case of the last two projects, these have both received high praise and have been dubbed "original" or "revolutionary" by today's critics.

Therefore, how is it possible that the above projects were listed if Johnson's professional life is not "demonstratably over?"

You may not be aware that just a few years ago the future of Gas Works Park was in peril. This process led to the creation of the Friends of Gas Works Park which was the impetus for local designation and the current application for National Register status. It is praiseworthy that the Seattle Parks Department has been open to this nomination and I think that it would be

NPS Form 10-900-a
(8-86)

OMB Approval No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 00000883

Property Name: Rothko Chapel

County: Harris State: Texas

none
Multiple Name

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

Carol D. Shull — August 16, 2000

Signature of the Keeper — Date of Action

==========

Amended Items in Nomination:

Section 8. Significance. "Architecture" is, hereby, dropped as an area of significance because architect Eugene Aubry, formerly of the firm Barnstone and Aubry, which collaborated on the chapel's design, maintains an active architectural practice. This is consistent with the National Register policy that excludes the listing of properties significant as the work of a still-practicing master designer.

The Texas Historic Preservation Office was notified of this amendment.

DISTRIBUTION:
National Register property file
Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

ACTION: NATIONAL REGISTER INFORMATION SYSTEM

Id 00000883 LI 08/16/2000 TX Harris Rothko Chapel
01 More

Name Rothko Chapel

Address 1409 Sul Ross Ave.

City Houston Vicinity Restrict
State TEXAS County Harris
Status LISTED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER Date 08/16/2000
Day45 08/19/2000 Resource Type BUILDING Acreage 0.9

Multiple

Contributing bldg	1	Site	1	Strc		Obj	1	Total
Noncontributing bldg		Site		Strc		Obj		Total

Park

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ **Page** _____

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 00000669 Date Listed: 5/3/2001

Property Name: New Harmony Historic District County: Posey State: IN

_____
Multiple Name

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

Patrick Andrus 5/3/2001
for Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

==========

Amended Items in Nomination:

This SLR amends the status of two buildings, the Roofless Church and the Atheneum, to change them from contributing to non-contributing to the historic district. Because of their age, the Roofless Church, constructed in 1960, and the Atheneum, constructed in 1979, must be demonstrated to be of exceptional importance to contribute to the district. The registration form for the district does not provide the required historic context from which to evaluate the buildings, nor does it demonstrate that there exists a scholarly consensus, based upon a substantial amount of professional, documented materials, that these buildings have received clear, widespread recognition of their value as historically important for exceptional architectural merit. The resource count in Section 5 of the form is amended to show that there are 212 contributing buildings and 60 non-contributing buildings in the historic district.

Index by State and City

National Register Information System 01/16/2003 13:31:54

No filter Include filter in navigation ☐

Row	STATE	COUNTY	RESOURCE NAME	ADDRESS	CITY	LISTED	MULTIPLE
1	IN	Posey	**Bentel, George, House**	Brewery and Granary St.	New Harmony	1984-09-20	
2	IN	Posey	**Epple, Ludwig, House**	520 Granary St.	New Harmony	1984-06-21	
3	IN	Posey	**New Harmony Historic District**	Main St. between Granary and Church Sts.	New Harmony	1966-10-15	
4	IN	Posey	**New Harmony Historic District**	Roughly bounded by Third St., Steammill St., Main St., inc. Maple Hill Cem., Arthur St., Atheneum prop. and North St.	New Harmony	2000-05-03	
5	IN	Posey	**Scholle, Mattias, House**	Tavern and Brewery Sts.	New Harmony	1981-03-02	
6	IN	Posey	**Thomas, Amon Clarence, House**	503 West St.	New Harmony	1995-09-14	

Page 1

First Page Next Page Refresh Export

W

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE
348 GOULD HALL
BOX 355734
SEATTLE, WA 98195-5734
COLLEGE OF BUILT ENVIRONMENTS

May 30, 2012

Michael Houser, State Architectural Historian
Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation
1063 S. Capitol Way, Suite 106
Olympia, WA 98501

I am writing to very strongly the nomination of Gas Works Park to the National Register of Historic Places. This is a nomination that is long overdue as this project is internationally recognized as a ground breaking approach to the re-use and rehabilitation of post-industrial landscapes.

In 1958 Richard Haag launched the Department of Landscape Architecture at the University of Washington. Fifty years later, Haag is recognized nationally as a leader, mentor, and designer of sublime landscapes. As a design activist, Haag's design process fostered new ways of thinking about landscape architecture and ecological design. His engagement with the role of design in landscape remediation and reclamation opened areas of inquiry into the adaptive reuse of post-industrial sites for researchers and practitioners in diverse fields including ecology, environmental science, and microbiology as well as those in cultural studies and geography and, of course, design. His work thus reflects contemporary issues at the same time as it established alternative practices and discourses.

One of the earliest industrial reclamation parks in the world, Gas Works Park is the sole survivor of 1400 gasification plants in the United States alone. The remaining relics of the former Gas Plant serve as totemic artifacts; the last surviving members of an extinct species. The landscape tells the story of a peninsula that was once a place of gathering and production for Native Americans, transformed into a toxic site of industrial production for half a century, and finally in the late 20th century a reclaimed public space. Haag's designs engage the ecological and horticultural sciences synthesizing them with his interest in artful responses to site. In his willingness to reconsider how we address the challenges of the post industrial site and toxic places by suggesting they might be healed rather than removed, Haag's work opens up new doors of practice and design. Such investigations have lead to a contemporary urban ecological design praxis grounded in the critical integration of site, landscape, and people in ways that are ecological and culturally functional, aesthetically artful, and deeply engaging. It is a synthesis of culture and nature, creating built environments to meet 21st century grand challenges of climate change, urban density, and ecological health.

The project of Gas Works Park is discussed in every landscape history textbook, both in the English speaking world and beyond, as well as the focus of nearly one hundred distinct articles

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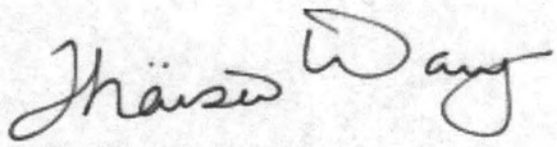
T 206 543 9240
F 206 685 4486

both in the popular and academic presses. It is an iconic project that inspires design and planning students around the globe. It is time to recognize it as a National Historic Place, a part of our American history and legacy.

Sincerely,



Thaïsa Way PhD. ASLA
Associate Professor, Landscape Architecture / Adjunct Associate Professor, Architecture
MLA Program Coordinator
206 685 2523
tway@u.washington.edu

The Cultural Landscape Foundation
1909 Que Street NW, Second Floor, Washington, DC 20009 (t) 202.483.0553 (f) 202.483.0761

stewardship
through education

www.tclf.org

May 31, 2012

Michael Houser, State Architectural Historian
Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation
1063 S. Capitol Way, Suite 106
Olympia, WA 98501

Dear Mr. Houser:

It is with great enthusiasm that I submit this letter of support for The National Register nomination on behalf of Gas Works Park. As the President of The Cultural Landscape Foundation, and prior Coordinator of the National Park Service Historic Landscape Initiative (1992-2007), I have witnessed first-hand the goal of nominating works of modern landscape architecture to the National Register as one of the great challenges we have as preservation professionals, historians and landscape architects. Since this nomination was submitted we have seen the designation of a number of modern landscapes by Dan Kiley and Lawrence Halprin among others, with the most recent example being Lawrence Halprin's Heritage Park in Fort Worth Texas, completed in 1980 and designated in 2010.

When Gas Works Park was first nominated to the National Register in May of 2002, I submitted a letter of endorsement accompanying the nomination. The below text is excerpted from that letter and my inclusion of it, substantiates my belief that this issue is still as timely today as it was ten years ago. It should be noted that Richard Haag's work is some of the most significant and ground-breaking of his time, so much so that he is to be the subject of an oral history that my organization is now producing. Several years ago we videotaped Mr. Haag in Gas Works Park, recognizing this as a seminal work of landscape architecture, and, one of Haag's most significant projects.

To date, much has been written about Gas Works and this nomination surely reflects a deep understanding of its social and cultural import as a bold and pioneering work of modern landscape architecture. The nomination, accurately credits the impact of Gas Works Park on land reclamation and industrial preservation attitudes and techniques extending far beyond Seattle. It also recognizes that the park has gained national and international standing as a prototype for industrial site conversions, and has been cited as an exemplary model, and referenced in educational textbooks and scholarly works. I think that the nomination has addressed this aspect of the design and has placed it well within the necessary historical context and therefore I will not address this topic, but will endorse the narrative summary provided.

I would however like to take this research summary a little further as a way of supporting this nomination. First, to recognize collective assessments of the work by contemporary scholars and peers and second to address the designer's intent and recognize its unique philosophical underpinning and what it means to professional practitioners today.

In my considerable research on the modern landscape movement, Gas Works Park is without question recognized as an iconic design in virtually every single scholarly publication dedicated to this era. Perhaps equally important, Gas Works Park accomplishes something that none of the other celebrated works of this period achieves – it does not approach the landscape with a clean slate. So for example, unlike Kiley's design for the Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs or Halprin's design for Ira's Fountain in Portland – there is a discourse here with the city's industrial past. Unlike virtually every public project from this era, most often products of urban renewal, Haag understood change and continuity. This pioneering approach to the built urban environment is a first-ever American effort and among the earliest internationally.

At Gas Works Park, Richard Haag not only created a modern masterwork of landscape architecture he articulated a nature-culture ethic that is in itself, equally bold and pioneering. It is this dual vision that allows the park design to transcend other works of this period and those that have followed. From my perspective in the field for 30 years, Haag's design ethos is above all, revolutionary in that his approach suggests a professional ethic for practice that embodies the Secretary Standards for Rehabilitation. We could all learn much from Haag's vision. I applaud the efforts of the State Historic Preservation Office for taking a leadership role and considering this challenging nomination and whole-heartedly support this worthy designation.

Please feel free to contact me if I can be of further assistance.

Yours sincerely,

Charles A. Birnbaum, FASLA, FAAR
Founder and President, The Cultural Landscape Foundation
(202)483-0553
Charles@tclf.org

cc. Friends of Gas Works Park (FoGWP)

STATE OF WASHINGTON
Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation
1063 S. Capitol Way, Suite 106 - Olympia, Washington 98501
(Mailing Address) PO Box 48343 - Olympia, Washington 98504-8343
(360) 586-3065 Fax Number (360) 586-3067

Nov 15, 2012

Paul Lusignan
Keeper of the National Register
National Register of Historic Places
1201 "I" Street NW, 8th Floor
Washington, D.C. 20005

RE: **Washington State NR Nomination**

Dear Paul:

Please find enclosed new National Register Nomination form for the:

- **Gas Works Park – King County, WA**

You may recall that a nomination for the Park was submitted for NR listing in 2002, but was not approved primarily due to a policy of not listing properties while the designer was still living. Richard Haag, designer of Gas Works Park is still living and recently turned 89. However, we believe that sufficient scholarship and historical perspective exists to evaluate Haag's body of work and that the Park is more than worthy of NR listing.

In fact, due to the significance of the Park, we are asking that it be listed at the national level of significance for its impact on the field of landscape architecture and as an international model for the re-use and rehabilitation of industrial sites.

Please note that the nomination has been substantially re-written from the 2002 version and we believe it meets today's standards. Note that the attached images are from 2002, but the resources in the Park have not undergone any alterations and/or revisions. Your will find enclosed letters of support for listing from Charles Birnbaum (founder & President of the Cultural Landscape Foundation), and from Thaisa Way (distinguished landscape architect professor from the University of Washington) and our CLG review form.

Should you have any questions regarding this nomination please contact me anytime at (360) 586-3076. I look forward to hearing your final determination on this property.

Sincerely,

Michael Houser
State Architectural Historian, DAHP
360-586-3076
E-Mail: michael.houser@dahp.wa.gov