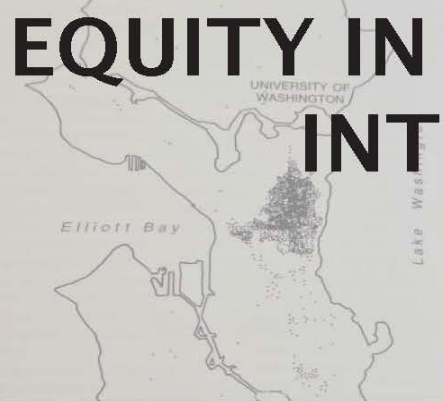


## BACKGROUND FOR REPORT

Through annual summer internships, 4Culture supported research that focused on gathering and evaluating data across King County on historic properties to inform the work of the Beyond Integrity group. While collecting data, interns reviewed existing documentation for any mention of an association with underrepresented communities (UC). The Beyond Integrity working group defines “underrepresented communities” as women, people of color, the LGBTQ community and working class. The research only collected data on individual, locally designated landmarks, or those eligible for nomination, not historic districts, Washington State Heritage Register, or National Register properties.

After gathering data on designated landmarks in King County, including Seattle, and their level of association with UC groups during the 2016 internship (see report under ‘Landmarks: What We Know’ section), Beyond Integrity’s next priority was then to identify and compare what hadn’t been designated, and those properties’ level of UC association.

The 2017 internship gathered and evaluated available data on historic properties in King County that were nominated for landmark status, or eligible, but not designated, with the goal of understanding why. Information was also collected and analyzed on these properties’ reported association with underrepresented communities. A second component of the internship was to develop case studies of five properties that fell into three categories: properties that are known to have a high level of association with UC groups but have not been nominated; properties with a high level of association with UC groups that were nominated but not designated; and properties that were designated but not recognized for their high level of UC association. The full internship report with more information on these and other sites around the county is available below.



## TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION .....	1
METHODOLOGY .....	3
DATA .....	9
CASE STUDIES .....	12
CONCLUSION .....	36
BIBLIOGRAPHY .....	40

## INTRODUCTION

### 2016 INTERNSHIP BACKGROUND

During the summer of 2016 an initial set of data was compiled to begin an assessment of whether the diverse communities occupying King County and Seattle are being reflected in the historic landmarks being designated. These data were collected by Jialing Liu, a 4Culture intern and a recent graduate from the University of Washington with a Master's in Urban Planning. Two spreadsheets were compiled with the data of 128 King County properties and 348 Seattle properties reaching landmark designation. This information was then used to produce multiple maps illustrating distribution within the region and the varying levels of their association to an underrepresented community.

### DEFINITION OF UNDERREPRESENTED COMMUNITIES

For the purposes of this study, a list of groups falling under the category of underrepresented communities was created before the data could be gathered. The groups identified were: people of color, the LGBTQ community, women and the working class. Due to the marginalized position of these selected groups, it appears they have little influence and involvement over the landmark process. This omission is also reflective of the reality that the narrative and experiences of these groups historically were not considered to be significant.

Later during the process, the definition came to include the groups of: veterans, the homeless, and those of low-income. The backgrounds of early European settlers of the area were also recorded when mentioned, but were not considered to be under the umbrella of underrepresented communities. The recording of European settlers served to illustrate the imbalance between groups considered important to the region's narrative and those considered to be less important.

### 2017 INTERNSHIP

During the summer of 2017 the next phase of the project was carried out by another intern, Kirsten Freeman, a recent graduate with a Master's of Science in Historic Preservation from Clemson University/College of Charleston. This phase of the project was divided up into three parts:

- A. PART ONE: Continuation of research started in the summer of 2016 and gathering of data of data of 101 properties in Seattle which did not reach designation.

- B. PART TWO: Selection and development of a least 2 case studies for each of the three circumstances: not nominated, not designated and designated but not reflecting full UC association
- C. PART THREE: Compilation and analysis of findings, culminating in a final written report and presentation to the Beyond Integrity committee

The goal was to add to the data collected the previous summer and also identify properties with particular potential for an underrepresented community association. Once these properties were chosen, a more focused investigation into this association and factors contributing to their potential for nomination, designation denial or lack of UC nomination information could be assessed.

## METHODOLOGY

### PART ONE: DATA COLLECTION

The first part of the 2017 internship project followed the model and methodology set in 2016. This methodology relied on data collection of properties to assess the extent or potential for an underrepresented community association. Data were collected from both physical and digitized documents on each property. The sources used to gather the data were: the City of Seattle Department of Neighborhoods office, DAHP Wisaard and the Historic Resources Survey online database. Documents containing relevant data included nomination forms, inventory narratives, historic sites summaries, landmark board meeting minutes, landmark criteria evaluations and other miscellaneous materials.

Two spreadsheets listing specific properties guided this research and data collection. Todd Scott, King County Historic preservation Architect, provided the first list and accompanying content on PDFs. The list consisted of ten specially selected properties thought to have a UC association and which had never been nominated for landmark status. Melinda Bloom, Administrative Specialist at the Department of Neighborhoods for the City of Seattle, provided the second spreadsheet. This consisted of one hundred and one properties that either did not qualify for landmark nomination or reached nomination, but failed to be designated. This set of properties ranged from the years of 2008 to 2016.

To obtain the documents needed for data collection, multiple avenues were used. In the case of the King County un-nominated landmark list, all research content was provided in PDF format, with no other research or investigation needed. The Seattle landmark un-nominated and un-designated properties required more work to obtain needed information. In some cases, information on the properties could be found either on the Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation Wisaard online database tool or the Historic Resources Survey online database located on the Seattle city website. These sources were sometimes hit or miss, as sometimes the property could not be found or there was little information included. Specific areas to look for information related to underrepresented communities could be found in the Inventory Narrative section of the DAHP Wisaard database entry and under the Seattle Historic Sites Summary on the Historic Resources Survey online database. However, the most reliable and thorough source for finding this information was the Department of Neighborhood's office.

Seattle's Department of Neighborhoods office is located downtown in City Hall. While the recent landmark nomination reports (2017 and 2016) could usually be found online, the majority were only accessible in person at the office. Files from 2014 and 2015 could be found in the office itself, while files from previous years needed to be requested and delivered from a warehouse housing the majority of the records. Once obtained, each property file was

reviewed with a particular focus on landmark nomination reports, criteria recommendations and criteria evaluations. When searching for information about a property's association with underrepresented communities in a nomination report the most important area was the significance section. Usually the part of the report with the most length, the significance area was quickly skimmed for content and anything that might be of interest was scanned for a more thorough review later. This method was similar for landmark board staff recommendations on criteria and criteria evaluations performed by architectural firms. These documents were used to inform reasoning for denial of nomination and designation and also informed what certain parties considered significant about the property.

Once these documents were scanned and transferred onto the computer, they were organized and examined for information on underrepresented communities. Useful documents were saved as PDFs and any relevant content was highlighted and saved in a 'relevant documents' folder inside the electronic property file created. Relevant information was then entered into a spreadsheet. Data categories created for the spreadsheets were: year denied, sources, nomination denied or designation denied (mark one with an x), name, address, demolished (marked with an x if building has been razed), parcel id, year built, category, LOA (level of association), UC association (underrepresented community association), area of significance, nomination criteria, notes, and link to online sources. While some categories are self explanatory, other categories needed further information and clarification to describe content more precisely.

## LEVEL OF ASSOCIATION

This category is a number based on a scale indicating the degree to which the property is associated with underrepresented communities according to the information contained in the sources. This scale was created and used during the 2016 summer internship and translates to the following:

- LEVEL 0: There is no mention of an association with underrepresented communities  
\*\*Note: Early European settlers are marked with this number, because they are non-contributing, but helpful to illustrate the differences perceived in significance.
- LEVEL 1: An association with underrepresented communities is mentioned in nomination or designation materials, but this is not indicated as part of the historic significance of the property.
- LEVEL 2: An association with underrepresented communities is indicated as contributing to historic significance and there is an adequate description of this association.

- LEVEL 3: An association with underrepresented communities is a critical part of the significance or there is a rich and detailed description about the association.

## LABEL OF ASSOCIATION

Label of association categories and components were the labels created the previous summer, however an additional component under the category of ‘Other’ was created to identify another group considered to be underrepresented. This component was ‘persons with disabilities.’ The labels created include the following:

- COMMUNITIES OF COLOR: African Am, Am/country, Native Am, Latin Am/country
- WOMEN: women/group, woman/individual
- LGBTQ: LGBTQ
- LABOR HISTORY/WORKING CLASS: labor/aspect of labor history
- EARLY EUROPEAN SETTLERS: European Immigrants/country
- OTHERS: homeless, low income, veterans, persons with disabilities

## AREA OF SIGNIFICANCE

Area of significance lists the information found related specifically to underrepresented communities. This addresses each label of associated listed, unless it is that of early European Settlers.

## CRITERIA

Criteria can be described as a series of standards that a property must meet to be considered for a landmark designation. For King County there are a total of five criteria and for the City of Seattle there are six. A property can qualify under any number of criteria, but must qualify for at least one to be considered for a landmark designation. However, because the list of King County properties had never been nominated for landmark status, this category was excluded from its spreadsheet.



For City of Seattle Designation, a property must be over 25 years old and meet at a minimum one of the following criteria:

- A. It is the location of, or is associated in a significant way with, an historic event with significant effect upon the community, city, state, or nation
- B. It is associated in a significant way with the life of a person important in the history of the city, state or nation
- C. It is associated in a significant way with a significant aspect of the cultural, political, or economic heritage of a community, city, state or nation
- D. It embodies the distinctive visible characteristics of an architectural style, or period, or of a method of construction
- E. It is an outstanding work of a designer or builder
- F. Because of its prominence of spatial location, contrasts of siting, age, or scale, it is an easily identifiable visual feature of its neighborhood or the city and contributes to the distinctive quality or identity of such a neighborhood or the city

## NOTES

The notes section of the spreadsheet contains overall observations related to the documents examined. This also contains information about site integrity, miscellaneous sources of information, justification for criteria and information on early European Settlers.

## CASE STUDIES

Once the data were collected, all of the properties receiving a level 3 association to an underrepresented community were put aside for review. In a meeting held with Kirsten Freeman, Manish Chalana, Brandi Link and Dana Phelan the level 3 properties were discussed as possible case studies. One or two properties were chosen as a case study for the three categories:

- Non-nominated properties- for this category, one property from the King County list was chosen as well as a property in Seattle known to have a UC association, but never nominated.
  - 1) White River Garden Cooperative
  - 2) First headquarters for the Seattle Black Panther Party branch

- Non-designated properties- for this category, two properties from the Seattle list thought to be a good fit for the case study were chosen.
  - 1) Liberty Bank
  - 2) Jefferson Park Golf Course Clubhouse
- Designated properties not fully engaging UC association- for this category, the 2016 spreadsheet from the previous summer was consulted for a property indicating a low LOA on the scale, but known by the committee to have a high UC association.
  - 1) Colman School

For those properties which had been nominated for landmark designation and the property which had reached designation, the first step was to return to the Department of Neighborhoods at Seattle City Hall for a more thorough examination of the nomination reports and other supporting material. The files were searched for reports related to integrity or general information on alterations to the buildings. Meeting minutes were also closely examined for commentary from the public and board regarding integrity and placed importance on cultural and social aspects of the property. Public commentary included in the files as well as supplemental information submitted provided an understanding of what was deemed important to the public and the landmarks board when considering landmark designation.

General research into a property's UC association was also important in understanding what may or may not have been left out of a nomination for the selected properties. General research consisted of visiting the following places for archival materials:

- White River Valley Museum, Northwest African American Museum, King County Archives, The Seattle Room located at the Seattle Central Public Library, The African American Collection located at the Douglas Truth Library branch, Seattle Municipal Archives

Other general research could be conducted online and included the following sources:

- Black Heritage Society of Washington State website, Densho website, History Link, MOHAI website, Black Past website, University of Washington's Seattle Civil Rights & Labor History Project website, White River Valley Museum online collections and local neighborhood blogs

The non-nominated group of case studies were approached as potential landmark nominations for King County and Seattle. This necessitated gathering as much information as possible to inform a strong UC association. The non-designated group of cases studies focused mainly on documenting the reasons why the properties were denied landmark designation and also

finding additional information on their particular UC association. The already designated case study focused mainly on finding supplemental information on the property's UC association that was missing in the nomination report or not presented to the board during the nomination process. If found, it was thought this information might be beneficial to add in the property file along with the landmark nomination materials.

## DATA

### SPREADSHEET OVERVIEW

Two spreadsheets were created for the purposes of this project. The first spreadsheet consisted of nine properties not nominated for landmark designation in King County. The second spreadsheet consisted of 101 properties nominated, but not reaching landmark designation in Seattle.

Of the nine properties in King County not nominated, five had a LOA of 3. The properties were:

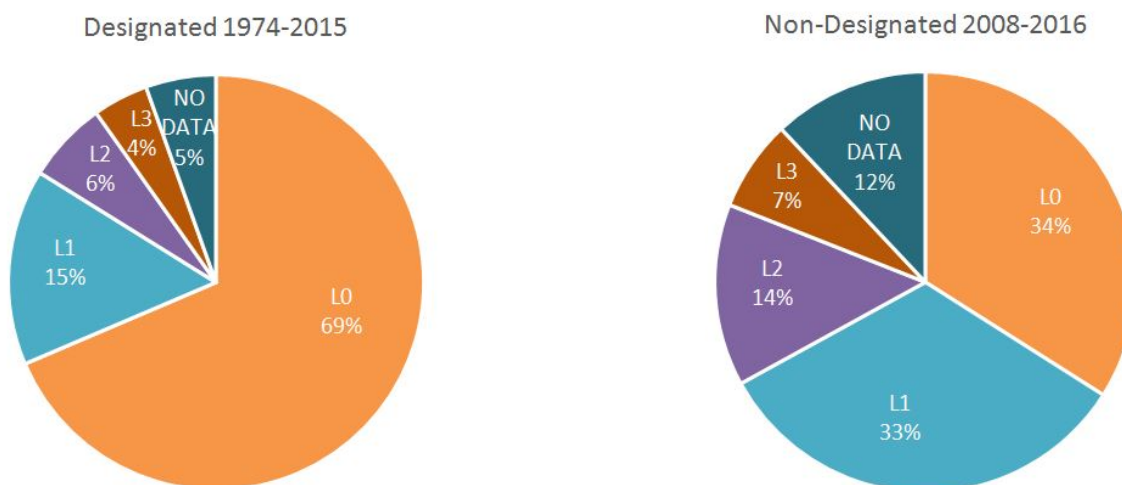
CITY	NAME	YEAR BUILT	LOA	UC ASSOCIATION
Auburn	Muckleshoot Indian Mission	1874	3	Native Am
Seattle	Hazel Tweedie House	1900	3	Women
Auburn	Natsuhara's Store	1914	3	Asian Am / Japan, Labor
Auburn	White River Garden Cooperative	1918	3	Asian Am / Japan, Labor
Kirkland	King County Food Processing Plant (Kirkland Cannery)	1936	3	Labor/Aspect of Labor History, Low Income

Of the 101 properties not designated in Seattle, seven had a LOA of 3. The properties were:

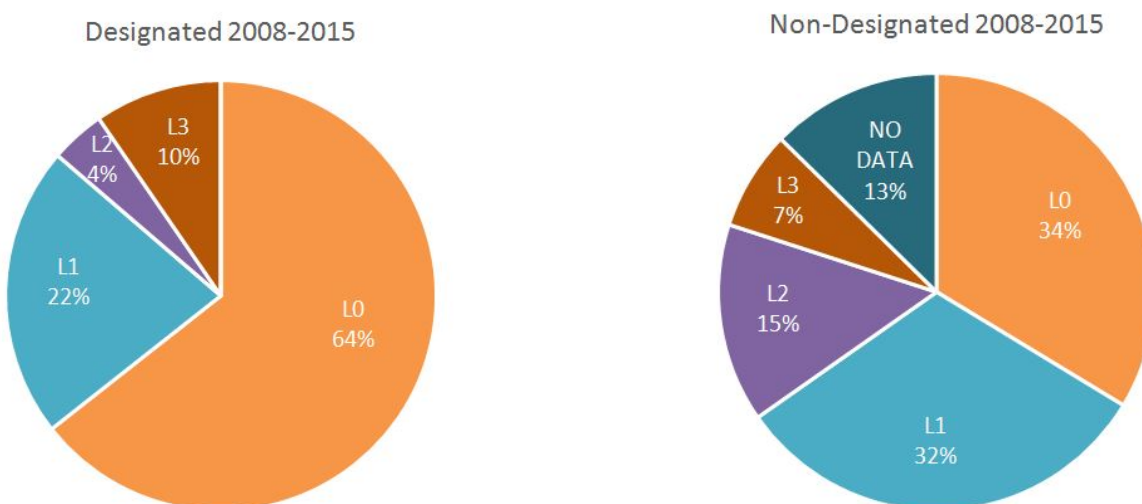
YEAR DENIED	NAME	DEMOLISHED	YEAR BUILT	LOA	UC ASSOCIATION
2015	Wiggen & Sons	X	1945, 1961 (addition)	3	Women/individual, European Immigrants/Norway
2014	Caroline Kline Galland Building (Later known as Stone Fisher & Lane Department Store)	X	1906	3	Women/Individual
2014	Liberty Bank	X	1968	3	African Am, Asian Am/Japan
2013	Herzl Religious School, later Odessa Brown's Children's Clinic	X	1956	3	African Am, Other/Veteran, Other/Persons with Disabilities, Other/Low Income, European Settlers/Jewish, Women/individual, Asian Am/Japan
2012	Jefferson Park Golf Clubhouse	X	1936	3	African Am/individual, African Am/group, Other/Veteran, Communities of Color, Asian Am/ Japan, Asian Am/China, Women/group
2012	Avalon Ballroom	X	1931	3	Labor/Union
2011	El Gaucho		1955	3	Labor/Unions

When analyzing the data, it proved useful to compare the non-designated levels of association with those of the designated collected in the summer of 2016. First, graphs were created for an overall comparison of the two spreadsheets of data. These graphs show that in both instances level 0 has the highest percentage and the other levels following similar trends excluding the percentage with not data. Then a more focused set of graphs including data from the same years were created for comparison. This was only done for the data collected for Seattle, as there were only nine properties evaluated in 2017. These graphs also showed the highest percentage as being level 0 and was similar to the overall comparison, except that level 3 and 2 differed.

#### OVERALL COMPARISON: 2016 VS. 2017 LOA DATA COLLECTION

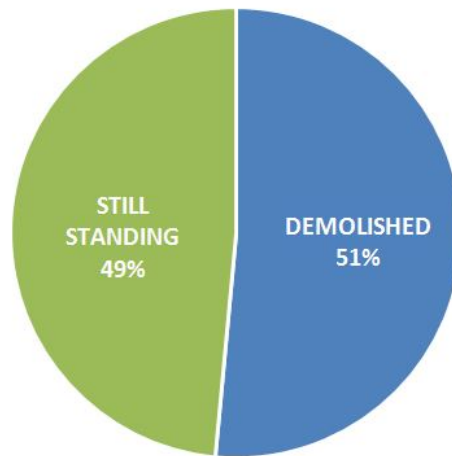


#### COMPARISON: 2016 VS. 2017 LOA DATA COLLECTION



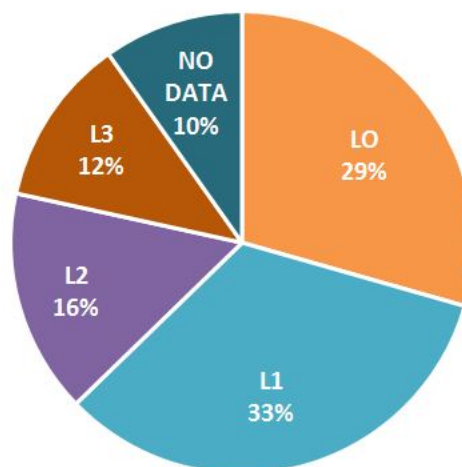
Another interesting set of data showed whether non-designated properties had been demolished since failing to reach landmark status. For this, one graph was created for still standing properties versus demolished properties out of the 101 properties denied designation since 2008.

Still Standing vs. Demolished



The next graph created broke this down further by dividing up those properties which had been demolished by their level of association (LOA).

Demolished by LOA



## CASE STUDIES

### TYPE ONE: NOT NOMINATED

#### 1. BLACK PANTHER HEADQUARTERS (FIRST LOCATION)

UC Association: African Am, Asian Am, Women, Other/Veterans

##### Location Information:

- Address: 1127 34<sup>th</sup> Ave., Seattle 98122
- Location: 34<sup>th</sup> Street, between Union and Spring Streets, Central District
- Status: Still Standing



Figure 1: Aerial view of location of headquarters  
(Image from Google Earth)



Figure 2: Headquarters when inhabited by the Black Panthers  
(Image from UW Seattle Civil Rights & Labor History website)

##### History/Significance:

The Black Panther Party first emerged in Oakland, California in 1966. The mission of the party was to raise up the African American community by establishing a different political, social and economic order. Its members sought to also to hinder the police brutality that was commonplace in the African American community of Oakland. The objectives for the party were spelled out in what was known as the Ten Point System. This system outlined demands for equal treatment and rights in the United States. The



Seattle branch of the Black Panthers was established two and a half years after the original chapter in Oakland and was the first to organize outside of the state of California.<sup>1</sup>

Aaron Dixon was the person who initiated the Seattle Chapter of the Black Panthers. Although the situation in Seattle was different than Oakland, it nonetheless seemed necessary to seek change. Seattle's racism was in many cases less severe and more concealed than many American cities at the time, but was still very much present. After visiting San Francisco for a Black Student Union conference and subsequently hearing Black Panther Party co-founder Bobby Seale speak, the seeds of the party were planted within Dixon. He immediately approached Seale about establishing a chapter of the party in Seattle. Later that same week, Seale visited Seattle and gave his support for the new branch, appointing eighteen year old Aaron Dixon as captain of the branch in 1968.<sup>2</sup>

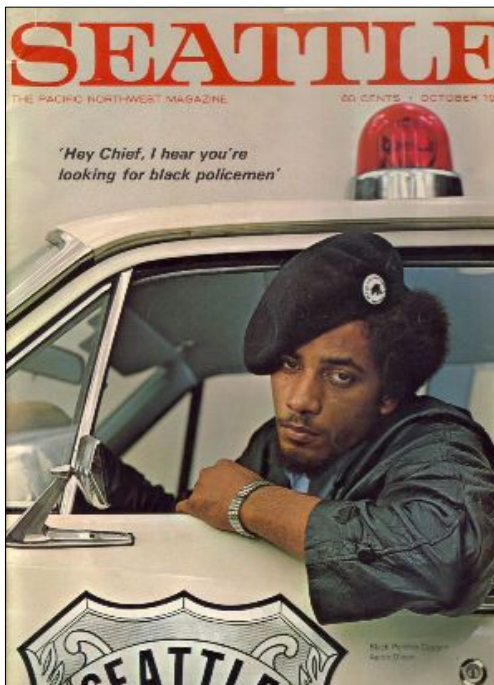


Figure 3: Aaron Dixon on cover of Seattle magazine  
(Image from UW Seattle Civil Rights & Labor History website)

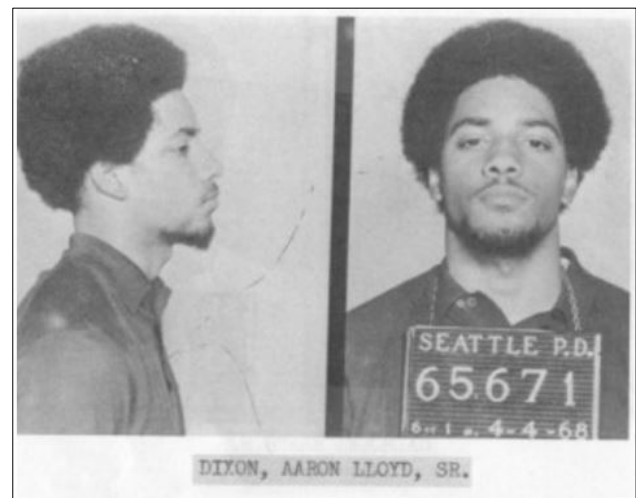


Figure 4: Mugshot of Aaron Dixon, Black Panther captain  
(Image from UW Seattle Civil Rights & Labor History website)

Black Panther central headquarters in Oakland required that all branches operated from a central location in the African American community with a storefront. This ensured that it would be identifiable and accessible to everyone in the community. The location chosen was near the corner of 34<sup>th</sup> and Union Street, in the Madrona neighborhood.<sup>3</sup> Once situated in the office, word spread quickly that the Black Panthers had been established in Seattle and applications began coming in. The party attracted a variety of people. The majority of applicants were African American and young, many still in high school. Older members of the community also applied, but less frequently. It was also common to have

<sup>1</sup> Kurt Schaefer. "The Black Panther Party in Seattle, 198-1970, Part 2: Seattle Panthers," *Seattle Civil Rights & Labor History Project*, [http://depts.washington.edu/civilr/Panther2\\_schaefer.htm](http://depts.washington.edu/civilr/Panther2_schaefer.htm) (Accessed August 4, 2017).

<sup>2</sup> Kurt Schaefer. "The Black Panther Party in Seattle, 198-1970, Part 1: Background—the BSU and Black Power," *Seattle Civil Rights & Labor History Project*, [http://depts.washington.edu/civilr/Panthers1\\_schaefer.htm](http://depts.washington.edu/civilr/Panthers1_schaefer.htm) (Accessed August 4, 2017).

<sup>3</sup> Jaimee Garbacik, *Ghosts of Seattle Past: An Anthology of Lost Seattle Places*, (Seattle, WA: Chin Music Press, 2017), 3.



applicants and members who were women and even applicants who were Asian.<sup>4</sup> One such member was Mike Tagawa who was a Vietnam Veteran and one of three Japanese Americans to join the party. Tagawa was born in an internment camp and grew up in Seattle's Rainer Valley and Central District neighborhoods.<sup>5</sup> Tagawa and other veterans added the beneficial aspect of discipline to the training of young recruits, drawing from their military backgrounds.<sup>6</sup>



Figure 5: Black Panther member Mike Tagawa  
(Image from UW Seattle Civil Rights & Labor History website)

The use and open display of firearms was an integral part of the Black Panther Party. It was a necessity in Oakland to send a message to police that brutality would not be ignored. In Seattle, this practice eventually seemed to cause more harm than good, bringing with it negative attention. Eventually the open carrying of firearms and even the Panther uniform was phased out, although the members continued to carry concealed firearms. This move to the more mainstream persona took place around 1969 and led to better relations within the overall community. According to Dixon, it was the right decision to project a party persona rejecting prejudice but not promoting violence.<sup>7</sup>

Although the storefront headquarters was a requirement and provided advantages, it was soon evident that it was being targeted by police officers and general racist attacks. In 1969, after only a year, it was decided that a new, more discrete location would serve the branch better. The party moved to a location on the corner of 20<sup>th</sup> and Spruce Street in a duplex. In the fall of 1971, most of the Seattle members moved to Oakland following an order from the central headquarters for branches across the country to be relocated and focus efforts at the base of operations. After this evacuation, the building was promptly torn down by the city. Although the building has since been demolished, a Black Panther themed mural remains on the what is known as the "People's Wall" fronting the site of the property that served as the second headquarters.<sup>8</sup>

---

<sup>4</sup> Aaron Dixon, *My People are Rising: Memoir of a Black Panther Party Captain*, (Chicago, IL: Haymarket Books: 2012), 104.

<sup>5</sup> Unknown Author, "Mike Tagawa," *Seattle Civil Rights & Labor History Project*, <http://depts.washington.edu/civilr/tagawa.htm> (Accessed August 4, 2017).

<sup>6</sup> Aaron Dixon, *My People are Rising: Memoir of a Black Panther Party Captain*, (Chicago, IL: Haymarket Books: 2012), 105.

<sup>7</sup> Kurt Schaefer, "The Black Panther Party in Seattle, 198-1970, Part 2: Seattle Panthers," *Seattle Civil Rights & Labor History Project*, [http://depts.washington.edu/civilr/Panther2\\_schaefer.htm](http://depts.washington.edu/civilr/Panther2_schaefer.htm) (Accessed August 4, 2017).

<sup>8</sup> Jaimee Garbacik, *Ghosts of Seattle Past: An Anthology of Lost Seattle Places*, (Seattle, WA: Chin Music Press, 2017), 3-5.



Figure 6: Current photo of the People's Wall (photo by author)

Despite the relatively short time the Black Panther Party was in Seattle, the branch did a lot of good for the Central District community and provided a lasting impact. Survival programs put in place by the party provided support and aid that the government neglected to provide to the community according to Party Captain, Aaron Dixon.<sup>9</sup> Notable programs implemented by the party included a prison visitation program, tutoring programs, a sickle-cell anemia testing program and a free breakfast program at select community centers for in-need children.<sup>10</sup>



Figure 7: Current photo of original Black Panther headquarters (photo by author)

<sup>9</sup> Jaimee Garbacik, *Ghosts of Seattle Past: An Anthology of Lost Seattle Places*, (Seattle, WA: Chin Music Press, 2017), 3-5.

<sup>10</sup> Taylor Quintard, *The Forging of a Black Community: Seattle's Central District from 1870 through the Civil Rights Era*. (Seattle, WA: University of Washington Press, 1994), 221

## 2. WHITE RIVER GARDEN COOPERATIVE

UC Association: Asian Am/Japan

### Location Information:

- Address: 28009-28327 W. Valley Hwy (now 68<sup>th</sup> Ave.), Auburn, 98001
- Location: West and East sides of W. Valley Hwy.
- Status: All (or most) of buildings still standing



Figure 8: Aerial view of White River Garden Cooperative properties  
(Image from Google Earth)



Figure 9: White River Garden Coop buildings  
(Images from King County Archives)

### History/Significance:

In 1919, four families from the area of Nagano-ken, Japan bought 40 acres in Thomas, Washington and decided to start a farming cooperative together. The first to make the journey from Japan to the United States was Shoichiro Katsuno who first arrived in 1908. His wife and young son eventually made the journey to be with him in 1910. The other three families to eventually join in his farming business were the Shungo Hirabayashi, Toshiharu Hirabayashi and

Nobuyuki Yokoyama families. Each couple had at least two children at this time. All of the families shared the same religious beliefs and followed a grassroots Japanese movement known as Mukyokai. The movement was a non-denominational Christian belief system which valued personal integrity and deliberate ways of living.



Figure 10: White River Garden Cooperative families  
(Image from White River Valley Museum website)

The families named their joint company the White River Garden Corporation, in which all four had stock. Shortly after establishing the company, Shoichuro Katsuno transferred all of his shares into his daughter's name. This was a decision made to safeguard his property, because his daughter was born in the United States. The family also had a white friend of the family serve as a sponsor to their daughter for added protection.<sup>11</sup> This practice was legal at the time, but later was retroactively used against the family and their property by the state.<sup>12</sup> The Washington State Alien Land Law of 1921, section 2, stated:

"An alien shall not own land or take or hold title hitherto. No person shall take or hold land or title to land for an alien. Land now held by or for aliens in violation of the constitution of the state is forfeited to and declared to be the property of the state. Land hereafter conveyed to or

---

<sup>11</sup> Stan Flewelling, *Shirakawa: Stories from a Pacific Northwest Japanese American Community*, (Seattle, WA: University of Washington Press, 2002), 62-63.

<sup>12</sup> *Ibid*, 74.



for the use of aliens in violation of the constitution or of this act shall thereby be forfeited to and become the property of the state..."<sup>13</sup>

A King County prosecutor accused Katsuno of fraud and asked the state to confiscate the land, even though the shares had been placed in her name before the law took effect. Katsuno went to court, but was ruled against. The case then went to the US Supreme Court in 1928, but the ruling was upheld. The Katsuno family remained on the property, but only because a white friend began leasing the property and made Shoichiro the manager. The family was later sent to an internment camp from 1942-1945, after which they never returned to their farm.<sup>14</sup> In 1960, Katsuno appealed his case at a time when land laws began to become more just. He won this time and was granted reparations for the land he had lost.<sup>15</sup>

Another important case by a member of the White River Garden Cooperative was tried both by the state of Washington and the Supreme Court. This time it involved one of the children of the Hirabayashi family after he went away to college. Gordon Hirabayashi grew up on the farm with the other three families and credited their honest way of life as making him the person he became. His personal values told him that he had to be true to himself and not make any compromises.<sup>16</sup> Hirabayashi described his family as making every effort to assimilate into American culture, while holding on to certain traditional Japanese aspects. Gordon belonged to many Japanese American clubs, Christian groups and even the boys scouts while growing up in Auburn.<sup>17</sup>



Figure 11: Hirabayashi family in front of their house  
(Image from *Shirakawa*, by Stan Flewelling)



Figure 12: Gordon Hirabayashi  
(Image from Densho website)

<sup>13</sup> Kazuo Ito, *Issei: A History of Japanese Immigrants in North America*, (Japan: Japan Publications, Inc.: 1973), 157.

<sup>14</sup> Stan Flewelling, *Farmlands: The Story of Thomas, A Small Community in King, County, Washington*, (Auburn, WA: Erick Sanders Historical Society, 1990), 95-96.

<sup>15</sup> Stan Flewelling, *Shirakawa: Stories from a Pacific Northwest Japanese American Community*, (Seattle, WA: University of Washington Press, 2002), 75.

<sup>16</sup> Ibid, 64.

<sup>17</sup> Gordon Hirabayashi, *A Principled Stand: The Story of Hirabayashi v. United States*, (Seattle, WA: University of Washington Press, 2013), 26-29.

Hirabayashi attended college at the University of Washington and was in his senior year when his life was about to be altered in a big way. Executive Order 9066 was issued which imposed a particular curfew on Japanese Americans.<sup>18</sup> This curfew demanded not only that Japanese Americans be confined to their residences in between the hours of 8pm and 6am, but also required that they not travel outside a five mile radius of their homes. Although Gordon adhered to this order at first he immediately began to question why he should be treated differently than any other American citizen. He started deliberately ignoring the curfew out of protest. He also deliberately ignored the Civilian Exclusion Order No. 57 which ordered that all Japanese and Japanese Americans in the United States leave their homes and report to camps.<sup>19</sup> He turned himself into the FBI and was placed in a holding cell in Seattle for nine months until his trial, which convicted him for violating these orders. He appealed the case to the Supreme Court in 1943 and his conviction was upheld. Hirabayashi continued to be an activist and fight for what was right the rest of his life. In 2007, a play written by Jeanne Sakata called *Dawn's Light* brought Hirabayashi's story of courage to a wide audience.<sup>20</sup>

---

<sup>18</sup> Greg Robinson, *The Great Unknown: Japanese American Sketches*, (Boulder, CO: University Press of Colorado, 2016), 300.

<sup>19</sup> Gordon Hirabayashi, *A Principled Stand: The Story of Hirabayashi v. United States*, (Seattle, WA: University of Washington Press, 2013), 56-58.

<sup>20</sup> Greg Robinson, *The Great Unknown: Japanese American Sketches*, (Boulder, CO: University Press of Colorado, 2016), 300-301.

## TYPE TWO: NOT DESIGNATED

### 1. LIBERTY BANK

UC Association: African Am, Asian Am/Japan

#### Location Information:

- Address: 2320 E. Union St, Seattle 98122
- Location: Corner of E. Union & 24<sup>th</sup> Ave., Central District
- Status: Demolished

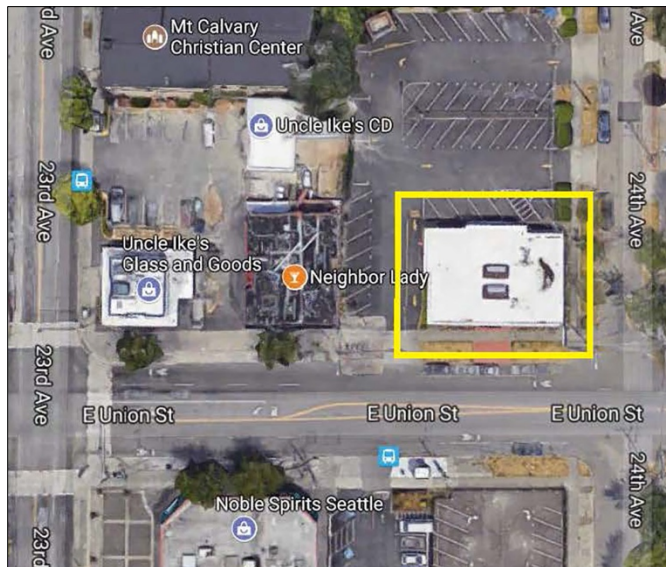


Figure 13: Aerial view of former location of Liberty Bank  
(Image from Google Earth)



Figure 14: Liberty bank in 1968  
(Photo from Liberty Bank Building website)

#### History/Significance:

Although traditionally the Central District was home to a wide array of ethnic groups, by 1900 the East Madison area was known to have a primarily African American population. In response to this, the African Methodist Episcopal Church and later the Mt. Zion Baptist Church were established in the area to serve the community. The African American population was fairly small in the Seattle, but began to increase following World War II. By 1950, the population had quadrupled. Over the decades, the Central District continued to be the center of the African American community in Seattle, but not always by choice. Although the area had remained

home to many institutions and families since the late 1800s, restrictive covenants and redlining kept African Americans out of other neighborhoods in Seattle. These implemented covenants related to race impacted the area in others ways such as less investment in the district in terms of social and public infrastructures. The effects of this discrimination could be felt well into the 1980s.<sup>21</sup>



Figure 15: Board members outside of temporary office  
(Image from Seattle Times website)



Figure 16: J. Thomas Wood, president of Liberty Bank, 1987  
(Image from Seattle Times website)

It is within these circumstances that Liberty Bank was conceived to serve a mostly African American community unable to attain the same opportunities as other citizens of Seattle. The bank was founded in 1968 to provide financial and banking services previously out of reach to the majority of Central District residents. The bank was considered one of the first minority-owned banks located west of Mississippi and north of Los Angeles.<sup>22</sup> Liberty Bank was able to provide home and business loans to a community of about 75,000 who did not have this option prior to the bank opening.<sup>23</sup>

The bank was designed by an African American architect named Mel Streeter. Streeter graduated with a Bachelor of Architecture degree from the University of Oregon in 1955. After

<sup>21</sup> DKA Architecture, "Liberty Bank," (City of Seattle Landmark Nomination Report, second submission. Seattle Landmarks Preservation Board, Seattle, December 6, 2013), 8-10.

<sup>22</sup> DKA Architecture, "Liberty Bank," (City of Seattle Landmark Nomination Report, second submission. Seattle Landmarks Preservation Board, Seattle, November 22, 2013), 9-10.

<sup>23</sup> DKA Architecture, "Liberty Bank," (City of Seattle Landmark Nomination Report, second submission. Seattle Landmarks Preservation Board, Seattle, December 6, 2013), 11.



moving to Seattle Streeter faced obstacles while finding a place in the architectural community. He then started his own firm, one of the few African American owned architecture firms in Seattle during that time.<sup>24</sup> Streeter created a legacy for himself in Seattle through his work and also his work within the community. During his lifetime he invested his time in such pursuits as civic projects, public education and the mentoring of young architects. He is credited with helping to set the stage for a more diverse group of architectural professionals in Seattle. Other notable accomplishments include founding membership in the American Institute of Architect's Diversity Roundtable and a Community Service Award from the American Institute of Architects in 2004.<sup>25</sup>



Figure 17: Mel Streeter  
(Image from Riversider website)



Figure 18: Ribbon cutting ceremony for opening of bank  
(Image from Seattle Times website)

Liberty Bank served the community of the Central District for just over twenty years before it was closed by state regulators in 1987 due to irregular annual profits. The bank then became Emerald City bank until 1993 when it then became a Key Bank.



Figure 19: Current photo of former Liberty Bank Location (Photo by author)

<sup>24</sup> DKA Architecture, "Liberty Bank," (City of Seattle Landmark Nomination Report, second submission. Seattle Landmarks Preservation Board, Seattle, December 6, 2013), 15-16.

<sup>25</sup> Ibid, 19.

### Nomination Process & Details:

An initial nomination report for Liberty Bank was prepared and submitted in October of 2013. The report was initiated by Omari Tahir, a local activist and son of a co-founder of the bank. The report was completed by Tahir and another local activist named Leith Kahl. The bulk of the report focuses on the cultural and social significance of the bank and provides a variety of supplemental material. The supplemental materials include: newspaper articles regarding the bank, information related to the significance of the use of “Liberty” in the bank’s name, information on architect Mel Streeter and information on people associated with the bank.<sup>26</sup> In December of 2013, a second nomination was submitted to landmarks staff. This report was initiated by Capitol Hill Housing who intended to purchase the property from Key Bank. The report was completed by DKA Architecture. The significance section for this report began with a large amount of information on the history of the Central District and the demographic changes over time. Only two short paragraphs were devoted to the history and significance of Liberty Bank itself, followed by a paragraph for Emerald City Bank and another for Key Bank. The next three pages are devoted to describing how the building fits into the context of Mid Century Modern style and the 20<sup>th</sup> century bank building typology. After this, there are a roughly four pages about Mel Streeter, but mostly listing his other buildings around the region.<sup>27</sup>

Documents found in the property file related to the criteria needed for landmark status included landmarks staff recommendation and an evaluation of the criteria by the Johnson Partnership. The landmarks staff recommended that the building be nominated under criterion C.<sup>28</sup> The criteria evaluation conducted by the Johnson Partnership suggests that the only criterion under which the property would qualify would be criterion C.<sup>29</sup>

The Landmarks Preservation Board Meeting for the nomination of Liberty Bank was held in February of 2014. The meeting began with a presentation about the significance of the building by Omari Tahir and Leith Kahl. This presentation focused mainly on the social and cultural significance of the building. Kahl claimed that the building met all six of the criteria for landmark designation. Questions from the board focused mainly on the integrity of the building with a few questions about its cultural significance. A reoccurring comment from the board stated that the building should be able to convey its cultural significance. A concern seemed to be alterations made to the building with several comments on ceiling beams that had been shortened and which were no longer exposed. Capitol Hill Housing then spoke, stating they were there representing the interests of current owners Key Bank. CHH stated

---

<sup>26</sup> Omari Tahir, “Liberty Bank.” (City of Seattle Landmark Nomination Report. Seattle Landmarks Preservation Board, Seattle, August 26, 2013.)

<sup>27</sup> DKA Architecture, “Liberty Bank,” (City of Seattle Landmark Nomination Report, second submission. Seattle Landmarks Preservation Board, Seattle, December 6, 2013).

<sup>28</sup> Landmarks staff, City of Seattle. “Staff Report on Designation.” (From Department of Neighborhoods office, Liberty Bank property file, February 5, 2014.)

<sup>29</sup> Johnson Partnership Architectural Firm, Criteria Evaluation: “2320 E Union Street/Liberty Bank Building,” From Department of Neighborhoods office, Liberty Bank property file, February 3, 2014.)

their intent was to use the site to build affordable housing for the community. They stated their hope to honor the legacy of Liberty bank through art and signage. Larry Johnson then spoke about the integrity of the building, stating that it was not present in its current condition. He stated that the building could possibly meet criterion C, but that other buildings by Streeter were more significant than the building in question. The landmarks board was divided, with some claiming that the integrity couldn't allow nomination and others recognizing cultural significance. The nomination was successful, but many board members wanted more information on the building's alterations and cultural/social history for the next meeting.<sup>30</sup>

A supplemental integrity report was prepared and submitted by the Johnson Partnership before the next meeting. The report contained photos and diagrams pointing out the altered areas of the building over the years. The report states the building has been significantly altered, removing or covering up most character defining features that would make it readable as designed in the international style. Areas pointed out as altered include a section of windows taken out and replaced with brick, cantilevered beams shortened and additions constructed to accommodate ATMs. It is also pointed out in the report that the added brick does not adequately match that of the original.<sup>31</sup>

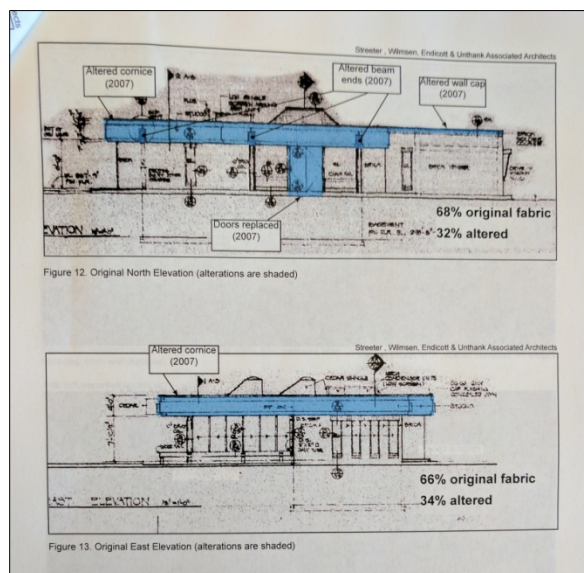


Figure 20: Alterations to bank, Johnson Partnership report (Image from Johnson Partnership supplementary report)

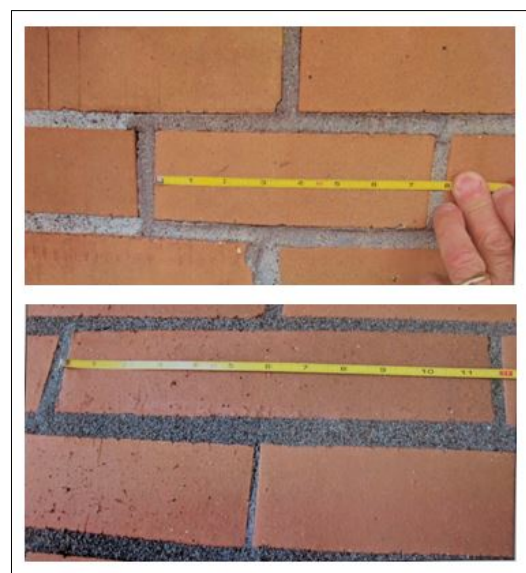


Figure 21: New and old brick, Johnson Partnership report (Image from Johnson Partnership supplementary report)

<sup>30</sup> Landmarks staff, City of Seattle. "Landmarks Preservation Board Meeting." (Nomination Meeting, February 5, 2014. From Department of Neighborhoods office, Liberty Bank property file.)

<sup>31</sup> Johnson Partnership Architectural Firm. "Supplemental Report on Building Integrity." (From Department of Neighborhoods office, Liberty Bank property file, March 3, 2014.)

The Landmarks Preservation Board Meeting for the designation of Liberty Bank was held in March of 2014. The meeting again started with a presentation from a community member in support of the designation. This time Michelle Purnell Hepburn spoke of the context in which the bank emerged. Both of Ms. Hepburn's parents were among the founders of Liberty Bank in 1968. She recognized the need for low-income housing in the neighborhood, but spoke of the importance of preserving the legacy of the bank and what it stood for. Leith Kahl spoke next providing the supplemental information on history requested at the last meeting. Supplemental information provided history of redlining and other obstacles faced by minorities in the Central District. He then spoke to the supplemental report provided by the Johnson Partnership on the integrity of the building, emphasizing that the cultural significance was important too. He stated the changes were more maintenance than purely modification of the building. Larry Johnson then summed up his supplemental report and stated the building did not meet basic integrity standards for becoming a city landmark. Once the public was allowed to comment the meeting became very heated. Many community members asserted the city was has been tearing down or attempting to tear down buildings associated with African Americans. Some members of the community supported affordable housing for the site, saying the building is underutilized and the site could serve a better purpose. Racism in Seattle was brought up by several community members. The NAACP supported the designation of the building saying it was a source of pride for the Central District. During the commentary eight people supported the nomination and five were against it. When it was time for the board to discuss and reach a decision, it was mostly divided. Several of the board members were torn, recognizing the building's cultural importance but feeling the it could not convey it. Integrity seemed to be the main issue with designation. Although the votes were close, the designation was ultimately denied for the building.<sup>32</sup>

---

<sup>32</sup> Landmarks staff, City of Seattle, "Landmarks Preservation Board Meeting," (Designation Meeting, March 19, 2014. From Department of Neighborhoods office, Liberty Bank property).

## TYPE TWO: NOT DESIGNATED

### 2. JEFFERSON PARK GOLF COURSE CLUBHOUSE

UC Association: African Am/Individual, African Am/group, Asian Am/China, Other/Women, Other/Veterans

#### Location Information:

- Address: 4101 Beacon Ave. S., Seattle 98108
- Location: West side of Beacon Ave, Beacon Hill
- Status: Demolished and replaced



Figure 22: Aerial view of location of former clubhouse  
(Image from Google Earth)



Figure 23: Clubhouse in 1939  
(Image from Nomination Report, Bussetti Architects)

#### History/Significance:

Jefferson Park Golf Course was the first golf course in Seattle to be municipally owned and the third in overall King County. The course officially opened in 1915 and was created in response to the growing interest in the sport and the need for a more affordable public course. Prior to this there had only been a few private golf clubs located in Seattle. Women were at first limited to playing golf every day except Saturday afternoon and Sunday morning. This was later changed when a group of female golfers initiated a petition for a rule change. Soon after the

Board of Park Commissioners granted the same access privileges to women as men. However, women were not the only group to be discriminated against at the golf course.<sup>33</sup>

One of the reasons for opening the public golf course was the ability to create a golf club. Only members of a golf club were able to participate in golf tournaments and Jefferson Park enabled lower income golfers to participate in tournaments. Before this, participants in tournaments included on those players belonging to private clubs which were much more expensive. Although this opened the door to many people, there were still citizens of Seattle not allowed to join the Jefferson Park Golf Club. The clubs that controlled the golf tournaments in Seattle did not allow minorities to join clubs and therefore they were not allowed to play in tournaments. Although minorities were free to play golf on the course alongside everyone else, this rule was meant to keep them as outsiders in the sport.<sup>34</sup>



Figure 24: Fir State Golf Club members  
(Image from Kickstarter website)

In 1947, a group of 15 African American men and women formed the Fir State Golf Club. The club was formed so that African American golfers would be able to participate in 'local tournaments. The club was named after the native fir tree of Washington which serves as a

---

<sup>33</sup> Jefferson municipal golf course, historylink

<sup>34</sup> Mark Holland and Mira Latoszek, "The Vanishing History of Jefferson Park Golf, Part III: Golfing Clubs and Champions: United by the Right to Compete," *Beacon Hill Blog*. September 4, 2012, <http://beaconhill.seattle.wa.us/2012/09/04/the-vanishing-history-of-jefferson-park-golf-part-iii-golfing-clubs-and-champions-united-by-the-right-to-compete/> (Accessed August 9, 2017).



symbol for determination and strength. The club began holding meetings at Shannon's Barbershop, a cleaning shop located on 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Jackson Street and at the Royal Esquire Club. Although they were a golf club, the Jefferson Park Golf Club and the City of Seattle often found loop holes in the law to keep them out. Finally in 1952 after a long battle, the Fir State Golf Club gained the right to play in tournaments, however the discrimination often still occurred.<sup>35</sup> The Fir State Golf Club is still around today and its story is being made into a documentary.<sup>36</sup>

In July of 1959 a member of the Fir State Golf Club became the first African American player to win the U.S. Public Links Tournament of the USGA. His name was Bill Wright and he continued to excel at tournaments and pave the way for African American golfers throughout his career. Wright also came in second place in the National Amateur Championship 1959, becoming the first African American to compete in this event. Bill Wright was honored by Jefferson Park Golf Course on October 10, 2009 to commemorate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his victory. The event was called "Bill Wright Day" and recognized Bill for breaking the color barrier in golf in multiple ways.<sup>37</sup>

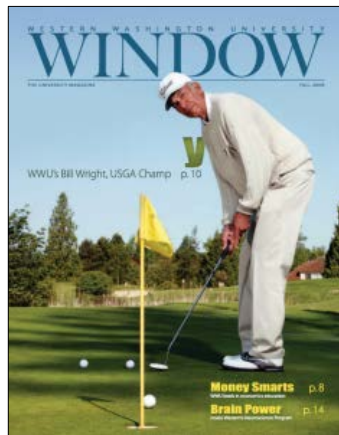


Figure 25: Bill Wright  
(Image from Beacon Hill Blog)



Figure 26: Seattle Chinese Golf Club member  
(Image from History Link website)

Another minority group to break barriers at Jefferson Park Golf Course was the Seattle Chinese Golf Club. Formed in 1951, the club consisted on 16 Chinese businessmen. Like the Fir State Golf Club, the Seattle Chinese Golf Club helped to open doors for minorities to play in golf

<sup>35</sup> Elise Fogel, Essay 9531, "The Fir State Golf Club is Founded in Seattle in 1947," *History Link Online Encyclopedia*, 2010, <http://www.historylink.org/File/9531> (Accessed August 9, 2017).

<sup>36</sup> Rudy Horn, Kickstarter Website. "Out of the Rough: Stories from Fir State Golf Club," <https://www.kickstarter.com/projects/1200799877/out-of-the-rough-stories-from-fir-state-golf-club> (Accessed August 11, 2017).

<sup>37</sup> Mark Holland and Mira Latoszek, "The Vanishing History of Jefferson Park Golf, Part III: Golfing Clubs and Champions: United by the Right to Compete," *Beacon Hill Blog*. September 4, 2012, <http://beaconhill.seattle.wa.us/2012/09/04/the-vanishing-history-of-jefferson-park-golf-part-iii-golfing-clubs-and-champions-united-by-the-right-to-compete/> (Accessed August 9, 2017).

tournaments. In 1954, the club was chartered and the club's name was changed to the Seattle Cascade Golf Club.<sup>38</sup> In 1982, the club began accepting women members and over the years became more ethnically diverse.



Figure 27: Current photo of new clubhouse (Photo by author)

### Nomination Process & Details:

The nomination report for Jefferson Park Golf Course Clubhouse was prepared by Bassetti Architects for the Seattle Department of Parks and Recreation. The report devotes about two pages to describe alterations to the building and its subsequent integrity. This section highlights that the “defining central entry porch” was later enclosed. The description of all alterations which occurred on the exterior and interior of the building implies that the building has little integrity left. The significance section of the report, although about three times as long as the physical building description focuses mainly on the history of Beacon Hill and Jefferson Park. In terms of the clubhouse, there is a short section on the building history while the majority of space is used to evaluate its place within Federal Relief buildings in Seattle and in the Colonial Revival architectural style. Bill Wright is covered in the report, but his full significance to the property is not featured. Lastly, the social and cultural importance of the property is in the report, but seems to be the least researched or of less focus within the section.<sup>39</sup>

---

<sup>38</sup> David Wilma and Catherine Hinchliff, Essay 3015, “Jefferson Park Municipal Golf Course (Seattle),” History Link Online Encyclopedia, 2001, <http://www.historylink.org/File/3015> (Accessed August 9, 2017).

<sup>39</sup> Nancy Callery and Bassetti Architects, “Jefferson Park Golf Course Clubhouse,” (City of Seattle Landmark Nomination Report, Seattle Landmarks Preservation Board, Seattle, November 27, 2012).



Documents found in the property file related to the criteria needed for landmark status included a landmarks staff recommendation and an evaluation of the criteria by Seattle Parks and Recreation. The landmarks staff recommendation document states that it does not support the nomination of the building and that it does not meet any of the criteria for nomination.<sup>40</sup> The evaluation by Seattle Parks and Recreation voices this same opinion by going through each criterion and explaining why it is not adequate.<sup>41</sup>

The Landmarks Preservation Board Meeting for the nomination of the Jefferson Park Golf Course clubhouse was held in February of 2012. Bussetti Architecture started by generally describing the property and its history. The social and cultural significance of the property was mentioned in this opening and was not mentioned again. This description consisted of part of a sentence. The rest of the presentation focused on the building itself, which was limited to changes over time and integrity. Bussetti architecture said at one point that the building did not meet criterion C due to better examples of WPA buildings being present in Seattle. The landmarks board asked very few questions, of which were related to the second clubhouse (structure before the building in question) and integrity of material and architectural details. The meeting was then opened for public comment. Of the four people who spoke, three were in favor of the nomination and one was against the nomination. One member of the public expressed her opinion that not enough research went into the nomination for the building. This particular person stated that she has written two books about Beacon Hill and knew for sure there was much more that could have been to the significance and history section. She stated that the black community fought hard to gain rights to use the golf course and the clubhouse. She stated that many minorities historically could not afford to pay for 18 holes of golf and therefore mainly used the putting green as well as utilizing the clubhouse. Another member of the public echoed the assertion that the research for the nomination was lacking. He stated that the building was practically a shrine for Bill Wright and the architecture was reflective of the working class people who have always used it.

Ultimately the board voted against the nomination of the clubhouse. One board member stated that Bill Wright had more of a connection to the “racial struggle” related to the use of the golf course rather than the clubhouse. Other comments circled around integrity and the buildings in ability to convey its significance or a connection to any kind of “cultural heritage.”<sup>42</sup>

---

<sup>40</sup> Landmarks staff, City of Seattle, “Staff Report: Nomination of the Jefferson Park Golf Clubhouse, 4101 Beacon Ave. S.,” (From Department of Neighborhoods office, Jefferson Park Golf Course Clubhouse property file, Date Unknown).

<sup>41</sup> Seattle Parks and Recreation, City of Seattle, Criteria Evaluation: “Findings and Recommendations.” (From Department of Neighborhoods office, Jefferson Park Golf Course Clubhouse property file, February 7, 2012).

<sup>42</sup> Landmarks staff, City of Seattle, “Landmarks Preservation Board Meeting,” Nomination Meeting, (From Department of Neighborhoods office, Jefferson Park Golf Course Clubhouse property file, February 15, 2012).

## TYPE THREE: DESIGNATED, BUT DOES NOT FULLY ENGAGE UC ASSOCIATION

### 1. COLMAN SCHOOL

UC Association: African Am/individual, African Am/group, Woman/individual

#### Location Information:

- Address: 2300 S. Massachusetts St. Seattle 98144
- Location: 23<sup>rd</sup> Ave. S. and S. Massachusetts St., Southern Central District/Northern Rainier Valley neighborhoods
- Status: Still Standing

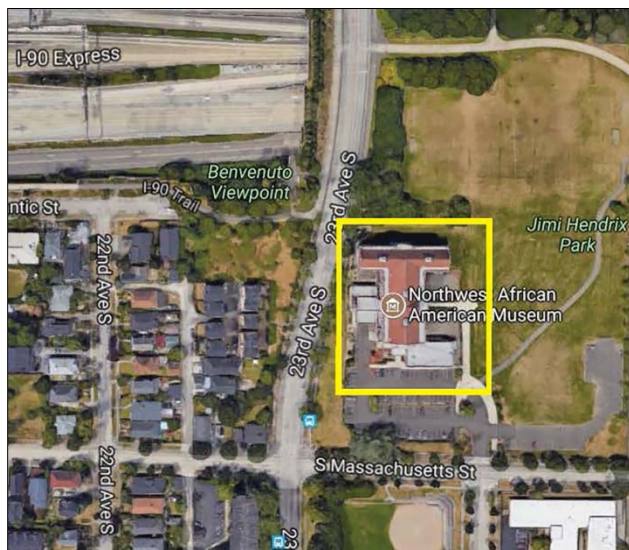


Figure 28: Aerial View of location of Colman School/NAAM  
(Image from Google Earth)



Figure 29: Colman School in 1940  
(Image from History Link website)

#### History/Significance:

The northern Rainier Valley neighborhood was traditionally inhabited by a large Italian population and was sometimes called “Garlic Gulch.” Although African Americans were typically concentrated in the Central District area of Seattle, some relocated to the Rainier Valley. This was because redlining which restricted them from moving elsewhere did not apply southward to the Rainier Valley neighborhood.

Colman School was built between 1909 and 1910 when people of the neighborhood pressured the city.<sup>43</sup> The elementary school had a large African American population from early on and in was singled out in 1966 by the NAACP, along with several other schools in Seattle, as practicing segregation. In fact, the NAACP requested that Colman and the other schools be closed due to this. In 1966, a school boycott was held for two days in which participating students went to alternative “freedom” schools instead of attending their regular school. The estimated attendance of these schools on these two days is around 3,000 students who were protesting segregation. Teachers also participated in the boycott and chose to teach students at the freedom schools rather than their regular school of employment. The school boycott was largely considered a success. Although it did not end segregation practices immediately, it aided in paving the way toward equal education for all students in Seattle.<sup>44</sup>

Another important part of the history of Colman School occurred after it was closed to students and no longer used as a school. In 1979, the I-90 corridor and floating bridge were added just north of the school to provide easier access to Mercer Island and beyond. This construction resulted in the abandonment of South Atlantic Street and soon after the school was closed. These events were seen as the beginnings of a huge reduction in the residents of the area.<sup>45</sup> In the spring of 1981 a police precinct station was proposed at Yesler Way and 23<sup>rd</sup>. A multi-racial coalition called the Community Exchange protested the precinct and occupied the building arguing that the community did not need another negative institution. They propose the community needs a constructive institution such as a museum, to which the Mayor agreed.<sup>46</sup> In the summer of 1983, 4,000 residents of the region signed a petition for the creation of an African American culture and heritage center in Seattle. The Washington Black Heritage Society had long sought to make the museum a reality and had been putting together a collection for years.<sup>47</sup> In response to the petition the mayor asked the community to form a task force with the aim of establishing an African American Heritage Museum. The Colman School was put on a list of potential sites for the museum and was considered by most to be the best location. After the city backtracked on its intent to support the building for this purpose, an emergency meeting of the museum activists and the African American community was held to decide how to proceed.

In November of 1985, a group of activists decide to occupy Colman School in the name of the African American Heritage Museum and to notify the press. In the winter of the same year the electricity is ordered off at the building, but the activist remain committed to the occupation of

---

<sup>43</sup> Landmarks staff, City of Seattle, “Report on Designation,” Date Unknown, (From Department of Neighborhoods office, Liberty Bank property file).

<sup>44</sup> Brook Clark, “The Seattle School Boycott of 1966,” *Seattle Civil Rights & Labor History Project*.  
[http://depts.washington.edu/civilr/school\\_boycott.htm](http://depts.washington.edu/civilr/school_boycott.htm) (Accessed August 4, 2017).

<sup>45</sup> Johnson Partnership Architectural Firm, “Coleman Elementary School,” (City of Seattle Landmark Nomination Report. Seattle Landmarks Preservation Board, Seattle, April 12, 2005).

<sup>46</sup> NAAM Staff, “Chronology,” (From Northwest African American Museum collection, bound copy of collection of documents related to museum founding, date unknown), 1.

<sup>47</sup> John C. Cannon, “Senior Connection Discussion Notes,” (From Seattle Municipal Archives, 5751-05 African American Museum Project Records, Box 1, file: Background Summary, January 24, 1994.), 1.

the building.<sup>48</sup> The building remained occupied by activists for over eight years and is considered to be longest act of civil disobedience in the United States. The activists, who began calling themselves the Citizens Support Committee for the African American Heritage Museum/Cultural Center, spent \$500 a month to run a gas powered generator. The activists showered at the homes of friends and family or used bucket with water to bath. Community members often provided food to the occupiers and churches provided money when they could. During this time, some of the rooms of the building were used for sponsored community related events /activities and displayed artifacts and books. Although the Seattle School District considered the occupation trespassing, they wanted to avoid conflict and made little effort to make the activists leave.



Figure 30: NAAM on opening day, 2008  
(Image from History Link website)



Figure 31: NW African American Museum logo  
(Image from NAAM website)

The occupation finally ended in 1993 when the City of Seattle agreed to fund the museum. After this however, there was still much controversy and disagreement on how to make the museum a reality, even within the activist committee who had fought for the same end. Finally in 2008, the Northwest African American Museum was finished and had its official opening. The day was a happy one for the African American community and the museum welcomed an estimated 3,000 visitors on opening day.<sup>49</sup>

---

NAAM Staff, "Chronology," (From Northwest African American Museum collection, bound copy of collection of documents related to museum founding, date unknown), 1-2.

<sup>49</sup> Henry, Mary T. Essay 8602, "Northwest African American Museum." History Link Online Encyclopedia, 2008.  
<http://www.historylink.org/File/8602>.



Figure 32: Current photo of Colman School/NAAM (Photo by author)

### Nomination Process & Details:

The nomination report for Colman School was prepared in 2005 by the Johnson Partnership for the Urban League Village, LLC. The report is not especially long and starts out with five pages devoted to the architectural description and details about alterations to the building. The significance section devotes a large part to describing the Rainier Valley neighborhood's history and its demographic information over the years. Other longer areas in the significance section contain details on the buildings construction, the student population over time, the historic architectural context and associated individuals such as the architect and James M. Colman for whom the building was named. A very small section is devoted to Anna B. Kane who served as principal of Colman and was considered the longest to serve in this role in the history of the Seattle School District at the time of the report. Any reference associated with the school boycott of 1966 is not mentioned in the report. Only three sentences are related to the eight year occupation of the building by activists and it is mentioned only in very general terms.<sup>50</sup>

Other documents related to the property's ability to meet criteria for designation were also included in its property file at the Department of Neighborhoods. In a criteria evaluation conducted by the Johnson Partnership, the firm recommends that the property can be nominated under criteria C, D and F. The evaluation also suggests that while the exterior of the building retains a significant amount of integrity, the same cannot be said for the interior.<sup>51</sup>

<sup>50</sup> Johnson Partnership Architectural Firm, "Coleman Elementary School," (City of Seattle Landmark Nomination Report. Seattle Landmarks Preservation Board, Seattle, April 12, 2005).

<sup>51</sup> Johnson Partnership Architectural Firm, Criteria Evaluation: "Coleman Elementary School," (From Department of Neighborhoods office, Colman School property file, April 12, 2005.)





Figure 33: Interior condition, Johnson Partnership report  
(Image from Johnson Partnership supplementary report)



Figure 34: More interior conditions, Johnson Partnership report  
(Image from Johnson Partnership supplementary report)

The Landmarks Preservation Board Meeting for the nomination of Colman School was held in July of 2005. James Kelly of the Urban League Village started the meeting by describing their desire to reconnect the building to the community. Larry Johnson then spoke where he stated that the building reaches the criteria for landmark designation under criteria C, D and F. He stated that the property qualified for criterion C because of its location, which was once the heart of former Little Italy. He also suggested the building might be able to meet criterion A based on its association to James Colman and Anna Kane. A member of the landmarks board asked Johnson about the exact years of occupation, to which Johnson stated he wasn't sure but that this event should be investigated for inclusion in the museum. He pointed out that the topic was still a sensitive subject for many in the community. Questions from the board then focused mainly on the integrity of the building. Many members were unclear about the interior integrity of the building and requested additional information. Some board members claimed the interior was unrecognizable and could be an issue. The nomination was passed overwhelmingly by the board.<sup>52</sup>

The designation landmark meeting was held in August of 2005, however these minutes were not included in its property file at the Department of Neighborhoods and were in prior years accessible on their website. Follow up and request of these minutes might be beneficial for future research.

<sup>52</sup> Landmarks staff, City of Seattle, "Landmarks Preservation Board Meeting," Nomination Meeting, July 6, 2005. (From Department of Neighborhoods office, Colman School property file.)

## CONCLUSION

### FINDINGS

Some general observations emerge when looking over the data collected for both the nine King County properties and the 101 Seattle properties (although more so for the higher data set of Seattle). First, LGBTQ, Native American and Latin American communities are largely absent when looking for the UC association for a property. It is unclear if this means that these associations are not being presented as part of the nomination's significance or if properties associated with these communities simply are not being nominated. Similarly, women seem to be scarce in nominations and if they are mentioned as part of the significance it is very brief. At least half of the nominations mentioning women involve an association to a woman or group of women who are important enough that more information would have surely been found if a greater degree of research had been applied.

In terms of the level 3 associations, of which there were 7 from the Seattle list, there are interesting criteria recommendations worth pointing out:

1. Two of the seven were not recommended for landmark designation under ANY criteria by landmark staff. These properties were:
  - Jefferson Park Golf Course Clubhouse
  - Avalon Ballroom
2. Three of the seven were deemed ineligible under ANY criteria by an architecture firm performing an evaluation on the building. These properties were:
  - Wigger & Sons Funeral Home
  - Caroline Kline Galland Building
  - El Gaucho Building
3. Two of the seven were recommended by landmark staff based at least partially on their association to an underrepresented community. These properties were:
  - Liberty Bank
  - Herzl School/Odesa Brown Children's Clinic

In terms of case studies, certain characteristics stand out within each type. The non-nominated properties were rich in history and significance related to an underrepresented community.

Both of these even seemed to have more information to research than those case studies that had been nominated for landmark designation.

When examining the two non-designated case studies it was clear based on meeting minutes and what was focused on in some of the nominations that integrity was the main factor holding these buildings back from designation. Alterations were focused on overwhelmingly more than other factors such as social or cultural significance. Also, in both cases the nomination reports submitted by an architecture firm were lacking in terms of research and content related to an underrepresented community association. Both of these properties clearly had a rich social and cultural history associated with an underrepresented community, however this part of the significance was not presented to the extent of other topics related to the architecture itself. It is also worth noting that both of these properties had a very strong backing for designation from the community. In both instances the community felt it necessary to provide supplemental information about the social/cultural significance of the property, pointing out that it was lacking in the overall presentation.

Although there was only one case study for a designated property, it is worth pointing out some observations discovered when researching the nomination/designation process. The nomination report for Colman School focused almost exclusively on the architectural significance, despite having a very well known association to an underrepresented community. The only reference to any social or cultural significance was a few sentences generally describing the occupation of the building for eight years. When questioned about this topic by a board member at the nomination meeting, the preparer of the report couldn't answer the question despite more than an adequate amount of information on the subject existing.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

### Non-Nominated Properties

It is recommended that the two non-nominated case study properties initiate the process for landmark designation. White River Garden Cooperative and the Black Panther Headquarters are both still standing and have more than enough information on significance to be successfully designated and protected in the future. The only issue for the White River Garden Cooperative would be that it has been divided and is no longer owned by the same person, as it was in the past. The property is now owned by two different parties where it is divided by 68<sup>th</sup> Ave. S. It is still worth approaching both owners with the history and importance of the property to increase the chance of designation, however.



It is also recommended that the other four properties with a level 3 association on the King County list be nominated for landmark designation. All of these properties have information to back a nomination based on their social or cultural significance and there is likely more information to be found if further research is performed.

Lastly, when conducting research on these two properties for case studies, other properties associated with the particular underrepresented community stood out for landmark designation. In terms of the Black Panthers, it is recommended that the community institutions used for the breakfast center programs and the building used as a clinic for the African American community be nominated for designation. Based on research, it appears most of these buildings may still be standing.

### Non-Designated Properties

Although both of the properties selected for case studies under this type have been demolished, these properties can serve as examples of what can be avoided. It is recommended that the other properties on the list with a high UC association, that are still standing and which have been previously been denied, be re-nominated when they are able.

Based on the findings when conducting research on the case studies that were not designated, it is recommended that a UC association and any sort of social or cultural significance be thoroughly researched and given just as much importance as architectural significance. It is recommended that if landmarks staff finds information on the UC association or social/cultural significance lacking in the nomination report submitted, staff asks the preparer to conduct further research on these topics and resubmit the report.

Also recommended is that presentations at nomination and designation meetings related to properties with a high UC association reflect this importance. It is also recommended that members of the board request information related this significance during these meetings.

### Designated, but do not fully engage UC association

It is recommended that those properties that have been designated and have a known UC association, but lack an adequate reflection of this association be further researched. Further research should seek to provide supplementary information not included in the original nomination report. This supplemental information should be submitted to landmarks staff and placed in its property file to further inform the significance of the property.

## FUTURE RESEARCH

Further research should be conducted on those properties in the spreadsheet which contain a level 2 or higher UC association. It is anticipated that if this is done, this association can be strengthened and provide a better chance of re-nomination and possibly a future designation of these properties.

Future research could also include more research into those designated properties on the spreadsheets created in 2016 which have a low level of association based on their nomination report, but are known to have a high amount of UC association. The social and cultural significance of these properties should be on display just as much as their architectural significance.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Black Heritage Society, *Black Heritage Society of Washington State, Inc.: 10 Years*. WA: Publisher unknown, 1987.
- Callery, Nancy and Bassetti Architects. "Jefferson Park Golf Course Clubhouse." City of Seattle Landmark Nomination Report. Seattle Landmarks Preservation Board, Seattle, November 27, 2012.
- Cannon, John C. "Senior Connection Discussion Notes." January 24, 1994. From Seattle Municipal Archives, 5751-05 African American Museum Project Records, Box 1, file: Background Summary.
- Clark, Brook. "The Seattle School Boycott of 1966." Seattle Civil Rights & Labor History Project. Accessed August 4, 2017. [http://depts.washington.edu/civilr/school\\_boycott.htm](http://depts.washington.edu/civilr/school_boycott.htm).
- Daniels, Roger. *The Japanese American Cases: The Rule of Law in Time of War*. Lawrence, Kansas: University Press of Kansas, 2013.
- Dixon, Aaron. *My People are Rising: Memoir of a Black Panther Party Captain*. Chicago, IL: Haymarket Books: 2012.
- DKA Architecture. "Liberty Bank." City of Seattle Landmark Nomination Report, first submission. Seattle Landmarks Preservation Board, Seattle, November 22, 2013.
- DKA Architecture. "Liberty Bank." City of Seattle Landmark Nomination Report, second submission. Seattle Landmarks Preservation Board, Seattle, December 6, 2013.
- Flewelling, Stan. *Farmlands: The Story of Thomas, A Small Community in King, County, Washington*. Auburn, WA: Erick Sanders Historical Society, 1990.
- Flewelling, Stan. *Shirakawa: Stories from a Pacific Northwest Japanese American Community*. Seattle, WA: University of Washington Press, 2002.
- Fogel, Elise. Essay 9531, "The Fir State Golf Club is Founded in Seattle in 1947." History Link Online Encyclopedia, 2010. Accessed August 9, 2017. <http://www.historylink.org/File/9531>.
- Fogel, Elise. Essay 9552, "The Seattle Chinese Golf Club (Seattle Cascade Golf Club) is founded in 1951." History Link Online Encyclopedia, 2010. <http://www.historylink.org/File/9552>.
- Garbacik, Jaimee. *Ghosts of Seattle Past: An Anthology of Lost Seattle Places*. Seattle, WA: Chin Music Press, 2017.
- Henry, Mary T. Essay 8602, "Northwest African American Museum." History Link Online Encyclopedia, 2008. <http://www.historylink.org/File/8602>.

- Hirabayashi, Gordon K. *A Principled Stand: The Story of Hirabayashi v. United States*. Seattle, WA: University of Washington Press, 2013.
- Hirabayashi, Gordon. "Testimony of Gordon Hirabayashi." Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians Collection, Washington D.C., 1981. Accessed August 16, 2017. <http://ddr.densho.org/ddr-densho-67-325/>.
- Holland, Mark and Mira Latoszek. "The Vanishing History of Jefferson Park Golf, Part III: Golfing Clubs and Champions: United by the Right to Compete." *Beacon Hill Blog*. September 4, 2012. Accessed August 9, 2017. <http://beaconhill.seattle.wa.us/2012/09/04/the-vanishing-history-of-jefferson-park-golf-part-iii-golfing-clubs-and-champions-united-by-the-right-to-compete/>.
- Horn, Rudy. Kickstarter Website. "Out of the Rough: Stories from Fir State Golf Club." Accessed August 11, 2017. <https://www.kickstarter.com/projects/1200799877/out-of-the-rough-stories-from-fir-state-golf-club>.
- Ito, Kazuo. *Issei: A History of Japanese Immigrants in North America*. Japan: Japan Publications, Inc.: 1973.
- Johnson Partnership Architectural Firm. Criteria Evaluation: "2320 E Union Street/Liberty Bank Building." February 3, 2014. From Department of Neighborhoods office, Liberty Bank property file.
- Johnson Partnership Architectural Firm. "Coleman Elementary School." City of Seattle Landmark Nomination Report. Seattle Landmarks Preservation Board, Seattle, April 12, 2005.
- Johnson Partnership Architectural Firm. Criteria Evaluation: "Coleman Elementary School." April 12, 2005. From Department of Neighborhoods office, Colman School property file.
- Johnson Partnership Architectural Firm. "Supplemental Report on Building Integrity." March 3, 2014. From Department of Neighborhoods office, Liberty Bank property file.
- Landmarks staff, City of Seattle. "Landmarks Preservation Board Meeting." Nomination Meeting, February 15, 2012. From Department of Neighborhoods office, Jefferson Park Golf Course Clubhouse property file.
- Landmarks staff, City of Seattle. "Landmarks Preservation Board Meeting." Nomination Meeting, February 5, 2014. From Department of Neighborhoods office, Liberty Bank property file.
- Landmarks staff, City of Seattle. "Landmarks Preservation Board Meeting." Designation Meeting, March 19, 2014. From Department of Neighborhoods office, Liberty Bank property file.
- Landmarks staff, City of Seattle. "Staff Report: Nomination of the Jefferson Park Golf Clubhouse, 4101 Beacon Ave. S." Date Unknown. From Department of Neighborhoods office, Jefferson Park Golf Course Clubhouse property file.

Landmarks staff, City of Seattle. "Staff Report on Designation." February 5, 2014. From Department of Neighborhoods office, Liberty Bank property file.

NAAM Staff. "Chronology." Date Unknown. From Northwest African American Museum collection, bound copy of collection of documents related to museum founding.

Robinson, Greg. *The Great Unknown: Japanese American Sketches*. Boulder, CO: University Press of Colorado, 2016.

Schaefer, Kurt. "The Black Panther Party in Seattle, 198-1970, Part 1: Background—the BSU and Black Power." Seattle Civil Rights & Labor History Project. Accessed August 4, 2017.  
[http://depts.washington.edu/civilr/Panthers1\\_schaefer.htm](http://depts.washington.edu/civilr/Panthers1_schaefer.htm).

Schaefer, Kurt. "The Black Panther Party in Seattle, 198-1970, Part 2: Seattle Panthers." Seattle Civil Rights & Labor History Project. Accessed August 4, 2017.  
[http://depts.washington.edu/civilr/Panther2\\_schaefer.htm](http://depts.washington.edu/civilr/Panther2_schaefer.htm).

Schaefer, Kurt. "The Black Panther Party in Seattle, 198-1970, Part 3: Panthers and the Politicians." Seattle Civil Rights & Labor History Project. Accessed August 4, 2017.  
[http://depts.washington.edu/civilr/Panther3\\_schaefer.htm](http://depts.washington.edu/civilr/Panther3_schaefer.htm).

Seattle Civil Rights & Labor History Project webpage. "BPP Headquarters and Breakfast Centers." Seattle Civil Rights & Labor History Project. Accessed August 4, 2017.  
[http://depts.washington.edu/civilr/BPP\\_offices.htm](http://depts.washington.edu/civilr/BPP_offices.htm).

Seattle Parks and Recreation, City of Seattle. Criteria Evaluation: "Findings and Recommendations." February 7, 2012. From Department of Neighborhoods office, Jefferson Park Golf Course Clubhouse property file.

Tahir, Omari. "Liberty Bank." City of Seattle Landmark Nomination Report. Seattle Landmarks Preservation Board, Seattle, August 26, 2013.

Taylor, Quintard. *The Forging of a Black Community: Seattle's Central District from 1870 through the Civil Rights Era*. Seattle, WA: University of Washington Press, 1994.

Unknown Author. "Mike Tagawa." . Seattle Civil Rights & Labor History Project. Accessed August 4, 2017. <http://depts.washington.edu/civilr/tagawa.htm>.

Wilma, David and Catherine Hinchliff. Essay 3015, "Jefferson Park Municipal Golf Course (Seattle)." History Link Online Encyclopedia, 2001. Accessed August 9, 2017.  
<http://www.historylink.org/File/3015>.