

Alki Seattle's Recreational Treasure and Founding Neighborhood

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Horizon House, February 10, 2020

Alki Lighthouse



Where Is Alki?

Rapid Ride C
to Alaska
Junction,
Transfer to
Route 50.
Get off at end
of line
(Starbucks)



Alki on The Peninsula



Why Is Alki Seattle's Founding Neighborhood?

For whom; The Duwamish, Seattle's indigenous people, or Seattle's European-American immigrants?

- The Duwamish people established settlement centers along the Duwamish River and its tributaries and what we know today as Pioneer Square. Alki was a stopping over, food resource and ceremonial place.
- November 13, 1851, 24 European-American immigrants took Alki residence. John Low and the brothers Leander and Charles Terry claimed the land and attempted to create a commercial center.

Why Is Alki Seattle's Founding Neighborhood?

- In the spring 1852 most of the immigrants relocated to the Elliott Bay eastern shore, site of today's Seattle downtown center.
- Town of Alki was founded May 1853 by Charles Terry. Terry relocated to Seattle, 1855. The Town was deserted in 1856.

Town of Alki, 1854

U. S. Coast
Survey



Why Is Alki Seattle's Founding Neighborhood?

- Alki was sold to 'Doc' Maynard, Noah Kellogg and, finally, Knud Olson and Hans Martin and Anna Hanson (1868). Alki remained an agricultural backwater until subdivided and sold off beginning 1895.

Seattle's Oldest House

3045 64th Avenue SW



**Circa 1902, estimated build date
1855-65 by David S. "Doc" Maynard
along Elliott Bay shoreline**

2019

(moved from 3000 block of Alki Ave about 1905)



Alki

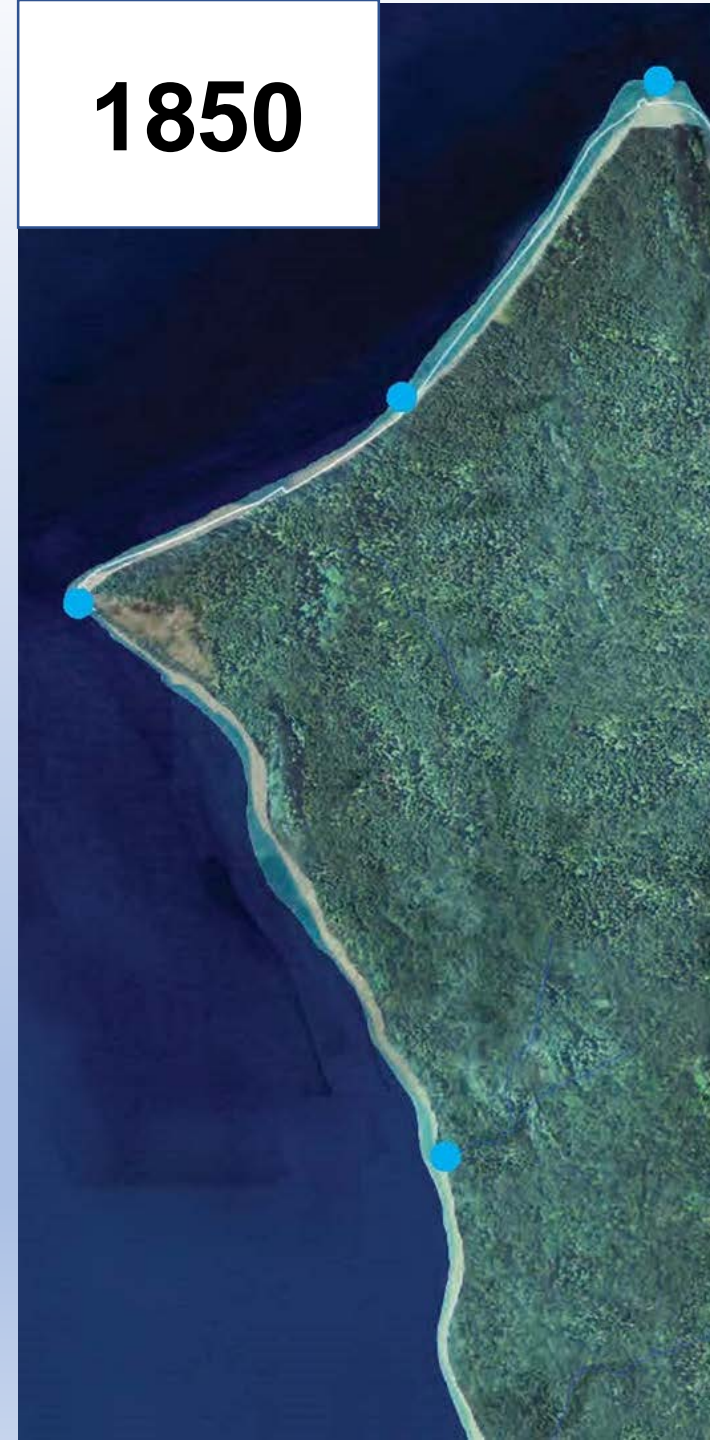
also known
as

Alki Point

Today



1850



July 4th 1853 Celebration At Alki

“The flag was hoisted at sun rise and the stipulated number of guns fired At the appointed time a procession was formed of those assembled for the occasion and we then proceeded a short distance....To a small grove near the beach where the Declaration of Independence was read.....We returned to partake a nice dinner....served up in a spacious room, neatly decorated for the occasion. A few toasts were drunk. In the evening we had a dance.”

Fundamental Change in America Society

Brought Alki into the Seattle urban orbit and gave the community a purpose

- In 1880 the male head of household averaged 8.5 work hours per day. By 1995 it fell to 4.7 hours,
- Male leisure activities rose from 1.8 to 5.8 hours per day,
- Declining fertility lead to fewer hours required for child care, and
- Female work week fell, on average, from 41 hours per week to 36 between 1940 and 1988.

Fundamental Change in America Society

- In 1900, 31 million Americans (40% of all) were city dwellers, triple the number from 20 years earlier. The growth would continue until the Great Depression,
- Exercise and life in the great outdoors came to be seen as an antidote to the crowded, dirty and corrupt city,
- The social reform and city beautiful movements swept the nation. Parks and playgrounds were seen as essential movement elements, and,

Fundamental Change in America Society

- Athletic and recreation programs were seen as:
 - juvenile delinquency prevention measures, and,
 - means to meld an increasing ethnically diverse nation, sharing cultural norms of 'fair play and democratic spirit.'

.... And So The Outdoor Excursions Begin

The steamer Evril, Capt. Creswell, is adapted in every respect to the wants of excursion parties to Porto Madison. Blakely, Orchard, Eagle Harbor, Blake Island, Alki Point and all the other picnic, sporting and camping grounds in the vicinity of this city. She will also do towing on the bay, and a cheaper boat cannot be obtained. O. F. Cosper acts as agent in town.

What Was An Excursion Like?

• **THE GERMAN PICNIC.**—The steamer Rip Van Winkle will leave Yesler's wharf on Sunday, June 18th, at 8 and 11 in the morning for Alki Point. Picnickers will please take notice. j17-2t

- Water Travel,
- Sports,
- Prizes,
- Music, and
- Dance

GERMAN PICNIC. — Notwithstanding the rain that commenced to fall early Sunday morning, quite a large number of persons joined the German picnicking party that started for Alki point at 10 o'clock, on a barge in tow of the steamer Rip Van Winkle. During the fore part of the day the picnickers remained under shelter, but in the afternoon, the programme of sports was carried out. Prizes were given to the successful competitors in the various sports. Three musicians furnished music for those who chose to dance. On the whole the affair was pronounced an enjoyable one, and a similar one will be given under the same auspices within the next few weeks.

Match Play Baseball, 1891



Excursion Promotion, 1900

FREE CLAM BAKE AT ALKI POINT

Seattle's Near-by Watering Place, Camping Grounds and Summer Resort.

On Sunday, July 15, to All Patrons of the Str. Clan McDonald

LEAVING COLUMBIA STREET WHARF.

TIME TABLE:

Week Days—Leave Seattle: 6:15

a. m., 10:00 a. m., 2:00 p. m., 6:20
p. m.

Leave Alki Point—7:00 and 10:45

a. m., 2:45 and 7:00 p. m.

On Sundays Only—Leave Seattle:

9:00 a. m., 10:30 a. m., 12 noon,
1:30 p. m., 3:00 p. m., 4:30 p. m.,
6:00 p. m., 7:30 p. m.

Leaving Alki Point every 1½
hours Sunday.

Round Trip Tickets, 25c All Children's Tickets, 15c

C. T. BATTELLE, Mgr. Battelle Excursion Co.

A Throw-Back to Charles Terry

July 4, 1904 celebration featured “baseball and all kinds of athletic games” and “a newly constructed band stand where music was to be furnished all day.”

The owner of the Alki-Seattle ferry, A. B. C. Denniston, “promised to arrange for music to be played at the new band stand two or three nights a week.”



Photograph, circa 1910, from Southwest Seattle Historical Society Alki Memories Book.

Marine Band Plays At Alki July 6, 1923

MARINE BAND AT ALKI DRAWS 50,000 PEOPLE

A crowd estimated at 50,000 congregated at Alki Beach last Friday to hear the Marine band play. Traffic was jammed, and parking space was at a premium. Pedestrians pushed and surged in an effort to get closer to the music.

West Seattle is proving more popular each season, and with the completion of one improvement after another, the number of visitors grows larger and larger.

Marine Drive, popular even before it was paved, touching the shore for miles and one of the most beautiful scenic drive-ways in the Northwest, is being taxed to the limit with automobile traffic.

Music At Alki Over The Years

One of Three Civic Concerts June 22, 1924

BANDS TO PLAY TODAY

THREE CONCERTS ARRANGED FOR SEATTLE.

ALKI BEACH, 2:30 P. M.

Albert F. Adams, Conductor.

Overture, "Il Guarany" Gomez
Waltz, "The Shamrock" Tohami
Characteristic, "The Butterfly" Bendix
Two Popular Songs—

(a) "When Lights Are Low" Koehler

(b) "Linger Awhile" Owens

Lew Mahan.

Grand Selection from "Martha" Flotow
"Morceau de Genre," "Parade Militaire"

..... Massenet

Descriptive Fantasia, "A Summer Eve-

ning in the Alps" Kling

Idyl, "Heimlich, Still und Leise" Lincke

Grand Fantasia, "Southern Memories"

..... Hecker

Excerpts from "King Dodo" Luders



Seattle Daily Times

Sub Pop Music Festival August 11, 2018



West Seattle Blog



Alki Natatorium

First of Alki's Indoor Pools

**Grand Opening June 18,
1905**

The Ideal Place to spend
an afternoon and
evening.

NOW OPEN

Finest accommodations
for private and club
parties

The New Warm Salt Water

NATATORIUM

Warm Salt Water
Bathing
in the Largest Bathing
Establishment
North of San Francisco

The Best of
Refreshments, Music
and Dancing

—AT—
ALKI POINT

Equals the Famous
“Sutro Baths”

Phones—Sunset Main 4444, Ind. Ex. 1086

FOR PARTICULARS CALL ON OR ADDRESS

ALKI POINT TRANSPORTATION CO.

659 COLMAN BUILDING

Over \$20,000.00
has been expended to furnish the
people of Seattle and vicinity
a first class modern
SALT WATER RESORT

Open Every Day From
8 a.m. to 11 p.m.

Boats leave Flyer dock every
twenty minutes

The Rose Lodge, Circa 1905



The Stockade Hotel, Circa 1905



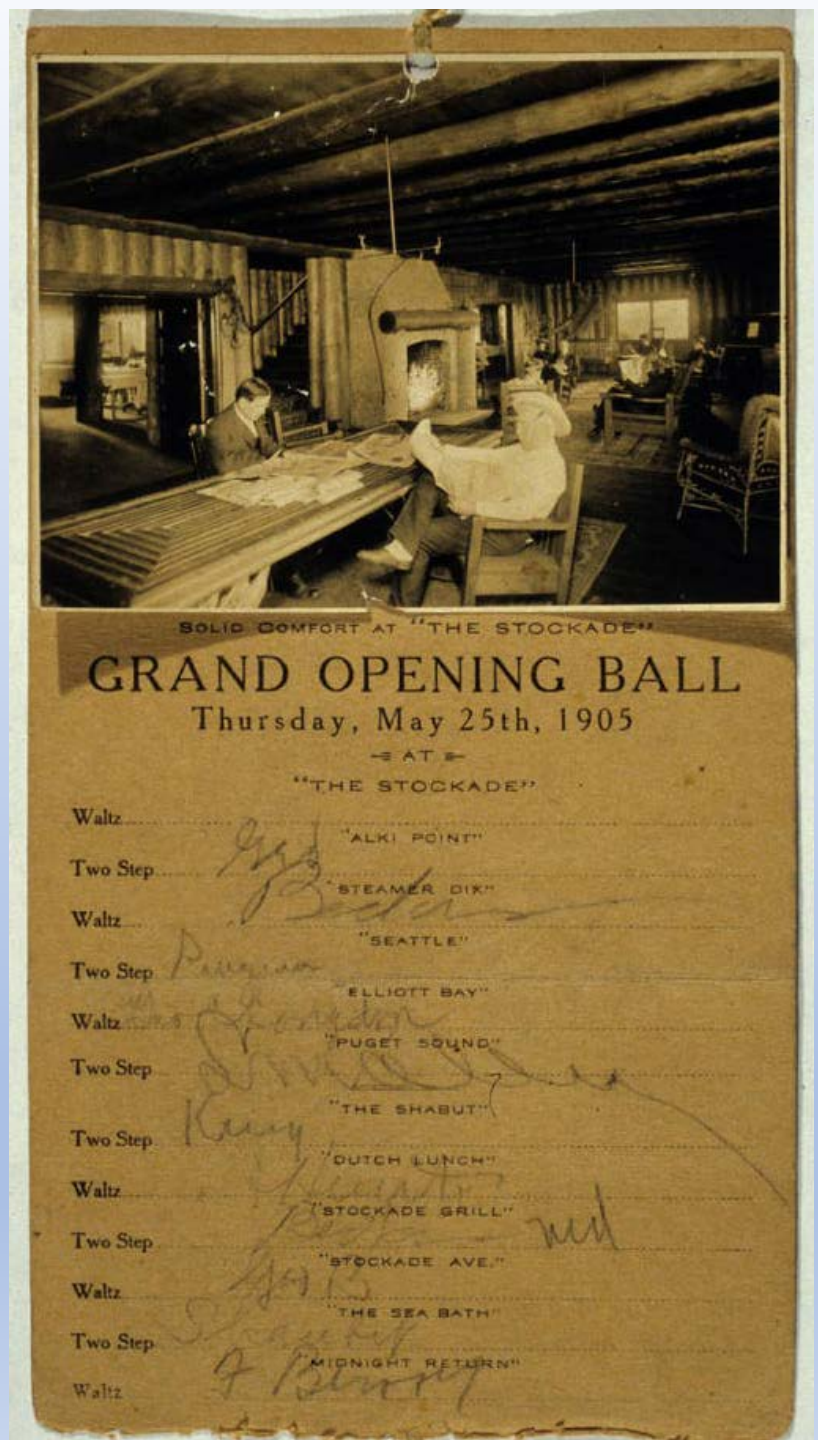
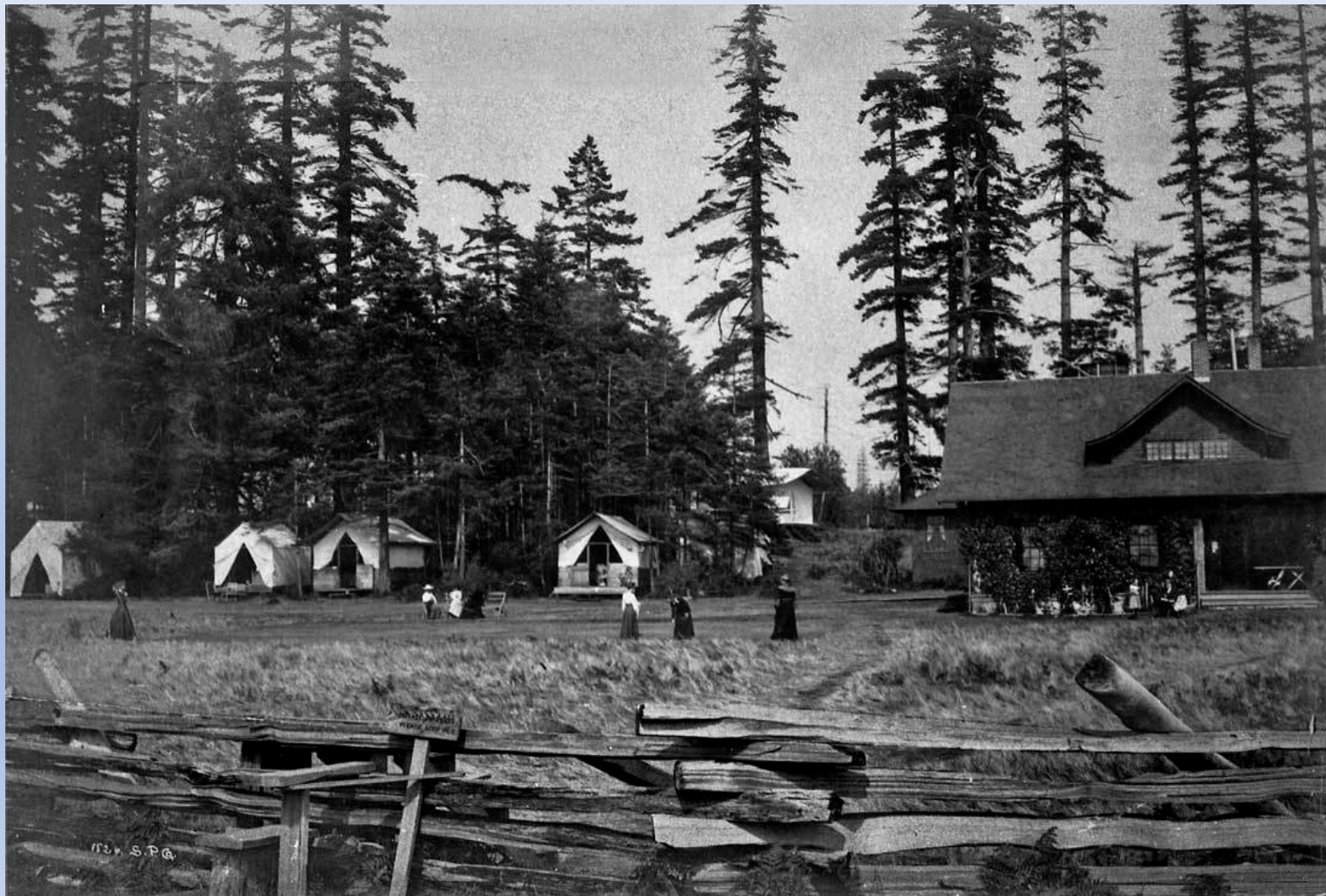
The Rose Lodge, 2019



The Stockade Hotel Site, 2019



Rose Lodge and Stockade Hotel Activities



Fir Lodge - Home of the Seattle Auto and Driving Club, 1907

61st Avenue SW Near Alki Avenue



There were only 800 automobiles registered in the State of Washington in 1906! The lodge was first a private residence.

Today the Lodge Is Restaurant Il Nido (Italian for The Nest)

Note: the
restored Alki
Homestead
restaurant sign



Game Changer: The Street Car Arrives, 1907-1908



Alki Home Sites for Sale

Free Use of Bathing Pavilion and Pier With Every Lot Purchased

Seattle Daily Times
February 24, 1907

Alki Investment Company's Sea Shore Tracts ALKI POINT

Will be placed on the market March 1, 1907. Fine, level lots, all cleared, from \$800 up. This price includes graded streets, water, sewer and sidewalks. Is absolutely the finest tract of land at Alki Point, having an unobstructible view of the Sound and Olympics.

Location of land is one hundred yards east of Stockade Hotel, and extends from Alki Avenue to Olsen Avenue.

To purchasers of each lot will be given free use of a bathing pavilion and pier which we will build on the 161 feet of waterfront adjoining lots.

The Seattle Electric Company's Alki Point Extension, now in course of construction, will pass front of lots, making it a 20-minute car service and 16-minute boat service to town.

An ideal spot for an all-year-round home, with double advantage of town and country.

TERMS—ONE-HALF CASH,
BALANCE 2 YEARS AT 7%

A LIBERAL DISCOUNT FOR
ALL CASH

For Further Particulars See

3-4 Seattle National
Bank Building
Cor. 2nd and Columbia

GOLDIE & Co.

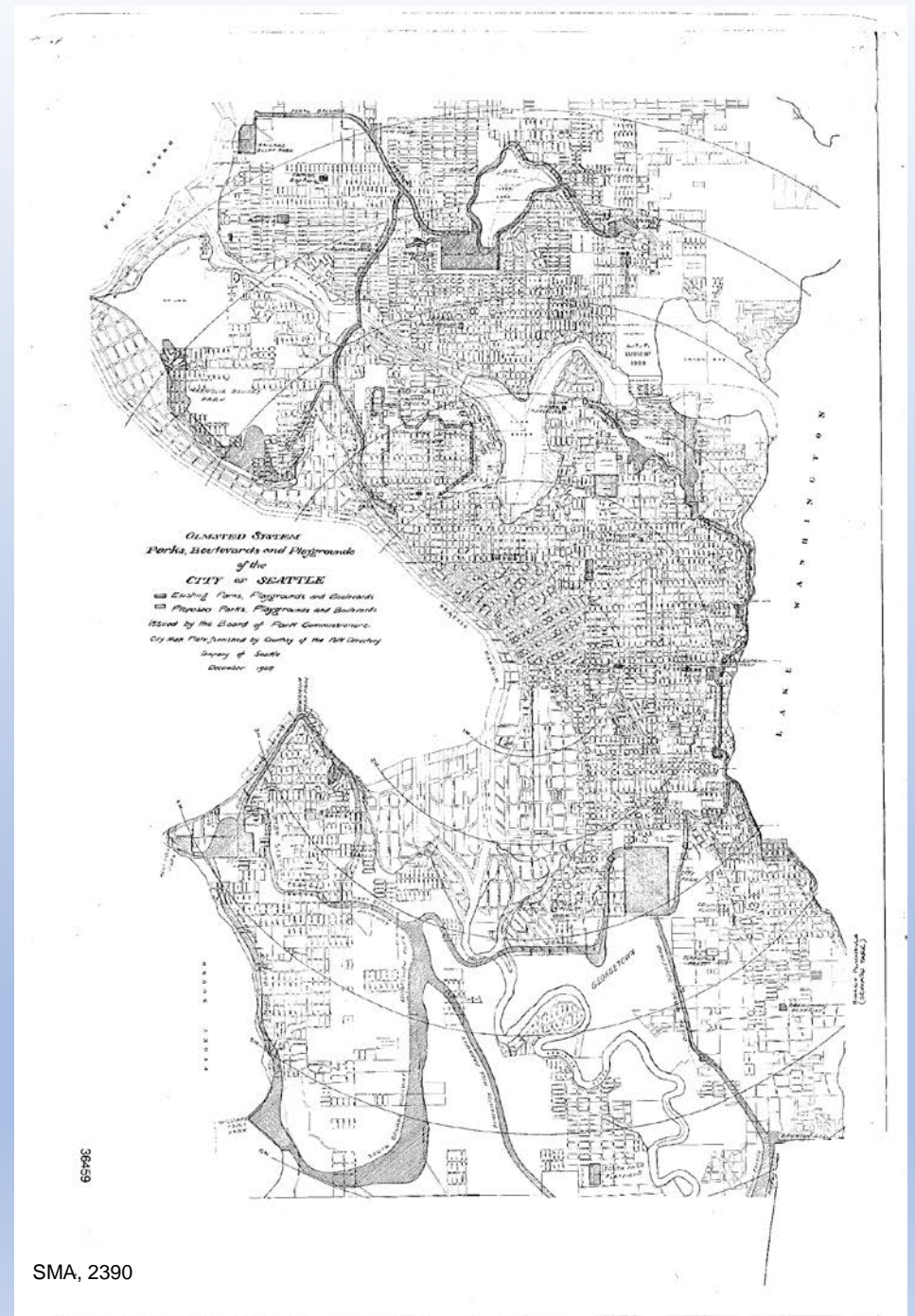
3-4 Seattle National
Bank Building
Cor. 2nd and Columbia

TELEPHONES—Independent 4299; Sunset, Main 3502



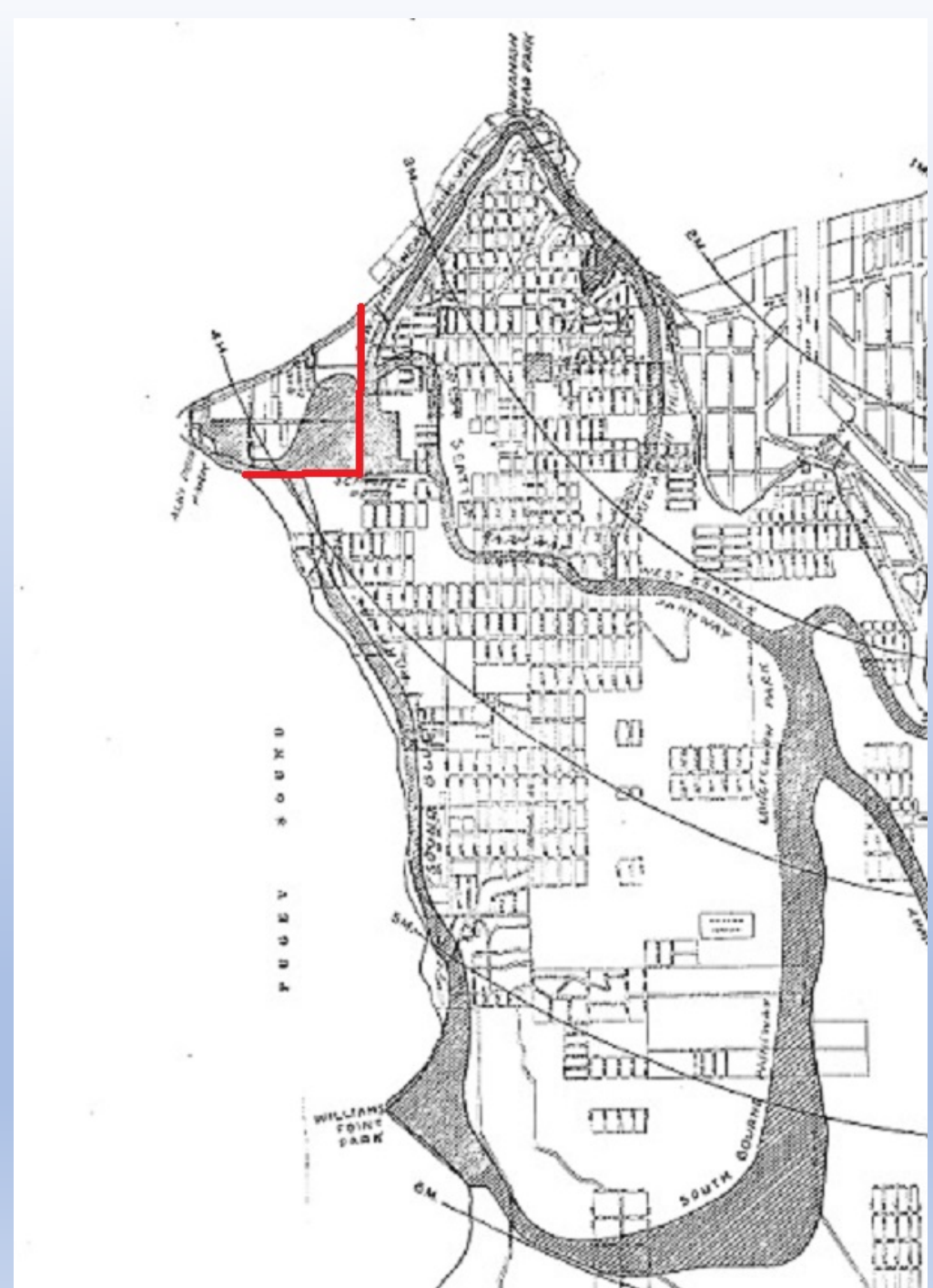
Olmsted Brothers Seattle Parks, Boulevard and Playgrounds Plan

December 1908



Alki and the Duwamish Peninsula Parks, Boulevards and Playgrounds Plan

December, 1908
Alki denoted in red

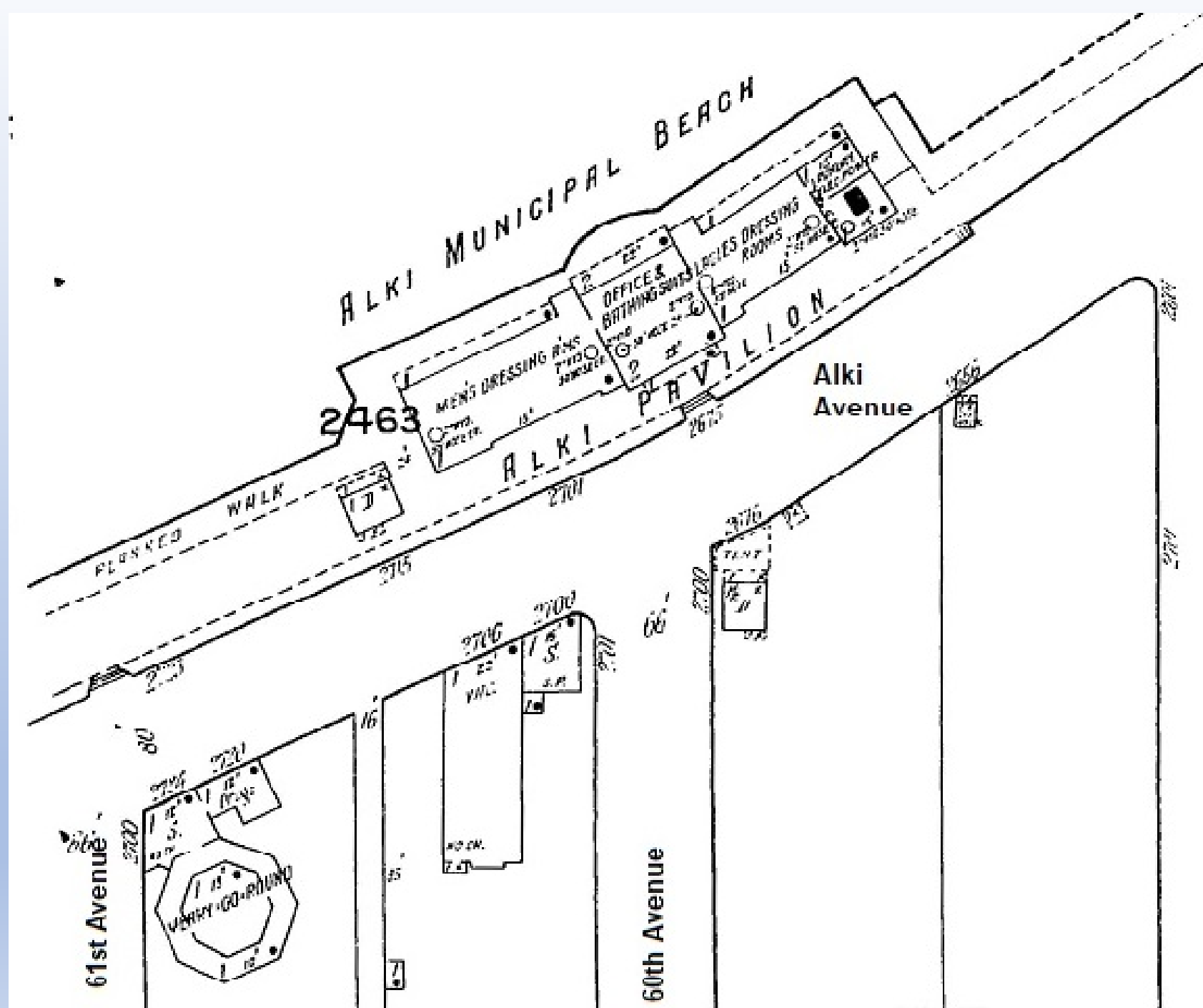


Alki Parks

- Alki Beach, established 1910 enlarged 1927 and improved many times
- Charles Richie Viewpoint and Constellation Park, established 1927 improved 1977
- Alki Playground (a/k/a Whale Tail Park) and Community Center, established 1910
- Schmitz Parkway and Schmitz Preserve Park, established 1908, enlarged many times
- Emma Schmitz Overlook and Me-Kwa-Mooks Park, establish 1945 enlarged 1971, and
- Bar S Playground, established 1957-62



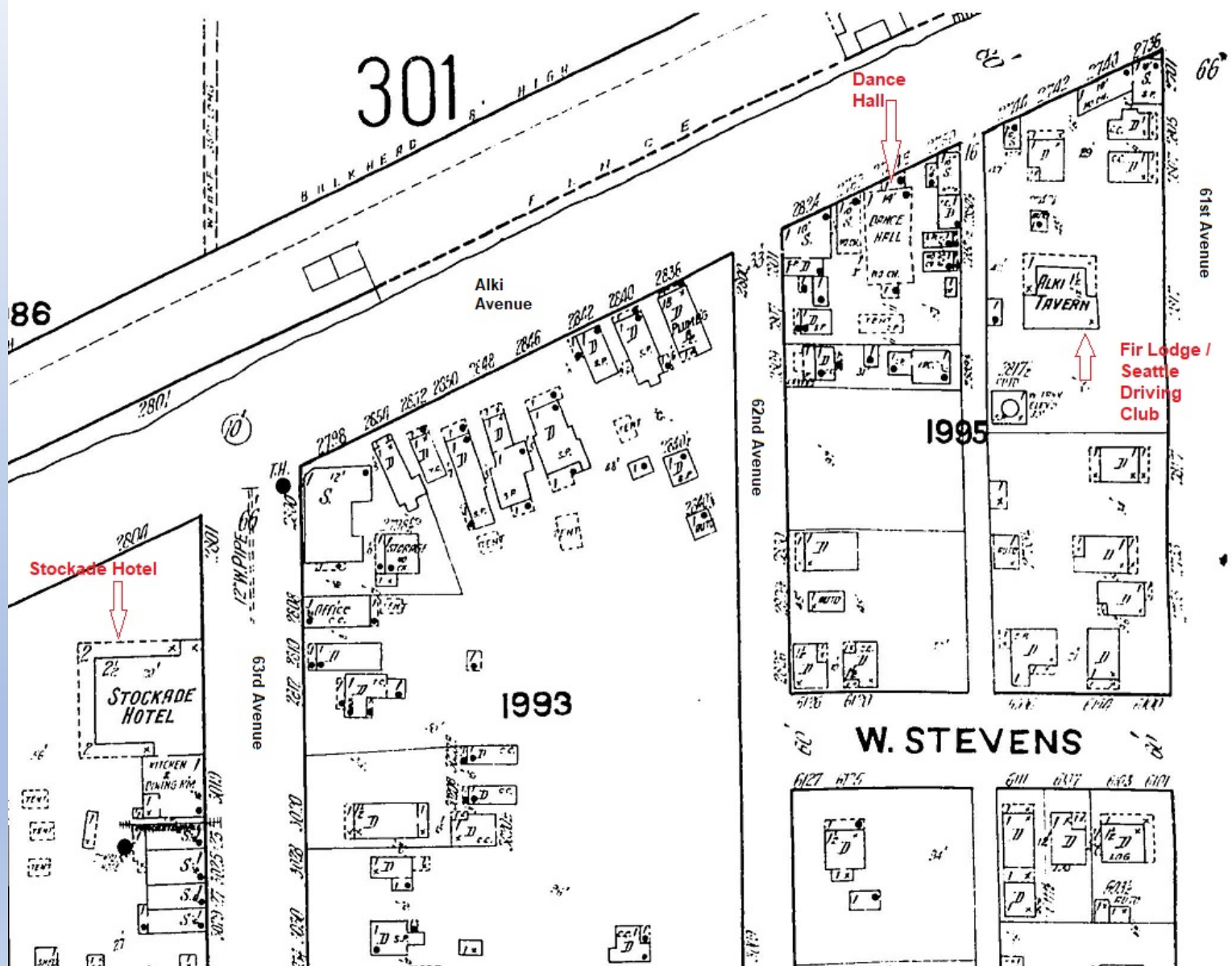
Alki Beach Swimming Pavilion and Merry-Go- Round, 1917



Sanborn Fire Insurance
Map, 1917, Sheet 302

Dance Hall, Driving Club and Stockade Hotel Along Alki Beach

Sanborn Fire Insurance Map,
1917, Sheet 301



Alki's Dance Hall Remains A Gathering Place



**Theater/Dance Hall – circa, 1913
Converted to Car Garage, late 1920s**



Former Theater/Dance Hall/Garage – 2019

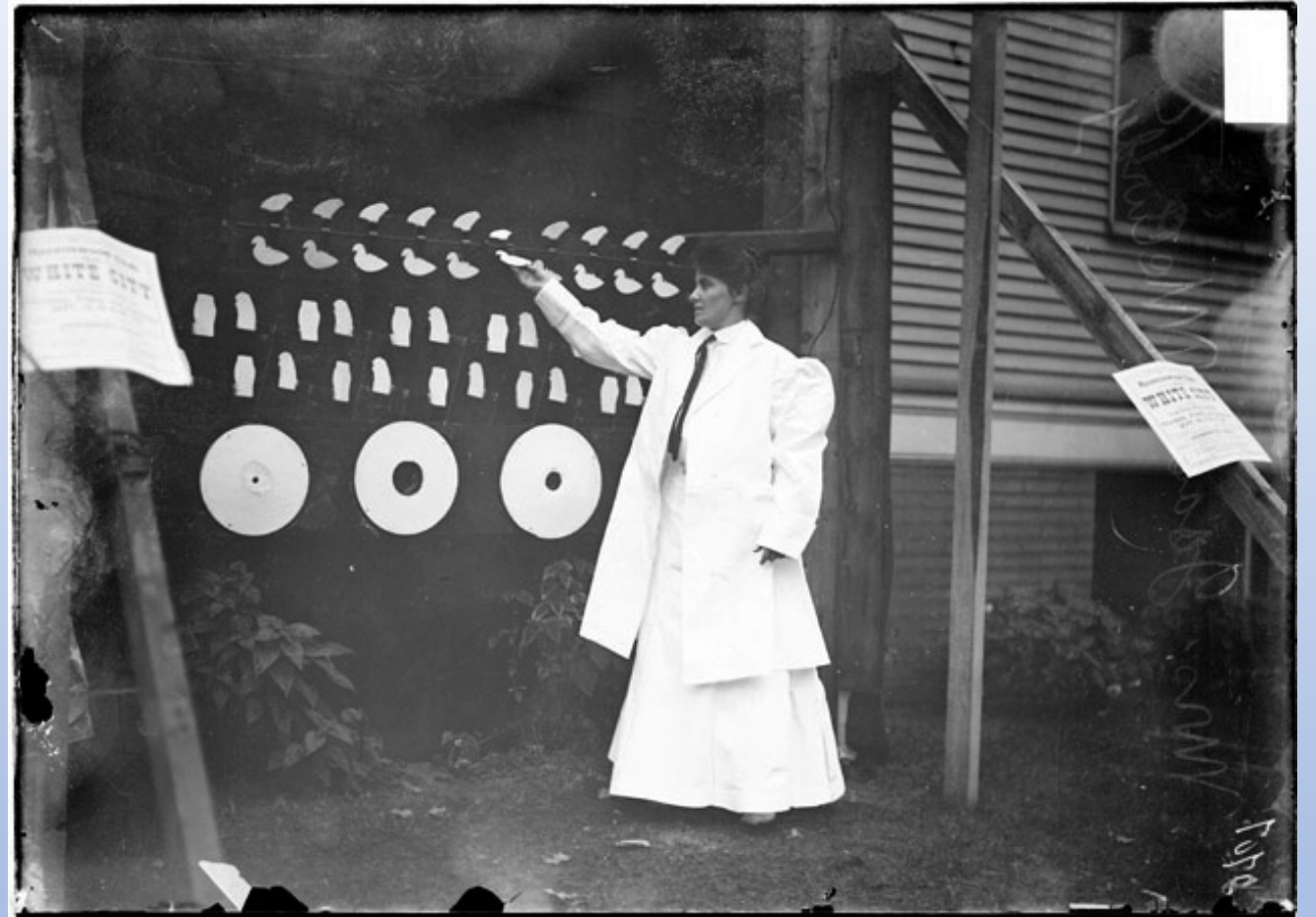
Luna Park At Duwamish Head 1907 – 1913

**But Alki Almost
Had Its Own
Amusement
Park Called
White City**



White City – A Dashed “Chance for Profit” For California Investors

Land use regulatory issues required the California investors to seek city development permission. The proposed attraction was modeled and named after Chicago’s White City amusement park.



Park opponents claimed that to “Permit an amusement park to be established and the dregs of society who mingle with good people at such places Will overflow into the adjacent public parks” (Spring-Summer, 1927)

Alki Beach Park - July 1, 1936

Looking West from Bath House



Looking East from Old Ferry Dock



Alki Beach

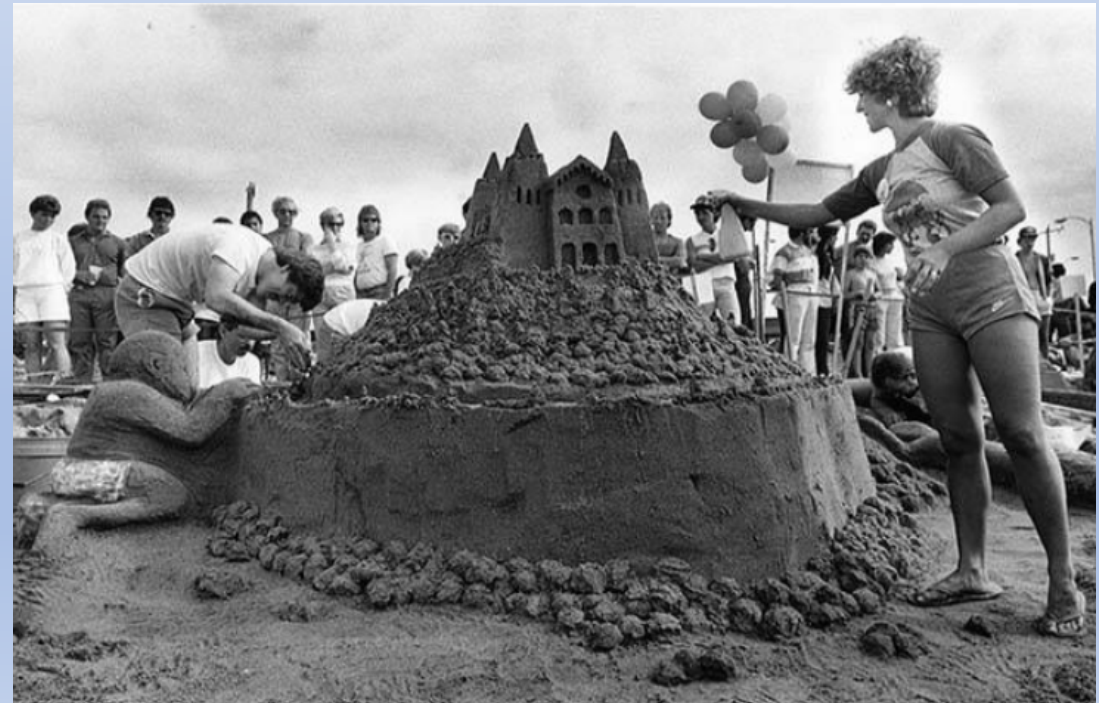


Looking West, Undated about 1975

UW Digital Special Collections

**At Play, Sandcastle Building
Contest - 1986**

UW Digital Special Collections



Alki Beach – New Year's Day 2020

Looking West

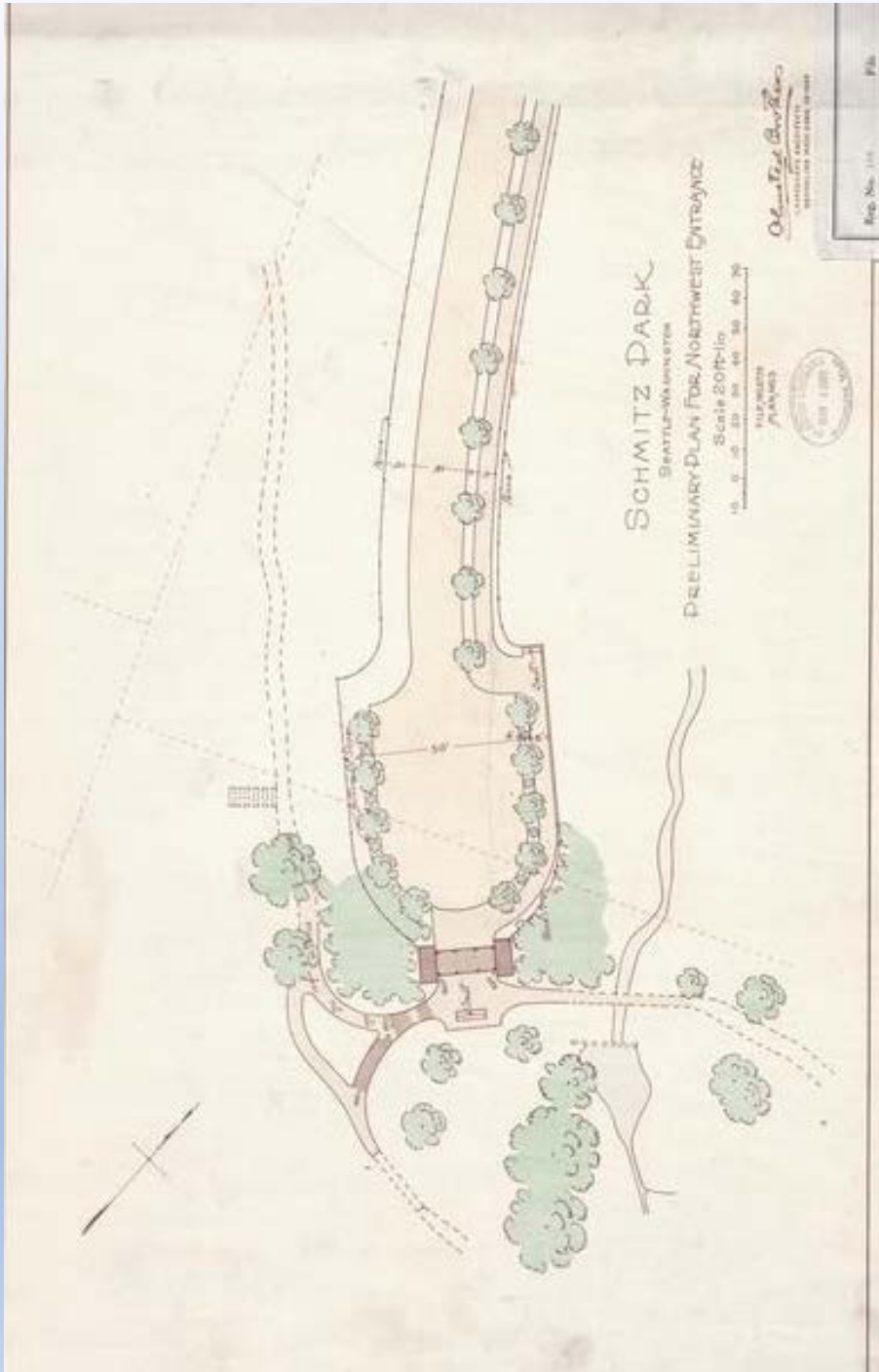


Volleyball nets were hung later in the day

Alki's Schmitz Preserve Park Entrance

Original Plan To Left, As Built 1911 Below

(Seattle Municipal Archives)



Schmitz Preserve Park Entrance Area



Alki's Finest Nine, 1926

Probable
Seattle
Public
School
League, Alki
Elementary
School



District Champs at Alki's Bar-S Ballfield





**Alki Beach Field House (on
right), 1925**
Future Boeing Engineers?

Seattle Municipal Archives

Alki Field House

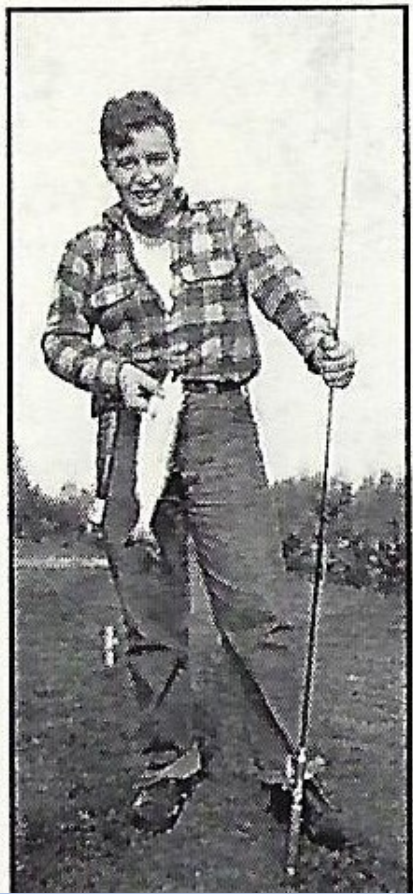
**Alki Field House - Community
Center, 1956**
Joint Use with Alki Elementary School



Alki Community Center (formerly known as Fieldhouse) - 2020



Alki Fishing Derbies

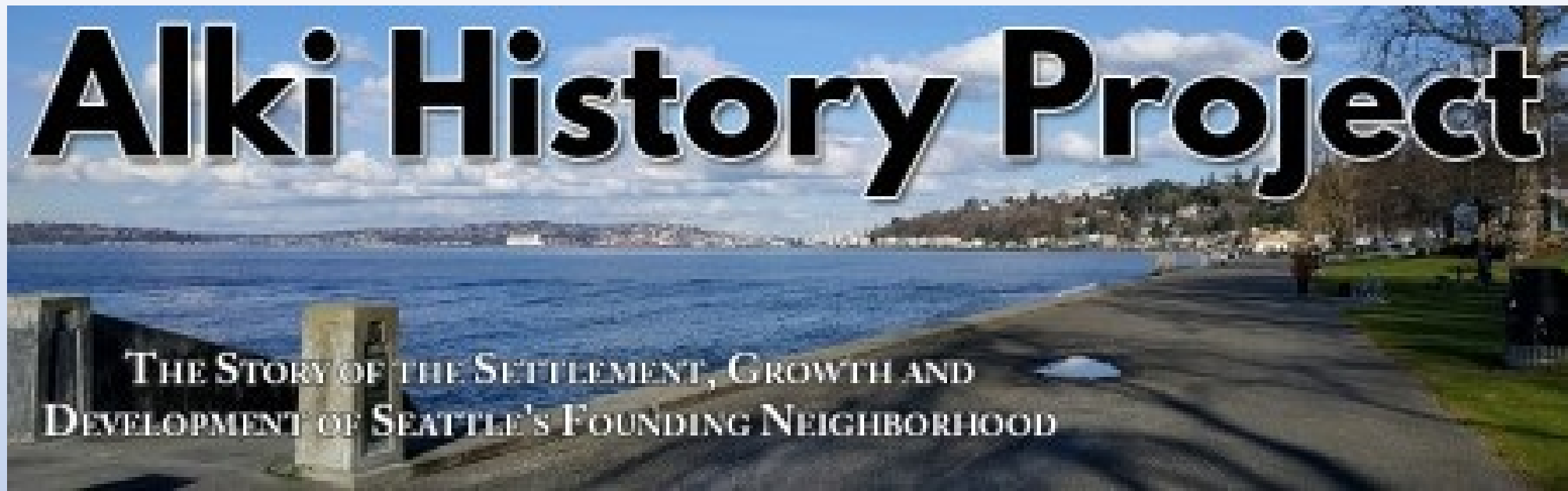


"I went to some of the Alki fishing derbies, but the biggest fish I ever caught was right off where I went swimming at Alki. One afternoon, I went down there to go swimming and I could see this old dodger out about 2 or 3 feet from the shore. I walked out there and pulled in a 16 pound King salmon. And that was during the war, and there were shortages, and several people called me up and wanted to claim that old dodger."

—Max Mage

Why Is Alki a Recreational Treasure?

- Vistas and Grand Views,
- Water,
- Foresight and 110 Years of Trusteeship and,
- Destination for People from Over the World



AlkiHistoryProject.com

(click on the Research Articles tab to read more about Alki's history).

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