

Montlake History Open House

Historic District Survey and Nomination for the National Register of Historic Places

Do you have stories, old photos, building plans, or other documents about your historic house? Or documentation about the area builders, architects, or notable residents?



*Please share
what you know
with us!*

The information will support the nomination of the Montlake neighborhood to the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP).

WSDOT is ready to scan or copy any documents or photos so that you can retain the original copy. Images you provide will be used for research purposes and information, and will not be used publicly without your explicit consent.

WSDOT is conducting this work as a mitigation commitment requested by the Montlake Community Club, and in coordination with the Washington State Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation, historic preservation specialists, and the Montlake Community Club.

Montlake Development and Architectural Styles

On the west side of Lake Washington, forests and isolated farms developed into residential neighborhoods as Seattle's population grew exponentially during the late 19th century.

The development of city streets (many of which followed long-used Indian trails) and the construction of street car lines linked the outlying areas to downtown and encouraged landowners to subdivide their land and develop neighborhoods.

The Montlake Historic District has been determined eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places, and contains individually eligible properties as well as hundreds of contributing properties.

The Montlake Historic District is historically significant as a cohesive collection of intact architectural styles, which represents the development of early twentieth century Seattle and the distinct design styles that typified this period, including Craftsman, Tudor, and Colonial Revival.



Eclectic Revival style house in Montlake.



Craftsman style house in Montlake.



Tudor Revival house in Montlake.



Craftsman style house 1915.



Modest and vernacular house.



Tudor Revival house 1920.

What would it mean to be listed in the National Register?

There are many advantages to being listed in the National Register, including:

- Community history and local pride.
- Recognition.
- Better design of infill and alterations.
- Increased tourism.
- Federal Income Tax Credit (up to 20%) for income-producing buildings (owner-occupied rental properties do not qualify).
- Potential increased resale value.

What does it NOT mean to be listed in the National Register?

- National Register listing places no obligations on private property owners.
- National Register listing does not trigger Seattle Landmark or local district status. There are no restrictions on the use, treatment, transfer, or disposition of private property.
- National Register listing does not lead to public acquisition or require public access.
- A property will not be listed if, for individual properties, the owner objects, or for districts, a majority of property owners object.



Seattle Yacht Club, constructed in 1919 by John Graham.



Opening of the Lake Washington Ship Canal, July 4, 1917.

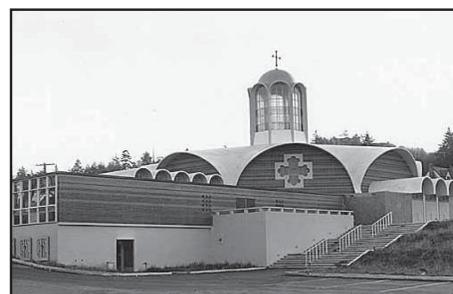
Community involvement opportunities

Want to get involved?

- Conduct background research of homes, businesses, or institutions in your neighborhood, using sources such as:
 - Historic maps
 - City directories
 - Periodicals
 - Historic photographs
- Join architectural historians on neighborhood surveys, which would include walking from building to building, taking notes, photography, etc.
- Participate in public meetings when scheduled.



Montlake Elementary School (1924).



St. Demetrios Church (1962).

For more information:

- The Department of Archaeology oversees National Register nominations in Washington State:

<http://www.dahp.wa.gov/national-register-of-historic-places>

Contact Michael Houser, State Architectural Historian, at 360-586-3076 or michael.houser@dahp.wa.gov

- The National Park Service website has more specific information on what it means to be listed in the National Register:
www.nps.gov/nr/national_register_fundamentals.htm

- Visit WSDOT's program website:
www.wsdot.wa.gov/Projects/SR520Bridge/

- Contact Steve Archer, 206-805-2895 or archers@wsdot.wa.gov

Share information by emailing us at
MontlakeHistoryTips@WSDOT.WA.GOV