

MOUNT BAKER

LEGEND

- Significant to the city—warrant further evaluation for designation as historic landmark
- Significant to the community—special quality and character in relation to this neighborhood
- Building Group
- ▲ Landmark
- * Street Furniture
- * Civic Art
- Landscaping/Vegetation
- Open Space
- Street Trees
- ||||| Streetscape
- == Roadway Element
- ← View
- Area Boundary
- 14 Building Reference Number

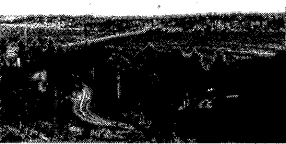
URBAN DESIGN ELEMENTS

Unlike most other Seattle communities, Mount Baker's principal urban design features are the result of careful landscape design. In developing a prestige community "with character" the Hunter Tract Company contracted with the Olmsted Brothers to plan the community's street layout, parks, and boulevards. Successors of Frederick Law Olmsted, America's most important landscape architect and the designer of New York's Central Park, the Olmsted Brothers were the nation's leading landscape firm of that era. The landscape character they developed for Mount Baker grew out of the naturalistic or "English picturesque" tradition which was then quite fashionable for residential park planning.

Employing curvilinear street layouts, asymmetrical groupings of trees, stately boulevards, and a generous endowment of naturalistic open space, the plan sought to create a picturesque, rural character as a background to gracious suburban living. This type of design is especially well-suited to Mount Baker's steep topography and natural amenities, and the community's present physical identity is in large part due to the Olmsted's skillful work.

Unfortunately, the western lower area portions of the community did not receive the benefit of the Olmsted's planning and are not endowed with the amenities of the eastern view slopes. Many of the streets in the western area have interesting views of Beacon Hill to the west and would benefit from suitable planting and street end treatments.

The village character of the Mount Baker neighborhood is reinforced by the existence of the small convenience shopping center at the intersection of Mount Baker Blvd., Rainier Drive, Lake Park Drive, Mount Baker Drive and McClellan St. This convergence of streets and the presence of trees and open space, as well as the architectural excellence of the cluster of shops and the Mount Baker Community Center, makes this perhaps one of the most successful attempts at emulating the English village center in Seattle. Although the shopping habits of the residents undoubtedly have changed, it is fortunate that this example of English Garden City planning remains as a model for future experiments in the small and the beautiful.



VIEW There are many possible sites for enhancement of public viewpoints, such as this dramatic panorama along 31st Ave. So, overlooking Colman Park.



MOUNT BAKER PARK Landscaped in the English "picturesque" manner by the Olmsted Brothers, the park's strategic location makes it a unifying neighborhood center.



MINI PARK This small open space at 29th and College offers views of Beacon Hill and is a much needed focal point for the western areas of the community.



MOUNT BAKER BOULEVARD As one of the important links in the City boulevard system, it connects Lake Washington, the Park, Franklin High School and Rainier Avenue.



HUNTER BOULEVARD The wide grassy tree-lined center strip originally accommodated street car tracks. Today it provides passive open space and an impressive and luxurious green belt.



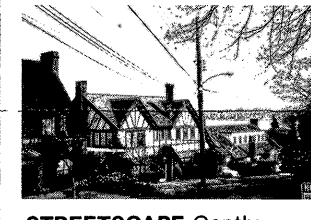
LAKE WASHINGTON BOULEVARD As one of the most scenic lakefront boulevards in this country, it is a pleasant local resource for pedestrians, drivers, picnickers, bathers and cyclists.



STONE LANTERN, 1911 As a gift from Kobe, Japan, this authentic artifact symbolizes a lengthy tradition of friendship and commerce across the Pacific.



DOSE TERRACE STAIRWAY Built by Dose in 1906 for access to the Lake and to promote his real estate development. The stairs are still impressive for the quality of the concrete work.



STREETSCAPE Gently curving streets, groups of fine houses and views of water and mountains combine to provide an excellent residential setting.



SIGNIFICANT BUILDINGS

- Calvert House, c.1915, 3260 Lakewood Ave. S.
- Residence, 1915, 3230 Lakewood Ave. S.
- Dr. Bouffler House, 1915, 3036 Cascadia Ave. S. Architects: Somervell & Putnam
- Stuart House, 1913, 3105 Cascadia Ave. S. Architect: Elmer Green
- Mount Baker United Presbyterian Church, 1924, 3201 Hunter Blvd. S. Architects: A.H. Albertson, Wilson & Richardson.
- A.E. Lyon House, 1907, 3311 Cascadia Ave. S.
- Peterson House, 1913, 3303 Hunter Blvd. S.
- Residence, 1913, 3319 Hunter Blvd. S.
- Franklin High School, 1912, 3013 Mt. Baker Blvd. Architect: Edgar Blair.
- Mount Baker Community Club House, 1914, 2811 Mt. Rainier Dr. S. Architect: Ellsworth Storey.
- Mount Baker Commercial Building, 1928, 2803-2809 Mt. Rainier Dr. S. Architect: John Graham Sr.
- R.C. Force House, 1908, 2810 Cascadia Ave. S. Architects: Saunders & Lawton.
- Walker House, 1908, 2601 Cascadia Ave. S.
- Bowles House, 1925, 2540 Shoreland Dr. S.
- Residence, 1924, 2306 Lake Park Dr. S.
- Dyer House, 1922, 2704 34th Ave S. Architect: Ellsworth Storey.
- Evans House, 1915, 2306 34th Ave. S. Architect: Ellsworth Storey.
- Residence, 1928, 2212 34th Ave. S.
- Group of Cottages, 1915, 1800-1816 Lake Washington Blvd. S. Architect: Ellsworth Storey.
- Group of Cottages, 1911, 1706-1710 Lake Washington Blvd. S. Architect: Ellsworth Storey.
- Stricker House, 1968, 3303 S. Massachusetts St. Architect: M. Stricker.
- Residence, 1897, 3119 S. Day St.
- Residence, c.1895, 1371 31st Ave. S.
- Tsutakawa House, 1905, 3116 S. Irving St.
- Our Lady of Mt. Virgin Church, 1913, 1531 Bradner Pl. S.

COMMON BUILDING TYPES

Because its early developers restricted construction exclusively to single-family residences, houses are Mount Baker's only common building type. However, there is a broad spectrum of examples in terms of quality, size, and style. In the low-lying areas near Rainier Avenue S. the houses tend to be modest in size and many are in poor condition. In the upper areas to the east, the homes are generally larger and better maintained.

Houses on the ridge exemplify the type of house owned by the upper and upper-middle income classes in Seattle from about 1905 to 1930. As a general rule, members of the established upper class prefer to own houses that represent conservative good taste. Eclectic styles such as Colonial or Classic Revival, Tudor, Gothic, or Spanish style, were thought to reflect the dignity and aspirations of prominent families. Upwardly mobile middle-class families, on the other hand, were more receptive to architecturally progressive

homes, because such houses tend to call attention to the owners as being open to "fresh new ideas" and representing the "wave of the future."

Again, there are many exceptions to this general principle, but the fact that most of Mount Baker's early population consisted of young, upper middle-class families is reflected in the number of architecturally progressive homes. The Craftsman Style, Prairie Style, and the Western Stick Style were three progressive architectural movements that occurred in the first two decades of the twentieth-century, and are well represented in the area.

The Craftsman movement was not only a stylistic direction but also a popular philosophy which promoted the simple virtues of the rural life and the sacredness of the home as well as a rugged directness, functionality, and craftsmanship in design. In particular, Mount Baker contains some of Seattle's largest and most flamboyant Craftsman

homes. The Prairie Style, which grew out of Frank Lloyd Wright's early work in the Midwest, features horizontal emphasis with low sweeping roof planes, contrasting kinds of windows and contrasting materials. The Western Stick Style, developed in California by the Greene Brothers, features structural wood elements exposed in a decorative manner, broken multi-gabled roof lines, and a low, rambling profile. While there are some examples of the Western Stick Style in the area, its impact is mainly due to its influence on the architectural forms and detailing used by designers at that time.

Mount Baker's prestige housing stock is thus an integrated mix of both eclectic and progressive types. Although the large eclectic homes tend to command the most dominant locations, most of the finer houses are admirably sited and landscaped with views of water and mountains in the background.



22. RESIDENCE 1897 One of the City's largest and finest restrained Queen Anne Style houses, it once served as a sanitarium.



6. LYON HOUSE 1907 (Philbrick) Corinthian columns and other eclectic classical details decorate this impressively sited Georgian revival house.



12. R.C. FORCE HOUSE 1908 (J. Flagle) Architects: Saunders and Lawton. Rumored to have been a bootlegging center during prohibition, a colorful history surrounds this prestigious house.



7. PETERSON HOUSE 1913 (E. Sedik) Architect: A. Peterson. A unique example of the "Chateau-esque" style with an impressive, Scandinavian flavored front porch.



4. R.A. STUART HOUSE 1913 (B. Maalen) Architect: Elmer Green. A flamboyant and luxurious example of the Craftsman style, its ponderous massing offset by exposed stonework and appropriate landscaping.



TURN OF THE CENTURY HOUSE c.1890-1905 Plain wooden houses with occasional decorative details occur in the northern areas.



EARLY 20TH CENTURY HOUSE Modest versions of bungalow, Tudor, colonial and craftsman houses are prevalent in the western portions of the community.



SPANISH OR CALIFORNIA c.1918-1930 Expressing the images of the promised land of sunshine, movies, and orange groves, there are examples of both high-style and Builder's versions of this style.



BUILDER'S TUDOR COTTAGE c. 1920-1940 Steep pitched, multi-gabled roofs and brick or stucco walls characterize these houses located in small groups in the north area.



POST WAR BUILDER HOUSE c.1945-1960 These houses on the western slopes emphasize horizontal profiles and incorporate large glass areas and efficient construction methods.



2. RESIDENCE 1915 (J. Haynes) A unique and pleasant example of the Western Stick Style in the manner of California architects, Greene and Greene.



3. DR. BOUFFLER HOUSE 1915 (F. Paussell) Architects: Somervell & Putnam. This prominently sited house is an interesting combination of the Georgian Revival and California Styles.



16. DYER HOUSE 1922 (B. Hamilton) One of architect Storey's later and more refined houses, it definitely shows the influence of Alpine chalets on his work.



14. BOWLES HOUSE 1925 (Hughes) Sheltering shale roofs and informal placement of building elements to fit the hillside exemplify the characteristics of "English cottage style."



18. RESIDENCE 1928 (A. Hengesteg) A unique example of the "Chateau-esque" style with a Norman character. Rumored to have been authentically built from plans of an actual French house.



"TUDOR" c.1905-1930 These luxurious and well-designed homes in the English medieval style are appropriate in Mount Baker's picturesquely-designed landscape setting.



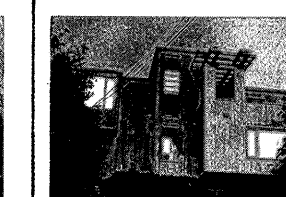
COLONIAL REVIVAL c.1905-1950 Conservative houses distinguished by these popular homes of widely varying architectural authenticity and age.



CRAFTSMAN STYLE c.1915-1920 Progressive houses distinguished by the emphasis on original and craftsman-like use of natural materials: e.g. rough masonry, exposed structural elements and stained wood.



PRAIRIE STYLE 1905-1920 Horizontal bands of windows, irregular massing with outreaching projections and sheltering overhangs characterize these innovative houses.



CONTEMPORARY c.1960 With widely varied architectural design, the contemporary homes on scattered lots feature flat or shed roofs with clerestories and irregular massing of forms.



21. STRICKER HOUSE 1968 Architect: M. Stricker. An interesting contemporary interpretation of the Wrightian style which is well integrated into its setting.



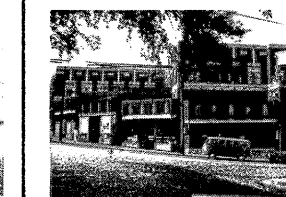
9. FRANKLIN HIGH SCHOOL 1912 Architect: E. Blair. Although badly defaced by unsympathetic remodeling, it remains an important landmark because of its massing, style, and siting.



10. MOUNT BAKER COMMUNITY CLUB HOUSE 1914 Architect: E. Storey. Built by early residents, it continues to house community functions and serves as a local landmark.



5. MOUNT BAKER UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH 1924 Architects: Albertson, Wilson & Richardson. An eclectic adaptation of early Christian architecture, the campanile serves as an orienting landmark.



11. MOUNT BAKER COMMERCIAL BUILDING 1927 Architect: J. Graham. Inventive composition of forms and imaginative Art Deco ornamentation make this an attractive community focal point.