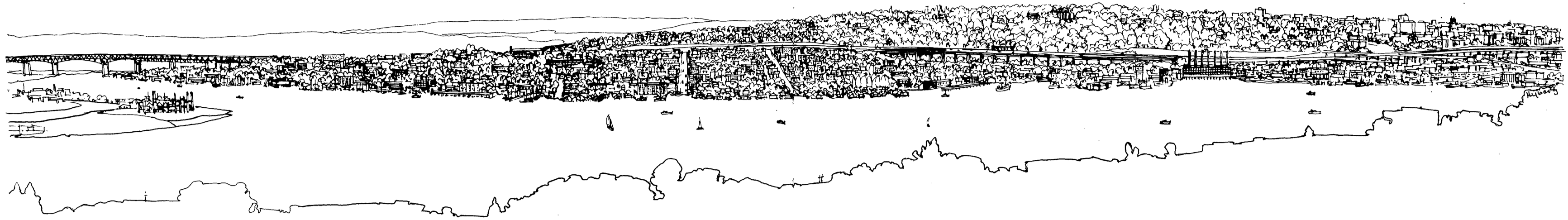


EASTLAKE/CASCADE

AN INVENTORY OF BUILDINGS AND URBAN DESIGN RESOURCES

COMMENCED IN 1975



HISTORIC SEATTLE PRESERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

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HISTORY

The Denny family name appears throughout the history and growth of the City of Seattle and her satellite neighborhoods. As early as the 1860's, the Dennys had settled in what was then the fairly remote area now called Cascade. David Denny established a lumber mill on the south shore of Lake Union in 1886 providing a closer market for logs brought through the cut between lakes Washington and Union.

Cascade and her sister community to the north, Eastlake, both developed as early residential communities, small farms and homesteads. Cascade was the jumping off place for Fremont and points north. L.H. Griffith, and company, developer of Fremont, ran the small commuter boat, the Maude Foster, from the terminus of the Lake Union Carline near Denny's Western Mill to his new city, Eastlake, in turn, was on the route to the newly established University of Washington and, in 1909, the Alaska Yukon Pacific Exposition.

Both Eastlake and Cascade have had, and continue to have problems in maintaining their character. In 1910, the Northern Pacific Railway tried for a franchise for a line to encircle the lake. They met with bitter opposition from those who would have kept the shores for the public as parks and landscaped areas, beaches, etc. The successful Denny Mill, the Montlake cut and the locks which were scheduled for completion had all sealed the fate of the shoreline of Lake Union, particularly Cascade. It became a center for transporting goods into the center of the city and points beyond. This infiltration of light industry and commercial ventures had damaged the residential atmosphere of Cascade, which has a rich history of cultural and religious backgrounds. Norwegian immigrants brought

their Lutheran religion with them and established Immanuel Lutheran Church. Swedish immigrants attended Gethsemane Lutheran. St. Spiridon's Russian Orthodox Green Catholic Church was established in 1895 and built in 1938. Its distinctive architecture has made it a community focus. St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church, established in Cascade, has since moved to Montlake.

Eastlake has fared better than Cascade in her effort to maintain a residential character. Light industry has moved in as well as commercial ventures. However, unlike Cascade, which had to close its school after the 1949 earthquake, Eastlake has been able to maintain its school, Seward Park Elementary. Another interesting feature of the Eastlake Community is its high concentration of houseboats along the Eastern shore of Lake Union. When the first houseboat was floated on the lake is not known, however, their popularity continues to increase. Also on the increase in this area are the apartment buildings. The desirability of the neighborhood located on a lake with ship traffic and recreational potential, close to the city, has created a demand for more multiple family units.

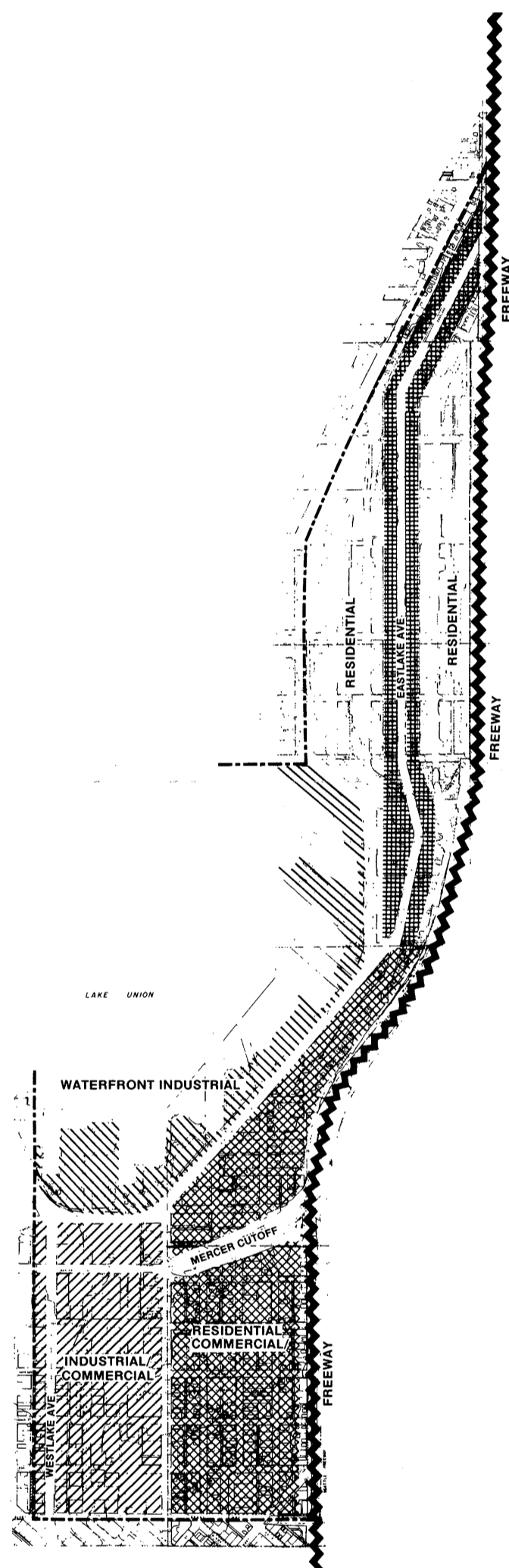
The construction of the freeway in the early 1960's did irreparable damage to the two communities as well. Small commercial ventures, corner groceries, taverns, and drug stores closed their doors after the loss of over 300 homes and more than 600 people. Also lost were those lower Capitol Hill residents who previously had walked down to these conveniences.

So the history of these areas is one of struggle, especially for Cascade. What their future is will be determined, at least in part, by the diligence of the community organizations.

SUMMARY MAP SHOWING VISUAL STRUCTURE

LEGEND

-  COMMERCIAL AREA
-  INDUSTRIAL/COMMERCIAL AREA
-  WATERFRONT INDUSTRIAL
-  INDUSTRIAL/RESIDENTIAL



GENERAL DESCRIPTION

The Interstate Freeway is the dominant urban design element in this neighborhood, separating it from the Capitol Hill community to the east. Before the construction of this monumental structure, the northern section of the neighborhood was considered a part of Capitol Hill. The Cascade community is one of the oldest residential neighborhoods in the city, but has gradually been changing to more general commercial and manufacturing uses. The freeway, not only because of its size but also because of the noise generated from it, is a common presence in both areas, causing the other urban design resources to become relatively subservient to it.

There are a few building groups of plain Victorian houses and cottages in the Cascade area which are indicative of the everyday aspects of early Seattle. Several churches are visual landmarks in the area, as well as being reminders of the area's Scandinavian and Russian settlements. Many of them are no longer in use and are in relatively poor condition, surrounded by manufacturing and commercial uses. The area has become an expansion and service area to the growing Central Business District. As the Denny Regrade becomes more intensively used, the Cascade area has the potential of serving in its place as the predominant service area for Downtown, thus creating a demand for increased manufacturing and service uses thereby eliminating the existing residential neighborhood.

The mix and transition from one use to another has given the Cascade area a unique aspect of diversity which suggests that, with proper guidance, heterogeneous land uses can coexist successfully. In fact the area could lend itself to an experiment in this respect, possibly dispelling the conventional wisdom that residential and light manufacturing should not be mixed. In the interest of conserv-

ing and making full use of the existing variety of urban resources; a modification of the present trend of eliminating residential uses can be made.

The Saint Vincent de Paul Thrift Store typifies this particular ambience of marginal economic activity. The location along Lake Union is picturesque in its improvised buildings and haphazard collection of second hand goods.

The Eastlake neighborhood slopes gently to the west and to Lake Union, with the Interstate Freeway as its eastern edge. Eastlake Avenue East is the central circulation spine with efficient and convenient bus service to Downtown and to the University District, making the whole district into a more desirable residential location. A mixture of apartments, single family houses, and houseboats provides the neighborhood with a variety of life styles and age groups in its residential population. The streetscapes usually are a successful mix of building types from the various periods in Seattle's development, lending themselves to pedestrian and residential use.

It is perhaps difficult to consider the Eastlake/Cascade area as a neighborhood in conventional terms, but it does share a diversity and range of uses and activities which give it special identity, particularly in relationship to Lake Union. The views down many of the streets focus on the lake. Apartments and houses often share the view of the Lake Union basin. The gradual change in land use has left both areas with public buildings and spaces that are abandoned or not fully used. Many of these, especially churches, schools and playgrounds, are urban design resources to be considered. A creative and innovative planning approach should be encouraged in assuring the Eastlake/Cascade area a desirable future as one of Seattle's most diverse neighborhoods.

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