

## URBAN DESIGN ELEMENTS

Although Fremont's site was originally rich in natural visual resources including sweeping views and access to water, most of the area's predominant urban design features are man-made elements which were built for pragmatic, work-a-day purposes. There are, for example, no waterfront parks or designated viewpoints to take advantage of Lake Union's waterfront. However, the Ship Canal and the industrial wharfs, both designed for purely functional purposes, are also interesting visual elements and add much to the area's character.

Fremont's most imageable, urban design structures are its two bridges. The George Washington (Aurora) Bridge dominates the eastern skyline while the older Fremont Bridge, with its orange paint and new sign, is the community's symbolic and visual entrance. Rose and B. F. Day Playfields are the area's major active open spaces. With the exception of Woodland Park to the north and the landscaping

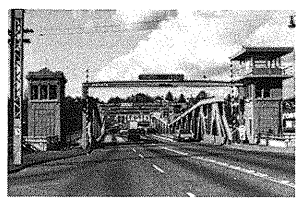
along the canal there are no landscaped, passive public open spaces.

The business district is distinguished by coherent building groups, dynamic streetscapes, and colorful commercial signs and decorations. The diagonal intersections formed by Fremont Place create interesting spatial relationships, and have encouraged the construction of flat-iron buildings and the uniquely curved facade of the Fremont Building. Newly planted street trees, marquees, and other street furniture also add ambience to Fremont's central district and attracts a diverse population.

Views of Queen Anne Hill, Lake Union, and the Ship Canal to the south, and Ballard, the Sound and the Olympic mountains to the west are present in many parts of Fremont's residential areas. Cul-de-sac street ends and pedestrian stairways also add

variety to the grid-iron street pattern. As mentioned elsewhere in this report, there are building groups of turn-of-the-century houses that are exceptional reminders of Fremont's past.

Another urban design characteristic which distinguishes Fremont is the intermingling of diverse land uses and activities. In the southern areas, for example, light industrial shops, residences, and neighborhood businesses are often interspersed within a single block. Although the intimate relationship of contrasting uses has traditionally been considered by many to be inappropriate, it provides a unique opportunity for those who wish to live near to their work, who engage in activities requiring diverse resources, or who simply enjoy the ambient qualities such variety can provide. In Fremont, the fact that commercial businesses tend to be of a small scale, except for the industrial belt, also helps to make them more compatible with residential areas.



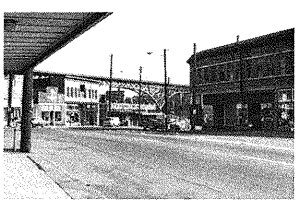
**FREMONT BRIDGE** Built in 1916, it is the unique, symbolic entrance to the community. Like the University and Montlake Bridges, it is a "bascule" (French for teeter-totter) type bridge.



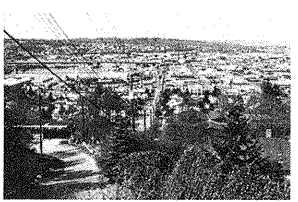
**CHURCH SIGN** A prominent visual element from both Aurora Avenue and downtown Fremont, the sign advertises the community as well as the church.



**WATERFRONT AMBIENCE** The diversity of industrial shipping and small scale recreational boating activities creates the pleasing character of Fremont's urban waterfront.



**FREMONT STREETScape** The ambience of Fremont's old business district helps to give the community a reputation for its new vitality and diversity, and serves as an activity focus.



**VIEW** Unusual views both South and West are unexpected bonuses for those traveling along the western residential streets.



**ROSS AND B. F. DAY PLAYFIELDS** These two playfields provide two large active open spaces for community recreation and meeting places for children.



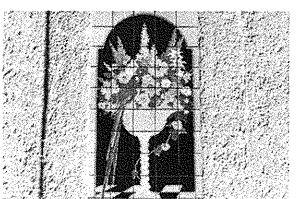
**LAKE WASHINGTON SHIP CANAL** Portions of the canal are edged by grassy slopes and provide a pleasant promenade and an excellent place to view ship canal traffic. The polders also serve as a landmark.



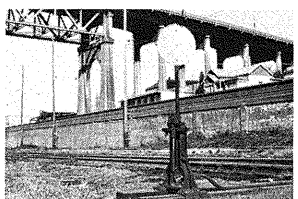
**GROUP OF OLD HOUSES** North 36th Street just west of Fremont is lined with turn-of-the-century houses that exhibit the range of the typical design of the period.



**DECORATIVE SIGN** One of Fremont's identifying physical characteristics is the colorful mosaic of signs on many of the area's shops and taverns.



**MOSAIC TILE DECORATION** Recalling an English building tradition, this colorful mosaic adds personal identity to the chimney of a cottage.



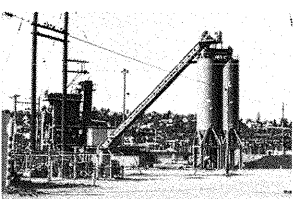
**RAIL SPUR** The tracks along the waterfront provide a unique pedestrian experience full of unusual artifacts such as this sculptural switching mechanism.



**FREMONT STATION** Though no longer in use, it is a visual reminder of the turn-of-the-century when Fremont was a part of the railroad network.



**1. POWER STATION c. 1910** Notable as an early concrete industrial building, its design shows attention to architectural considerations as well.



**INDUSTRIAL LANDMARK** The sculptural form of utilitarian structures offers a welcome contrast to the bland building forms in industrial areas and acts as a visual reference point.



**SPACE UNDER AURORA BRIDGE** The regular spacing of the huge pylons create a unique, monumentally-scaled space that is generally not known or experienced by the public.

## COMMON BUILDING TYPES

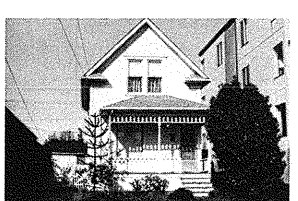
Corresponding to its diversity of activity, land use, and topography, Fremont has a wide variety of building types. Large warehouses and industrial buildings dominate the waterfront while modern office and commercial buildings are being built around Stoneway and Aurora. There are many millworker's small pioneer houses from the lumber mill era of early Fremont town. Other buildings and homes are typical of the boom times of World War I and later 1920's.

The central core is mainly composed of older commercial buildings, many of which relate well in building materials, form, and relationship to the street. There are many old and new apartment

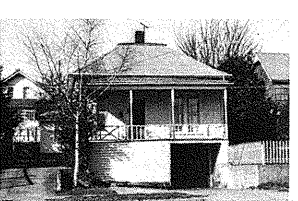
buildings; some being scattered throughout the community while others are clustered along N. 50th Street, Fremont Avenue N., and Phinney Ave. N.

Turn-of-the-century houses abound. Some have been neglected and are in poor condition. Others have been drastically remodeled, often to the detriment of their visual appearance. A few have been sympathetically maintained or restored. However, there are many others with excellent potential for restoration as comfortable neighborhood homes. Sometimes such older houses are grouped together providing an opportunity to re-establish an entire streetscape to its original qualities.

One of the most striking aspects of Fremont's existing building stock is this potential for restoration and re-use. There are many buildings, both residential and commercial, which would greatly benefit from appropriate restoration and recycling to provide useful and pleasant accommodation. While most buildings in the area are visually and architecturally unassuming, their qualities fit well into Fremont's over-all low-keyed, small town character. Rehabilitation which is sympathetic to the building's original appearance and its relationship to its neighborhood context, is therefore doubly important because it contributes to Fremont's identity and sense of place.



**TURN OF THE CENTURY HOUSE** Plain wooden houses with occasional simple decorative details in wood and glass, recall the early pioneer days of Fremont.



**COMPANY COTTAGE 1889-1910** Standardized houses built for mill workers, offering only in minor details were typically built for mill workers' families, and are precursors of today's tract homes.



**EARLY 20TH CENTURY HOUSE** Bungalow, craftsman, tudor, colonial, and eclectic combinations of these styles are prevalent in the north and south parts of Fremont, generally in a heterogeneous mix.



**POST-WAR BUILDER HOUSE** Typical of western slope houses on the development emphasize horizontal profiles and incorporate large glass areas and efficient construction methods.



**EARLY STOREFRONT BUILDING** The few remaining examples generally need repair but are reminders of Fremont's pioneer past, when such "false-fronts" were the standard commercial building type.



**BRICK APARTMENT BUILDING** Built in the 1920's, these solid medium rise structures often have traces of Gothic styling in their stone or terra-cotta detailing.



**MODERN APARTMENT BUILDING** Often pretentious in scale and materials, these buildings can be offensive in the community. When appropriate locations and designs are used, they integrate with the surroundings.



**OLD INDUSTRIAL BUILDING** Scattered along the industrial waterfront, these buildings often have more character than their modern counterparts through a variety of detailing and durable materials.



**MODERN INDUSTRIAL BUILDING** Often pretentious in scale and materials, these buildings create a low profile along the industrial waterfront frequently using prefabricated components and systems.



**MODERN COMMERCIAL/OFFICE BUILDING** The less self-conscious designs that respect their low-key surroundings are more successful in providing a background for the area's work-a-day qualities.

## SIGNIFICANT BUILDINGS

- Canal Sub Station, c. 1910, N.W. 48th St. and 8th Avenue N. W.
- Farwest Construction Co. Office, 1969, 608 N. W. 48th St.
- Residence, 1914, 502 N. 49th St.
- Hawthorne Square Apartments, 1920, 4800 Fremont Ave. N.
- Gas Station, c. 1920, 4465 Fremont Ave. N.
- Residence, c. 1896, 4401 Phinney Ave. N.
- Residence, 1917, 4202 Phinney Ave. N.
- Residence, c. 1900, 4221 Dayton Ave. N.
- B.F. Day Elementary School
- Residence, c. 1898, 3634 Palatine Ave. N.
- Residence, c. 1898, 166 N. 35th St.
- Carbarn, c. 1895, 3400 Phinney Ave. N.
- Fremont Building, 1901, 3427 Fremont Ave. N.
- J. P. Dean Building, 1906, 3500 Fremont Ave. N.
- Fremont Branch Public Library, 1921, 731 N. 35th St.
- Residence, c. 1890, 907 N. 35th St.
- Residence, c. 1890, 911 N. 36th St.
- Dr. Patterson House, 1891, 916 N. 36th St.
- Residence, c. 1890, 3633 Whitman Ave. N.
- Residence, c. 1890, 1025 N. 36th St.
- Apartment House, c. 1905, 3415 Woodland Park Ave. N.
- Residence, c. 1900, 3408 Woodland Park Ave. N.



**16. RESIDENCE c. 1890** (B. Kleckner) An early house which can be located on an 1891 photograph. Main-tanant has been sympathetically to original character.



**11. RESIDENCE c. 1890** (E. Collins) Fine example of a middle class house with restrained Victorian style decoration. The white paint is appropriate and highlights decoration.



**6. RESIDENCE c. 1896** (K.P. Grunewald) Diminutive corner gables and porch bungalow add interest to this ornamental Victorian example.



**20. RESIDENCE c. 1890** Part of a group of 1890's houses on N. 36th St. Interesting detailing of lower windows, and careful maintenance are its notable aspects.



**18. DR. PATTERSON HOUSE 1891** (S. Sigbie) Builder: Hughes. This ornate Victorian house served as Fremont's medical clinic as well from 1899 to 1928. Skillful renovation by Architect J. Hastings in 1960's.



**3. RESIDENCE 1914** (Berona) This well designed bungalow features excellent Craftsman style form and detailing with an integrated car-port, an unusual element for its time.



**7. RESIDENCE 1917 (A. Wyard)** Reminiscent of Austrian alpine houses in a fine adaptation of brick and rock exterior. Unusual original details.



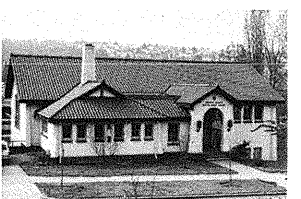
**21. EARLY APARTMENT c. 1905** Although built using standard carpentry details this unique example is classical in its symmetry and proportion. Decorative windows add interest.



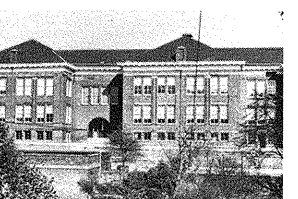
**4. HAWTHORNE SQUARE c. 1920** This finely designed block of apartment units encloses a delightful private court, providing a unique multi-family residential setting.



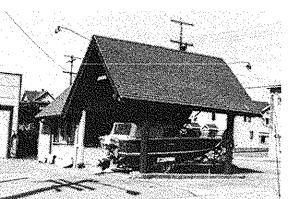
**14. J. P. DEAN BUILDING 1906** Echoing the facade of the Fremont Building, the Dean Building's precast concrete imitation stone-work and traditional proportions give it a substantial feeling.



**15. FREMONT BRANCH PUBLIC LIBRARY 1921** Architect: D. Huntington. Most of the funds for this pleasant California Mission style library with its well designed interior were provided by a Carnegie Grant.



**9. B. F. DAY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL 1891** Prominently sited, the school's imposing form has been a community landmark for 85 years. It is Seattle's oldest classroom building still in use.



**8. EARLY GAS STATION c. 1920** This unassuming structure is one of the few remaining examples of the city's early gas stations, and is a creative architectural solution for sheltering the pumping area.



**13. FREMONT BUILDING 1901** The central location, curving precast concrete stone-work, and its position make it a keystone in the central townscape. There are many old stories relating to its history.



**2. FARWEST CONSTRUCTION COMPANY OFFICE BUILDING 1969** Architect: D. Hewitt. Careful detailing and stylistic restraint make this inward looking commercial building architecturally successful.

# FREMONT

## LEGEND

- Building Significant to City
- Building Significant to Community
- Building Group
- Landmark
- Street Furniture
- Civic Art
- Landscaping/Vegetation
- Open Space
- Street Trees
- Streetscape
- Roadway Element
- View
- Industrial Waterfront Ambience
- Group of Turn-of-the-Century Houses
- Area Boundary

19 Building Reference Number

