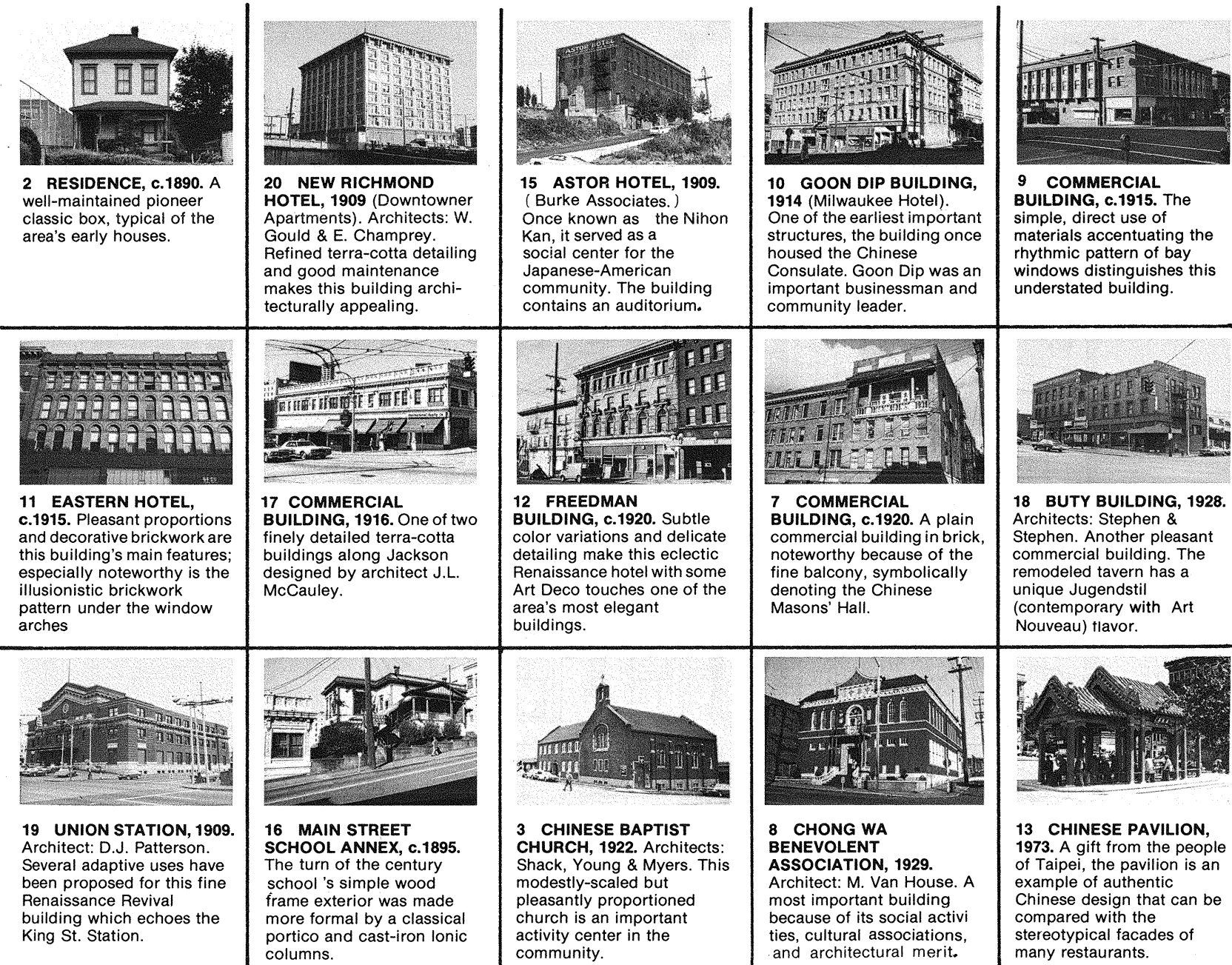


## SIGNIFICANT BUILDINGS

- Nichiren Buddhist Church, c.1920, 1042 S. Weller St. An important community fixture, the church still holds many of its services in Japanese. The long stairway follows the traditional pattern of Buddhist temples.
- Residence, c.1890, 1017 S. King St.\*
- Chinese Baptist Church, 1922, 925 King St.\*
- Wing Luke Memorial Museum, c.1920, 410 8th Ave S. An important community cultural center named in memory of Seattle's first council member of Asian descent.
- Commercial building, c.1915, 715-725 S. King St. This building played an important part in the District's early economic development and still houses several long-established businesses.
- Commercial building, c.1910, 701-711 S. King St. Another building which was important in the District's history and continues to reinforce the small-scale characteristics of local businesses.
- Commercial building, c.1925, 418-424 7th Ave S.\*
- Chong Wa Benevolent Association, 1929, 522 7th Ave S.\*
- Commercial building, c.1915, 665-677 S. King St.\*
- Goon Dip Building (Milwaukee Hotel), 1914, 664-672 S. King St.\*
- Eastern Hotel, c.1915, 506-510 Maynard Ave S.\*
- Freedman Building, c.1920, 513-515 Maynard Ave S.\*
- Chinese Pavilion, 1973, Hing Hay Park, Maynard Ave S. and S. King St.
- Commercial building, 1917, 650-662 S. Jackson St. Architect: J.L. McCauley. A finely detailed terra cotta building.
- Astor Hotel (Nihon Kan), 1909, 622 S. Washington St.\*
- Old Main Street School Annex, c.1895, 307 6th S.\*
- Commercial building, 1916, 514-526 S. Jackson St.\*
- Buty Building, c.1928, 503-511 S. Jackson St.\*
- Union Station, 1909, 4th Ave S. & S. Jackson St.\*
- New Richmond Hotel, c.1909, 300 4th Ave S.\*
- Hotel Alps, c.1915, 615-625 King St. An imposing building which is an important element in the King Core Area Streetscape. Done in the Renaissance Revival Style.

\* See captioned photographs below



# INTERNATIONAL DISTRICT

## LEGEND

- Architecturally significant to the city-warrants further evaluation for designation as historic landmark
- Architecturally significant to the community-has special quality and character in relationship to the neighborhood
- Of unique historical or cultural significance to the community and city
- Roadway Element
- View
- Balconies
- Wall Paintings
- Building Group
- Landmark
- Street Furniture
- Civic Art
- Landscaping/Vegetation
- Open Space
- Street Trees
- Streetscape
- Area Boundary
- Building Reference Number

## COMMON BUILDING TYPES

The predominant and most important building type in the International District is the three to six story anonymous brick building. Providing space for a variety of uses, these structures typically have residential units in the upper stories with the ground floors containing small retail and service businesses. This mix is an important characteristic in the community's vitality and life style. Usually arranged in groups, the consistent architectural massing and proportions are the key space-defining elements of the community. The relatively plain facades serve admirably as a backdrop for the many oriental signs, balconies, and applied ornamentation which are characteristic of the

District. Thus, the buildings serve a variety of purposes, both functionally as well as visually, and their continuance is vital to the community's unique character. Unfortunately, many of the buildings have been neglected or closed. It appears that a program to restore and maintain these buildings is of the utmost importance with the existing buildings serving as exemplary models for new housing and commercial development.

There are several existing wood frame houses still remaining. Many of them are in bad repair, so that a conscious effort is necessary to keep them habitable. Another common type is the

stereotypical oriental-style commercial buildings, restaurants, and stores which are dressed up with sloping tiled roofs and vaguely oriental decorations. Although scarcely authentic, many do add color and life to the streetscape. The more successful of these new additions are those which harmonize with the existing spatial and visual characteristics of neighboring structures.

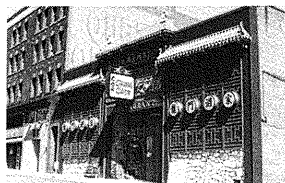
Generally located on the perimeter of the District are many commercial and industrial buildings. Because of their relatively small scale, for industrial buildings, and their peripheral location, they do not detract from the area's qualities, but rather add a vitality and a work-a-day quality.



**ANONYMOUS MASONRY BUILDING** Such utilitarian buildings are important in housing the area's variety of activities and establishing its spatial characteristics.



**TURN OF THE CENTURY HOUSES** Most of the few remaining wood frame houses have been significantly renovated but are an important low income housing resource.



**STEREOTYPICAL ORIENTAL STYLE** Many new buildings have been given pseudo-oriental style false fronts. Others from authentic, they add variety through their strong color and decoration.



**GARAGE** Some of the area's early garages have been abandoned or renovated for other activities, such as the Kokuai theater. Others continue to be used for auto repair.



**INDUSTRIAL BUILDING** Reinforcing the area's utilitarian and mixed-use characteristics, warehouses and wholesaling offices line the southern perimeter.

## URBAN DESIGN ELEMENTS

The International District contains a broad spectrum of urban design resource features. Some are the result of its location within the city, while others are associated more with the utilitarian qualities of the area's buildings, streets, and work-a-day activities. Other features reflect the community's unique ethnic and cultural background.

Among the first category are the major boundary-defining elements that separate the community from its surroundings. The I-5 Freeway is the most dominant element in the eastern section, cutting off a portion of the community and adding noise and air pollution. The train tracks on the west are far less intrusive as they are depressed below grade instead of being elevated overhead. Steep slopes form a barrier on the north and have discouraged building so that there are many vacant lots and panoramic viewpoints in this location.

The groups of medium-rise brick buildings with consistent massing and setbacks are important in giving spatial continuity to the streetscape. Painted signs advertising local businesses and metal fire-escapes are the typical utilitarian embellishments. The dark and narrow alleys are more interesting than in other parts of the city as many living units and businesses open on to them and they are actively used for children's play. Two of the alleys have colorful names: Canton Alley and Maynard's Alley. The centrally located alleys could be made more attractive with lighting, street furniture, and signing, and used as main pedestrian pathways serving as market areas and links to shops and restaurants.

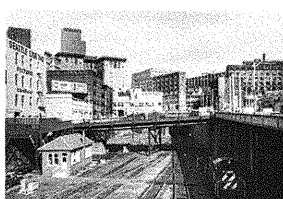
Happily enough, the area's two major parks, Hing Hay and Kobe Terrace, have differing and complementary characteristics and purposes. Hing Hay serves admirably as a community local point and is heavily used as a meeting and lounging place.

Kobe Terrace Park, located to the north-east, is separated from the rest of the community by steep grades. Thus, it sees much less use than centralized Hing Hay Park, but it does offer unique panoramic views in a pleasant and relaxed setting. Both parks are embellished with gifts from other nations. Kobe Terrace Park includes a fine stone lantern given by the citizens of Kobe, Japan, and Hing Hay has a colorful and authentic pavilion given by the people of Taipei, Taiwan.

Overlaid on this urban design fabric are the calligraphic signs, facade decorations, balconies and other embellishments which have been added by local residents and shopkeepers. This report is an attempt to capture the special section on the physical characteristics relating to the District's ethnic traditions. It is important to note that many of these elements not only have visual appeal, but are important to the community's social structure as well.



**A. FREEWAY** The Freeway adds noise and air pollution as well as being a visually disruptive element and a physical barrier within the District.



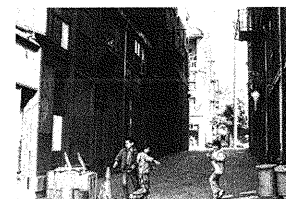
**B. RAILROAD PORTAL** Creating a barrier to the west the depressed rail line nostalgically speaks of the days when rail transportation was crucial to Seattle's development.



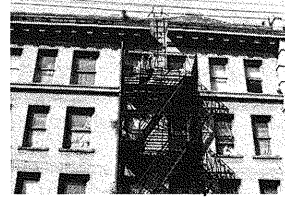
**C. PAINTED DOORS.** A colorful and appropriate way to add an oriental flavor to a modern commercial building are these figures painted by a noted artist, the late Fay Chong.



**D. VIEWS** Viewpoints on the north-west slopes offer unusual panoramic views of the Pioneer Square and industrial areas.



**E. ALLEY** The narrow alleys capture the ambience of oriental cities more successfully than the broad main streets. They have much potential as pedestrian spaces.



**F. FIRE ESCAPE** Although exterior fire escapes no longer meet existing building code requirements, their linear patterns often add visual interest to building facades.



**G. PAINTED WALL SIGN** Some signs are bright and newly-painted, others have faded into the brickwork achieving a rich, textured appearance. They help to establish the District's commercial history.



**H. BUILDING ORNAMENT** The doorways and cornices of many masonry buildings have eclectic terra-cotta ornament, providing interesting small-scale details.



**I. HING HAY PARK** Landscape architect: Donald Sakuma A fine urban scaled park that is important to the community life. It includes simple but effective seating and tree plantings.



**J. KOBE TERRACE PARK** Landscape architect: W. Teufel Although it abuts the freeway, it is exposed to the winds, and is a difficult climb, it has excellent south-western views.



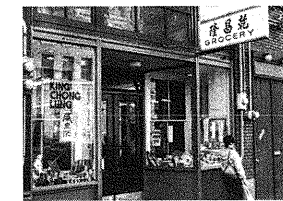
**K. BALCONY** The colorfully decorated balconies signify the location of an important family or group and add a cultural tradition from southern China.



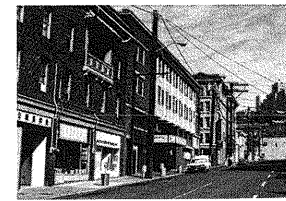
**L. CALLIGRAPHIC SIGNS** Creating a barrier to the west the depressed rail line nostalgically speaks of the days when rail transportation was crucial to Seattle's development.



**M. NEWSPAPER WALL** A designated landmark, the board still functions as a communications center and activity focus.



**N. STOREFRONT BUSINESS** Serving local day-to-day needs as well as those of city-wide shoppers and pilgrims to buy oriental delicacies, the shops are also an important contribution to street life.



**O. STREETSCAPE** The cumulative result of building groups, signs, decorations and other small-scale features are the lively street-scapes along King Street, Maynard Ave and 7th Ave.

