



The City of Seattle

## Landmarks Preservation Board

400 Yesler Building Seattle, Washington 98104 • (206) 625-4501

June 30, 1981

LPB-185/81

### REPORT ON DESIGNATION

Property: West Seattle High School  
4075 Southwest Stevens Street

Legal Description: That portion of the school property bounded by the south property line of the Hiawatha Playfield at the north, Walnut Avenue S. W. at the east, the centerline of S. W. Winthrop Street extended westward from Walnut Avenue S. W. to California Avenue S. W. at the south, and California Avenue S. W. at the west.

At a Public Hearing held by the Landmarks Preservation Board on June 17, 1981 the Board voted to approve the designation of West Seattle High School as a Seattle Landmark.

Features and characteristics of the property identified for preservation include:

- the entire exterior of the complex
- the site consisting of the north half of the block bounded by California Avenue S. W., S. W. Stevens Street, Walnut Avenue S. W. and S. W. Winthrop Street.

Designation is based upon satisfaction of the following criterion of Ordinance 106348:

*Section 3.01 (4) It embodies the distinctive visible characteristics of an architectural style, or period, or period, or of a method of construction; or*

This building, although somewhat neo-Romanesque or modified mission in style, is a marked departure from many of its sister high schools in the City. It is unpretentious, non-monumental in character; it well reflects in its design the internal disposition of functions and spaces; it possesses a marked

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sensitivity of design and explained as outlined in the nomination. It is unfortunate that the siting is rather insignificant; it is easy to pass by it in California Avenue and never notice its existence. The playfield across from the north (main) facade could easily have been more designfully related to it, and perhaps in 1917 the building was more highly visible. Nonetheless, it is an excellent specimen of school architecture.

Issued June 30, 1981



Earl D. Layman  
City Historic Preservation Officer

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