

Husky Stadium

Preliminary Historic Resources Review

BOLA Architecture + Planning, July 14, 2010

1. INTRODUCTION

Background

The University of Washington is undertaking planning for major addition and renovation of Husky Stadium. This structure is located among other athletic facilities east of Montlake Boulevard NE and west of Lake Washington's Union Bay.

Consistent with its historic preservation policies as outlined in its "University of Washington Master Plan—Seattle Campus" of January 2003 (2003 Campus Master Plan), the University of Washington has sought historic and urban design information about both Husky Stadium and the Hec Ed Pavilion in Historic Resources Addendum (HRA) reports. This type of document is provided for any campus project that makes exterior alterations to a building over 50 years old, one that is adjacent to such a building project, or a significant campus feature older than 50 years, and for public spaces on the campus identified in Figure III-2 of the 2003 Campus Master Plan (p. 30). Husky Stadium was built in phases from 1920 up through the mid-1980s. It largely dates from 1950, when the south stands were constructed, and 1987 when the north stands were added.

Report Authors

This preliminary review was developed by principal Susan Boyle and intern Abby Inpanbutr of BOLA Architecture + Planning with assistance from the University. The research was undertaken in June – July 2010. The report provides historical and architectural information about the stadium, and preliminary conclusions on p. 13 -14 to aid the University's selection of a design-build team for a new project.

Research Sources

BOLA undertook research to provide historical context and factual data about the development of the campus. Research sources included drawings, maps, and studies provided by the University of Washington Capital Projects Office and Facilities Records. Research also included a review of the digitized historic photo collections of the Seattle Municipal Archives, UW Libraries Special Collections, and the Museum of History and Industry, and publications and reports about the campus history and its athletic programs and facilities.

2. THE UNIVERSITY'S HISTORIC PRESERVATION FRAMEWORK

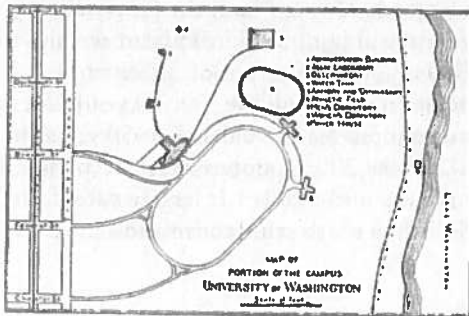
Stewardship and Historic Preservation Policies

As noted in the 2003 Seattle Campus Master Plan, the Regents provide stewardship for historic university properties. As part of planning and development, the University assures that preservation of historic resources is considered through review of a HRA. According to the Master Plan, the intent of the HRA is to "provide a context to insure that important elements of the campus, its historical character and value, environmental conditions and landscape context are preserved, enhanced, and valued. [It] further insures that improvements, changes and modifications to the physical environment are analyzed and documented."

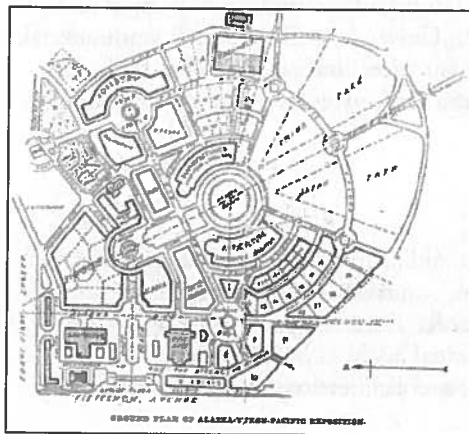
3. HISTORIC CONTEXT

Early Development of the University of Washington's Campus

The University of Washington was established by the State Legislature in 1861 as the first public university in the state. It was sited initially on a ten-acre parcel in what is now downtown Seattle. By the late 1880s, increasing student enrollment and the expansion of the city center made a new campus desirable. In 1891 the University Land and Building Commissioners hired local architect William E. Boone to develop a comprehensive plan for a new campus at its present site, and in 1895 the campus was moved. Within the next half decade an administration building (Denny Hall), observatory, drill hall, gymnasium, and two dormitories were built.



Meanwhile, the University Regents sought to develop a campus plan to guide the location of future buildings. In 1898, engineering professor A.H. Fuller developed a plan known as the Oval Plan, which is shown to the left. This plan envisioned oval-shaped athletic fields northeast of the Lewis Hall dormitory. The gymnasium and armory to the north near the NE 45th Street campus border.



In 1903, the Regents hired the Olmsted Brothers, renowned landscape architects, to prepare a general campus plan. While the resulting 1904 Olmsted plan was never realized, the firm later created developed the plan for the Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition (AYP) along with landscape designs. As a result, the lower campus was cleared of timber. Portions of the present campus plan descend from the Beaux-Arts design for the 1909 fair, shown to the left. When the AYP grounds reverted back to the University after the fair, the central axis of Rainier Vista was established. Many university buildings were constructed in the central and south quadrants in the three decades following the AYP exposition.

The Regents Plan of 1915, designed by the unofficial campus architect, Carl F. Gould and the Seattle architecture firm of Bebb and Gould, became the University's guiding planning document for the two subsequent decades. This plan affirmed the Olmsted design for the AYP grounds, but adopted principals of Beaux Arts design, with symmetry, formality and axial layout, for the upper campus design. The Regents Plan served as the basis for subsequent construction, and established Collegiate Gothic as the accepted architectural style for campus buildings. The plan grouped Liberal Arts programs on the upper campus, administrative and library facilities at its core on the Central Quadrangle, and the Science programs along Rainier Vista and the southern portion of Stevens Way. Later a golf course was developed in the south part of the campus, surrounding medical facilities, and major athletic facilities were located along the eastern edge of the campus near Lake Washington.

Beaux-Arts and City Beautiful designs for American civic centers, towns and campuses were popular during the between 1880s and the 1930s, and were used for the cities of Chicago and St.

Louis, Columbia University, and the University of California at Berkeley. Borrowing principles from grand European city and villa plans of the 16th and 17th centuries, Beaux-Arts plans were characterized by alignments, balance and symmetry, and a hierarchical order reinforced by landscape. Unlike many other campuses, which have compromised their original Beaux-Arts and City Beautiful campus concepts, much of the Regents Plan for the University of Washington has remained intact.

Collegiate Gothic was chosen by architect Carl Gould as the suitable architectural style for campus buildings due to its symbolism and visual association with older English universities. It offered adaptability with irregular plans that responded to the needs of individual buildings and their academic programs. Brick in shades of brown, pinkish-gray cast stone, and cream-colored terra cotta were adopted as primary exterior cladding materials. Decorative masonry patterns and allegorical sculpture embellished many of the Gothic Revival buildings.

In 1934, the Regents requested an update of Bebb and Gould's earlier plan. The resulting 1935 Plan reaffirmed the earlier one, while recommending some changes, such as the siting of a health sciences complex south of Northeast Pacific Street, and location of student housing along the northeasterly campus ridge.

Following World War II, major changes to the campus resulted from an influx of students attending on the GI Bill, and the establishment of the medical school in 1946. The University's campus plan was again updated in the 1948. In addition to supporting the 1935 Plan, the new plan recommended increased density and acquisition of additional land in the Northlake area along Portage Bay. In the 1950s, a University Architectural Commission was established, and Collegiate Gothic was replaced by various Modern styles of architecture as the preferred style for new campus buildings. Present buildings are characterized by a variety of styles, which provide visual interest and provide a sense of the campus development over time.

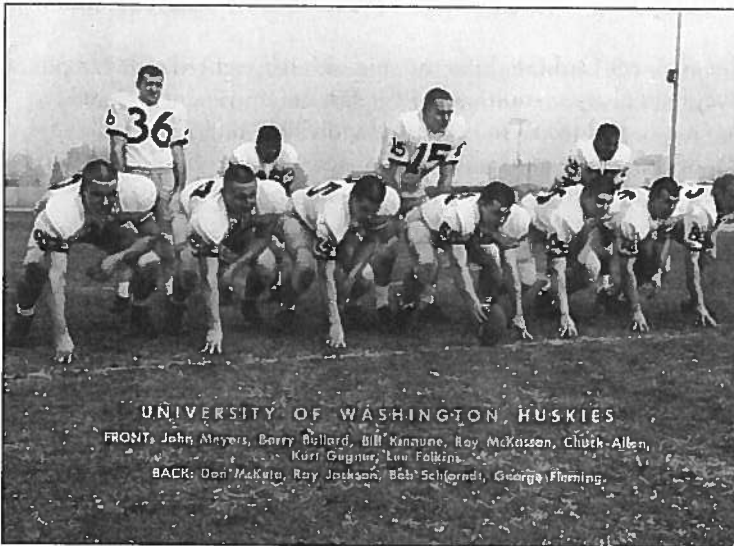
The University's Athletic Facilities

Campus athletic programs were established at the University of Washington in the early 1900s. Even at that time, football was the principal sport, although it was controversial because of the roughness of the games. The University had a successful track and field team which won a Coast relay record in 1900. Baseball and rowing were established as intercollegiate sports in 1901. Tennis and basketball were also part of athletic life on the campus, but on an intra-mural basis. As the early campus developed, students began to demand more facilities for practice and play.

Charles Vander Veer, an appointed professor of physical education in 1895, aided the students in forming men's and women's athletic associations. (Vander Veer also coached a very successful track team at the University until 1905.) As athletic activities developed, the student body was engaged in their organization. The Associated Students (ASUW) took charge of athletics on the campus from 1901 until 1962. Early on they worked to raise money for sports activities on the campus. In 1903 a faculty position was established as the General Manager of Athletics, to facilitate the work of faculty, students, and alumni in organizing and managing of athletics. The position was typically filled by an election from nominees selected by faculty and alumni.

In 1892 the first official football game was held with where the University team faced the Seattle Athletic Club. This was also the year when purple and gold were chosen as the school colors. 1905 was a particularly notable year for injuries to players at the University of Washington. Although it was played as an intercollegiate sport in the first two decades of the 20th century, the

football program was fairly informal in terms of scheduling and organization. Gradually regulation of the game increased; regular schedules for games were established and safety increased. By 1912 basketball had become an official intercollegiate sport at the university, with both men's and women's teams.



Left, the University football team cited as the Huskies after 1920. Prior to that date the campus mascot was the "Sun Dodger." Here the team is shown in a promotional photograph dating from 1955.

The first two decades of the 20th century was a period of growth and expansion at the University of Washington in terms of enrollment, academic programs, and student activities. The university struggled to keep up with demands for new buildings and facilities. By the 1920s the University was once again building new facilities for its programs. While the original football stadium was constructed in 1920, the period from 1927 to 1932 was the most active construction era in the first century of the University's in existence. New athletic facilities included a women's physical education building with an indoor pool (Hutchinson Hall), built in 1926, followed by the Men's Physical Education Pavilion (Hec Edmundson Pavilion) in 1927. The large Pavilion represented a great improvement in physical education and athletics at the University of Washington. Both the Men's Pavilion and the stadium were constructed primarily with student funds raised by ASUW on a subscription basis. While construction of new buildings was temporarily halted by the Great Depression and WWI, but after the war enrollment surged once again. In July 1962 Intercollegiate Athletics (ICA) became an independent department of the University, taking over the responsibility of organizing and managing athletics from the ASUW.



In 1948 the Men's Athletic Pavilion was re-named in honor of Clarence S. "Hec" Edmundson, shown in the 1962 photograph to the left. Edmundson was appointed track and field coach in 1919, a position he filled until 1954. During this 35-year period he led the university track team to three Pacific Coast Conference championships, among other achievements. Edmundson also coached the men's basketball team from 1921 to 1947.

The Stadium Designers

Bebb & Gould, Original Architects of Husky Stadium

Charles Herbert Bebb (1856–1942) was born in Surrey, England, and attended the University of Lausanne, Switzerland. He went on to study civil engineering and was an engineer for the construction of the Cape Town-Kimberley Railway in South Africa from 1877 to 1882. Bebb proceeded to the U.S. and worked as a construction engineer with the Illinois Terra Cotta Lumber Company. He was subsequently hired by the Chicago firm of Adler & Sullivan and came to Seattle in 1890 to oversee construction of the Seattle Opera House for the firm. When the project faltered, Bebb returned to Chicago, but in 1893 he moved back to Seattle as architectural engineer for the Denny Clay Company.

By 1898 Bebb had opened his own office. He formed a 13-year partnership with Louis Mendel in 1913, with the firm designing numerous houses, apartment and commercial buildings, civic facilities, and hotels. After his partnership with Mendel dissolved in 1914, and Bebb became a partner with architect Carl F. Gould.

Carl Freylinghausen Gould, Sr., was born in 1873 and lived in New York, and Tarrytown, New York for part of his life. He graduated from Harvard in 1898, and then moved to Paris. Gould for five years he attended the prestigious Ecole de Beaux Arts, following in the footsteps of other influential architects of the 19th century; H. H. Richardson, Charles McKim, Bernard Maybeck, Louis Sullivan and Julia Morgan. Gould did not receive his diploma but was nonetheless successful in his architecture studies.

In 1903 Gould returned to New York City to work as a draftsman for McKim, Mead & White. In 1905 he moved briefly to San Francisco to where he was employed as a draftsman by the Chicago-based firm, D. H. Burnham & Company. Gould returned to New York to work as a designer for George B. Post & Sons, Architects. By 1906 he became a partner in the firm of Carpenter, Blair & Gould in New York, but in 1907 Gould fell ill and left the East Coast for the milder climate of Seattle. Arriving in Seattle, Gould worked initially as a draftsman at Everett & Baker Architects, and then for architect Daniel Huntington. The two men formed a partnership, Huntington and Gould, which lasted from 1909-1911. Gould also worked on his own as an architect until 1915, when his partnership with Bebb was established.

Gould soon earned a place as a prominent figure in Seattle as architect and educator. His work in Seattle included many grand residences, including those at the Bainbridge Island Country Club (1914-1917), and his own residence, "Topsfield" (1914-1915). He helped establish the Department of Architecture at the University of Washington, where he taught from 1914 to 1926. head of the Department Gould also served as the unofficial campus architect. Bebb & Gould designed a new campus plan for the University, the Regent's Plan, in 1915. The President of the University at the time, Henry Suzallo, shared Gould's vision for the campus. During his tenure Suzallo commissioned over two dozen new buildings by Bebb & Gould, typically designed in the Collegiate Gothic style, such as Suzallo Library (1924, 1934), which reflected Gould's Beaux Arts training. By contrast to this impressive edifice, the firm's design for the University Stadium was modest. Although the original stadium proposal included Gothic-inspired towers and arcades, these features were constructed.

In 1926 Gould lost his unofficial design post when the new president, citing a conflict of interest, between his service as a professor and administrator, ended his role as campus architect. In 1926 he stepped down from a leadership role in the Department of Architecture.

Bebb & Gould was a prolific partnership, and they designed more than 200 projects in the decade between 1914 and 1924, including schools, churches, hospitals, houses, and commercial structures. The cast concrete administrative and industrial buildings at the U.S. Government's Chittenden Lock in Seattle (1914-1916) was one of the firm's earliest projects. They also designed the Highlands Residence for William Boeing and the Seattle Times Building (1913-1915, presently known as the Times Square Building). Bebb & Gould also designed buildings at the Washington State Normal School (1924, Bellingham), Lakeside School (1930, Seattle), and St. Nicholas School/Cornish Institute (1925, Seattle). Gould's later work, such as the Everett Public Library (1932) and the Seattle Art Museum (1931-1933) exhibits his interest in Moderne style.

Gould was served the president of the Seattle Fine Arts Society (1912-1916, and 1926-1928), which later became the Art Institute of Seattle and the Seattle Art Museum. He was president of the AIA Washington State Chapter for two terms in the 1920s, was active in the Seattle Chamber of Commerce, and served on the City of Seattle's first planning commission. Gold was active in the Bebb & Gould Partnership until his death in 1939 at the age of 66.

George Wellington Stoddard (1950 Addition to Husky Stadium)

The existing design of husky Stadium is largely the result of a major, mid-century addition by architect George Wellington Stoddard. Stoddard was born in Detroit in September 1895. He attended the University of Illinois to earn his Bachelor of Science in architectural engineering in 1917. He was drafted into the military immediately after graduating. Upon his return home from WWI, Stoddard joined his father's (Lewis M. Stoddard) architectural practice in Seattle; the firm was renamed Stoddard & Son. Lewis Stoddard died in 1929, and George W. Stoddard then established his own practice as George Wellington Stoddard & Associates.

The firm worked on a variety of public and commercial projects, including schools, colleges, medical clinics, hospitals, and banks. Stoddard embraced the Modern style early, as evidenced in his design of the Harlan Fairbanks Company in Seattle (1931). Some of his notable works include Overlake High School in Bellevue (1946), and Memorial Stadium (1947, eventually incorporated into Seattle Center). In addition to the University of Washington Stadium South Stands (1950), he was responsible for another sculptural concrete structure, the Green Lake Aqua Theater (1950). Stoddard's modern style buildings include the National Bank of Commerce at 4th Avenue and Olive Street in downtown Seattle (1956), and the Chapel at Veterans Hospital on American Lake, south of Tacoma (1958). In 1959 Stoddard formed a new partnership, George W. Stoddard-Haggard & Associates, Architects and Engineers, with Francis E. Haggard. He retired shortly afterward in 1960, after an active career of 40 years.

Stoddard was active in Seattle civic and social life. He served on the State Hospital Advisory Council Committee (1948-1949), Seattle Civic Arts Committee (chairman, 1947), King County Educational Advisory Committee (1950-1951), and King County Juvenile Advisory Committee (1952). He was a member of the Rainier Club, Seattle Art Museum, Seattle Chamber of Commerce, Municipal League, and the Seattle Symphony, for which he served as a board member for many years. Stoddard was a member of the Washington State Chapter of the AIA from 1922, and served as its president in 1946-1947. He died in 1967 at the age of 71.

NBBJ Group and Skilling Ward Rogers Berkshire Inc. Engineers (1987 Stadium Addition)

NBBJ was founded in 1943 in Seattle by Floyd Naramore, William Bain Sr., Clifton Brady and Perry B. Johanson, and was originally called Naramore, Bain, Brady & Johanson. Early works by

NBBJ include the Boeing Pre-flight Facilities in Renton and Moses Lake (1956-1958), the Seattle Scottish Rite Temple (1958-1962), and the First Presbyterian Church, Seattle (1965-1970).

Recent works by NBBJ include the Columbus Crew Stadium in Columbus, Ohio (1999), reconfiguration and renovation of the Boeing Headquarters in Renton, Washington (2004), the NBBJ Building in Seattle (2007), and Nuritkum Square, Seoul, South Korea (2008). At present NBBJ has offices throughout the world and employs over 700 people.

History of the Site

The University of Washington athletic facilities are situated on a land that was largely inaccessible before the 20th century. The flat expanse of land on the shore of Union Bay has been revealed by the lowering of the water level in Lake Washington. In addition, parts of the area have been infilled by landfills.

Originally there was a narrow isthmus of land south of the University of Washington campus that divided Lakes Washington and Lake Union. It was first broken by the Montlake Cut, constructed between 1860 and 1865 as a ditch to provide a waterway connection between the two bodies of water. The cut was dug by Harvey Pike, who had acquired the property between the lakes as payment for painting the Territorial University. Pike quickly gave up the project, however, and the land was deeded to the Lake Washington Canal Company. In 1883 the cut was widened, using immigrant Chinese labor crews, for use as canal by the logging interests.

In 1916 the Lake Washington Ship Canal was cut, and Lakes Washington and Union were connected both to each other and to Puget Sound. The cut was widened to become a part of the Ship Canal, which resulted in a water level drop in Lake Washington of 8.8 feet. When the water level dropped, a broad terrace of flat land was exposed along its edges. The University of Washington acquired the newly exposed property to south and east of the campus, adjacent to Union Bay.

The waterfront area was expanded over the years by added fill. The site of the Montlake Landfill, which operated for four decades between 1926 and 1966, is located less than 730 feet to the north of Husky Stadium. This landfill closed in 1971. There is little documentation of its precise boundary, and its southern boundary is assumed to be north of the IMA. (The land on which the Stadium sits also has large quantities of fill from unknown sources.)

By the time of the stadium was construction the Burke-Gilman Railroad, which encircled the south and west edge of the main campus, was in place. Commonly known as the Burke-Gilman today, it was established in 1885 as the Seattle, Lake Shore & Eastern Railroad. The line ran around the north side of Lake Washington, and from there to Snoqualmie Falls and North Bend. In 1913 the Northern Pacific Railway Company acquired the rail line, and it was used heavily until 1963. The railroad carried passengers until 1922, and subsequently served as a major transport line for local logging companies. In 1970 Northern Pacific merged with the Great Northern and Burlington lines; the line was abandoned soon after in 1971.

While the railway was in operation, the university's athletic facilities were connected to the main campus by two bridges over the tracks, shown in Bebb & Gould's 1920 campus plan. Presently there are two pedestrian bridges over Montlake Boulevard NE that connect the main campus to Husky Stadium and Hec Edmundson Pavilion. The one closest to the Stadium is a pre-cast structure was designed by engineer Jack Christensen of the Skilling engineering firm.

The Burke-Gilman railroad right-of-way became the Burke-Gilman trail soon after the rail lines were abandoned in the mid 1970s, and the first 12 miles of the path were dedicated in 1978. The current Burke-Gilman trail presently serves as a major pedestrian and bicycle transportation route in Seattle. It extends along the rail right-of-way from the Ballard neighborhood of Seattle to Redmond, where it connects to the Sammamish River Trail. The trail is a thoroughfare through the University of Washington campus, providing direct access to the main campus, the university hospital, and the athletic facilities.

Construction History of Husky Stadium

The original horse-shoe shaped stadium was called Washington Stadium. Designed by Bebb & Gould and built by Puget Sound Bridge & Dredging Company, it was constructed for \$600,000. A significant amount of the funds needed to build the stadium were raised by the ASUW through its sale of plaques by students and supporters.

The University's program called for a stadium that could eventually seat 60,000 people, and a design which would emphasize the longitudinal axis of the field, providing protection from the low winter sun without obstructing the views of the surrounding landscape. The Department of Astronomy worked to determine the most advantageous layout for the field, establishing an axis set at 71 degrees 50 minutes west of north.

The stadium was excavated by a unique sluicing method by which its bowl form was carved out of the ground by the force of water, much like Seattle's famed Regrade projects. In the process of excavation, 230,000 cubic yards of earth was removed with 587,000,000 gallons of water. Once the shape of the stadium was finished, the concrete steps for the seating were poured.

The seating capacity of the original stadium, with only south stands, was developed for 30,000 spectators, along with an evacuation plan of only seven minutes. The stadium surrounded both a track and football field, with an elliptical design of the track that allowed for unobstructed viewing from all the seating areas. The finishing touches on the stadium were completed just 12 hours before the first football game was to take place. On November 27, 1920, that game was played in Washington Stadium. (Washington was defeated by Dartmouth 28-7.) In 1936 the capacity was increased by 10,000 when above-grade seats were added to the stadium.

In 1950 the stadium was expanded again, this time by a major construction project that resulted in the covered south stands that rise high above the bowl seating. The new south stands, designed by architect George W. Stoddard, added another 15,000 seats, raising the seating capacity of the stadium to 55,000, and also providing 21,000 covered or partially covered seats. The addition of the south stands included an overhead press-box, suspended from the roof trusses which supported the steel roof. The press-box held 75 people, and provided unobstructed views of the track and field 185 feet below.

4,000 additional seats were added in 1968 with 3,000 new seats along the north rim and 1,000 seats on portable bleachers at the east end zone. At the same time the original grass field was replaced with AstroTurf, and an all-weather track was installed. (The University of Washington was the first athletic facility after the Houston Astrodome to install AstroTurf as a playing surface. Teams from other universities were unfamiliar with the new playing surface, and so the University of Washington kept 200 pairs of shoes for visiting teams to use at football games.) Since the initial

installation the artificial playing surface has been replaced four times, in 1972, 1977, 1987 and 1995.

In 1987 the north stands were added to Husky Stadium, 38 years after the construction of the south stands. The steel frame of the new stands were designed to mirror the existing south structure, under direction by the NBBJ group and Skilling Ward Rogers Barkshire Engineers. The project was built by Lydig Construction of Spokane.

The north stands added 13,000 covered or partially covered seats, and also sheltered some of the original bowl seats below. The north stands is somewhat memorable because of their famed collapse while under construction on February 25, 1987. Buckling in a 28-inch diameter steel member was followed by initial collapse of two of the nine sections and then the complete collapse of the structure -- all within 12 twelve seconds -- resulting in a pile of twisted steel. There were no fatalities due to the quick action of the construction superintendent. The accident was later attributed to premature removal of temporary guy lines. Despite the major setback that the collapse represented, the north stands addition was completed in time for first game of the season on September 5, 1987.

The original west stands were replaced two years later, in 1989. This renovation included the provision of better seating, more concession stands and restrooms, a new first-aid room, police security area and a photo deck. That same year a new track was installed at the stadium in 1989 in preparation for the 1990 Goodwill Games. The track was a \$1.5 million donation from the Seattle Organizing Committee. The most recent project resulted in replacement of wooden bleachers of the north and south upper decks with new aluminum seating. At present, Husky Stadium is able to seat 72,000 people.

Husky Stadium is known as one of the most scenic stadiums in the nation, with sweeping views to the east and west that take in Lake Washington, the Cascade Mountains, and Mt. Rainier. Husky Stadium is highly visible both from the University of Washington's central campus and the surrounding area, with its iconic profile made up by the symmetrical steel stands and the coiling concrete ramps on the south facade. With expansion of nearby Montlake Boulevard NE in 1951 in 1951 and 1958, and construction of the 520-bridge in 1962, Husky Stadium became even more visible to those who passed it by vehicle. From these routes there are clear views of both the stadium and the spectators within it during game days.

4. ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

Existing Site Features

The area of the university campus in which the stadium is located is identified as "East Campus" in the 2003 Campus Master Plan (Figure IV-61, p. 98). Sports fields, paved parking lots, a golf driving range, the university's fire-arts buildings and Center for Urban Horticulture are to the north and northeast of the stadium, all of which surround a large natural area.

Separated from the rest of the campus by Montlake Boulevard NE, the Stadium, Hec Ed and surrounding University sports facilities are located on a relatively flat expanse of land (originally a wetlands and a former landfill), that stretches from Montlake Boulevard NE to Lake Washington's Union Bay the east. The main academic campus occupies the hill to the northwest, and the medical campus is to the west.

The entire site occupied by the athletic facilities at the University of Washington covers is estimated at approximately 34 acres. To the east of the Stadium are the practice football field and the softball diamond. Hec Edmundson Pavilion is located directly north of Husky Stadium, and the Nordstrom Tennis Center and Dempsey Indoor Track are directly east of Hec Ed. To the south of Husky Stadium is a large surface parking lot. South and east of the stadium, at the edge of Lake Washington, sit the Waterfront Activities Center and the historic Canoe House. North of these buildings are tennis courts and the, and to the northwest, the Shellhouse. Beyond the IMA to the north are recreation tennis courts and turf fields; to the northwest are the Husky Ballpark and Soccer field. Walla Walla Road encircles the athletic complex along its eastern edge. Sports fields, paved parking lots, a golf driving range, the university's fire-arts buildings and Center for Urban Horticulture are to the north and northeast of the stadium, all of which surround a large natural area.

Husky Stadium today has a seating capacity of 72,500, and it is the 15th largest college campus stadium in the nation. (The overall dimensions of Husky Stadium are to be verified.) The main entrances for spectators are at the northwest and southwest corners, facing onto Montlake Boulevard NE. The main visible components of the stadium are the field, the lower horseshoe seating, the upper covered bleacher seating, and the concrete spiral ramps located on the south side. These elements differ in materiality and structure. The structure is described below as it was constructed, phase by phase.

Washington Stadium (1920)

The original stadium was constructed in 1920 with its form derived from that of the football field stretching from east to west. The axis of the field was originally determined by the University Astronomical Department and designed to limit the late afternoon sun from reaching the player's eyes on a fall afternoon. The field was originally compressed dirt, and later grass-clad. Presently it is covered in field-turf, an artificial playing surface. The field was designed originally with the running track encircling it, which separated the football field from the stadium seating. A 'moat' was also part of the design, which featured a sunken ditch that separated the track from the stadium seats and prevented spectators from accessing the field. The moat also served for storm water drainage. Stadium seating, built as stepped concrete rows that surrounded the north, west and south sides of the field, was laid out in a horse-shoe configuration. The ring of seating was set into the ground on the west side. As the site slopes slightly from west to east, the east side of the field is level with the surrounding landscape.

An architect's rendering for the stadium by Bebb & Gould dated 1920 shows a more monumental stadium design than was actually constructed. This design was characterized by its Collegiate Gothic features, including a covered, arched arcade around the outside and two prominent towers marking the entry on the west end. Construction photographs from 1920 indicate that a much simpler stadium was constructed, without a second tier of above-grade seating or a covered arcade. Historic photographs further indicate there was an entry pavilion on the west side, but without the two towers.

Additional Seating (1936)

1940 photographs of the stadium show a second ring of above grade seating was added around the rim of the original horseshoe bowl. This additional seating added 10,000 seats, and was constructed in 1936.

The South Stadium Stands (1950)

The addition of the South Stands added 15,000 seats to the University of Washington Stadium. The design of the South Stands is straightforward and follows a simple concept with a prominent acute scissor roof truss structure folded over on itself as it faces toward the field. The additional upper stands were constructed above the south portion of the original horseshoe seating below, providing shelter for those seats. The east and west sides of the south stands are completely open, exposing the structure and opening the stadium to surrounding views.

Two massive access ramps are placed at the center of the south façade. They consist of cantilevered, reinforced concrete spirals up around a central, concrete wall. The access ramps, which reach up to the middle concourse from ground level, are a highly visible element, and they contrast strongly in material and form with the other, steel-framed parts of the stadium. Between the access ramps, in the center of the south side of the south stands, is a concrete elevator tower which is the tallest component of the structure. The addition clearly expresses the Modern, unadorned strength of its form.

The South Stands addition included balcony level seating, middle and upper concourse levels, a roof above the seating, and the access ramps on the south side. Overall dimensions of the steel and concrete addition are 420 feet in length (east to west) and 150 feet in depth. The roof is set approximately 150 feet above grade level.

The primary structure of the south stands is made up of the steel tube trusses, which create the iconic profile of the stadium, and the columns that support the trusses. The trusses are oriented in the north-south direction, and are V-shaped and set on their side, with the lower portion of the truss supporting the bleacher seating and the upper portion of the truss supporting the cantilevered roof above. The trusses also supports the two concourse levels.

The stands are divided in half structurally in the long dimension by an expansion joint at the centerline. The 10 trusses, which are divided in to 8 structural bays, are set at approximately 50-feet on center, with the exception of the pair of trusses that support the structure on either side of the central expansion joint. The truss framing is supported by two lines of steel columns, which are spaced approximately 40 feet on center directly below the aisles of the main concourse. Secondary trusses and cross bracing stabilize the length of the stands.

Balcony seating, which is situated above the original seating below, extends from just under the roof at its highest point, to an elevation of 38 feet above grade where it is nearest to the field. The seating in the balcony is made up of a bent steel plate, which is supported by the steel beams and trusses that provide secondary support between the primary trusses.

The roof of the stadium extends the full length of the balcony seating. It is made up of steel decking supported wide-flange purlins, which sit on top of the secondary east-west trusses that span between the main structural frames. Suspended from the roof structure is a camera deck and the 75-person capacity press box, which is accessed by an enclosed walkway from the top center of the stands..

The upper and middle concourses of the South Stands, which provide access to the balcony seating from the spiral access ramps, are cast-in-place concrete supported by steel structure. The lowest concourse is a concrete slab-on-grade set at grade level. On the west, east and south the overall structure below the south stands is enclosed in reinforced concrete structural walls. These walls

surround the lower and middle concourse levels, while the balcony seating, upper concourse, roof, and the truss structure which support these are exposed.

North Rim & End-Zone Seating Addition (1968)

In 1968 3,000 seats were constructed on the north rim of the stadium. At the same time portable bleachers were also installed beyond the east end-zone.

North Stadium Stands (1986)

The north stands are similar in appearance to the south stands and follow the same basic structural organization. The large balcony levels of both the north and south stands mirror each other and they are roofed symmetrically. However there are differences in the frame. While the north stands are also divided into eight structural bays, there is no a central expansion joint. The space below and to the north of the stands is not enclosed, revealing views of the steel truss structure.

The truss structure of the north stands is visually similar to that of the south stands, with variation in detail. The north stand trusses were built as two joined trusses in the shape of a V; the top truss supports the roof while the lower truss supports the upper level seating. Where the members come together they are braced with large steel disks. The truss system is supported from below by metal columns and vertical trusses in the north-south direction, which visually divide the structural bays on the north side. Stabilization is provided by cables, and by X-bracing between structural bays on the north side of the structure, which are set in the east-west direction.

The north stadium stands have two levels of seating. The lower level extends the original bowl seating by 16 rows, and is sheltered by the upper level seating above. The upper level balcony has 67 rows of seating.

The north stands are entered from a formal central stair on the north side. The north side of the structure is dedicated to circulation, with enclosed stairs and elevators in the center two structural bays, and by symmetrical access ramps in the outer three bays leading to the five concourse levels. All of the ramps are contained within the structure, unlike the bold, exposed concrete spiral ramps of the south stands. The concourse decks and ramps are constructed of the North Stands are of reinforced concrete, cast over metal decking. The cantilevered concourse decks are supported from above by cables connected to the V truss members. The concourse levels also contain restrooms or concessions or both.

The north stand, which included 13,000 seats, is sheltered by its steel roof structure. Taller walls of banded veneer masonry were built along the west perimeter at the same time as the addition, along with the Don James Center. This glass-enclosed reception area has become a signature space in the stadium.

West Stand Replacement (1989)

The most recent major construction to take place at Husky Stadium was the replacement of the West Stands. During the renovation more concession stands, restrooms, a police security area, and a photo deck were added. The wooden bleacher seating of the north upper deck and south upper deck were replaced with new aluminum seating in 1990 and 1992, respectively.

5. PRELIMINARY CONCLUSIONS

After undertaking this preliminary historic review and tours of the stadium site, we have come to preliminary conclusions. This section of the report will be expanded further with comments on the proposed design, recommendations and suggested mitigation as part of a full Historic Resources Addendum.

These conclusions are based in part on “Directives for the 2003 Master Plan” (Appendix B, A Vision for the Campus, p. 7-8). Several of these directives appear relevant. They call for “strengthening the character of existing open spaces ... preservation of views and vistas ... and emphasize on the unique regional qualities” of the campus. The directives also call for the use of “compelling architectural language.”

Significance

- A. The stadium is somewhat significant as it represents the development of the University’s athletic programs and facilities. Its various phases of construction, while not necessarily distinct, express this history.
- B. With exception of the clearly expressed structure of stands and access ramps, which remain intact, there have been changes over time that have reduced the building’s integrity.
- C. The 1950 south stand of the stadium is architecturally significant, and it remains intact. The open steel structure and the spiraling concrete ramps on the south façade remain as iconic, character-defining features of the mid-century design. The design qualities of the south section is more legible due to the cantilevered steel structure, vs. the column and cable-supported north stands. (These comments are based on exterior tours and reviews of historic documents.)
- D. The south façade of the stadium is highly visible in contrast to the north façade. Due to its proximity to other buildings, the north façade of the north stands is far less visible.
- E. The horse-shoe shape of the low stands that surround the field has persisted for 90 years, and is a significant historic feature.
- F. Views of the lake and mountains from the stadium are important historic features, and they may have become more important over time. The two-sided stadium form allows expansive views to the east, and to some degree to the west. This is critical to the unique game experience in Husky Stadium, and they anchor the spectator in a special Northwest place. This experience has extended beyond those within the stands to those passing by the stadium on the exterior. By looking into the stadium, they vicariously share the experience.
- G. The masonry wall along the east side, and other accessory structures that date from the 1980s and later, do not appear integral to the stadium design. These elements are not historically or architecturally significant.

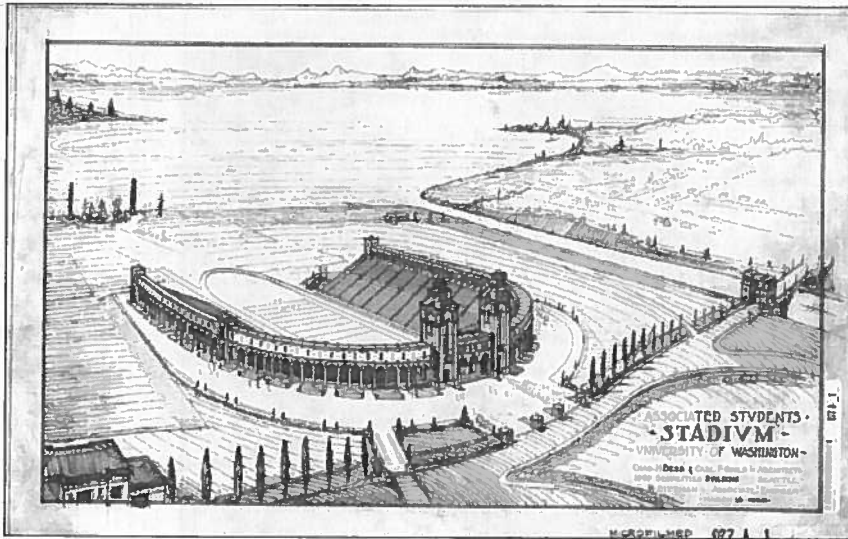
Recommendations

- A. Retain the concrete access ramps and steel frame of the south stands, and allow these elements to remain visible from afar. Minimize enclosing walls or tall structures to the south of the stadium.
- B. Retain the horse-shoe shape of the original field design, if feasible in the context of contemporary play, seating capacity, and views of the field.
- C. Retain view from and into the stadium.
- D. Retain open space northwest of the stadium to preserve views of Hec Edmundson Pavilion's primary west and south facades, and to retain its legibility as a free-standing structure.
- E. Consider the clarity and simplicity, and the resulting expressive strength of the 1950 stadium addition, and design new projects to provide a similar level of expression. Minimize extraneous forms and details.
- F. Minimize masonry enclosure walls that give a false impression of historic urbanity. The stadium was built as a free-standing element, and not part of a system. Its setting is unlike Seattle's Seahawk and Mariner Stadiums. It is not a zero lot-line structure abutting other construction. To give it urban qualities is to romanticize and diminish its authenticity and its significance.

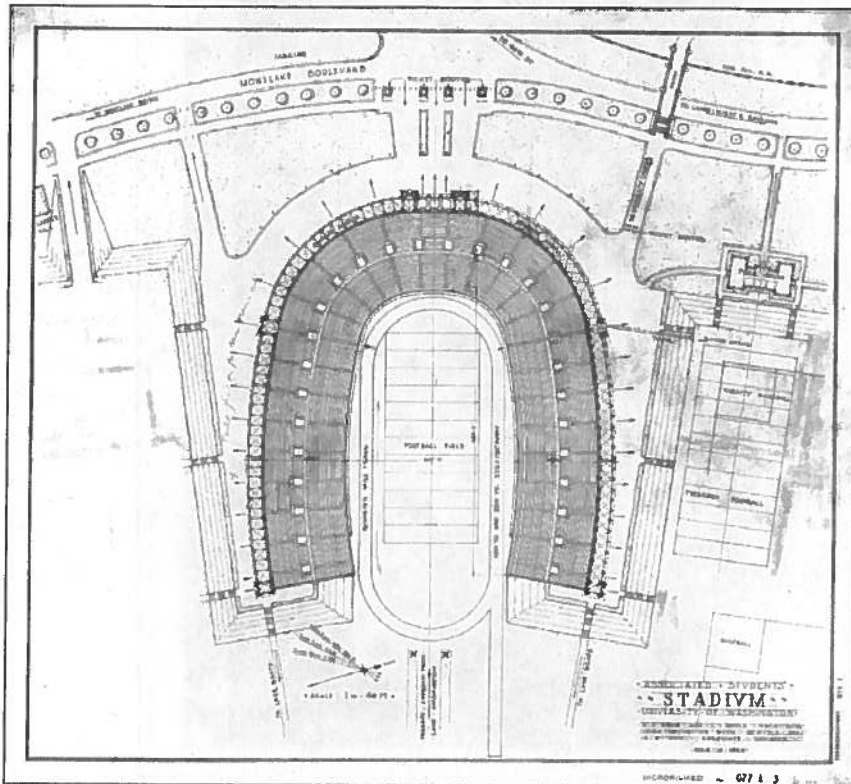
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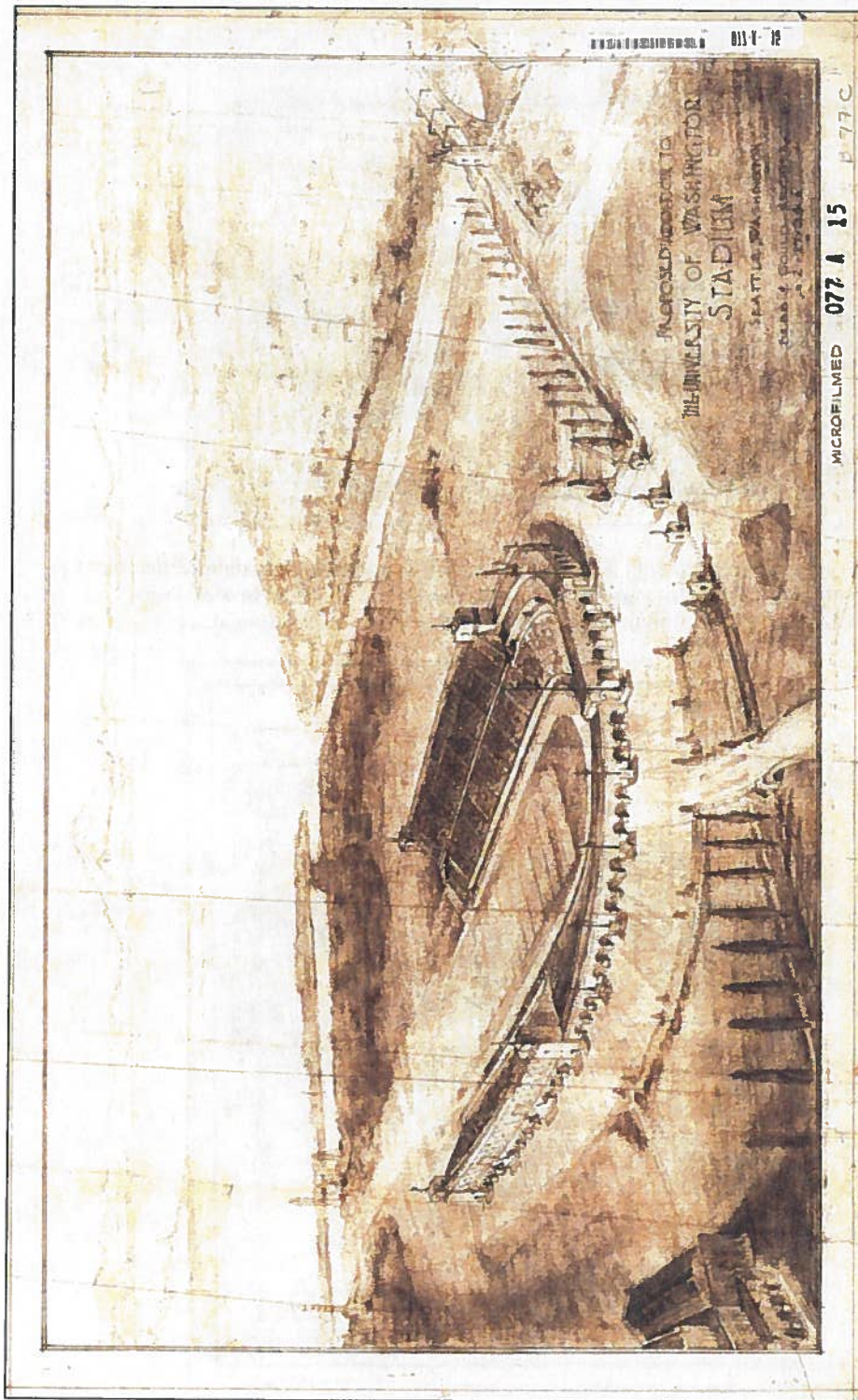
The following images document the original, phased construction of Husky Stadium.



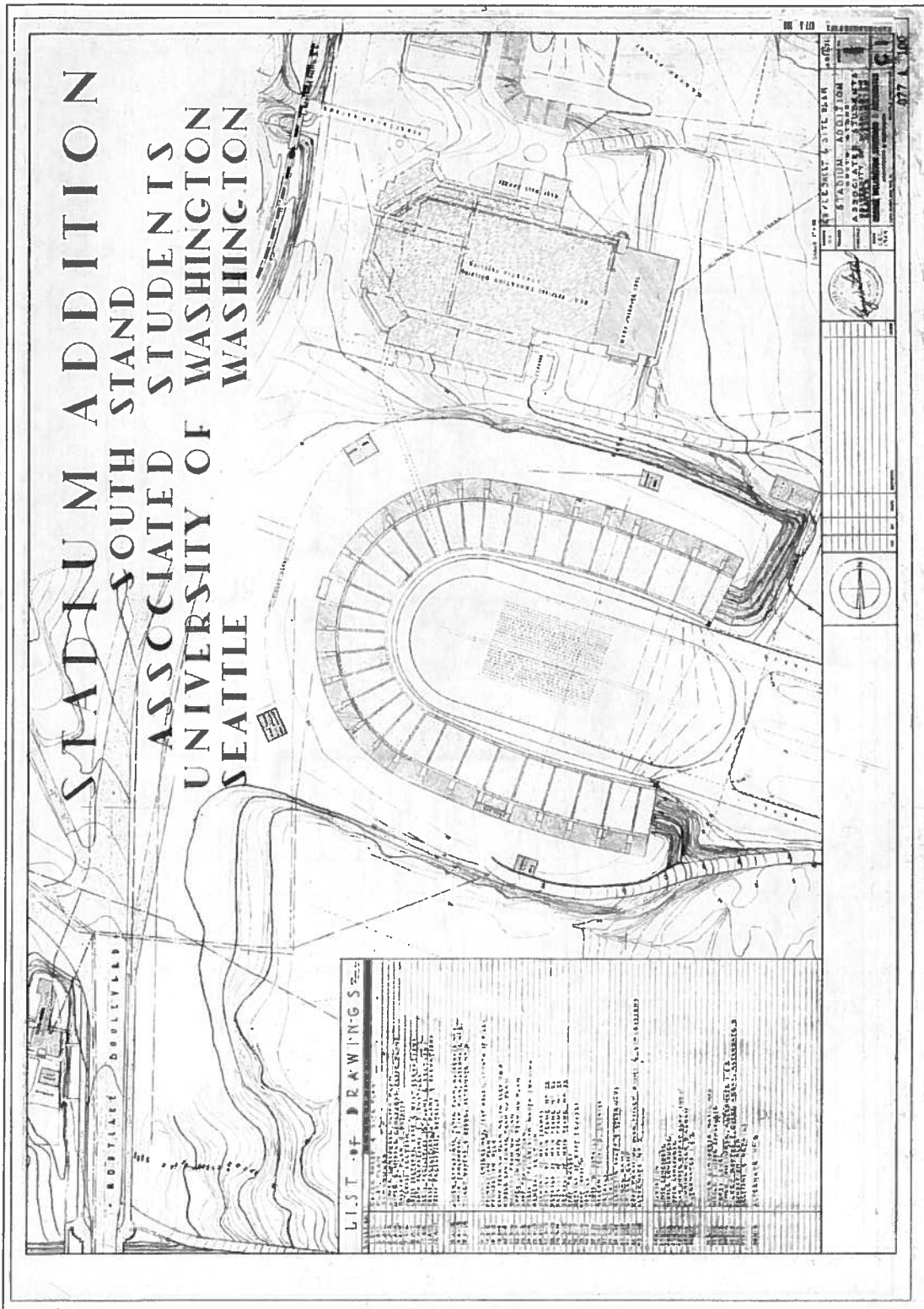
Rendering of Proposed Stadium, Bebb & Gould, 1920. Historic photographs indicate that the towers, arcade, and other decorative elements were not constructed. The source of historic drawings is the University of Washington Facilities Records unless otherwise noted.



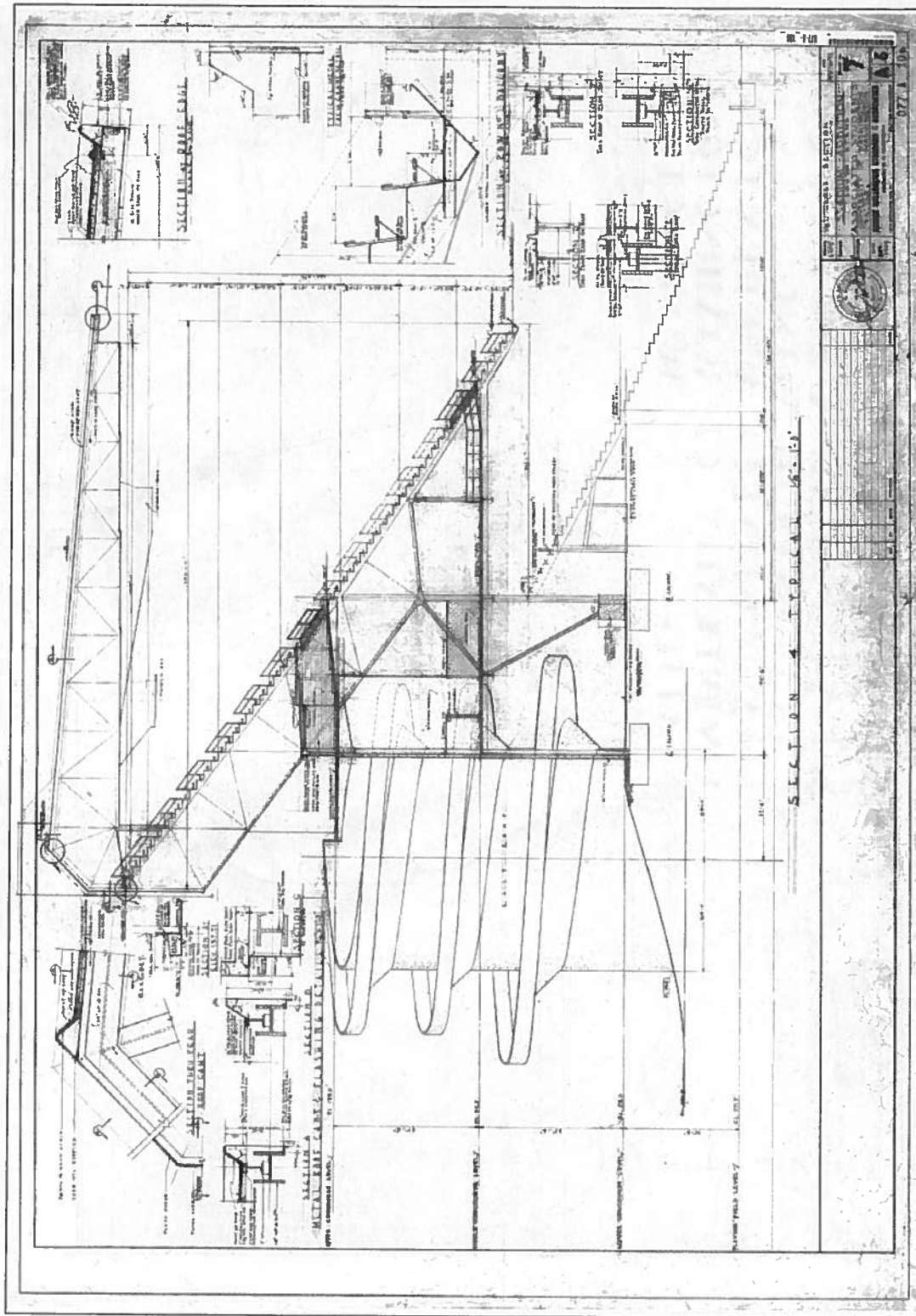
Plot plan of proposed stadium, Bebb & Gould, 1920. Historic photographs of the Stadium indicate that a simplified version of this plan was actually constructed. North is oriented to the north in this plan.



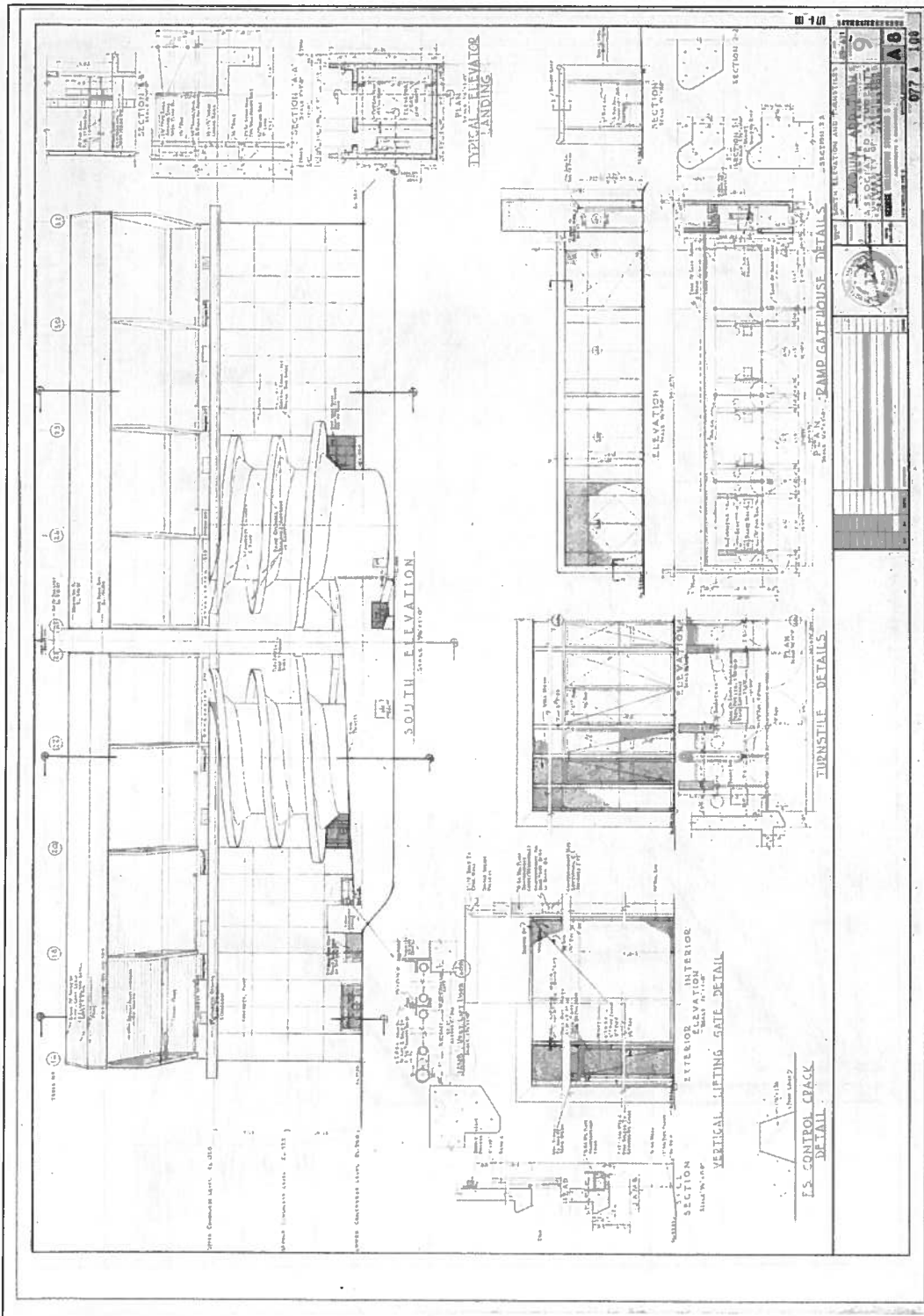
Proposed addition to the University of Washington Stadium, Bebb & Gould, 1934. Historic photographs indicate that a simplified version of the addition was actually constructed.



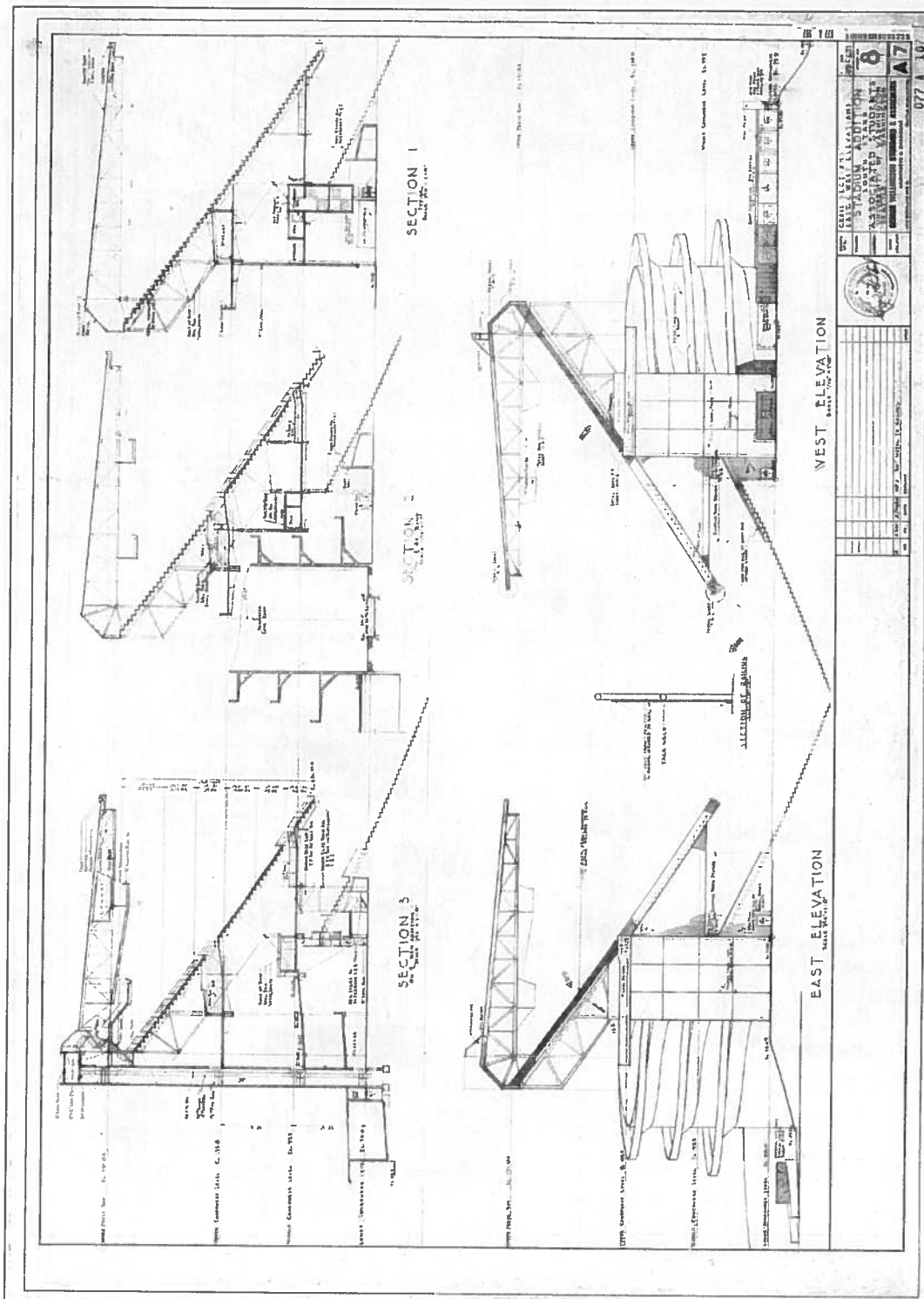
Site plan, South Stands Addition



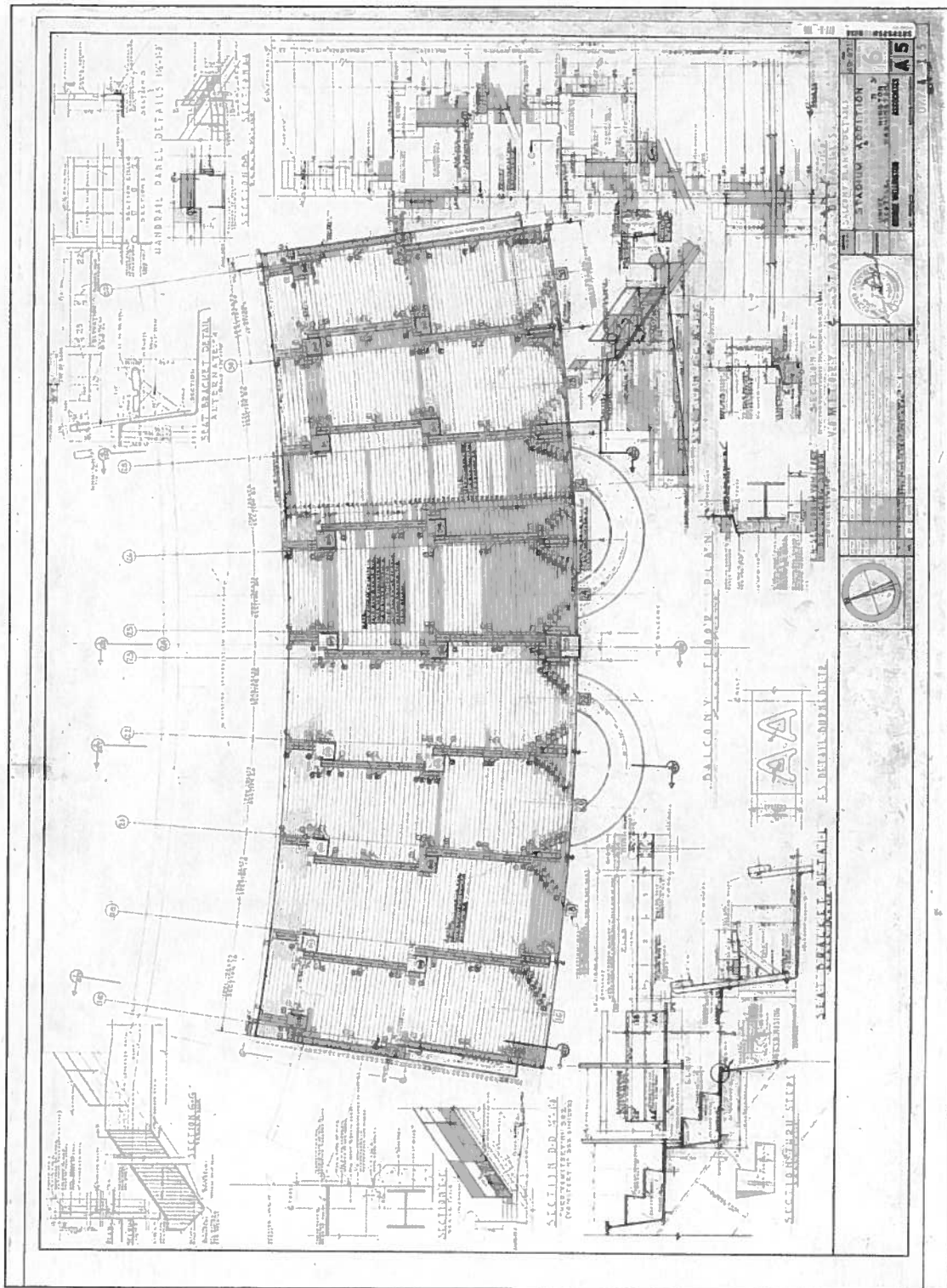
Section, South Stands Addition to University of Washington Stadium, George Wellington Stoddard & Associates, Architects & Engineers, 1949.



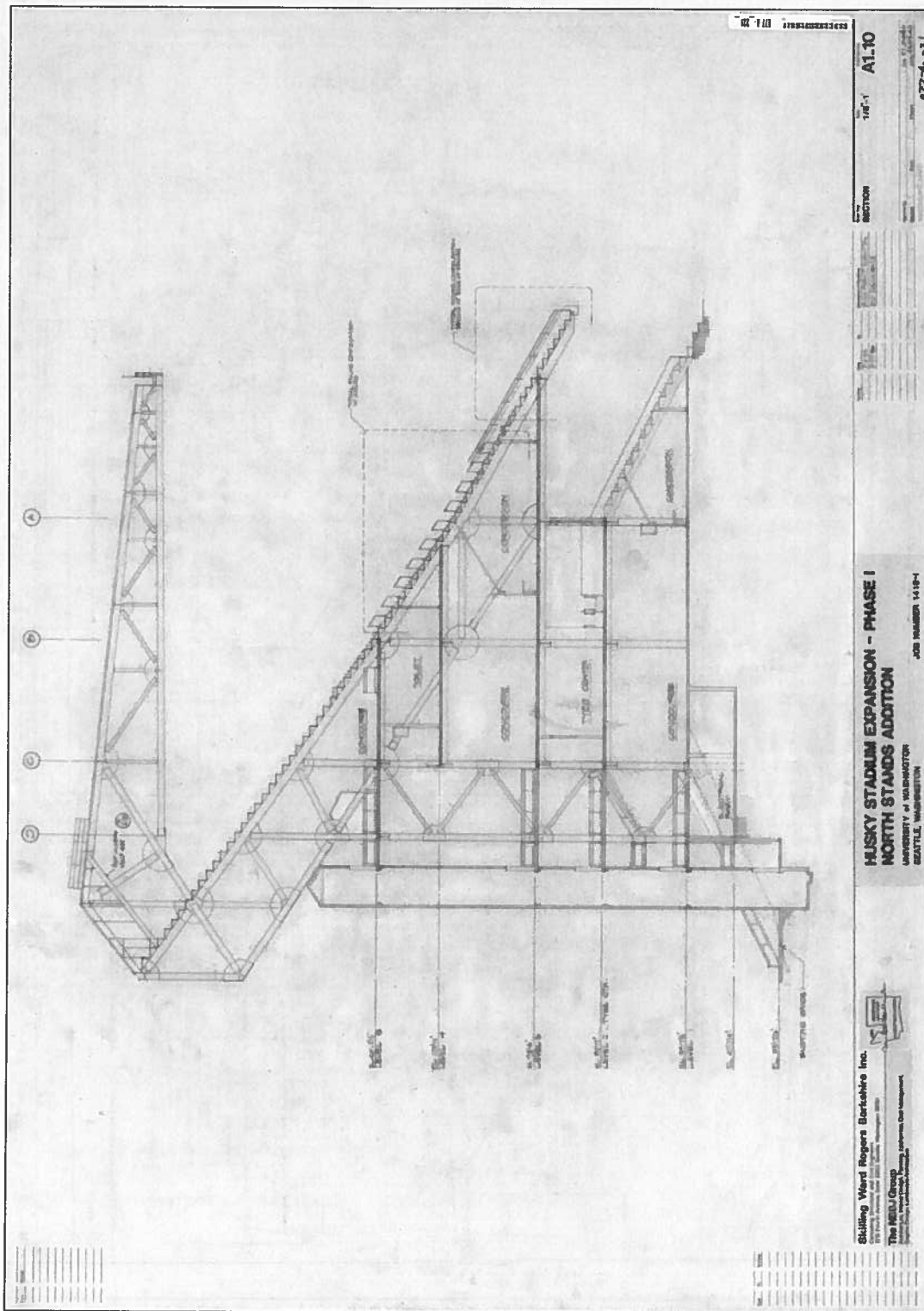
South elevation, South Stands Addition to University of Washington Stadium, George Wellington Stoddard & Associates, Architects & Engineers, 1949.



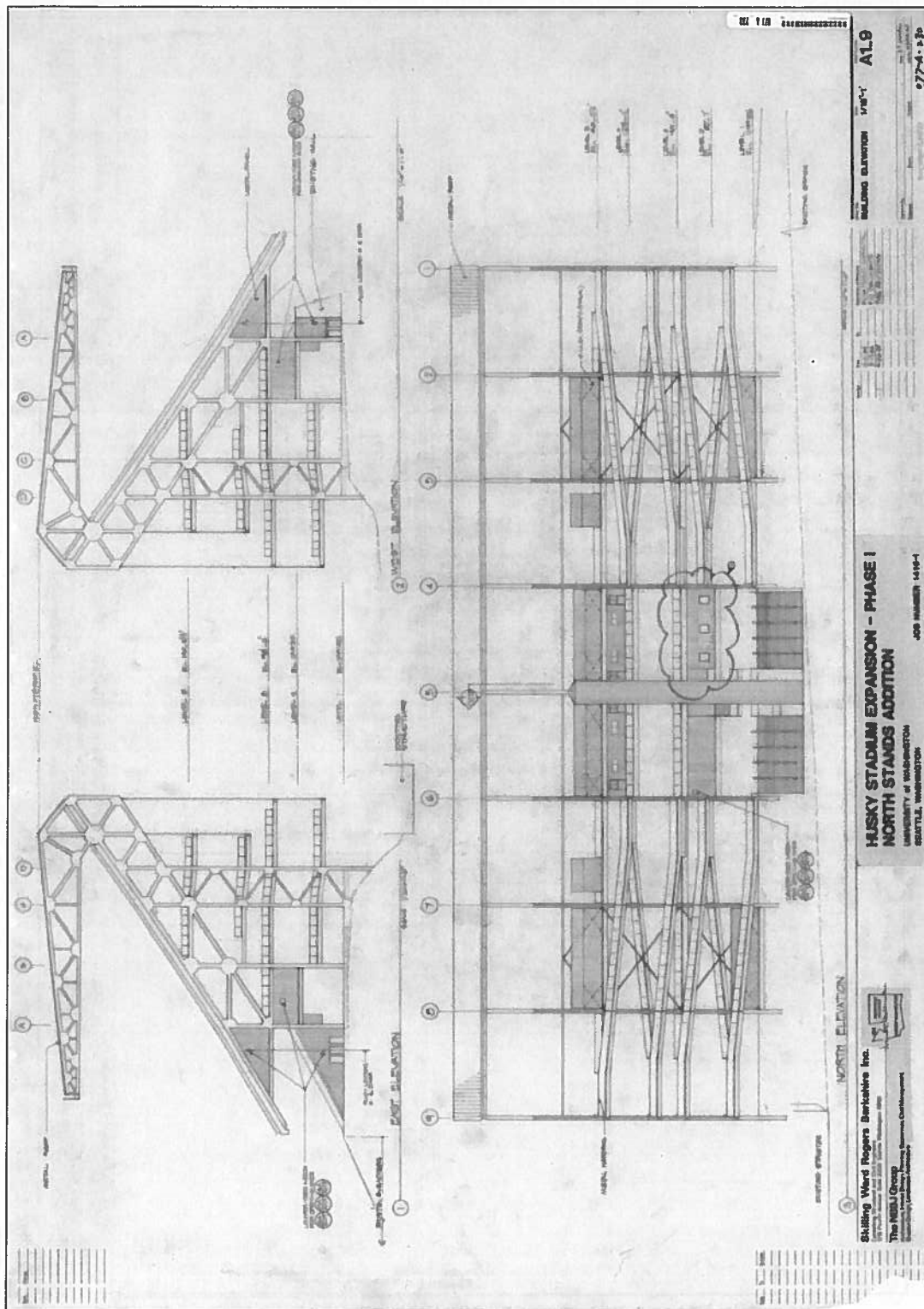
East and west elevations, South Stands Addition to University of Washington Stadium, George Wellington Stoddard & Associates, Architects & Engineers, 1949.



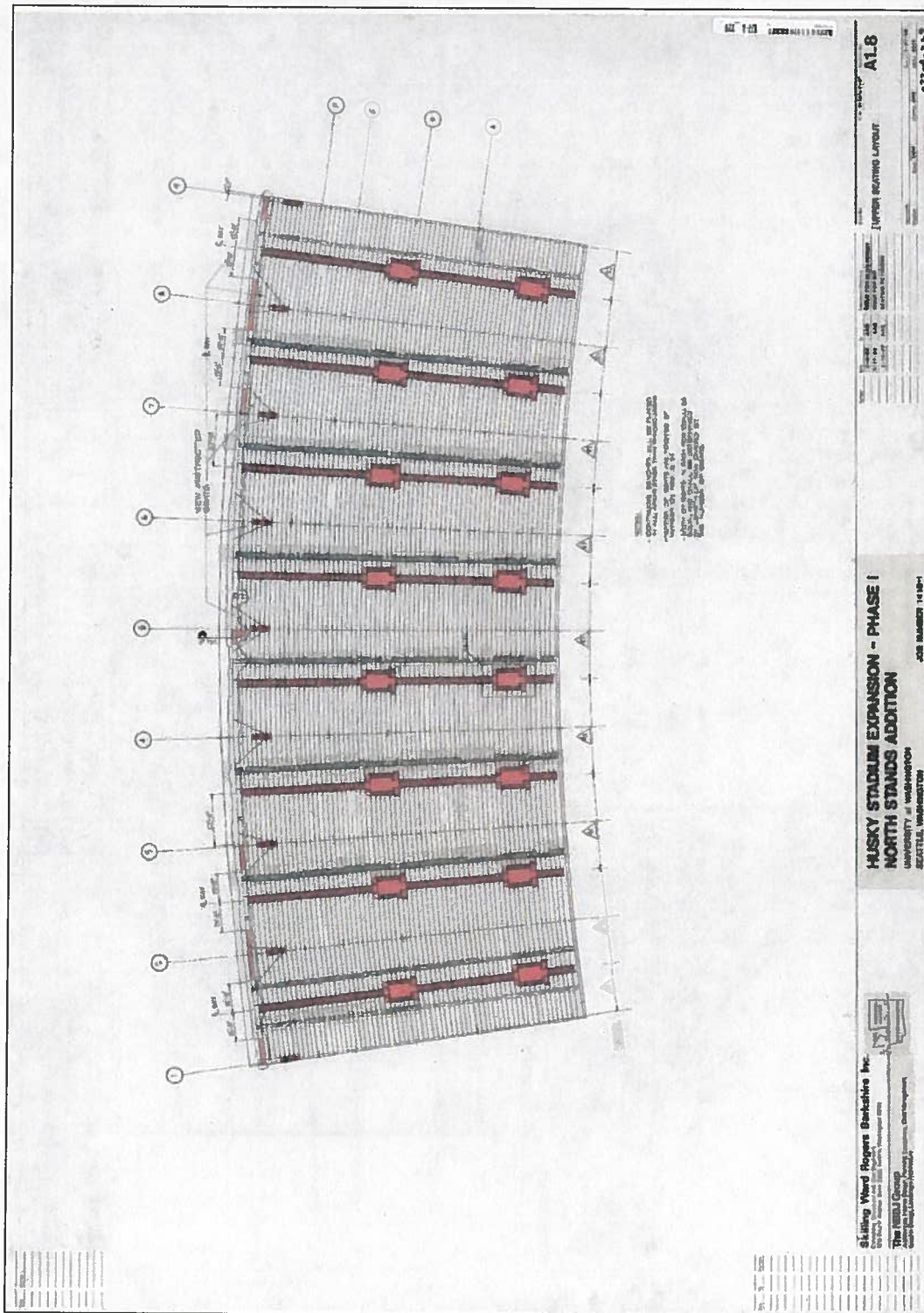
Balcony plan, South Stands Addition to University of Washington Stadium, George Wellington Stoddard & Associates, Architects & Engineers, 1949.



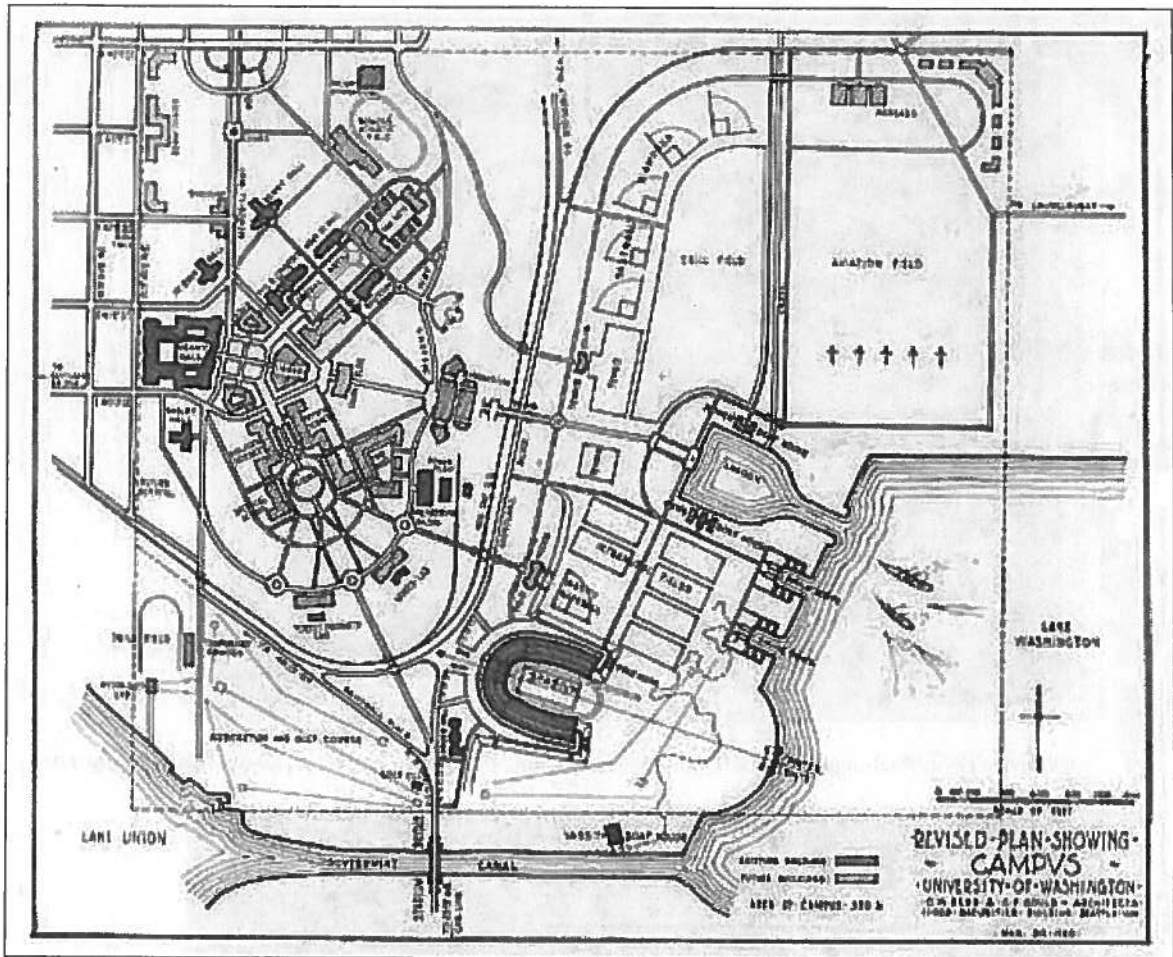
Section, North Stands Addition to Husky Stadium, Skilling Ward Rogers Barkshire Inc. Engineers and the NBBJ Group Architects, 1986.



Elevations, North Stands Addition to Husky Stadium, Skilling Ward Rogers Barkshire Inc. Engineers and the NBBJ Group Architects, 1986.



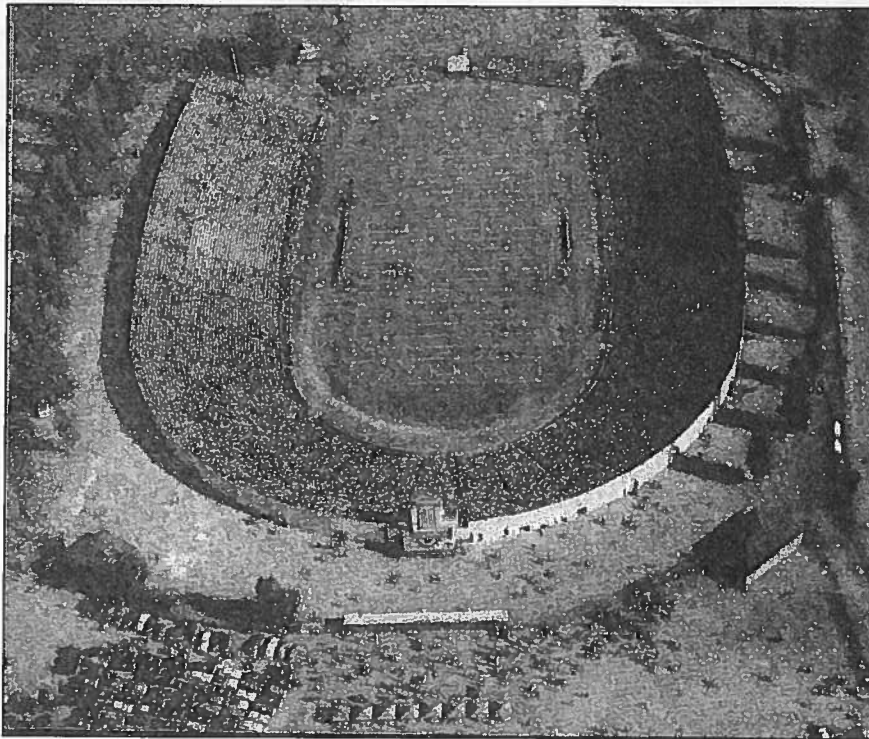
Upper Level seating plan, North Stands Addition to Husky Stadium, Skilling Ward Rogers Barkshire Inc. Engineers and the NBBJ Group Architects, 1986.



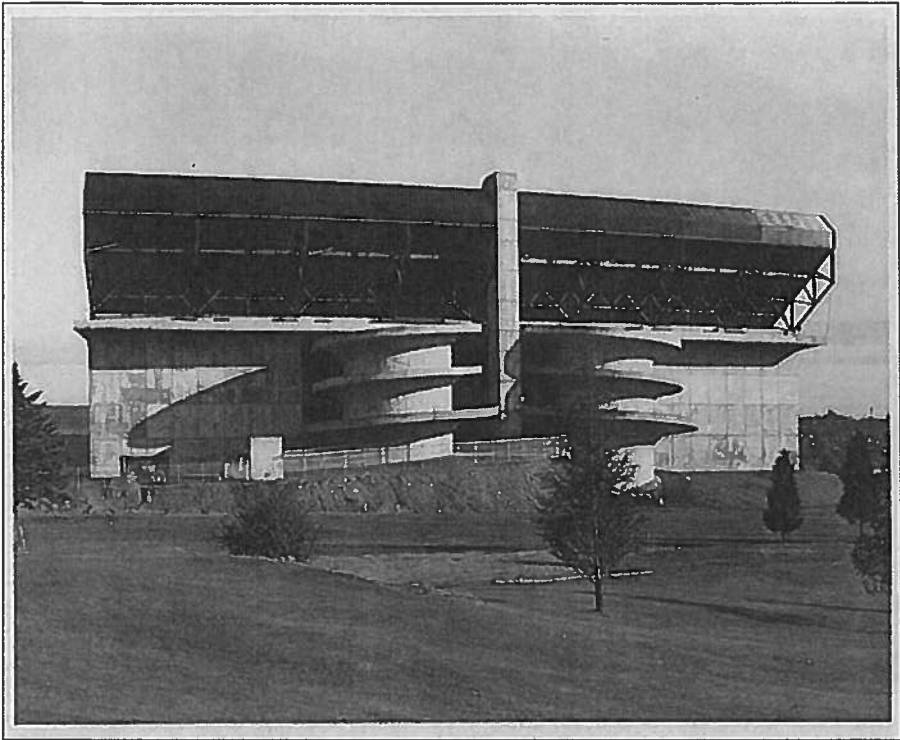
Revised Campus Plan, Bebb & Gould, Architects, 1920. Source: University of Washington Libraries.



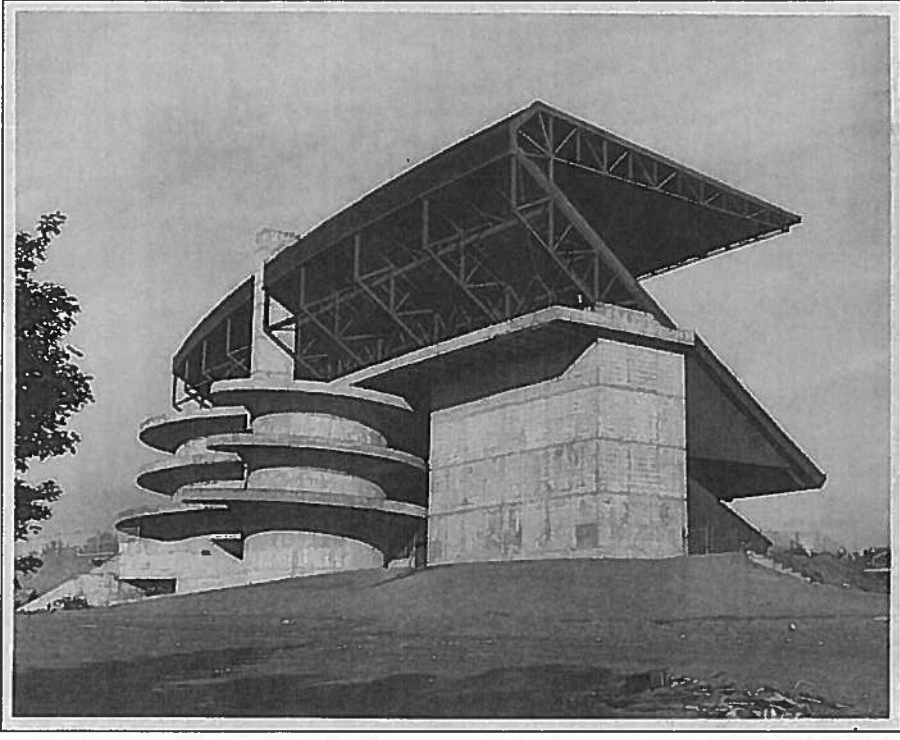
University of Washington Stadium under construction, 1920. Source: University of Washington Libraries.



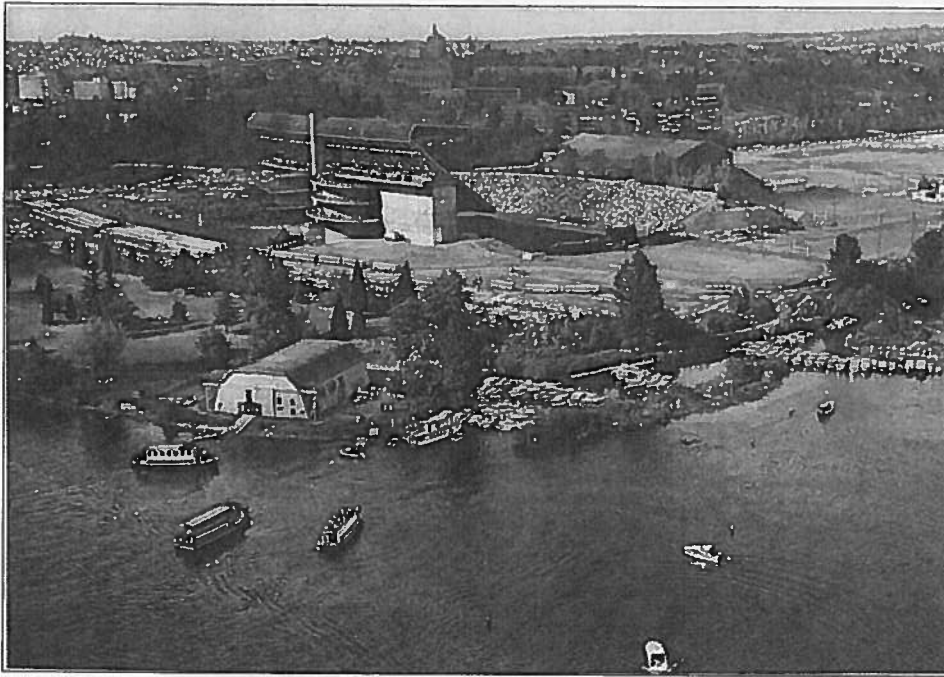
University of Washington Stadium, ca. 1945. Source: *Seattle Story* by Frank McCaffrey, 1948.



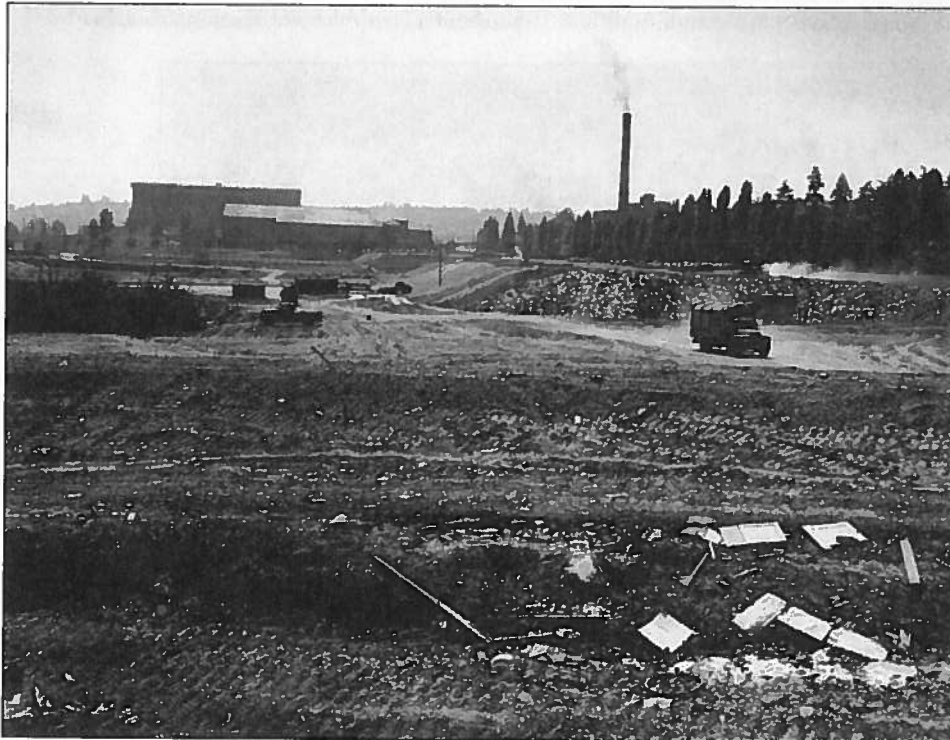
University of Washington South Stands Addition, 1950. Source: University of Washington Libraries.



University of Washington South Stands Addition, 1950. Source: University of Washington Libraries.



Husky Stadium with Conibear Shellhouse in the foreground, 1955. Source: University of Washington Libraries.



University Landfill with Hec Edmundson Pavilion visible to the south in the background, 1955. Source: Seattle Municipal Archives.



Husky Stadium, Hec Edmundson Pavilion in the foreground, 1951. Source: University of Washington Libraries.



Husky Stadium with the 520 bridge in the background, 1968. Source: WA Dept. of Transportation.



Husky Stadium viewed from the south, the Montlake Cut and Montlake Neighborhood in the foreground, 1962.
Source: Seattle Municipal Archives.

Contemporary photos of the stadium are by BOLA Architecture + Planning and date from June 2010 unless otherwise noted.



Husky Stadium, view of the west facade taken from the east, looking across Montlake Boulevard.



Husky Stadium northwest entry, looking southeast.



The northwest entry to Husky Stadium.



Husky Stadium, view looking northwest from the southeast parking lot.



Stadium South Stands viewed from the northeast corner, looking southwest.



Ramps and partial view of the Stadium South Stands, south façade.



Stadium South Stands, view of the southeast corner.



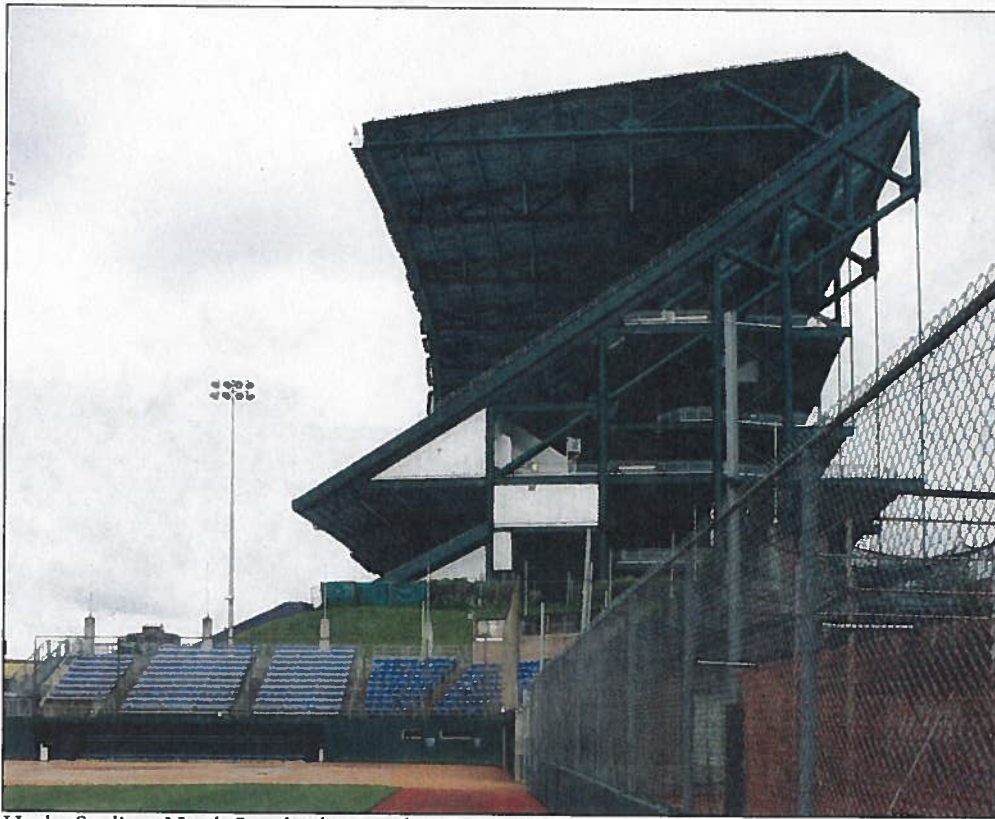
Stadium South Stands, the east elevation.



Stadium bowl, viewed from the northeast corner.



Husky Stadium North Stands, viewed from the southeast parking lot.



Husky Stadium North Stands, the east elevation.



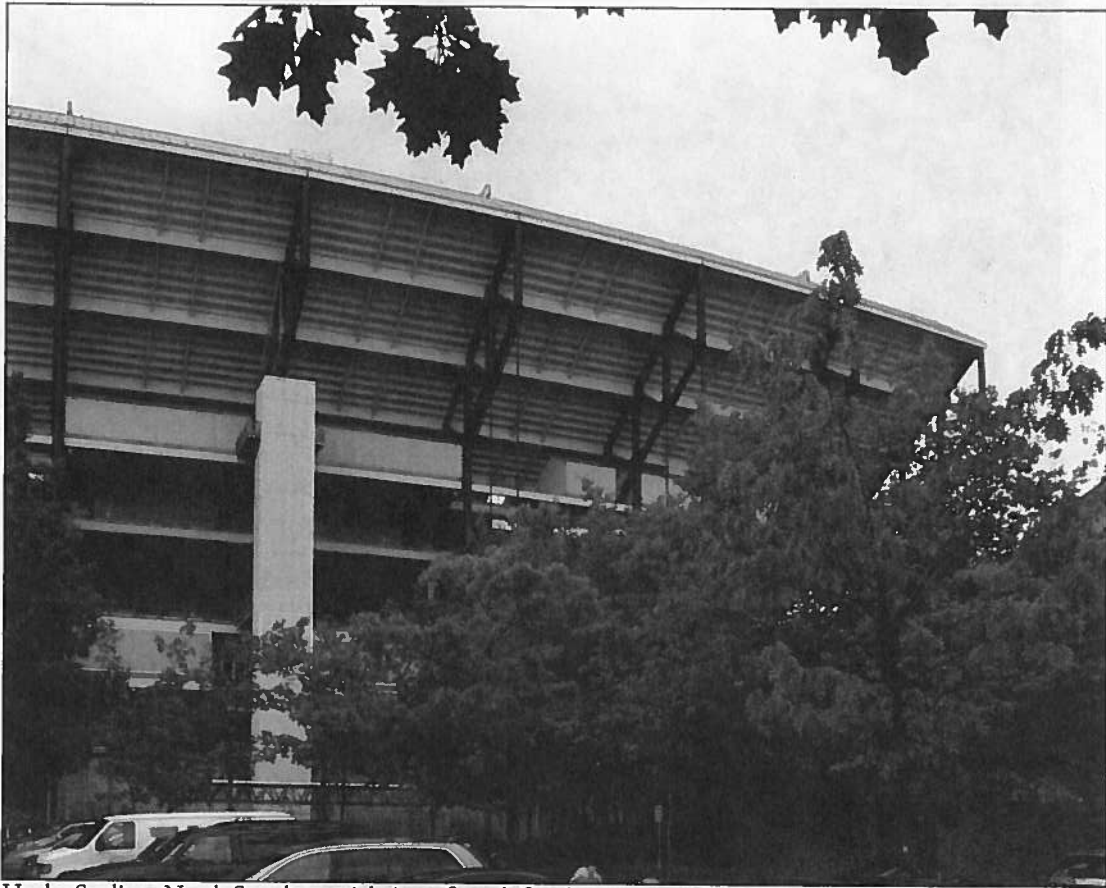
Husky Stadium North Stands, the west elevation and partial view of northwest entry.



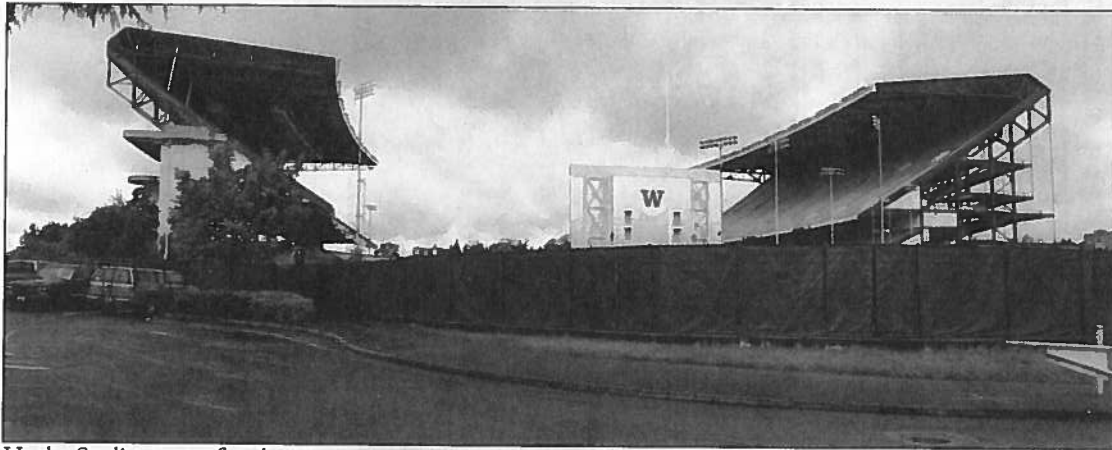
Husky Stadium North Stands, partial of north elevation (Graves Annex to Hec Edmundson Pavilion shown in foreground to the right).



Husky Stadium North Stands, partial oblique north elevation. Note central elevator tower and cable-suspended access ramps.



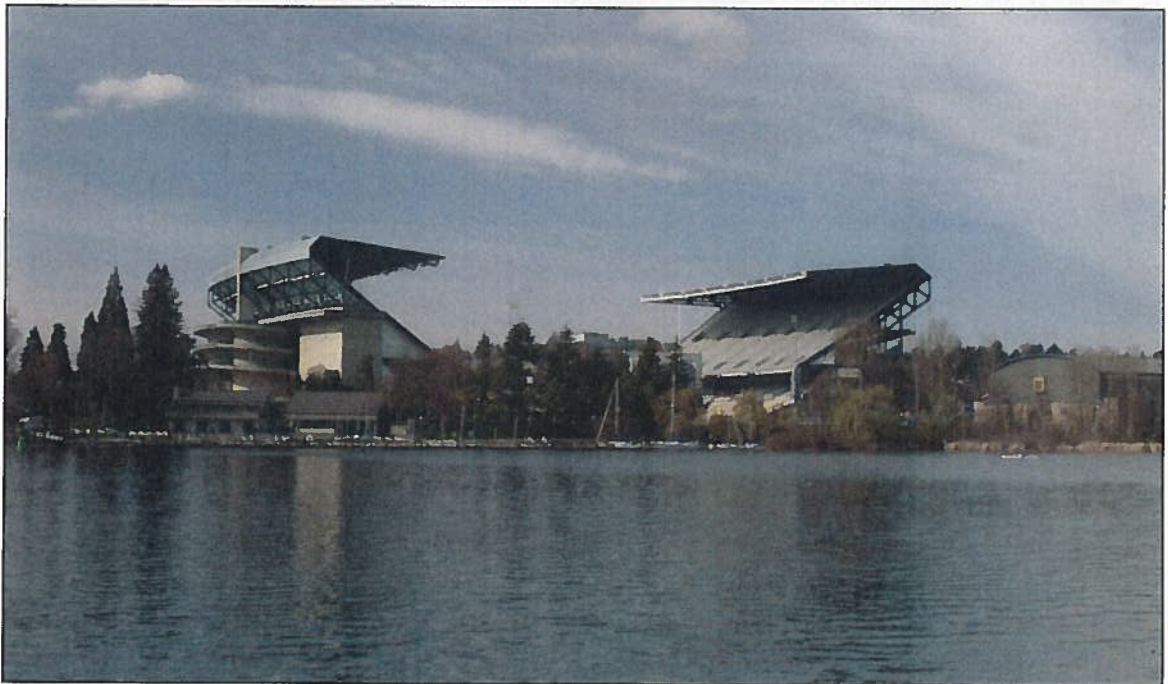
Husky Stadium North Stands, partial view of north façade.



Husky Stadium, east façade.



Aerial view of Husky Stadium from the west, 2001. Source: Seattle Municipal Archives.



View of Husky Stadium from Union Bay, looking northwest, 2004. Source: Seattle Municipal Archives.

