

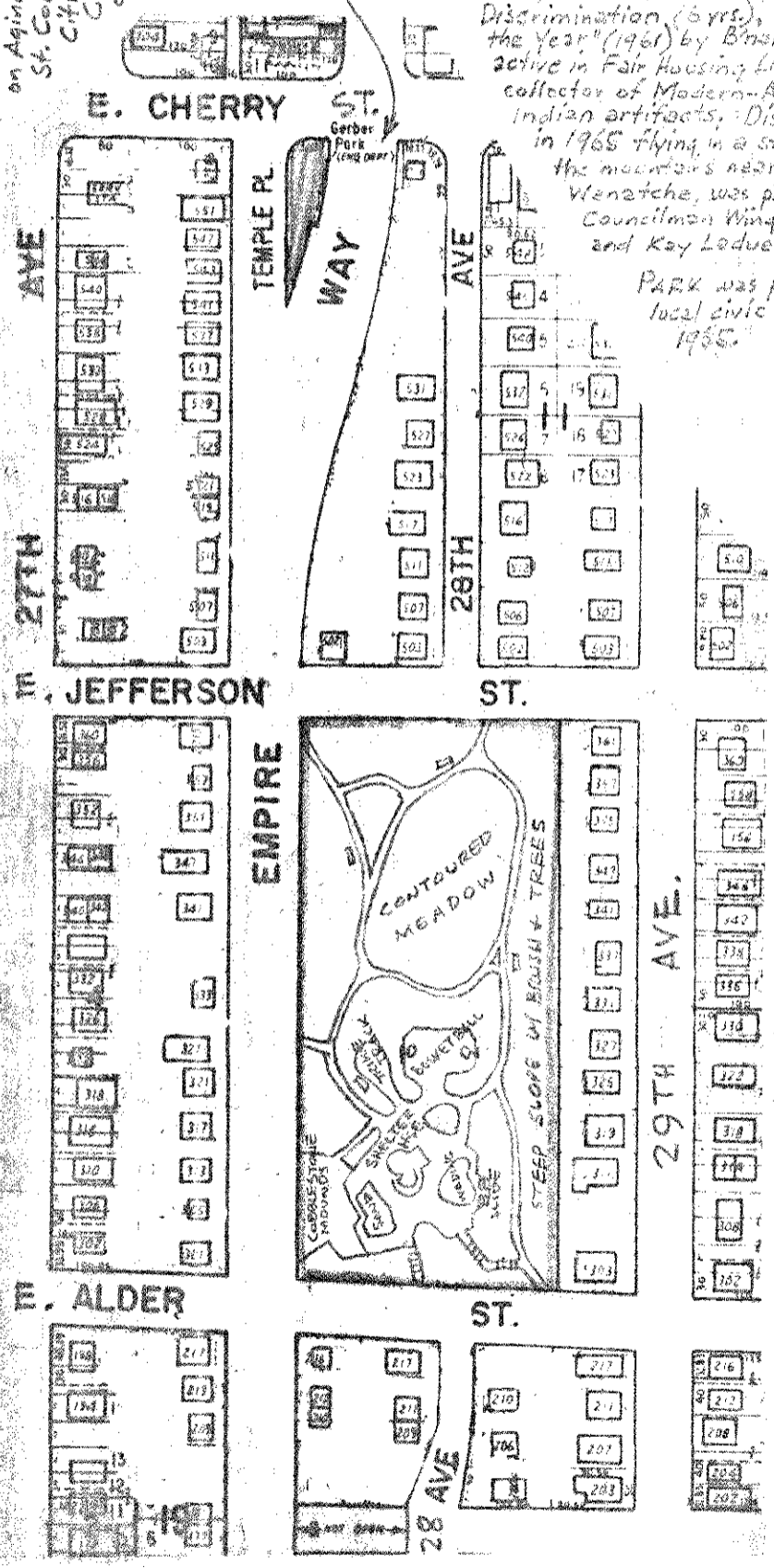
BARNETT PLAYGROUND: originally chosen by the City Planning Commission as the "East Junior High School Site". It was developed as a running track and athletic field by the nearby Garfield High School. Upon the acquisition and development of a playfield at the school, the "Garfield Track" was abandoned in 1962, sold to the Department of Parks in 1966. Playground improvements were accomplished by the community thru the Central Area Motivation Program (CAMP) in 1967, based upon a design by Wm. Tolley, landscape architect.

Upon suggestion of the Leschi Improvement Council, the playground was named in 1969 to honor the council's organizer and first president, **POWELL BARNETT**; a former athlete active in sports since age 30. Born: Brazil, Ind. 1989; came Seattle 1908; worked as a coal miner from age 16 to 22, was construction foreman on several projects including the Waldorf Hotel (Seattle), was clerk for State Senator Frank Connor, was morning caretaker at King County Courthouse. Led in organization of E. Madison YMCA, chairman of Board and instrumental in uniting Black and caucasian programs and Boards of YMCA + USO. Elected trustee of USO - 1934 to 1961 - and is an honorary member. Chairman of committee that revised Seattle Urban League + saving the grant from the Community Chest, served 2 terms on Board of C. Chest; organized (1908) and chaired Black Musician's Union + was prime mover in uniting Black and white Unions (plays sousaphone). Organized semi-pro baseball Empires Assoc./Seattle + was Executive Secy. 1944 - 61, secured affiliation with National Assoc. Honored in 1967 by King Co. Council on Aging; "Man of Year Award" (1964) by Jackson St. Community Council; KOL Award for Outstanding Citizen Service; Public Service Recognition Certificate from the Civilian Protection Div. of the Civilian War Commis. for Energy/WWII. (Son) Doug Barnett is Director of Black Arts Theater.

EMPIRE WAY honors "the Empire Builder" James J. Hill, whose efforts resulted in the transcontinental railroad to Seattle in 1891, opening a direct route of trade between Japan, China and the East (famed Silk Trains), (Great Northern train named "Empire Builder"); achieved construction of RR tunnel under city center, removing main line from waterfront.

GERBER PARK ENGR. DEPT. JURISDICTION. Named by City Council in 1965; honors Sidney Gerber, pres-owner of A+T. Ski Co., chr. State Bd. Against Discrimination (6 yrs), "Man of the Year" (1961) by B'nai B'rith, active in Fair Housing Listing, collector of Modern-Art and Indian artifacts. Disappeared in 1965 flying in a storm in the mountains near Lake Wenatche, was pilot with Councilman Wing Luke and Kay Ledue aboard.

Park was planted by local civic groups - 1965.



SHELTER HOUSE W/ PLAY-ON ROOF
COBBLESTONE MOUNDS W/ CLIMBING POSTS, SLIDE, SAND, TREE TRUNK, CUMBER W/ TREE SWINGS

4.4 Acres
Purch. 1966: \$1,000 School Distr.
JU3-2797

(GERBER PK) ENGR.

BARNETT PARK

111671

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Upon the suggestion of the Leschi Elementary School students and sponsored by the Seattle Model City Program, the playground was named in 1969 to honor the Leschi Improvement Council's organizer and first president, POWELL BARNETT, a former athlete active in sports since age 30. Born in Brazil, Indiana 1889, he came to Seattle in 1906; worked as a coal miner from age 16 to 22, was construction foreman on several projects including the Waldorf Hotel (Seattle), was clerk for State Senator Frank Connor, was morning caretaker at King County Courthouse. Led in the organization of the East Madison YMCA, Chairman of the Board, and was instrumental in uniting Black and Caucasian programs and Boards of the YMCA and USO. Elected a Trustee of USO, 1934 to 1961, and honorary member. Chairman of the Committee that revised the Seattle Urban League and his efforts strengthened the League; served two terms on Board of Community Chest; organized (1908) and chaired Black Musicians' Union (played sousaphone), and was prime mover in uniting black and white unions. Organized semi-pro baseball Umpires Association in Seattle and was Executive Secretary 1944-1961, secured affiliation with National Association.

Honored in 1967 by King County Council on Aging; received "Man of Year Award" (1964) by Jackson Street Community Council; the KOL Award for Outstanding Citizen Service; Public Service Recognition Certificate from the Civilian Protection Division of the Civilian War Commission for Emergencies in WW II.

His son, Doug Barnett, was Director of Black Arts Theatre.

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HISTORY: BARNETT PARK
4/6/73