



DENNY-BLAINE LAKE PARK 1901
 (Contains "Minerva Fountain")
 2075 sq. ft. Bench Shelter

DENNY-BLAINE PARK 1901 (Dedicated as "Place"/Street - Jurisdiction, 1932)
 2.0 Ac. (Incl. 0.4 Ac. shorelands) 7 ornamental light standards / L.I.D.-paving

HOWELL PARK 1907
 1.2 Ac. (Incl. 0.5 Ac. shorelands) Permit to improve w/ lawn to adjacent owner - 1930
 + to place por. of driveway on Park - 1953

STEVENS TRIANGLE 1901
 3049 sq. ft. (partly paved over)

VIRETTA PARK 1901
 1.78 Ac. Permit for landscaping + steps by letter - 1960

1901: Plat Dedication
 "...to the use of public and City
 of Seattle forever, all...fountains,
 parks, places... City at all
 times to maintain (same)."
 1907: Deed Dedic. "park purp."

110774

VIRETTA PARK - History

C. L. Denny and E. F. Blaine were among those early-day realtors who were concerned about the preservation of open space when they laid out their real estate subdivisions by including park areas for public use. Mr. Blaine further distinguished his efforts to this end by becoming a Park Board Commissioner (from 1902 to 1908) and is honored as "the father of Seattle's park system." Mr. Denny distinguished himself as "typifying the Seattle Spirit" in his endeavors. (Ref: Denny-Blaine Lake Park for biographies.) Both men sought to honor their wives when they platted their subdivision in 190.: VIRETTA Jackson Denny, a relative of Andrew Jackson, the 7th President (1829-37); and MINERVA Stone Blaine - but the name of "Minerva Fountain" was never used because of a realty sign on a shelter in her park.

The E. F. Blaines built a home on the north side of Viretta Park and in 1914 Mr. Blaine found himself forced to admit "that Mr. Denny and myself were not wise enough (in 1901) to foresee the automobile age, which is now upon us" by requesting a permit to build a driveway to their home which would partly occupy park property. Of course, it was granted - but "no alterations to existing paths other than is necessary."

By 1909 all the park areas in this subdivision had been improved with lawn and shrubbery "blending nicely with the grounds surrounding the beautiful homes in that district." An S-shaped path was built down the slope from 39th and John to the boulevard below. But "the automobile age" brought a request for another driveway across the park - this time from a neighbor to the south, on the upper level; a 1946 letter refers to its installation as "years ago". The letter notes that people frequently drove into their driveway in the belief that it was a park drive. A subsequent resident was able to "solve" this problem in 1960 by gaining permission to more fully landscape this upper portion as an "extension" of his own grounds, building steps down from 39th and John to the lower lawn area of the park along the boulevard.

DS
11/7/74