Yesler Way began as the skid road for logs enroute to Henry Yesler's sawmill at the foot of the hill on Elliott Bay, Seattle's first industry, built in 1853 by Yesler and John McLain of Massillon, Ohio, where they had been in the construction business. They built a wharf with sawmill, cookhouse, store and hotel to become the center of Pioneer Seattle (now Pioneer Square). They logged a road up the hill to Yesler's Donation Land Claim and called it Mill Street, until it was renamed Yesler Way and dubbed "Skid Row" for the unfortunate human derelicts lying about like logs. Yesler's mansion was on the site of the present County Courthouse. (Monroe Pioneer Co. 1888) Yesler and two partners built a sawmill and wharf on the northeast shore of Union Bay and the village of Yesler sprouted; survived two sawmill fires but not the lowering of Lake Washington commerce was soon replaced with suburbia.

Yesler Way

Historic Weeping Willows:

(1.7 Ac. playground)
Jurisdiction of the Fed. Housing Authority
Seattle Branch office: 308 Yesler Way
Constr. by City of Seattle in 1939 to replace slum area with new low-rent housing.
Recreation supervision (1946- date)
Incl. furnish. of minor supplies.
F.H.A. provides supplies & custodial services.
Program policy management board (1969):
Neighborhood Hse., Housing Auth., Dept. of Rev.

1.1 Ac.
Deed 1946 from F.H.A. as part of payment ($38,000) for Handicapped Center
(Was part of Housing, prior to Freeway)
Small trees, weeds
Picnic table & paths

Yesler Terrace - Now Kobe Terrace