

Archaeology in Seattle

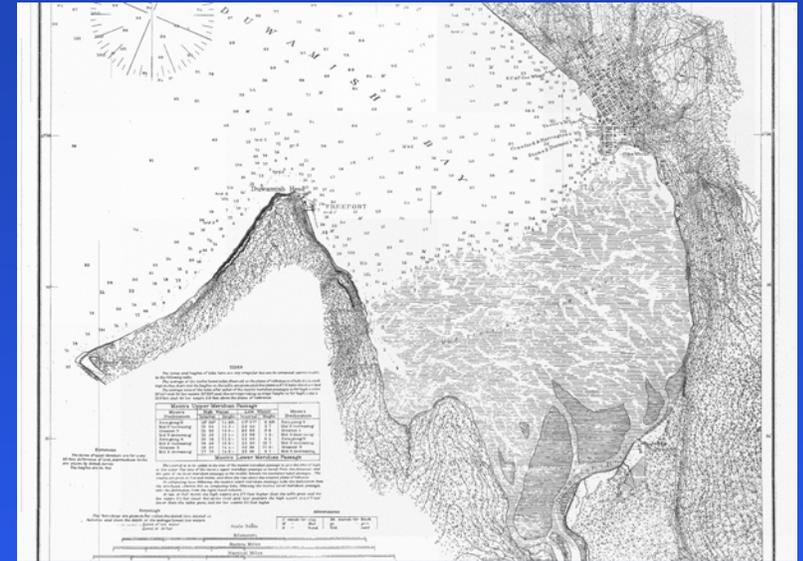
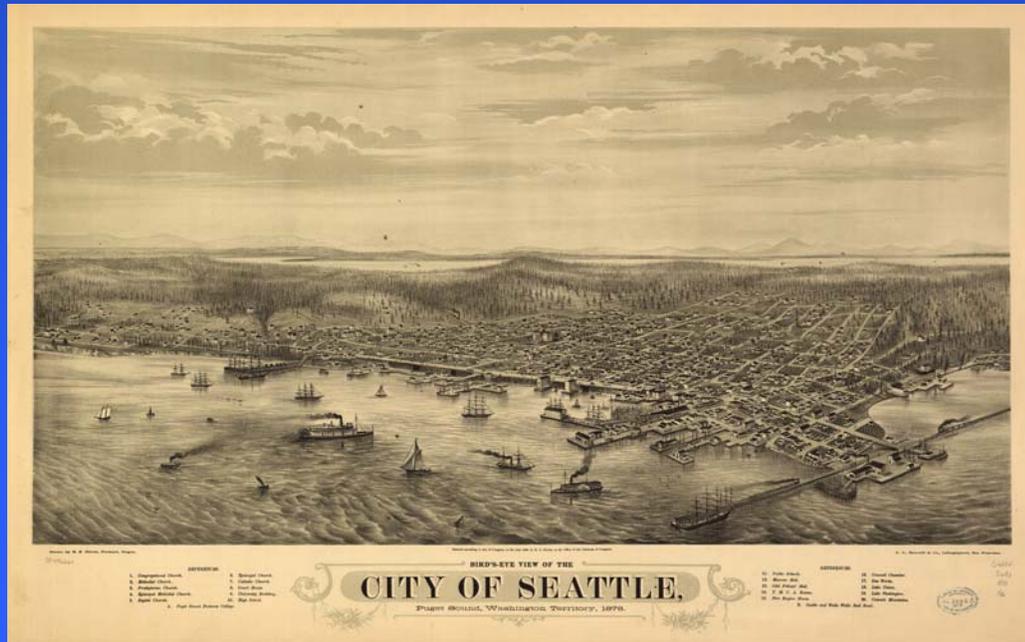
- Seattle area has been occupied for thousands of years
- Intact archaeological sites (both prehistoric and historic) exist within the City
- Archaeology provides insights into prehistoric cultures and adds to our understanding of history



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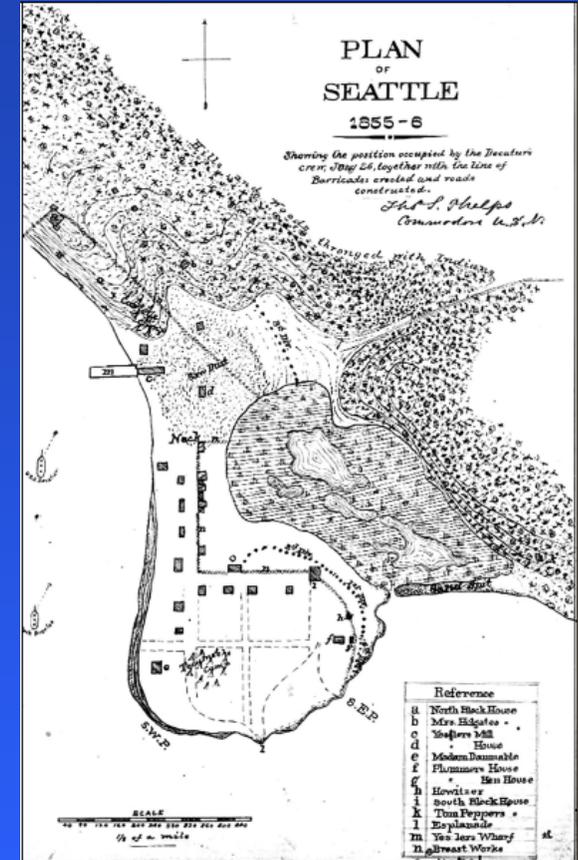
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- Seattle has changed over the years
- Development has actually buried intact cultural layers



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- People think that development has destroyed everything
 - Nothing is further from the truth
 - Older areas buried artifacts and features (more like Troy or Rome)
 - 1880s Seattle recovered at Westlake Mall (DSTP); King Street Center; DSTP south terminal
 - Native American sites at Westpoint and along the Duwamish
 - Assumption that everything has been destroyed was a partial cause of the Port Angeles graving dock problem

- Historical Sunken “Treasure” is buried in Pioneer Square area, the waterfront, and SODO



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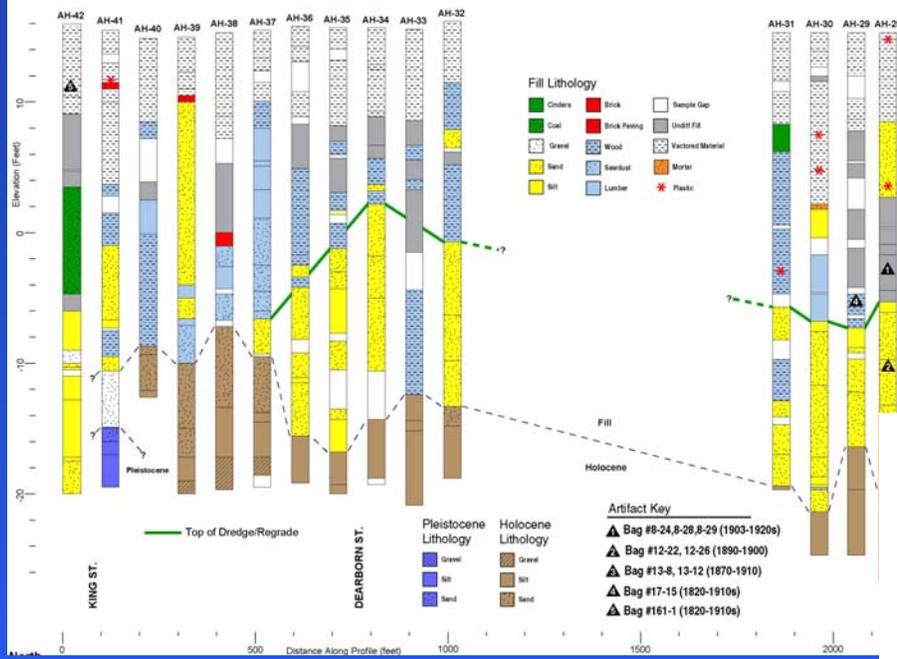
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- Archaeology in the City has been very limited and associated with Federal Actions 1980s (Westpoint, DSTP, Duwamish No. 1)
- Landmarks ordinance interpreted as not covering archaeological sites.
- City SEPA process flawed; no understanding of or attention to archaeology
- Municipal Code outdated
- A number of sites have been destroyed

SMC 25.05.675 Specific environmental policies.

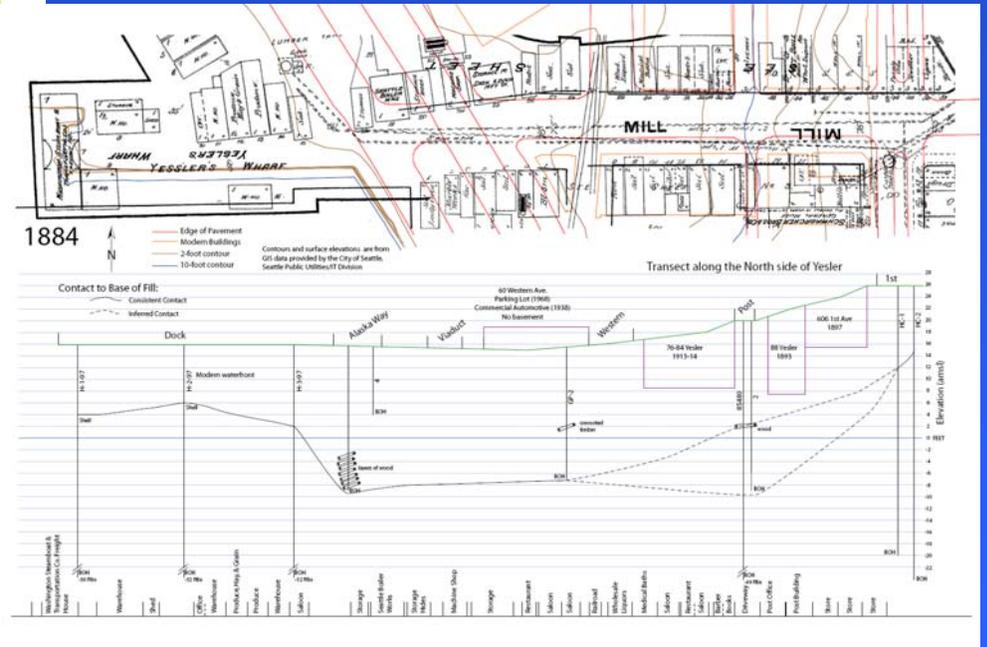
1. Policy Background.
 - a. Historic buildings, special historic districts, and sites of **archaeological** significance are found within Seattle. The preservation of these buildings, districts and sites is important to the retention of a living sense and appreciation of the past.
 - b. Historic sites, structures, districts and **archaeological** sites may be directly or indirectly threatened by development or redevelopment projects.
 - c. Historic buildings are protected by the Landmarks Preservation Ordinance, as administered by the Landmarks Preservation Board. However, not all sites and structures meeting the criteria for historic landmark status have been designated yet.
 - d. Special districts have been established to protect certain areas which are unique in their historical and cultural significance, including for example Pike Place Market, Pioneer Square and the International District. These areas are subject to development controls and project review by special district review boards.
 - e. **Archaeologically significant sites present a unique problem because protection of their integrity may, in some cases, eliminate any economic opportunity on the site.**

EAST TRANSECT



Analysis of borehole test data

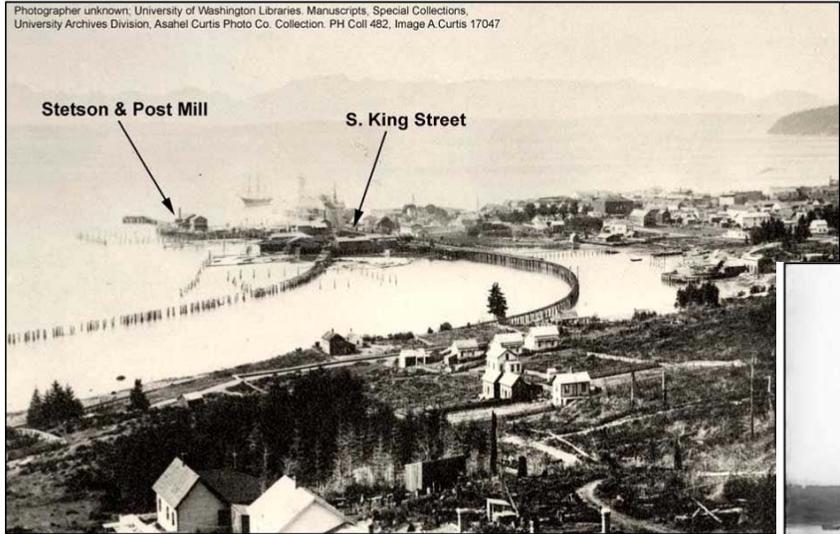
Historical Fire Insurance Map overlays





A Few Artifacts from Viaduct testing

Photographer unknown; University of Washington Libraries, Manuscripts, Special Collections,
University Archives Division, Asahel Curtis Photo Co. Collection: PH Coll 482, Image A Curtis 17047



Overview of the tidelands from Beacon Hill, c. 1881.

Tideflats/South end of Seattle (SODO) in 1880s and 1890s



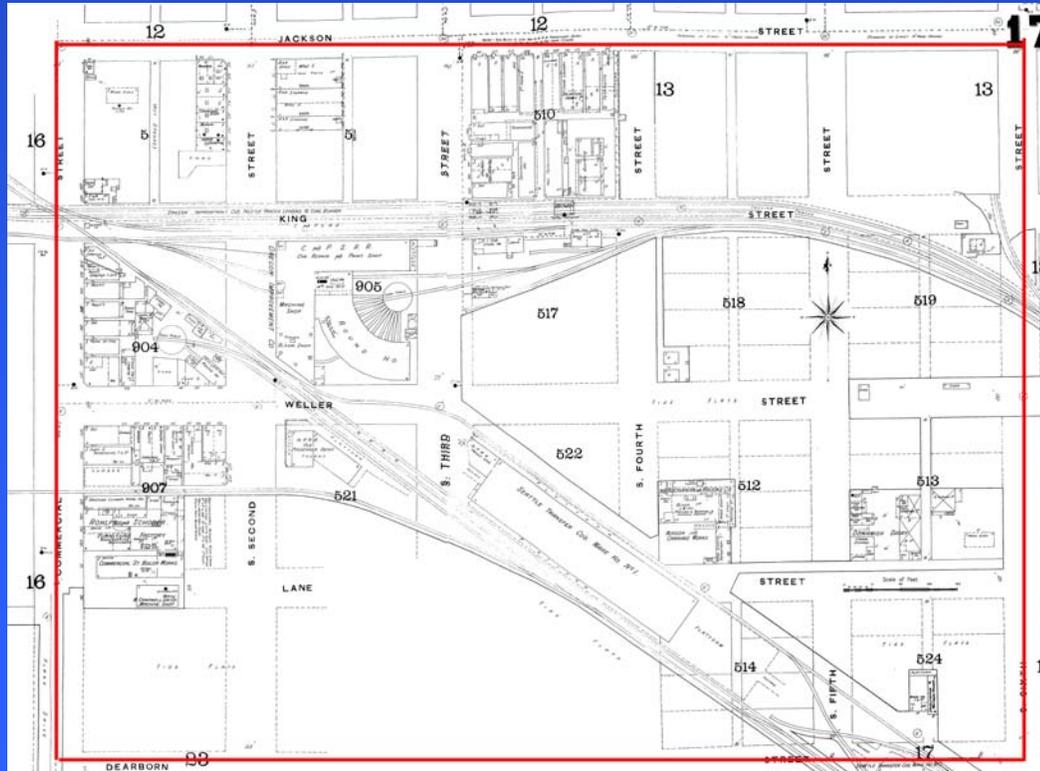
The tideflats from Beacon Hill, c. 1898, showing the Moran steamers at what is now S Royal Brougham Way (photo by Anders Wilse, Museum of History & Industry Photograph Collection, image 1983.10.6049.4)

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■ Other Issues

- ▶ N. Kingdome Parking Lot
- ▶ Vulcan South Lake Union
- ▶ Pioneer Square



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So What Can we Do?

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