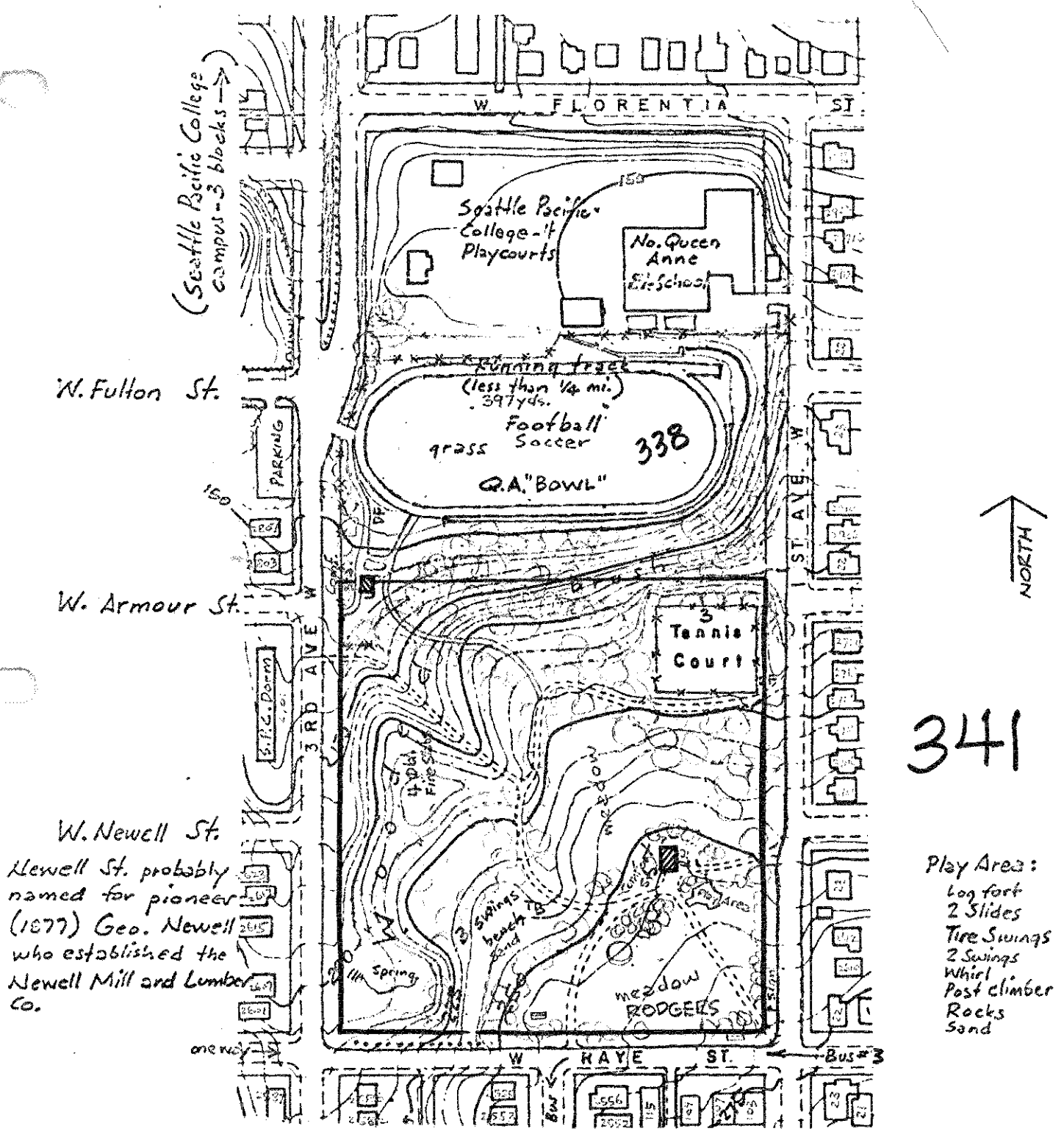


houses of Queen Anne architecture on the south side of the hill.
(18th C. English)



W. Newell St.
Newell St. probably named for pioneer (1877) Geo. Newell who established the Newell Mill and Lumber Co.

- Play Area:
- Log fort
 - 2 Slides
 - Tire Swings
 - 2 Swings
 - Whirl
 - Post climber
 - Rocks
 - Sand

DAVID RODGERS PARK 2625 - 1ST AVE. W.

8.5 Acres

N $\frac{1}{2}$ gift to City in 1883: B.F. Day, realtor, S $\frac{1}{2}$ purch. in 1909: \$19,084 = Nils Peterson
Jurisdict. - N $\frac{1}{2}$: 1908 "...for park and parkway purposes."
S $\frac{1}{2}$: 1931 "...for park purposes."

Condition of 1909 Deed: "maintain in perpetuity... the flow of spring water." (SW Corner)
Improved in 1910 w/ clearing, paths & benches.
Comfort Station: 1948 - 34,892 =
(replaced 1920 Sta.)

341 RODGERS PK.

101376

In 1883 realtor B. F. Day gave to the City of Seattle a "5-acre tract on the north crest of Queen Anne Hill . . . giving a panoramic view of all the mountain and water scenery in and around Seattle . . ." (The Days also gave property for the school in Fremont - Day Elementary School; B. F. Day PG adjoints.) This site was included in the 1891 Annexation but Park jurisdiction did not occur until 1908 and the following year the "south half" was purchased "forming what will become one of the sightliest small parks (because it) contains a beautiful grove of evergreen trees and other profuse natural growth." And so it was named "EVERGREEN PARK". The following year reports that "a caretaker has been assigned to it, the underbrush is being cleared away, paths . . . opened . . . rustic seats constructed . . ." By 1911 the fir trees are described as a "small grove". In 1915 the Health Department requested that the "vault toilets" be replaced with plumbing and connected to the (new) sewer.

In 1919 the Workingmen's Committee of The Skinner & Eddy Corp., shipbuilding firm, sought to honor their working manager, David Rodgers, by the naming and improvement of a park, for which they donated \$2,000: the occasion must have been his retirement plus the launching of the S. S. ELKHORN - the last ship built under his management. Rodgers had "done more than anyone else in placing the name of Seattle in the foremost rank of the shipbuilding industry" and the Park Board "ordered that the name of Evergreen Park be changed to DAVID RODGERS PARK. (Masts for the ships were logged in the (White Center) area, skidded and then hauled by railroad to (Seola Beach: Park) thence by water to the shipyard (24 W. Connecticut St./Pier 39) and other yards and mills. David Rodgers: 1864-1923. Native of Ireland, he migrated to the U.S. in 1885 to work in shipbuilding yards on the Great Lakes and in San Francisco, coming to the Bremerton Navy Yard in 1889 as master shipfitter. Then he was superintendent of Moran Yard in Seattle and the Wallace Shipyard in Vancouver, B.C.; on to Barnett, B.C., where he assembled five Montreal-built submarines for Russia. He returned to Seattle to build the first two steel cargo vessels for their Port Blakeley Mill Co. With the outbreak of WW I the Government requisitioned freighters, including the David Rodgers built for Norway but renamed West Lake by the Government in 1918. S & E Yard produced 10% of all vessels built during height of war-time building program. The Elkhorn was a cargo steamer. Rodgers retired to Des Moines.

The \$2,000 was used to construct a small comfort station, designed by City Superintendent of Buildings: frame construction and connected to the sewer (1920).

A work program for the unemployed in the early 1930s included clearing and grubbing of Rodgers Park. Residents began to complain about the unsightly bare banks resulting, so the "upper area" was graded to street level, seeded and landscaped: a group of three tennis courts were built: all part of a WPA project.

In 1948 a new brick comfort station replaced the wooden one.

Play equipment was added as funds and time were available, finally becoming a project of Forward Thrust in 1973.

(Acquisition and development of adjoining Queen Anne Bowl PF began during WPA era: 1930s.)

History: RODGERS PARK