



SHORELINE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROGRAM
c/o King County Historic Preservation Program
Department of Natural Resources & Parks
201 S. Jackson, Suite 500, Seattle, WA 98104

SHORELINE LANDMARKS COMMISSION

PRELIMINARY DETERMINATION

Naval Hospital Chapel Landmark Boundary Revision

DATE: April 9, 2021

PROPERTY NAME: Naval Hospital Chapel

PROPERTY ADDRESS: 1902 NE 150th Street, Shoreline, WA 98155

OWNER: WA State Department of Social & Human Services (DSHS) (*building*);
WA State Department of Natural Resources (DNR) (*land*)

At the January 28, 2021 Shoreline landmarks commission public hearing, the Naval Hospital Chapel was formally designated a Shoreline Landmark, the boundaries of which included the whole of a delineated 2.7-acre site located within the Fircrest Campus grounds (*see Attachment A*). Following the January designation hearing, DSHS, the building owner, submitted a Request for Reconsideration to the Shoreline Landmarks Commission to revise the eastern boundary to include a section south of the contributing lower parking lot and exclude a 60' x 240' section north of the lower parking lot (*see Attachment B*).

During the March 25th Shoreline landmarks commission hearing to consider the boundary revision request, staff offered an overview of prior hearing decisions and outlined the discussion parameters. The applicant then presented their argument in support of the request. Members of the community who had supported the landmark designation submitted letters, which were sent to landmarks commissioners before the meeting, and/or spoke in opposition to the boundary revision requested by DSHS. Two commissioners who had toured the Chapel site also reported their observations during the hearing.

After hearing the staff report, the owner/applicant's argument, reports from the site visit and taking public comment, the Shoreline landmarks commission determined that revising the eastern boundary to exclude the proposed 60' x 240' section would not have a significant adverse impact on the integrity and character of the Chapel setting, and voted to approve the reconsideration request 4-2, with one abstention.

Though the commission has issued a decision to approve the revision, a precise map with the eastern boundary delineated by latitude/longitude and/or UTM points was not available at the time of the hearing. It was resolved that a preliminary determination of approval would be granted and final approval of the boundary revision with an accurate site map showing coordinates clearly marking the landmark boundaries would be scheduled for the next commission meeting.

BACKGROUND

1. The Puget Sound area has had a number of naval hospital facilities since the first naval hospital was established in 1891 at Puget Sound Naval Shipyard (PSNS) in Bremerton. As the Navy's presence expanded in Western Washington, additional facilities were added, both at the

Bremerton shipyard and elsewhere around Puget Sound. When the U.S. entered World War II, it was clear there was a severe shortage of hospital beds for the navy to support the wounded and injured from the Pacific War. The Navy found a location for a new hospital facility on a 165-acre site in Shoreline and construction began on the Seattle Naval Hospital in March 1942.

2. The Chaplain Corps of the Navy expanded during the World War II era, reflecting the rapid growth of the navy itself. Between 1942 and 1945, 83 Navy chapels were authorized for construction, the Seattle Naval Hospital (SNH) among them. Built in 1944, the SNH Chapel was the first *Interdenominational* Chapel constructed at a naval hospital.
3. With original conceptual designs by the Austin Company of Cleveland, Ohio, the 13th Naval District Public Works Department (Public Works) completed the design of the chapel, converting schematic design drawings into construction drawings. Public Works designed all of the structural and finish details and elements within the building.
4. Cruciform in plan, the interior layout of the Chapel consists of a central nave flanked by narrow aisles leading to a chancel and altar at the east end, with flanking chaplain office and prayer chapel. A tall tapered spire rises from the ridgeline above the chancel on a short shingle clad steeple. Chapel walls are load bearing brick masonry, wood shakes clad the roof. Windows are leaded, multi-pane, with a round, stained glass window in the east gable. Raised chord scissor trusses span the nave and chancel. Stained wood and painted plaster define the interior wall and millwork finishes, with iron pendant light fixtures throughout the nave and chancel. The Chapel is integrated with its forested setting, which was cultivated as an important element of its design.
5. Shoreline is located in northwestern King County. Steep bluffs along the Puget Sound shore and forested rolling uplands, combined with a lack of soils well suited for farming, delayed development of Shoreline in comparison with the more readily accessible river valleys of King County. Donation land claims were made in Shoreline as early as 1872. However, early Euro-American settlement in Shoreline concentrated primarily in the Richmond Beach area. Richmond Beach was accessible by boat, which enabled easier travel in and out of the community than the often-impassable wagon road which ran between Seattle and Everett.
6. The Seattle and Montana Railroad (financed by the Great Northern) was completed over Stevens Pass to Everett and south to Richmond Beach in 1891. In 1893, the line reached Seattle. Serving a flag stop station at Richmond Beach, the railroad had a significant impact on local development, allowing the more convenient transport of local agricultural produce, providing employment, and bringing new people into the area. In the early 1900s, Shoreline remained thinly settled. Travel in the area was difficult, and the region did not have the soils or transportation links to attract large-scale agriculture or resource-based industries (other than logging) which were spurring growth in other parts of King County. The 1910s and 1920s were times of great change, however. Between the extension of the Interurban Rail line into Shoreline in 1906 and the onset of the Great Depression in 1929, new transportation networks linking Shoreline to Seattle and population pushing north from Seattle spurred development. Middle-and-upper class Seattle residents looked to the north end as a semi-rural retreat from the city, while less affluent residents sought relatively inexpensive land or rental housing in the area.
7. World War II had a significant social impact on Shoreline. Residents left to serve in the armed forces or took jobs in war-related industries. The war brought a halt to suburban expansion, by restrictions on the use of building materials and because of strict rationing of gasoline and tires,

which were essential to would-be commuters. Temporary watch towers were built throughout the district, which were staffed by local volunteers who scanned the skies for enemy aircraft. In anticipation of the arrival of wounded sailors from the Pacific Theater arriving back in the Seattle area, the Navy constructed the Fircrest Naval Hospital in Shoreline in 1942. The hospital grew quickly, housing over 2000 soldiers and 600 staff people at its peak in 1945.

8. After the war ended, Shoreline developed significantly as a residential suburb. Between 1942 and 1950, 9,000 new houses were constructed, and school enrollment increased 96 percent. As the area's population grew, residents and businesses pushed for a larger community identity to tie the scattered areas together. "Shoreline" was selected as the name for the community in 1949 and the city was incorporated in 1995. The completion of the north-south running Interstate 5 in 1964 established commercial patterns in the area that remain today.
9. After World War II ended, the U.S. Navy's need for the Seattle Naval Hospital campus dwindled. In February 1947, the Secretary of the Navy James Forrestal ordered the closure of hospital. By May 1947, the medical director of nearby Firland Sanatorium and the tuberculosis control director with the Washington State Health Department petitioned the Navy Department and Washington's congressional delegation to reuse the hospital for tuberculosis patients. Later that year over 400 tuberculosis patients were transferred to SNH and the campus became the (new) Firland Sanatorium. In 1959, another institution moved onto the hospital grounds, Fircrest School (Fircrest Residential Habilitation Center) and remains in operation. The school for developmentally disabled citizens, operated by the Washington State Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS), moved onto one section of the property, divided from Firland by a fence. In 1962, 85 acres of the former naval hospital grounds were redeveloped for the new Shorecrest High School. Fircrest School continues to utilize the remaining portions of the former naval hospital grounds, grounds which include the chapel.
10. The Naval Hospital Chapel retains a high level of integrity and original visual character. While changes have occurred at the SNH site as it has been adaptively reused for other public purposes, many significant structures remain, including wards, staff residences, recreation facilities, and the chapel building.

CRITERIA

1. Shoreline Municipal Code Designation Criteria (SMC 15.20.025) was used to evaluate the significance of Naval Hospital Chapel. In addition, Shoreline Landmarks Commission Rules and Procedures specifies that National Park Service Bulletin 15 will be used as technical guidance for interpreting the landmark designation criteria established in SMC 15.20.
2. The Naval Hospital Chapel is significant as a City of Shoreline Landmark under **Criterion A1** for its association with the development and use of the Seattle Naval Hospital during WWII.
3. The Naval Hospital Chapel is also significant under **Criterion A3** as a distinctive and well-executed example of Tudor Revival design, which was one of the architectural styles utilized frequently for military buildings between 1900 and 1945.
4. The Naval Hospital Chapel possess integrity of:
 - a. *Location*, because the building remains in its original location within the campus of Seattle Naval Hospital.

- b. *Design*, because the building reflects the Tudor-Revival style used for military buildings during this period, exemplified by patterned masonry, multiple exterior materials, steeply pitched roof, dominant cross-gables, large chimneys, entry porticos and tall, narrow, multi-lite windows.
 - c. *Setting*, because the surrounding campus still retains significant features from its historic period, and the immediate site remains forested
 - d. *Materials*, because the type and configuration of physical materials used in the building, though repaired and structurally augmented, has not changed from its historic period
 - e. *Workmanship*, because the building expresses the Military-standard craftsmanship for this type of mid-21st century religious structure;
 - f. *Feeling*, because overall the physical features of the building conveys its historic character and use as WWII-era military chapel; and
 - g. *Association*, because the building has a documented link to the historic context as described in the landmark registration form including a strong association with the WWII-era development of the naval hospital and Shoreline area.
5. The proposed landmark boundary encompasses the chapel building; directly associated walkways; the curvilinear driveway servicing the building; the hillside descending southwest to and including the associated lower parking area; the immediate landscape and the forest setting that are integral to the siting and experience of the building. This includes a 2.6-acre total area.
 6. The Landmark Registration Form for the Naval Hospital Chapel provides additional contextual information to support the above-stated findings.

BOUNDARIES: A defined 2.6-acre area surrounding the Chapel within legal parcel 162604-9010. The designated property is bounded by private campus roadways to the north and south. A straight line through forested area delineates the western boundary. The eastern boundary follows the private campus road from the southern boundary of the site to the northern side of the lower contributing parking lot. From the northernmost tip of the parking lot a straight line runs 240' to the northern boundary road. UTM coordinates defining the area of designation are shown on the attached site map (*Attachment B*).

FEATURES OF SIGNIFICANCE: All exterior features of the Chapel; interior features including:

- Scissor trusses and associated wood posts, wood trim
- Painted fiberboard wall finishes
- Exposed wood purlins and roof sheathing
- Iron pendant lighting fixtures
- Interior doors with chevron pattern v-groove cedar boards, associated metal knobs and escutcheons
- Built-in cabinets with chevron pattern v-groove cedar board doors
- Decorative wood chancel railing
- Wood wall screen enclosures at the outer chancel corners
- Open volume

Site features including circulating paths to the east and south of the Chapel; forested setting; all of the land area within the nominated boundaries.

ATTACHMENT A

Shoreline Naval Hospital Chapel
 Address: 1902 NE 150th Street

Landmark Registration Form
 Page A.4

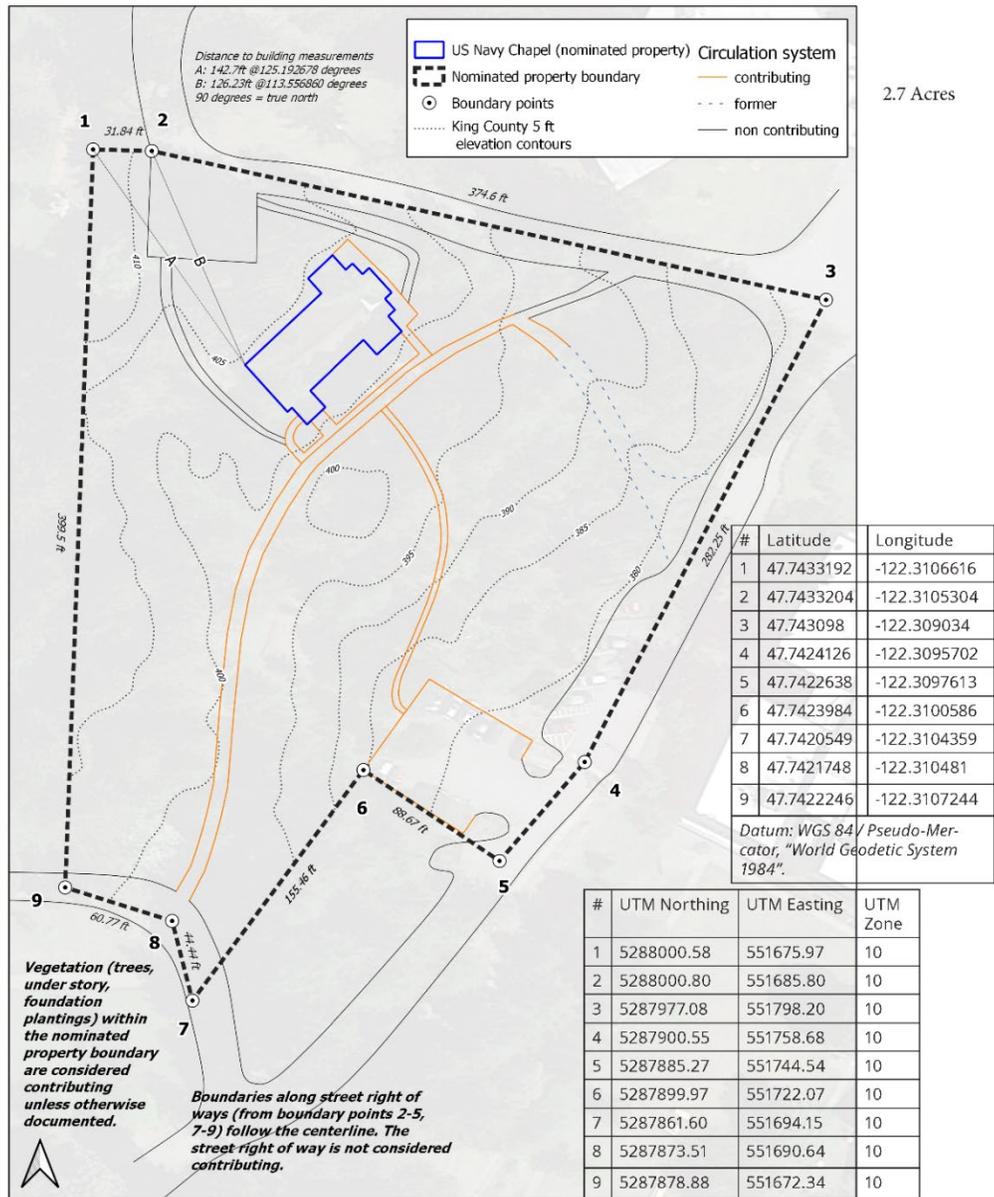


Figure 2. Site Map

This map shows the nominated property and identifies contributing resources within the boundary.



Naval Hospital Chapel Landmark site map approved at January 28, 2021 SLC hearing

ATTACHMENT B

Shoreline Naval Hospital Chapel
 Address: 1902 NE 150th Street

Landmark Registration Form
 as modified by DSHS Page A.4

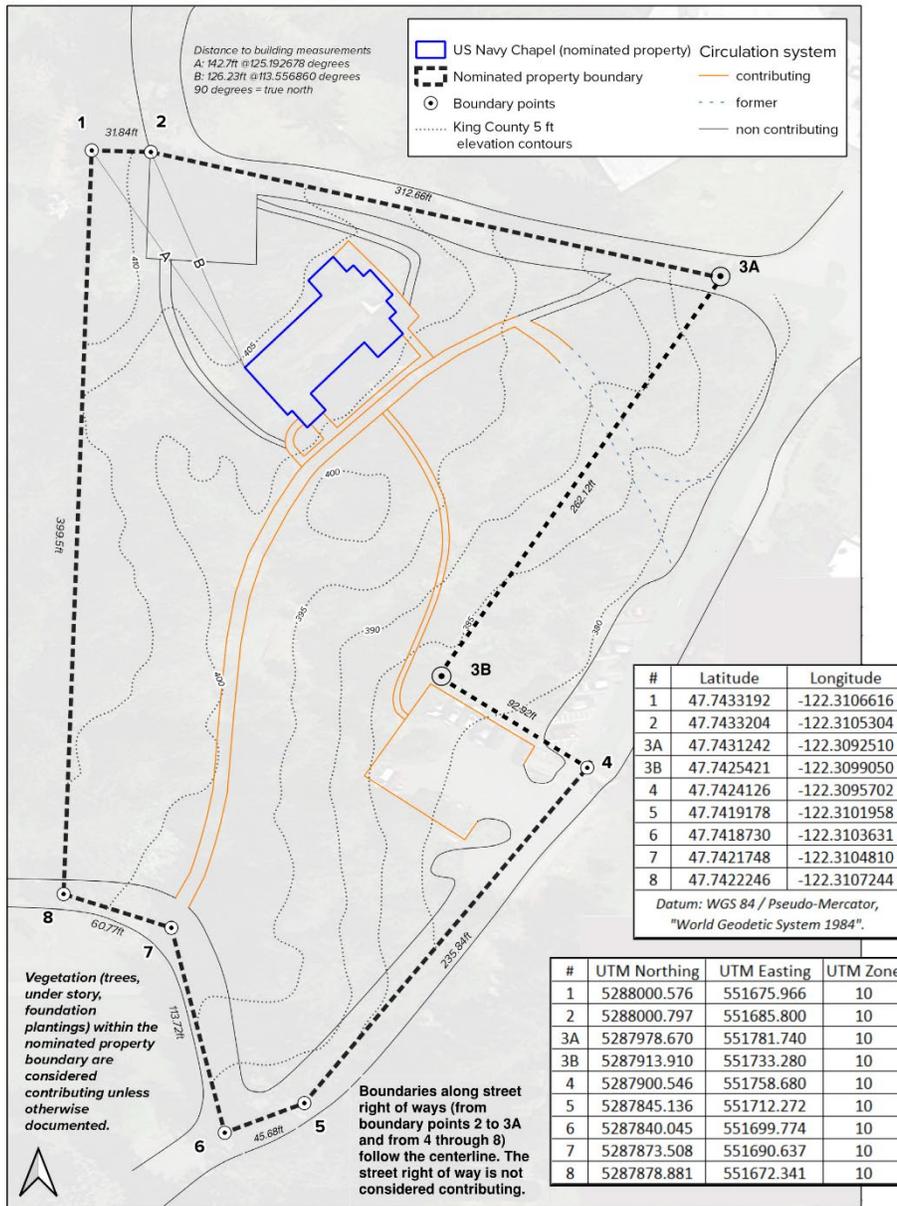


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nw NORTHWEST VERNACULAR as modified by DSHS
 VERNACULAR historic preservation

Naval Hospital Chapel Landmark site map revision, submitted as a condition of the preliminary determination of approval, in accordance with the March 25, 2021 SLC hearing