

Queen Anne Historical Society

P.O. Box 19432, Seattle, WA 98109



February 28, 2005

Elizabeth Chave
Landmarks Preservation Board Coordinator
Seattle Landmarks Preservation Board
700 3rd Avenue 4th Floor
Seattle, WA 98104

Subject: Position on Park View Apartments Seattle Landmark Nomination

Dear Ms. Chave:

Impressions of a community are often unshakably tainted by the look of popular visitor locales.

Thousands of people annually visit Queen Anne's Kerry Park on Highland Drive. This scenic park is such an icon that newly-wedded couples frequently have their wedding day memorialized with Kerry Park and the Seattle skyline as backdrop. Approaching the park from Queen Anne Avenue, one passes historic architectural treasures such as the Gable House, the Ballard/Howe house and Victoria Apartments. But these stand in stark contrast to the gaping hole in the yard of what was once the J. C. Black House across the street, and the 11 story faceless condominium leering over the eastern edge of the park.

Are we doomed for Kerry Park to become a small green space surrounded by 6 and 11 story towers, a small island refuge in a sea of buildings? We hope not. While our community has lost the Black House, we can still enjoy the classic lines of the Park View Apartments, which adds to the character and beauty of the neighborhood. Even in the Landmark nomination document, it was stated that the Victoria and Narada apartments are stylistically related to the gothic revival style of the Park View. Let us guarantee that future generations can also enjoy this quintessential panoramic cityscape, without further degradation.

The Society also wishes to clarify in writing our position regarding a reference in the nomination packet. On page 7 of the document, it states that the 1993 survey list created for our community history book did not cite, the Park View Apartment Building, the implication being that the Society did not consider the building significant due to it not appearing in this list. The list quoted was never meant to be all-inclusive nor one of priority, but merely a list to show examples of different architecture around the hill. It should NOT be construed that because a building was omitted from this list it held neither architectural nor community significance. It is the Board's opinion, that the Park View Apartments do hold both architectural and community significance.

The Queen Anne Historical Society Board stands unanimous in requesting designation for the recently approved Landmark Nomination for the Park View Apartments. We wholeheartedly believe our community will be a better place for conserving this building which graces the northern edge of Kerry Park.

Please contact us if we can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

Bruce Jones
President
Queen Anne Historical Society

Cy to: Karen Gordon, Landmarks Preservation Board
Ellen Monrad, Queen Anne Community Council