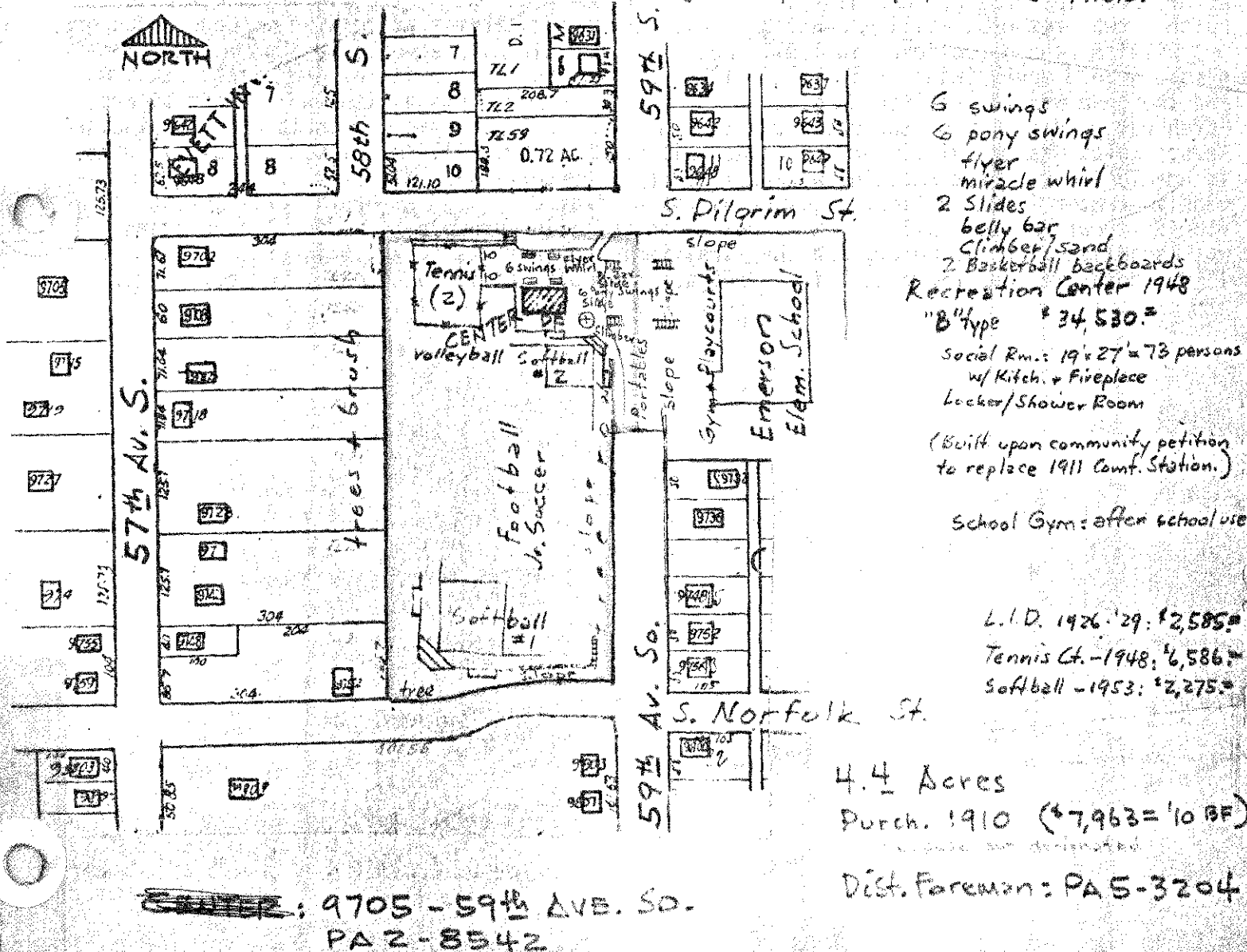


The playground originally assumed its name from the community that began as a pioneer town, "Rainier Beach", at the end of the Interurban line from James St. in Seattle [Trolley service was abandoned in 1936.] First plot in area by Keppler St. "end" was developed with limited swimming facilities by the Recreation Division of the Department from 1920-1936 and was known as "Rainier Beach" creating some confusion with "Rainier Beach Playground".

The playground was renamed in 1965 by the Park Board upon petition of the community to honor Fred Hutchinson (1919-1964) who had spent many boyhood hours on this playground. "Hutch" pitched his high school team to two championships, joined the Rainier ball club in 1938, did a stint with the Detroit Tigers returning to manage the Rainiers, then to the St. Louis Cardinals and the Cincinnati Reds. Described as "dedicated, humble, kind, strict, tough but all heart." A memorial was dedicated in 1966 at Santa Maria Island, Fla., in a youth center baseball park where Hutch was long active in promoting baseball for youth. A Major League Award was established to his memory and the first recipient (1969) was the Yankee Clipper "Joltin" Joe DiMaggio.

The Pro-era of Baseball began in 1869 with the signing of the Cincinnati Red Sox, the first all-contract team. The origin of all-paid teams goes back to 1860's at least. The game called baseball originated in 1700's in England and the American Colonies. Softball began as a playful offshoot in a gym at Chicago's Farragut Boat Club in 1887. The first ballgames in Seattle were on the open field, next to Yesler's Community Hall, that later became Pioneer Square. The home of the pro-"Seattle Indians" was at "Dugdale Park" on Rainier Ave. at McClellan St. The stands were burned out in 1932 and the team moved to the Civic Stadium until Emil Sick, founder of the Rainier Brewery, built a new stadium on the Dugdale site in 1937. Hutch joined the club in its first season here and the team won the Coast Pennant. The team became a minor of the national American League in 1960 when Sick sold it to the Boston Red Sox in 1960; became major league in 1969 as the "Pilots."

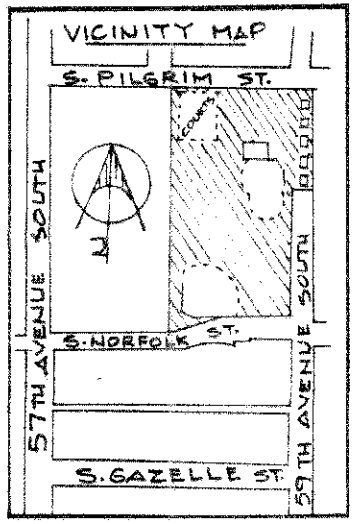
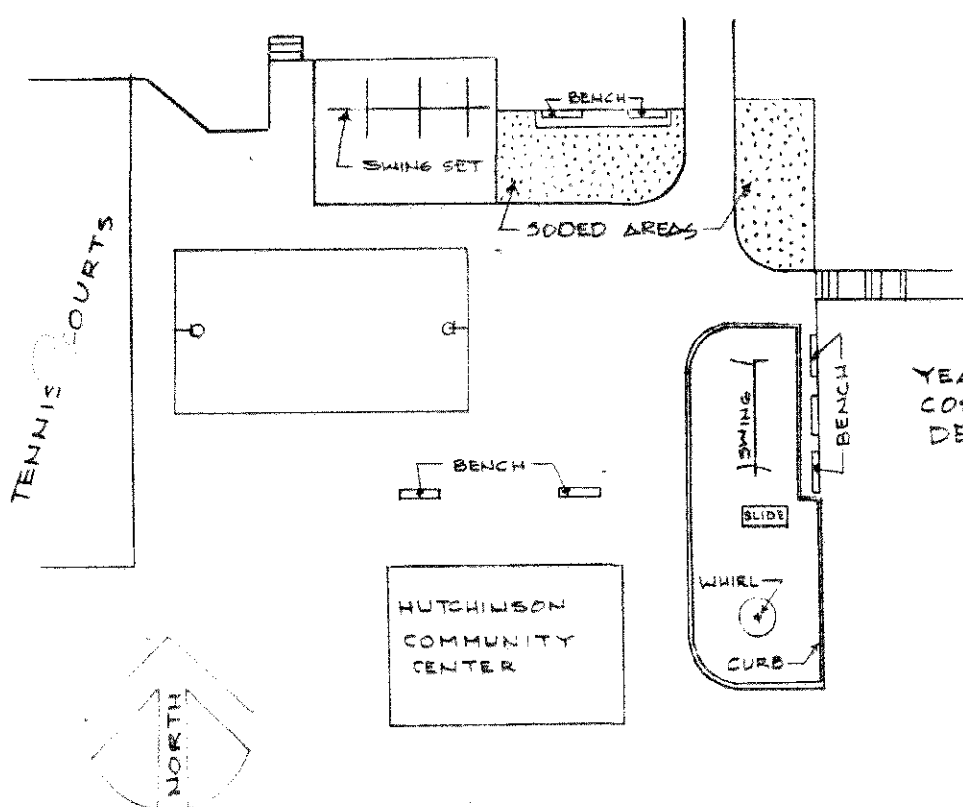


HUTCHINSON P.G.

070969

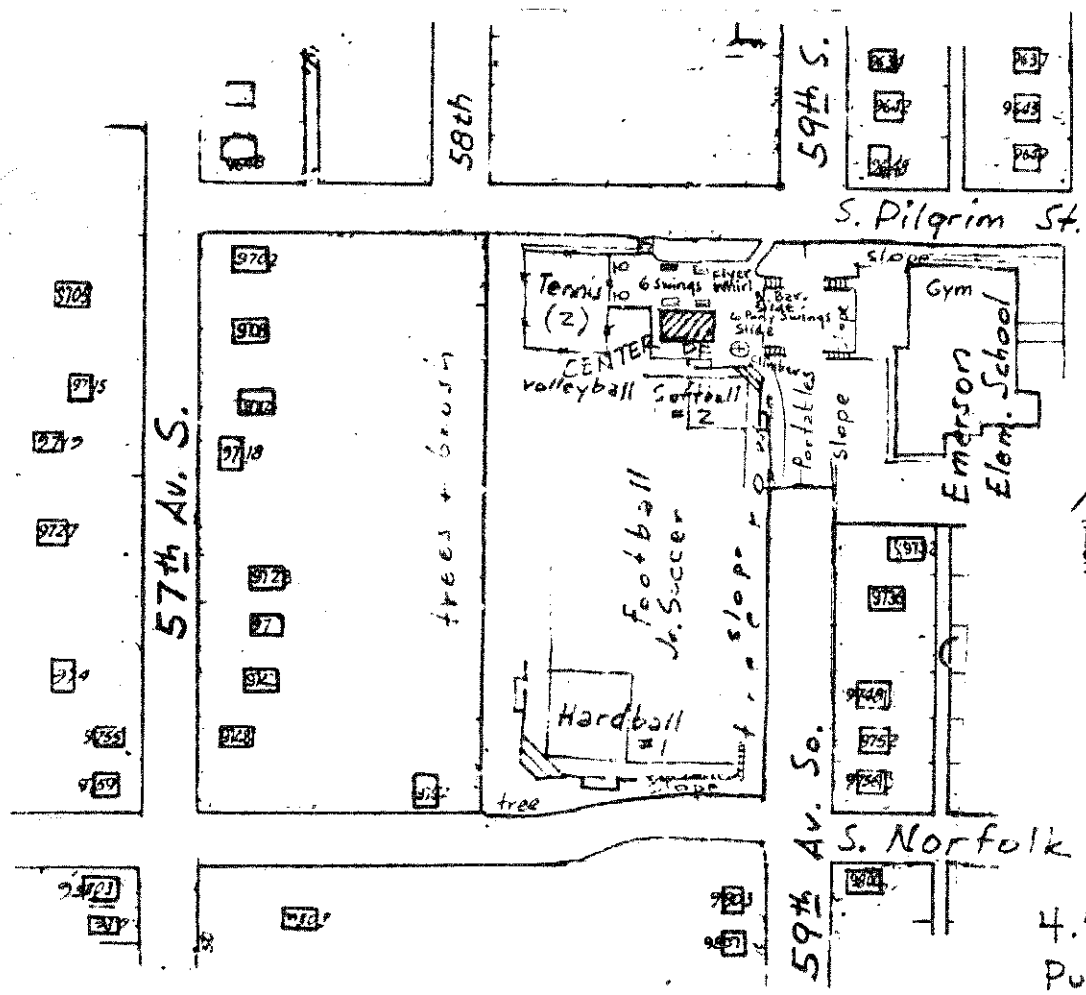
HISTORY: HUTCHINSON PLAYGROUND

When this playground was originally developed in 1911, it was given the community name of Rainier Beach PG - the community that was first settled just north of here on the south shore of a sheltered cove on Lake Washington. The first real estate plat was filed in 1891 by Charles Waters (note the name - Waters Avenue). Soon thereafter a trolley car line was built "all the way from (the) town" of Seattle to this little town and by 1896 was extended all the way to Renton. As the developers of the Rainier Beach trolley car line had planned, the Rainier Valley district real estate began to sell faster because of this improved connection to town. In 1907 the District's growth was enough to warrant annexation to Seattle. And with it came the need for Rainier Beach PG. Nearby Lake Washington offered many opportunities for swimming but the Department's nearest park, Atlantic City, was not considered fit for a beach. Finally, 1456 citizens put together a petition for a suitable supervised swimming beach and the Department secured the use of a street end (Kepples Street) on the lake and in 1922 developed it with a dock and changing stalls for swimmers, staffed with lifeguards; and named it Rainier Beach (not PG)! The confusion remained until 1936 when the Pritchard Island Bathing Beach was developed. The name confusion, in Department records, at least, popped up again in 1970 with the naming of the Park/School complex - Rainier Beach PF. But by then the old Rainier Beach PG had been renamed when, in 1965, the community petitioned the Park Board to rename this playground in honor of a former resident who had achieved great fame in the baseball world: FRED HUTCHINSON (1919-1964). Hutch's family home was almost a ball's throw from the playground at the corner of Keppler and Waters (#6102) and Hutch spent many competitive boyhood hours at this playground. His father was the first physician in the community (office over a store alongside the trolley car line) and Ben Evans, Recreation Director, recalled that Doc was always "on call" for an accident on the playground or beach. Hutch's two brothers, William and John, followed their father's profession to become doctors: Dr. William began practicing in 1941. Hutch pitched his high school team to two championships, joined the Rainier Ball Club in 1938 in its first season in the new Sick's Stadium and the team won the Pacific Coast League pennant. After a stint with the Detroit Tigers, Hutch returned to manage the Rainiers, then went to the St. Louis Cardinals and the Cincinnati Reds. Hutch was the victim of cancer and his brother, Dr. William, played a decisive role in developing the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center in Seattle (1975), the 8th comprehensive center in the nation. A memorial was dedicated in 1966 at Santa Maria Island, Florida, youth center ballpark where Hutch was an active promoter; a major league award was established to his memory and the first recipient was the Yankee Clipper, Joe DiMaggio: 1969. Hutch was described as "kind, dedicated, humble, strict and tough, but all heart."



YEAR OF IMPROVEMENT: 1985
 COST OF IMPROVEMENT:
 DESIGNER: ROSEMARY WILLS

04 09 86



- 6 swings
- 6 pony swings
- flyer
- miracle whirl
- 2 Slides
- belly bar
- Climber/sand
- 2 Basketball backboards
- Recreation Center 1948
- "B" type \$34,530. = 42'
- Social Rm.: 19'x27' = 73 person.
- w/ Kitch. + Fireplace
- Locker/Shower Room

(Built upon community petition to replace 1911 Comf. Station.)

School Gym: after school use

Tennis Ct. - 1948: \$6,586. =
 Softball - 1953: \$2,275. =

4.4 Acres
 Purch. 1910 (\$7,962. = 10 3/4)

Dist. Foreman: PA 5-204

CENTER: 9705 - 57th LVE. SO.

520

HUTCHINSON R.F.