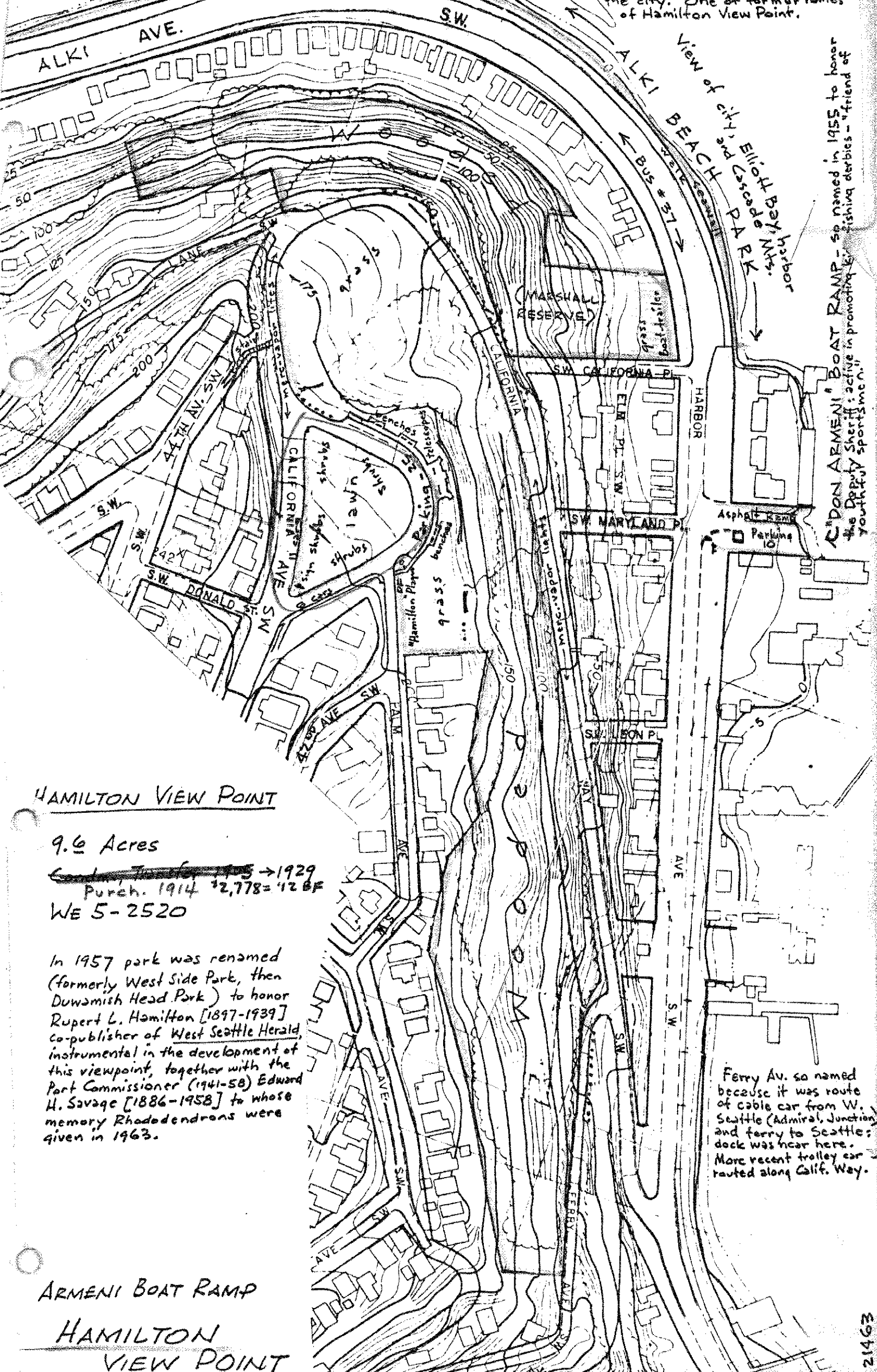


Uget Sound
sw of Olympic Mts.

"DUWAMISH HEAD" - headland at mouth of the Duwamish River. From a Chinook word "duwampsh" meaning "many colored river." Was one of the first name proposed for the city. One of former names of Hamilton View Point.



View of city, and Elliott Bay Harbor.
Mrs. N. J. Bay
P.A.R.K.

"DON ARMENI" BOAT RAMP - so named in 1955 to honor the Deputy Sheriff; active in promoting fishing derbies - a friend of youthful sportsmen.

HAMILTON VIEW POINT

9.6 Acres

~~1914~~ → 1929
Purch. 1914 \$2,778 = '12 BF
WE 5-2520

In 1957 park was renamed (formerly West Side Park, then Duwamish Head Park) to honor Rupert L. Hamilton [1897-1939] co-publisher of West Seattle Herald, instrumental in the development of this viewpoint, together with the Port Commissioner (1941-58) Edward H. Savage [1886-1958] to whose memory Rhododendrons were given in 1963.

Ferry Av. so named because it was route of cable car from W. Seattle (Admiral Junction) and ferry to Seattle; dock was near here. More recent trolley car routed along Calif. Way.

ARMENI BOAT RAMP
HAMILTON VIEW POINT

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HISTORY: HAMILTON VIEWPOINT

This headland, named Skwudux by the Indians, could have been a good vantage point for viewing the white-winged ships of the European explorers as they made their way along the waters of this inland sea, and the later arrival of the schooner EXACT in 1851 bringing the first handful of people who would establish a radical new culture in these "primitive" waters and forests. The Denny party did not stay long at Alki Beach; they built their town along the shore of the deeper waters of Elliott Bay. Sawmills were built and wharves for fish canners and ship fitters and builders; these were the first settlers on the headland now re-named Duwamish (the Indian name for the river - "many colored"). They named their little town West Seattle - the year was about 1888.

A young resident, Jacob Mades, native of Germany and graduate of Heidelberg University, stood on this logged headland and marvelled at the wide view of mountains and water (the town of Seattle was a cluster of wooden buildings, soon to be devastated by the Great Fire.) Mades must have been a trustee of the West Seattle Land & Improvement Co. for his vision of a park on this site was drawn on the company's First Plat, filed in 1888. But they neglected to dedicate the "Park Reserve" to public use for park purposes. Besides, at that point in time, who needed a park? The company was busy with plans to get people to come all the way from Seattle, either by boat crossing the Duwamish River and tideflats at low tide, or on a railroad trestle. There was a bridge at the town of South Park, but it was a long and rutted road. So the Company built Seattle's first ferry, departing from the north side of Yesler's Wharf to the foot of Duwamish Head at Atlantic Street, and they built one of the novel new cable car lines from the ferry slip up to the town of West Seattle. Young Mades went off to the Gold Rush in 1898 not as a prospector but to sell fruit! But the gold fever got him - and he was able to visit Heidelberg, return to West Seattle, marry and build a home - and renew his efforts for a park. He also bought a portion of the "Park Reserve" and became a councilman of the City of West Seattle, whose residents numbered some 600. But no one listened to his park idea. Neither did the Park Commissioners when West Seattle was annexed in 1907; they were busy developing Alki Bathing Beach, Alki Playground, and Schmitz Park, and getting other parks in shape for the 1909 Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition. So Mades gave up on action but kept the faith with his dream. His dream took another cut in 1914 when the City realigned California Way right through the Park Reserve. Mades and the West Seattle Improvement Company deeded what was left to the City for \$2,811. Again, park "action" must wait - for street improvements. But not all the platted streets were improved, so "action" continued to wait until 1935 when James Scavatto of City Council moved to vacate the unimproved streets, creating a usable park area. During that hearing, an old gentleman with a heavy German accent rose to his feet to thank Scavatto: (I did not think I would live (to see it happen)!" But the name chosen was West Side Park.

A WPA project cut down a large mound and filled a gully, installed a slide control drainage system on the steep slope, seeded the newly graded area, and ran out of funds. Then another name came into use: Duwamish Head Park, and efforts were made to rename it Conover Park, honoring a pioneer realtor/newsman/historian; action tabled. World War II brought the Army, who dug anti-aircraft pits, built an observation tower, and small barracks; restoration took place in 1946 and development "action" finally came, to be completed by 1954; viewpoint, parking and benches, with lawn areas and plantings. Telescopes are operated as a concession. Springs and heavy rainfall have caused numerous slides and as many complaints.

As a result of a massive petition, the park was renamed in 1957 to honor RUPERT LEHN HAMILTON, 1897-1939, in recognition of his efforts to promote parks and viewpoints in West Seattle, plus the development of the community while editor and publisher of the WEST SEATTLE HERALD (1928-1939).

In 1963 a planting of rhododendrons was given in memory of Edward H. Savage by his friends and the West Seattle Commercial Club in recognition of his service as citizen, civic leader and Port Commissioner (17 years) (1886-1958).