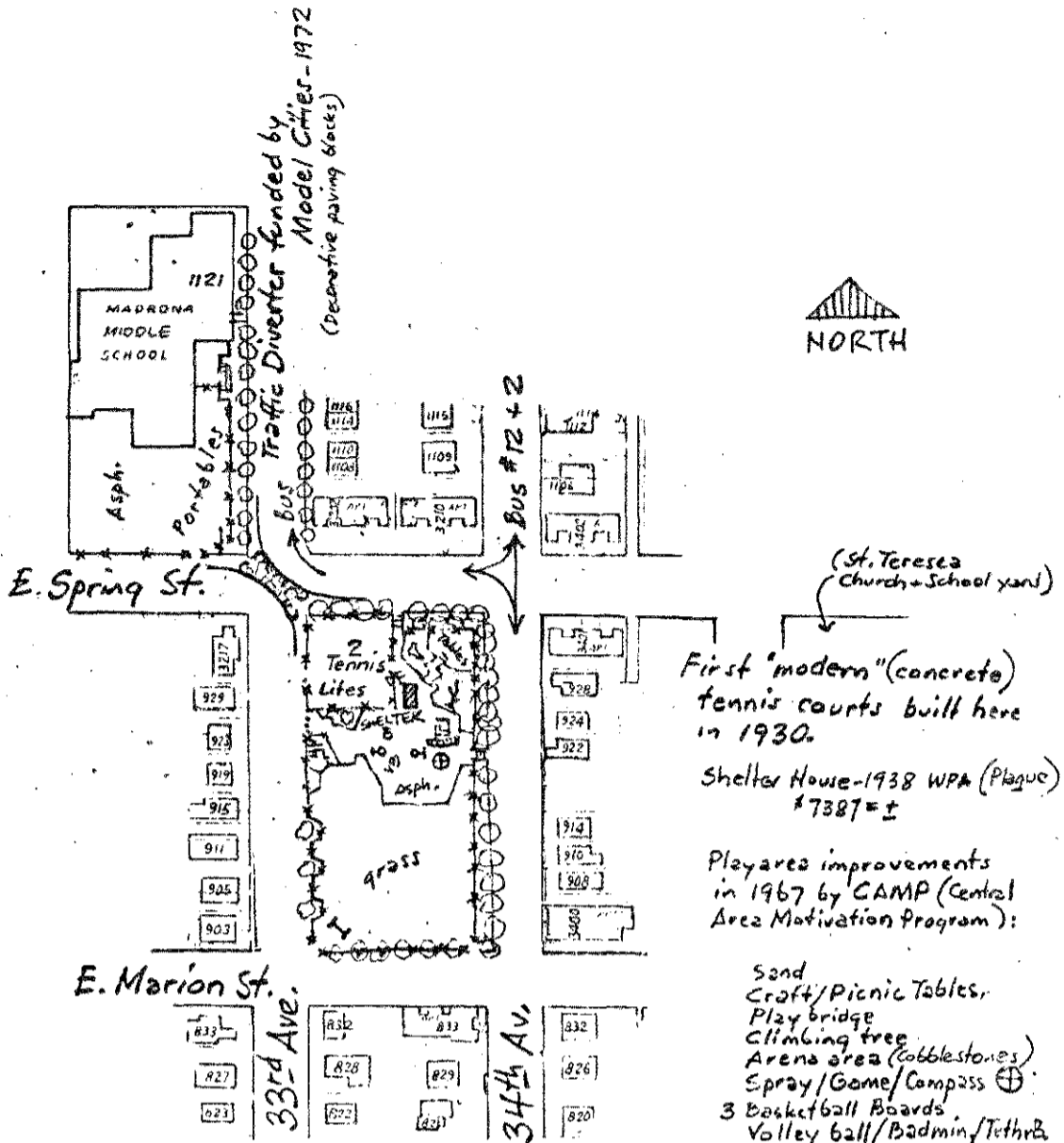


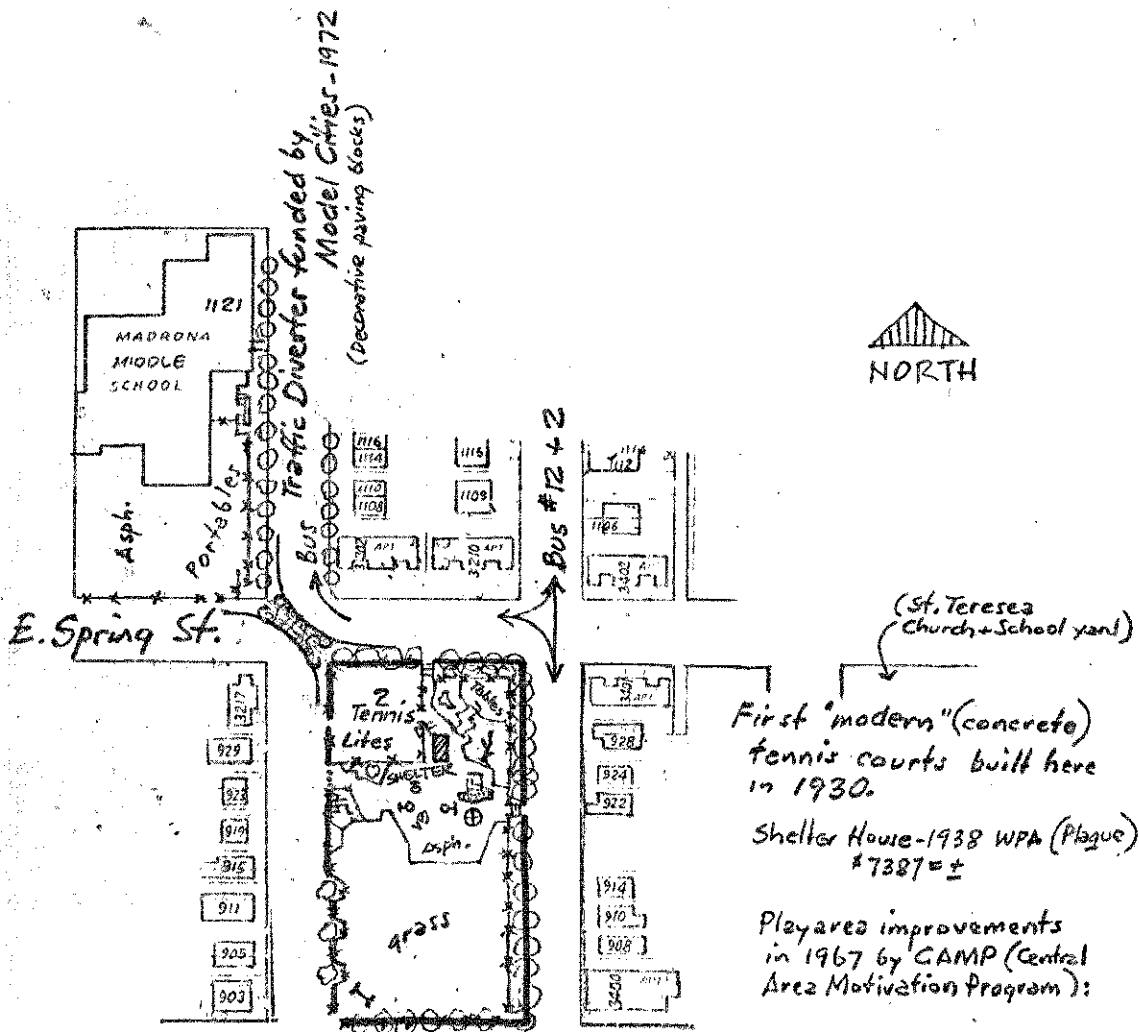
DATE OF IMPROVEMENT: 1981
 COST OF IMPROVEMENT: \$ 86,047.00
 CONTRACTOR: R O BORDNER CONSTRUCTION
 ADDRESS: 3315 EAST SPRING
 SIZE OF PROPERTY: 1.85 ACRES



1.8 Acres
 Condem. 1927 (^{21,476}=L.I.D.
^{2,843}=G.F.)
 "...for park + playfield purp."
 925-34th Ave.

110176

MADROÑA P.G.
 SHEET 2 of 2



First "modern" (concrete) tennis courts built here in 1930.

Shelter House - 1938 WPA (Plague) #7387 ±

Play area improvements in 1967 by CAMP (Central Area Motivation Program):

- Sand
- Craft/Picnic Tables
- Play bridge
- Climbing tree
- Arena area (cobblestones)
- Spray/ Game/ Compass ⊕
- 3 Basketball Boards
- Volley ball/ Badminton/ Tetherball
- Climbing gym/post cluster
- Balance rail

1.8 Acres

Condemn. 1927 (21,476 = L.I.D.
2,843 = G.F.)

"...for park + playfield purp."
925 - 34th Ave.

437

MADROÑA P.G.

110176

The homesteader in this vicinity, according to the School District, was the Randell family. The first school in this neighborhood was an old barn remodeled into a two-classroom facility for \$500 and named the Randell School. It was formally recognized by the District in 1890. 9 years later two more classrooms were added, but the continued population growth of the neighborhood caused construction of an 8-room frame building in 1904 and closure of the "old barn". The new building was named Madrona, reflecting the name given to the community about 1890 when the realtor-developer "trolley park" on the lakeshore was named upon the suggestion of a property owner, John E. Ayer, who contributed some land for the private park. (According to the P.I. 9/6/27, the name was rather a "pioneer jest" for Madrona trees were not that prominent a feature.) (Refer: Madrona Park.)

As the growth of the school enrollment would suggest, the demand for playground facilities also grew. Other than school yards, the nearest playfield was Garfield PF (acquired in 1911). Finally in 1925 "the Madrona Park residents presented a petition for a playground . . ." to the Park Board. But the 1924 voter approved Park Bond was only for development (improvements) of existing parks and playgrounds. So the "community spirit" got itself together, agreeing to a Local Improvement District for the condemnation of a playground: \$21,476 = LID + \$2,843 from the City's General Fund (these figures are from the Comptroller's file because Parks Department records are not clear). Improvement was immediately budgeted for clearing, grading, drainage and water system. The community requested an "adequate" fence and tennis courts - in 1929 the first "modern" (concrete) courts in Seattle's park system were built here (concrete was better suited to other uses such as the then-popular roller skating; fencing was "in accordance with the general policy" to keep balls and children from running into the street and into neighbors' yards and flower beds). There were also requests for play apparatus and "a necessary comfort station" (1930) but this resulted in a hassle over the location and funding of the comfort station, for this construction had not been itemized in the Park Bond (unforeseen). Also unforeseen was the Great Depression, but the shelterhouse became a make-work project of the Federal Works Progress Administration (WPA), a nation-wide program of public work, the Federal government paying wages for labor and the local government providing materials for the work (Refer: West Seattle Golf and Recreation Area, Washington Park, etc.) Play equipment consisted of the usual swings, slides and teeter totters; the south half of the playground was graded for informal ball games (a policy to keep some space available for neighborhood children, free from the intensive use of the City-wide leagues).

In 1963 a quiet "sit-in" demand for human dignity occurred in the Deep South and exploded in the Civil Rights Revolution of the '60s. (Refer: Langston Hughes Community Center.) In 1966 the Federal Government enacted the "Model City Program" to demonstrate how blighted (ghetto) neighborhoods could be renewed through the coordinated use of Federal, State and private programs. Through the office of Mayor J. Dorman Braman, Seattle became one of the "test" cities. Originally designated for 10% of a city area, it was expanded to cover all blighted areas in 1971. ("A Model City neighborhood is an Island of Poverty in a Sea of Affluence".) To implement the program, the Central Area Motivation Program was established with "citizen participation in a War on Poverty". Recreation was identified as one of the Central Area needs: programming new facilities for deteriorated ones as well as new areas. Madrona Playground was one of five sites selected for improvement. The design by Landscape Architect William Talley incorporated the new concepts of "creative play" - presenting challenges to a child's imagination and muscle skills through climbing posts, trees and rope webs, boats and bridges in a Sea of Sand, and wide steps for "rapping" or play acting. The actual work of installation was done by the community.

History: MADRONA PLAYGROUND
12/16/74 (Sherwood)