



Allyson Brooks Ph.D., Director
State Historic Preservation Officer

October 31, 2017

Ms. Jean Parietti
Save Weyerhaeuser Campus
Federal Way, WA

In future correspondence please refer to:
Project Tracking Code: 2016-08-06001
Property: Weyerhaeuser Headquarters
Re: DOE

Dear Ms. Parietti

Thank you for contacting the Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation (DAHP) regarding the Weyerhaeuser Headquarters in Federal Way. Per your request I have reviewed the building for its eligibility for listing on National Register of Historic Places. While not yet 50 years old the Weyerhaeuser Headquarters would easily qualify for listing on the National Register of Historic Places (under criteria A & C) as a ground breaking design that has been studied by generations of architects, architectural historians, landscape architects and historians.

In fact, the project's architectural achievements were acknowledged shortly after its completion when it received a 1972 National Honor Award from the American Institute of Architects (AIA); a distinction bestowed upon only the most respected architectural designs in the country. Thirty years later, recognizing the importance of the building, in 2001 the project received the AIA's *Twenty-five Year Award*, an honor that showcases buildings that set an architectural/design precedent.

The project as a whole was a collaboration of the work of a virtual who's who of top-notch mid-century design firms including: the New York architectural firm of Skidmore Owings and Merrill (San Francisco Office, Edward C. Bassett, principle-in-charge) and the landscape architecture firm of Sasaki, Walker and Associates (Peter Walker, partner-in-charge). Other important collaborators included landscape architect Richard A. Vignolo (roof garden); landscape architect William Callaway (Sethar Memorial Garden); landscape architect Thomas L. Berger Associations (Pacific Rim Bonsai Collection); and space planners Sidney Rogers Associates.

Completed in 1971, the 300,000 sq ft., \$15 million dollar building housed nearly 900 managerial and administrative employees, including the company's executive group. The building used an open office landscape with furniture, dividers, and planters, rather than walls separating work areas. At the time of construction it was the first major corporate headquarters building in the United States to utilize this open office landscape treatment. Further innovations were found at the exterior walls of plate glass, which were cemented into single units with no vertical framing, providing the longest uninterrupted spans of glass exterior walls in the world at the time of construction. Custom office furniture, design by SOM and Knoll International of New York and then manufactured at Weyerhaeuser's Marshfield, Wisconsin hardwood plant.



Specific details as to the boundaries of a listing would need to be defined after further study but most likely includes the full 260 acres as initially developed by Sasaki, Walker & Associates. In such a document various landscape elements and character defining features would be called out as contributing or non-contributing elements. The design firms were deliberate in their approach. They wanted the buildings to merge seamlessly into the landscape. Such elements included parking lot terraces which are found on each level of the building with its pedestrian circulation defined by formal rows of sycamore trees that contrasted with the indigenous forest beyond. The steep banks and building tiers were planted with English ivy. The clipped beds of ivy and carefully maintained lawns transition to plantings of ferns and rhododendrons and then to dogwoods and vine maples, all specifically planned out by the team. The surrounding forest was then purposefully sculpted, removing underbrush and creating woodland trails for the enjoyment of employees.

We would welcome a National Register application for the building anytime. However keep in mind that per federal regulations, National Register listing requires owner consent.

Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,



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CC: Chris Moore, WA Trust for HP
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