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Lost Seattle



Synopsis

Unearths the buried bones of an invented city that was carved out of hills and bay. Early Seattleites were neither sentimental nor nostalgic, destroying iconic schools, libraries, entire neighborhoods, and high hills. They ripped out the very muscles of industry and the veins of rails and ferries on which the city was created. 68 vignettes of cast-aside Seattle are given new light, including Japantown, the Kalakala, Joseph Mayer's clock factory, interurban railways, Yesler's mill, Capitol Hill's auto row, Denny Hill, Moran Brothers' shipyard, the Carnegie Central Library, Boeing and the SuperSonics. From the 1880s to the present day. This richly illustrated book brings these lost buildings, structures and neighborhoods back to life, to reveal the Seattle that once was.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

For a city that was founded as late as 1851, Seattle has a wealth of history. In less than a century, Seattle went from pioneer settlement to regional metropolis. Having lost almost all of its downtown buildings in the devastating fire of 1889, it took every bit of the city's famous "Seattle Spirit" to rebuild and start again. While many more landmarks have been lost since 1889, this richly illustrated book brings back to life the city's forgotten buildings, structures and neighborhoods to reveal the Seattle that once was. Lost Seattle features many previously unpublished images of architectural treasures that were lost to the wrecking ball long before the era of historic preservation. As well as the outright losses, like Yesler Mansion, Elks Hall and Kingdome, Lost Seattle also includes sites that have been damaged, significantly altered or repurposed over the years. Among these losses

are whole areas that have been transformed (the City of Georgetown, Denny Hill and Japantown), forms of transportation that have become obsolete (interurban railways and cable cars) and buildings that have been totally reconstructed (Carnegie Central Library, Plymouth Church and the Coliseum). Offering a rare glimpse into the past, Lost Seattle includes the extravagant buildings of the 1909 Alaska Yukon Pacific Exposition and the 1962 World's Fair, elegant hotels (Occidental, Denny and Seattle), grand department stores (MacDougall & Southwick and Frederick & Nelson), as well as the city's once thriving theaters and picture palaces (New Pantages, Orpheum and Fox). Landmarks that have been lost more recently, like Boeing Headquarters, the Fun Forest and Fort Lawton are also featured. To revisit these sites and many more, open these pages, step back in time and enjoy the glorious architectural past of Seattle.

Lost Seattle looks at the cherished places in the city that time, progress and fashion have swept aside. As well as celebrating forgotten architectural treasures, Lost Seattle also looks at buildings that have changed use, vanished under a wave of new construction or been transformed beyond recognition. Losses include: Yesler Mill - Occidental Hotel - Denny Hotel - Luna Park - Colman Dock Clock Tower - Golden Potlatch - Carnegie Central Library - Hotel Seattle - Plymouth Church - New Pantages Theater - Kalakala - Orpheum Theater - Fox Theatre - Frederick & Nelson Department Store - Rainier Brewery - Kingdome - Boeing Headquarters - Nippon Kan - Washington Mutual - Fun Forest - Fort Lawton

Seattle is one of many towns of the great Pacific that is in love with itself -- and for good reason. Although not an ancient city, it has a rich and vibrant history. This book brings back to life a number of lost treasures. As this city gets eaten up by the likes of and other technology firms who prefer to destroy these landmarks and build new, hip, giant bubbles, Ketcherside's book chronicles landmarks of the old Seattle-- a Seattle that is all too quickly disappearing. In essence, the city is making history by destroying the history-- but no one is chronicling it. Except Lost Seattle does just that and it does it in a coffee table style which is sure to captivate your holiday guests-- it is a very beautiful, well written book and belongs on everyone's coffee table. It is sure to stir up conversation of the way things used to be. From the old shots of the Kingdome (a monstrosity of concrete) to the lusty lady, this book will take you on a walk through a time that has passed. The best part of the book might just be the birds eye views of the city in the inlays of the book. Really a great value and worth getting for anyone who loves this grand metropolis that this once was (and still is).

This is a great book, both for history fans and for people (like me) who typically are less captivated by history. The format of the book and Ketcherside's great writing make this a real pleasure to read. Because you can pick it up and absorb it in the 2-page chunks of the Lost Seattle icons, it is an awesome book to share with friends. Having lived most of my adult life in Seattle, much of the material was still new to me. For example, in the pre-WWII era, Seattle put on a summer gala called the "Golden Potlatch" paying homage to both the goldrush and the Native American potlatch. The vignettes and series of losses helps chart the rapid trajectory of the city from a one-mill lumber town to an international city over the course of a century and a half. Ketcherside is a great storyteller and selects well from his material, so you'll end up feeling like you know more about things that--while perhaps physically gone--are still present in the way they shaped Seattle. Really happy that I bought it!

Good book, very fascinating look back at history.

A great look back at the changes in Seattle over the years. After being born in Seattle and living there for over fifty years before moving away the book serves as both a great reminder and a nice glimpse of the past. My only suggestion if a subsequent edition is published, correct the name of the Supersonic coach from Larry to Lenny (Wilkins). A very entertaining read and a great first work from a dedicated and hard working historian.

Excellent book. Great pictures.

Great information, gorgeous pictures and a great coffee table book

I got this for my hubby as a gift after we toured the Seattle Underground. We saw it in the gift store but it was really expensive. This was a good price and he's happy with it.

Great History of Seattle!

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