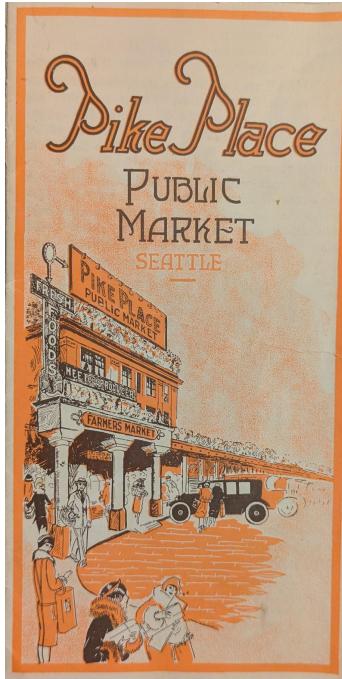


# A short history of Pike Place

A public street like no other



January 8, 2026

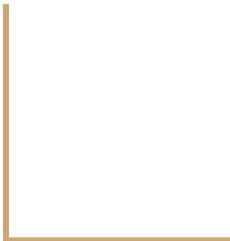


What makes Seattle's Public Market  
so unique?



JonBob Photography  
NOLI

Market square evolved to shed, open stalls and surrounding commercial



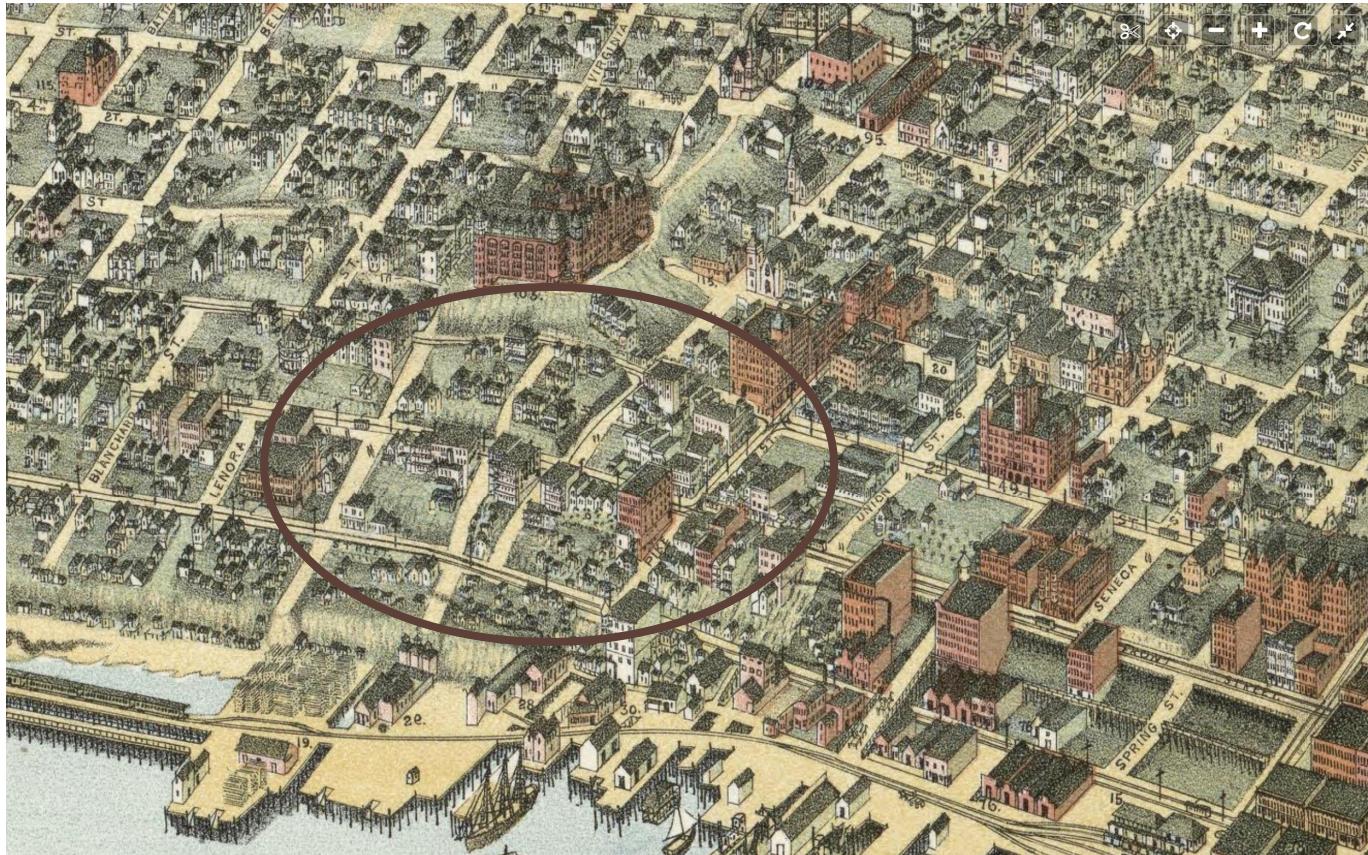
# Before there was a Pike Place



# Seattle 1890



Detail -  
North  
Seattle  
business  
after the  
Great Fire



# 1900- 1920 The Progressive Era

Social movements

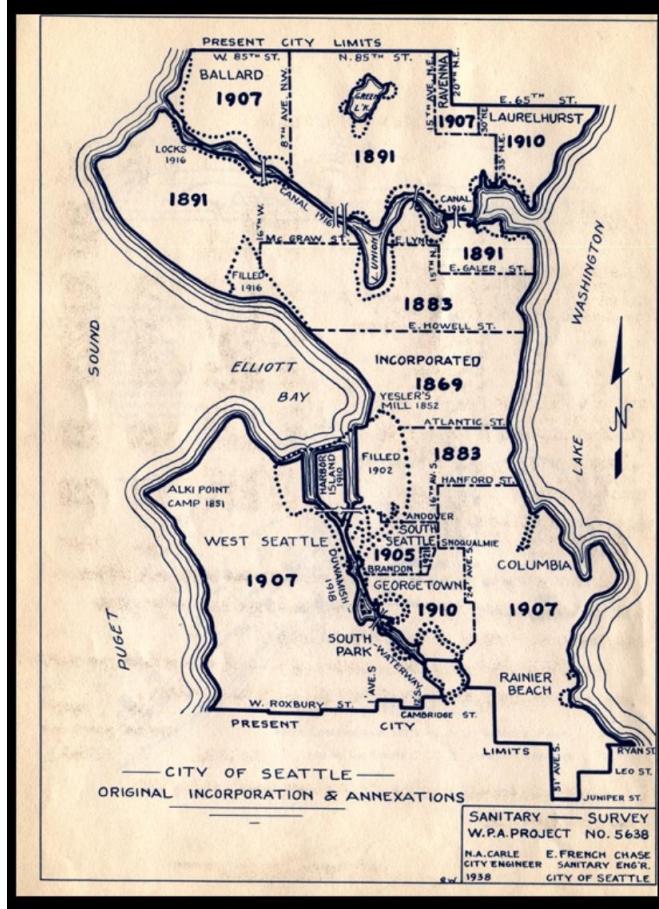
Anti-Trust

Urban / Rural contrast

Public Investment

Health and Sanitation

Immigration



# SEATTLE GROWTH 1900-1907

Annexations of Ballard, West Seattle, Columbia City South Seattle

Waterfront railways and new tunnel

Large scale public works

Cedar River water/ City Light Dam

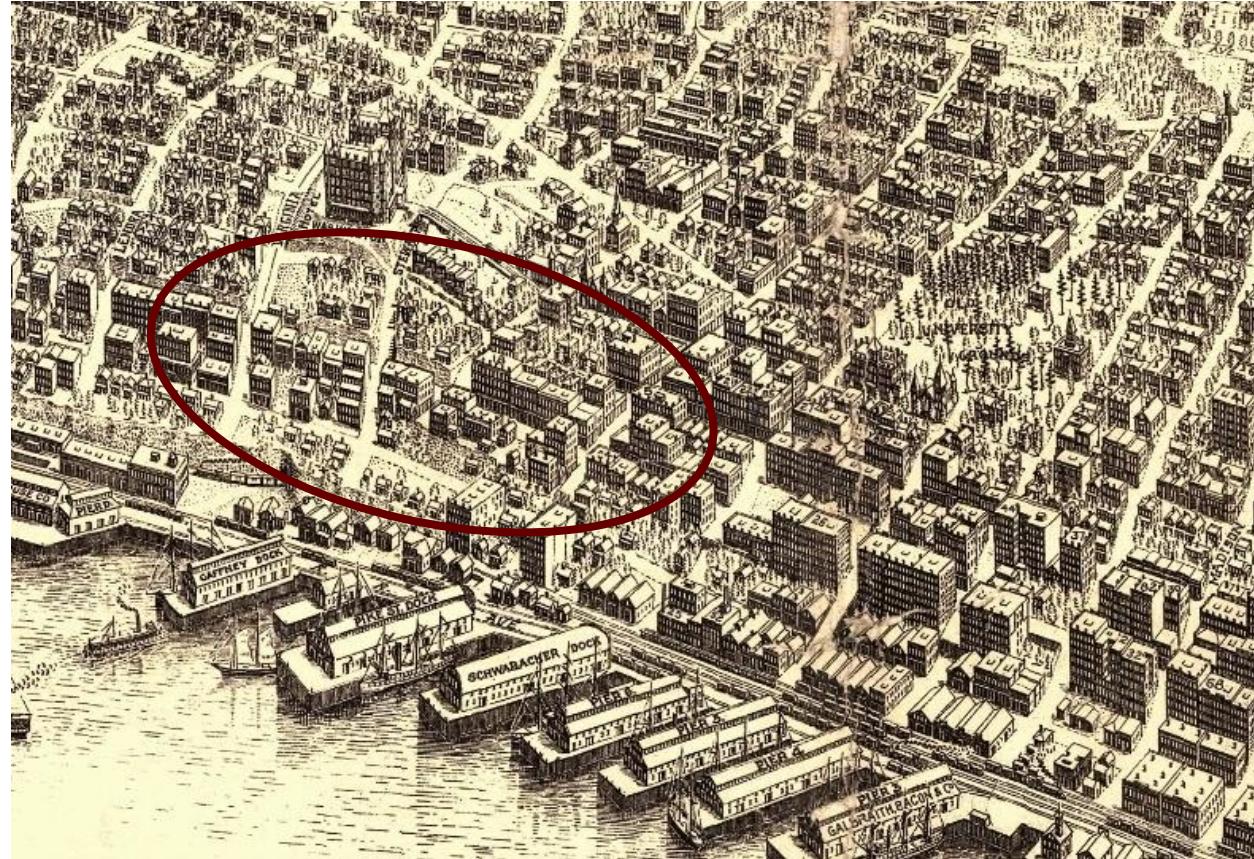
Tidelands filled - Harbor Island Tidelands filled - Harbor Island

AYP / Olmstead developments

1905

North limit of downtown still blocked by Denny Hill

First Avenue on  
crest of bluff  
above Western





York Hotel -  
@ 1900



Front Street ( 1st Ave) and Pike St view to east  
Hotel York at current location Corner Market



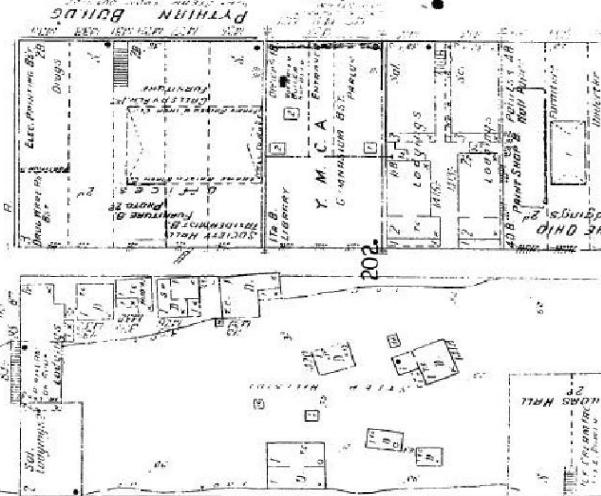
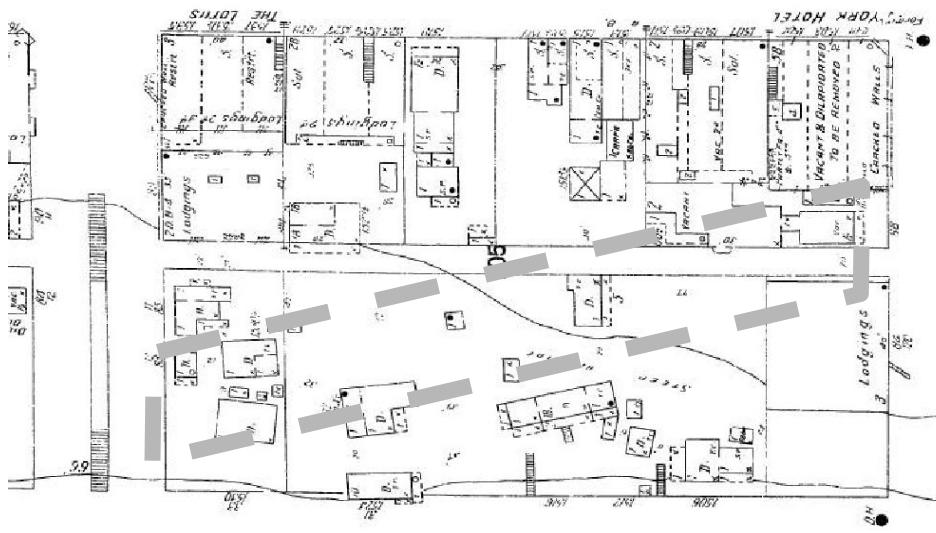
Pythian Building 1st and Pike circa 1900  
(now Economy Market) view to SW



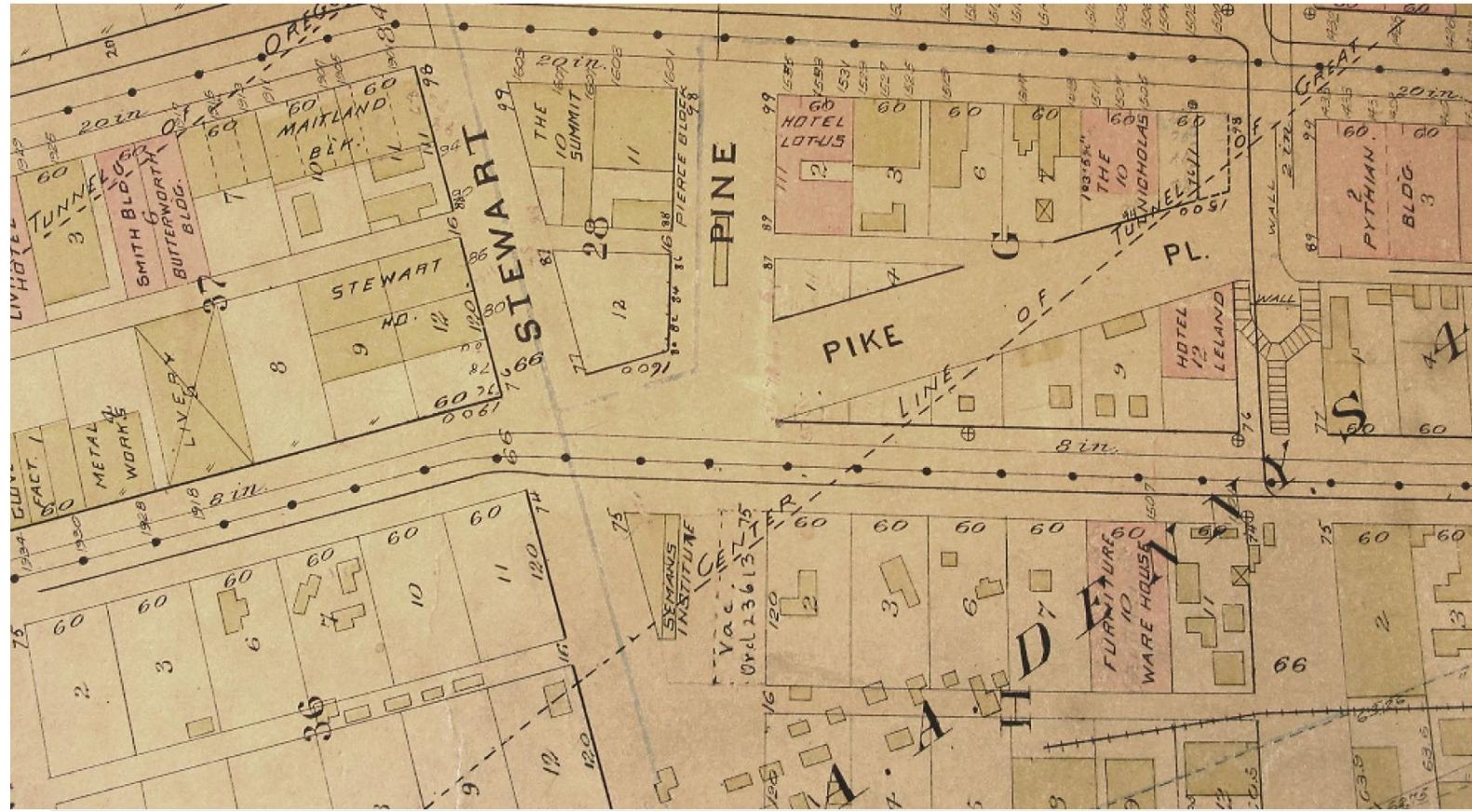
Kikusoblu on 1st and  
Pike St view NE



# Creating Pike Place



1906



1905-

Western Avenue  
ramp  
Railroad Tunnel  
below Pike Place  
Bulk head



Times-Bulletin, Aug.  
16, 1907, p. 15

# BACK TO THE SIMPLE LIFE!



TO MARKET, TO MARKET,  
(IN SPITE OF THE HOG)

Early Market  
circa 1907-8

North portion  
Pike Place  
unpaved  
street



1907

1st and Pike

South Portion of  
Pike Place



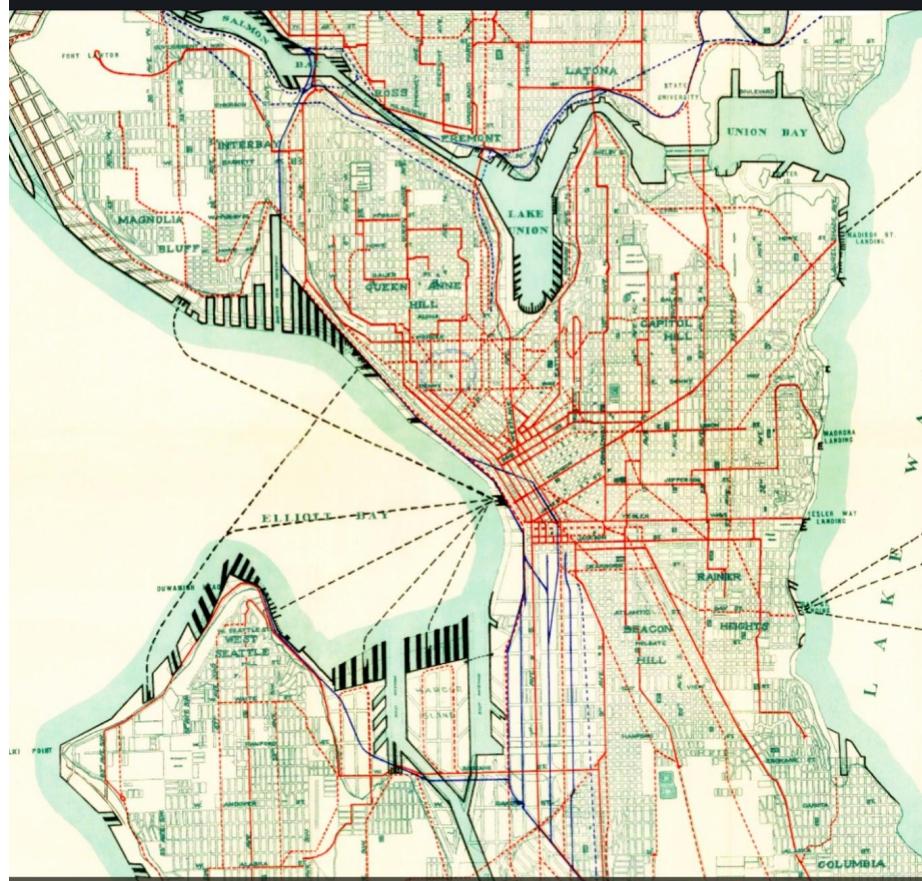
1908

1st and Pike

Sidewalk and street  
capacity has been  
maxed out



# The crossroads of Seattle in 1910



Demand  
Congestion  
Expansion

# City Regulations

Permitted

Sanitation

Weights and Measures

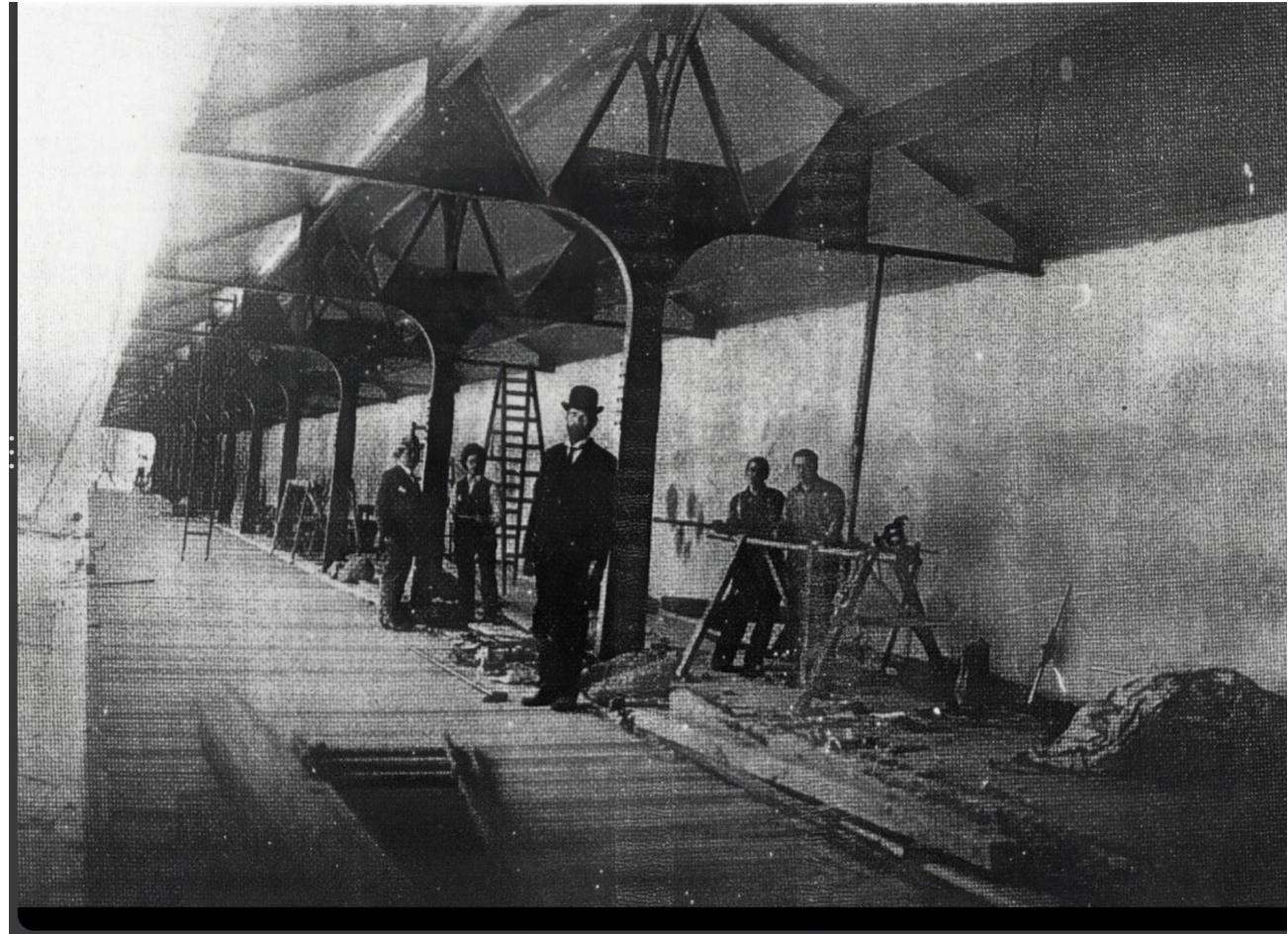
Space assignment

Collection of Rent

Inspections off site.



City builds  
Farmer Shed to  
cover sidewalk  
on west side of  
Pike Place



1910's

Morning setup at  
Farmer Shed  
(north arcade)

5am-Noon  
Mon-Fri

5am-6pm  
Saturday

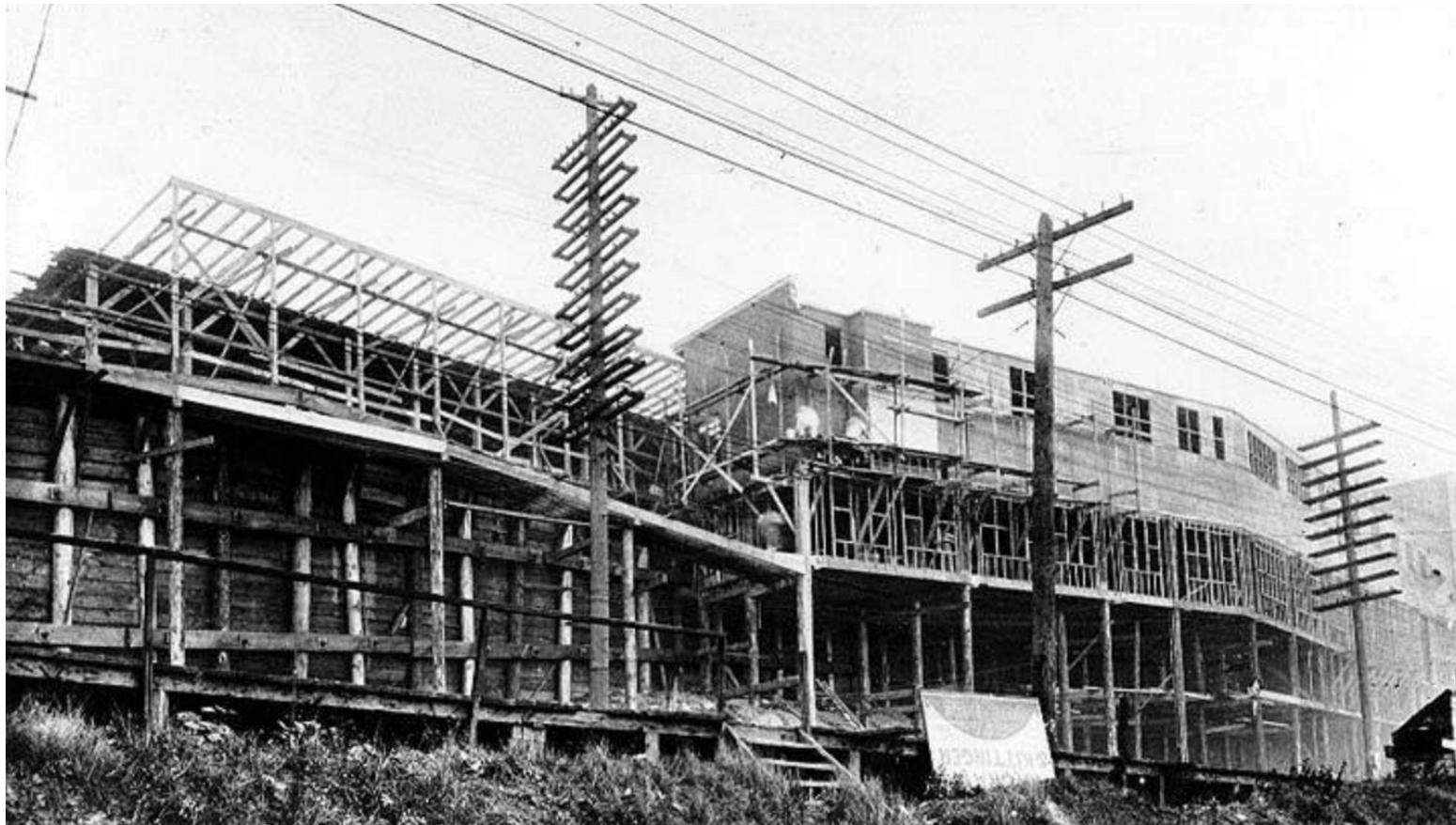


The daily theater  
of the Market -

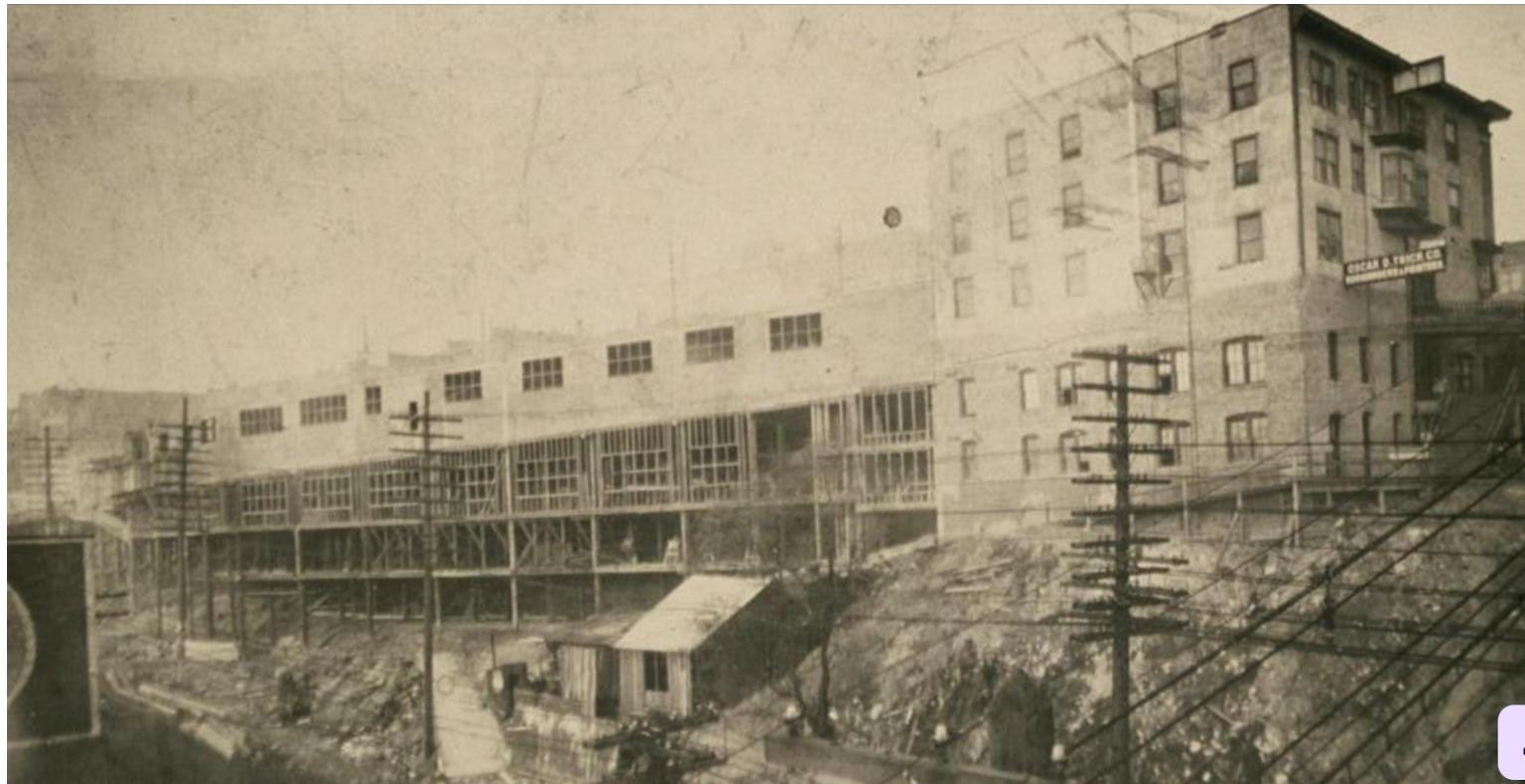
Front door  
Center stage  
Back of House

all the same



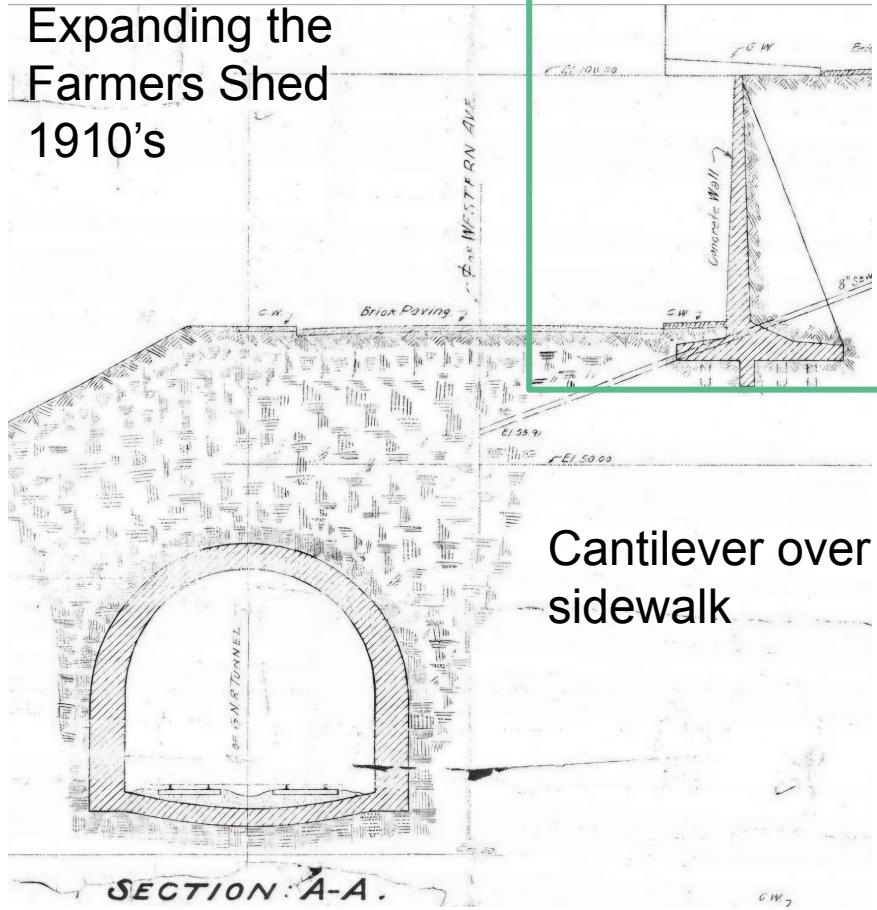


Scaffolding on Pike Place for new Farmer Shed / market expansion

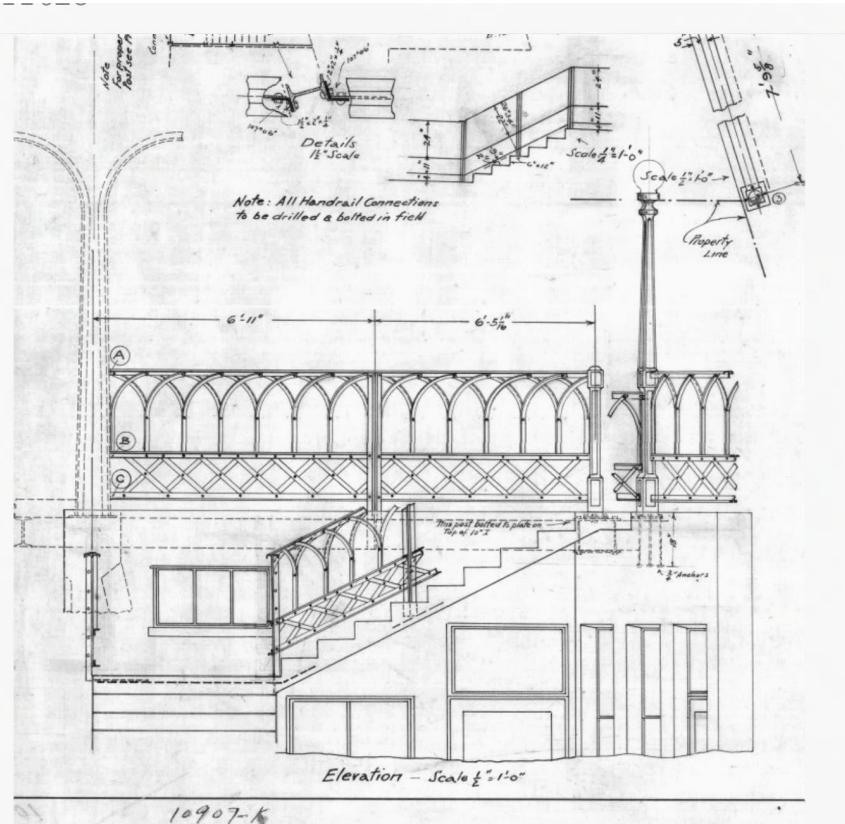


Regrading of Pike Place opens Goodwin property for development  
above rWestern Avenue

# Expanding the Farmers Shed 1910's



## Cantilever over sidewalk



# New Stairs to Western



circa 1915 - widening of market arcade over new concrete retainig wall on Western Avenue

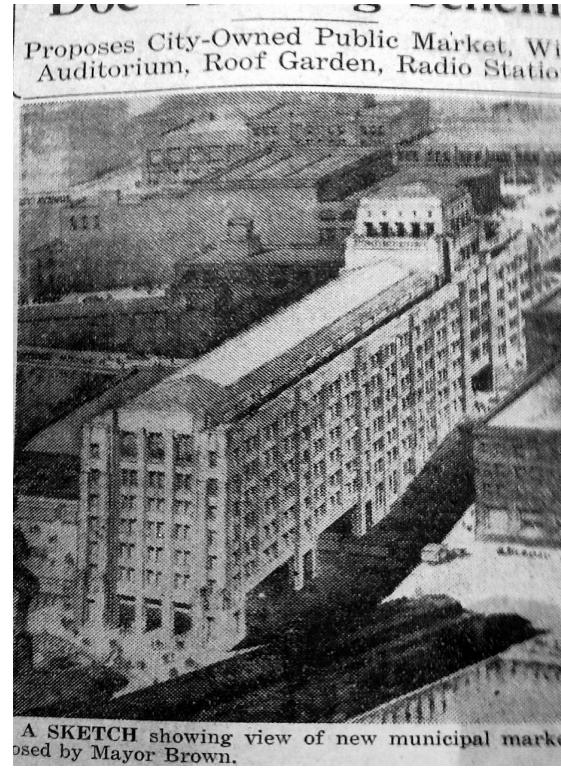
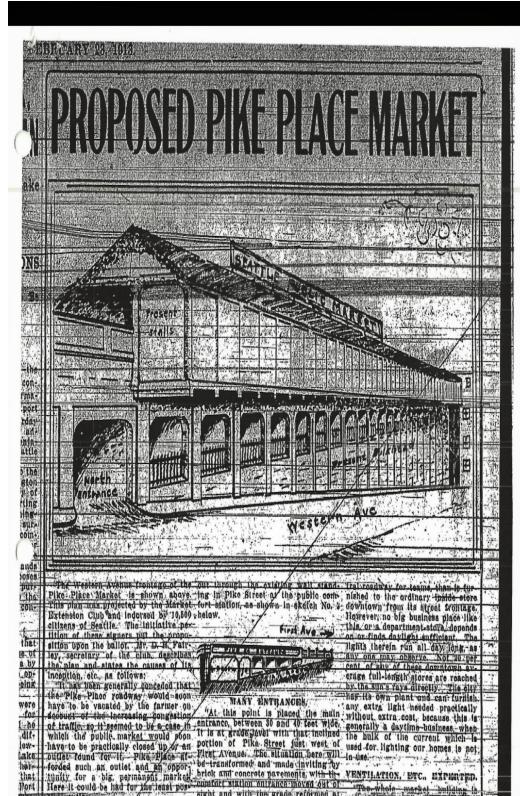
1912

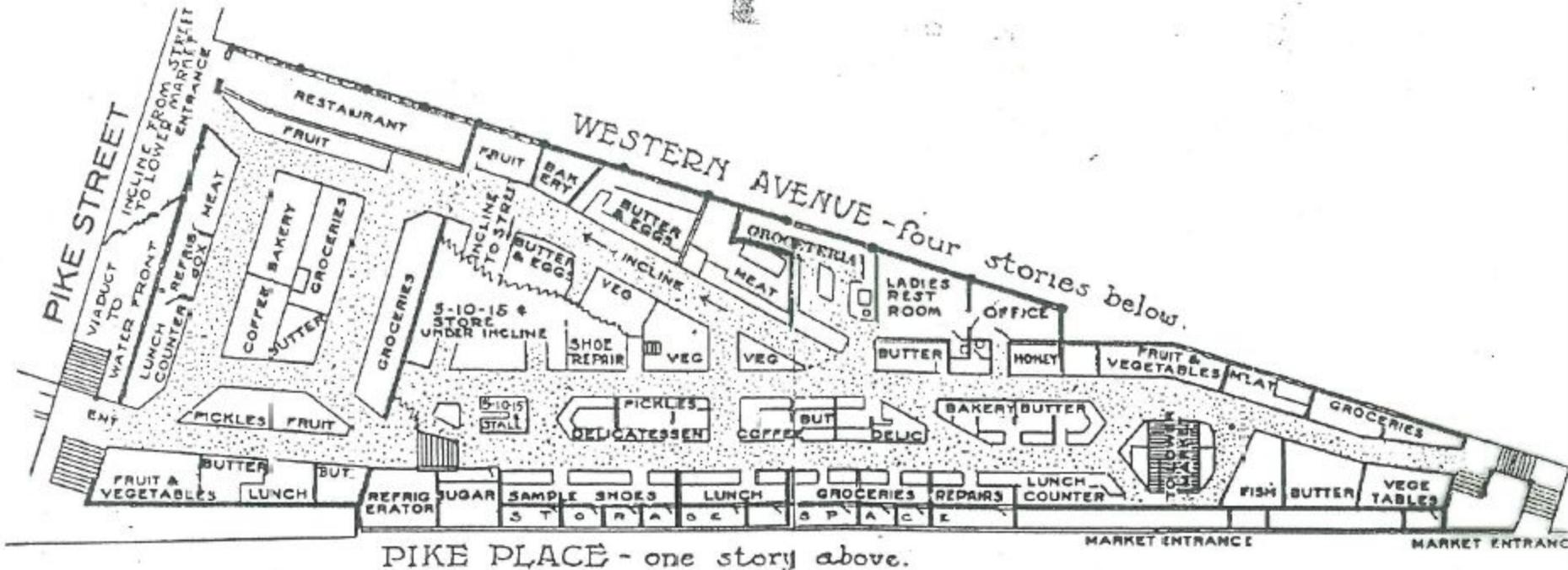
West side Pike  
Place  
sidewalks  
covered for  
added farmer  
stalls





1910's Where to move? "Subway" Market or New Civic Center?

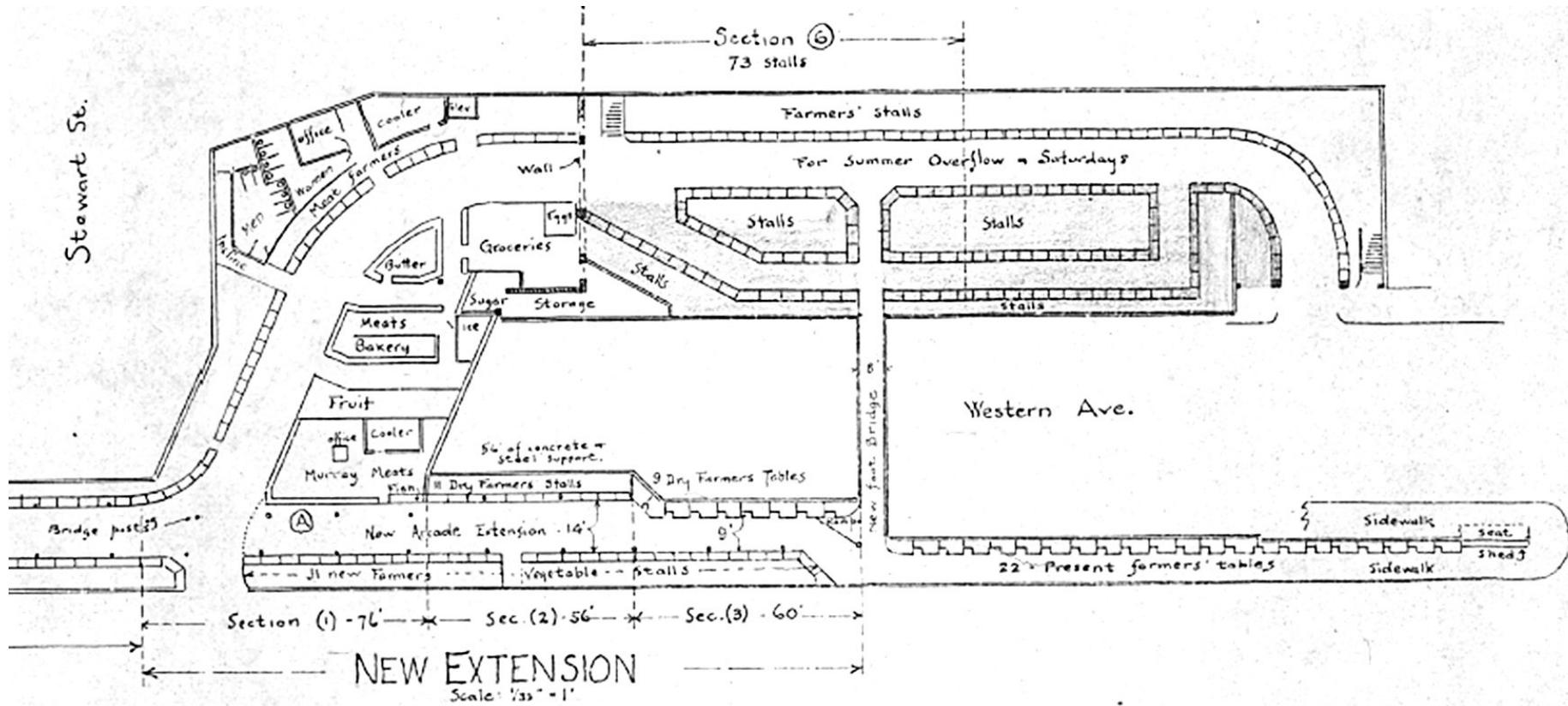




Plan of lower market floor of Pike Place Public Market. Wide aisles allow easy passage at all times and convenient inclines make all parts of the market accessible.

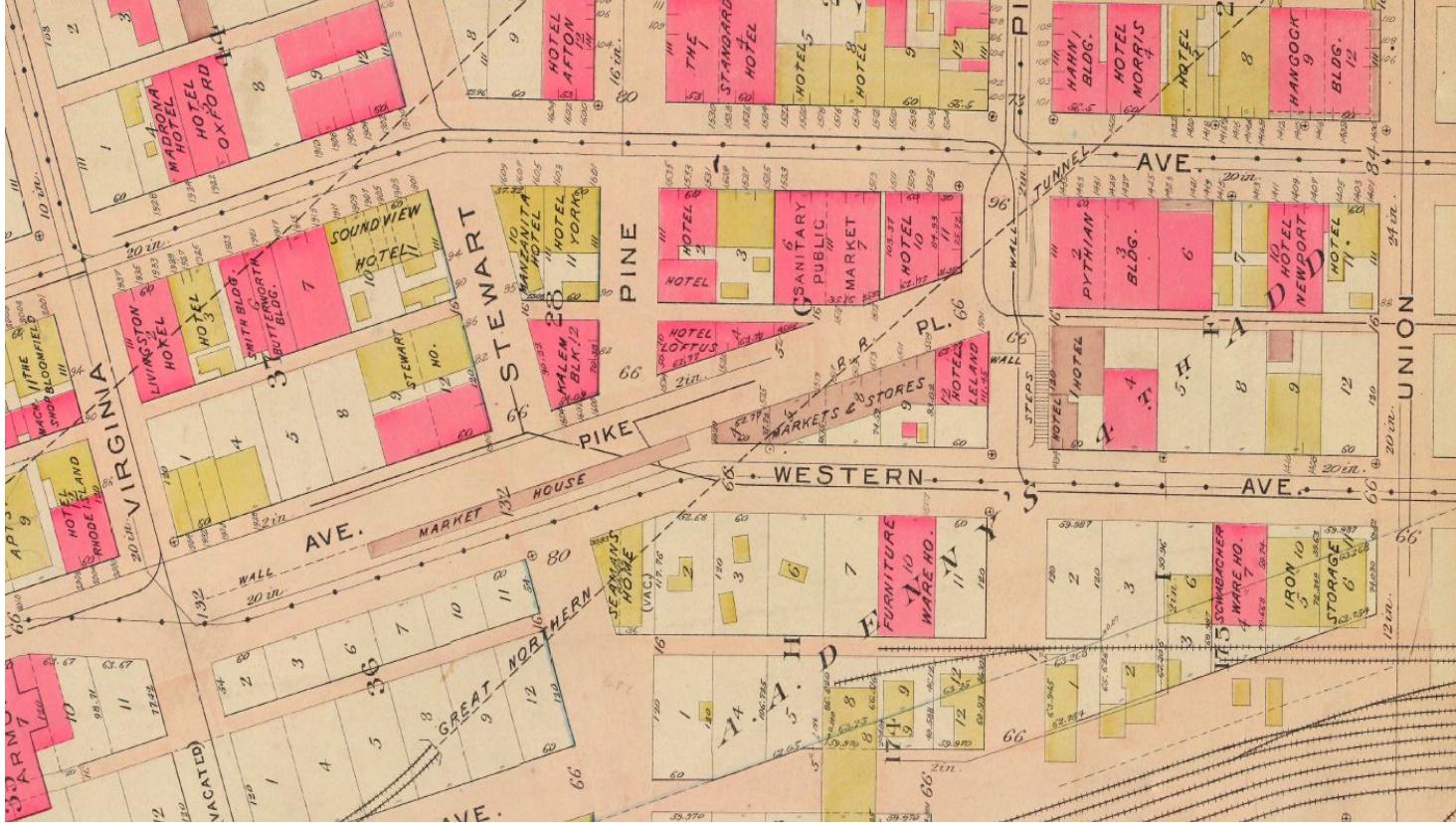
The partition of sidewalk day stalls for GG commercial stalls Lower floor of fairley Addition as commercial space - 1920's

Stewart St.



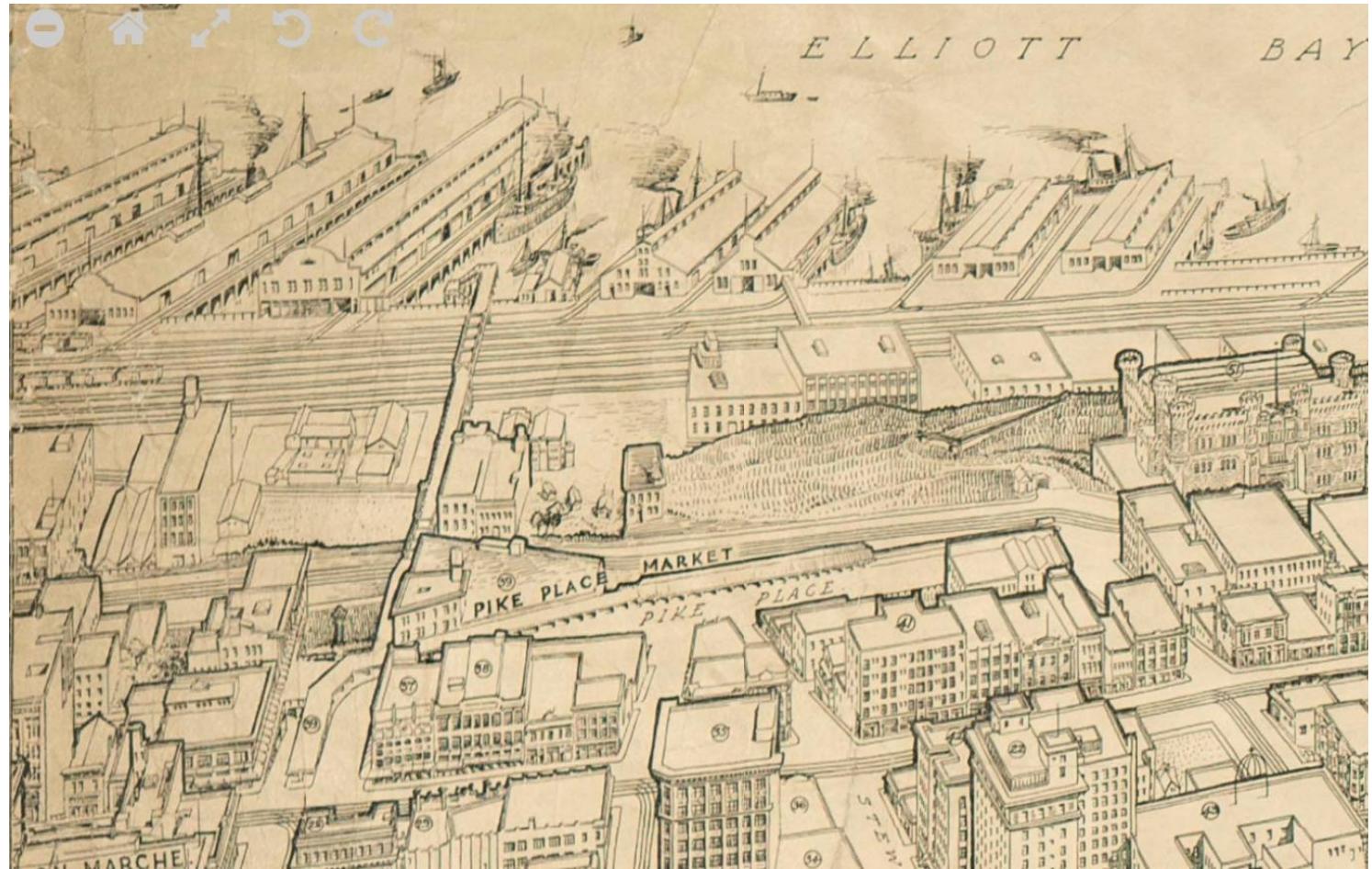
1910-15

Farmers Market is core of growing retail “public” market district



1916-18

Market as  
part of  
City Center



# 1920's era

Open Plaza above comfort station

Signs for multiple Public Markets

Canopies at sidewalk

(note-Economy Arcade not yet built)



1920's





Pike Place Market. Looking south on Pike Pl. towards Pike St.

Street and Sew. Dept. 7/21-196.WA

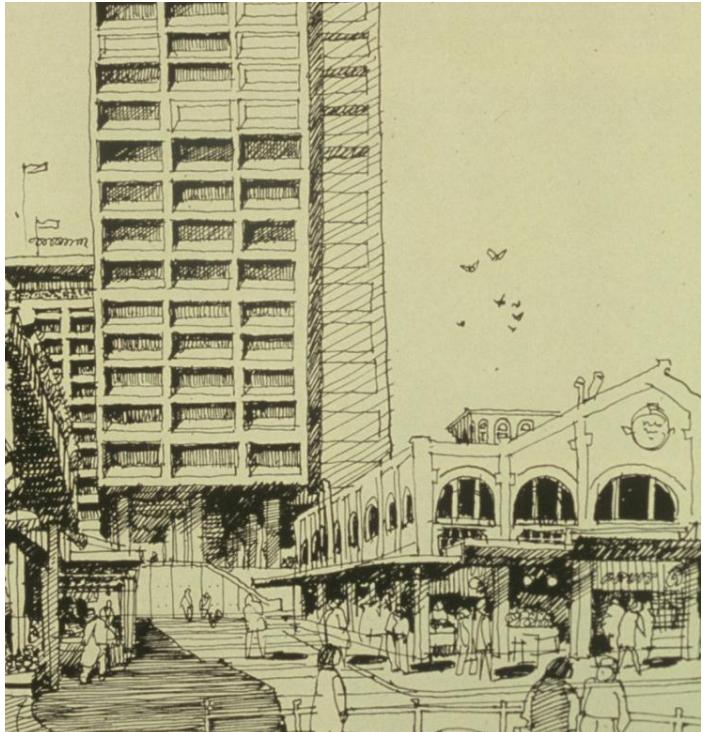
1930's

Replacing the  
wood shoring  
and future  
replacement of  
farmers arcade -  
2nd section



1940's-50's

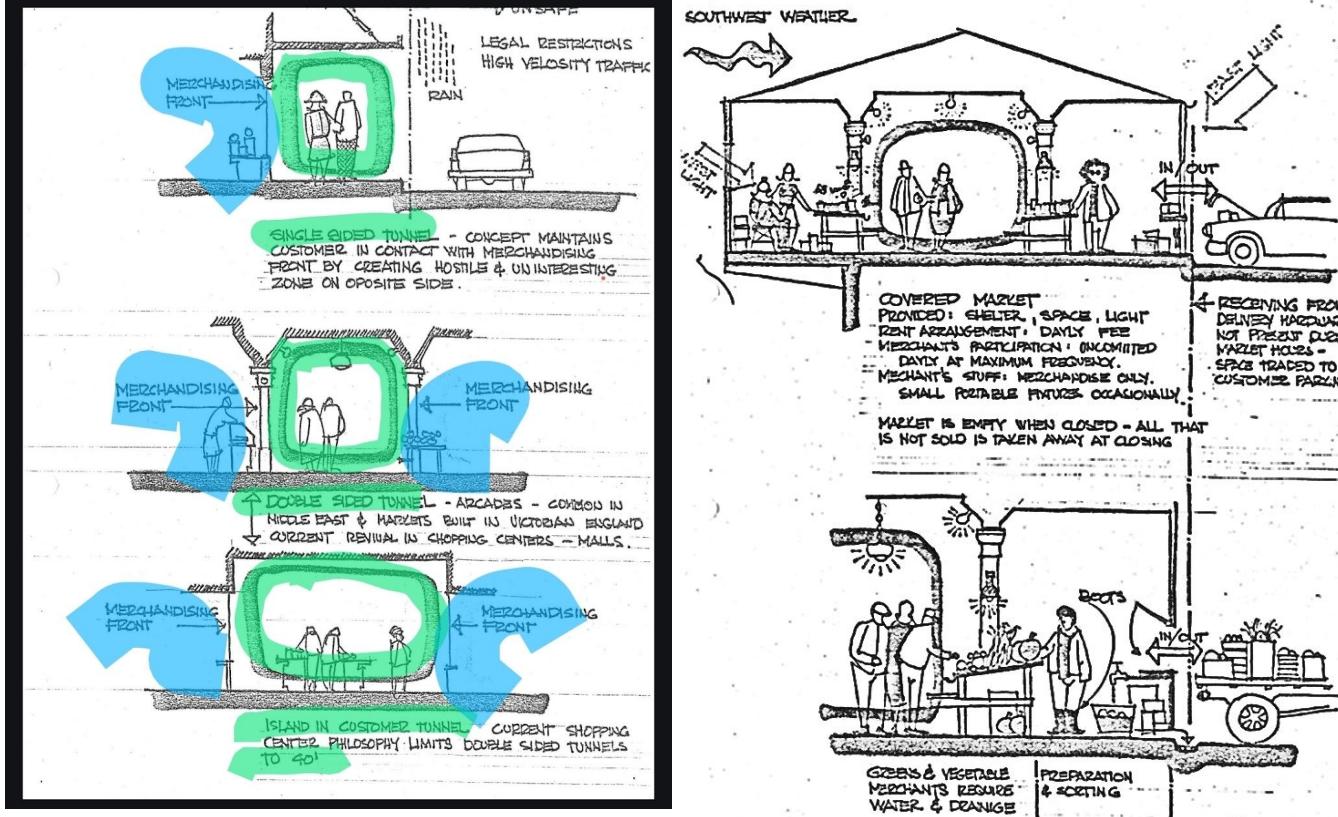




1960's Urban Renewal Proposals for Pedestrian Mall

1970's Historic  
District  
established

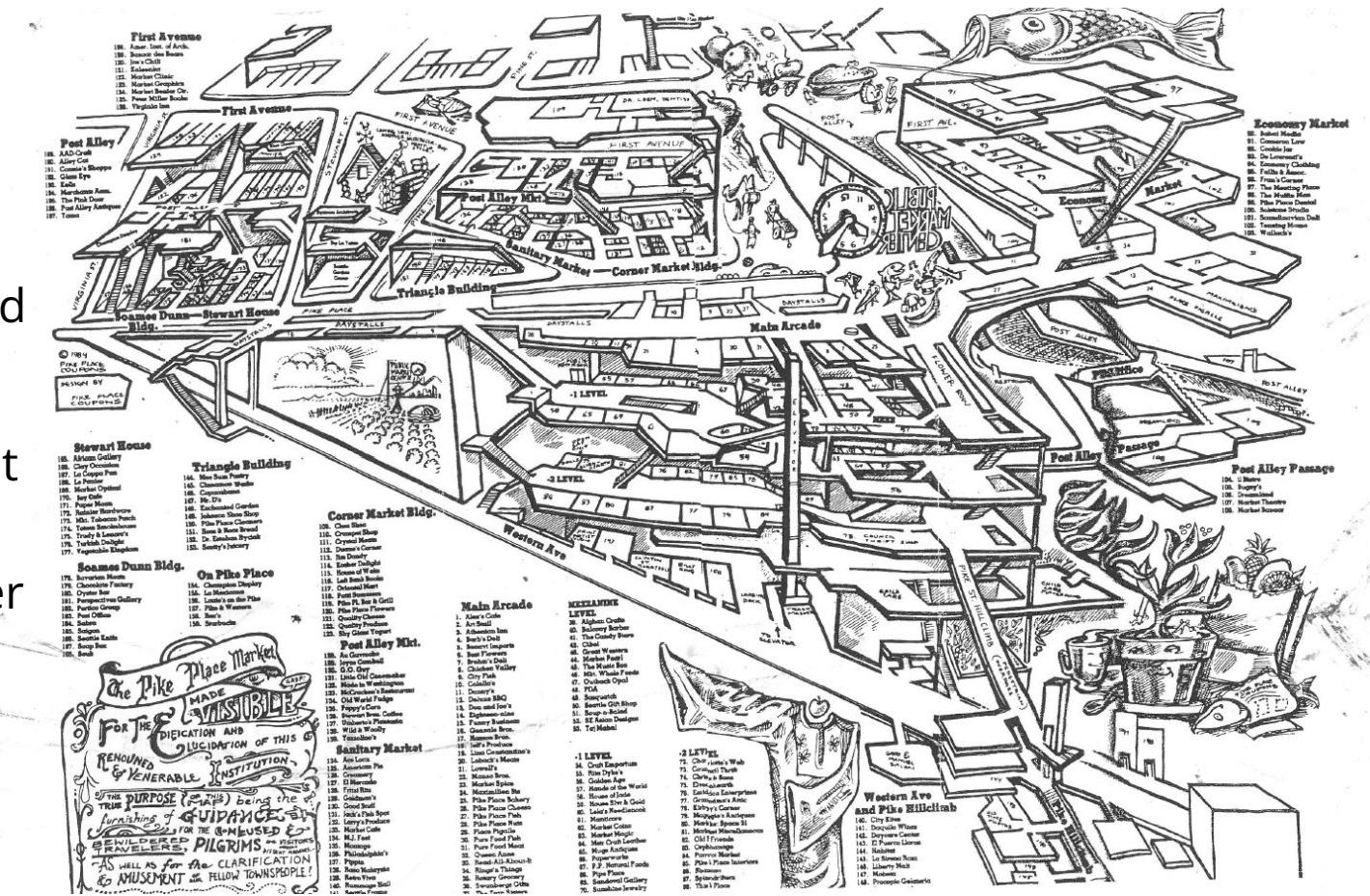
# Urban analysis of dynamic functions of the marketplace



1980's

Historic  
District  
renovated and  
reenergized

Public Market  
functions  
stretched over  
8 vertical  
levels



# Management today for an unique street

1. Public stewardship continues
2. District Guidelines and boundaries
3. Delegated authority / management agreements/ covenants
4. Pedestrian zones
5. Multi-functional right of way by





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END

## Resources:

### Initial ordinance establishing the Farmers Market on Pike Place

<https://www.seattle.gov/cityarchives/exhibits-and-education/online-exhibits/pike-place-market-centennial>

