



B. History

1. HISTORICAL CONTEXT

The “Alien Land Law,” passed in 1921 by the Washington State Legislature, prohibited people who were not eligible for citizenship from owning land. At that time, Japanese immigrants were not eligible to become citizens. Mr. Kubota worked around this discrimination by purchasing the property in the name of a friend. He purchased more property over time for a total of 20 acres.

Eventually, the property title for the first five acres was transferred to Fujitaro’s eldest son, Tak Kubota, who was over 21 years old, born in the U.S., and therefore a citizen. Fujitaro planted nursery stock and created demonstrations of his garden building skill. He was well known for successful transplant and transport of large planting material.

The land was chosen for many reasons, including the interesting topography and year-round natural running water. When purchased, the land was recently logged and swampy. There are less than a dozen trees in the garden that were here in 1927. The oldest is the Grand Fir which is over 200 years old and 139-feet tall.

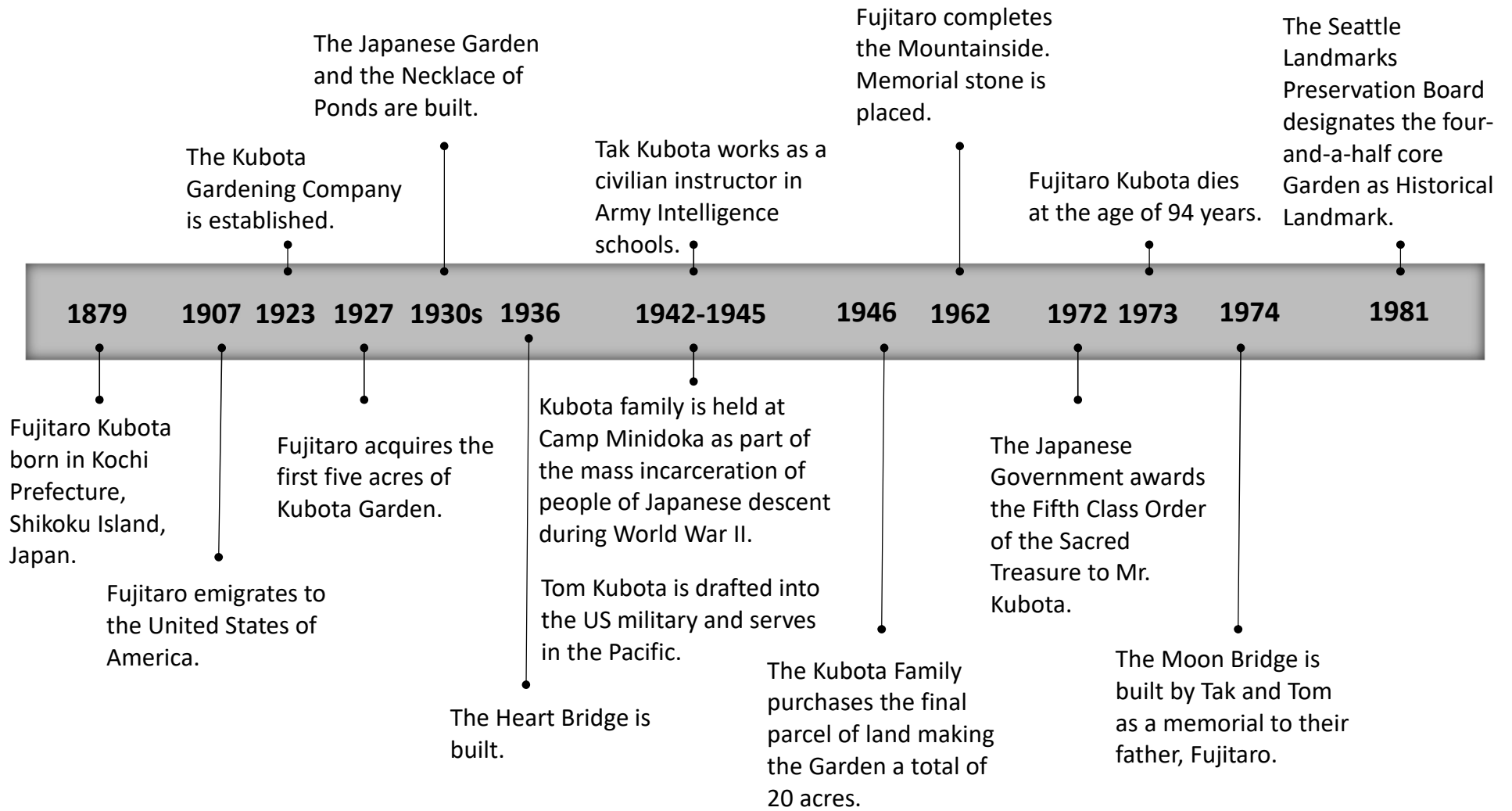
This is an American Japanese Garden; Japanese garden elements are blended with plants available in the Pacific Northwest. Traditional Japanese gardens have only shades of green in their plantings. Fujitaro Kubota included trees with more colors – blues and yellows. He helped to create this fusion gardening.

Notable Kubota Gardening Company installations include Seattle University, Bloedel Reserve and many private residences. The Kubotas used their aesthetic and artistic vision to build the gardens, painting with trees, stone and water.



2. KUBOTA FAMILY PROJECTS

The Kubota Family oversaw projects from 1927 to 1987 when the City of Seattle Purchased the Garden.





3. CITY AND KGF PROJECTS

The Seattle Parks and Recreation in conjunction with the Kubota Garden Foundation has managed Garden projects since 1987 to today. There was a period of overlap between family management and SPR in the collaboration of the Tom Kubota Stroll Garden that was finished in 2000.

