

Seattle School District Number 1 History, General Historical and Building Context

Appendix 3 to Landmark Nomination Report for
Loyal Heights Elementary School
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Prepared by:
The Johnson Partnership
1212 NE 65th Street
Seattle, WA 98115-6724
206-523-1618, www.tjp.us



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Early Development of Seattle Area Schools

The first school in Seattle was taught in 1854, by Catherine P. Blaine at Bachelor’s Hall, a boarding house for single men located near the present day First Avenue and Cherry Street. An initial three-person School Board was created around 1861, and in 1862, the first public funds were used to pay a teacher salary for the 23 children attending school then held in the new Territorial University Building on Denny’s Knoll, located at University Street and 4th Avenue. Until 1866, when tuition-free classes were established, public funds were exclusively for teacher salaries. In 1869, Seattle received a city charter from the Territorial Legislature, and residents approved a funding levy to build the city’s first free public school building, Central School, near 3rd Avenue and Marion Street. The school opened in 1870 with 120 students and the city’s first public school teacher, Lizzie Ordway. Other tax levies were later approved to construct a few smaller schoolhouses of one or two rooms scattered throughout the town.²

In 1877, the Legislature established the Territorial Board of Education, and by 1881, it had granted appointments of school superintendents in incorporated cities. Subsequently, Edward Ingraham was named the first superintendent of the Seattle School District in 1882.³

In 1883, a new twelve-room Central School (1883, Issac A. Palmer, a.k.a. the Sixth Street School, demolished) located at 6th Avenue and Marion Street opened, offering Seattle’s first high school classes. The following year, the twelve-room Denny School (1884, Stephen J. Meany, demolished) at 5th Avenue and Battery Street opened for elementary students. The District’s first high school commencement was held in 1886, for twelve graduates.⁴ **See Figures 1 & 2.**

Student enrollment in the District expanded more than four-fold from 1,500 students in 1885, to nearly 6,650 in 1893, with many students attending classes held in rented rooms. Acute overcrowding exacerbated by the loss of Central School to a fire in 1888, resulted in a major school construction program. Eight school buildings were constructed between 1889 and 1890. The city’s third Central School (1889, demolished 1953), replaced its destroyed predecessor, and the South School (1889, demolished 1909), located at 12th Avenue S and S Weller Street, were Seattle’s first brick masonry schools, both designed by the architectural firm of Boone & Meeker.⁵

The District’s third superintendent, Frank J. Barnard, was hired in 1890, replacing Julia Kennedy who replaced Ingraham in 1888. Barnard oversaw the construction of 15 schools the District completed between 1891 and 1900. Three were wood-frame school buildings with identical plans designed by the architectural firm of Saunders & Houghton, as well as four schools designed by John Parkinson based on programs developed by Barnard.⁶ **See Figure 3.**

District schools completed between 1890 and 1899 included:

School	Year	Address	Designer	Notes
Mercer School	1890	4 th Ave N. and Valley St.	Saunders & Houghton	demolished 1948
T.T. Minor School	1890	1700 E Union St.	Saunders &	demolished 1940

¹ Prepared by Larry E. Johnson, A.I.A., the Johnson Partnership, May 2013. Additional input was received from Susan Boyle, A.I.A., of BOLA Architecture + Planning. Note: This General historical survey does not provide a comprehensive list of every school built or operated by Seattle Public Schools from the District’s founding in 1882, to the present day.

² Paul Hoerlein, “Introduction,” in *Building for Learning, Seattle Public School Histories, 1862-2000*, Nile Thompson and Carolyn J. Marr ed. (Seattle, WA: Seattle Public Schools, 2002), p. x.

³ William Gregory Robinson, “A History of Public School Architecture in Seattle,” unpublished Masters thesis, (Seattle, WA: University of Washington, 1989) p. 33.

⁴ Patricia C. Erigero, Seattle Public Schools, *Historic Building Survey Summary Report*, (Seattle, WA: Historic Seattle Preservation and Development Authority, 1989), pp. 3-5. Hoerlein, p. x.

⁵ Hoerlein, p. x.

⁶ Erigero , p p. 3-5. Hoerlein, p. x.

			Houghton	
Queen Anne School	1890	W Galer and 5 th Ave W	Charles W. Saunders	demolished 1895
Randall School	1890	E Union and 33 rd Ave.	n.a.	sold and moved 1906
Rainier School	1890	23 rd Ave. S and King St.	Saunders & Houghton	demolished 1957
Olympic School	1891	Norman St. and 26 th Ave. S	Walter Smedley	demolished 1937
B.F. Day School	1892	3921 Linden Ave N	John Parkinson	altered, Seattle Landmark
Latona School	1892	5 th Ave. NE and N 42 nd St.	n.a.	demolished 1932
Green Lake School	1892	N 65 th and Sunnyside Ave.	John Parkinson	demolished 1928
Cascade School	1893	Pontius St. and E. Thomas St.	John Parkinson	demolished 1955
Pacific School	1893	1114 E. Jefferson St.	John Parkinson	demolished 1977
Seward School	1895	Franklin St. and Louisa St.	Chamberlin & Siebrand	a.k.a. Denny-Fuhrman, altered
West Queen Anne School	1895	515 W Galer St.	Skillings & Corner	Sold and redeveloped as condominiums in 1983
Beacon Hill School	1899	16 th St. S and S Lander St.	n.a.	destroyed by fire 1988
Lake School	1899	38 th Ave. E and E Garfield St.	W.E. Boone	demolished 1927

The financial panic of 1893 slowed the development of new schools, but Seattle prospered with the Klondike Gold Rush of 1897.⁷ In the aftermath of the Great Seattle Fire of 1889, local designers and builders focused on fireproof masonry as a primary building material, looking to post-fire Chicago and its brick masonry buildings for inspiration.⁸

Early 20th Century Seattle Schools and James Stephen

Frank B. Cooper was hired as superintendent in 1901. During his 21-year tenure, he led the Seattle School District's transformation into a major urban school system. Cooper encouraged the development of a major urban school system with many specialized programs, including kindergartens, parental schools, and classes for adults in evening schools, as well as ones for special-needs students. Cooper and the School Board planned for smaller neighborhood elementary schools and comprehensive high schools.⁹

James Stephen also became the school architect and director of construction in 1901, developing a "model school plan" for standard wood-frame elementary schools that was used as a basis for several elementary schools designed for the district, partially offsetting a short-term financial shortfall. These schools provided a flexible and economical approach to school construction. The standard floor plan both facilitated a phased construction process in which an eight, twelve, or twenty-room school could be constructed and later expanded. While standard floor plans and interior finish materials were used,

⁷ Erigero, p. 8.

⁸ Erigero, pp. 4, 96.

⁹ Hoerlein, p. xi.

the exterior elevations and details of these schools varied greatly.¹⁰ *See Figure 4.*

In 1902, the District constructed seven new large wood-frame schools, all based on Stephen's plan, as well as a new large brick masonry high school. They included:¹¹

School	Year	Address	Designer	Notes
Green Lake School	1902	6500 Sunnyside Ave.	James Stephen	demolished 1986
Brooklyn School	1902	5031 University Way NE	Bebb & Mendel	later University Heights, sold to University Heights Community Center Association, Seattle Landmark
Interbay School	1902	16 th Ave W & W Barrett St.	James Stephen	demolished 1948
Ross School	1902	3 rd Ave. NW between 43 rd St. & 44 th St.	Josenhans & Allen	demolished 1941
Walla Walla School	1902	2410 E Cherry St.	Saunders & Lawton	renamed Horace Mann School, Seattle Landmark
20 th Street School	1902	E. Thomas St. & 20 th Ave. E	W.E. Boone & J.M. Corner	renamed Longfellow, later Edmund S. Meany Middle School, demolished 1960
Warren Ave. School	1902	Warren Ave. N between N Harrison St. & Republican St.	Albert Wikersham	demolished 1959

Between 1904 and 1909, ten other Seattle schools were constructed based on Stephen's "model school plan" and designed by Stephen including:¹² *See Figure 5.*

School	Year	Address	Designer	Notes
Park School	1904	6532 Phinney Ave. N	James Stephen	renamed John B. Allen School, Seattle Landmark
Beacon Hill School	1904	16 th Ave. S & Lander	Saunders & Lawton	now El Centro de la Raza
Interlake School	1904	4416 Wallingford Ave. N	James Stephen	now Wallingford Center, Seattle Landmark
Madrona School	1904	33 rd Ave. & E Union St.	James Stephen	altered
John B. Hay School	1905	Bigelow St. & Boston St.	James Stephen	renamed Queen Anne Elementary, Seattle Landmark
Seward School	1905	2515 Boylston Ave. E	James Stephen	Seattle Landmark
Daniel Bagley School	1906	Stone Way & N 79 th St.	James Stephen	demolished 1940
Latona School	1906	401 NE 42 nd St.	James Stephen	now John Stanford International School, altered, Seattle Landmark
Issac I. Stevens School	1906	1242 18 th Ave. E	James Stephen	altered, Seattle Landmark

¹⁰ Katheryn Hills Krafft, "James Stephen," in *Shaping Seattle Architecture, A Historical Guide to Architects*, Jeffrey Karl Ochsner, ed., (Seattle, WA: University of Washington Press, 1994), p. 61.

¹¹ Erigero, p. 10. *Seattle Sunday Times*, August 31, 1902, p.18.

¹² Erigero, p. 10.

Frantz Coe School	1907	2433 6 th Ave. W	James Stephen	destroyed by fire 2000, Seattle Landmark
Van Asselt School	1909	Beacon Ave. & Othello St.	James Stephen w/ Edgar Blair	altered

Other District schools during this period that were not based on the “Model Plan” included: **See Figure 6.**

School	Year	Address	Designer	Notes
Central High School	1902	6525 E. Broadway Ave.	W.E. Boone & J.M. Corner	later renamed Broadway High School, demolished 1974
Parental School	1905	Mercer Island	James Stephen	a.k.a. Burbank school
Summit School	1905	1415 Summit Ave.	James Stephen	Now Northwest School, Seattle Landmark
Franklin School	1906	18 th Ave. S and Main St.	James Stephen	a.k.a. Washington School, demolished a. 1975
Whittier School	1908	7501 13 th Ave. NW	Newton Gauntt	demolished 1998
Webster School	1908	3014 NW 67 th St.	Frderick Sexton	Now leased to Nordic Heritage Museum, Seattle Landmark

Between 1907 and 1908, the District began reconsidering wood-framed school buildings, with the board authorizing the construction of three brick masonry “fireproof” buildings using the model plan developed for the wood-frame schools. They included:¹³

School	Year	Address	Designer	Notes
Lawton School	1908	25 th Ave W & Elmore	James Stephen	demolished 1913
Fairview School	1908	844 NE 78 th St.	James Stephen	now Fairview Church
Whitworth School	1908	5215 46 th Ave. S	James Stephen	demolished 1987

These James Stephen designed buildings were nearly identical incorporating Tudor style details executed in terra cotta, flat roofs, and projecting entries.

In 1908, school architect Stephen prepared a report on modern school design, construction, and equipment. This report directly led to the creation and adoption of the second “model school plan” that incorporated fireproof materials including concrete, masonry, and terra cotta. These “new” school plans also incorporated modern lavatory equipment. These later schools were often executed in late Gothic or Jacobean style, then popular, and were also designed to be expandable. Schools that followed the “new” model were:¹⁴ **See Figure 7.**

School	Year	Address	Designer	Notes
Emerson School	1909	9709 60 th Ave. S	James Stephen	Altered, Seattle Landmark
Adams School	1909	6129 26 th Ave. NW	James Stephen	demolished 1989
Colman School	1909	1515 24 th Ave. S	James Stephen	now African American Museum, Seattle Landmark

¹³ Erigero, p. 18.

¹⁴ Krafft, pp. 61-63.

Greenwood School | 1909 | 144 NW 80th St. | James Stephen | altered

Stephen also designed the original portions of two of Seattle’s oldest extant high schools:¹⁵

See Figure 8.

School	Year	Address	Designer	Notes
Lincoln High School	1907	4400 Interlake Ave. N	James Stephen	altered
Queen Anne High School	1909	215 Galer St.	James Stephen	now housing, Seattle Landmark

By 1910, enrollment was at 24,758 students and more elementary school buildings were needed. Annexations of suburban areas between 1905 and 1910, brought nearly two-dozen additional schools into the District service area, many of which needed replacement.¹⁶

Early 20th Century Seattle Schools and Edgar Blair

Edgar Blair, who had worked with Stephens since 1906, became the District’s architect in 1909, after Stephen resigned. Blair, a graduate of Columbia University who had previously work at the New York architectural firm of McKim, Mead & White, originally retained Stephen’s model plan, but shifted away from the Jacobean style preferred by Stephen, to more Classical and Renaissance based schemes.¹⁷

Between 1910 and 1913, eight nine-room reinforced concrete school buildings with brick veneers were constructed from Blair’s designs including:¹⁸ **See Figure 9.**

School	Year	Address	Designer	Notes
Gatewood School	1910	4320 SW Myrtle St.	Edgar Blair	altered, Seattle Landmark
Ravenna School	1911	6545 Ravenna Ave. NE	Edgar Blair	altered, now Ravenna Apartments Community Center
Jefferson School	1911	4720 42 nd Ave. SW	Edgar Blair	demolished 1985
Lawton School	1912	25 th Ave & Elmore	Edgar Blair	demolished 1987
Lake School	1912	1617 38 th Ave. E	Edgar Blair	now McGilvra, altered, Seattle Landmark
F.A. McDonald School	1912	144 N 54 th St.	Edgar Blair	altered
Concord School	1912	723 S Concord St.	Edgar Blair	altered, Seattle Landmark
Alki School	1913	Carroll St. & Chilberg Ave.	Edgar Blair	demolished 1965

These similar school buildings were all eclectically styled with wood-framed hip roofs. The later buildings incorporated terra cotta string-courses and more intricate detailing.¹⁹

Besides these larger nine-room school buildings, Blair was responsible for smaller, four to six

¹⁵ Krafft, pp. 61-63.

¹⁶ Erigero, p. 14.

¹⁷ Erigero, p. 20.

¹⁸ Erigero, pp. 22-23.

¹⁹ Erigero, pp. 22-23.

classroom “intermediate grade of school buildings” designed for less populated neighborhood locations. These included:²⁰ *See Figure 10.*

School	Year	Address	Designer	Notes
Harrison School	1913	3201 E Republican	Edgar Blair	altered, now Martin Luther King Elementary School
North Queen Anne School	1914	2919 1 st Ave. W	Edgar Blair	altered
Fauntleroy School	1917	9131 California Ave. SW	Edgar Blair	altered, now leased to Fauntleroy Day Care Center
Frank B. Cooper School	1917	4408 Delridge Way SW	Edgar Blair	altered, now Youngstown Cultural Arts Center, Seattle Landmark
Crown Hill School	1919	9250 14 th Ave. NW	Edgar Blair	altered, sold to Small Face Child Development Center

Blair also designed four school additions, so called “border” buildings, consisting of linear single-loaded brick masonry buildings intended to be built adjacent to the lot line of existing schools. These include additions to:²¹ *See Figure 11.*

School	Year	Address	Designer	Notes
Allen School	1917	6615 Dayton Ave. N	Edgar Blair	sold to Phinney Neighborhood Association, Seattle Landmark
Seward School	1917	2515 Boylston Ave. E.	Edgar Blair	altered, Seattle Landmark
Latona School	1917	401 NE 42 nd St.	Edgar Blair	demolished 1999
Lowell School	1919	1058 E Mercer St.	Edgar Blair	altered

Blair designed three high schools during his tenure. These included:²² *See Figure 12.*

School	Year	Address	Designer	Notes
Franklin High School	1912	3013 S Mt. Baker Blvd.	Edgar Blair	altered, Seattle Landmark
Ballard High School	1916	1418 NW 65 th St.	Edgar Blair	demolished 1997
West Seattle High School	1917	4075 SW Stevens St.	Edgar Blair	altered, City of Seattle Landmark

In 1919, four “Liberty Buildings,” actually wood-framed temporary annexes built cheaply to conserve materials during World War I, were built adjacent to Jefferson, Bagley, Bryant, and Fulton schools.²³

Blair resigned as school architect in March of 1918, due to differences with the fiscally conservative Nathan Eckstein, who was then serving as the chair of the District’s building committee.²⁴

²⁰ Erigero, pp. 22-23.

²¹ Erigero, pp. 22-23.

²² Erigero, p. 24.

²³ Erigero, p. 25.

²⁴ Erigero, p. 25.

1920s and 1930s Seattle Schools and Floyd A. Naramore

After World War I, and as Seattle entered the 1920s, the increased costs of providing educational programs to a growing population strained the School District. Public school enrollment grew from 51,381 in 1920, to slightly over 66,000 ten years later, requiring new construction in newly developed areas like Montlake and Laurelhurst, additions to older schools, and construction of intermediate schools and high schools. Despite a post-war recession in the early 1920s, the District entered into a phase of a well-funded building program due to school construction bond issues passed in 1919, 1923, 1925, and 1927.²⁵

Floyd A. Naramore replaced Blair as school architect in 1919, overseeing the completion of several projects already underway. An M.I.T. graduate who had already designed several schools in Portland, Naramore would significantly influence the District’s school design until his departure for private practice in 1932. Most of Naramore’s schools were designed with a twentieth century version of the Georgian style.²⁶

With Cooper still serving as superintendent, the District continued its vocational and technical programs, building a large reinforced concrete annex (1921, Floyd A. Naramore, altered, later Edison Technical School, now part of Seattle Community College’s Central Campus) across the street to the north from Broadway High School in 1921. The same year, the District also completed a new administration and facilities building (1921, Floyd A. Naramore, demolished).²⁷

Cooper left the District in 1922, replaced by Thomas Cole, a former principal of Broadway High School. Cole served until 1931, and was succeeded by Worth McClure.²⁸

The District completed 13 new elementary school buildings during this period, and altered several others with additions. By 1935, all elementary schools also included kindergarten, and lunchroom service was being added to all schools.²⁹

New elementary schools completed during this period included: *See Figure 13.*

School	Year	Address	Designer	Notes
Bailey Gatzert School	1921	615 12 th Ave. S	Floyd A. Naramore	demolished 1989
Highland Park School	1921	1012 SW Trenton St.	Floyd A. Naramore	demolished 1998
Martha Washington School	1921	6612 57 th Ave. S	Floyd A. Naramore	originally Girl’s Parental School, demolished 1989
Columbia School	1922	3528 S Ferdinand St.	Floyd A. Naramore	
John Hay School	1922	411 Boston St.	Floyd A. Naramore	Seattle Landmark
Dunlap School	1924	8621 46 th Avenue S	Floyd A. Naramore	Seattle Landmark
Montlake School	1924	2409 22 nd Ave. E	Floyd A. Naramore	Seattle Landmark
William Cullen Bryant School	1926	3311 NE 60 th St	Floyd A. Naramore	altered, Seattle Landmark
E.C. Hughes School	1926	7740 34 th Ave. SW	Floyd A. Naramore	altered

²⁵ Erigero, p. 26.

²⁶ Erigero, pp. 25-26. Hoerlein, p. xi.

²⁷ Nile Thompson and Carolyn Marr, *Building for Learning*, (Seattle, WA: Seattle Public Schools, 2001), pp. 86-87.

²⁸ Hoerlein, p. xi.

²⁹ Hoerlein, p. xii.

Magnolia School	1927	2418 28 th Ave. W	Floyd A. Naramore	closed
Laurelhurst School	1928	4530 46 th Ave. NE	Floyd A. Naramore	altered
Daniel Bagley School	1930	7821 Stone Ave. N	Floyd A. Naramore	
Loyal Heights	1932	2511 NW 80 th St.	Floyd A. Naramore	

In the early 1920s, the District considered building intermediate or “junior high school” buildings serving students in grades 7-9, to put itself in-line with national educational philosophy and relieve pressure on existing elementary and high schools. The school board officially adopted the term Junior High School in 1932. Naramore designed four intermediate or “junior high” schools for the District, including:³⁰ *See Figure 14.*

School	Year	Address	Designer	Notes
Alexander Hamilton Jr. High School	1925	1610 N 41 st St.	Floyd A. Naramore	altered, Seattle Landmark
John Marshall Jr. High School	1927	520 NE Ravenna Blvd.	Floyd A. Naramore	
Madison Jr. High School	1929	3429 45 th Ave. SW	Floyd A. Naramore	altered, Seattle Landmark
Monroe Jr. High School	1931	1810 NW 65 th St.	Floyd A. Naramore	

These school building were all built with a “hollow square” plan with a centrally located gymnasium and lunchroom. Each included specialized science, mechanical drawing, cooking, sewing, and art rooms.

Three new high schools were completed between 1923 and 1929, all built with a “hollow square” plan, with imposing primary façades.³¹

High schools designed by Floyd Naramore include: *See Figure 15.*

School	Year	Address	Designer	Notes
Roosevelt High School	1922	1410 NE 66 th St.	Floyd A. Naramore	altered, Seattle Landmark
James A. Garfield High School	1923	400 23 rd Ave.	Floyd A. Naramore	altered, Seattle Landmark
Cleveland High School	1927	5511 15 th Ave. S	Floyd A. Naramore	altered, Seattle Landmark

District high schools during this period adopted specialized programs for science, art, physical education, industrial arts, and home economics.³²

The Depression of the 1930s was a time of rising unemployment with general school enrollment declining to 57,551 in 1933. Enrollment in adult education classes dramatically increased, however.

³⁰ Erigero, pp. 26-27. Hoerlein, p. xii.

³¹ Erigero, p. 28.

³² Hoerlein, pp. xi-xii.

The Seattle Schools faced declining revenues, excess personnel and older urban facilities. Sixteen schools were closed, and their students consolidated into nearby buildings. By the end of the 1930s, there were concerns about the lack of maintenance and the conditions of older schools, prompting the District to request a tax levy for another new building program.³³

World War II Period

During World War II, Seattle became a center of aircraft and shipbuilding for the war effort and experienced a massive influx of defense workers and their families. School enrollment once again grew, especially in areas where there were no current school facilities. Existing school facilities were expanded for the children of these workers, especially in federally funded housing project areas.³⁴

At the same time, internment of 1,456 Japanese-American families impacted the school enrollment in several District schools.³⁵

The District also sought to increase efficiency at this time by changing its method for designing new buildings, choosing to hire private architectural firms rather than employing a School District architect for new building programs. Once again, all buildings constructed after 1941, were considered temporary structures to conserve building materials for the war effort.³⁶

New schools completed during World II included: *See Figure 16.*

School	Year	Address	Designer	Notes
T.T. Minor School	1941	17700 E Union St.	Naramore & Brady	leased to Hamlin Robinson School
Duwamish Bend School	1944	5925 3 rd Ave. S	n.a.	later Holgate School, demolished
High Point School	1944	6760 34 th Ave. SW	Stuart, Kirk, & Durham	demolished 1987
Rainier Vista School	1944	3100 Alaska St.	Holmes & Bain	originally Columbia Annex, altered and partially demolished

Additions and improvements to more than ten other schools were also undertaken as part of a program that demolished and replaced the city’s oldest wood-frame school buildings.

Post-World War II Seattle Schools, 1946 to 1965

After World War II, enrollment swelled by the early 1960s, to a peak of approximately 100,000 students. Between 1946 and 1958, six separate bond issues were approved for new school construction. Samuel Fleming, employed by the District since 1908, succeeded Worth McClure as superintendent in 1945. After Fleming retired in 1956, Ernest Campbell became superintendent.³⁷

In 1945, the Seattle School District Board commissioned a study of population trends and future building needs. One proposal called for the modernization of all existing schools and the addition of classrooms, along with multi-use rooms for lunch and assembly purposes, covered and hard-surfaced play areas and play-courts, and expanded gymnasiums. Improvements in lighting, heating, plumbing systems, and acoustical treatments were sought as well. This survey occurred at a time when student enrollment in Seattle was stable, at around 50,000. By this time the school district was overseen by a five-member Board of Directors, and employed approximately 2,500 certified teachers, with an

³³ Erigero, pp. 28-29. Hoerlein, p. xi.

³⁴ Hoerlein, pp. xi-xii.

³⁵ Hoerlein, p. xii.

³⁶ Erigero, p. 28. Hoerlein, p. xii.

³⁷ Hoerlein, p. xii.

average salary of about \$2,880.³⁸

The District completed a large stadium with reinforced concrete stands (1947, George W. Stoddard) in 1947, adjacent to the National Guard Armory at Harrison Street and 4th Avenue N., at the former Civic Field. A War Memorial Shrine bearing the names of 762 Seattle schools graduates killed in World War II is dedicated in 1951 at Memorial Stadium.

In 1949, a 6.8 Richter-scale earthquake damaged several elementary schools, resulting in their subsequent replacement by temporary portables. The 1950s brought the increased use of these structures as a way to address enrollment increases with quick, flexible responses to overcrowding. In 1958 an estimated 20% of the total Seattle student body was taught in portable classrooms. Despite their popularity, however, the occupants of the portables suffered from inadequate heating, lack of plumbing, and distance from other school facilities.³⁹

Elementary schools included separate gymnasiums and auditorium-lunchrooms. Older high schools gained additions of gymnasiums and specialized classroom space. Despite all of the construction, there were still extensive needs for portable classrooms for excess enrollment.⁴⁰

During this period the quality of construction gradually improved. The earliest school buildings, put up as rapidly as possible, included the three schools constructed in 1949. Designs prepared by George W. Stoddard for these schools were essentially linked portables with a fixed administrative wing. Each of the District's 35 new school buildings was individually designed in the Modern style, with nearly all of the elementary schools constructed as one-story, or on sloping sites, each classroom having direct access to grade, conforming to changes in building code.

The 22 new elementary schools built by the District between 1948 and 1965 included: *See Figures 17 & 18.*

School	Year	Address	Designer	Notes
View Ridge School	1948	7047 50 th Ave. NE	William Mallis	
Arbor Heights School	1949	3701 SW 104th St.	George W. Stoddard	demolished
Briarcliff School	1949	3901 W. Dravus St.	George W. Stoddard	demolished
Genesee Hill	1949	5012 SW Genesee St.	George W. Stoddard	demolished
Lafayette School	1950	2645 California Ave. SW	John Graham & Co.	
Van Asselt School	1950	7201 Beacon Ave. S	Jones & Biden	closed, vacant
Olympic Hills School	1954	13018 20 th Ave. NE	John Graham & Co.	
Viewlands School	1954	10523 3 rd Ave. NW	Malis & Dehart	
Wedgwood School	1955	2720 NE 85 th St.	John Graham & Co.	
Northgate School	1956	11725 1 st Ave. NE	Paul Thiry	
John Rogers School	1956	4030 NE109th St.	Theo Damm	
North Beach School	1958	9018 24 th Ave. NW	John Graham & Co.	
Roxhill School	1958	9430 30 th Ave. SW	John Graham	

³⁸ William Gregory Robinson, "A History of Public School Architecture in Seattle," unpublished Masters thesis. (Seattle, WA: University of Washington, 1989), p. 192-193. Aaron Purcell, School enrollment figures from Seattle Public Schools archives.

³⁹ Hoerlein, p. xiii.

⁴⁰ Hoerlein, pp. xii-xiii.

			& Co.	
Sand Point School	1958	6208 60 th Ave. NE	G.W. Stoddard w/ F. Huggard	
Cedar Park School	1959	13224 37 th Ave. NE	Paul Thiry	Seattle Landmark
Sacajawea School	1959	9501 20 th Ave. NE	Waldron & Dietz	
Decatur School	1961	7711 43 rd Ave. NE	Edward Malum	now Thornton Creek
Graham Hill School	1961	5149 S Graham St.	Theo Damm	
Rainier View School	1961	11650 Beacon Ave. S	Durham, Anderson & Freed	
Schmitz Park School	1962	5000 SW Spokane St.	Durham, Anderson & Freed	
Broadview-Thomson School	1963	13052 Greenwood Ave. N	Waldron & Dietz	
Fairmont Park School	1964	3800 SW Findlay St.	Carlson, Eley & Grevstad	

One of the first priorities during this period was the building of new junior high schools. Between 1950 and 1959, ten new junior high schools were completed: *See Figure 19.*

School	Year	Address	Designer	Notes
Eckstein Jr. High School	1950	3003 NE 75 th St.	William Mallis	Seattle Landmark
Blaine Jr. High School	1952	2550 34 th Ave. W	J. Lister Jones	
Sharples Jr. High School	1952	3928 S Graham St.	William Mallis	now Aki Kurose Middle School
David Denny Jr. High School	1952	8402 30 th Ave. SW	Mallis & Dehart	demolished
Asa Mercer Jr. High School	1957	1600 Columbian Way S	John W. Maloney	
Whitman Jr. High School	1959	9201 15 th Ave. NW	Mallis & Dehart	
Louisa Boren Jr. High School	1963	5950 Delridge Way SW	NBBJ	now K-5 STEM School at Boren
George Washington Jr. High School	1963	2101 S Jackson St.	John Graham & Co.	
Worth McClure Jr. High School	1964	1915 First Ave. W	Edward Malum	

During this period the District also constructed three new High Schools, including:

School	Year	Address	Designer	Notes
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Chief Sealth High School	1957	2600 SW Thistle	NBBJ	altered
Rainier Beach High School	1960	8815 Seward Park S	John W. Maloney	altered
Nathan Hale High School	1963	10750 30 th Ave. NE	Malis & Dehart	altered

Between 1943 and 1954, voters in the rapidly growing unincorporated areas north of Seattle, feeling the burden of new special school levies, and believing that there were advantages to Seattle transportation services and police and fire protection, approved at least 12 annexations to the City of Seattle. This pushed the city limits northward from a line near N 85th Street, to a uniform north border at N 145th Street. These annexations brought an additional ten schools into the District from the struggling Shoreline School District.⁴¹

Mid-1960s and 1970s Seattle Schools

After the mid-1960s, and throughout the 1970s, the District suffered from declining enrollment and revenue. Repeated leadership changes in the District resulted from the short tenures of three superintendents between 1965 and 1981. Forbes Bottomly was appointed District superintendent in 1965, after Frank Campbell retired. Bottomly resigned in 1973, and was replaced by J. Loren Troxel, who had previously served as assistant superintendent. He was replaced in 1976, by David Moberly, formerly a school superintendent from Evanston, Illinois. Donald Steel, who had previously served as superintendent in Toledo, Ohio, succeeded Moberly in 1981. During this period overall enrollment in the district also declined, from over 93,000 in 1965 to approximately 43,500 in 1984.⁴²

The District attempted to address racial desegregation in 1963 with a volunteer transfer program, and multi-racial readers that were tried on an experimental basis in 1965.⁴³

In 1966, a new type of school was designed based on pedagogical theories of team teaching, open space and synergy. Seven new elementary schools and one middle school were designed and built with an “open concept,” and other schools were remodeled with the removal of walls and the addition of learning resource centers. New programs for Head Start, Title 1 remedial, Special Education and Transitional Bilingual were added. Also during the 1960s, racial desegregation of schools was attempted.⁴⁴

“Open Concept” schools built by the District included: *See Figure 20.*

School	Year	Address	Designer	Notes
Green Lake School	1970	6415 1 st Ave. NE	Manson Bennett	
Capt. Steven E. Sanislo School	1970	812 SW Myrtle St.	Sullam, Smith & Associates	
Beacon Hill School	1971	2025 14 th Ave. S	Durham, Anderson & Freed	altered
Dearborn Park	1971	2820 S Orcas St.	Fred Bassetti & Company	altered

⁴¹ Roberta Hawkins, ed.; *Shore to Shore and Line to Line, A History of The Shoreline School district*; (Shoreline, WA: Shoreline Historical Museum, 2007), p. 26.

⁴² Hoerlein, xiii.

⁴³ Hoerlein, xiv.

⁴⁴ Hoerlein, xiv.

Kimball School	1971	3200 23 rd Ave. S	Durham, Anderson & Freed	altered
Wing Luke School	1971	3701 S Kenyon St.	Fred Bassetti & Company	
Maple School	1971	4925 Corson Ave. S	Durham, Anderson & Freed	altered
South Shore Middle School	1973	4800 S Henderson	NBBJ	demolished

By 1977, the Seattle School Board instigated a sweeping desegregation plan that included bussing approximately 12,000 students, with over half of Seattle's schools involved. As a result, public school enrollment dropped by half from the 1960s, and private school enrollment throughout the city grew. The School Board was forced to enact a school closure plan. Two high schools, seven junior high schools and twenty elementary schools were closed by 1984. Mandatory busing eased in the late 1980s, in response to litigation by community groups in north end neighborhoods and court rulings.⁴⁵

1980s to Present Day Seattle Schools

Deputy district superintendent Robert L. Nelson was appointed superintendent in 1984 to serve a two-year term after Steele resigned. William M. Kendrick was appointed superintendent in 1986, after a national search. Kendrick served nine years and was succeeded by retired army general John Stanford. Stanford proved to be a capable and dynamic leader, but a terminal illness led to his replacement by the District's chief operations manager, Joseph Olchefske, in 1998.⁴⁶

In 1984, many schools needed upgrading or replacement, and a bond issue passed for 13 new Elementary Schools, upgrading Ballard High and a new facility for Franklin High. Community debates about preservation followed this bond issue. The School Board also decided that excess properties were an asset to the Seattle School District and therefore should not be sold, but rather leased to community groups. Only three of the decommissioned schools were demolished so that the underlying property could be leased, and the rest of the buildings either sit empty or are being revamped for other purposes by long-term leaseholders.⁴⁷

In the 1990s, the School District's major capital construction program continued with passage of three Building Excellence Levies (BEX) approved by voters in 1995, 2004, and 2007, which called for new construction, renovations, additions, and infrastructure and technology improvements. Seattle Public Schools is currently initiating the BEX IV program, which is funded by the capital levy approved by voters in February 2013.

For the 2011-2012 school year, there were over 47,000 enrolled students. Although this is less than half the number of fifty years ago, the number of students is gradually increasing. The district presently operates 91 schools, of which 54 are elementary schools, 12 are high schools, 10 are K-8 schools, nine are middle schools, and six are alternative schools. The District has over 8,000 staff including 3,100 teachers, 835 paraprofessional, 660 certified instructional staff, and 150 principals. Seattle Public Schools had a general fund budget of 558.3 million dollars in the 2009-10 operational year.⁴⁸

⁴⁵ Hoerlein, pp. xiii-xiv. *The Seattle Times*, "Seattle schools and race: a history," June 1, 2008, n. p.

⁴⁶ Hoerlein, pp. xiv-xv.

⁴⁷ Hoerlein, pp. xiv-xvi.

⁴⁸ Seattle Public Schools, "About our District,"

<http://www.seattleschools.org/modules/cms/pages.phtml?pageid=192400&sessionid=b4971349d1af6502c8dd8f441e4ab25b&t, p.1>.

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Figure 11. Seward School (Edgar Blair 1917)

MOHAI 1983.10.9543

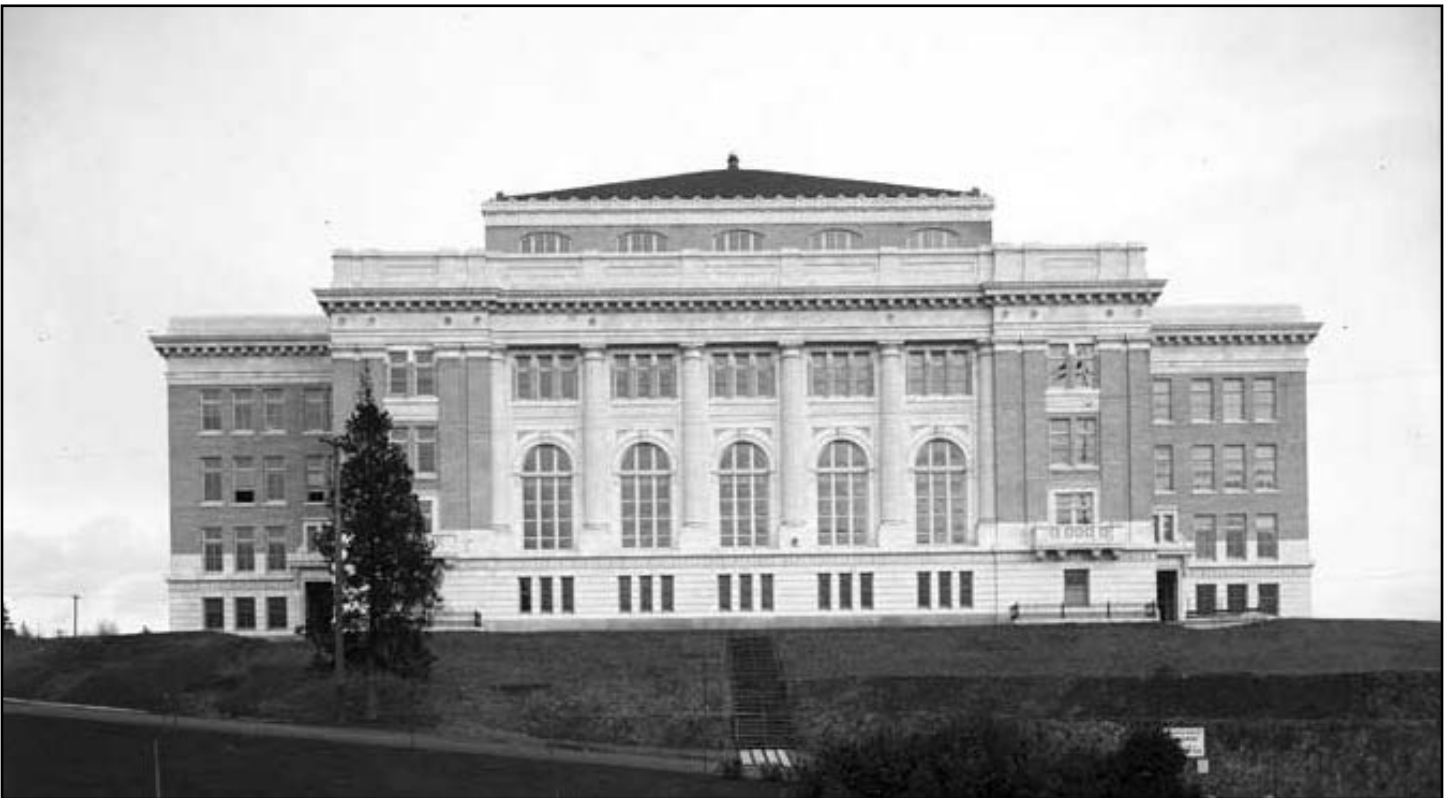


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