

# **Cedar Park Elementary Landmark Nomination Report Supplement**

## **Seattle Public Schools built between 1945 and 1965**

**(excluding schools gained through annexation)**

August 2012

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## **Cedar Park Elementary Landmark Nomination Supplement: Seattle School District Schools Built Between 1945 and 1965**

August 22, 2012

At the July 18, 2012, public hearing of the City of Seattle Landmarks and Preservation Board (Board), the Board requested additional information on other schools built by Seattle Public Schools between 1945 and 1965. This supplement provides additional information on these schools. Please note that schools built during this period but gained by annexation after construction have been excluded. (These schools include Pinehurst Elementary, Jane Addams Junior High, later Summit K-8, and Woodrow Wilson Junior High, later the American Heritage Middle College for grades 9-12.)

Larry E. Johnson, AIA, visited and photographed all schools identified below between August 14 and August 16, 2012. The supplement is organized with elementary schools by date of construction first, and then junior high and middle schools by date of construction, and high schools by date of construction at the end. For each school summary of pertinent information is provided, as well as photos and additional information on each school building. With permission from the authors and the publisher, Seattle School District No. 1, we have included corresponding school entries from *Building For Learning, Seattle Public School Histories, 1862-2000*, by Nile Thompson and Carolyn Marr for additional reference.



Figure 1 • Location Map

\*abbreviations: E=Elementary School, JH=Junior High School, H= High School

Supplement to Cedar Park Elementary Landmark Nomination Report

# Seattle Public Schools built between 1945 and 1965

August 2012

# View Ridge Elementary

48th Ave. NE.

1948, William Mallis



The Johnson Partnership , August 2012



Seattle Public Schools

## Notes:

- Roman brick masonry construction with original steel-sash windows.

William Mallis also designed Sharples/Kurose Junior High (1952) & Eckstien Junior High (1950).

Mallis' firm, Mallis & DeHart, designed Whitman Junior High (1959), D. Denny Junior High (1952, demolished), Nathan Hale High School (1963), and Viewlands Elementary (1954) for SPS.

Mallis & DeHart designed Wilson Junior High (1954) and Pinehurst Elementary (1953) for the Shoreline School District, and the schools were gained by annexation.

Mallis, DeHart & Hopkins also designed Addams Junior High (1954), which was gained by SPS through annexation.

# View Ridge

Name: **View Ridge Elementary School**  
 Address: 7047 50th Avenue NE  
 Configuration: K-5

Enrollment: 352  
 Nickname: Otters  
 Colors: none

Name: **View Ridge School**  
 Location: 7047 50th Avenue NE  
 Building: Portables  
 Site: 9.5 acres

1944: Opened on November 10 as  
 annex to Bryant  
 1948: Closed in June



View Ridge, 1963 SPSA 277-1

In 1910, the area that would become View Ridge was still old growth forest. In the early 1930s, only a few farms dotted the undeveloped land above the Sand Point Naval Air Station. In 1936, two former radio station workers bought the hill between Wedgwood to the west and Hawthorn Hills to the south and settled there. At first, growth was slow, but it began to accelerate after the area was annexed into the City of Seattle in the mid-1940s.



View Ridge, 1948: Permanent building under construction in foreground PI Coll. MOHAI 25742



View Ridge, ca. 1970 SPSA 277-5

Children from View Ridge were bused to Bryant School. However, when Bryant became overcrowded, the search was on for a school site in View Ridge. A plot of state-owned land, part of which was being used as a ballfield, was selected.

When View Ridge School opened, children were able to walk to school, rather than take the bus. The school began with four portable classrooms for grades K–3 during the 1944–45 school year. In February 1945, two more portables were added, along with the 4th grade. The following September two more portables and the 5th grade was added. By fall 1946, the site contained 12 portables for grades K–6.

A permanent school was constructed on the same site. The *Seattle Times* proclaimed it the “latest in design,” “completely modern” with “trim lines and rows of high windows.” The *Seattle P-I* called it “streamlined” because all the classes were on one floor, and window space was maximized. Each room was specially painted in colors selected for its exposure. South-facing rooms were blue-green and gray-green. Halls were painted chartreuse. Northern rooms painted dusty-rose for warmth. The kindergarten was painted apricot, mostly because the architect thought the children would like it.

The population of View Ridge increased so rapidly while the school was being built that by opening day, it could not accommodate all the children of the area. During fall 1948, when the school held only grades K–7, two portables were already required. The next year the school was expanded to K–8.

By 1950, enrollment reached 765 and six portables were in use. Six sessions of kindergarten were held and 6th grade classes were housed in classrooms at Eckstein.

A 1951 addition provided six more classrooms. Even that was not enough. In 1952–53, the 7th and 8th grades were shifted to Eckstein, but enrollment continued to grow until it peaked at 1,206 in 1957–58. In fall 1960, a new classroom wing opened. The 1,123 students filled not only the new total of 26 regular classrooms but nine portables as well. Decatur School opened in 1961–62 to help relieve this overcrowding, and View Ridge enrollment dropped to 822. By 1969–70, it was down to 660.

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Name: **View Ridge School**  
 Location: 7047 50th Avenue NE  
 Building: 12-room brick  
 Architect: William Mallis  
 Site: 9.5 acres

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1948: Opened on September 13  
 1951: Addition (Mallis & DeHart)  
 1960: Addition (Mallis & DeHart)

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View Ridge's 6th grade classes were transferred to Eckstein Middle School beginning with the 1971–72 school year. Moving into the vacated classrooms were 31 profoundly deaf children with six teachers and three assistants. This program used American Sign Language, which was new at the time. Two years later the program was expanded to serve 66 children, while the regular school enrolled 350 students. In 1976–77, a class of deaf-blind students was added. After Sand Point School closed in June 1988, its Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing program was moved to View Ridge.

Today View Ridge continues as a host school for hearing impaired students. The entire school has adopted the Comer School model in which the staff works to give students opportunities for leadership. The *Seattle P-I* reports that today “some of the neighborhood’s strongest ties are reserved for View Ridge Elementary School.”

# Arbor Heights Elementary

3701 SW 104 St.

1949, George W. Stoddard



The Johnson Partnership, August 2012

## Notes:

- Roman brick and stone masonry construction.
- Retains original steel sash windows.
- Stoddard designed three additions to the school (1950, 1953, 1957).

Stoddard also designed Briarcliff Elementary (1949, demolished), Genessee Hill Elementary (1949), and Sandpoint Elementary with F. Huggard (1958).



Seattle Public Schools 1949

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# Arbor Heights

Name:	<b>Arbor Heights Elementary School</b>	Enrollment:	429
Address:	3701 SW 104th Street	Nickname:	Junior Seahawks
Configuration:	K-5	Colors:	Royal blue and white



Arbor Heights, ca. 1949 SPSA 203-1

In the early 20th century, the area south of Fauntleroy in West Seattle was sparsely populated, at first it was called Green Acres but later the name was changed to Arbor Heights, perhaps in an effort to promote the sale of property. The one-mile square neighborhood is bounded by SW 98th Street on the north and 30th Avenue SW on the east. Early residents founded their own church (Arbor Heights Church) and community club (Arbor Heights Community Club).

In March 1938, the Arbor Heights Improvement Club announced that it was seeking a school for children in the first four grades because neighborhood youngsters were walking as far as a mile down a steep hill to Fauntleroy School. Several years passed before their dream became a reality. The club managed to buy some property in 1940 with the intention of using it for a playground. When a formal request for a school building was made in March 1947, the King County School Board replied that no suitable land was available. The community club responded by selling them the playground property.

Anticipating the annexation of this neighborhood into the City of Seattle, the Seattle School District began construction of a school on the county-owned property in 1948. The building would consist of four classrooms with a connecting hallway. Its design allowed for adding or detaching classrooms from the central corridor in response to fluctuations in enrollment. Two other schools of this expandable type, Genesee Hill and Briarcliff, opened the same year.

During the 1948-49 school year before the new building opened, four Arbor Heights classes with 126 children grades K-3 were located at Fauntleroy. In April, an earthquake caused the closure of Lafayette. In order to accommodate the Lafayette children at Fauntleroy, the Arbor Heights children were moved into their new building, which was not yet completed. The grounds had not been surfaced, and mud was inches deep. Blackboards did not arrive until June. The location of a

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Name:	<b>Arbor Heights School</b>
Location:	3701 SW 104th Street
Building:	4-room expandable, wood frame and reinforced cement
Architect:	George W. Stoddard
Site:	5.0 acres

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1948:	Named on December 17
1949:	Opened as annex to Fauntleroy on April 25
1950:	Addition (Stoddard)
1953:	Addition (Stoddard); became independent school
1954:	Site expanded to 5.65 acres
1958:	Addition (Stoddard)

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Arbor Heights, 1960 SPSA 203-3

city school within the county caused some jurisdictional confusion concerning transportation and other issues.

That fall an annex was needed to hold the overflow of younger children. From October 1949 to June 1950, a room was rented in the Arbor Heights Improvement Club (42nd Avenue SW and SW 100th Street) for a class of 23 children in the 1st and 2nd grades. The teacher at Arbor Heights Annex felt lost without a bell to call her students and requested help from her principal. He passed along the request to the district, which sent the 64-year-old bell from the old Denny School. The children decided it sounded like a church bell.

To resolve the overcrowding, four classrooms were added in 1950. A third phase in the construction in 1953 provided an auditorium-lunchroom, gymnasium, covered playcourt, administrative offices, and a teachers' room. When these new facilities opened that September, enrollment had reached nearly 500, and the school housed grades K–6.

By 1954, when the Arbor Heights community became part of Seattle, the school was again overcrowded, forcing the 5th and 6th grade classes to operate in double shifts. The city annexed nearby Roxbury Heights on January 1, 1956. As a result, between 225 and 250 elementary school pupils transferred to Arbor Heights and Roxhill from the Highline School District. Nine portables were installed at Arbor Heights to accommodate these children. In 1958, an addition of 12 classrooms completed the final phase of the school's expansion and allowed enrollment to top 800 in the early 1960s.

In 1978–79, Arbor Heights became a K, 4–6 building and was paired with Van Asselt (K–3). The following year Gatewood (K, 4–6) joined the pair to form a triad aimed at promoting desegregation. This arrangement lasted until 1985–86 when Arbor Heights and Van Asselt returned to their pairing, with all kindergarten classes housed at Arbor Heights.

The PTSA began an innovative program to raise funds for the school in 1992. Local businesses were asked to purchase “stock” in the school to support enrichment activities. Arbor Heights now has a “partnership” with the Bon Marché. Pen pal exchanges with Bon employees encourage writing skills and promote positive relationships with caring

adults. The Bon has also helped finance expansion of the school's computer network. The school currently features three multiage classrooms as well as traditional grade levels.

Arbor Heights is a close-knit community, and this is reflected in the school staff. Most of those working at the school were born and raised in the area. Of the 60 staff members, 80 percent live within a three-mile radius of the building. The school also shares a connection with the Fauntleroy community just to the north. The Fauntleroy YMCA operates a before-and-after school daycare at the school.

## Briarcliff Elementary (Demolished)

3701 SW 104 St.

1949, George W. Stoddard

Seattle Public Schools date unknown



The Johnson Partnership, August 2012

### Notes:

- Roman brick masonry and stone construction.
- Surplused and demolished recently. (2004)

Stoddard also designed Arbor Heights Elementary (1949), Genessee Hill Elementary (1949), and Sandpoint Elementary with F. Huggard (1958).



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## Briarcliff

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A portable annex for grades 1–2 opened in 1912 to relieve overcrowding at Lawton School. Its location between two north-south ridges atop Magnolia Hill suggested its name, Pleasant Valley Annex. One early Lawton principal hiked through the woods daily to visit this outpost.

Pleasant Valley closed in 1926 with the impending opening of Magnolia School. In 1929, the Seattle School District purchased a larger piece of property some 6–7 blocks to the west, which also bordered on Dravus Street, in anticipation of adding a high school there.

Two decades after Pleasant Valley closed, Magnolia School was overcrowded. In October 1947, citizens from the Magnolia neighborhood met with the school board to discuss the possibility of building a new elementary school in the area. Choosing a site was not a problem. Although the 33rd Avenue W site had been sold, the Dravus Street site was undeveloped.

Heralded as an “architectural innovation...the first of its kind in the country,” the newly planned school was a “transportable” building made up of rooms that could be attached or detached from a concrete central corridor. In response to fluctuating enrollment, the classrooms could be moved to another like school in the district. To this end, two other buildings of the same type, Genesee Hill and Arbor Heights, opened the same year.

The site sat upon the western Magnolia ridge, thus necessitating a different name. The change from Pleasant Valley to the less euphemistic name Briarcliff was accompanied by start-up problems. The district intended the original configuration of six classrooms and an office to be ready for the start of the school year in September 1948. Unfortunately, obstacles, including a shortage of workers and materials, forced Briarcliff’s K–3 classes to begin the year in half-day sessions at Magnolia School, while 4th graders had morning classes in the Magnolia auditorium and afternoon classes in a vacant room there. Even when it opened, the building was far from complete. During the first year, students were sent home twice, once because of a furnace failure and a second time for a sewer failure. In fact, it took workmen the remainder of the school year to finish the facility.

Briarcliff was built without a cafeteria and lunchroom because virtually all targeted pupils lived within a half-mile radius and therefore could be sent home for lunch.

The expanding student population on Magnolia forced the board to authorize two additional rooms for the school 25 days before Briarcliff even opened. These rooms were ready for the start of the 1949–50 school year. The addition of another two classrooms and connecting corridors set to open in September 1951, however, failed to meet the deadline. That fall Briarcliff became an independent school with the addition of a kindergarten and grades 5–6. The delay in finishing four more classrooms meant that grades 2–5 were double-shifted for the first six weeks of school. It wasn’t until early April 1952 that a brick building containing a cafeteria and gymnasium/auditorium was finished, allowing the principal and secretary to move out of the nurse’s room into their offices in the new wing.

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Name: **Pleasant Valley Annex**  
 Location: 3238 33rd Avenue W  
 Building: Portable

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1908: Property purchased  
 1912: Opened as annex to Lawton  
 1920–22: Second portable in use  
 1922: Became *Pleasant Valley School*  
 1926: Closed  
 1941: Property sold on May 9

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Name: **Briarcliff School**  
Location: 3901 W Dravus Street  
Building: 6-room expandable,  
wood frame and reinforced  
concrete  
Architect: George Wellington Stoddard  
Site: 4.58 acres

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1949: Opened on January 31 as  
annex to Magnolia; addition  
(Stoddard) opened in  
September  
1951: Became independent school;  
addition (Stoddard) opened  
in October  
1952: Addition (Stoddard) opened  
in April  
1978–84: Joined by Hawthorne  
students  
1984: Closed  
1987–89: Temporary site  
Present: Used for district storage

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While the transportable building looked glued together and left some parents with a “cold” feeling because of its many hallways, the design did have some benefits. Each of the classrooms had its own outside exit. Thus it was safer in an emergency and the hallways were quiet because they were rarely used by students.

Even with these expansions, the school could not keep up with increasing enrollment. In 1952–53, because of a shortage of space, the 4th and 5th grades were moved into classrooms at Blaine Junior High. The 5th grade classes were able to return to Briarcliff the following year with the addition of two portables, use of the auditorium as a classroom, and triple shifting of the kindergarten. The following year, 1954–55, another portable was added and the 4th grade was able to return. A new portable was added in each of the three subsequent years. The enrollment hit a high of about 645 in 1957–58.

The Briarcliff site is dominated by the blue water tower across W Dravus. Dogwood trees, planted earlier by the school district in the parking strip, died in the freeze of November 1956. In their place, three pink and three white flowering cherry trees were planted, each set in honor of Japanese pupils who attended Briarcliff while their fathers served as the Consul-General of Japan in Seattle.

The number of pupils at Briarcliff gradually decreased to about 500 in 1963–64 and leveled off at about 320 pupils in 1972–73. As part of the district’s desegregation plan, in September 1978 Briarcliff received students in grades 1–4 bused across town from the recently closed Hawthorne. Although only one staff member (Carol Postell, who taught 1st grade) made the move from Hawthorne to Briarcliff, the operation at Briarcliff School, including the PTA, was renamed Briarcliff-Hawthorne. Over the years, it emphasized the arts. The school



Briarcliff, 1960 SPSA 206-4



Briarcliff, 1960 SPSA 206-3

became K-6 in 1982-83 after the closure of Blaine. In 1983-84, the combined student population was steady at 310.

The school was finally closed in spring 1984 due to a district consolidation policy as district-wide enrollment declined. The Hawthorne students were sent to Blaine, while students from Briarcliff and Magnolia, which closed the same year, were transferred to Lawton and Blaine. During the construction of a new building for Lawton (1987-89), the students from that school relocated to Briarcliff.

Briarcliff is currently listed as a nonessential property by the district and will be used for furniture storage until a decision is made concerning the site.

# Genessee Hill Elementary

5012 SW Genessee St

1949, George Stoddard



## Notes:

- Roman brick masonry and concrete construction.
- Closed since 2009. Windows boarded over.
- Stoddard designed the northern addition in 1953.

Stoddard also designed Arbor Heights Elementary (1949), Briarcliff Elementary (1949, demolished), and Sandpoint Elementary with F. Huggard (1958).



The Johnson Partnership, August 2012



Seattle Public Schools



# Genesee Hill

Program:	<b>Pathfinder School @ Genesee Hill</b>	Enrollment:	325
Address:	5012 SW Genesee Street	Nickname:	none
Configuration:	K-5	Colors:	none

In 1928, the Seattle School District purchased a site for what is now the Genesee Hill building in the Dover Addition of West Seattle. When the construction of the planned Dover School did not take place over the next 15 years, the district considered selling the property. This decision may have been reversed thanks to the actions of area parents, who as early as January 1945, expressed the need for a new school because of overcrowding at Jefferson, Lafayette, and Alki. Their complaints led to a meeting in November 1947 where the board agreed to construct a semi-permanent, expandable, and transportable building based on a design used in two other district schools (see Arbor Heights and Briarcliff). The school was slated to open with four rooms because future needs were not certain.

Work began in early June 1948 and was delayed on a number of occasions by the scarcity of building materials. Each room was constructed separately and linked by walled concrete hallways. Two special features were the use of Roman bricks and large, corner windows.

Beginning in September 1948, the 165 students in grades K-3 assigned to Genesee Hill School, named after the street it fronted, attended half-day classes at Jefferson School. Genesee Hill was finally ready to open at the beginning of the second semester of the 1948-49 school year.

A survey taken in spring 1949 showed that at least two more classrooms would be needed the following year. The need for additional space became even more desperate when an earthquake damaged the Lafayette School in April 1949. A 10-room addition was completed at Genesee Hill just three days after opening day of the 1949-50 school year. Lafayette pupils in grades 1-4, along with their principal, came to Genesee Hill for one year. Property to the east along 50th Avenue SW was added for a playground area. In September 1950, Genesee Hill was expanded to grades K-6 and had an enrollment of 479.

A second addition in 1953-54 included administrative offices, a teachers room, a lunchroom-auditorium and kitchen, and gymnasium.



Genesee Hill, ca. 1949 SPSA 227-4

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Name: **Genesee Hill School**  
 Location: 5012 SW Genesee Street  
 Building: 4-room expandable wood frame and reinforced concrete  
 Architect: George W. Stoddard  
 Site: n.a.

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1949: Opened January 31 as annex to Jefferson School; addition (G.W. Stoddard & Associates); site expanded to 6.47 acres; annex to Lafayette from September to June 1950  
 1950: Became independent school on September 6  
 1953–54: Addition (G.W. Stoddard & Associates)  
 1989: Closed June 20  
 1989–90: Temporary relocation site  
 1994–: Alternative school site

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Peak enrollment came in 1958–59 with 726 students. In September 1964, enrollment fell below 500 for the first time since the inaugural year. In the early 1970s, several portables were used in addition to the main building, although a boundary revision had sent 150 children to the new Schmitz Park School. In 1971, a double portable was added for use as a learning resource center. Five more portables were added in 1973 to house 60 students taking part in the school’s new learning-language disability classes.

Some time before 1989, the students selected Dino as the nickname of the school mascot. A mural depicting different types of dinosaurs adorned the hallway wall.

In January 1988, the school board had to choose between Genesee Hill and Schmitz Park for closure. Genesee Hill was selected because of its small size, poor condition, and high cost of operation. That year enrollment stood at 223 students in grades K–3. The next year, with closure looming, enrollment dropped to just 131 students. After it closed, Genesee Hill’s boundaries were subsumed by Schmitz Park School. During the 1989–90 school year, Gatewood students were temporarily housed at Genesee Hill while their school was being renovated.

In September 1994, Alternative Elementary #4 moved to Genesee Hill from Boren as its enrollment was projected to increase from 70 to over 200. At that time, a new program called Huchoosedah was introduced within AE #4. Huchoosedah was said to be “the Salish word for ‘passing on cultural knowledge.’” Native-American students were recruited for this curriculum, and their numbers increased from 10 to 45. Subsequently Alternative Elementary #4 was renamed Pathfinder School.

Pathfinder School is an alternative school with a Native-American focus. Pathfinder practices an expeditionary learning approach in which classes embark on learning expeditions focused on an interdisciplinary theme or topic for six or more weeks. The 11 multigrade classes are organized into three halls: Earth, Wind, and Sky. Each class is a “clan” named for an animal. Thus a student will be in the Coyote Clan, rather than the 4th or 5th grade.



Genesee Hill, 1960 SPSA 227-36



Genesee Hill, 1960 SPSA 227-2

# LaFayette Elementary

2645 California Ave SW

1950 Addition, John Graham & Co.



The Johnson Partnership, August 2012

## Notes:

- Roman brick masonry construction.
- Windows sensitively replaced.
- John Graham & Co. also designed the 1953 addition.

John Graham & Co. also designed North Beach Elementary (1958), Olympic Hills Elementary (1954), Roxhill Elementary (1958), Wedgewood Elementary (1955), & Washington Junior High (1963).



Seattle Public Schools 1949

# Lafayette

Name:	<b>Lafayette Elementary School</b>	Enrollment:	435
Address:	2645 California Avenue SW	Nickname:	Leopards
Configuration:	K-5	Colors:	Yellow and black



Lafayette, 2000 ©Mary Randlett SPSA 239-19

The first school near the Admiral district in West Seattle was Freeport School, which operated in the early 1870s in the sawmill community of Freeport Duwamish Head. The next school in the area east of Alki was Haller School, which opened in 1892. The portable schoolhouse measured 26 feet by 40 feet and was built on 0.21 acres donated by G. Morris Haller at what is now 2123 47th Avenue SW.

In 1893, a new building was constructed by West Seattle School District No. 73 to replace Haller School and handle the growing West Seattle school population. West Seattle School resembled a castle, with a tall belltower and tiny spires at the corners of the roof. The school opened with just 20 students in a single classroom. It was also called the Brick School or West Seattle Central School because it served all of West Seattle. A high school was started there in 1902 under Principal W.T. Campbell, and so it was sometimes called West Seattle Grammar and High School.

Unaware that the area's population would grow, some West Seattle residents grumbled that the \$40,000 school was too large because only two of its eight rooms were in use. They reasoned that the building should be sold. According to Campbell, representatives of Whitworth College of Spokane desired to buy the building for \$20,000. After considerable debate, a proposition was placed on the ballot and residents

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Name: **West Seattle School**  
Location: California & [S]W South  
Street [Lander]  
Building: 8-room, 3-story brick  
Architect: n.a.  
Site: 2.3 acres

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1893: Opened in September by  
West Seattle District  
1908: Annexed into Seattle School  
District on July 1  
1909: Addition (James Stephen)  
1917: Renamed *West Seattle*  
*Elementary School*  
1918: Renamed *Lafayette School*  
on November 7  
1941: Addition (Naramore  
& Brady)  
1946: Site expanded to 4.6 acres  
1949: Closed by earthquake  
on April 13; 1893  
and 1909 portions  
demolished in August  
1950: 20-room brick addition (John  
Graham & Co.) opened in  
September  
1953: addition (Graham)

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West Seattle, 1916 SPSA 239-12

voted to keep the school. Even the school's belltower was left without a bell until some time after May 1903 when the West Seattle Improvement Club suggested using the bell from the Haller School.

Enrollment at West Seattle School did grow. The former Haller School building, used since 1893 as a church and community center, was moved to the West Seattle School site in 1907 and used as an annex. (In the late 1980s, the building survived as the east wing of the American Legion Hall at 3618 SW Alaska Street.) In 1909, an addition of eight classrooms was made to the north end of the building. By 1911, the school was so full that the Seattle School District built Jefferson School just east of the West Seattle Junction.

In 1917, the high school classes were moved to the new West Seattle High School. To distinguish the two schools, the grade school was now called West Seattle Elementary School. A year later the name was changed to Lafayette to honor the Frenchman who assisted the Americans during the Revolutionary War.

In the original construction of the school, there was an open well about 12 feet in diameter in the second floor hall. A railing encircled the hole, and children marched around it while passing to classes. A piano stood at one end, providing music in the hallway. At Christmas time, the children sang carols around the well.

In 1923, the top of the belltower was removed. The third floor, which had been the high school gym and auditorium, was condemned because of inadequate fire exits and never used again. At this time, eight portables were in use. In 1925, a portable gym was brought in from West Seattle High School. The upper grades were organized in the platoon system and attended physical education classes in the new structure instead of their usual recess. In fall 1929, the 7th and 8th grades were moved to Madison Intermediate School, and kindergarten was added at Lafayette. Enrollment dropped from 1,008 the previous year to 895.

Around 1935, the open stairwell was closed to make better use of the space and prevent noise from rising to the second-floor classrooms. In 1935, the PTA launched a campaign for a new school, citing the condemned area, ventilation and heating problems, and an unsatisfactory lunchroom. The condemned floor fascinated the school's younger children, one of whom recalled, "The big kids told us all sorts of stories



Lafayette, 1960 SPSA 239-17

about why you couldn't go up to the third floor—like about all the evil things that would happen to you.”

The PTA didn't get a new school but, in 1941, an addition was made by bricking the sides of the gym portable and adding a music room. During World War II, the Home Guard drilled on the Lafayette grounds. William A. Blair retired in 1945 after serving as Lafayette's principal since 1923.

On April 13, 1949 an earthquake struck Seattle. Lafayette was damaged beyond repair, with the exception of the gym addition. The three gables of the building crumbled, piling bricks on the sidewalk. Sections of walls fell out, leaving gaping holes. Fortunately, the earthquake took place during spring vacation. For the balance of the school year and the following year, the 850 Lafayette students were sent to various sites in West Seattle.

A new building was built on the same site, but it wasn't ready for another year, so students continued to attend other schools for the 1949–50 school year. The kindergarten classes were housed in two houses on property purchased for enlarging the Lafayette site.

The new building was single story of Roman brick facing. Two portables were needed immediately and another was added in December. Three additional portables were added later. A new six-classroom wing replaced these portables in 1953.

In September 1955, six sets of twins (three fraternal and three identical) registered for kindergarten at Lafayette. At the time, it was believed to be the largest number of twins ever to register for the same grade in a Seattle public school. The pairs were separated and taught in different classrooms.

In 1957, Morel Foundry presented the school with a handsome bronze plaque of Marquis de Lafayette, designed by sculptor James Wehn and cast by Morel. It was affixed to the wall in the front hall so it was visible from California Street.

In 1958–59 Lafayette had 1,240 students, requiring the use of seven portables. For many years, Lafayette was one of the largest elementary schools in the Seattle School District. The 1975–76 school year was the first since 1950 that portable classrooms were not in use.

The school was paired with Dunlap during the desegregation era, beginning in 1981. Grades 1–3 went to Lafayette while grades 4–5 went to Dunlap.

Today Lafayette has a diverse student body with bilingual, special education, accelerated, and regular academic programs. A fine arts program provides daily sessions in vocal music, visual arts, and drama. A 90-member student choir performs year round, and the award-winning jump rope team performs locally. Students from West Seattle High School assist as tutors at the school and citizens in the Admiral business district have formed a strong association with the school.

# Van Asselt Elementary

8311 Beacon Ave. S.

1950, Jones & Binden



## Notes:

- Brick masonry with steel construction.
- Windows replaced sensitively.
- Original 1910 building is also located on the site.

This is the only school designed by Jones & Binden during this period.



The Johnson Partnership, August 2012



# Van Asselt

Name:	<b>Van Asselt Elementary School</b>	Enrollment:	384
Address:	7201 Beacon Avenue S	Nickname:	Bobcats
Configuration:	K-5	Colors:	Blue and gold



Van Asselt, 1965 SPSA 275-2

Henry Van Asselt settled in the Duwamish River valley in 1851 near the Maple family farm (see Maple and Holgate). The town of Duwamish was established in early 1852. During a brief war that followed the signing of several treaties, Indians burned Van Asselt’s buildings to the ground.

Children in the Duwamish community first attended the Duwamish School, which was housed in the old blockhouse that had been Fort Duwamish (see Georgetown).

In the early 1860s, Van Asselt donated a piece of land for a new school. Because of that gift, the Duwamish School was also called the Van Asselt School. Constructed by Van Asselt, Luther Collins, and Jacob Mapel, the building was the first structure in King County to be erected for use as a school. Outhouses were located to the rear of the building.

In 1865, children from the Duwamish School transferred to the new Maple School on the Maple land claim. In April 1907, just after Maple School was annexed into the Seattle School District, representatives of the Oregon and Washington Railway approached the school board about acquiring the Maple property as part of a proposed right of way. The school was torn down in 1907–08.

As a replacement site, the district in September purchased part of the former 320-acre Van Asselt land claim on south Beacon Hill. The Van Asselt property comprised land on Beacon Hill east of what is Airport Way today and part of what is now Boeing Field.

The Van Asselt School opened in 1907 in a portable on 2.48 acres at Beacon Avenue and Myrtle Street. In July 1908, the board decided to add two portables that had been at Hillman. The following September, another portable was added, and Van Asselt became an annex to Columbia City School. Because of overcrowding in September 1909, Van Asselt 8th graders were given “schoolcar” tickets to attend other schools. This practice continued for several years.

A new Van Asselt School was constructed and opened during the

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Name:	<b>Duwamish School a.k.a. Van Asselt School</b>
Location:	Van Asselt
Building:	Wood

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1862:	Opened
1865:	Closed
1944:	Torn down to make way for buildings needed in the war effort

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Name: **Van Asselt School**  
Location: Beacon Avenue  
& Othello Street  
Building: 4-room wood  
Architect: Edgar Blair  
Site: 2.55 acres

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1909–10: Opened  
1910–19: Operated as annex  
to Emerson  
1919: Became independent school  
in March  
1940: Addition (A.M. Allen)  
1944: Addition (Naramore  
& Brady)  
1950: Closed

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Van Asselt, ca. 1965 SPSA 275-6

1909–10 school year. The new building, similar to the four-room school at Brighton, had capacity for 192 students and served only grades 1–6.

A 1940 addition added two classrooms and an office. It also eliminated outdoor plumbing and the use of two portables. In 1942, Holly Park Housing Project was established nearby on the southern end of Beacon Hill to accommodate 900 families coming in to Seattle for war-related work. Enrollment was expected to increase as a result.

In September 1942, Van Asselt parents were up in arms when a popular teacher, Etta Minnig, was unexpectedly transferred to another school. Minnig had been head teacher since 1923 during a period when enrollment exceeded 200 only once, in the 1925–26 school year. “Mrs. Minnig was described as an inspiration to the community whose gentle discipline and human understanding had transformed wayward boys to shining examples of decorum.” The board responded that the expansion of the school “warrants the employment of a man as principal. . . . We sent to the Van Asselt School one of the best-qualified men in our employ. When you consider that the attendance will increase from 120 to more than 600, you must agree that the situation called for something more than sentiment.” As late as 1950, Etta Minnig was still considered to be “the most beloved name in the history of Van Asselt School.”

Between April 1942 and April 1943, when all the units at Holly Park were filled, enrollment shot up from 212 to 606. The district then filed for federal aid to add three rooms at Van Asselt. As a result, a three-room frame addition was completed in March 1944.

By October 1944, there were “675 children crowd[ed] into six portables, a three-room annex, and the main building, which originally was designed to accommodate 140 pupils....Probably one of the busiest men in the city is Glenn Poirier, the attendant at the school. It’s his daily job to split kindling and start coal fires in 16 coal heaters and one furnace and light two oil burners in two auxiliary washroom buildings.” That November, in an attempt to urge voters to the polls for a school levy, the *Seattle Times* decried: “Typical of shocking and deplorably obsolete facilities of Seattle public schools is th[e] Van Asselt School lunchroom where luncheon shifts squeeze into one of the ‘temporary’ portables cluttering the grounds of the ancient structure which is vainly trying to house six times as many pupils as it was built for . . . teachers are asking parents to have their children come home for noon meals.” The levy passed in November 1944 but construction was delayed.

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Name: **Van Asselt School**  
Location: 7201 Beacon Avenue S  
Building: 20-room, 1-story concrete  
and brick  
Architect: Jones & Bindon  
Site: 9.5 acres

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1950: Opened

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Van Asselt, 1960 SPSA 275-3

A new Van Asselt School did not open until 1950 when the old building was replaced by a concrete and brick building on the expanded site. By spring 1945, enrollment exceeded 750 and 19 portables were in use. Attendance peaked at 1,271 students in October 1957, and, for several months, Van Asselt was the largest elementary school in Western Washington. In September 1962, the Van Asselt Annex opened 1.5 miles south of the school for grades K–3. It developed into the Wing Luke School. In spring 1964, Mabel Haugen retired after 50 years of teaching, the last 37 at Van Asselt.

In 1974, while part of the Van Asselt neighborhood consisted of private homes, “the bulk of the students lived in the Holly Park Housing Project, the Greenwood Apartments or Martha Major Apartments.” At that time, 53 percent of those enrolled were African American. As a magnet school for the Humanities Through Technology program, Van Asselt acquired computers, music keyboards, and teaching staff to help students explore world music and language.

Today Holly Park continues to be the home of many Van Asselt students. The composition of the student body has shifted to 55 percent Asian American and 58 percent bilingual. Half of Van Asselt’s classrooms mix students of different ages, giving students two years with the same teacher. Since 1996–97, students have worn navy blue and white uniforms. Monday morning all-school assemblies honor achievements and focus on a positive start to the week.

# Olympic Hills Elementary

13018 20th Ave. NE

1953, John Graham & Co.



The Johnson Partnership, August 2012

## Notes:

- Roman brick masonry and concrete construction.
- Replacement windows.

John Graham & Co. also designed LaFayette Elementary (1961), North Beach Elementary (1958), Roxhill Elementary (1958), Wedgewood Elementary (1955), & Washington Jr High (1963).



Seattle Public Schools

Supplement to Cedar Park Elementary Landmark Nomination Report

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## Olympic Hills

Name:	<b>Olympic Hills Elementary School</b>	Enrollment:	272
Address:	13018 20th Avenue NE	Nickname:	none
Configuration:	K-5	Colors:	none



Olympic Hills, 1960 SPSA 261-3

Olympic Hills School is the third Seattle Public School with “Olympic” in its name (see Olympic and Olympic View). It was planned, named, and its construction started by the Shoreline School District, but before it opened in 1954, the area was annexed into the City of Seattle. The school opened in the Seattle School District with 585 pupils.

In 1955, the school grounds were landscaped and two outdoor basketball courts were added. Grass was planted on part of the playfield and the play area next to the school was blacktopped. Two additional lavatories were constructed on the north side of the building in 1957.

From 1954–1958, the school carnival embraced a western theme and was called the Olympic Hills Roundup. In 1958–59, it was modernized to a space-age theme and renamed the Olympic Hills Rocket Roundup.

Enrollment grew steadily and, in 1962–63, nine portables were needed to help house the 800 pupils. After that peak, enrollment declined to about 360 in 1976. By then, the last of the portables had been removed from the grounds.

A highly successful Career Education Program began in 1971 involving a variety of community members who visited classrooms to talk about their jobs. Field trips also provided students with a first-hand view of different occupations. A Career Education Achievement Fair held in 1974 displayed products designed and produced by each class.

The Outdoor-Education Program was introduced in 1972–73 and culminated each spring with a three-day campout for 6th graders at Cornet Bay Youth Camp at Deception Pass State Park. The destination

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Name: **Olympic Hills School**  
 Location: 13018 20th Avenue NE  
 Building: 17-room brick  
 Architect: John Graham & Co.  
 Site: 6.48 acres

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1954: Opened in September

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changed around 1980, but the program continues to enhance student awareness of the natural environment.

From a modest beginning of just a few books, the school's library took shape and, by 1957, had its own room and 4,000 volumes. In 1970, an expanded learning resource center opened and became the hub of the school, used not only for reading activities but also several other programs. It was named for librarian Lorena Slover who was largely responsible for its creation. Outside of the door to the LRC is a painting of "Oly" the Otter, the student-selected mascot for their newspaper, *Little Oly*.

Under the district's 1978 desegregation plan, Olympic Hills (K, 1-3) formed a triad with Rogers (K, 1-3) and Madrona (K, 4-6) during the 1979-81 school years. Olympic Hills returned to a K-6 configuration in September 1981 and K-5 in 1988.

The current project-based curriculum at Olympic Hills allows for choice between single grade level classes or a mix of grade levels. The school has continued its emphasis on experiential learning and students take frequent fieldtrips, sharing what they learn at weekly celebration assemblies. An all-school trip to Camp Long in West Seattle is a highlight of the school year. Students help create a school song book and campfire skits for this end-of-the-year experience.



Olympic Hills, 1955 SPSA 261-1

# Viewlands Elementary

10523 3rd Ave. NW

1954, Mallis & DeHart



The Johnson Partnership, August 2012



Seattle Public Schools

## Notes:

- Concrete block and brick masonry construction.
- Frame roof.
- Replacement windows and other recent upgrades.

Mallis & DeHart, designed Whitman Junior High (1959), D. Denny Junior High (1952, demolished), & Nathan Hale High School (1963) for SPS.

Mallis & DeHart designed Wilson Junior High (1954) & Pinehurst Elementary (1953) for other clients, but these schools were gained by annexation.

William Mallis designed Sharples/Kurose Junior High (1952), Eckstien Junior High (1950) & View Ridge Elementary (1948).

Mallis, DeHart & Hopkins designed Addams Junior High (1954), which was gained by SPS through annexation.

# Viewlands

Name:	<b>Viewlands Elementary School</b>	Enrollment:	330
Address:	10523 3rd Avenue NW	Mascot:	Bear
Configuration:	K-5	Colors:	Red and white



Viewlands, 2000 ©Mary Randlett SPSA 276-6

By 1911, Children in the western part of the Oak Lake School District No. 51 had to cross a highway and interurban tracks to get to Oak Lake School. For the safety of younger children, a one-room schoolhouse was built at 105th and Greenwood for grades 1-2. This "Little Green School" remained open after World War I. The Bethel Presbyterian Church held services there in 1919.

In the early 1950s, Shoreline School District No. 412 planned a school in the same area to relieve overcrowding at Broadview School. The school, named Viewlands for its site overlooking Puget Sound and the Olympic Mountains, was under construction when it was annexed to the City of Seattle on July 1, 1954. It opened as a Seattle Public School with an enrollment of 584 pupils, mainly from Broadview, Oak Lake, Greenwood, and Crown Hill. Because enrollment was larger than expected, the room originally planned for use as a library was converted into a classroom.

An expanded learning resource center opened in September 1972, along with a portable that housed an activity center and a double portable used for PE classes. At the same time, two special education classes started at Viewlands. In 1974-75, three classes of neurologically impaired children were moved there and enrolled in regular classrooms.

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Name: **Viewlands Elementary School**  
 Location: 10523 3rd Avenue NW  
 Building: 1-story concrete block  
 Architect: Mallis & DeHart  
 Site: 7.5 acres

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1954: Opened on September 8

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Viewlands, 2000 ©Mary Randlett SPSA 276-7



Viewlands, 1960 SPSA 276-2

A pilot program started in a resource room with three teachers and an aide to provide help and enrichment for all handicapped children at the school. In 1982, Viewlands received about 100 students from the closing of Oak Lake School, and enrollment grew to 397. The school remained K–6 through 1988.

In the early 1990s, parents, teachers and staff worked together to create a strategic plan for the school. This plan set goals for reform and, over a period of several years, many innovative programs have been initiated at Viewlands. Results are seen in rising test scores and increased reading among all students. Parent participation remains an important ingredient in the success of these programs.

Situated above Carkeek Park, the school is perfectly situated to use the park's nature trail, installed behind the school in 1983. Community volunteers maintain the trail and actively work to improve the quality of Piper's Creek and preserve its salmon runs. Viewlands pupils participate in the planting of native trees and shrubs.

Viewlands is also one of the schools participating in the Salmon in the Classroom program. Students raise chum salmon in the classroom and release them into Piper's Creek. Each November students walk over to view the returning salmon swim up the creek.

New after school activities include French, Spanish, and dance classes. An annual talent show in which all children are invited to participate takes place every spring.

# Wedgwood Elementary

2720 NE 85th St.

1955, John Graham & Co.



The Johnson Partnership, August 2012

## Notes:

- Pre-cast and cast-in-place concrete.
- Replacement windows.

John Graham & Co. also designed LaFayette Elementary (1961), North Beach Elementary (1958), Olympic Hills Elementary (1954), Roxhill Elementary (1958), & Washington Junior High (1963).



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# Wedgwood

Name:	<b>Wedgwood Elementary School</b>	Enrollment:	371
Address:	2720 NE 85th Street	Nickname:	Dolphins
Configuration:	K-5	Color:	Wedgwood blue



Wedgwood, 2000 ©Mary Randlett SPSA 279-5

The neighborhood now called Wedgwood was first settled around 1900 by Charles Thorpe, who raised ginseng there after learning of its medicinal properties while in China. In the 1920s, Seattle University purchased the area, which it was considering as a campus location. The university sold the land in the 1940s to developer Albert Balch who built a number of homes in the area. Because his wife was dissatisfied with his earlier naming of View Ridge, he suggested that she pick a name for the new development. She chose the name because of her fondness for Wedgwood china.

The post-World War II movement to the suburbs, spurred by economic prosperity and population growth, meant that neighborhoods like Wedgwood were increasingly popular. The new houses boasted wide lots and all the modern conveniences. Large trees and lack of city noise and traffic gave the area a country atmosphere.

In 1952, Wedgwood clearly needed a school, considering the overcrowded conditions at Ravenna, View Ridge, and Bryant. The school district selected a former cherry and apple orchard as the site for the school. As a short-term solution to the crowded conditions at nearby schools, a 16-portable school was opened there in 1953 (now NE 85th and 27th Avenue NE). Twelve classrooms housing 400 children grades K-5 opened three weeks into the fall semester. The 6th grade was added the following year. In 1954-55, 14 classes were housed in 12 portables by double-shifting four classes.

Because of construction delays, the new building was not ready in April 1955 as expected. It opened dramatically in early June with only a half month remaining in the school year. Many of the pupils brought wagons from home to transport their possessions and books as they moved from the portables to the permanent building. The students especially appreciated the auditorium-lunchroom and gymnasium.

The next fall about 140 pupils were added from Maple Leaf and a

few from Ravenna. Enrollment peaked in 1957–58 with 897 students. After graduation, students went to Eckstein or Addams for junior high. (Addams closed in 1984.)

As part of the district’s desegregation program, Wedgwood formed a triad with Leschi and Decatur. Wedgwood and Decatur became K–3, and Leschi housed K, 4–5 from 1978 to 1988.

For many years, the Wedgwood Community Club has sponsored a Halloween painting contest for children in the neighborhood, most of them students at Wedgwood. The youngsters paint the windows of businesses for which the community club awards prizes.

Wedgwood houses special education programs for preschool through grade 5 and a Spectrum program for highly capable students. It has been recognized for high academic achievement and its active parent program. The Student Council works closely with staff to implement “School Spirit Days,” an art show and other activities.

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Name: **Wedgwood Elementary School**  
Location: 2720 NE 85th Street  
Building: 22-room reinforced concrete  
Architect: John Graham & Co.  
Site: 4.48 acres

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1954: Named on April 16  
1955: Opened on June 1

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Wedgwood, 1960 SPSA 279-1

# Northgate Elementary

11725 1st Ave. NE

1956, Paul Thiry



## Notes:

- Precast concrete construction.
- Some replacement windows of same similar configuration to original.

Thiry also designed Cedar Park Elementary (1959) for SPS, as well as Our Lady of the Lake and St. Pius X for the Archdiocese of Seattle.



The Johnson Partnership, August 2012



Seattle Public Schools



Mary Randlett, 2000, Seattle Public Schools

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# Northgate

Name:	<b>Northgate Elementary School</b>	Enrollment:	308
Address:	11725 1st Avenue NE	Nickname:	Eagles
Configuration:	K-6	Colors:	Blue and white



Northgate, 2000 ©Mary Randlett SPSA 257-6

After World War II, as the economy boomed and growth in suburban areas around Seattle accelerated, a new concept emerged to change the face of North America: the suburban shopping mall. America's first shopping mall, Northgate Shopping Center opened in 1950 on the suburban fringes of north Seattle. Northgate, a cluster of stores surrounded by ample parking with nearby highway access, became the model for regional shopping centers across the country. Northgate was an immediate success and led directly to growth in the surrounding area, both in terms of other businesses and new homes.

The rapid population growth led to overcrowding at Haller Lake, Pinehurst, and Oak Lake and forced the Shoreline School District to acquire a new elementary site in the Northgate area. The area was annexed into the City of Seattle in 1952. During summer 1953, the Seattle School District set up an all-portable school known as South Haller Lake School on the Shoreline District's site, known as Orr Park, at (N)E 120th and 1st Avenue NE. When the school opened in September 1953, it consisted of 14 portables and served 388 students.

The permanent name of Northgate School was chosen by the vast majority of the school's families, because of the school's proximity to the shopping center. It was officially named by the Seattle School Board on April 19, 1954. By September 1954, the school had grown to 465 students and three more portables were added.

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Name: **Northgate Elementary School**

Location: 11725 1st Avenue NE

Building: 18-room concrete

Architect: Paul Thiry

Site: 5.8 acres

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1956: Opened in June

1957–58: Site increased to 5.77 acres

1976: Closed on June 9; reopened in September

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During construction of a permanent building, a playground area stood between the portable school and the new building, which was located on the south half of the site. The new building had many modern architectural features. The kindergartners enjoyed their own private patio or schoolyard that was out of bounds to older children.

In January 1958, Northgate became part of a pilot program that provided a reading-improvement librarian with time to work with superior students. Thus the library “became the heart of the school.”

During a March 25, 1966 ceremony, 25 Norway maples were planted around the upper playfield. With construction of the I-5 freeway to the east and increasing commercial development around the shopping center, enrollment at Northgate had declined. In September 1966, Northgate received 25 pupils from the Central Area as part of the Voluntary Transfer Program. That number doubled by 1968. An accelerated program for high-achieving students also began in the mid-1960s. Children from surrounding schools entered at the beginning of the 2nd grade and took 2nd and 3rd grade in one year. In 1972–73, the enrollment totaled 335, including two special education classes. Classes for the learning impaired were integrated into the student body for certain activities.

Faced with budget restrictions and declining attendance district-wide, in 1973 the school board labeled Northgate for “possible closure” should the upcoming levy fail. The levy passed but, by spring 1973, the school again faced closure, and discussions continued on through the next summer. After a subsequent double levy failure, in February 1976, the school board voted to close Northgate for one year and disperse its students to Haller Lake and Pinehurst. Northgate closed in June 1976 but reopened the following September after a court ruling.

In accordance with the district’s desegregation plan, from 1978–1988, Northgate was paired with Graham Hill and became K, 4–6 with the south end school, which housed grades K–3.

Today Northgate has a diverse, multiethnic student population. Its state-of-the-art computer lab provides one computer per student. In a year-long Young Authors project, each child produces a book, story, and a set of poems that are typed, illustrated, bound, and presented to an audience.



Northgate, 1960 SPSA 257-3

**Rogers Elementary**  
4030 NE 109 St.  
1956, Theo Damm



The Johnson Partnership, August 2012

Notes:

- Brick masonry construction with some steel.
- Retains original steel-sash windows.

Theo Damm also designed Graham Hill Elementary (1961).



Seattle Public Schools



# Rogers

Name:	<b>John Rogers Elementary School</b>	Enrollment:	337
Address:	4030 NE 109th Street	Nickname:	Otters
Configuration:	K-5	Colors:	n.a.



Rogers, 1958 SPSA 266-4

The La Villa Station on the Seattle, Lake Shore & Eastern Railway stood near (N)E 98th Street and 49th Avenue NE. It served as a rail connection for the La Villa Dairy. The first Maple Leaf School operated nearby from 1896 until just before 1910.

In 1938, the Boeing Airplane Company developed the Clipper Ship, otherwise known as the “flying boat.” Two years later, Pan Am World Airways built a dock on Lake Washington at 90th and 51st NE from which it launched the first over-the-ocean service between Seattle, Juneau, and Fairbanks. After World War II, the area north of Sand Point became one of the city’s newly developing suburbs.

Around 1950, residents of the area were eager for a public bathing beach on Lake Washington. The Seattle Parks Department selected property owned by an early resident, John G. Matthews, just north of the old Pan Am dock and, in 1951, condemned his horse pasture. The resulting Matthews Beach Park bears his name.

Matthews had opposed having his land taken for a park. For three years following condemnation, he was able to lease the pasture back for his horses because there were no funds for park development.

Matthews School opened in 1953 at (N)E 105th & 40th Avenue

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Name: **John Rogers  
Elementary School**  
Location: 4030 NE 109th Street  
Building: 16-room brick  
Architect: Theo Damm  
Site: 9.2 acres

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1956: Opened in September

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Rogers, 1960 SPSA 266-2

NE, the former site of the La Villa Dairy, which had later been a hog farm and a cornfield. Matthews was just five blocks from Jane Addams Junior High School. It was the second all-portable school installed by the Seattle School District in the newly annexed northeast Seattle area. The cluster of 10 portables, with eight used as classrooms for 260 students, was needed to relieve overcrowding at Maple Leaf School.

During its second year of operation, and after some local controversy, Matthews School was renamed the John Rogers School on June 1, 1954. John Rankin Rogers was an early governor of Washington (1895–1901) and authored legislation providing financial aid to schools, which in turn served as a foundation for the present public school system. In September 1954, Rogers became an independent school.

It soon became obvious that a larger, permanent building was needed for the area. On a site four blocks away, the district built a facility “designed for future expansion.”

Enrollment continued to climb and, in 1960–61, reached 689, requiring the addition of five portable classrooms. In 1963–64 enrollment peaked at 779. From then, enrollment began to decline, hitting 425 in 1973–74.

During 1974–76, Janet Steputis designed and taught a program for 26 children in grades K–3 that focused on individualized learning and development. In a resource center at Rogers, she saw each student each day for 30 minutes to two hours to address their problems and to “keep kids from getting locked into a negative pattern in school.” Her goal was to identify effective means and help children reach objectives defined for them by their classroom teachers.

Under the district’s desegregation plan, Rogers (K–3) was paired with Madrona (K, 4–6) in 1979–80.

Recently Rogers has had Portuguese-language instruction for grades 2–5 that was also integrated with the music program. After a National Science Foundation (NSF) grant which trained teachers in inquiry-based science, a math grant from Social Venture Partners was used to train teachers in inquiry-based math. The school enjoys strong support for tutoring and reading programs from two local sources, the Lake City Presbyterian Church and St. Johns Masonic Temple.

# North Beach Elementary

9012 24th Ave. NW

1958, John Graham & Co.



### Notes:

- Brick masonry and concrete.
- Retains original aluminum sash windows.

John Graham & Co. also designed LaFayette Elementary (1961), Olympic Hills Elementary (1954), Roxhill Elementary (1958), Wedgewood Elementary (1955), & Washington Junior High (1963).



The Johnson Partnership , August 2012



Seattle Public Schools



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## North Beach

Name:	<b>North Beach Elementary School</b>	Enrollment:	282
Address:	9018 24th Avenue NW	Nickname:	Seals
Configuration:	K-5	Colors:	Purple and gold



North Beach, 1960 SPSA 259-1

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Name:	<b>North Beach Elementary School</b>
Location:	9018 24th Avenue NW
Building:	15-room, 1-story wood frame with brick veneer
Architect:	John Graham & Co.
Site:	6.89 acres

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1958: Named on July 30; opened in September

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Before 1950, the Olympic Golf Course was located on a large tract of land north of NW 85th Street and west of 15th Avenue NW in the Crown Hill neighborhood. As Seattle's population spread rapidly to outlying areas, pressure built to turn the golf course into a housing development.

In May 1950, newspapers carried a story about the U.S. Army's interest in taking over the golf course for gun emplacements. The following day the Seattle School Board announced they too were interested in land there. The Army eventually condemned part of the golf course and placed an anti-aircraft facility on the tract. Later, the Army sold land to the district with the agreement that 3.34 acres be leased back to them. The majority of the remaining golf course was sold to a real estate firm that developed it into Olympic Manor.

The district's purchase comprised two pieces: an eastern parcel next to the park and a western parcel. In 1953, Northwest Elementary School was opened as an annex on the eastern parcel to handle the overflow of students at Crown Hill School (see Whitman). The portable annex closed in spring 1955.

A few years later, the site for the permanent elementary school was shifted to the western parcel. The eastern parcel was later used for a junior high school (see Whitman). North Beach Elementary opened in



North Beach, 1960 SPSA 259-2

1958 to 446 pupils, many of whom had previously been at overcrowded Crown Hill and Loyal Heights.

In 1971, the library was enlarged by removing a wall between two classrooms. The “Peoples Portable” was inaugurated in October 1973. It housed a Human Relations Resource Center with materials and information on various ethnic groups. In fall 1974, North Beach adopted the Primer-Divided Day program to strengthen the reading program. Half of each class arrived an hour early each day and left an hour early. The teacher’s first and last hours were devoted to working with these smaller groups on reading.

Reading has continued to be a focus at North Beach, with many innovative programs developed during the 1990s. Classes often pair with other grade levels for reading, writing, and other activities, giving students the opportunity for peer tutoring and partnership. There is also a Young Authors program and a classics reading and discussion series.

Recently an exchange teacher from Japan helped to establish a Japanese language and culture program. This program is taught in all classrooms by native speakers of Japanese with additional optional participation in an after-school club. North Beach students converse in Japanese with students at their sister school in Kagoshima, Japan, via a video conferencing system and the Japanese students respond in English.

**Roxhill Elementary**  
9034 30th Ave. SW  
1958, John Graham & Co.



Notes:

- Masonry and concrete construction.
- Some windows replaced.

John Graham & Co. also designed LaFayette Elementary (1961), North Beach Elementary (1958), Olympic Hills Elementary (1954), Wedgewood Elementary (1955), & Washington Junior High (1963).

The Johnson Partnership , August 2012



Seattle Public Schools

# Roxhill

Name:	<b>Roxhill Elementary School</b>	Enrollment:	273
Address:	9430 30th Avenue SW	Nickname:	Stars
Configuration:	K-5	Colors:	Royal blue and gold



Roxhill, 1960 SPSA 267-4

In the early 1950s, residents of Roger's First Addition in West Seattle decided they needed a community club to improve and protect the neighborhood. They chose the name "Roxhill" to define their location on the hill north of Roxbury Street. After organizing their club, the members focused on two priorities: acquiring a neighborhood playground and a school for the 140 children in their four-square-block area.

While investigating a possible site, the community group stumbled upon a vacant block of city-owned land that had been deeded over by King County in 1937 for a small airport that never materialized. In August 1954, the Seattle City Council granted the community a ten-year lease on the property for a playground. At an October 2, 1954 meeting of the Seattle School Board and parks department, a proposal for a school and a five-acre playfield on the site was announced. The community relinquished its lease so this proposal could move forward.

A number of portable classrooms were moved onto the newly cleared 3.1-acre site at (S)W Roxbury and 28th Avenue SW in summer 1955. The school opened on September 7 with 237 pupils as an annex to Gatewood. The next autumn two more portables were added, along with an office portable, to accommodate an additional 100 students, some from newly annexed Roxbury Heights. Still another portable was needed in fall 1957 as enrollment climbed to 437.



Roxhill, 1960 SPSA 267-1

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Name: **Roxhill Elementary School**  
 Location: 9430 30th Avenue SW  
 Building: 18-room brick  
 Architect: John Graham & Co.  
 Site: 3.01 acres

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1958: Opened on September 3

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After serving as vice-principal at Roxhill during the school's first year, Harrison Caldwell advanced to principal in 1956 and became the Seattle School District's first African-American principal. The school was officially named Roxhill Elementary on February 7, 1957.

The pattern of adding portables to handle increased enrollment was broken in 1958 when a permanent building opened for approximately 500 students. The sprawling single-story structure is wood frame with brick veneer. In 1971, two classrooms were combined to provide room for a learning resource center.

Roxhill became a K-3 school in 1979 and formed a triad with Dunlap (K, 4-6) and Fauntleroy (K-3) in accordance with the district's desegregation plan. Alternative Education #4 began in portables at Roxhill in September 1992 with 77 students in grades K-3. Parents actively worked to establish this first alternative school in West Seattle as a child-centered place. In September 1993, AE #4 moved to Boren and the following year it went to Genesee Hill.

Roxhill boasts an award-winning handbell choir, which has been directed by the same teacher for 25 years. About 75 students are involved in a year-long study of Native American cultures of the Northwest and the salmon industry. Roxhill also maintains business partnerships with the Museum of Flight, Washington Mutual (with a weekly student banking program), and Saturn.



**Sandpoint Elementary**  
6208 60th Ave. NE  
1958, G. Stoddard and F. Huggard



The Johnson Partnership , August 2012

Notes:

- Brick masonry and concrete construction.
- Insensitive addition of roof insulation.

This is the only school for SPS that Stoddard and Huggard share credit for.

Stoddard also designed Arbor Heights Elementary (1949), Briarcliff Elementary (1949, demolished), & Genessee Hill Elementary (1949).



Seattle Public Schools

Supplement to Cedar Park Elementary Landmark Nomination Report

**Seattle Public Schools built between 1945 and 1965**

August 2012

## Sand Point

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Name: **Pontiac School**  
 Location: 60th Avenue NE &  
 Sand Point Way  
 Building: 1-room wood  
 Architect: n.a.  
 Site: 1.003 acres

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1890: Opened by Yesler School  
 District  
 1911: Annexed into Seattle  
 School District  
 1918: Closed  
 1926: Sold

---

The first school in the Sand Point area opened in 1890. It was named Pontiac School after the community that grew up around the Pontiac Shingle Mill, located on a small cove directly north of Sand Point and south of Matthews Beach.

Pontiac School was located in Yesler School District No. 148. After its annexation into the Seattle School District, the one-room school house fell into disuse because its 10 students were transported to Yesler School (see Bryant) as a cost-cutting measure. After the school was permanently closed, the site was sold to the federal government as part of the US Naval Air Station.

In early September 1941, Navy community parents at the Sand Point Housing Project, immediately south of the air station, expressed their dissatisfaction with bus transportation by staging a one-day strike. Of their 51 children, 48 stayed home that day, rather than attend Bryant School. At that time, there were too few students to justify a separate school.

Fifteen years later the situation was entirely different. By then, the Seattle School District's enrollment was second only to Los Angeles in the western states and the district employed more than 531 portable buildings. The elementary schools in the northeast section of the city (Laurelhurst, Bryant, and View Ridge) all had exceeded capacity, so the time had come again for a school in the Sand Point area. Construction funds for new school buildings were desperately needed. In the meantime, the Sand Point students attended a temporary school, which opened in September 1956 in 13 portables.

The property purchased for the new school, located just south of the Sand Point Naval Air Station, had been part of a farm owned by the Ihrig family. A large apple orchard stood directly south of the portable school, which enrolled 309 pupils in grades K-6.

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Name: **Sand Point Elementary School**  
 Location: 6208 60th Avenue NE  
 Building: 14-room brick veneer  
 with steel frame  
 Architect: G. Stoddard-F. Huggard  
 & Associates  
 Site: 4.08 acres

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1957: Named on February 15  
 1958: Opened in September  
 1988: Closed in June  
 1990: Leased to North Seattle  
 Community College

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Sand Point, 1960 SPSA 269-1



Sand Point, 1960 SPSA 269-2

A construction bond issue passed in November 1956 provided the funds for a permanent Sand Point facility. The architects' plans called for 14 classrooms, a gymnasium, cafeteria and kitchen, a book room with audio-visual facilities, administrative offices, and faculty rooms. Additional features included forced hot-water heating and both incandescent and fluorescent lighting. In September 1957, work began on the new building on the site of the old orchard. One year later 13 teachers greeted 407 pupils at the doorways of their new classrooms. A few weeks later, one more teacher joined the staff and every classroom was in use.

The student body began changing in 1965 when Central Area students came to Sand Point as part of the Voluntary Transfer Program. Under this program, 51 pupils from Harrison and 13 from Madrona attended during the 1967–68 school year.

In 1967, Sand Point received a collection of 30 original paintings by well-known Northwest artists. Mr. and Mrs. Angus Mallory, whose grandchildren attended the school, donated the frames. A follow-up gift of over 550 more artworks circulated among all Seattle schools.

In 1971, the school became K–5 when the sixth graders left for middle schools. A program for children with learning-language disabilities began the same year, and a preschool rented one of the school's vacant rooms.

Sand Point's enrollment dropped to 176 in September 1979, so the principal of Sacajawea took over as head of both schools. In a school district plan released that year, Sand Point was designated for closure. Citizens opposed the possible closure, citing its relatively new facility, low maintenance costs, and success in voluntary desegregation. The school had a minority enrollment of 38 percent. University of Washington students whose children attended Sand Point petitioned both the district and the university to retain the school. When it finally closed in 1988, Sand Point was operating at only 56 percent of capacity. In its final years, the school housed the Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing program.

Since 1990, the building has been leased to North Seattle Community College for off-campus classrooms.

# Cedar Park Elementary

13224 37th Ave. NE

1959, Paul Thiry



The Johnson Partnership , May 2012



Seattle Public Schools



collection of Lance Wagner

## Notes:

- Precast concrete construction.
- Retains original windows.
- Some changes to interior and exterior openings.

Thiry also designed Northgate Elementary (1956) for SPS, as well as Our Lady of the Lake and St. Pius X for the Archdioceses of Seattle.

## Cedar Park

The Lake City area had only one elementary school prior to the early 1950s. Suddenly, there was a critical need for space as the student population grew at an alarming rate. The Shoreline School District constructed two portable schools (South Haller Lake and Matthews) in 1953 and one permanent school (Olympic Hills) in 1954. However, the classroom shortage in Lake City was yet to be resolved when the area was annexed into Seattle in 1954. More classrooms were needed, and they were needed quickly.

The Seattle School District bought a 4.38 acre site in 1955 and began to set up an all-portable school as an annex to Lake City School. Inexpensive and relatively quick to install, it was viewed as a temporary solution until funds for a permanent building were available, if the need continued in the surrounding area.

Scheduled to open in fall 1955, Cedar Park School finally opened in April 1956, at 3737 NE 135th Street, with five portables serving grades 1–3 from Lake City School. Early plans called for 8–10 portables housing grades K–6 in the second year, but only the 4th grade was added in September 1956. That November, Seattle voters approved a school bond measure, assuring construction of a permanent building. The following summer, two more portables were moved to the site to hold grades 5 and 6, bringing enrollment to 226. The school board officially adopted the name Cedar Park School in February 1957.

Construction of the new school began in spring 1958 on the east side of the property, and a large playfield was developed on the lower western half. Its contemporary design typified the new single-level, functional school buildings popular during this period. The classrooms were especially spacious, in stark contrast to the overcrowded rooms of the past, and the lunchroom-auditorium seated over 500 people. A gymnasium and a covered playcourt adjacent to the playground completed the facility.

The permanent school building opened in March 1959. The following September, it welcomed its own principal and cut its ties with Lake City School. In 1972, the library was remodeled and expanded by consolidating two classrooms.

Enrollment went from a high of 437 in 1968–69 to just 213 in 1976–77 when Cedar Park and Sand Point were paired with one principal and one librarian serving both schools. In spring 1980, Cedar Park became one of ten Seattle Public Schools to open a Newcomer Center to meet the special needs of the many Indo-Chinese students new to the school system. When the school closed in 1981, its 197 students were reassigned to two other schools with which it had been part of a triad for desegregation purposes: grades K–3 were sent to Rogers, while grades 4–6 went to Madrona.

After this closure, the district leased Cedar Park as an arts studio. Cedar Park Arts Center comprised a number of live-in arts studios, but their status was not made clear until 1994 when an agreement was reached with the district for a limit of nine at a time. Presently seven day-studios operate in the building, utilizing not only former classrooms, but also the auditorium, kitchen, teachers' conference room, and breezeway play area.



Cedar Park, ca. 1965 SPSA 210-6



Cedar Park, 1963 SPSA 210-4

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Name: **Cedar Park  
Elementary School**  
Location: 13224 37th Avenue NE  
Building: 11-room, 1-story precast  
cement  
Architect: Paul Thiry  
Site: 4.38 acres

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1959: Opened in March as annex  
to Lake City  
1960: Became independent school  
in September  
1976: Paired with Sand Point  
School  
1981: Closed in June  
1982: Leased to the Cedar Park  
Arts Center

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Following the 1994 agreement and in order to establish a peaceful relationship with other neighborhood residents, the western half of the property is being developed into Cedar Park, which will be leased to the Seattle Parks Department under a long-term agreement. This development will give the Lake City area a park east of Lake City Way, providing recreational space similar to that offered by the park west of the former Lake City School.



Cedar Park, 1963 SPSA 210-5

# Sacajawea Elementary

9501 20th Ave. NE

1959, Waldron & Dietz



## Notes:

- Brick masonry and steel frame construction.
- Retains original aluminum-sash windows.
- Insensitive addition of roof insulation.

Waldron & Dietz also designed Broadview-Thompson Junior High (1963).



The Johnson Partnership, August 2012



Seattle Public Schools

Supplement to Cedar Park Elementary Landmark Nomination Report

**Seattle Public Schools built between 1945 and 1965**

August 2012



## Sacajawea

Name:	<b>Sacajawea Elementary School</b>	Enrollment:	284
Address:	9501 20th Avenue NE	Nickname:	Eagles
Configuration:	K-5	Colors:	Green, black & silver



Sacajawea, 1960 SPSA 268-4

With the expansion of Seattle city limits north to 145th Street in 1953 came the problem of how to provide classroom space for students living in the Maple Leaf neighborhood between Bothell Way and 15th Avenue NE, and NE 85th Street and NE 105th Street. That fall, almost 200 children from that area, called Victory Heights, were transported to University Heights in the University District.

Thus, in 1954, the district began looking for property in the neighborhood. After some difficulty in securing title, site preparation began in summer 1955. However, the installation of nine portables was postponed because of problems connecting to the Lake City Sewer District. In the meantime, a footbridge was constructed over Thornton Creek to provide access to children coming from the north.

When the school was not ready in September 1955, older children attended half-day sessions at Maple Leaf, while kindergartners delayed starting school. Finally, a month late, the school opened with 204 students in eight classroom portables. The school was officially named in honor of the Shoshone Indian woman who helped to guide the Lewis and Clark Expedition over a portion of their route to the Pacific Coast. It is one of three district schools honoring Native Americans (see Leschi and Sealth) and the only one named for a Native American woman.

Plans for a permanent building were completed but construction was delayed, this time because of difficulties vacating NE 96th Street. This problem was solved when a bypass road was built on the north side of the school site. When the new Sacajawea School opened in 1959, its attendance boundary was extended to 12th Avenue NE to bring in some students from Pinehurst and Olympic View, raising the total to 364. The building was constructed on two levels to take advantage of the sloping site.

In September 1961, two portables were added to handle increased

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Name:	<b>Victory Heights School</b>
Location:	(N)E 95th & 20th Avenue NE
Building:	Portables
Site:	3.31

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1955:	Opened October 17 as annex to Maple Leaf
1956:	Officially named <i>Sacajawea School</i> on July 31
1959:	Closed in spring

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Name: **Sacajawea Elementary School**

Location: 9501 20th Avenue NE

Building: 15-room brick

Architect: Waldron & Dietz

Site: 3.31 acres

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1959: Opened in September

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enrollment, which had passed the 500 mark. However, the student population declined over the next decade. By 1972–73, enrollment was 320 with only 40 children in the kindergarten. The addition of students of ethnic minorities “added new dimensions to the composition of the school.” That school year 15 percent of the student body was from minority groups, half from the neighborhood and half voluntary transfers from the Central Area. Portable buildings were no longer needed, and four classrooms became centers for individualized instruction in math and reading.

The physical education program at Sacajawea became a model for the city and the region, because the school was the first elementary building in the area with Southampton and Essex frames in the gym. This equipment, together with the assignment of a highly qualified PE specialist, provided improved instruction, which included a program of movement exploration.

Enrollment dropped to 204 in 1975–76 but rose to 250 the next year with the addition of special education classes from Pinehurst. In 1979, enrollment at Sacajawea was down to just 202 students while Sand Point had only 176. The schools were deemed reasonably close in distance, so the Sacajawea principal was assigned a dual-principalship.

Under the district’s desegregation plan, Sacajawea became a K–3 school in 1981–82, in a triad with Madrona (K, 4–6) and Rogers (K–3).

Sacajawea launched an artist-in-residence program in the late 1980s. This program has developed into an examination of art around the world, with an annual rotation to a new continent.

When Harry Nelson arrived as principal in the mid-1990s, the school adopted a committee system for determining how the annual budget should be spent, in hopes of finding innovative ways to attract new students. The various committees are composed of parents, faculty, and the principal.



Sacajawea, 1960 SPSA 268-2

# Decatur Elementary

7711 43rd Avenue NE  
1961, Edward Mahlum



## Notes:

- Brick masonry and concrete construction.
- Retains its original aluminum-sash windows.

Mahlum also designed McClure Junior High (1964).



The Johnson Partnership, August 2012



Seattle Public Schools

# Decatur

Name:	<b>Alternative Elementary #2 @Decatur</b>	Enrollment:	274
Address:	7711 43rd Avenue NE	Nickname:	none
Configuration:	K-6	Colors:	none



Decatur, 2000 ©Mary Randlett SPSA 287-28

In the late 1950s, the Seattle School Board sought a solution to overcrowding at View Ridge and Wedgwood. They acquired the playground area of the Shearwater Housing Project from the federal government, who had declared the area surplus. Shearwater was built in the Wedgwood neighborhood as a housing unit primarily for United States Navy personnel stationed at the Sandpoint Naval Air Station and their families.

Shearwater Elementary School was proposed as the name for the new school. However, a protest arose among “some parents who do not live in the naval housing project and who feel that the name has no permanent significance as a permanent name for the school.” Because of its connection to the Navy, the school was named after Stephen Decatur, an American Naval officer and hero of the Tripoli War and the War of 1812. The name was thought “particularly appropriate” for a Seattle school because the name Decatur had figured prominently in Seattle’s early history. The U.S. Sloop-of-War Decatur provided protection for early inhabitants during a hostile Indian attack in January 1856.

Stephen Decatur Elementary School opened in September 1961 with a K-5 enrollment of 326 from the Shearwater Housing Project and the surrounding neighborhood. Enrollment rose to 367 the following year when the 6th grade was added. Enrollment dropped again to 251 in 1964-65 with the closing of the housing project. The former housing project office (at 4210 NE 77th Street) was preserved as an annex on the south side of the site.

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Name: **Stephen Decatur  
Elementary School**  
Location: 7711 43rd Avenue NE  
Building: Brick  
Architect: Edward Mahlum  
Site: 2.2 acres

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1961: Opened in September  
1966: Site expanded by 7.71 acres;  
addition (n.a.)  
1989: Closed as regular elementary  
school in June; opened in  
September as alternative  
school site

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A large parcel of federal surplus property, where the frame apartment houses had been situated, was added to the school site in 1966. That same year, although attendance had begun to decline, five classrooms were added to the south end of the main building. They were specifically designed to accommodate team teaching.

Enrollment increased to 477 in 1966–67 with the addition of an accelerated program and special education classes. The accelerated program served north end students of high academic potential. Four groups of 45 children were transported to Decatur for two half-days each week. A component of the program was a model laboratory where teachers from throughout the state could observe. Although state funding was withdrawn in June 1973, the program continued in 1973–74 with 52 north end children in the 5th and 6th grades attending on a full-time basis.

In July 1974, Decatur was placed on a district list of schools likely to be closed the following year. Although it was one of the newest schools in the district, it was running well under capacity with an enrollment of 339. It wasn't closed, however, and as part of the district's desegregation plan, Decatur operated as a K–3 facility from 1978 to 1988 in a triad with Wedgwood and Leschi.

In 1979–80, a “modified Montessori classroom” for 27 children in grades 1–3 was added. An innovative program called “The House System” began at Decatur in September 1983, patterned on a similar system in New Zealand. The purpose was to provide “an opportunity for children to mix and work with children from across grades, races, and social groups.” Each fall, the entire student body was divided into four



Decatur, 1963 SPSA 287-1

“houses,” each one signified by a different color (red, yellow, blue, green). Classrooms were further broken down with 6–8 children in each room being assigned to a different house. The houses came into play during rainy day recess, fundraising drives, and a field day.

When Decatur finally closed as a regular elementary school in June 1989, it became the home of Alternative Education School #2 that moved there following the closure of University Heights. AE #2 focuses on interactive learning and multicultural education. In its first year at Decatur, the K–5 pupils took nearly 200 field trips, exemplifying AE #2s view that “the world is our classroom.” Parents and community members volunteer thousands of hours each year to help the students learn by doing. A salmon conservation project involves students in raising young fish and releasing them into the wild. In accordance with the school’s performing arts emphasis, teacher Jo Vos led her class in the creation and production of an opera during the 1999–2000 school year.

# Graham Hill Elementary

5149 South Graham Street

1961, Theo Damm



## Notes:

- Brick masonry.
- Retains original aluminum-sash windows.
- Recent addition on western side.
- Non-original supplemental fletch beam observed at overhang.

Theo Damm also designed Rogers Elementary (1956).



The Johnson Partnership, August 2012



Seattle Public Schools

# Graham Hill

Name:	<b>Graham Hill Elementary School</b>	Enrollment:	393
Address:	5149 S Graham Street	Nickname:	Whale School
Configuration:	Preschool-5	Colors:	Blue



Graham Hill, 2000 ©Mary Randlett SPSA 220-32

The area where Graham Hill School is located was named after Walter Graham, who moved to Seattle in 1853. Graham came from New York and, at the age of 27, took up a claim along the shores of Lake Washington. His property included the uplands near Seward Park, which was called Graham's Peninsula. In 1856, Graham built a home on the hillside and planted an apple orchard. He married Eliza Mercer, daughter of Thomas Mercer. Walter's brother, David Graham, who arrived in 1857 and became Seattle's fifth schoolteacher, married his former pupil and Eliza's sister, Suzanna Mercer.

In 1865, Graham sold a portion of his land to Judge Everett Smith, who then donated one acre for a school. The first school near the top of Graham Hill was called Brighton School and was not opened until 1901. "There was just a path up to the school from Rainier Avenue." The one-room schoolhouse held grades 1-3, while grades 4-5 were housed nearby in the Brighton Church. Brighton School was an attractive building with a columnar front porch and a well-lit classroom.

Brighton School was closed in 1905 with the opening of new school with the same name on Holly Street (see Brighton). The older building later became known as Brighton Beach or "Little Brighton" in



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Name: **Brighton School**  
Location: 51st Avenue S  
& Graham Street  
Building: 1-room wood  
Architect: James Stephen  
Site: 0.9 acres

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1901: Opened by Columbia School District  
1905: Closed  
1907: Annexed into Seattle School District  
1907–08: Operated as *Brighton Beach*, annex to Brighton  
ca. 1916–22: Operated as *Brighton Annex*  
1943: Building sold and removed  
1944–45: Leased to Seattle Parks Department  
ca. 1949: Building destroyed by fire  
1957: Lease canceled and property returned; site expanded

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Name: **East Brighton School**  
Location: Graham Street & 51st Avenue S  
Building: Portables  
Site: 4.4 acres

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1957: Opened in September as annex to Brighton  
1960: Became independent school; renamed *Graham Hill School* on June 1

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Name: **Graham Hill Elementary School**  
Location: 5149 S Graham Street  
Building: 14-room, 2-story brick  
Architect: Theo Damm  
Site: 4.5 acres

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1961: Opened

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1907–08 when it operated as an annex to the larger school. It also served to ease overcrowding during World War I. The old schoolhouse was removed from the site in 1943, and the Seattle Parks Department acquired a lease for a playfield where the schoolhouse formerly stood.

As the population in this part of the city grew, it became apparent that a school was needed at the site, so the 99-year playfield lease was canceled. In September 1957, five portable buildings opened on the site for K–2 students. East Brighton, as it was called, operated once more as an annex to Brighton. In each successive year, another grade was added until the school became K–6 in fall 1961.

By June 1960, the school was large enough to have its own principal. The name Graham Hill School was chosen by the community to commemorate Walter Graham and the location of his farm. Plans began for construction of a new building on the property adjacent to the portables, which were no longer adequate for the increasing enrollment.

The new brick building was completed at the end of the 1960–61 school year. In addition to classrooms, the new school contained a library, administration and health unit, auditorium/lunchroom, gymnasium, playcourt, and service facilities. Located on a hillside, the building offers a breathtaking view of Mt. Rainier. The school features two stories, each of which opens directly onto the grounds: the upper floor onto the street level, and the lower floor onto the upper playground level. The site where the portables once stood, the original one-acre donation to the school board, is part of the playground facilities at the new school.

Under the district's desegregation plan, Graham Hill (K, 1-3) was paired with Northgate (K, 4-6) from 1978–88. Thereafter Graham Hill became K-5.

Graham Hill currently houses programs for the highly capable, ESL, and special education. Since 1991, it has housed the district's only public Montessori program, for preschoolers and grades K–5. The PTA has worked to improve the grounds and build a new playground.

**Rainier View Elementary**  
**11650 Beacon Ave. S.**  
**1961, Durham Anderson & Freed**



Notes:

- Brick masonry and concrete construction.
- Building completed renovated last year with replacement windows and new entrance.

Durham Anderson & Freed also designed Schmitz Park Elementary (1962).



The Johnson Partnership, August 2012



Seattle Public Schools

## Rainier View

Name:	<b>Rainier View Elementary School</b>	Enrollment:	278
Address:	11650 Beacon Avenue S	Nickname:	Tigers
Configuration:	K-5	Colors:	Red and white



Rainier View, 1965 SPSA 264-1

In 1951, a committee from the Rainier Valley Community Club asked the Seattle Parks Department to install a playfield in the southeast Beacon Hill area. They were told that there first had to be a school in the area. The committee approached the Seattle School Board in 1952 and, in January 1953, Southeast Beacon Hill School was opened in an old gravel pit with five portables for grades K-3 to help ease overcrowding at Dunlap and Emerson.

The permanent name Rainier View Elementary School was selected by the Southeast Beacon Hill community because "Mt. Rainier dominates the scenery from the school." A sixth portable was added in September 1954 and, in fall 1961, a permanent school building was opened as a K-6 school. With the new building, enrollment went from 116 to 371.

In 1968-69, Rainier View began using the continuous-progress concept of education with Individually Prescribed Instruction, then a new program of studies. It was still in use in 1970-71.

The school's configuration changed to K-4 in 1973-74. At that time, two special education classes and two Head Start classes were opened in the vacated rooms. School enrollment was down to just under 200 in 1975-76. Under the district's desegregation plan initiated in 1979, Rainier View became a K-5 school.



Rainier View, ca. 1973 SPSA 264-4

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Name: **Southeast Beacon Hill School**  
 Location: 11230 Luther Avenue  
 Building: Portables  
 Site: 9.5 acres

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1953: Opened on January 5 as annex to Dunlap  
 1954: Officially named *Rainier View Elementary School* on May 21  
 1961: Closed in June

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Name: **Rainier View Elementary School**  
 Location: 11650 Beacon Avenue S  
 Building: 15-room 1-story  
 Architect: Durham, Anderson & Freed  
 Site: 9.5 acres

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1961: Opened in September

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Since 1995, the school has undergone a positive change. Its students and staff have worked steadily to improve academic achievement and school climate. Rainier View is now full to capacity with a waiting list for 1st and 4th graders. Reading is a focus of the curriculum, and teachers rely on phonics-based “direct instruction” methods, in which children are given specific reading strategies. Students have worn uniforms since fall 1997.

**Schmitz Park Elementary**  
**5000 SW. Spokane**  
**1962, Durham, Anderson & Freed**



The Johnson Partnership, August 2012

Notes:

- Brick masonry and concrete construction.
- Retains original aluminum-sash windows.

Durham, Anderson & Freed also designed Rainier View Elementary (1961).

## Schmitz Park

Name:	<b>Schmitz Park Elementary School</b>	Enrollment:	341
Address:	5000 SW Spokane Street	Nickname:	The Red Fox
Configuration:	K-5	Colors:	Green and gold
Motto:	"Smart as a fox"		

The only virgin forest in any Western Washington city lies in a park above Alki in West Seattle. Former Seattle Parks Commissioner Ferdinand Schmitz and his wife Emma donated 38 acres to the city in 1908 and 1912. Another 7.5 acres were purchased by the city from the Alki Street Car Line. The resulting site, named Schmitz Park, is considered to be one of the most beautiful natural parks in a U.S. urban area. One of the Schmitz's sons, Dietrich, served on the Seattle School Board from 1928-61 and was its president eight times, making him the longest serving board member.

The first Schmitz Park School was an all-portable facility developed in the early 1950s to relieve crowding at Genesee Hill and Lafayette. More portables were added annually from 1954 to 1956 until there was an office, 10 classroom portables, a double-portable lunchroom, and a utility portable. Starting with K-3, the highest grade was retained until it became a K-6 facility in its fourth year of operation.

A permanent single-story building of fire-resistant materials and laminated beams was erected on the enlarged site in 1962. Enrollment the first year was 380, the largest student body in the school's history.

Since the mid-1970s, a highlight of the annual fall opening of the school is the flag-raising ceremony, in which members of the Schmitz family participate, most recently Alan Schmitz.

Under the district's desegregation plan, Schmitz Park served as a



Schmitz Park, ca. 1970 SPSA 270-23

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Name: **Schmitz Park School**

Location: 50th Avenue SW  
& W Hinds Street

Building: Portables

Site: 3.5 acres

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1953: Opened September 21  
as annex to Genesee Hill

1954: Officially named on April 16

1956: Became independent school

1960: Site increased to 7 acres

1962: Closed in June

---

Name: **Schmitz Park  
Elementary School**

Location: 5000 SW Spokane Street

Building: 12-room

Architect: Durham, Anderson & Freed

Site: 7.6 acres

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1962: Opened in September

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K-3 facility from 1978-1988, forming a triad with Genesee Hill (K-3) and Beacon Hill (K,4-6). In September 1979, parents voiced their disapproval of a district proposal that would have eliminated the regular school program at Schmitz Park. Instead, they suggested that Schmitz Park be enlarged and nearby Genesee Hill closed. Schmitz Park remained open and Genesee Hill was closed in 1989, then later reopened as an alternative school site.

Schmitz Park students received the President's Challenge Physical Fitness Award in 1998 and 1999, and their instructor, Barbara McEwan, was named state PE teacher of the year. Unique programs in bicycle safety and water safety are offered.

Throughout the school's history, the adjacent park has provided an outdoor classroom for nature studies, science, and conservation. The school's mascot, The Red Fox, was inspired by a real fox family that visits the playground each fall and spring and inhabits the nearby woods.



Schmitz Park, 1965 SPSA 270-24

# Nathan Eckstien Middle School (City of Seattle Landmark)

3003 NE 75th St.

1950, William Mallis



The Johnson Partnership, August 2012



Seattle Public Schools

## Notes:

- Brick masonry with integral glass block.
- Retains original steel-sash windows.
- City of Seattle Landmark.

William Mallis also designed Sharples/Kurose Junior High (1952) & View Ridge Elementary (1948).

Mallis' firm, Mallis & DeHart designed Whitman Junior High (1959), D. Denny Junior High (1952, demolished), Nathan Hale High School (1963), & Viewlands Elementary (1954) for SPS.

Mallis & DeHart designed Wilson Junior High (1954) & Pinehurst Elementary (1953) for other clients, and the schools were gained by annexation.

Mallis, DeHart & Hopkins designed Addams Junior High (1954), which was gained by SPS through annexation.



# Eckstein

Name:	<b>Nathan Eckstein Middle School</b>	Enrollment:	1,234
Address:	3003 NE 75th St	Nickname:	Eagles
Configuration:	6-8	Colors:	Blue and white
Newspaper:	<i>Rolling Eckstone</i>	Annual:	unnamed



Eckstein, 2000 ©Mary Randlett SPSA 104-6

Until the late 1930s, the northeastern area, which developed into the neighborhoods of View Ridge, Wedgwood, and Hawthorne Hills, was characterized by scattered farms and forested land. When the city's population began spreading to the suburbs, this area became a prime location for new homes, parks, and schools. With an eye to the future, the Seattle School Board in 1927 purchased five acres of property at NE 75th Street and 32nd Avenue NE from homesteader John Bloomquist. As late as 1944, the property was leased as horse pasture.

Finally, in 1948, the site was expanded in preparation for construction, which began in March 1949. In selecting a name for the school, it seemed appropriate to honor Nathan Eckstein, civic leader and long-time supporter of public education in Seattle. Nathan Eckstein immigrated with his parents from Germany. The family, along with Bailey Gatzert's, was among Seattle's earliest Jewish residents. Eckstein began working in a grocery store at the age of 14 when Klondike fever struck the city. He worked his way up to become president of Schwabacher's, a large grocery business, and eventually was named a trustee of the Seattle Chamber of Commerce. Eckstein also served on the school board for seven years beginning in 1914 and, in 1926, was named Seattle's "most useful citizen."

Nathan Eckstein Junior High School, designed in the International style, opened in September 1950 to 790 students. Nathan Eckstein's daughter, Joanna, was an honored guest when the school was dedicated on November 1, 1950.

Eckstein Junior High was equipped with modern features, that dis-

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Name: **Nathan Eckstein Junior High School**

Location: 3015 (N)E 75th Street

Building: 38-room brick

Architect: William Mallis

Site: 14.1 acres

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1950: Opened on September 6

1968: Addition (n.a.)

1971: Renamed *Nathan Eckstein Middle School*

1981: 1950 building designated City of Seattle landmark on June 17

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tinguished it from older junior highs built in the late 1920s. Most striking was its curved, two-story facade with large windows and walls of glass bricks. The building contained a double gymnasium, spacious library, cafeteria, a large auditorium, and a “little theater.”

Subsequent modifications in the physical plant responded to changes in enrollment. Between 1950 and 1960, enrollment increased from 790 to 1,990, its peak. Some specialized rooms, such as the “little theater,” and stock room were converted for classroom use. The play-field sacrificed space to portables, which totaled 20 by 1960.

During this decade of growth, several pilot curriculum programs were developed at Eckstein in cooperation with the University of Washington’s College of Education. Classes in mathematics, language arts, and social studies provided students with opportunities to learn at their own level. Foreign languages taught at this time were French, Spanish, German, and Latin (later replaced by Russian). Because of its extensive language program, Eckstein became the first junior high school in the district to have a completely equipped language lab, installed in 1960.

In March 1965, Eckstein received national publicity when an article on the school was published in an *Atlantic Monthly* series on outstanding American public schools. In 1968 a “modulux unit” was installed at Eckstein, adding six classrooms.

In September 1971, Eckstein became a middle school along with Hamilton, Wilson, and Meany-Madrona housing grades 6–8. As part of a district-wide desegregation plan, groups of students from the Meany-Madrona area were bused to Eckstein (60 students came from Leschi



Eckstein, 1965 SPSA 104-3



Eckstein, 1960 SPSA 104-5

and 143 from Madrona), and children from the Eckstein attendance area were transported to Meany-Madrona.

The 1971 change to middle school status was accompanied by a new mascot for Eckstein, the Roadrunner, and a new name for the school newspaper, the *Eckstein Eye* replacing the *N.E. News*. Since the mid-1970s, American Sign Language has been taught periodically, and Eckstein is now the district school for deaf and hard-of-hearing middle school students.

Today Eckstein carries on its tradition of excellence with high enrollment in honors classes. One of the district's most popular schools, its entering 6th grade classes have exceeded the stated capacity of the building. Currently ten portables are used as classrooms. Languages taught include Japanese, Spanish, and French. An exchange program has been established with a school in Japan. Nearly half of the students participate in the school's music program. The string orchestra took first place at the Northwest Orchestra Festival, and, in 1998, the jazz band placed second at the Lionel Hampton Jazz Festival, in competition with high school students.

# Catherine Blaine Junior High School

2550 34th Ave. W

1952, J. Lister Holmes



The Johnson Partnership, August 2012

## Notes:

- Concrete with brick masonry infill.
- Appears to retain early aluminum-sash windows.
- Original saw-tooth clerestories removed.

This is the only school that J. Lister Holmes designed for SPS during this period.



Seattle Public Schools

Supplement to Cedar Park Elementary Landmark Nomination Report

**Seattle Public Schools built between 1945 and 1965**

August 2012

# Blaine

Name:	<b>Catherine Blaine School</b>	Enrollment:	521
Address:	2550 34th Avenue W	Nickname:	Tigers
Configuration:	K-8	Colors:	Blue and white

Following World War II, the Magnolia community wanted both a broad recreational program for its youth and a secondary school to keep students in the community, rather than sending them to Queen Anne High School for 8th grade.

The enrollment at two local elementary schools, Lawton and Magnolia, had increased to such an extent that a third school, Briarcliff, was built in 1949. Even with this addition, there would not be enough room for 7th graders after 1951. The Seattle School Board recognized that a junior high school serving 1,000 pupils was needed to house the growing population.

Property owned by the Seattle Parks Department at 34th Avenue W between W Raye and W Dravus streets was centrally located and ideal for a joint school-recreation project. The project as presented in 1949 would utilize the existing Magnolia playfield as well as 5.9 acres previously designated. The architect's plans were accepted in time for the school to open in 1951, but delays caused by opposition by some Magnolia residents postponed the building's completion for one year. Nevertheless, when final agreement was reached, it was nearly unanimous.

Catherine Blaine Junior High School was the first school west of the Mississippi to be planned and financed jointly by a school district and a parks department, with all facilities included under one roof. It was named for the first teacher to establish a school in pioneer Seattle, nearly 100 years earlier. Catherine P. Blaine's husband was Seattle's first minister. Both her 90-year-old son, Edward L. Blaine, Sr., and her grandson, Edward L. Blaine, Jr., participated in the dedication of the school.



Blaine, 2000 ©Mary Randlett SPSA 101-75

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Name: **Catherine Blaine Junior High School**

Location: 2550 34th Avenue W

Building: 20-room brick

Architect: J. Lister Holmes  
& Associates

Site: 8.35 acres

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1950: Named on May 5

1952: Opened on September 3

1978: Renamed *Blaine Intermediate Center/Junior High*

1982: Closed in June

1983: Temporary site in February

1984: Reopened as *Catherine Blaine Elementary* in September

1998: Renamed *Catherine Blaine School*

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Blaine, 1960 SPSA 101-2

The building contains 11 regular classrooms, two music rooms, two science rooms, two home economics rooms, two art rooms, three shops, a library, two gymnasiums that open onto each other to become one large court, a spacious office suite, and custodial quarters. There is also an auditorium/lunchroom with kitchen facilities at one end and a stage at the other. The parks department wing contains three large rooms, offices, a kitchen, and a lobby.

Catherine Blaine Junior High opened with a student body of 534. Claude Turner, former principal at Magnolia who helped to plan the new junior high, became the first principal. The staff included 17 teachers, a librarian, counselor, and secretary along with a lunchroom and custodial staff, and three parks department employees. At first, the school housed grades 5 to 9. A 5th grade class and 6th grade class from Lawton and a 6th grade class from Briarcliff attended Blaine to relieve the congestion in those two schools. These classes followed the elementary program in self-contained classrooms, while the rest of the school followed the regular departmentalized program of a junior high school. Sixth grade classes continued at Blaine until 1955.

During its first year, Blaine set up a student council, Boys Club and a Girls Club. In partnership with the community, the students authored and adopted a code of conduct. At the same time, the community adopted a creed and code as a standard of operation for the families of Magnolia. The *Pioneer*, a student-published paper, was launched the first year. Students and faculty also established an annual Pioneer Day to honor Catherine P. Blaine. On this day, faculty and students dressed as pioneers and participated in a program reminiscent of times past.

From 1978–81, Blaine housed grades 5–9, taking in students from Briarcliff and Hawthorne. With this new configuration, its name was changed to Blaine Intermediate Center/Junior High. In September 1981, the 5th grade classes were returned to Briarcliff.

In February 1982, when school board members expressed concern that the school would automatically revert to city ownership upon closure, Mayor Charles Royer issued a promise that the city would not “recapture” the building. When Blaine closed in June 1982, its 7th and 8th graders were sent to McClure, and incoming 6th graders were assigned to Briarcliff.

In 1983, Blaine was the temporary home of students from Green Lake Elementary, which closed in February because of chemical contamination in carpets at the school. The following September, Blaine reopened for K–6 elementary students with the closing of Briarcliff. Students from Hawthorne, who had been attending Briarcliff, continued at Blaine until a new Hawthorne opened in 1989.

A technology levy in 1991 provided Blaine with a new computer lab and teacher. Later, the inner courtyard was refurbished as an outdoor classroom, complete with resident rabbits. An old tradition, Pioneer Day, was reinstated in March 1994, featuring old-time crafts and activities.

In fall 1997, Blaine added 7th grade classes. The following year 8th grade classes returned. Blaine thus became the district’s first non-alternative K–8 school since Beacon Hill, Cooper, Highland Park, Warren Avenue, and Whitworth in 1951–52.

# David Denny Junior High School (demolished)

8402 30th Ave. SW

1952, Mallis & DeHart



Seattle Public Schools

## Notes:

- Brick masonry and concrete construction.
- Demolished in 2011.

Mallis & DeHart designed Whitman Junior High (1959), Nathan Hale High School (1963), & Viewlands Elementary (1954) for SPS.

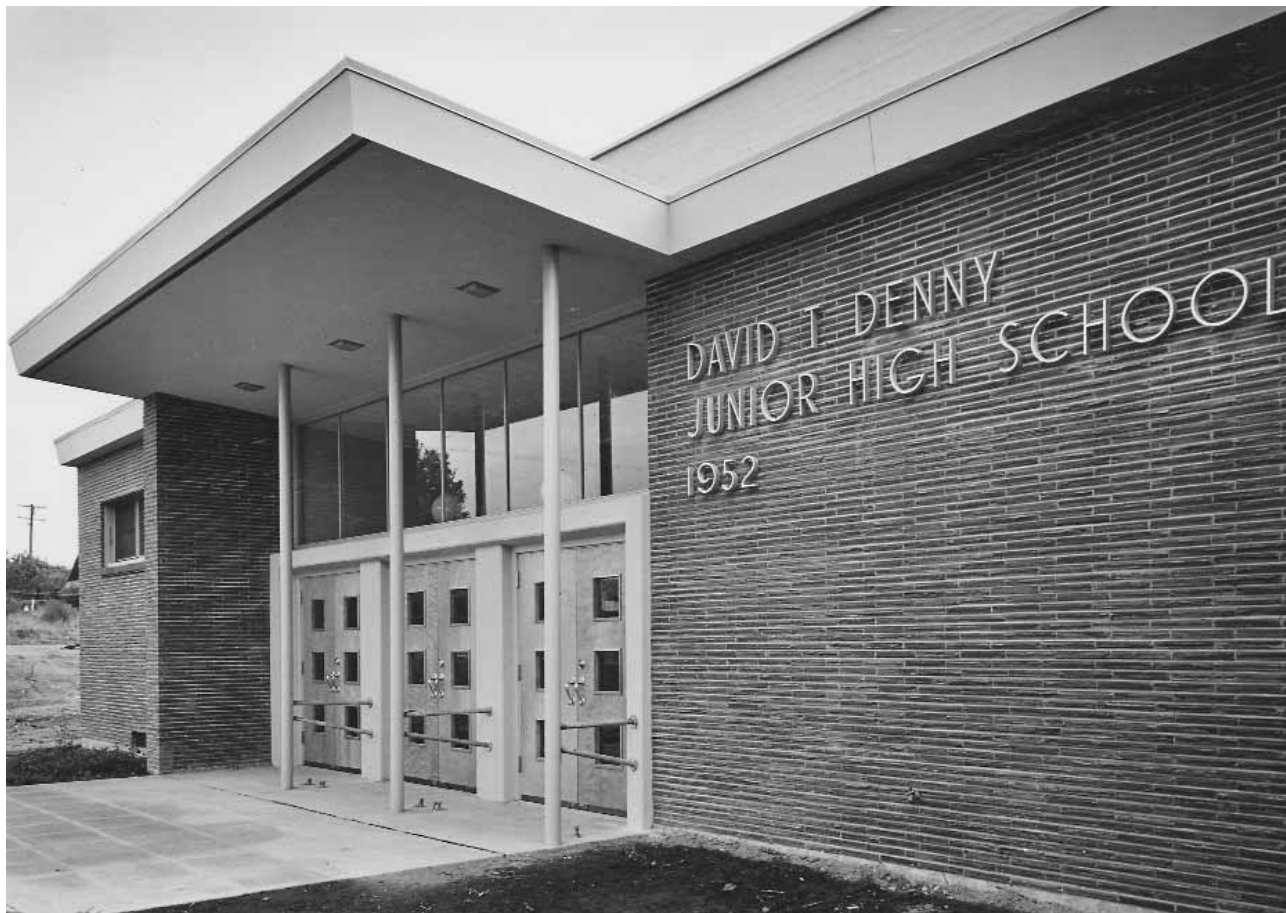
Mallis & DeHart designed Wilson Junior High (1954) & Pinehurst Elementary (1953) for other clients, and the schools were gained by annexation.

Mallis, DeHart & Hopkins designed Addams Junior High (1954), which was gained by SPS through annexation.

William Mallis also designed Sharples/Kurose Junior High (1952), View Ridge Elementary (1948) & Eckstien Junior High (1950).

## David T. Denny

Name:	<b>David T. Denny Middle School</b>	Enrollment:	870
Address:	8402 30th Avenue SW	Nickname:	Dolphins
Configuration:	6–8	Colors:	Blue and white
Newspaper:	none	Annual:	none



David T. Denny, ca. 1952 SPSA 103-5

It took some time before a second junior high school was built in southwest Seattle on property purchased in 1945. Although the new school was urgently needed because Madison Junior High was bulging at the seams, the November 16, 1950 *West Seattle Herald* reported, “The Korean war and other construction difficulties” would hold up completion of the new school until September 1952.

Denny Junior High School opened in the year of the centennial of the Denny party’s landing at Alki Point and was named after David T. Denny, one of those early settlers and an early member of the Seattle School Board. The brother of Arthur Denny, David was involved in many real estate ventures and the development of Seattle’s streetcar system.

The school opened to 1,030 students in fall 1952. Hughes was overcrowded that year so both 6th grade teachers and their students were assigned to rooms at Denny.





David T. Denny, 1958 SPSA 103-3

The junior high school facility is single-story with five buildings on three levels joined by breezeways. It is comprised of 35 classrooms, a library, combination lunchroom-auditorium, and a gymnasium.

Enrollment at the new school increased with the rapid population growth of southwest Seattle. In spring 1955, portables were first placed on the grounds as extra classrooms. The first five graduating classes moved on to West Seattle High School. After 1957, they went to neighboring Chief Sealth High School.

A 4,000-seat stadium serving both the high school and junior high was constructed to the east of Denny in 1960. The Southwest Community Center pool is also used jointly by both schools.

Enrollment at Denny peaked at over 1,600 students between 1959 and 1963, with 22 portables in use. For a few years prior to 1961, the 9th grade classes were housed at Sealth due to a lack of space at Denny. Sadly, two of Denny's first three principals, Richard Pomeroy and James Denton, passed away in February 1961 and February 1964, respectively.

By 1974, about two-thirds of the 9th graders attended Sealth High School. In 1982–83, Denny went to 7–8 configuration. Sixth graders were added in 1989–90.

Principal Joan Allen, well-loved by her students and respected by her colleagues, passed away in the middle of the 1992–93 school year. A garden on the school grounds was dedicated to her memory.

Currently Denny has two “elementary-style,” all-day 6th grade classrooms in addition to regular middle school scheduling. A school-wide Performance Celebration highlights student artwork, essays, poetry, wood projects, crafts, PE demonstrations, musical performances, computer projects, and more. The outstanding PE program includes swimming classes, as well as wrestling, soccer, ultimate Frisbee, basketball, track, and volleyball.

Sealth Stadium, which serves both the high school and middle school, is being revamped. Grass will be replaced with synthetic turf and new bleachers will be installed.

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Name: **David T. Denny Junior High School**

Location: 8402 30th Avenue SW

Building: 35-room, 1-story brick

Architect: Mallis & DeHart

Site: 32 acres

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1950: Named on May 5

1952: Opened in September

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# Aki Kurose School

3928 S. Graham St.

1952, William Mallis



The Johnson Partnership, August 2012



Seattle Public Schools

## Notes:

- Brick masonry and concrete construction with integral glass block infill.
- Replacement windows.

William Mallis also designed Eckstien Junior High (1950) & View Ridge Elementary (1948).

Mallis' firm, Mallis & DeHart designed Whitman Junior High (1959), D. Denny Junior High (1952, demolished), Nathan Hale High School (1963), & Viewlands Elementary (1954) for SPS.

Mallis & DeHart designed Wilson Junior High (1954) & Pinehurst Elementary (1953) for other clients, and the schools were gained by annexation.

Mallis, DeHart & Hopkins designed Addams Junior High (1954), which was gained by SPS through annexation.

# Kurose

Name:	<b>Aki Kurose School</b>	Enrollment:	610
Address:	3928 S Graham Street	Nickname:	Peace Cranes
Configuration:	6–8	Colors:	Blue and gold



Sharples, ca. 1960 SPSA 112-3

In 1952, Casper W. Sharples Junior High School opened to serve a large area in south Seattle, taking in students from Beacon Hill, Muir, Whitworth, Hawthorne, Van Asselt, Emerson, Brighton, Dunlap, Columbia, and Rainier View. In addition to over 1,220 students in grades 7–9, 130 sixth graders attended the new school that first year.

Casper Wistar Sharples was a prominent Seattle physician who was one of the first nine to take the state medical examinations in Washington state. He was also the long-time Chief of Staff at Children's Orthopedic Hospital. His wife, the former Anne Goodrell, was the physical education supervisor for Seattle Public Schools, and, beginning in 1922, Dr. Sharples served for nine years on the Seattle School Board.

The site comprised 4.8 acres owned by the district and 12.9 acres of Brighton Playfield, which was leased for 99 years from the Seattle Parks Department. On February 11, 1955, a ceremony was held to commemorate the selection of a school flower. Sharples' granddaughter

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Name: **Casper W. Sharples Junior High School**

Location: 3928 S Graham Street

Building: 40-room, 2-story brick

Architect: William Mallis

Site: 4.8 acres

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1952: Opened

1981: Closed as regular school in June

1981–87: Alternative program site

1988–90: Interim site

1989–99: Alternative program site

1999: Became *Sharples Middle School*; renamed *Aki Kurose Middle School*

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helped plant a wistaria bush to the left of the main entrance. It was selected because Caspar W. Sharples was named for Dr. Caspar Wistar, an anatomy professor at the University of Pennsylvania. The flower, wistaria (commonly known as wisteria), was named for Wistar.

Enrollment increased to 1,839 in 1956–57 but, in September 1957, it dropped to 1,550 with the opening of Asa Mercer Junior High, which drew from Beacon Hill, Muir, and parts of Van Asselt and Columbia. In 1959–60, enrollment peaked at 1,878 with 17 portables in use. Rainier Beach Junior High School opened in September 1960 for students coming out of Rainier View, Dunlap, and Emerson, lowering Sharples' enrollment to 1,290. By 1974, enrollment had dropped to 950.

In the 1970s, Mandarin Chinese was taught as a foreign language. The district's desegregation plan, which began in 1978, brought in students from the Broadview Elementary School and Wilson Junior High School areas.

In 1981, the school board was dealing with declining district-wide enrollment as well as the shift from junior high schools to middle schools. The board chose to close Sharples as a regular school in favor of the newer South Shore that had been designed as a middle school. Sharples then became the site for several special programs.

Sharples Alternative Secondary School opened in 1981–82. Students came mainly from the central and southeast portions of the city. The program served students who began 9th grade, were under age 21, and were generally behind in credits. Sharples also became the home of a reentry program for students who had dropped out or had been suspended, the Project Transition vocational program for handicapped youth, and the Teenage Parent Program. The school made an "attempt to accommodate anything in their lives that might prevent them from finishing school—including children, jobs or brushes with the juvenile justice system." In addition, it made "an extra effort to make students aware of vocational training and job opportunities."

Sharples also housed a bilingual orientation program for a large number of newly arrived immigrants who came from many different countries and were in need of an intensive English language program. This program was designed to ready them for entrance to regular schools and to help them adjust to life in a new country.

From September 1988 to June 1990, students from Franklin were housed at Sharples while their school was being renovated. The bilingual program was relocated to three different schools in the district, and the Alternative Secondary School moved into leased space at Washington Institute for Applied Technology (the former Seattle Opportunities Industrialization Center Building) at 22nd Avenue and Jackson Street. A proposed move of the Alternative Secondary School to Boren did not materialize after a survey showed that 86 percent of the students would drop out if that happened.

In September 1990, the district's bilingual program, the Alternative Secondary School, the reentry program, teenage parent program, and Samoan Integration Services, established to assist those who were having trouble in the classroom, all returned to Sharples.

The African American Academy came to Sharples from Colman for the 1992–93 school year because it needed more space. It moved to Magnolia the following year because of problems encountered in sharing the building with older students.

In September 1999, the various Sharples programs moved to South Shore Middle School, while that program moved to Sharples and assumed the name Sharples Middle School. The school was renamed to honor Aki Kurose in November 1999. Kurose taught in the district for 25 years and inspired many with her actions for peace and understanding among all cultures. She received the Presidential Award for Excellence in Education and the United Nations Human Rights Award. Her favorite saying was, "If we are to teach real peace in the world we will have to begin with children." It has been suggested that the name Sharples be assigned to another Seattle School District facility to continue honoring the pioneering physician and education advocate.

Aki Kurose School offers reading-language arts-social studies block classes over all three years. Reading and writing are stressed in all classes. The current principal, Bi Hoa Caldwell, was awarded the Seattle Alliance for Education A+ award in spring 1998.



Sharples, 1960 SPSA 112-37

**Asa Mercer Junior High School**  
1600 Columbian Way S.  
1957, John W. Maloney



The Johnson Partnership, August 2012



Seattle Public Schools

Notes:

- Brick masonry and concrete construction.
- Replacement windows.
- Thin-sheer concrete roof on gymnasium.

John W. Maloney also designed Rainier Beach High School (1960).

## Asa Mercer

Name:	<b>Asa Mercer Middle School</b>	Enrollment:	833
Address:	1600 Columbian Way S	Nickname:	Mustangs
Configuration:	6-8	Colors:	White, blue & black
Newspaper:	none	Annual:	unnamed

Located in the Jefferson Park area of Beacon Hill, Asa Mercer Junior High School was named for Asa Shinn Mercer who, at age 22, became president and sole teacher of the newly founded Territorial University. In 1861, he aided development of the young city of Seattle when he convinced 11 young women to come west as prospective brides. In 1865, he again went east and convinced nearly 100 more young women to come to Seattle. He was the younger brother of Thomas Mercer for whom Mercer School on lower Queen Anne was named.

The land for the new junior high was the property of the city until 1949 when it was deeded to the Veterans Administration for a hospital as part of a larger building tract. In 1954, a portion of that tract was returned to the city for the construction of a school. To complete the development of a playfield and provide for a future fieldhouse, the Seattle Parks Department deeded additional acreage to the Seattle School District. To accommodate the plans for the new school grounds, a few fairways of the Jefferson Park Golf Course were relocated.

The school was built with an 800-seat auditorium. When Mercer opened in fall 1957, its 1,093 students came from several south end



Asa Mercer, 1960 SPSA 110-3

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Name: **Asa Mercer Junior High School**  
Location: 1600 S Columbian Way  
Building: 40-station brick  
Architect: John W. Maloney  
Site: 8.4 acres

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1957: Named on May 3; opened on September 4  
1958: Site increased  
1982: Became *Asa Mercer Middle School* in September

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schools. The 8th and 9th graders had previously attended Cleveland and Sharples, while the 7th graders came from Beacon Hill, Columbia, Concord, Georgetown, Maple, Muir, and Van Asselt.

Despite careful planning based on population surveys and other data, the building soon proved to be too small to house the growing secondary school population in the area. The following September two portables were placed on the grounds. Additionally, from 1958 to 1962, about 250 9th graders were housed at Cleveland High School. An additional 16 portables were added as enrollment topped 1,500 in 1963–64.

To meet the needs of its students, a number of programs have been pioneered at Mercer. In 1981–82, a computer-assisted learning program called Prescriptive Learning was piloted at Mercer, resulting in significant improvement in skills for students previously reading below grade level. With 44 percent of the student body Asian American, Chinese and Japanese classes are part of the foreign-language offerings.

The Belief Academy also started at Mercer in 1991. An experimental program for learning-disabled and behaviorally-disordered students, it is funded by the federal government and is a cooperative effort of the district and the University of Washington.

The school also features the teaching of occupations as a survey course in career planning. A partnership with its neighbor, the Veterans Hospital, allows 8th graders to perform volunteer work. At least 19 students have later been hired there. Additionally, environmental education is part of the regular science curriculum.

The school is collaborating on a Ports Project with the Port of Seattle, University of Washington, and World Affairs Council. Mercer has excelled at the middle school Math Olympiad for the past three years.



Asa Mercer, 1960 SPSA 110-4



# Whitman Junior High School

9201 15th Ave NW

1959, Mallis & DeHart



The Johnson Partnership, August 2012

## Notes:

- Brick masonry and concrete construction.
- Retains original aluminum-sash windows.

Mallis & DeHart designed David Denny Junior High (1952), Nathan Hale High School (1963), & Viewlands Elementary (1954) for SPS.

Mallis & DeHart designed Wilson Junior High (1954) & Pinehurst Elementary (1953) for other clients, and the schools were gained by annexation.

Mallis, DeHart & Hopkins designed Addams Junior High (1954), which was gained by SPS through annexation.

William Mallis designed Aki Kurose Junior High (1952), View Ridge Elementary (1948) & Eckstien Junior High (1950).

# Whitman

Name:	<b>Whitman Middle School</b>	Enrollment:	1,141
Address:	9201 15th Avenue NW	Nickname:	Wildcats
Configuration:	6–8	Colors:	Blue and gold
Newspaper:	<i>The Source</i>	Annual:	unnamed



Whitman, 1959 SPSA 115-38

With the prospect of the Olympic Golf Course being sold to a real estate developer in May 1950, the U.S. Army announced its interest in taking over part of the land for a Nike missile base. National defense concerns ran strong at that time because of hostilities arising in Korea and the fear of atomic weapons. The following day the Seattle School Board announced it too was interested in acquiring property there.

The Army eventually condemned part of the golf course and placed an anti-aircraft facility on the tract. Later, the Army sold land back to the district with the agreement that 3.34 acres on the eastern parcel would be leased back to them. Local residents convinced the Seattle City Council to buy 10.3 acres for a playfield (Soundview Park), and the balance of the golf course was developed into Olympic Manor.

The district's purchase consisted of an eastern parcel next to the park and a western parcel. In 1953, Northwest Elementary School (a.k.a. Crown Hill Annex) was established on the eastern parcel at 15th Avenue NW and (N)W 92nd Street to handle the overflow of students at Crown Hill School. Students purchasing hot lunches ran over to Crown Hill at lunchtime.

A few years after the portable school closed, the site for the permanent elementary school was shifted to the western parcel (see North Beach). The eastern parcel was then developed for its intended use, as the site for a junior high school.

The temporary name used during planning was Northwest Junior High School. On June 21, 1956, the parks department named the adjacent site "North Hills Playfield" and expressed its hope to the school board that "a name could be selected that would be applicable to both the playfield and . . . junior high school."

A list of possible names for the school was submitted to seven elementary schools in the service area for the school. The name Marcus

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Name: **Marcus Whitman Junior High School**  
Location: 9201 15th Avenue NW  
Building: Light-steel frame, reinforced cement & brick  
Architect: Mallis & DeHart  
Site: 15 acres

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1959: Named on May 20; opened in September  
1981: Became *Marcus Whitman Middle School*

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Whitman won while David Douglas was the runner-up. Whitman was a Protestant missionary who, with his wife Narcissa, arrived in Washington in 1836 and established a mission near Walla Walla. They were among those killed by an Indian attack in 1847.

The school opened in 1959–60 with 1,400 students. The song “Salute to Whitman”, written by music teacher Robert Cathey, premiered at the dedication ceremony on November 19.

In 1961–62, two years after its doors opened, Whitman enrollment stood at 1,513 and classrooms were completely full. Some classes were held in such unique locations as the teachers’ workroom and the lunchroom. The overcrowding was resolved in 1963–64 with the opening of R.H. Thomson Junior High School.

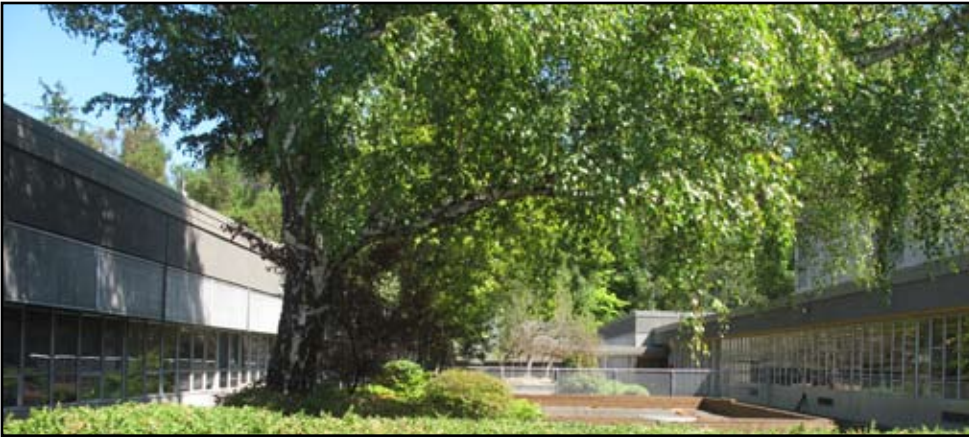
In 1972, as declining enrollments forced the district to close some schools, the prospect of making Whitman Junior High a four-year high school was raised because Whitman’s enrollment was down to 950. This prompted a negative response from the Olympic Manor Community Club, and the school remained a junior high. In 1981, Whitman became a middle school, housing grades 7–8. Following a district-wide change, 6th graders were added in 1987–88.

Beginning in 1996–97, a new track, soccer field, and baseball field were built west of the school in a PTA project that relied on contributions from community organizations. Today approximately 16 percent of the students are in the Spectrum program for the highly capable. Whitman’s 6th graders who demonstrate good citizenship and good academic effort can attend a camp at Warm Beach at the end of the school year.



Whitman, 1972 SPSA 115-44

**Lousia Boren Junior High School**  
5950 Delridge Way SW  
1963, Naramore , Bain, Brady & Johanson



Notes:

- Stucco over frame.
- Retains original windows.
- Recent upgrades to roof insulation.

NBBJ also designed Sealth High School (1957).



The Johnson Partnership, August 2012



Seattle Public Schools

# Boren

Name: **Louisa Boren**  
Address: 5950 Delridge Way SW  
Current Use: Interim site

Louisa Boren, perhaps more than any other Seattle founder, symbolizes the pioneer ideals of courage, selflessness, and ingenuity. A teacher in Illinois, at the age of 24 she headed west by wagon train with her mother and stepfather. After arriving at the point they named Alki in 1851, she made the Puget Sound country her home until her death on August 31, 1916.

Boren married fellow pioneer David Denny and raised a family in the fledgling settlement. Throughout her life, Louisa Boren Denny showed an unusual interest in studying the “unfeminine” subjects of chemistry, philosophy, botany, and astronomy. She is remembered for her kindness to neighbors and her sympathy for newly-arrived Chinese workers. She also worked hard for the cause of women’s suffrage in Washington Territory.

The site of Louisa Boren Junior High School is not far from where the Denny party landed. In the early 1960s, the West Seattle community needed a junior high school because of overcrowding at local elementary and high schools. In September 1963, Boren opened its doors to over 800 students in grades 6–9. Constructed at a cost of over \$2,000,000, the school had 40 teaching stations. A special guest at the dedication of the new school was Victor Denny, grandson of Louisa Boren, who presented a portrait of his grandmother. The portrait is now in the Seattle School District Archives.

In the winter of 1964 or 1965, the first principal, Robert Nelson,



Boren, ca. 1963 SPSA 119-20

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Name: **Louisa Boren Junior High School**  
Location: 5950 Delridge Way SW  
Building: Stucco  
Architect: Naramore, Bain, Brady & Johanson  
Site: 15.05 acres

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1962: Named on November 28  
1963: Opened in September  
1978: Became *Louisa Boren Middle School*  
1981: Closed in June  
1981–89: Special programs site  
1987–: Temporary site

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was refereeing a Boren Bobcats basketball game in the school gym. At half-time, someone rushed up to tell him there was a dead bobcat on his office floor. Nelson responded that he would have to handle it after the game was over. Returning to his office, he indeed found a dead bobcat in a cardboard box. The animal had been hit by a car and was brought in by someone who thought the school might want it. After spending the weekend in the Home Economics freezer, the bobcat was stuffed and placed on display in a trophy case.

In 1978, the school became Louisa Boren Middle School with grades 6–8. A bilingual teaching staff taught English as a Second Language, and many students enrolled in bilingual classes.

A decline in enrollment to 550 and shrinking financial resources forced the district to close Boren in June 1981 and assign students to Madison and Denny. In September Boren became the home of Indian Heritage School, an alternative middle and high school that teaches basic curriculum with an emphasis on Indian cultures. Also located at Boren were a bilingual program for students over 18 and a high school reentry program. The building has housed a number of Seattle School District departments, including Transportation, Compensatory Education, Archives, and a satellite kitchen.

In September 1987, students from High Point moved to Boren for one year while their new school was being constructed. About 300 elementary students shared the building with the Indian Heritage School, which occupied the north wing. In October 1988, the school board approved a request by the United Indians of All Tribes to use part of Boren for a private, all-Indian kindergarten.

Cooper was the next school in need of temporary quarters and they moved into Boren in September 1989. At this time, the Indian Heritage School was moved to a leased building at 315 22nd Avenue S and subsequently to Wilson. For one school year (1993–94), Alternative Education IV made its home at Boren and then moved to Genesee Hill.



Boren, 1965 SPSA 119-63

The Cooper children moved to their new building in fall 1999.

Students from West Seattle High School will move to Boren in September 2000, while their school is being renovated. Soon Boren will have been used longer for special programs and as a temporary site than it was as a junior high and middle school. West Seattle students are scheduled to return to the newly renovated West Seattle High School in September 2002.

**R.H. Thompson Junior High School (now Broadview-Thompson Elementary)**  
13052 Greenwood Ave. N.  
1963, Waldron & Dietz



Notes:

- Brick masonry and concrete construction.
- Retains original aluminum-sash.
- Lin-T concrete slab roof.
- Recent roof insulation upgrade.

Waldron & Dietz also designed Sacajawea Elementary (1959).



The Johnson Partnership, August 2012



## Broadview-Thomson

Name:	<b>Broadview-Thomson Elementary School</b>	Enrollment:	514
Address:	13052 Greenwood Avenue N	Nickname:	Bulldogs
Configuration:	K-5	Colors:	Royal blue and gold



Broadview-Thomson, 2000 ©Mary Randlett SPSA 116-164

Early in the 1900s, a sawmill stood on the western shore of a small lake north of Seattle. The taste of tannic acid left by the logs floating in the water gave the lake its name, Bitter Lake. Playland, an amusement park, opened on the south shore of the lake on May 27, 1930. The Interurban dropped riders off at the Bitter Lake Station, just outside the park. Large crowds from throughout the region came in summer to visit the haunted house and ride the merry-go-round, water slide, and big-dipper roller coaster. In winter, visitors were attracted to the lake for ice skating.

In early 1956, members of the Seattle School Board viewed the Playland property as a possible site for a junior high school they planned to construct. Hearing that the amusement park would probably close (which it did in 1960) and fearing the property would be subdivided for residential purposes or a regional shopping center, they chose to negotiate for the site along with the Seattle Parks Department as a location for a community center, park, and school. The parks department paid for a portion of the school construction costs and was given a deed to half of the property.

The new north end junior high school was constructed on the west side of the lake, with a parks department recreation unit attached to the school gymnasium. The school was named for former Seattle city engineer Reginald H. Thomson who changed the shape of Seattle by initiating the Denny Regrade and the Cedar River water system, among other projects. R.H. Thomson Junior High opened with 1,065 students.

In accordance with the district's desegregation plan, beginning in

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Name:	<b>R.H. Thomson Junior High School</b>
Location:	13052 Greenwood Avenue N
Building:	43-room brick
Architect:	Waldron & Ditz
Site:	9.8 acres

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1962:	Named on November 28
1963:	Opened in September
1981:	Closed as junior high in June; reopened in September as <i>Broadview-Thomson Elementary</i>

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Thomson, 1964 SPSA 116-162



Thomson, 1963 SPSA 116-161

September 1978, Thomson took in 6th graders who had just completed Graham Hill, Northgate, Olympic View, or Viewlands.

By 1980–81, Thomson’s enrollment was down to just 552. Declining enrollment district-wide forced the school board to decide which schools to close and which to maintain. At the same time, junior high schools were being converted into middle schools. The convenient answer for the Broadview neighborhood was to close the much older Broadview Elementary and shift its program five blocks north to Thomson, which had closed as a junior high.

As an elementary school in the district’s desegregation plan, the newly formed Broadview-Thomson was a K, 4–6 school, paired with Muir K–3.

The Thomson building was large and was not fully utilized by the elementary school program, so the district considered other uses that would better utilize the space. Alternative Elementary School V was also located there in September 1992. It was renamed COHO in 1995–96, and the following year it was moved to Wilson. The name COHO, a homonym of a type of salmon, derives from “Cooperative Holistic Learning.”

A new Bitter Lake Community Center (13035 Linden Avenue N) opened in 1997 at the southeast corner of the lake. The old community center (13040 Greenwood Avenue N), adjacent to the school, is now used as an annex to the new facility.

Today Broadview-Thomson is a blend of students in gifted, bilingual, special education, and regular programs. Currently 25 percent of the students are enrolled in a program for the highly capable (Spectrum). All students participate in a variety of music activities. A pre-school program is designed to assist children ages 3–6 who are experiencing developmental delays. Evette Mardesich, principal 1996–99, received the district’s “Principal of the Year Award” in 1999.

**George Washington Junior High School**  
2101 S. Jackson St.  
1963, John Graham & Co.



The Johnson Partnership, August 2012

Notes:

- Precast concrete construction with folded plate roof.
- Retains original aluminum-sash windows.

John Graham & Co. also designed LaFayette Elementary (1961), North Beach Elementary (1958), Olympic Hills Elementary (1954), Wedgewood Elementary (1955), & Roxhill Elementary (1963).



Seattle Public Schools

# Washington

Name:	<b>Washington Middle School</b>	Enrollment:	1,027
Address:	2101 S Jackson Street	Nickname:	Junior Huskies
Configuration:	6–8	Colors:	Purple and gold
Newspaper:	none	Annual:	unnamed



Franklin, ca. 1920 SPSA 117-13

Few schools can look back in their history and find a grade school, a junior high school, and a high school. In fact, at its inception in 1906 as Franklin School, Washington had a dual purpose.

An impressive old-world style building opened in the 1906–07 school year as Franklin School, named for Benjamin Franklin, the American statesman and inventor. Not only did it house 316 students in grades 1–8, it also held the High School Annex, which moved to Franklin from Summit School. In 1907–08, the main school on Broadway was renamed Washington High School, so the upper-grades program at Franklin was renamed the Washington High School Annex. When the high school was renamed Broadway in 1908–09, the program at Franklin became Franklin High School. With the increase in Seattle's high school enrollment, the elementary program was closed at Franklin, and the school operated solely as a high school from 1909–12.

When a new Franklin High School opened in the Mt. Baker



Washington, 1965 SPSA 117-7

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Name: **Franklin School**  
 Location: 18th Avenue S and  
 Main Street  
 Building: 20-room wood frame  
 and stucco  
 Architect: James Stephen  
 Site: 1.41 acres

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1904: Site acquired  
 1906: Named on March 12; opened  
 in September  
 1909: Became *Franklin High School*  
 1912: Became *Washington School*  
 1938: Became *Washington 7th &  
 8th Grade Center*  
 1946: Became *George Washington  
 Junior High School*; site  
 expanded to 2.4 acres  
 1963: Closed in June  
 1963–67: Occupational Guidance  
 Center  
 n.a.: Demolished

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Name: **George Washington  
 Junior High School**  
 Location: 2101 S Jackson St  
 Building: 2-story  
 Architect: John Graham & Co.  
 Site: 18 acres

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1958: Site acquired  
 1963: Opened  
 1970: Closed as junior high  
 in June  
 1970–78: Operated as *Garfield B*  
 1978–: Became *Washington Middle  
 School* in September

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neighborhood in September 1912, the school on Main Street reverted to a grade school. The name chosen, Washington School, derived from the high school program housed there in 1907–08. In addition to regular classes for grades 1–8, there were four special education classes under Nellie Goodhue. Kindergarten classes were added the following year. The School for the Deaf occupied four classrooms at Washington after it was moved there from Longfellow for the 1912–13 school year. The special education classes were transferred to Olympic Special School in 1917. The School for the Deaf moved to Minor on October 1, 1921.

Washington's enrollment averaged between 600 and 800 students, peaking at 890 during the 1931–32 school year. Principal Arthur G. Sears came to the school in 1928 because he wanted to work with immigrant children to ensure that they received a good education. At Washington, nearly half of the students were Japanese American. They were joined by large numbers of recently arrived European Jews as well as Chinese and Filipinos.

In September 1938, Washington became a 7th and 8th grade center with an enrollment of 706. With the addition of 9th graders in 1946–47, the school became George Washington Junior High.

Plans for building a new junior high school on a site near 23rd Avenue S and Jackson Street were announced in December 1958. After closing as a school, the old building became the district's Occupational Guidance Center, housing classes in English for the Foreign Born and Basic Reading, as well as Prevocational Classes, the Family Life Education Program, and the Manpower Development and Training Program.

By 1965–66, the old Washington building was part of Seattle Community College. In summer 1967, the property was divided in half, the south portion going to the Seattle School District and the north portion, which included the building, going to the newly independent Seattle Community College. In 1967–68, the district housed its Central Area Office on the site.

The new school building, designed to hold about 1,100 students, opened in 1963 with approximately 800 students. The campus was large and sprawling. On a lower level were the gymnasiums and music rooms.

In 1970, the junior high school was converted for use as an annex



Washington, 1968 SPSA 117-8

for Garfield High School and, for eight years, was known as Garfield B. It housed academic and vocational education classes for high school students. A special program to help school-age parents continue their education began there in 1976–77. When Pacific School was declared unsafe, the Pacific Handicapped Program moved to Washington during Christmas break 1975–76.

In 1978, the school board decided that Madrona was needed again as an elementary school. In September that year, middle school students from Madrona were moved into the Washington building, which then became Washington Middle School. At the same time, the Pacific Handicapped Program was moved to Wilson.

Currently, Washington is the site for the district's middle school section of the Accelerated Progress Program (APP) for students who place in the top 1.5 percent on a standardized exam. The school also houses a special education program. Washington boasts an award-winning jazz band and orchestra. Its students also have won several statewide math competitions in recent years.

# Worth McClure Junior High School

1915 1st Ave.

1964, Edward Mahlum



The Johnson Partnership, August 2012

## Notes:

- Concrete with brick masonry infill.
- Replacement windows.

Edward Mahlum also designed Decatur Elementary (1961).



Seattle Public Schools

Supplement to Cedar Park Elementary Landmark Nomination Report

## Seattle Public Schools built between 1945 and 1965

August 2012

## McClure

Name:	<b>Worth McClure Middle School</b>	Enrollment:	624
Address:	1915 First Avenue W	Nickname:	Mustangs
Configuration:	6–8	Colors:	Black and gold
Newspaper:	<i>Maverick News</i>	Annual:	unnamed



McClure, 1964 SPSA 118-3

In the early 1960s, a new junior high school was needed to reduce overcrowding at Queen Anne High School, which also housed junior high school students. The planned school was named Elisha P. Ferry Junior High School after Washington State's first governor. Two years later it was renamed to honor Worth McClure, who served as Seattle's Superintendent of Schools for 14 years (1930–1944). Most of the initial teaching staff came from Queen Anne Junior High School.

The school features 30 teaching stations and was designed for 850 students, making it one of the district's smallest intermediate schools. When it opened, its enrollment was slightly over capacity. A trimester system was employed rather than the traditional semester system.

Several important changes took place at McClure during the school year 1981–82. First, it changed configuration from grades 7–9 to 6–8. It also added students from Magnolia following the closing of Blaine. Lastly, with the closing of Queen Anne High School, McClure became a feeder school for Franklin.

McClure's small size has not been a negative factor because of its location adjacent to a six-acre Seattle Park Department facility that contains the Queen Anne Recreation Center, pool and playfield. These offer a wide range of after-school activities.



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Name: **Worth McClure Junior High School**

Location: 1915 1st Avenue W

Building: Brick

Architect: Edward Mahlum

Site: 2.3 acres

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1962: Named *Elisba P. Ferry Junior High School* on November 28

1964: Named *Worth McClure Junior High School* on March 11; opened in September

1981: Renamed *Worth McClure Middle School*

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McClure, 1965 SPSA 118-1

In 1987, the Multi-International Color Society was formed. Annual activities included charity efforts, outreach programs and a spring ethnic week celebration.

McClure has recently made a commitment to improving its science instruction by implementing a full-year science program for all grades. In November 1999, a weather station was installed on the school's roof. With this new technology, and aided by partners at the University of Washington, students are able to monitor local climatic changes and compare them with data from the Pathfinder Mars mission.

All 7th grade students participate in an activity called Project Reach, a self-directed cultural exploration that culminates in a school-wide fair and regional exhibition.

# Sealth High School

2600 SW Thistle

1957, Naramore , Bain, Brady & Johanson



The Johnson Partnership, August 2012



Seattle Public Schools



## Notes:

- Brick masonry and concrete construction.
- Use of dramatic thin-shell concrete roof.
- Major renovations completed last year

NBBJ also designed Lousia Boren Junior High School (1963).

# Sealth

Name:	<b>Chief Sealth High School</b>	Enrollment:	957
Address:	2600 SW Thistle Street	Nickname:	Seahawks
Configuration:	9-12	Colors:	Blue and gray
Newspaper:	<i>Southwester</i>	Annual:	<i>Cache</i>



Sealth, 1963 SPSA 018-1

In June 1954, the growing population in southwest Seattle led the Seattle School District to plan for its first new high school in some 30 years. Enrollment estimates indicated that the high school population in West Seattle would reach 4,000 by 1965. The school board selected a site in the Westwood neighborhood near White Center, across the street from Denny Junior High School.

The school was named for Noah Sealth, the most prominent American Indian leader in the region at the time of the city's settlement. Chief Sealth was regarded as an influential friend by the founding fathers who named their town after him. The name of the school represents a closer English pronunciation of the Suquamish leader's actual name than does the spelling of the city's name, Seattle.

The construction of the new school was unique for the region, although it had been used extensively in other countries. It was selected because of its ability to withstand earthquakes. Known as a "thin-shell" type of building, the structure is all concrete with three-inch walls. The



Sealth, 1958 SPSA 018-8

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Name: **Chief Sealth High School**  
Location: 2600 SW Thistle Street  
Building: 50-room concrete  
Architect: Naramore, Bain, Brady  
& Johnson  
Site: 17.45 acres

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1957: Named on May 3; opened  
in September  
1969: Addition (Naramore, Bain,  
Brady & Johnson)

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roof has a concrete base with a built-up roofing finish. A large “barrel” roof covers the gymnasium and auditorium, which seat 2,000 and 1,150 respectively. Built on the grounds, the roof was eased into place in a mere four hours by a team of 26 men. At the time, it was the largest roof in the Pacific Northwest.

Chief Sealth High School opened with 900 students in grades 9–11. Construction continued into 1958. The school’s spacious gymnasium, auditorium, and activities area were made available to community activities. The first graduates were the Class of 1959.

Enrollment grew and, by 1960–61, there were 13 portables on the grounds. Enrollment peaked at 2,206 in 1962–63. An addition in 1969 gave the school a learning resource center and a business education area.

In the early 1970s, Sealth followed a unique schedule system, divided into seven periods. Only six periods met on a given day with one period omitted every day on a rotating basis. This gave students an opportunity to explore an additional subject.

In 1988, West Seattle parents debated a proposal to create a “mega-Sealth.” In the plan, West Seattle High School would close and its students consolidated at Sealth. Sealth, in turn, would expand into Denny Middle School, whose students would be sent Boren and Madison. The value of the larger school would have been in providing students a larger number of classes from which to choose. This plan did not become reality, however.



Sealth, 1973 SPSA 018-6

The first Family Fun Night at Sealth took place on May 6, 1994, and remains a tradition today. Since 1998, school highlights include an international studies program with a focus on foreign languages and language arts-social studies, and a performing arts magnet program with award-winning drama, band, choir, and jazz and string ensembles. An Academy of Travel and Tourism and Academy of Finance provide work training experience. An aerospace-aviation class uses flight simulators, and students work on assembling a helicopter at Boeing Field.

Sealth Stadium, which sits between the high school and Denny Middle School, is being revamped for the 2000–01 school year. Grass will be replaced with synthetic turf and new bleachers will be installed. The nearby Southwest Community Center and swimming pool are used by both schools.

# Rainier Beach High School

8815 Seward Park S.

1960, John W. Maloney



The Johnson Partnership, August 2012

## Notes:

- Brick masonry construction.
- Windows on second floor replaced.
- New entry and other renovations completed in 2008.

John W. Maloney also designed Asa Mercer Junior High School (1957).



Seattle Public Schools

Supplement to Cedar Park Elementary Landmark Nomination Report

**Seattle Public Schools built between 1945 and 1965**

August 2012

## Rainier Beach

Name:	<b>Rainier Beach High School</b>	Enrollment:	786
Address:	8815 Seward Park S	Nickname:	Vikings
Configuration:	9-12	Colors:	Blue and orange
Newspaper:	<i>The Viking Shield</i>	Annual:	<i>Valhalla</i>



Rainier Beach, 2000 ©Mary Randlett SPSA 021-82

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Name:	<b>Rainier Beach Junior-Senior High School</b>
Location:	8815 Seward Park Avenue S
Building:	2-story brick
Architect:	John W. Maloney
Site:	21.6 acres

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1960:	Named on March 9; opened on September 7
1972:	Became <i>Rainier Beach High School</i>
1998:	Performing Arts Center opened

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Plans for a combined junior and senior high school in the southeast section of the city were initiated in 1957. A portion of the site was purchased from the City of Seattle in August 1958. During the planning stages, the school was known as Southeast Seattle Junior-Senior High School. It was to be named after Samuel Gompers, a noted pioneer in the labor movement, but that name was given to a trade school instead (see Rainier). The architectural plans submitted in 1959 showed two alternatives for the building, with or without an auditorium and gymnasium. After much controversy, the auditorium was dropped from the plans for financial reasons.

At that time, it was felt that a combined facility for grades 7-12 would be adequate for many years to come. Rainier Beach Junior-Senior High School opened in September 1960 with 845 students in the junior high level and 412 high school students. As was the practice when opening new high schools in Seattle, there was no senior class and only a small junior class entered the first year.



Rainier Beach, 1965 SPSA 021-1

By 1967, the school was overcrowded, with 2,159 students housed in a building designed for 1,500. The principal, Don Means, urged the school district to establish a separate facility for the younger students. The Model Middle School began in portables on the grounds of Rainier Beach in September 1970. The first year only 7th graders attended the middle school; the next year it comprised grades 7–8. The middle school moved to a new permanent building called South Shore in December 1973. The following September, American Indian Heritage School moved into the portables at Rainier Beach.

In 1968, Rainier Beach and its feeder elementary schools developed a K–12 individualized program that became a model for inner city schools. This program included ungraded curriculum in some subjects, small groups of teachers, counselors and students who monitored individual progress, and an alternative program. In 1969, Rainier Beach was selected to participate in the international Model Schools project.

Student activities including clubs and athletics grew to become part of the school's evolving tradition. Over the years, the boys' basketball team has done exceptionally well, winning the 3-A state championship, then the 2-A championship in 1988.

During the 1980s and 1990s, a district policy limiting the percentage of minority enrollment in any one school meant that some neigh-



Rainier Beach, 2000, entrance to Performing Arts Center ©Mary Randlett SPSA 021-84



borhood residents were not able to attend the school. These guidelines, which were put into effect to qualify for federal benefits, are now being relaxed to allow more local participation in the school.

Several innovative programs originated at Rainier Beach. From 1975 to 1983, students in an aviation class built an experimental plane that was eventually auctioned off for over \$3,000. The Boeing Company has been an active partner in this and many subsequent technology programs. Fall 1990 marked the inception of a Model Teaching Academy that prepares students for college and a career in education, one of five such academies in the country. Today the DECA program in marketing education is the premier business program in the district, with students winning both state and national awards. Also at Rainier Beach, the Belief Academy for students with learning and behavioral disabilities has used integrated teaching techniques to create a positive learning environment. Rainier Beach was also the first school in the district with a Teen Health Center, established in 1988.

A long-awaited Performing Arts Center opened in fall 1998. Since the original auditorium had never been constructed, this visual and performing arts magnet school finally got a first-class facility. The new auditorium provides a state-of-the-art stage and comfortable seating. An exterior canopy and entry plaza enhances the appearance of the center's curved blue walls.

# Nathan Hale High School

10750 30th Ave. NE

1963, Mallis & DeHart



The Johnson Partnership, August 2012



Seattle Public Schools

## Notes:

- Brick masonry and concrete construction.
- Use of Lin-T concrete roof slabs.
- Major renovations and additions completed between 2008 and 2011.

Mallis & DeHart designed David Denny Junior High (1952), Whitman Junior High School (1959), & Viewlands Elementary (1954) for SPS.

Mallis & DeHart designed Wilson Junior High (1954) & Pinehurst Elementary (1953) for other clients, and the schools were gained by annexation.

Mallis, DeHart & Hopkins designed Addams Junior High (1954), which was gained by SPS through annexation.

William Mallis designed Aki Kurose Junior High (1952), View Ridge Elementary (1948), & Eckstien Junior High (1950).

# Hale

Name:	<b>Nathan Hale High School</b>	Enrollment:	1,074
Address:	10750 30th Avenue NE	Nickname:	Raiders
Configuration:	9-12	Colors:	Red, white, and blue
Newspaper:	<i>The Sentinel</i>	Yearbook:	<i>The Heritage</i>



Hale, 2000 ©Mary Randlett SPSA 022-6

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Name:	<b>Nathan Hale High School</b>
Location:	10750 30th Avenue NE
Building:	55-station brick
Architect:	Mallis & DeHart
Site:	18.32 acres

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1962:	Named on November 28
1963:	Opened in September
1972:	Addition (DeHart, Lands and Hall)

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The area northeast of Seattle, was part of the Shoreline School District until 1954. For a number of years that area had only one secondary school, Jane Addams. Steady population growth during the 1950s meant a new high school would soon be needed. In the planning stage, the school was given the temporary name of Northeast High School. This was later changed to Meadowbrook High School.

The site for the new school, originally part of the Fisher Dairy, had most recently been the Meadowbrook Golf Course. While the school was under construction, new guidelines and procedures for the naming of schools were adopted. As a result, the name Meadowbrook was replaced by Nathan Hale. Once built, the school building and parking lot were positioned on either side of Thornton Creek, which runs west to east through the property. The site is directly across the street from Jane Addams.

Nathan Hale High School was one of several schools for which the Seattle Parks Department paid a portion of the building construction in exchange for title to adjacent land to be used for recreational facilities. The first principal, Claude Turner, helped design the school.

In its first year, Hale opened to sophomores and juniors only, with just 1,206 students. Two years later, it had a student body of 2,002. By the late 1960s, Hale's enrollment had reached 2,400, and 24 portables were in use.



Hale, 1965 SPSA 022-1

Named after the American Revolutionary War hero, who proclaimed, “I only regret that I have but one life to lose for my country,” Nathan Hale assumed independence as a school-wide theme. Its colors are red, white, and blue, and its student body is at liberty to pursue diverse fields of study. The likeness of a 1776 Minuteman on its distinctive smokestack was painted in the dark of night, presumably by a student or students. The hallways are painted red, white and blue.

A new learning resource center opened in fall 1972, nearly doubling the size of the school’s original library. The community chose to use bond money for the learning resource center, rather than for an auditorium, so the high school continued to use the Addams auditorium for its dramatic productions.

From 1964 through the mid-1970s, Nathan Hale was a sports powerhouse, winning the Metro championships in several sports three out of four years in a row. The music department also excelled, with the stage band capturing numerous regional awards.

The district’s 1978 desegregation plan cut the number of schools feeding Hale from ten to four. Some of these feeder schools were closed, drastically cutting into Hale’s enrollment, despite the addition of 9th graders in September 1979. Some students who would have attended Hale were sent to south end schools.

Hale is unique for its radio station, the only one operating at a Seattle public school. Broadcasting at 89.5FM, KNHC went on the air in January 1971 as a 10-watt station under the direction of teacher Lawrence Adams. Threatened by budget cuts in 1980–81, the station was saved by allowing Seattle Central Community College students to use the station as a laboratory 28 hours per week in exchange for help supporting the station. In January 1982, the station adopted a new full-time soul, rap, rhythm and blues format, which included a 4-hour jazz show.

The Seattle School District pays 65 percent of the station’s annual

budget, with the rest covered by fundraising. Each year about 90 students enroll in Hale's radio classes. By 1990, it was upgraded to 30 kilowatts.

The format at KNHC (better known as C-89) has changed over the years. Today it is known for "Seattle's Hottest Music." *Rolling Stone Magazine* sang the station's praises: "It's the largest and most influential of the roughly 50 high school radio stations licensed in the country. . . . the station has become a national trendsetter."

Hale's Vocational Horticulture Program is also the only one of its kind in the Seattle School District. It teaches students how to grow and maintain flowers and plants. Greenhouses were built to state-of-the-art technology in 1973. In 1982-83, a solar greenhouse was constructed by students from the school's vocational carpentry class.

The greenhouses and portable classrooms are located at the old Lake City sewer plant one block east of campus, just off NE 110th and south of 36th Avenue NE. A retail store, staffed by advanced horticulture students, sells products to customers who are mostly nearby residents. Sales average \$2,000 a year. Students and parents can also sign up for individual 20-foot garden plots located on a small parcel of land nearby.

As Hale celebrated its 30th anniversary in 1994, staff members reflected on the strength of its programs that have helped to attract growing numbers of students. In addition to the radio station and horticulture programs, the school also houses the district's Graphic Arts Center. A strong instructional program has grown around that facility.

In 1996, Patricia Cygan, Washington State Teacher of the Year was one of five finalists for National Teacher of the Year.

Current curriculum includes project-based instruction in all grades. A unique program for 9th graders connects English, history, science, and math into two "academies" with a 20:1 student/teacher ratio. A student-produced magazine, *The Stand*, won first place with special merit from the National Scholastic Press Association in 1999. Other school highlights include the performance by the vocal jazz choir, directed by Rich Sumstad, at Carnegie Hall in February 2000.

The sports fields at Nathan Hale and Addams are currently undergoing renovation and expansion. The new Hale/Addams athletic complex will be ready for the opening of school in September 2000 and will allow Hale to host home football games.