

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**DATA SHEET**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED JUN 13 1975

DATE ENTERED JUL 30 1975

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Queen Anne Public School [Preferred]

AND/OR COMMON

West Queen Anne Elementary School

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

515 West Galer Street

--- NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Seattle

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

--- VICINITY OF

#1 - Honorable Joel M. Pritchard

STATE

Washington

CODE

53

COUNTY

King

CODE

033

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

**CATEGORY**

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

**OWNERSHIP**

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH

**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**

- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

**STATUS**

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE**
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

**PRESENT USE**

- AGRICULTURE
- MUSEUM
- COMMERCIAL
- PARK
- EDUCATIONAL
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- ENTERTAINMENT
- RELIGIOUS
- GOVERNMENT
- SCIENTIFIC
- INDUSTRIAL
- TRANSPORTATION
- MILITARY
- OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Seattle Public School District No. 1, Administrative and Service Center

STREET & NUMBER

815 Fourth Avenue North

CITY, TOWN

Seattle

--- VICINITY OF

STATE

Washington

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

King County Administrative Building

STREET & NUMBER

Fourth Avenue and James Street

CITY, TOWN

Seattle

STATE

Washington

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

None

DATE

--- FEDERAL --- STATE --- COUNTY --- LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

# 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED      DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

West Queen Anne Elementary School, designed by Warren P. Skillings and James M. Corner in the Richardsonian Romanesque Style, has been in continuous use for educational purposes since its opening in 1896. Subsequent additions were made in 1899, 1902, 1916 and 1934, and each matched or respected the original material and style. The building has been well maintained over the years. It is in generally good condition and meets today's educational requirements satisfactorily.

The school is located in the NE 1/4 Section 25, T25N, R3E of the Willamette Meridian. It occupies lots 1 through 12, the entire Block 35 of Comstock's Supplemental Addition to the Plat of Seattle. Block 35 is bounded on the north by West Galer Street, a main arterial; by West Lee Street on the south; by Fifth Avenue West on the west; and by Sixth Avenue West on the east. The setting is a residential neighborhood in which three and four-story Post War apartment buildings are interspersed with homes of mixed periods. Though not quite at the crest of Queen Anne Hill, the site is nevertheless at a high elevation on the south slope of the hill, and a view of Seattle Harbor may be obtained near the school ground by looking south along Fifth Avenue West.

The plan of the main block, measuring approximately 166 feet in length and 80 feet across the two lateral wings, is essentially H shaped and is oriented longitudinally on the block, north to south, and is slightly offset to the west. At the lower, or south end the 41 by 140-foot wing erected in 1916 is perpendicular to the main block and is joined to the older building by an 18 by 33-foot stair hall. To the west of the main block is a semi-detached one-story brick boiler room measuring 31 by 53 feet which was constructed when the building was converted to steam heat in 1934. The west side of the school ground is the service area. The more extensive area on the east side is covered with asphalt for playfield use. Here there is a 29 by 64-foot one-story frame building, or "portable" with gable roof which is detached from the main block and oriented parallel to it. The north end of the site is bordered by a steep bank, the result of grading completed after the school was constructed. The bank is stabilized by plant materials and a concrete rubble retaining wall. A concrete retaining wall also lines the lower end of the site, and a chain link fence extends around the entire periphery. The fence is higher (6 feet) on the playfield side.

The school is a two-story building with high basement and attic. Its foundation is concrete, and wall construction is of brick masonry. Floors are carried by timber beams. The hipped roof is of frame construction and is surfaced with shingles and clay coping tile at the ridges and crown. The entrance to the main block is in a central projecting stair tower or block on the north end. This block is lighted by multiple-pane, semi-circular windows on the sides and by a large portal arch which frames transom lights of both fixed and double-hung sash, and an architrave across the length of which the name of the school has been applied. The architrave is carried by tapered square columns of the Tuscan order which also flank double-leaf doors and set off panels and side lights.

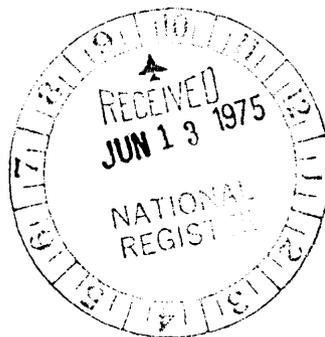
Window openings of the main block are double-hung sash windows with six lights over six. On the side elevations the basement windows have segmental brick arch heads;

The ground story windows have flat arch heads with corbelled keystones; and at the second story the sash windows have round heads and are framed by corbelled brick archivolt springing from corbelled imposts. These openings are arranged in arcade-like groupings of four with common posts and imposts which are a hallmark of the Richardsonian Romanesque. Here too the sandstone sills are, in effect, extended the length of the arcade groupings to create short belt courses.

The hipped roof has slightly bell-cast overhanging eaves which effectively protect the exterior wall. These are carried by band-sawed outriggers, or brackets. On the north and south ends, formally-placed dormer windows light the attic space. The side walls of the dormers give the appearance of being slightly battered and are carried beyond the plane of the opening in a buttress-like manner. The whole of the dormer surface, including the gable roof with its bowed tympanum, is clad with shingles in conformance with stylistic convention. At the center of the west face is a polygonal brick chimney, the stack of which extends nearly to the height of the crown of the roof.

The perpendicular wing of 1916 sensitively duplicates the materials and roof line of the main block, but subtle differences in the treatment of the brick distinguish it as a later addition. Brackets under the eaves are precise duplicates of the original. Window sash is also in proportion to the original, though the later windows operate as tilt types. All openings in the newer wing have flat arch heads, and acknowledgment of the Romanesque round-arched idiom is made through the use of slightly recessed panels terminating in blind arches above window openings of the topmost story on the end walls. Centered within the tympanae of these arches are geometric motifs of patterned brickwork. In this wing a brick dentil course at the top of the wall makes a discreet transition to the eaves.

Interior spaces of the main block are organized around the long central corridor. Kitchen, lunchrooms and storerooms are in the basement. Administrative offices, classrooms, workrooms, infirmary and teachers' lunchroom are located on the first floor; and additional classrooms and stockrooms make up the second story. Interior trim is of fir, and wall and ceiling surfaces are both paneled and plaster. The perpendicular wing of 1916 has a side corridor along the north wall in order that the classrooms and library have the advantage of natural light from a southern exposure. Because of the sloping site, the story which corresponds to the basement of the main block is essentially above grade in the new wing. The auditorium projects from the center of the south wall at this level, and in the single-story projection also is the south entrance to the school.



# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1895-1896 1899, 1902, 1916 BUILDER/ARCHITECT Warren P. Skillings and James M. Corner, Architects

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

West Queen Anne Elementary School is significant to the city of Seattle as an historic focal point on Queen Anne Hill, one of the city's most picturesque neighborhoods, and it is important as an example of high quality, permanent public school construction dating from the period before the turn of the century. The West Queen Anne School and B. F. Day School (1892), which is located north of the Lake Washington Ship Canal, are the only wholly intact buildings constructed prior to 1900 still in use by Seattle Public School District No. 1. Of the two, West Queen Anne School is perhaps of greater interest architecturally. Both schools are results of the School District's early expansion to the north of the central city, and the plans of both were calculated for enlargement and later additions.

Typical of school development elsewhere in the city, the original school in "Queen Anne Town", as the early community was known, was a small, two-room frame building on the present site. It was opened in January 1890. In response to petitions from citizens of the community, the Board of Education annexed the property three years later. Requests for improved school facilities were received by the Board. In 1895 monies obtained under a special levy specifically for school construction became available, and architects were asked to submit plans and specifications for a six-room school building on Queen Anne Hill. On the basis of their design for a "brick and stone" school building, Warren P. Skillings and James M. Corner, local architects, were selected to supervise the project. Bids received for construction were at first rejected because all exceeded the amount earmarked for the work. The architects were instructed to revise their plans, and alternatives for the slate roof and stone masonry were found. Though these early drawings apparently no longer exist, it is probable that Skillings and Corner's Richardsonian Romanesque concept was initially proposed with stone trim and ashlar facing at ground level which would have been characteristic of the style. Minutes of the School Board meetings show that local contractors Shannon and Ryan were awarded the contract for construction, and during a special session in June, 1896, the Board received a report from the architects that the building was completed. A separate contract for grading or leveling the north end of the site was authorized shortly thereafter.

Little is known about the initial architects, Skillings and Corner. Though the firm was listed in the classified section of the city directory for the period, the men appear not to have been founding members of the Washington State Chapter of the American Institute of Architects which was being formed in Seattle as early as 1894.



In 1899 the School Board authorized a two-room addition to the school. In 1902 four more rooms were added, and the plan of the main block achieved the shape which is apparent today. Originally called Queen Anne School, the building began to be designated West Queen Anne School around 1908 to avoid confusion with other schools being developed on the hill. The largest addition of ten rooms was constructed in 1916 under the supervision of Edgar Blair, who had been trained in architecture at Columbia University and arrived in Seattle at the time of the Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition of 1909. Blair served as City Architect for several years and is credited with the design of many Seattle schools, including about thirty of the city's grade schools and Franklin, Ballard and West Seattle High Schools, erected in 1912, 1914 and 1917, respectively. The drawings for Blair's sensitive work on the 1916 wing of West Queen Anne Elementary School are the earliest of the school available among public school records.

It is reported that between 1900 and 1918 the school was directed by the first woman principal of a public school in Seattle. Her name was Adelaide Pollock.

School Board policy in force from 1910 and reiterated as part of the Superintendent's report in the Thirty-first Annual Report of the Public Schools, 1915-1916, was that school buildings should be opened to the community for meetings. By providing assembly rooms easily accessible from the street, the School Board felt school houses could beneficially influence civic and social conditions. In conformance with this notion, an auditorium was included in the ten-room addition to West Queen Anne School carried out in 1916.



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CONTINUATION SHEET

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Before submitting plans for the Queen Anne School in 1895, Warren P. Skillings had already achieved some prominence among Seattle architects as winner of the design competition for the Washington State Building at the 1893 World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago. This was a half timbered structure consisting of three separate two-and-a-half story rectangular plan sections with parallel gable roofs. They were joined by connecting hallways, and the larger central portion included corner towers. The building featured broad overhangs and some stick style details as well as a base wall of log construction.

The Chicago Exposition was attended by some of Washington's most prosperous and fashionable citizens, and it is known to have influenced architectural styles in cities throughout the Pacific Northwest.

Planning and Construction.

Minutes of meetings of the Board of Education 1893-1896, 1896-1898. Thirty-first Annual Report of the Public Schools, Seattle, Washington 1915-1916, pp. 52-53, 130.

Seattle City Directory 1895-1896, p. 818. Classified listing for Skillings and Corner.

