

## *Columbia Annex*

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Rainier Vista School was built in 1943 with federal funds at the Rainier Vista Housing Project for wartime workers who were mostly employed at Boeing. It was leased to the Seattle School District in September 1944 when it opened. The children attending during that first year were in grades K–1 and most lived in the project apartments. The district purchased the site after the end of the war.

Additionally, the federal government built an annex as an emergency building to care for pre-school children of working mothers during the war. It was used as a nursery school until August 1948 when the program was discontinued. The building was then leased by the district as part of Rainier Vista School.

From 1946 to 1964, the grade configuration was K–2, except in 1949–53 when it was K–3. In 1960–61 all five rooms in the main building and annex were in use.

Since the school closed in 1971, it has been used for Head Start offices and to provide space for four Head Start preschool classes. That program moved to Wilson in June 2000.

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Name: **Rainier Vista School**  
 Location: 3100 Alaska Street  
 Building: 3-room wood  
 Architect: Holmes & Bain  
 Site: 1.75 acres

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1944: Opened as annex to Columbia in September  
 1947: Purchased by Seattle School District in July  
 1948: Nursery building leased  
 1951: Nursery building deeded to Seattle School District  
 1955: Renamed *Columbia Annex* on February 23  
 1971: Closed as a regular school in June  
 1971–2000: Used for Head Start

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Rainier Vista, ca. 1945 SPSA 214-1