

Maple Leaf

Name: **Maple Leaf School**
 Location: Near (N)E 98th Street &
 49th Avenue NE
 Building: Frame

1896: Opened
 pre-1910: Destroyed by fire

Name: **Maple Leaf School**
 Location: SE corner of (N)E 105th &
 35th Avenue NE
 Building: 4-room frame

1910: New building opened
 1926: Closed
 n.a.: Veterans of Foreign Wars
 Hall/Maple Leaf Community
 Club
 1952: Sold and demolished

Name: **Maple Leaf School**
 Location: (N)E 100th &
 32nd Avenue NE
 Building: 8-room brick veneer
 exterior and wood interior
 Architect: William Mallis
 Site: 5.76 acres

1926: Opened by Maple Leaf
 District
 1930: Addition (Mallis)
 1940: Addition
 1944: Formed part of new
 Shoreline School District
 1953: Annexed into Seattle School
 District on March 1
 1979: Closed in June
 1979-87: Leased to Renton Technical
 Vocational Institute
 1986: Lower field sold for single
 family housing
 1990: Building demolished

The first Maple Leaf School stood near the La Villa Station on the Seattle, Lake Shore and Eastern Railway, the present-day Burke Gilman Trail. It had been built as a bunkhouse for workers at the sawmill on Lake Washington, near what is now Matthews Beach. The school got its name from the large number of maple trees in the area.

Howard Hanson was the first teacher and earned a salary of \$40 a month. His pupils were three children from the Ohland family and three from the Fischer family. The Fischers' father, August, kept a sturdy team of horses and supplied the school with wood for its pot-belly stove. At the time, the railroad attracted homeless men who often times spent the night in the school house.

The small wood building burned down sometime before 1910. The children were transported by wagon to Yesler School until a second and larger Maple Leaf was built two miles to the north and east.

When the school population outgrew the second Maple Leaf in the 1920s, a new site was purchased by Maple Leaf School District No. 164 five blocks to the southwest. The land for the third Maple Leaf School was acquired from August and Wilhemina Fischer who included a special clause in the 1925 deed to allow them to continue watering their livestock at a spring on what later became the school's lower field. The older building was purchased by the Veterans of Foreign Wars and was used as a community clubhouse until it was sold and demolished in 1952.

The first addition to Maple Leaf was a gymnasium that opened in 1930. Because the north side of the school grounds were unsuitable for a playground, a lot across the street became a play area. A new and improved playground to the east was cleared and graded in 1937. Many of the shrubs and flowers that surrounded the building were donated by the Nishitani family, who operated a greenhouse on Bothell Way.

By 1935, Maple Leaf was short of classrooms because of increased enrollment. The lunchroom, located at the north end of the 1926 structure, was converted into two classrooms and was also used to hold assemblies. At a temporary lunchroom (possibly in a portable), sponsored and operated by the PTA, lunches sold for just 15 cents each.



Maple Leaf, 1958 SPSA 253-69



Maple Leaf, 1955 SPSA 253-46

During the 1937–38 year, 380 pupils packed a school designed to accommodate 350. A campaign for a new lunchroom brought in federal support as a WPA project. The new wing, completed in 1940, included 10 classrooms as well as a new lunchroom.

Maple Leaf became part of Shoreline School District No. 412 in 1944. In 1952, the residents of the Maple Leaf area voted for annexation to the City of Seattle, and the school became part of the Seattle School District the following year. With the 1950s came tremendous growth in district enrollment, and Maple Leaf was no exception. Matthews School (later Rogers) was opened in 1953 as an annex to Maple Leaf to relieve the overcrowding. The peak enrollment of 909 at Maple Leaf came in 1954–55.

Victory Heights, a new all-portable school, was scheduled to open in October 1955 for over 200 north end children who had been attending University Heights. When a problem with sewer connections delayed the opening, the Victory Heights pupils were placed in four existing portables at Maple Leaf. When Victory Heights (later Sacajawea) finally opened, it did so as an annex to Maple Leaf.

In 1965–66, 637 students attended Maple Leaf. By 1979, enrollment dropped to 203, following a district-wide trend. Although the teachers, parents, and students maintained a strong sense of community, the district determined that the costs of operating such a small school necessitated its closure in June 1979. Most of the students transferred to Rogers for the following year. During its entire time as a Seattle public school, Maple Leaf had been a K–6 grade school.

In August 1979, Maple Leaf's classrooms were leased to the Renton Technical Vocational Institute for instructional space. The site was put up for sale in 1984, and the playground property (the eastern half of the site) was sold to a contractor for housing construction in 1986. The school building was demolished in 1990, and the remaining property now stands vacant.