

Edison Boat Shop

Name: **Boat Shop, Edison
Technical School**
Location: 1115 N Northlake Way

ca. 1937: Opened
ca. 1975: Closed; site sold
Present: Ocean Alexander Yacht Sales

Boat building classes in Seattle School District began at Central II in 1917 but soon shifted to Broadway High School as a part of the Evening School. They were later moved to Edison Vocational School where they were held in the Edison Building.

In October 1936, the district rented property on north Lake Union, which included not only the building and dry dock, but also equipment and machinery. In its search for a teacher, the district “found just the man in 55-year-old James Chambers, graduate of Scotland’s famed River Clyde boatworks.”

During World War II, when vocational classes were geared toward the war effort, the site was sublet to an individual who operated it as a private boat shop. By 1946, the Broadway Edison Boat Shop had opened on Lake Union in the leased building. Boats built by students were sold at open houses. In 1950, for example, two 21-foot runabouts and two 26-foot sloops were built and sold.

Edison Boat Shop became part of Seattle Community College in 1966, and the following year it was transferred to the State of Washington. Around 1975, the site was sold to Dunato’s Marine Service & Supply, which remodeled the building over the years before selling it around 1988. When the school operation closed on Lake Union, marine carpentry classes were transferred to the Gompers Branch (see Rainier).