

Mercer

Name: **Mercer School**
 Location: 4th Avenue N & Valley Street
 Building: 8-room wood
 Architect: Saunders & Houghton
 Site: 1.41 acres

1890: Opened
 1892: Addition (n.a.)
 1903: Renamed *Jefferson* on March 7; renamed *Mercer* on March 23
 1931: Became annex to Warren Avenue in September
 1933: Closed as regular school in September; operated as *Mercer Adjustment Center*
 1940: Closed as a school; used as training site for district custodians
 1942: Edison Vocational School
 1948: Closed and demolished
 1949: District's Administration and Service Center opened at 815 4th Avenue N
 Present: Administration and Service Center



Mercer, ca. 1910 SPSA 096-1

Mercer School was named after Seattle pioneer Thomas Mercer upon whose donation claim the school was located. Mercer was one of the early directors of the Seattle School District. Mercer School had an identical floor plan to Minor, Columbia, and Rainier, although each was done in a different architectural style. The Italian Renaissance-style Mercer was considered Seattle's finest school in 1892 and was included in the city's exhibit at the International Columbian Exposition in Chicago to showcase Seattle's modern educational facilities.

A four-room addition opened in 1892. From January 1901 until spring 1903, the Mercer Annex operated in rented space at 401 5th Avenue N for a single 1st grade class, which could not be accommodated at Mercer. However, Mercer's enrollment began to decline beginning with the opening of Warren Avenue School in 1902. After the completion of the Denny Regrade, Mercer was phased out. Most students were sent to Warren Avenue and John Hay after the end of the 1930–31 school year. From 1931–33, there were only a few 1st through 3rd grade classes left at Mercer.

After the school building was demolished in 1948, the district's Administrative and Service Center was constructed on the site.