Head of the Bay was a single classroom school, which operated from October 1890 to June 1892 at the southeast end of Elliott Bay, perhaps near today's 6th Avenue S, just north of Andover Street. The site was near the bay before the shallow saltwater was replaced by fill in 1902.

In 1892, Head of the Bay closed, and South Seattle School was opened by School District No. 99, just south of the Seattle city limits (S Andover Street). The auditorium of the new school was on the third floor.

South Seattle's enrollment peaked at 300 in 1919–20, the first year kindergartners were added. As enrollment shrunk, all students, except for a single split class of 1st and 2nd graders, were sent to Maple for the 1931–32 school year. The school closed in June 1932.

When the building was demolished by WPA labor in 1939, the cornerstone was used to build a comfort station and shelter in South Seattle Playground.