

# Denny



Bell Town, ca. 1880 SPSA 078-1

## Details:

---

Name: **Bell Town School**  
Location: NW corner of 3rd  
Avenue & Vine Street  
Building: 2-room, 1-story wood  
Architect: n.a.  
Site: n.a.

---

1876: Opened on September 24  
1884: Site and building sold on  
May 13; closed in June  
n.a.: Building remodeled for a  
residence and later a rooming  
house called Eleanor Rooms  
n.a.: Building demolished by  
Metropolitan Printing Co.

In the late 1870s, the Bell Town community consisted of 20 to 25 homes near the waterfront north of downtown Seattle. In 1876, the Seattle School District purchased two lots from William Bell for what would become the first school north of Pine Street. The Bell Town School was occasionally referred to as the North School after the original North School at 3rd and Pine closed in 1883.

When the small school was outgrown, a replacement school was built to the east. Denny School, renamed for David T. Denny, a city founder and member of the school board in the 1860s, was an architectural jewel. At the time, the superintendent claimed it to be the finest schoolhouse on the West Coast.

Denny School opened to elementary students in 1884. A high school department that was established in October 1886 was abandoned a few months later. After the Central II fire in 1888, Seattle High School and a 1st grade class were temporarily housed at Denny. An 1891 addition expanded the school to 20 classrooms. In 1897, a terrific windstorm broke 17 of the school's windows. A decade later,



Denny, 1884 SPSA 087-3

when Denny School filled to capacity, an annex was opened at 4th and Battery for 1st graders. Known as Denny Annex, it operated with four classrooms during 1901-03.

Denny School was demolished in 1928 when the hill on which it stood was leveled to complete the Denny Regrade. The site was sold and the bell tower was placed in Denny Park.

### Details:

Name: **Denny School**

Location: Battery Street between  
5th & 6th avenues

Building: 2-story wood

Architect: Stephen J. Meany

Site: 1.34 acres

1884: Named on July 19; opened

1891: Addition (John Parkinson)

1901-03: Denny Annex opened

1906: Partial demolition due to  
Denny Regrade project

1928: Closed in spring; building  
demolished; site sold; bell tower  
preserved in Denny Park