

Holgate Aircraft Branch



Edison Aircraft Branch, ca. 1950 SPSA 500-28

Details:

Name:	Aircraft Branch, Holgate Technical School
Location:	6647 Corson Avenue; later 6770 E Marginal Way
Site:	2.94 acres
n.a.:	Site of chicken ranch
n.a.:	Acquired by federal government
1949:	Buildings erected and program begun under Edison Technical School
1950:	Property purchased by district
1962:	Became part of new Holgate Technical School
1966:	Became part of Seattle Community College
1967:	Transferred to Washington State
1970s:	Aircraft School relocated to adjacent property
2008:	Original Holgate Aircraft Branch Buildings demolished

By 1949, the Aircraft Branch of Edison Technical School moved from the Rainier School to a location in Georgetown near Boeing Field. The program moved into portable buildings that were constructed on the property by the federal government during World War II. In June 1949, the Civil Aviation Authority certified the program as a licensed aircraft-and-engine mechanics training school. In 1955, the school district purchased a C-45 Beechcraft from the U.S. Air Force for the Aircraft Branch to use “for training in motor maintenance, tuning, adjusting and general body and control service.”

When the site was handed over to the State of Washington in 1967, the Seattle Community College horticulture classes, which had been held at the district’s Beacon Hill site (roughly between Interstate 5, S Pearl, S Alaska and 12th Avenue S), were moved to the Aircraft Branch. Students landscaped the facility as part of their classwork. In the 1970s, the aviation section relocated to the main campus of South Seattle Community College on the adjacent property to the west. South Seattle Community College continued to operate the original Holgate Aircraft Branch buildings as the Duwamish Industrial Center until 2008. The buildings were then demolished to use the land as parking and outdoor storage space for a new campus building constructed to the southeast of the site.