

# Mercer

## Details:

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

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1890: Opened  
1892: Addition  
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  
2002: District vacated building for John Stanford Center for Educational Excellence (JSCEE)  
2003: Sold to SRM Development  
2010: Sold to Cogir  
Present: Site of Cogir of Queen Anne Community Living

Mercer School was named after Seattle pioneer Thomas Mercer, one of the early directors of the Seattle School District, who provided the land upon which the school was built. The school had an identical floor plan to Minor, Columbia, and Rainier, although each was designed in a different architectural style. Mercer, considered Seattle's finest school in 1892, was built in the Italian Renaissance style. It 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, Mercer Annex operated in rented space at 401 5th Avenue N for a single 1st grade class which could not be accommodated at Mercer. Mercer's enrollment began to decline in 1902 when the Warren Avenue School opened, and the school was phased out when the Denny Regrade was completed. Most students were sent to Warren Avenue and John Hay at the end of the 1930-31 school year. From 1931-33, a few 1st through 3rd grade classes were left at Mercer.

In the 1940s, the building was used as a training site for custodial workers and then a vocational school. The building was demolished in 1948 and the school district's Administrative and Service Center was constructed on the site (see Administration Buildings). The site was sold in 2003. At the request of the former Seattle School History Fund and in cooperation with Merrill Gardens, a historic marker was added in 2008 to commemorate the site. In 2010 the building was sold again and is now a senior living community called Cogir of Queen Anne. The marker is still located at the base of the Cogir sign at 805 4th Avenue N.



Mercer, ca. 1910 SPSA 096-1