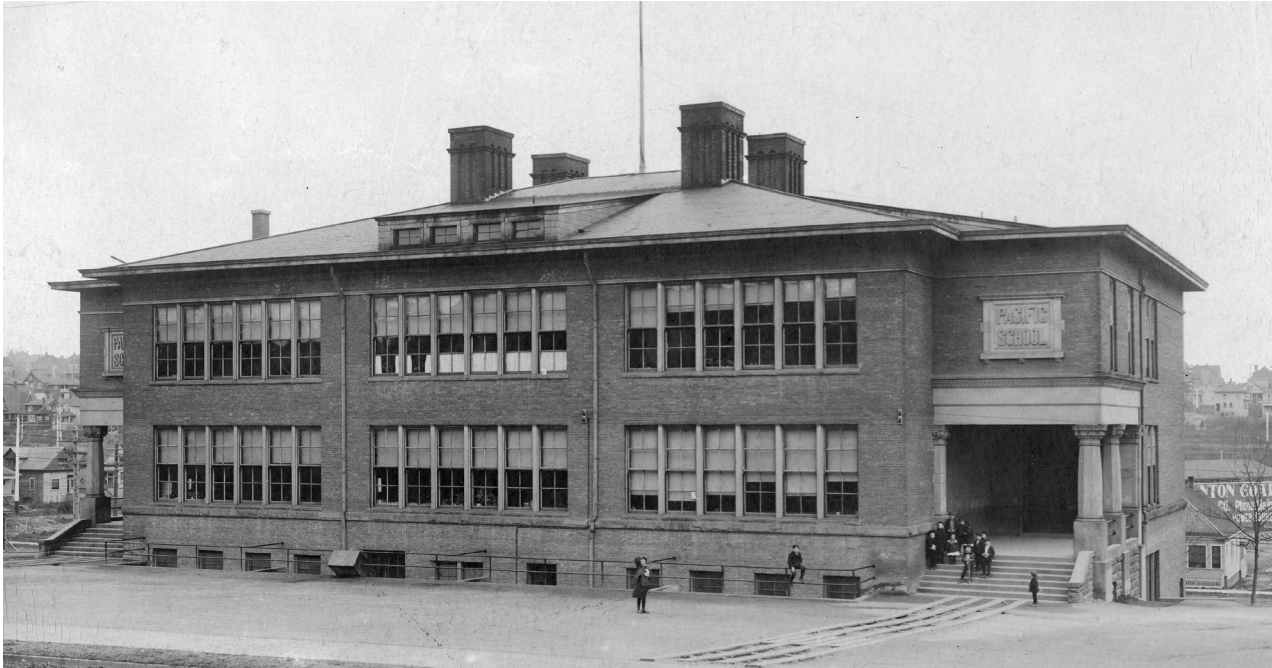


Pacific



Pacific, 1893 SPSA 343-1

In 1892, the Seattle School Board decided to build a school in the Eastern Addition at the center of the South, Central, Minor, and Rainier attendance areas to relieve overcrowding in other schools. The new Pacific School had two gymnasiums in the basement, the first fully equipped gymnasiums in the district.

Enrollment at Pacific in 1901-02 was over 700 students in grades 1-8. During the next two years, the 8th graders attended Union Grammar School (see Broadway) but returned for the 1904-05 term. In 1912, an addition was built on the north side of the building, bringing the total number of classrooms to 19.

The school's population became one of the most diverse in the district, with more Asian American and African American students attending than at other schools. For many years, Pacific held at least two classes for non-English-speaking immigrant pupils from across the district.

In 1940, a Prevocational and Adjustment Center for Girls was moved to Pacific from Mercer School. Three rooms, including a lunchroom, cooking room, and sewing room, were added for this program. The K-2 portion of the regular grades remained in the building, while the upper grades moved to either Summit or Gatzert. In September 1946, the K-2 classes were also moved to other schools, and the Boys' Prevocational program moved to Pacific from Day. Pacific then became Seattle's first coeducational secondary school for students with intellectual disabilities. To accommodate its new male students, a metal shop was installed in the basement and a wood shop in a portable.

The purpose of the prevocational program was to offer practical training in a variety of fields to adolescents unable to thrive in a regular academic setting. Teachers encouraged individual students by giving them experience in an area where they showed an interest. Half of each day was spent on fundamental academic studies. Additionally, girls learned cooking, baking, sewing, and nursing skills, while boys studied carpentry, metalwork, automotive repair, and care of livestock and poultry. Most of them graduated into jobs for which they were already trained. Some students went on to graduate from Garfield High School. In 1950, over 300 pupils and 20 teachers were housed in Pacific, and one-third of the population was non-white.

During summer 1954, a large new wing was added on the eastern portion of the property, providing an auditorium-lunchroom, a new gymnasium, shops, and teachers' rooms. Pacific Prevocational School had an enrollment of over 500 during the 1960s, with classes for pupils aged 13-18 years grouped according to age and ability. A fire on September 20, 1966, burned the roof and third floor of the older section of the building. Swift action was taken to ensure that the school opened within nine days of the fire, though it required the students to attend school in double shifts. This irregular schedule was followed for approximately a week before portables were in place and the school was able to return to a regular schedule. In summer of 1967, repairs were initiated to rehabilitate four classrooms, install a temporary roof, and paint the fire-damaged section.

By 1974, Pacific housed approximately 330 students ages 12 to 21 with a range of disabilities. A number of students came from outside the Seattle School District because their own districts did not provide similar services. One-third of the students had multiple handicaps, and some needed assistance with mastering the skills of daily living. The staff worked hard to educate and train these young people on how to be responsible for their own welfare. Unfortunately, the aging facility presented hazards for disabled students, with steep stairs, few and distant bathrooms, and portables that could only be reached by going outdoors. Some remodeling took place in 1973-74, but a bond issue designed to fund the construction of a new facility failed in November 1974.

In June 1975, Pacific was condemned and declared unsafe in the event of an earthquake. Costs of renovation were high, so during the following winter vacation the program moved into the Washington building on a shared basis with Garfield. It remained at this location until the start of the 1978-79 school year, when it moved to Wilson, which had been closed as a middle school the previous spring.

The Pacific site was sold to the U.S. Postal Service in June 1976 for a proposed carrier annex. Shortly thereafter, Father William Sullivan, president of Seattle University, made a plea for the property, which lies within the university's campus area, and was allowed to purchase it. The Pacific School building was demolished in December 1977, and the site became Seattle University Park as part of the campus.

Details:

Name: **Pacific School**
 Location: 1114 E Jefferson Street
 Building: 12-room, 2-story brick
 Architect: John Parkinson
 Site: 1.76 acres

1893: Opened in March
 1912: Addition (Edgar Blair)
 1922: Site expanded to 2.86 acres
 1940: Addition (n.a.) for Prevocational and Adjustment Center
 1946: Became Pacific Special and Prevocational School
 1954: Addition (George Wellington Stoddard)
 1955: Site expanded to 3.26 acres
 1966: Fire; damage to room and third floor of 1893 building
 1975: School condemned and closed in December; Program moved to Washington
 1976: Site sold and resold
 1977: Building demolished in December
 1977-present:
 Seattle University campus site



Pacific, 1958 SPSA 343-11