

Queen Anne Elementary

Name: Queen Anne Elementary School	Enrollment: 227
Address: 2100 4th Avenue N	Nickname: Explorers
Configuration: K-5	Colors:



Queen Anne Elementary, 2022 ©Arthur Ross SPSA 628-1

In June 1904, the Seattle School Board asked an architect to draw up plans for an eight-room East Queen Anne School, but area residents could not wait for the building to be built. In September 1904, the board approved their request for an interim portable building, and that month, East Queen Anne Annex opened at 4th Avenue N between Newton and Crockett. The one-room portable for grades 1-2 served as an annex to Mercer School on lower Queen Anne.

Plans for a permanent building proceeded according to a district-wide scheme for building several elementary schools during the early years of the twentieth century. All were wood-frame structures, but only Queen Anne, Latona, and Bagley had distinctive octagonal towers flanking their main entrances.

With the permanent building at East Queen Anne came the adoption of a new name, John Hay School, which was suggested by the school board secretary. John Hay was a statesman who served as foreign-policy advisor to several American presidents. Hay had recently died, and when his widow learned that the school was named for him, she sent a portrait of her husband that was prominently displayed at the school.

During its first year, 267 pupils in grades 1-6 were taught by six teachers. The next year, 7th and 8th grades were added. Hay students excelled in literature, English, and reading while challenging other schools to reading contests. Art and music were also popular subjects. When schools were just beginning to use phonographs to teach music, Hay held a performance of international folk games and dances in the Queen Anne High School auditorium. The

Details:

Name: **East Queen Anne Annex**

Location: 4th Avenue N between
Newton and Crockett

Building: 1-room portable

1904: School opened as an annex
to Mercer School

Details:

Name: **John Hay School**

Location: Bigelow & Boston Streets

Building: 8-room wood

Architect: James Stephen

Site: 2.0 acres

- 1905: Named on July 7;
opened in September
- 1914: Addition (Edgar Blair)
- 1921: Site expanded to 3.01 acres
- 1922: Addition of a 9-room brick
building (Naramore); address
changed to 411 Boston Street
- 1981: 1905 building exterior and site
designated a city landmark
- 1988: Closed as an elementary school
- 1989-91: Interim site for B. F. Day
- 1992: Became home of New Options
Middle School (NOMS)
- 1999: NOMS relocated to
Monroe in September
- 2000: Became home of a Secondary
Bilingual Orientation Center
- 2004: 1905 building renovated;
seismic upgrades completed
- 2009: Secondary Bilingual Orientation
Center relocated to Meany
- 2010: Renamed Queen Anne
Elementary in January
- 2010: School closed for construction;
Newly enrolled Queen
Anne Elementary option
school students relocated
to Lincoln as interim site



Hay, ca. 1910 SPSA 234-2

admission fees were used to purchase the first phonograph owned by a Seattle public school.

In 1912-13, Hay developed a relationship with Children's Orthopedic Hospital. That year, two portable classrooms at Hay were converted to open-air classrooms. This practice was based on the open-air movement that originated in Europe to combat tuberculosis. At the time, it was a novel concept to teach students outdoors in an effort to keep them safe and reduce the spread of disease. By December, though, there were complaints that children were uncomfortable from the "draughts of air during the foggy weather, and that the children are taking cold." In January, the school board decided that the "two rooms be conducted as other school rooms are, and to be heated in the usual manner, thus abandoning the open air feature."

In November 1913, the PTA and Civic Club of John Hay School requested that two to four rooms be added to the present building or additional portables be brought in. Honoring this request, the district expanded the building to 12 rooms in 1914 and added four portables. When enrollment continued to grow, topping 500 in 1920, the district agreed to construct a new building.

Crockett Street had been vacated to create one large, continuous property. The new brick building, which opened in 1922, was constructed at the opposite end of the property, approximately one block from the 1905 building. The district intended to tear down the 1905 building and the 1914 addition, but this plan was never carried out and the two buildings continued to operate as a single school.



Hay, ca. 1940 SPSA 234-4

When Mercer School (named after Thomas Mercer) began to close in 1931 at the height of the Depression, Hay School was needed to house 100-140 additional pupils. A newspaper article in early November 1944 proclaimed the 1905 structure had reached its “time to retire.” Exaggerating that it had “grown old and creaking in public service” for “half a century,” the writer stated that the building “is typical of the ancient, hazardous structures to be replaced or modernized if Seattle adopts the ... school levy.” Although the levy passed with overwhelming voter approval, the 1905 structure remained in service.

In September 1955, Hay shifted from a K-7 configuration to K-6. When Warren Avenue School closed in June 1959, Hay’s southern boundary was extended to Stewart Street. Hay gained 30 students from the newly added service area as well as 24 pupils from Warren Avenue’s special education classes for the visually impaired. In 1960-61, seven portables were added, including a gym and a library. Enrollment in the early 1960s hovered around 600.

By the early 1970s, enrollment had dropped to about 400 students. From fall 1977 through spring 1988, Hay was a K-3 program paired with Brighton’s 4-6 program. A portable, known as the Hay Stack, was placed on the playground for 1977-78. The portable was the site of nontraditional learning in language. The Hay Bilingual Orientation Center moved to Sharples for the 1980-81 school year. In 1981-82, Hay became an Early Childhood Education Center, an upgraded program for grades K-3 under the direction of educator Louise McKinney. Transfers were taken from around the district, and the overflow of neighborhood children went to Coe.

Even though the 1905 building and the site were designated as landmarks in 1981, the decision was made to build a new John Hay in 1982. Funds were approved in a 1984 bond issue. The “new” John Hay Elementary opened on a different site in 1989. The school



Hay, 1960 SPSA 234-6

Details:

Name: **Queen Anne Elementary School**
Location: 2100 4th Avenue N
Building: 1905 wooden building and 1922 brick building

2011: Modernized school reopened (Mahlum Architects; BTA III), updated street address, building orientation changed
2015: Seismic updates
2018: School closed for construction; students relocated to John Marshall as interim site
2019: School reopened with eight-classroom addition (Mahlum Architects; BEX IV)

was built on Luther Playfield, the former track and field of Queen Anne High School, which was located across the street to the south. Although the new building originally opened with grades K-3, by the following year, it expanded to a standard K-5 configuration to align with the district's new assignment plan (See John Hay Elementary).

The original 1905 and 1922 buildings were not even connected by an intercom system and were judged to be a firetrap (1905 structure) and seismically unsound (1922 structure). However, the older landmarked buildings were retained and scheduled for use.

In 1989-91, the original John Hay served as an interim site for students from B. F. Day while the Day building was renovated. New Option Middle School (NOMS) moved into the buildings in 1992-93 from its former location at Washington. The 6th graders occupied the 1922 brick building, while the 7th and 8th graders were co-located in the 1905 wood building next to district administrative offices. NOMS moved to a permanent home and was co-located with Coho at the Monroe building in Ballard in September 1999 (See Monroe). The Secondary Bilingual Orientation Center was relocated

from South Shore to the original Hay in September 2000, then it moved to Meany in 2009, before moving to T. T. Minor in 2016.

In 2004-05, the 1905 wooden building was renovated. New cedar lap siding replaced the original wood siding, and the historic wooden windows were removed, refurbished, and reinstalled. The original light-gray paint scheme with white trim and burgundy accents was used for the exterior. Other repairs to the wooden building included reconstructing the wooden parapet on the roof and recreating the wood and stucco decorations on the western facade. At this time, the brick building lost its large concrete chimney.

In January 2010, the Seattle School Board officially changed the name of the original John Hay School to Queen Anne Elementary in a 6-0 vote. That summer, a project to modernize and upgrade both buildings of the unoccupied school began. Though the school was not available for student use for the 2010-11 year, the new option elementary school intended for the space was still needed to accommodate the updated school assignment plan. Students were able to enroll in Queen Anne Elementary for the fall of 2010, but they were relocated to Lincoln as an interim school for the year along with students from McDonald. When the school building officially re-opened to students in fall 2011, the street address changed since the main entryway had been relocated to the brick building around the corner on 4th Avenue N.

For the 2018-19 year, the school closed for renovations and students were temporarily relocated to John Marshall as an interim site. In 2019, Queen Anne Elementary was expanded and reconfigured to provide more classroom space and core facilities. The design team built an addition to the 1922 brick building. The new design included a full-size gymnasium and eight new classrooms including four kindergarten classrooms and three classrooms for grades 1-5 in the addition; and one renovated classroom in the existing building. A former covered play area was enclosed and integrated into the school, housing one of the first elementary school "makerspaces" in the state, a large space that can be divided by a sliding door. A stage was removed from the existing lunchroom and a second eating space adjoined the makerspace. The addition can accommodate 170 additional students.

For the 2021-22 school year, Queen Anne was the site for enrolling in online elementary school learning as a result of the COVID-19 coronavirus pandemic. The program moved under Cascade in 2022 (see North Queen Anne).