

Ross School



Ross, ca. 1903 MOHAI 17502

Details:

Name: **Ross School**
Location: 3rd Avenue NW & (N)
W 43rd Street
Building: 2-room wood
Architect: n.a.
Site: 1.16 acres

1883: Opened
1891: Annexed into Seattle School District on June 1
1902: Closed in December
1903: Rented for use as dressmaking shop
1916: Old schoolhouse sold on March 22

The first Ross School opened in 1873 when Mary Jane (McMillan) Ross decided she wanted to have her children educated closer to home. The Rosses had moved to North Queen Anne, at the north end of today's Seattle Pacific University where Third Avenue West meets the Ship Canal. In order to keep her younger children from having to board in town while attending school, Ross set up a classroom in a vacant second-floor room in her home and hired Lima Penfield to teach. Children came from North Queen Anne, Fremont, and the area that would become Phinney Ridge.

In 1883, Mary and her husband John moved to the north side of the creek flowing between Fremont and Ballard, and there, along with their neighbor William Ashworth, built a two-room schoolhouse.

During Christmas recess in 1902-03, the old schoolhouse closed, and a new building opened. When the 1903 school closed in 1940, students were sent to West Woodland, which had its origins as an annex to Ross.



Ross, ca. 1940 SPSA 097-1

The Ross building was demolished in 1941 and the site has been used by the City of Seattle as a public park known as Ross Playfield ever since. In the fall of 2000, the City passed a \$198.2 million parks levy and used a portion of the funds to build a new shelter house on the site in 2006.

Details:

Name: **Ross School**
 Location: 3rd Avenue NW & (N)
 W 43rd Street
 Building: 8-room wood
 Architect: n.a.
 Site: 1.16 acres

1903: Opened on January 5; renamed Farragut on March 7; renamed Ross on September 1
 1939: Leased to park board for 99 years for playground purposes
 1940: School closed in June
 1941: Building demolished on January 18
 Present: Site of Ross Playfield