



The City of Seattle

## Landmarks Preservation Board

Mailing Address: PO Box 94649 Seattle WA 98124-4649  
Street Address: 700 5th Ave Suite 1700

### **REPORT ON DESIGNATION**

LPB 384/15

Name and Address of Property: Daniel Webster Elementary School – 3014 NW 67<sup>th</sup> Street

Legal Description: Jennings Ballard Addition, Lots 4-5-6, Block 27, together with all of blocks 28-29-30, Volume 6 of plats, Page 10, Records of King County, Washington.

At the public meeting held on June 17, 2015 the City of Seattle's Landmarks Preservation Board voted to approve designation of the Daniel Webster Elementary School at 3014 NW 67<sup>th</sup> Street as a Seattle Landmark based upon satisfaction of the following standard for designation of SMC 25.12.350:

- C. *It is associated in a significant way with a significant aspect of the cultural, political, or economic heritage of the community, City, state or nation.*
- D. *It embodies the distinctive visible characteristics of an architectural style, or period, or a method of construction.*
- E. *It is an outstanding work of a designer or builder.*

### **DESCRIPTION**

#### **Location**

The former Webster School is located in the Sunset Hill neighborhood, a portion of the greater community identified as Ballard. Ballard's major commercial district along NW Market Street, and the Ballard Avenue Historic District are located approximately one mile to the southeast. The Hiram M. Chittenden Locks are located approximately one mile south of the property, and Shilshole Bay and the Shilshole Bay Marina are located directly west approximately half a mile. Golden Gardens Park is situated approximately one mile to the northwest.

## **Neighborhood Character**

The immediate surrounding area largely consists of single-family residential buildings dating from around 1900 to the mid-1950s. The former school property is situated on the eastern half of a city block bounded by NW 67<sup>th</sup> Street on the south, 30<sup>th</sup> Avenue NW on the east, NW 68<sup>th</sup> Street on the north, and 32<sup>nd</sup> Avenue NW on the west. A small city park located directly to the west, and four single-family residential properties are on the westernmost portion of the block. Paved sidewalks surround the subject site, with large street trees located along NW 67<sup>th</sup> Street, and smaller street trees along 30<sup>th</sup> Avenue NW. One large maple tree is located within the parking strip on near the site's northwestern corner.

## **Site**

The 67,500 square foot subject site measures approximately 357 feet overall east-west and approximately 200 feet north-south. The northwestern corner is recessed approximately 25 east-west and 50 feet north-south. The site is graded flat, with the southern edge raised approximately 6 feet above the right-of-way by a concrete retaining wall, which continues along the eastern edge tapering off to street grade at the site's northeastern corner. The property edge slopes gently up to the west on the northern side following the grade of NW 68<sup>th</sup> Street. A driveway accessing a fairly large paved parking lot on the site's western side is located near the site's northwestern corner. Concrete stairways provide access to the building's original southern main entrance and the eastern auditorium entrance. The subject building is placed near the northern and eastern rights-of-way, leaving a landscaped area on the southern side. The landscaped area contains an irregular lawn with mature perimeter plantings dating from the mid-1960s. A small strip of lawn continues along the building's eastern side.

## **Building Structure & Exterior Features**

The subject building consists of the original 1908 school building and a large "L"-shaped addition that wraps around the original building along its eastern and northern sides.

The original school building measures approximately 140 feet east-west and 86 feet overall north-south. The building was essentially constructed with a symmetrical rectangular footprint, with two narrow inset light wells on the northern side and corresponding wider and shallower insets on the southern side. The building originally had its main entrance at the center of the southern side, with secondary entrances accessing the basement level on the eastern and western sides. Utilitarian doorways were also located at grade level within the southern end of the northern light wells. The building is two stories tall with a full daylight basement. The building's height is approximately 42 feet 10 inches measured from grade to the top of the perimeter parapet. Floor-to-ceiling heights are approximately 10 feet two inches for the basement, 12 feet 10 inches from the main floor and 12 feet 3 inches for the second floor. The original building was constructed of unreinforced brick masonry with 2x16-inch wood joists spanning north-south supported on heavy timber wood beams and columns. The building has a rusticated stone base laid up in a running bond with an upper smooth band. The building shaft is faced with a smooth pink-toned bricks laid in simple running bond with no apparent headers. The windowsills are of sandstone. The windows were originally grouped one-over-one wood-sash double-hung windows with upper transom lights. The original windows were replaced at some time by six-over-six wood-sash double-hung windows. The upper projecting cornice is

sheet metal with an ovolo profile supported by spaced rectangular corbels. The roof is flat covered with membrane roofing.

The southern façade was originally primary and was the school's main entrance, but presently, as the entrance is blocked off and the view of the façade is screened by mature plantings from NW 67<sup>th</sup> street, is seldom seen by the public. The façade is composed of two projecting end wings with a central projecting entrance. The two end wings have two pairs of six-over-six windows on each floor. The main floor windows on the outer bays are boarded over. The inner sidewalls of the bay have narrow vertical windows on the main and second floor. The intervening walls between the end bay and the projecting entrance have tripartite windows composed of a central nine-over-nine window and flanking six-over-six windows located near the end bays on the main and second floors, with narrow vertical windows on each floor adjacent to the entrance bay. The basement wall of this section has a pair of six-over-six windows, although the easternmost window opening on the western section has recently been converted to an egress doorway with an adjacent vertical window. The projecting entrance bay features a large rusticated stone Romanesque archway. The non-original recessed doorway has a pair of paneled doors with glass block sidelights and large upper transom lights. A pair of Classical square pilasters with Ionic capitals at the outer edge of the bay supports a slightly raised cornice. The brick masonry is corbeled out in steps immediately above the column capitals. The upper wall section above the archway has a pair of six-over-six windows on the second floor.

The original building's western façade is now primary, as it functions as the building's main entrance. A central concrete stairway with a pair of flanking concrete ramps leads down to a contemporary fully -glazed projecting entrance with a pair of bronze-colored store doors. A projecting curved flat roof shelters the entry. Immediately above the roof is a round Romanesque arch with non-original fan-light glazing. A pair of non-original second floor windows is located directly above the entrance. Narrow vertical windows, now boarded over, are located to the north of the central entrance on the main and second floor. Narrow horizontal windows, now boarded over, are located near the building's corners on the main and second floor.

The original building's basement and lower floor of the northern façade are obscured by the 1930 addition with only the walls of the second floor visible. Window openings include four openings on the central bay, two window openings on the northern face of the outer bays, and narrow horizontal windows on the inner sides of the central and outer bays. All second floor window openings on this façade are boarded over with the exception of two pairs of windows on the eastern side of the central projecting bay, which appear to retain the original wood-sash one-over-one double-hung windows with upper transom lights.

The original building's eastern façade is either obscured by the 1930 addition or blank, as all original window have been filled in by brick masonry to match the original.

The "L"-shaped 1930 addition is composed of three masses: a two-story classroom addition, an auditorium wing, and a former gymnasium/playcourt wing. The classroom addition abuts the original building's eastern face and projects southward approximately 30 feet. This wing is approximately 37 feet wide and 76 feet six inches long north-south. The classroom addition abuts the one-and-a-half-story auditorium wing, which measures approximately 100 feet six inches north-south and 42 feet 10 inches east-west. The auditorium wing projects

approximately 14 feet north of the adjacent one-and-a-half-story gymnasium/playcourt wing, which extends westward from the auditorium approximately 133 feet 11 inches east-west and approximately 46 feet 6 inches north-south. The building is a reinforced concrete and masonry structure with a concrete slab-on-grade ground floor and reinforced second floor. All roofs are nearly flat and have wood joists supported by heavy wood beams. The addition is faced with a mixture of bricks ranging in color from dark to light terra cotta, laid in a common header bond with headers every six courses. The upper parapet has a simple cast-stone cap, now covered with sheet metal. The two-story classroom addition has a cast-stone lintel band at the second-floor window head.

The classroom addition's western façade is secondary and is blank with the exception of one 12-over-12 double-hung window on the northern side of the wall on the main and second floor.

The southern façade of the classroom wing is secondary and has a central group of four 12-over-12 double-hung windows on the main and second floor.

The eastern façade of the classroom addition is primary. On each floor there is one 12-over-12 double-hung window south of center, and a group of four 12-over-12 double-hung windows. On the second floor at the northern end of the addition is a grouped pair of ten-light windows with four-light upper transom windows. At ground-level on the northern side of the addition is a one-story projection with a prominent building entry accessing an interior stairway and the auditorium. The recessed entry is slightly above grade level and has a shallow Gothic archway with cast-stone quoins. Cast-stone fleurons flank the impost, and the archivolt contains a vignette frieze. The doorway has a pair of wood-paneled doors with an upper six-light glazed panel. Above the door is a transom window with vertical muntins. The door lintel has a playful bas-relief frieze of vines and fantastical animals and flowers. Directly above the entrance is a cast-stone rectangular cartouche with a bas-relief featuring initial letters "D" and "W," as well as the date 1930, all surrounded by vines and grapes. The eastern façade of the auditorium has a slightly projecting central section with eight pairs of six-over-nine double-hung windows topped with pairs of six-light transom windows. The recessed ends each have a smaller central window, the southern one being a six-over-six window and the northern one being a six-over-nine window.

The northern façade of the auditorium is utilitarian with two six-over-six double-hung windows, one on the eastern side and another west of center, and a smaller four-over-four window on the western side.

The short western façade of the auditorium has a projecting entry with a shallow Gothic archway and recessed entry identical to the eastern entry.

The northern façade of the former gymnasium/playcourt has nine window openings with an entrance doorway located west of the two eastern windows. All openings are now boarded up.

The western façade of the former gymnasium/playcourt is blank with the exception of a doorway with double doors at the southern end where the addition meets the original building. The doorway has a cast-stone lintel with a central bas-relief diamond featuring an abstracted swan.

## **Plan & Interior Features**

The original school building was designed as a 12-classroom schoolhouse, with six classrooms per floor on the main and second floors. The classrooms were arranged around a wide double-loaded east-west corridor, with four classrooms along the northern side and two classrooms at the corners of the southern side on each floor. A teachers' room and a principal's office were located in the center section of the southern side on the main floor, and the second floor had book storage and possibly a small library in the same area on the second floor. The main entrance to the building was located at the center of the southern side of the building, with the entrance foyer set near grade, with a large staircase leading up to the main floor, and with smaller flanking stairways leading to the basement. Secondary entrances were located at the eastern and western ends of the corridor, with stairways leading down to grade. A pair of staircases were also located on the northern side, located between the outer two and inner two classrooms. These staircases accessed both upper floors and the basement, and provided access to egress doorways located on the northern side within the narrow northern light wells. The building was heated by a combination of radiators and heated air delivery from boilers, heat exchangers, and fan rooms located in the basement lavatories were located in the basement, the boys' in the northwestern corner and the girls' located in the southwestern corner.

The finishes on the main and second floors of the original building included plastered walls and ceilings, and all trim and casework were made of Douglas fir. Floors were also laid with Douglas fir. Staircases featured solid Douglas fir tapered newels and square balusters.

The "L"-shaped 1930 addition was constructed abutting the eastern and northern sides of the original building. Additional classrooms and a library were constructed on two floors on the southern portion; a one-and-a-half story auditorium was constructed on the northeastern corner; and a playcourt/gymnasium was built on along the northern wall. The first floor of new classrooms were set approximately 18 inches above the basement level, with a floor-to-ceiling height of approximately 10 feet 3 inches. The auditorium and playcourt/gymnasium portion floors were set a few inches above the surrounding grade level. The auditorium also contained a kitchen at its northern end, with a projection booth located above. To accommodate the different floor levels, the eastern access stairway was removed and a ramp was added between the basement and first floor classroom addition, and a new stairway was constructed from the original main floor up to the classroom addition's second floor. An egress stairway accessing all floors was constructed between the new classrooms and the auditorium. The playcourt/gymnasium portion was accessed through the former egress doorways located on the northern side of the original building.

The interior finishes of the addition included plaster walls and ceilings, Douglas fir trim and casework, with Douglas fir floors laid over concrete slabs in the classroom/library portion. The auditorium featured large Douglas fir-cased beams with decorative Douglas fir corbels with carved flowers. A raised stage is located on the southern end of the auditorium, which features an elaborate proscenium with vertical ribbed pilasters and an upper bas-relief frieze featuring nautical themes including sea creatures and sailing ships. The original ceiling was covered with cork tiles and the room was lighted with globe school lights.

### **Documented Building Alterations**

In 1980, when the building was converted to museum use, the building's circulation system was altered and most of the classrooms and the play court/gymnasium portion were converted to exhibit space, requiring infilling or boarding up of several windows and removal and replacement of original finishes. The main entrance to the building was shifted to the western side of the building, with a new entrance constructed accessing the original basement level. The building's circulation was also altered to allow a continuous east-west corridor at basement level and the former main entry staircase on the southern side was blocked off. The original girls' lavatory was repartitioned into two large restrooms, and an elevator was added to the northwestern side of the basement corridor.

Remaining original features and finishes include the central special purpose rooms and stairways of the original building and the 1930 classroom/library addition, and the auditorium, which remains largely original.

### **Documented Building Permits and School District Repairs**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Designer</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Permit #</b>
1930	Floyd Naramore	Build addition	291310
1948		Build retaining wall	96998
1954		Alter side entrances on existing school building	429000
1962		Relocate two portables	BN1286
1966		Relocate two portables	BN25849
1968		Install 430-head sprinkler system	BN 33110
1970		Alter por 1 <sup>st</sup> floor of ex building	BN 38722
1978	MacDonald, McLaren, Hammond, Inc.	Seismic upgrade	

## **SIGNIFICANCE**

### **Historical Site Context**

#### **Historical Site Context—City of Ballard and Sunset Hill**

Before it was annexed to the City of Seattle in 1907, Ballard was a well-developed suburban community with a prominent Scandinavian population. Its major industries included fishing, fish canneries, sawmills, and boat building. Ira Wilcox filed the first homestead claim in the area in 1852. Judge Thomas Burke and Daniel H. Gilman bought land in 1880, in anticipation of the construction of the Great Northern Railway. Along with John Leary and the West Coast Improvement Company, Burke and Gilman built the Seattle, Lake Shore & Eastern Railroad in the district of Gilman Park. William Ballard bought a sawmill with Charles Stimson on Salmon Bay. Ballard also managed Gilman Park, and lent his name to the town of Ballard when it incorporated in 1890. Ballard City Hall was built in 1899. The timber mill produced enough wooden shingles for Ballard to proclaim itself the “Shingle Capital of the World.” Scandinavian immigrants constituted about one third of Ballard’s population, and had a major cultural influence on Ballard, which earned the nickname “Snoose Junction” after the immigrants’ preference for snuff and chewing tobacco.

Edward B. Cox, of the E. B. Cox Investment Company of Ballard, advertised land in “Loyal Heights” in the March 23, 1906 Ballard Tribune. Harry W. Treat (1865-1922), the owner of the land, named it for his newly-born second daughter Loyal Greaf Treat. Areas impacted by Treat’s development included Loyal Heights, what was then called Loyal Beach, which the city later bought for a park, and christened “Golden Gardens,” and Sunset Hill. Treat also funded the trolley line Loyal Heights Railway, which he later sold to the city at cost. This streetcar ensured that areas north of Ballard would develop as desirable, accessible suburbs.

In 1906, shortly after Treat filed the plats for Loyal Heights with King County, Ballard residents approved annexation to the city of Seattle to keep up with growing demand for infrastructure, and because of a polluted water supply. The city of Ballard ceased to exist on May 29, 1907. On that day Ballard City Hall was draped in black crepe, and the flag on the city flagpole hung at half-mast.

In 1896, at least 14 separate rail lines were operating independently in Seattle. At that time the West Street and North End Electric Railway came from the downtown Seattle waterfront, through Interbay, crossed the Salmon Bay waterway from 13<sup>th</sup> Avenue W to the south and Railroad Avenue to the north and followed C Street west, continued northwest up Ballard Avenue, and ended at 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue W. The Boston-based cartel Stone & Webster controlled the Seattle Electric Company and consolidated many of the small utilities companies, streetcar, and cable car lines between 1899 and 1903. Once the Seattle Electric Company had consolidated Seattle’s street railway system in 1911, the company modernized and increased the efficiency of the entire system. Distribution and transmission lines were interconnected and unified and new equipment was purchased. The company adopted universal transfers that allowed riders to travel from one part of the city to another for a single fare. The company also embarked on an aggressive expansion, running new lines to developing areas to bolster speculative real estate development. The company added the Fremont-Ballard Line in 1902. In 1914, the local passenger car miles operated totaled 12,383,056 miles, not including an additional 354,921 freight miles; all in all, a total of 12,737,977 passengers were served that

year. The Seattle Municipal Railway went into public ownership in 1919. By 1932 the Ballard Way streetcar line ran all the way to Loyal Heights with branches north up 20th Avenue NW, and west along W 59<sup>th</sup> Street.

The Hiram Chittenden Locks (1911–1917) changed the geography of Ballard. The Ballard Bridge was rebuilt slightly to the west, making 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue NW a major thoroughfare. Consequently, the streetcar system developed along both 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue NW and Ballard Avenue routes. The business district in Ballard developed along Market Street as automobiles became more popular. In 1938, the Seattle Board of Public Works decided to dismantle the Seattle streetcar system. By 1941 the last trolley car had been dismantled.

As Seattle switched to rubber-tired vehicles, 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue NW became an automobile thoroughfare, a strip development with businesses targeted to automobile transportation. In 1950 there were at least three gas and oil stations on the block between NW Market Street and NW 56<sup>th</sup> Avenue.

After World War II, air particulate pollution from the lumber mills, called “Ballard Snow,” spurred a community outcry. In addition, the postwar economy could no longer support the mills, and they shut down one by one. Other “cleaner” industries, such as manufacturing and fabricating mills, and paint and plastics companies replaced the lumber mills.

During the 1960s and 1970s, retail shops along Market Street experienced negative impact from outside competition such as Northgate Mall; however, by 1976 a plan known as the “Market Street Plan” was in place to revitalize downtown Ballard and Market Street, spearheaded by the Ballard Business and Community Development Corporation. King Olav V of Norway dedicated Bergen Park at the intersection of 23rd Avenue NW and Market Street in 1975. In the following year, 1976, King Carl XVI of Sweden dedicated the old Ballard City Hall Bell, signifying the creation of the Ballard Historic District along Ballard Avenue.

In 1944 almost one quarter of the population of Ballard was foreign-born, and about half of those were Norwegian. Today the population in Ballard is no longer heavily Scandinavian, and many of the Scandinavian shops and services have disappeared, although it retains its Scandinavian heritage in many ways, including the Nordic Heritage Museum, which opened in 1980. Ballard continues to be the center of a combination of manufacturing, commercial fishing industries and recreational boating. Since the 1980s Ballard’s commercial district along both Ballard Avenue and Market Street has flourished with shops, restaurants and music venues. The Shilshole breakwater was built by 1981, bringing business to the area of Ballard between the Locks and Golden Gardens. Also in the 1980s, increased demand for housing in Ballard sparked development of multifamily housing and the financial services industry relating to fishing and maritime industries grew to significance. The Elliot Bay Marina was completed in 1991, further increasing opportunities for recreational boating in Ballard.

### **Building History: Bay View School/Webster School**

In December 1906, the citizens of the town of Ballard approved at a special election the issuance of \$70,000 in bonds to allow the Ballard School Board construct two 12-room brick-masonry school buildings. Architects Frederick A. Sexton and Newton C. Gauntt were commissioned by the board to design and prepare construction drawings for the schools. On March 23, 1907, the board received bids for the schools, which exceeded estimates by approximately \$6,000, when plumbing and heating were included.



The board requested Sexton substitute ordinary bricks instead of the white pressed bricks originally specified for his building (Olympic School), and re-bid an alternate design for a wood-framed building (Rainier School) by Gauntt. On March 25, 1907, the board awarded the Bay View School contract (\$29,050 without plumbing and heating) for what was called the Olympic School to A. F. Mowat, and the Rainier School Contract (\$24,069 complete) to Gibson & Smith.

When Sexton's Olympic School was completed in January 1908, it was opened as the Bay View School. In March of that year the school was renamed Daniel Webster. The school maintained a steady enrollment of between 400 and 500 students through the 1920s. In 1930, Floyd A. Naramore, then the school district's architect, designed a large addition to the school that wrapped around the eastern and northern sides of the building, adding four more classrooms, a large auditorium, a gymnasium and a playcourt. The school served eight grades until 1931, when the two upper grades were transferred to the newly completed Monroe Junior High School. In 1957, a kindergarten room was added to the ground floor, appropriating existing underutilized space.

Webster School was closed in 1979. The building was rented on a short-term basis to a motion picture producer, and during that period suffered considerable damage from a fire. The Pacific Nordic Council, a group representing various Nordic heritage communities leased the entire school, receiving credit for building repairs and improvements made to the building. The organization opened the Nordic Heritage Museum in the building in April 1980. The group is currently conducting a capital campaign to raise funds for a new museum closer to the Ballard commercial district.

### **Building Owner: Ballard School District**

The Ballard School District (Number 50) initiated construction of the Bay View School in 1907.

The first school in Ballard was a two-room schoolhouse built in 1883 by John and Mary Jane Ross, near present day NW 43rd Street and 3rd Avenue NW (Ross Playground). The Ballard School District was formed around 1886, with the acquisition and repair of the former John and Anna Brygger cabin, at the settlement's western end (presently Market Street and 24<sup>th</sup> Avenue NW) that was simply called the Ballard School. A third school building, named the Central School (John Parkinson, renamed Ballard School in 1909, renamed Washington Irving School 1916, demolished) was constructed in 1891, on what is now the Swedish Medical Center campus at 5308 Tallman Avenue. Around 1889, after the original Brygger cabin was destroyed by fire, the new replacement schoolhouse was called the Broadway School (later Market Street School, demolished). At some point before 1907, the Broadway School building was enlarged to four classrooms.

The district constructed a fourth school in 1901, the Salmon Bay School (a.k.a. Polk Street School, demolished ca. 1945), at 20th Avenue NW and NW 85<sup>th</sup> Street. The old Ross School was replaced in 1903 by a wood-framed eight-room school building (demolished 1941). Also in 1903, the district rented a building for use as a school, the Cleck School, at 22<sup>nd</sup> Avenue NW and NW 57<sup>th</sup> Street. The two-story wood-framed Eastside School (T. J. Bird, later Washington Irving, closed 1932, demolished) was opened in 1902, at what is now 14<sup>th</sup> Avenue NW and NW 52<sup>nd</sup> Street.

In 1904 the district built a small wood-frame building, the Baker Street School, at what is now 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue NW and NW 60<sup>th</sup> Street, but either sold or demolished the building in 1905.

The original Bay View School (demolished 1908) and the Ferry Street School (demolished 1908), were both constructed around 1904, each consisting of a pair of adjacent small wood-framed buildings. The Bay View site was on the southern side of what is now NW 68<sup>th</sup> Street and 30<sup>th</sup> Avenue NW. The Ferry Street School was on the western side of what is now 25<sup>th</sup> Avenue NW and between NW 67<sup>th</sup> Street and NW 70<sup>th</sup> Street. Two additional buildings were added to the Bay View School in 1905.

The North Street School, a two-story wood-framed storefront building, opened around 1905, at what is now the southwestern corner of 64<sup>th</sup> Avenue NW and NW 22<sup>nd</sup> Street.

The district opened the Parish School (demolished), located at what is now the northwestern corner of 20<sup>th</sup> Avenue NW and NW 85<sup>th</sup> Street, as an annex to the Salmon Bay School, in 1906.

While voters of the rapidly expanding town of Ballard were contemplating annexation in 1906, the district engaged two architects, Newton C. Gauntt and Fredrick A. Sexton, to design two two-story stone-and-brick school buildings. Gauntt's Rainier School (7501 13<sup>th</sup> Avenue NW, demolished 1998), replaced what was known as the North End School, opening as Whittier School, and Sexton's Olympic School (3014 NW 67<sup>th</sup> Street, opened as Bay View School, altered) replaced the two wood-frame buildings on the site. Both were completed in 1908, under the direction of the Seattle School District Number 1, after the town of Ballard was annexed into the City of Seattle.

When the town of Ballard was formerly annexed to the City of Seattle on May 29, 1907, all physical assets and obligations of the Ballard School Board were transferred to Seattle School District Number 1. At that time assets of the Ballard School Board were considered inadequate to operate the former Ballard School building during the coming school year.

### **Subsequent Building Owner: Seattle School District Number 1**

*Please see Appendix 4: Seattle School District Number 1 History, General Historical and Building Context for the history from 1854 to the present day.*

The Seattle School District (Number 1) was officially formed in 1882, with Edward Ingraham as its first superintendent. In 1883, a new twelve-room Central School opened. By 1893, over six thousand students attended Seattle Public School, and a major construction program began. Sixteen new schools opened between 1880 and 1890. The first high school commencement was held in 1886 for twelve graduates.

Frank B. Cooper was hired as superintendent in 1901. During his 21-year tenure he led the Seattle School District's transformation into a major urban school system. James Stephen also became the school architect and director of construction in 1901, developing a "model" school plan for standard wood-framed elementary schools that was used as a basis for several elementary schools designed for the district. Cooper and the school board planned for smaller neighborhood elementary schools and comprehensive high schools.

In 1902, the Seattle School District Number 1 constructed six new schools, the new Central High School on Broadway (William E. Boone and J.M. Corner, later renamed Broadway High School, demolished), the Brooklyn School (Bebb & Mendel, later University Heights School),

the Interbay School (James Stephens, demolished), the Ross School (demolished), the Walla Walla School (Saunders & Lawton), and the 20<sup>th</sup> Street School (William E. Boone and J.M. Corner, renamed Longfellow, later Edmund S. Meany Middle School, demolished)..

By 1910, enrollment was at 24,758 students and more elementary school buildings were needed. A new elementary school plan by Edgar Blair using brick construction was endorsed. Colman School was the second of this type of building, opening only 21 days after Adams School. Under Superintendent Cooper, Seattle Schools initiated programs for students with special needs.

### **1920s and 1930s: Seattle Schools and Floyd A. Naramore**

After World War I, and as Seattle entered the 1920s, the increased costs of providing educational programs to a growing population strained the school district. Public school enrollment grew from 51,381 in 1920 to slightly over 66,000 within ten years, requiring new construction in newly developed areas like Montlake and Laurelhurst, additions to older schools, and construction of intermediate schools and high schools. Despite a postwar recession in the early 1920s, the district entered a phase of a well-funded building program due to school construction bond issues passed in 1919, 1923, 1925, and 1927.

Floyd A. Naramore replaced Edgar Blair as school architect in 1919, overseeing the completion of several projects already underway. An M.I.T. graduate who had already designed several schools in Portland, Naramore would significantly influence the district's school design until his departure for private practice in 1932. Most of Naramore's schools were designed in a twentieth century version of the Georgian style.

With Frank B. Cooper still serving as superintendent, the district continued its vocational and technical programs, building a large reinforced concrete annex (1921, Floyd A. Naramore, altered, later Edison Technical School, now part of Seattle Community College's Central Campus) across the street to the north from Broadway High School in 1921. The same year, the district also completed a new administration and facilities building (1921, Floyd A. Naramore, altered).

Cooper left the District in 1922, replaced by Thomas Cole, a former principal of Broadway High School. Cole served until 1931, and was succeeded by Worth McClure.

The district completed 13 new elementary school buildings during this period, and altered several others with additions. By 1935, all elementary schools also included kindergarten, and lunchroom service was being added to all schools.

New elementary schools completed during this period included:

<b>School</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>Address</b>	<b>Designer</b>	<b>Notes</b>
Bailey Gatzert School	1921	615 12 <sup>th</sup> Ave. S	Floyd A. Naramore	Demolished 1989
Highland Park School	1921	1012 SW Trenton St.	Floyd A. Naramore	Demolished 1998

Martha Washington School	1921	6612 57 <sup>th</sup> Ave. S	Floyd A. Naramore	Originally Girl's Parental School, demolished 1989
Columbia School	1922	3528 S Ferdinand St.	Floyd A. Naramore	
John Hay School	1922	411 Boston St.	Floyd A. Naramore	Seattle Landmark
Dunlap School	1924	8621 46 <sup>th</sup> Avenue S	Floyd A. Naramore	Seattle Landmark
Montlake School	1924	2409 22 <sup>nd</sup> Ave. E	Floyd A. Naramore	Seattle Landmark
William Cullen Bryant School	1926	3311 NE 60 <sup>th</sup> St.	Floyd A. Naramore	Altered, Seattle Landmark
E.C. Hughes School	1926	7740 34 <sup>th</sup> Ave. SW	Floyd A. Naramore	Altered
Magnolia School	1927	2418 28 <sup>th</sup> Ave. W	Floyd A. Naramore	Closed
Laurelhurst School	1928	4530 46 <sup>th</sup> Ave. NE	Floyd A. Naramore	Altered
Daniel Bagley School	1930	7821 Stone Ave. N	Floyd A. Naramore	
Loyal Heights	1932	2511 NW 80 <sup>th</sup> St.	Floyd A. Naramore	

In the early 1920s, the district considered building intermediate or “junior high school” buildings serving students in grades 7-9, to put itself in line with national educational philosophy and relieve pressure on existing elementary and high schools. The school board officially adopted the term Junior High School in 1932. Naramore designed four intermediate or “junior high” schools for the district, including the following:

School	Year	Address	Designer	Notes
Alexander Hamilton Jr. High School	1925	1610 N 41 <sup>st</sup> St.	Floyd A. Naramore	Altered, Seattle Landmark
John Marshall Jr. High School	1927	520 NE Ravenna Blvd.	Floyd A. Naramore	
Madison Jr. High School	1929	3429 45 <sup>th</sup> Ave. SW	Floyd A. Naramore	Altered, Seattle Landmark
Monroe Jr. High School	1931	1810 NW 65 <sup>th</sup> St.	Floyd A. Naramore	

These school building were all built with a “hollow square” plan with a centrally located gymnasium and lunchroom. Each included specialized science, mechanical drawing, cooking, sewing, and art rooms.

Three new high schools were completed between 1923 and 1929, all built with a hollow square plan, and imposing primary façades.

High schools designed by Floyd Naramore include the following:

<b>School</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>Address</b>	<b>Designer</b>	<b>Notes</b>
Roosevelt High School	1922	1410 NE 66 <sup>th</sup> St.	Floyd A. Naramore	Altered, Seattle Landmark
James A. Garfield High School	1923	400 23 <sup>rd</sup> Ave.	Floyd A. Naramore	Altered, Seattle Landmark
Cleveland High School	1927	5511 15 <sup>th</sup> Ave S.	Floyd A. Naramore	Altered, Seattle Landmark

District high schools during this period adopted specialized programs for science, art, physical education, industrial arts and home economics.

The Great Depression of the 1930s was a time of rising unemployment with general school enrollment declining to 57,551 in 1933. Enrollment in adult education classes dramatically increased, however. Seattle schools faced declining revenues, excess personnel and older urban facilities. Sixteen schools were closed, and their students were consolidated into nearby buildings. By the end of the 1930s, there were concerns about the lack of maintenance and the conditions of older schools, prompting the district to request a tax levy for a new building program.

### **Subsequent Building Lessee: Nordic Heritage Museum**

The Nordic Heritage Museum was formally founded in 1980 under the leadership of Marianne Forssblad who served as executive director from 1980 until her retirement in 2007. Eric Nelson is the current executive director. The museum is dedicated to the heritage of Seattle’s Nordic immigrants: Danish, Finnish, Icelandic, Norwegian, and Swedish Americans. The museum is currently housed in the former Daniel Webster Elementary School and serves as a community gathering place and promotes the appreciation of Nordic culture by exhibiting art and cultural artifacts, as well as preserving collections and providing educational and cultural experiences.

The museum hosts approximately 55,000 visitors annually and has a membership of approximately 2,500 households. It is the only museum in the United States that represents the cultural heritage of all five Nordic countries. Each year, the museum presents a wide range of vibrant programs including contemporary art exhibitions, concerts, lectures and films, and a variety of special events.

The permanent collection of more than 65,000 items represents the material culture brought or produced by Nordic immigrants from 1840 to 1920, and includes contemporary objects from descendants of these immigrants, illustrating the everyday practice and accomplishments of this large and influential immigrant community. The museum’s collection includes household

and occupational objects, furniture, clothing and textiles, fine and decorative art, archival material and the Gordon Ekvall Tracie Music Library.

The museum is currently conducting a capital campaign to finance the construction of a new state-of-the-art museum on Market Street. As of 2013, the museum has raised \$29 million of the estimated \$45 necessary to build and open the museum.

## **Architectural Context**

### **Stylistic Architectural Context: Mixed Eclecticism, Early Modernism, and PWA Moderne**

Architect Frederick A. Sexton designed the original Bay View/Daniel Webster School between 1906 and 1907 as a two-story brick masonry building incorporating an eclectic blending of Classical Revival and Romanesque exterior elements. As Sexton was not known to have received any traditional architectural training that would have included academic review of historical styles, he seems to have adopted basic stylistic elements from a variety of sources, freely mixing them within the composition of the building's façades. The primary façade includes a central projecting bay with a raised cornice supported by a pair of Classical square pilasters. The upper projecting cornice with spaced corbels is also classically derived, as is the standard Classical composition of base, shaft, and crown. Classical-Revival derived buildings were popular in the United States following the 1890 Chicago Columbian Exposition. The monumental central entry, however, features a large rusticated Romanesque archway borrowed from earlier prototypes designed by Henry Hobson Richardson, such as Trinity Church (1872-77, Gambrell and Richardson) in Boston, and the Marshall Field's Wholesale Store (1885-87) in Chicago.

Floyd A. Naramore's 1930 addition to the school building reflects more of his transition from an eclectic school designer who in the 1920s embellished his monumental schools with prominent main entry with historically-derived stylistic detailing including Georgian, Italian Renaissance, or Jacobean Revival, to more stripped-down Art Moderne influences. His major addition to the Daniel Webster School is more notable for what it lacks than for the few embellishments it does include. Naramore created three linked rectilinear brick masonry masses that wrap around the southeastern, eastern, and northern sides of the original building, with simple stone parapet coping and deeply inset rectangular windows with no stone facing or mullions. Rather than including an elaborate projecting Classical cornice and corner quoins as in the William Cullen Bryant School, Naramore uses only a simple stone band at the second-floor window head line on the southeastern portion and eschews embellishment at outside corners.

Naramore, however, does not leave the building as a cold utilitarian structure, but does provide selectively placed embellishments at the eastern and northwestern arched recessed doorways of the auditorium entrances and within the cast-stone lintels of the entrances to the former physical training room and boys' playcourt. These entrances are in form akin to Gothic Revival, but are embellished with incised or carved playful friezes incorporating fanciful animals and foliage, rendered as Arts & Crafts reinterpretations of medieval motifs. The interior auditorium contains additional embellishments including a nautical proscenium frieze and corbels with carved flowers supporting the exposed beams spanning the auditorium.

As the United States slipped deeper into the economic Depression of the 1930s, architects and artists generally abandoned historic eclecticism, turning instead to the modernity of simpler or streamlined massing forms inspired by the European Art Deco prototypes, while incorporating uniquely American artistic embellishments that collectively became identified as Works Progress Administration (WPA) Moderne.

### **Building Architect: Frederick A. Sexton (1852-1930)**

The architect of record for the original Bay View School was Frederick A. Sexton.

Frederick A. Sexton was born at Thurning Hall, Norfolk, England on December 16, 1851, the son of Stephen (1810-1890) and Mary Field (1811-1858) Sexton, the eighth of nine children. Stephen Sexton was the estate gamekeeper. The family immigrated to the United States in 1859, after Sexton's mother died, settling near LaSalle, Illinois, southwest of Chicago. By 1880, Sexton was working in Minneapolis, Minnesota, as a carpenter and later as an architect. By 1885, Sexton was married and had three children.

It is presently unknown if Sexton had any training as an architect in Minnesota, but by 1887, Sexton was living in Pierce County, Washington, listing his occupation as architect when the Washington State Territorial Census was taken 1889.

Sexton is thought to have first worked as a contractor and then as an architect in the Puget Sound region, first in Tacoma between 1887 and 1891, then in Everett between 1891 and 1893, and finally in Seattle between 1900 and 1911.

Beginning in 1887, Sexton built or designed several Queen Anne and Colonial revival style residences in the Tacoma area. His practice quickly expanded into larger commissions including the Biltmore Apartments (1889, 801-807 "T" Street), the main building of the original Puget Sound College (1890, demolished), and the Garretson-Woodruff-Pratt Building (1891, 1754 Pacific Avenue).

In 1891, Sexton pitched a tent at the eastern edge of the newly platted Everett town-site and eagerly awaited new commissions. Sexton was awarded many of the early important design commissions on Everett's East Side during the boom, by aggressive marketing and consistently underbidding his competitors. Sexton briefly partnered with H. N. Black, another architect, but quickly went into business on his own. Major commissions during this period include the McCabe Block, Rudebeck Hall, the Brue Building, Hotel Everett, Monroe School in Everett, the Rose Hill School in Mukilteo, and the Bast Block. He was architect of the first brick building erected on the Everett town-site, the Bank of Everett at Hewitt & Pine Street. Sexton also designed homes for many prominent figures in the community.

The Financial Panic of 1893 essentially brought nearly all construction to a halt throughout the United States. Sexton's architectural practice withered, and his Everett Chamber of Commerce project (1893) ceased construction, never to be completed. With no architectural projects in hand, Sexton apparently abandoned his wife and six children and travelled to South Africa to prospect for gold. He eventually returned and reunited with his family, although by 1900, he had relocated to Seattle.

In Seattle Sexton originally worked for residential developer Fehren-Marvin Company, but he was practicing independently by July 1900. Sexton's initial Seattle work included several Queen Anne Revival and Colonial Revival style houses, most on Seattle's Capitol Hill.

In 1905, Sexton married Clara L. Poe, the former principal of the Columbia School.

In 1906, he had received commission to design a school in Silverton, Oregon, and Leavenworth, Washington. The following year, the town of Ballard's school district commissioned him to design their new Bay View School (1907, altered).

In 1906, Sexton designed two adjacent rustic Chalet-style homes north of Seattle's University District, one for Dr. Annie Russell (5721 8th Avenue NE, City of Seattle Landmark), and the other for her son and daughter-in-law (5803 8th Avenue NE).

In Sexton's later career, he received some significant residential commissions, including a large four-square house for Robert Saunders (1908, 2701 10th Avenue E, Roanoke Park Historic District), and a Colonial Revival mansion for Robert E. Parker (1909, 1409 Prospect Street, City of Seattle Landmark). Sexton also designed an eloquent Renaissance Revival apartment building (417-19 13th Avenue E) on Capitol Hill for Parker in 1909.

In 1910, Sexton was also commissioned to design a large store and warehouse (101 King Street, Pioneer Historic District) building for brewery owner and former mayor of Georgetown, John Mueller.

Sexton retired from practice in 1910, moving to a farm near Sumner, Washington where he raised raspberries commercially. Sexton passed away on May 29, 1930.

### **1930 Addition Architect: Floyd A. Naramore (1879-1970)**

The architect of record for the 1930 major addition to the Daniel Webster School was Floyd A. Naramore.

Floyd Archibald Naramore was born in Warren, Illinois, on July 21, 1879. He studied engineering at the University of Wisconsin while working as a draftsman for the Chicago & Northwestern Railroad and architect George Fuller. Naramore later studied at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, graduating with a degree in architecture in 1907. He worked briefly in Chicago for architect John McEwen & Co., before relocating to Portland, Oregon where he became a cost estimator for the Northwest Bridgeworks. In 1913 Naramore was appointed Architect and Superintendent of Properties for the Portland School District, designing Couch Elementary School (1914-15).

The Seattle School District hired Naramore to replace Edgar Blair as school architect in 1919. Naramore designed approximately two dozen school buildings for the district between 1919 and 1931, including Classical Revival style Roosevelt High School (1921-22, 1928 addition, altered), the Jacobean style James Garfield High School (1922-23, altered), and Grover Cleveland High School (1926-27), four junior high schools, and 15 elementary schools, nearly all of them featuring symmetrical eclectic masonry compositions. Naramore usually arranged his school sites to present an imposing façade, using terraces and stairs to accentuate a prominent projecting entry in the tradition of the Beaux Arts.

Naramore joined Alvin (Albert) F. Menke (1883-1978) in a partnership that lasted between 1924 and 1929. The firm designed schools in Ellensburg and Aberdeen and consulted on other school projects in western Washington. School funding declined dramatically during the Depression of the 1930s, and lack of school commissions led to both the dissolution of the firm and Naramore's resignation as the Seattle School District's architect.



Naramore's extensive experience in institutional design and construction led to his commission and successful collaboration with Granger & Thomas in the design of the new Chemistry and Pharmacy Building, Daniel Bagley Hall (1935-36), on the University of Washington Campus. Funded by federal and state economic stimulus grants, the building was constructed in a solid Art Deco/WPA Moderne reinterpretation of Collegiate Gothic.

Naramore was also the architect for Bellingham High School in 1938. The school was built in the Moderne Style as a Public Works Administration (PWA) project.

Naramore formed another short-term partnership with Clifton Brady (1884-1963), resulting in the design of T.T. Minor Elementary School (1940-41). Although the 1940 gymnasium addition to the Colman School could also be described as "streamlined," T.T. Minor is regarded as the Seattle School District's first Modern-style school.

The large-scale construction projects commissioned by the federal government during World War II led Naramore to other collaborations including Naramore, Granger & Thomas; Naramore, Granger & Johanson; and Naramore, Bain, Brady, & Johanson, the latter firm evolving into the Seattle architectural firm of NBBJ. Works that illustrate modern work by NBBJ include the King County Blood Bank (1951), Clyde Hill Elementary School (1953), and Ashwood Elementary School, Bellevue, WA (1957).

NBBJ was the architect for Chief Sealth High School (1957), and Louisa Boren Junior High School (1963). Both schools were designed in an International Modern style.

Naramore was elected to the College of Fellows of the American Institute of Architects (AIA) in 1935. He was active as a senior partner until his death in Seattle at the age of 91 on October 29, 1970.

### **Original Building Contractor: Andrew F. Mowat (1873-1936)**

Andrew Foluster Mowat was born in Birsey, Orkney Islands, Scotland, on October 26, 1873, the fifth of nine children of Ebenezer and Ann Mackenzie Mowat. He immigrated to Canada in 1893, and by 1901 was living in Vancouver, British Columbia.

By 1906, Mowat was living in Seattle working as a general contractor. In March 1907, Mowat was the low bidder on the Bay View School (subject building, altered), a 12-room schoolhouse designed by Frederick A. Sexton for the Ballard School District. In 1910, he was the successful bidder on the Gatewood School (4324 W Myrtle Street, Edgar Blair architect, altered). Mowat was an early member of the Associated General Contractors (AGC). Mowat completed several residential, commercial, and institutional projects in the 1920s and early 1930s, including an addition to West Seattle High School (1924, Floyd A. Naramore architect, altered), the Caledonian Hotel (1925, Andrew McQuaker architect, demolished), American Lake Veterans Hospital (1931, 9600 Veterans Drive, Tacoma), the Coast Guard Station Barracks in Port Angeles (1935), and a building at the Washington State Normal School (1936) in Cheney.

Mowat passed away on November 8, 1936. After Mowat's death his sons, Donald M. and Gordon A. Mowat, took over management of the A. F. Mowat Construction. The company is known to have completed at least two post offices in Washington, one in the University District (1937, altered), and one in Okanogan. The company completed several projects for the

federal government during World War II. Around 1950, the company was renamed Mowat Brothers Construction Company.

Mowat's grandson formed the eponymous David A. Mowat Company in 1964. In 1994, David and his son Mark formed the Mowat Construction Company, a general contracting company specializing in heavy bridge and highway construction, presently headquartered in Woodinville, Washington.

**Addition Contractor: Unknown**

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*The features of the Landmark to be preserved include: The site; the exteriors of the 1908 building and 1930 addition; the 1930 meeting room/auditorium; the 1930 library reading rooms; and the halls and stairs of the first and second floors in the 1908 building.*

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Karen Gordon  
City Historic Preservation Officer

Cc: Tingyu Wang, Seattle Public Schools  
Rich Hill, McCullough Hill Leary PS  
Larry Johnson & Ellen Mirro, The Johnson Partnership  
Alison Walker Brems, Chair, LPB  
Diane Sugimura, DPD  
Alan Oiye, DPD  
Ken Mar, DPD