



**City of Seattle**  
Department of Community Development/Office of Urban Conservation

## Landmark Nomination Form

**Name** John Hay School **Year Built** 1905  
(Common, present or historic)

**Street and Number** 2100 - 4th Avenue North

**Assessor's File No.** \_\_\_\_\_

**Legal Description** **Plat Name** \_\_\_\_\_ **Block** \_\_\_\_\_ **Lot** \_\_\_\_\_

**Present Owner** Seattle Public School District **Present Use** elementary school

**Address** 815 Fourth Avenue North, Seattle

**Original Owner** Seattle Public School District **Original Use** elementary school

**Architect** James Stephen **Builder** Hutchins & Priddle

**Description:** Present and original (if known) physical appearance and characteristics

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John Hay School is a rectangular frame structure with clapboard siding and a hipped roof which stands two stories in height above a raised, masonry basement. Its external composition is dominated by two octagonal turret forms which flank a central, arched portal at the ground level and rise through the roofline of the primary or west facade.

Fenestration of the west facade is arranged in symmetrical groups which directly express the internal arrangement of space. It consists of first and second story window banks at each side of the central, turreted composition which relate to the four classrooms at the east side of the building. The window banks include four windows each, and are separated vertically from each other by stucco-faced spandrels with decorative batten detailing. Triple window groups occur directly above the arched portal and relate to the school office. Narrow rectangular windows occur in the faces of the two turrets at each story. The upper portions of the two turrets feature round openings with louvers at each face, and are faced with rough stucco between the openings. The walls and turret tops are capped with wide, overhanging cornices detailed with acutely attenuated scrolled brackets.

The east elevation of the school facing Fourth Avenue North includes two modest projecting ground level entrance porches at the extreme ends of the elevation, and two major groupings of classroom windows which occur directly beneath hipped roof dormers in the attic story. Smaller windows occurring above the entrance porches provide light to the internal stairwells. The side elevations include triple first and second story windows aligned with the two longitudinal corridors at the interior.

#### Statement of significance

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John Hay Elementary School, designed in 1905 by James Stephen is an excellent and virtually unaltered representative of the standard eight room school plan employed by the School District between 1904 and 1906. The design met the functional requirements of natural lighting and ventilation admirably and was organized flexibly to allow for future expansion to twenty rooms. Whereas other examples of the eight room plan were occasionally clothed in eclectically designed facades, Hay and Latona are particularly meritorious for their honest expression of function and lack of eclectic styling. Detailing is used sparingly but effectively in embellishing the entrance and the spandrels and contributes significantly to the character of early frame building.

Photographs:



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 Date Nov. 7, 1980

Reviewed [Signature] Date 11/11/80  
 Historic Preservation Officer