



The City of Seattle

Landmarks Preservation Board

400 Yesler Building Seattle, Washington 98104 • (206) 625-4501

LPB-101/81

REPORT ON LANDMARK DESIGNATION

Name of Property:

Isaac Stevens Elementary School

Address:

1242 - 18th Avenue East

Features to be Preserved:

Entire exterior of school building and site.

Criteria Applicable:

Satisfaction of Criterion 3.01 (4):

It embodies the distinctive visible characteristics of an architectural style, or period, or of a method of construction; or

Approved by the Landmarks Preservation Board at the Public Hearing of
8 April 1981.

Issued: 13 April 1981
Earl D. Layman
City Historic Preservation Officer

EDL:jw



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

LPB-425/80

Landmark Nomination Form

Name Isaac Stevens School Year Built 1906
(Common, present or historic)

Street and Number 1242 18th Avenue East

Assessor's File No. _____

Legal Description Plat Name _____ Block _____ Lot _____

Present Owner Seattle Public School Dist. Present Use elementary school

Address 815 Fourth Ave. North, Seattle

Original Owner _____ Original Use _____

Architect James Stephen Builder Hutchins & Priddle

Statement of significance

Stevens Elementary, designed in 1906 by James Stephen, conforms to a standardized plan which was frequently used by the Seattle School District for eight room school buildings. As in the case of the 1901-02 Model School Plan developed by Stephen, the eight room plan seems to have anticipated the phased addition of end wings which would provide each school with a total of twenty rooms upon completion. Although the plans and dimensions of these frame schools are uniform, facades, detailing and rooflines were occasionally varied in response to differing stylistic preferences, or a concern for establishing more individualized identities. Manifestations of the standard eight room plan included octagonal turrets at Hay and Latona schools, "Tudor" half timbering at Seward, and "colonial" porticos and detailing at Stevens and Coe. Of the last two examples cited, only Stevens retains the integrity of its original form.

Isaac Stevens School contributes significantly to the character of its surrounding north Capitol Hill neighborhood. Its neo-classical stylistic overtones mirror the personality of many of the neighboring residences.

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

Isaac Stevens School is a rectangular two story frame structure with clapboard siding and a gable roof. Built upon a raised brick basement, the original portion of the building measures 99 by 75 feet in plan and was originally designed to include eight classrooms. A small, single story extension was added in 1928 to provide for additional space.

The west or primary facade is distinguished by a colossal Roman-Ionic order portico with pediment which projects forward at the center of the building. The main entrance to the school is located within the portico at the ground level, halfway between the basement and first stories. It consists of double doors, sidelights, and a transom, and is surmounted by a scaled down version of the same pediment crowning the portico. The portion of the facade encompassed within the portico also includes two central window groupings separated by a spandrel bearing the school's name, and four small cloak room windows somewhat hidden from view behind the two pairs of portico columns. Fenestration at the two sides of the facade flanking the portico consists of first and second story window groupings at each flank. Quoined corners and a cornice supported by attenuated brackets enrich the exterior at all four elevations.

Photographs:



Submitted by: Staff--Office of Urban Conservation

Address: 400 Yesler Building, Seattle

Phone 625-4501

Date NOV 7, 1980

Revised

Historic Preservation Officer

Date

11/11/80