

EDMONDS HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

THE PRESERVATIONIST

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EDMONDS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Formal schooling began in Edmonds in 1884. Classes were held in George Brackett's feed barn on the corner of 3rd and Edmonds St. This was just eight years after Brackett first arrived. The six pupils were taught by Miss Emily Box. In 1887 the student body had grown to 15 and class was held in a school building on a knoll between Third and Fourth Avenue, just north of Main.

By 1889 the school population had increased to 32, requiring expansion of the school house. It didn't take long before it was outgrown completely, and classes moved to Brackett's Hall on Third Avenue, just south of the old feed barn. (The feed barn remained in use until 1964 when it was razed to make way for the Townhouse Apartments).

With ever-increasing enrollment, Brackett donated land for a permanent school building. In 1891 the Edmonds Grade School, a three-story Victorian frame schoolhouse, was built at Seventh and Main at a cost of \$5,750.

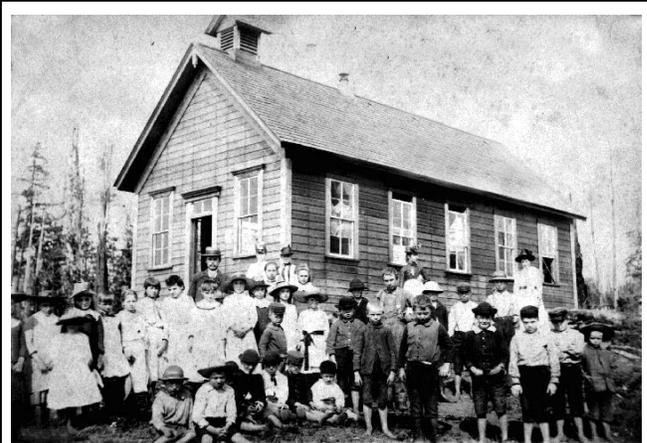
By 1907, 288 students were attending school at the Ed-

monds Grade School. Two years later that number grew to 336, with twelve teachers. It was time for expansion and voters approved a \$30,000 bond issue to purchase land for a separate, three story high school. The cornerstone was laid on November 30, 1909, on 4th Ave just north of Daley St.

Two years later, in 1911, the new Edmonds High School graduated its first class. In this first graduating class was a young lady destined to play a pivotal role in Edmonds public education, the larger community, and the lives of generations of Edmonds residents. Her name was Frances Anderson.

Frances was born in Montana in 1890. She moved to Edmonds in 1894 when the Great Northern Railway transferred her father and uncle to the northwest, entering the Edmonds Grade School at the age of five. By the time she graduated High School she was already the first president of the Edmonds Improvement Club, elected in 1910.

With the outbreak of World



In 1887 Edmonds built its first dedicated school building located just off Main Street between Third and Fourth Avenue. (photo courtesy of the Edmonds Historic Museum)



The Edmonds Grade School was built in 1891 to accommodate the town's mushrooming student population. (photo courtesy of the Edmonds Historic Museum)

War I and her two brothers in the service, Frances stayed with her mother in Edmonds and took a teach-

ing position with the second grade at Edmonds Grade School. She became principal in 1924 and held the



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The mission of The Edmonds Historic Preservation Commission is to actively encourage the conservation and retention of the city's historic resources through initiating and maintaining a register of historic places. Toward this end, the Commission works to raise community awareness of the city's history and historic resources and serves as the city's primary resource in matters of history, historic planning, and preservation.

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EDMONDS ELEMENTARY (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

position for 25 years. She then returned to classroom teaching for an additional ten years before retiring in 1959.

Her other community involvements included Junior Camp Fire Girls leader, treasurer of the Edmonds High School Alumni Association and 25 years on the library board. In addition, she was a charter member of the Edmonds American Legion Post, and held 50-year pins in Easter Star and Rebekah Lodge #65.

The Original Edmonds Grade School, built on the site of the current Edmonds Library, made way in 1927 for the new Edmonds Elementary. The school had six grades and in 1929 had an enrollment of 262 students.

Massive population growth following World War II brought a surge in the student population. The building was expanded in 1948, 1952 and 1961.



Frances Anderson 1911 graduation photo.



The new Edmonds Elementary School was built just east of the Victorian style grade school

Growth in the suburbs required new schools. The number of students in the immediate downtown vicinity dwindled, and in 1972 the school closed its doors.

The City of Edmonds purchased the building in 1978. In 1979 it reopened as The Frances Anderson Cultural and Leisure Center, a fitting tribute to Ms. Anderson and her years of service to the community.

Frances passed away in 1990, two months before the city

of Edmonds celebrated its 100th anniversary.

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In addition to her other activities, Frances Anderson was an accomplished athlete, winning three varsity letters while a student at the UW. This photo of the 1910 Edmonds Women's Basketball Team shows her in the front row holding the ball.

(photo courtesy of
The Edmonds Historical Museum)