

SCHOOLS

On November 7, 1881, Sheldon Jackson established a school house and a teacher's residence in Hoonah. He sent Mr. and Mrs. Walter B. Styles from New York to be in charge of the school. In 1882 they were transferred to Sitka and were replaced by Rev. and Mrs. John McFarland in 1884. They maintained a day school for a number of years until the government took control of it. Rev. and Mrs. John McFarland remained in charge. By 1885 they had enrolled 219 students and all were Tlingits. There were 69 boys, 76 girls, and 74 adults.¹ In 1923 a Territorial school and a Government school were built. They tore down the Government school in 1932 and built a B. I. A. school. After they tore down the Government school they used the same foundation to build a teacherage.

Teacherage 1933--1944

A teacherage was built after they had torn down the old government school. The teacherage burnt down with the town fire in 1944. The teacherage was not rebuilt. Hoonah's power plant was built on the site on the same cement foundation.

Territorial School 1923--1947

The white people were not allowed to go to the government school because it was an all native school. They had to have a school for them, so the territorial school was built. After the B. I. A. school became a public school the territorial school was used as Hoonah's City Office until it was torn down about 1958. Some of the lumber was used in building Hoonah's present City Office.

B. I. A. School 1932--1947

The natives went to the B. I. A. school. The government helped the natives get a good education. The school was two stories high with a full basement. After World War II the B. I. A. school became Hoonah Public Schools. In 1964 the top floor of the old building was cut off. Then a new school was built which included a gym, science room, Home Economics room, and a boys' and girls' locker room.

¹ Rev. Sheldon Jackson, D. O. Report on Education in Alaska. U. S. Gov't. Printing Office, Washington, D. C. 1886.