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Anderson Hall

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What is in a Name? Anderson Hall

Mabel T. Anderson embraced education throughout her life.

Born in Rhineland, Wisconsin in 1897, she completed her elementary and secondary schooling in the Badger State before relocating to Washington following her father's death.

In 1916, she enrolled at Washington State Normal School (now known as CWU) to become a primary school teacher, with a major in public school music and art. After completing her studies, she was hired to serve as the third-grade teacher in the normal school's laboratory school, where teachers honed their skills.

Soon aware that she lacked the proper tools to be an effective teacher, Anderson enrolled at Washington State College in Pullman (now known as Washington State University), where she earned a BA in education and a supervisor's certificate in public-school music. Following her graduation, she studied at the Teacher's College at Columbia University and obtained a master's degree in education.

Anderson returned to Central, resuming her post as the school's third-grade teacher. In his history of Central, historian Samuel Mohler noted that the normal school offered Anderson the opportunity to grow as a teacher under the guidance of professors Loren D. Sparks and Amanda Hebler, who supervised Central's teacher education programs.

"They encouraged her in her special interest in education and intelligence testing, and in experimenting with many valuable types of educative experiences for children," Mohler wrote. "Together they advanced in the fields of elementary school library, lunchroom, museum, recreation, unified learning, revised report cards, assembly programs, instructional aids, democratic living, and school services — such as the post office, bank, and newspaper."

In the 1934 *Hyakem* yearbook, Anderson was described as "able, accommodating, amiable."

From 1938 to about 1943, she supervised student teacher candidates doing their student teaching in local public schools. During the summers of 1942 and 1943, Anderson returned to school to continue her studies, spending the first summer at the University of California and the next at the University of Chicago.

From 1943 to 1958, she taught classes in child development and elementary education. Later, until she retired in 1963, she taught general psychology and human growth and development.

Anderson died in 1993 and is buried in Ellensburg.

In 1961, Central began construction on a pair of new student residence halls, which were completed a year later. The three-story brick and glass structures, which largely mirror each

other, were named in honor of Anderson and Jennie Moore and continue to be used as residence halls.