The Washington School, named for George Washington, was opened on Norman Street in the West End in 1904. A summer school was established in 1905 where 900 West End children learned gymnastics, dance, and sewing. The schools most popular features were a stereopticon, a special slide projector which combines two slightly different images to create a three dimensional effect, and a roof garden. It was the only municipal building in Boston with a roof garden, which stayed open in 1907 during the evening until ten p.m. ‘for the mothers and children of the congested tenement house district... receiving the benefit of a cool breeze.’ It was so popular that at one point 600 or 700 mothers and children slept on the roof. The program was temporarily discontinued for a year in 1911 because of lack of supervision.

In 1911 the Washington School is recorded as teaching children grades one through eight, as well as E.S.L. to immigrants. In 1925 the school was converted to a Jr. High School, relocating the upper grades from the Bowdoin, Wells, Phillips and Washington Schools. As the school continued to expand, printing and woodworking shops, a sewing room and a domestic suite were added (1927). The school served the entire community regardless of age; in 1931 the evening school program graduated a fifty-four year-old mother and a forty-three year-old father from high school.

The Washington School was closed as a result of a new plan reorganizing West End Schools; it was renovated and turned into the Department of School Buildings in 1935. The building was torn down in 1963 during urban renewal and replaced with the Lindemann Center.