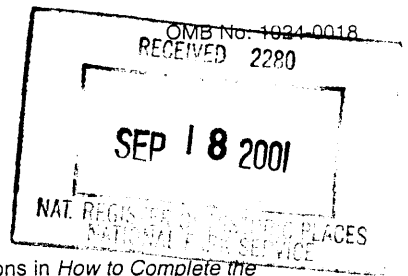


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

1193



This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name McClatchy, C.K. Senior High School

other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_

2. Location

street & number 3066 Freeport Boulevard  not for publication

city or town Sacramento  vicinity

state California code CA county Sacramento code 067 zip code 95818

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this  nomination  request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant  nationally  statewide  locally. (  See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Stephen D. Nussell, Dep. SAHP 9/7/01  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

California Office of Historic Preservation  
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. (  See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commenting or other official Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
  - See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register
  - See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain): \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of the Keeper  
Entered in the  
National Register

Date of Action  
11.2.01

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**  
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

**Category of Property**  
(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

**Number of Resources within Property**  
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
3		buildings
		sites
	1	structures
4		objects
7	1	Total

**Name of related multiple property listing**  
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

NA

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

Education/School  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Current Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

Education/School  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

Moderne  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation concrete  
roof terra cotta  
walls stucco  
\_\_\_\_\_  
other \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Narrative Description**

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

**8. Statement of Significance**

**Applicable National Register Criteria**

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

**Criteria Considerations**

(Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or a grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

**Previous documentation on file (NPS):**

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Politics/Government \_\_\_\_\_

Architecture \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Period of Significance**

1937-1938 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Dates**

1937 \_\_\_\_\_

1938 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Cultural Affiliation**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Architect/Builder**

Starks, Leonard and Flanders, Edward \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Primary Location of Additional Data**

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

\_\_\_\_\_

**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreage of Property** 29 acres

**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
1	10	631160	4267980	3	10	631590	4267660
2	10	631630	4267880	4	10	631100	4267790

See continuation sheet.

**Verbal Boundary Description:** APN 012-260-0300

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

**Boundary Justification:** These are the original and present legal property boundaries.

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Bonnie Wehle/Annette Barudoni Deglow

organization \_\_\_\_\_ date: March 2001

street & number 8424 Olivet Court telephone: (916) 383-6621

city or town Sacramento state CA zip code 95826

**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

**Continuation Sheets**

**Maps**

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

**Photographs**

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

**Additional items**

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

**Property Owner**

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name \_\_\_\_\_

street & number \_\_\_\_\_ telephone \_\_\_\_\_

city or town \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_ zip code \_\_\_\_\_

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number: 7 Page 1

C. K. McClatchy Senior High School

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**Description**

**Summary**

McClatchy High School, Public Works Administration (PWA) project number 1109-R, designed by the local architectural firm of Starks and Flanders in 1933 (and constructed in 1936-37), sits along Freeport Boulevard, amidst several old residential neighborhoods (1920s-1930s). Sacramento City College is a few blocks south of the school. The school fronts Freeport Boulevard with a long two-story façade with a slightly projecting center pavilion and two projecting sections on the south end (photos 1-1a). It is reinforced concrete clad in stucco and topped by a low-pitched, hipped Spanish tile roof. Stylistically, the building is Classicized Moderne. The façade is characterized by units of three. The rhythm of threes is broken in the projecting auditorium on the west end. Behind the façade the main building consists of interconnected units with three courtyards contained within a large rectangle. At the rear of the main building are two other units, the gymnasium and Industrial Arts building, connected by a large courtyard and covered walkways. The gym and locker rooms extend off the southwest corner of the main building. The pool extends beyond the gym to the west. A parking lot, portable classrooms and the athletic field extends to the west of the Industrial Arts building.

**Exterior**

The Classicized Moderne façade of the main building is characterized by long narrow windows, grouped in threes across the plane of the main section, with eight bays of three windows each flanking the center pavilion. The nine-light windows have three awning-type operable sections (photo 2, Exhibit 3). The center pavilion has a recessed entry with scored stucco rustication. It is divided into three by two reeded columns with simple, stylized capitals. There are three high windows over three large entry doors. The entire façade is topped by a frieze and dentil course. Other Classical details on the façade are: relief panels with stylized floral designs in the frieze under the windows, and in the keystones above the doors; and coffers in the ceiling of the recessed entry. There are vents in the return walls of the entry, containing three decorative relief panels with geometric designs. The entry is flanked by plaster lions (photo 3).

The auditorium wing (photos 4-5) contains a recessed entry divided into two by a single column with two high windows and two large entry doors. The entry has the same detailing as the main entry and the rest of the façade matches that of the main block. Extending from the south side of the auditorium wing is the band room with curved walls (photo 6). The Classical decoration is continued on this wing as well with suggestions of reeded pilasters and decorative frieze panels.

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number: 7 Page 2

C. K. McClatchy Senior High School

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Two of the three courtyards have covered walkways surrounding, or partially surrounding them. One is the lunch quad and is filled with picnic tables (photo 7). The Science court is park like in the center with grass and benches (photo 8). Part of the original Center Court was used for location of the Media Center. The south and west elevations in the courtyard maintain the original construction. The east and north elevations are modern construction. The original tile fountain, a gift of the daughters of the late C.K. McClatchy remains in the courtyard (Photos 9-11).

The buildings at the rear of the main building, the shops, and the gyms and locker rooms are very simple in design and unadorned (photos 12-13). They are one-story structures with flat roofs, and are of the same material as the main block. They surround a large asphalt paved ROTC court, and are linked to the main building by covered walkways with arched openings (photo 14).

In the front of the school is a concrete bench and flagpole base donated by the wife of C.K. McClatchy that is ornamented in a reed design matching that in the main building (photo 15). Three steps lead to the benches from the sidewalk. On the east side of the driveway is a sundial donated by the employees of the Sacramento Bee and an Art Deco sign post carrying a sign that says, "C. K. McClatchy High School" (photo 16).

The pair of plaster lions flanking the front entrance to the main building symbolize the mascots of the school - The McClatchy Lions. The lions were a gift of the Class of 1999; the Otto Family; William A Reid, Architect; the 1992 Men's Championship Tennis Team; and the C.K. McClatchy Alumni Association (photo 3).

**Interior**

The main corridors of the main building contains original wooden display cases, tile drinking fountains, banks of built-in lockers, and radiators (photos 17-19). A wooden band surrounds the corridor a little more than halfway up the wall. The second floor corridor is lighted with skylights (photo 20).

Although sparsely decorated, the auditorium contains some interesting detailing (photos 21-22). It has a stepped proscenium arch, a coffered ceiling, hexagon-shaped vents along the side walls, and decorative screens above the side doors. The original wooden seats are still in place.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

C.K. McClatchy Senior High School

Section number 7 Page 3 Sacramento County, CA

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**Alterations**

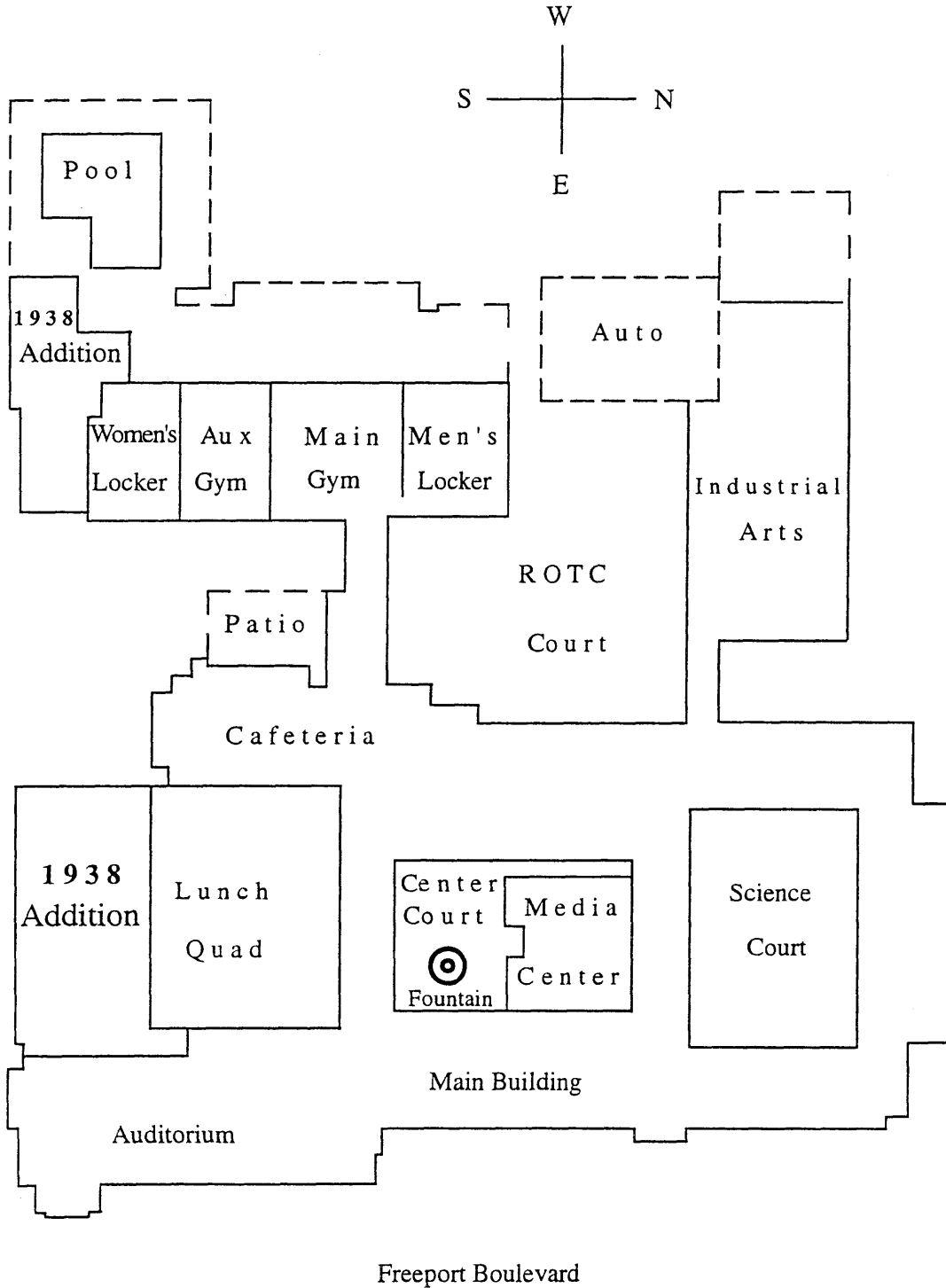
The south wing that enclosed the lunch quad was added in 1938. Prior to that time there were only two courtyards with the south end of the main building forming a partial "U" that was surrounded on the remaining sides by a walkway.

In 1960 and 1961, alterations were made to some interior offices. In 1976 McClatchy was declared seismically deficient and the Sacramento City Unified School District embarked on a three year, nine million dollar project which included a new swimming pool, auto shop, and resource (media) center in addition to structural upgrade of the school using plans drawn by Dreyfuss and Blackford. The interior had a few walls removed and drop ceilings were added throughout the main campus. Also at this time air conditioning was added and some of the classrooms along the front of the first floor were changed to offices. The exterior was not changed or painted.

Summary of resources:

- 3 contributing buildings
- 4 contributing objects: fountain, flagpole, sundial, sign
- 1 non-contributing site: swimming pool

Not to Scale



Diagrammatic Plan of McClatchy Senior High School



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 8 Page 1

C. K. McClatchy Senior High School

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**Statement of Significance**

McClatchy High School is eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A in the area of Politics and Government , and under Criterion C in the area of Architecture. It is the an excellent and skillfully executed example of Classicized Moderne architecture in Sacramento in a public building. It was designed by Starks and Flanders, one of Sacramento's premiere architectural firms. The Classical Revival design elements permeate the building, and stylistically distinguish it among all the other schools in the city. Partially funded by the PWA, a federal recovery program under Roosevelt's New Deal, the style of the building was responsive to the economies of the time and the funding program. McClatchy High School was one of threeschools constructed in Sacramento under the PWA program. Both of the other two, Sacramento City College Historic District and Theodore Judah Elementary School, are already listed in the National Register .

**History:**

**The School**

Until the early-1930s, Sacramento High School was the only high school in the city. But by then the increasing population of high school students necessitated the construction of a second high school. Sacramento applied for a Public Works Administration grant of \$335,000, and the city's voters passed a bond issue for \$485,000.<sup>1</sup> The local architectural firm of Starks and Flanders designed the structure beginning in 1933. Construction was begun in 1936 and completed in 1938. Three construction companies, K. G. Parker Company, Holdner Construction, and Peterson and Steinbrenner, participated in various stages of the construction.<sup>2</sup>

On May 20, 1937, city and county officials and more than one thousand students from the California and Stanford Junior High Schools witnessed the laying of the cornerstone of the school, named in honor of the late editor and owner of the *Sacramento Bee*. The Members of the Masonic Lodge, the Principal of Sacramento High School, and the president of the Board of Education officiated. The Sacramento High School band led a parade, escorting the Masonic officials from Fourth Avenue to the School on Freeport Boulevard.<sup>3</sup>

On September 19, 1937, members of the Board of Education, members of the County Board of Supervisors, and other officials attended the dedication

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<sup>1</sup> C. K. McClatchy Senior High School, 1937-1962: A History, Students of C. K. McClatchy Senior High School, Sacramento: The Nugget Press, 1962, P. 1.

<sup>2</sup> Clarence Cesar, State Inventory form for C. K. McClatchy High School, 1985.

<sup>3</sup> C. K. McClatchy Senior High School, 1937-1962: A History, P. 2.

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 8 Page 2

C. K. McClatchy Senior High School

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ceremony officiated by the Native Sons of the Golden West. Assemblyman Seth Millington, of Butte County, a past grand master of the Native Sons, gave the principal address. Samuel Pepper, McClatchy's principal, Malcolm P. Murphy, vice principal, and Frances Milnes, head counselor also attended, as did Mrs. C. K. McClatchy and her family.<sup>4</sup> A bronze plaque was placed at the entrance to the main building to memorialize the dedication. The plaque reads as follows: This building is dedicated to

Truth-Liberty-Toleration  
By the  
Native Sons of the Golden West  
September 19, 1937

The new school, on approximately 30 acres, contained a room designed especially for the band, with soundproof practice rooms, and dressing and music rooms accessible to the auditorium. It also contained a nurse's suite with rest rooms and a sun porch.

**The Architects**

Leonard F. Starks, a native of Humboldt County, grew up in San Francisco and in the early years of his architectural career, helped design the buildings for the Pan Pacific Exposition of 1915. Moving to New York, he joined the architectural firm of Thomas Lamb, famed designer of theaters. Starks contributed to the surge in theater construction and became a nationally recognized expert in planning and design.

Starks moved to Sacramento in 1921 and set up an office for completion of drawings for the Fox Senator Theater at Ninth and L Streets. He also designed the Alhambra Theater at what was then 31st and K Streets. Both structures have since been demolished. His towering, then-modern design of the Elks Temple at 11th and J Streets included the use of terra cotta on the buildings exterior. This structure remains a prominent part of the city's skyline.<sup>5</sup>

Edward F. Flanders, a native of Montana, who had met Starks in San Francisco during his study of architecture, joined Starks as a partner in 1925. Together, they designed some of the city's largest structures including the city's new post office, the Fox Senator and Alhambra Theaters and C.K. McClatchy High School. Flanders was in charge of the board of architects working on the New Helvetia housing project in Sacramento at the time of his death in 1941.<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>4</sup> C. K. McClatchy Senior High School, 1937-1962: A History, P.3.

<sup>5</sup> California State Library, California Room. Manuscript Collection Summary, Biography, Leonard F. Starks.

<sup>6</sup> Sacramento Bee, April 29, 1941 p. 1.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

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C. K. McClatchy Senior High School

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**The PWA**

Coming into office during the worst depression the country had ever known, Franklin Roosevelt, fulfilling a campaign promise to put people to work, instituted the New Deal. Intended to bring economic recovery to the depression-wrought country, it included the National Industrial Recovery Act (NIRA) authorized by the United States Congress June 16, 1933. The NIRA was one of the federal government's major programs undertaken for this purpose. Title II of the NIRA authorized the formation of the Public Works Administration. The PWA was a direct work relief agency. "The legislation allocated \$3.3 billion to provide jobs, stimulate business activity, and increase purchasing power through the construction of permanent and socially useful public works."<sup>7</sup> The Federal Government and local city, county and state governments and other public bodies under their jurisdiction formed a working partnership resulting in the greatest single construction program in history.

The concept behind the program was that construction projects, in addition to providing employment for the skilled, generated a volume of jobs for those with minimal skill and in need of training. The PWA provided loans and grants-in-aid up to 45% of the total cost of the project to states, municipalities, and other public bodies for schools, public buildings, hospitals, bridges, dams, conservation, and reclamation, as well as for the construction of military bases and U.S. Navy ships. Grand Coulee and Bonneville Dams, 34,000 slum clearance projects, and major capital improvements to Golden Gate Park (San Francisco) were among the PWA's activities throughout the nation.

During its initial years (1933-1935) the PWA put projects into 3,040 of the 3,073 counties in all forty-eight states of the United States as well as its territories and insular possessions. All of the PWA projects, whether improvements or new construction, were considered permanent additions to the national wealth. Of the \$3,760,000,000.00 of the National Industrial Recovery Act funds, \$2,560,000,000.00 were spent on 19,004 PWA construction projects.

The California state offices of the PWA were located in the Washington Building in Los Angeles and in the Russ Building in San Francisco. Administratively, the PWA divided California into twelve districts. Sacramento was the headquarters for District 2 which included Sutter, Yuba, Sierra, Nevada, Yolo, Placer, Sacramento, El Dorado, Solano, and Amador

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<sup>7</sup>Otis L. Graham, Jr. and Meghan Robinson Wander, *Franklin D. Roosevelt: His Life and Times*, Boston: G.K. Hall & Co., 1985, P. 336. *The Story of the PWA: Building for Recovery*, Federal Emergency Administration of Public Works, Harold L. Ickes, Administrator, 1939, P. 1. The Works Progress Administration, later known as the Works Projects Administration or WPA is often confused with the PWA. The WPA, however, was involved in visual and performing arts, research, light construction, writing, and social services with the contractors receiving payment or funds directly from the government.

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C. K. McClatchy Senior High School

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Counties. An article in *The Architect and Engineer* in June 1935 described the state program. It called for "\$40,000,000 for urban low-cost housing; \$25,000,000 evenly divided between state trunk roads and town roads; \$15,000,000 for sixty-seven California Conservation Corps camps; \$4,000,000 for a resettlement of 1,500 families now on sub-marginal land, and \$10,000,000 for state buildings...Other items in the program [were]: Conservation of natural resources, \$4,000,000; land liming, \$3,500,000; soil erosion control, \$3,000,000; marketing educational service, \$1,000,000; rural electrification, \$5,000,000; rural housing, \$10,000,000; state planning board, \$5,675,000, and administration, \$4,000,000."<sup>8</sup>

In its first six years, 1933 to 1939--the heyday of its existence--and before PWA was transferred to the Federal Works Agency as part of the President's Reorganization Plan, the PWA financed 34,508 projects with an estimated cost of \$6,086,000,000.00. All but three counties in the United States participated in these cooperative efforts. The impact of PWA projects upon the nation during its first six years was of such enormity that *Life* magazine stated,

Franklin D. Roosevelt has made Cheops, Pericles, Augustus, Chin Shih Huang Ti, the Medicis, and Peter the Great look like a club of birdhouse-builders. For one Great Pyramid or Great Wall, PWA has raised up scores of tremendous dams. For one Parthenon, it has reared thousands of glistening city halls, courthouses, post offices, schoolhouses. For one 366-mile Appian Way, it has laid 50,000 miles of highway over the hills and valleys of America.<sup>9</sup>

A major commitment of the PWA construction funds was for educational buildings. The PWA brought new facilities, a high standard of construction, and safety to school buildings across the nation. It is estimated that by 1936, over 70 percent of all school construction in the United States came through the PWA.

On April 10, 1933, AB 2342 authored by California Assemblyman C. Don Field, the so called "Earthquake" or "Field Act", became law in California. The law, which was promulgated as a result of the destruction caused by the March 10, 1933 Long Beach earthquake, insured that henceforth all public buildings in California would be earthquake safe. Therefore, all PWA school buildings constructed in California complied with this law.

**Local PWA Projects**

In Sacramento city and county, approximately \$3,115,500 was given by the federal government to assist numerous relief projects. Of this amount,

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<sup>8</sup>"New Grants on P.W. Projects," *The Architect and Engineer*, June 1935, pp. 68-70.

<sup>9</sup>"PWA Has Changed Face of U.S.," *Life*, (April 1, 1940), p. 62.

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 8 Page 5

C. K. McClatchy Senior High School

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approximately \$1,443,200 was provided by the PWA, nearly 84% of which went to the city. Another \$1,342,000 was spread among other combined federal programs including PWA. In 1936, City Manager James Dean, formerly of the architectural firm of Dean and Dean that would later be responsible for the design of the Theodore Judah School, reported that the PWA project allocations for Sacramento "...advanced our building program by ten years."<sup>10</sup> Two notable projects for which PWA funds were improvements to the Southern Pacific Company yards and the construction of the Tower Bridge. A PWA loan of \$12,000,000 was granted for buying and laying track, repairing and building bridges and culverts, and repairing locomotives and railroad cars.<sup>11</sup> The Sacramento yards were the second largest rail yards in the country at the time. The \$1,000,000 project to construct the Tower Bridge received a \$172,000 grant of PWA funds. The bridge opened in December 1935.<sup>12</sup>

There were five major PWA school construction projects in the City of Sacramento. Several school districts in Sacramento County, such as Arden, Del Paso, Elk Grove, Grant Union, and Walnut Grove, also received PWA assistance. The five city projects were as follows:

- P.W.A. Docket California 1013 R in 1936-37 provided \$221,000 of the \$517,027 to build classrooms, fine arts buildings, gymnasium, and library at Sacramento City College.
- P.W.A. Docket California 1958-F in 1938-40 provided 45% of the \$688,133 to build the home economics, engineering, aeronautics, and cafeteria/student management buildings at Sacramento City College.
- P.W.A. Docket California 1109 R in 1936-37 provided \$335,454 of the \$810,454 to build **C.K. McClatchy High School**.
- P.W.A. Docket California 1579 in 1937-38 provided 45% of the \$41,640 to build Theodore Judah School, Unit #1 (six classrooms and a lavatory unit).
- P.W.A. Docket California 1958 F in 1938-39 provided 45% of the \$44,678 to build Theodore Judah School Unit #2 (kindergarten, health room, administration unit, and auditorium).

All but one of the buildings constructed in these projects are still in operation, although some have been altered.<sup>13</sup>

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<sup>10</sup>*The Sacramento Bee* October 31, 1936, p. 2.

<sup>11</sup>*The Sacramento Bee*, December 28, 1933, p. 1.

<sup>12</sup>Everett Walsh, *California Highways and Public Works*, vol. 14, no. 7, July, 1936, p. 5.

<sup>13</sup>Sacramento City College Library was demolished in June/July 1996.

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 8 Page 6

C. K. McClatchy Senior High School

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**Architectural Style**

Designed by the prominent local firm of Starks and Flanders, the style of C. K. McClatchy High School is a hybrid, and unique among Sacramento's schools. Built in the years of recovery from the Great Depression, it shares the pared down, stylized design typical of many PWA projects. Moderne in its massing and simplicity of line, it carries stylized elements of Classical Revival--perhaps more accurately, "Mannerist Revival"--architecture.

*The Architect and Engineer* ran an article about the building in February, 1938. The article liked the building to a living plant and praised the architects' planning. The article's author approached the question of the building's style from the modernists point of view, describing it thus: "Eschewing classical detail in a truly contemporaneous manner, it nevertheless produces a classical effect. " 14

The repeated groupings of three on the façade shows some influence from the Art Deco movement, but also reflect the triglyph element of Classical design. Although horizontal in massing, the façade is organized vertically according to Classical principles with a base--in this case understated--a shaft and a pared-down entablature. Minus the gable roof, the central pavilion is temple-like in appearance. Relief panels in the frieze and under the windows of the second story, and the keystones in the arches above the doors contain stylized designs in floral motifs. The prominent dentil courses, the columns dividing the entries, the rustication--usually reserved for the base--in the entries, and the coffering on the ceiling of the entries also reflect the Classical influence. The tile roof lends the façade a Mediterranean feel.

Starks and Flanders' other compositions reflect their facility with many different stylistic traditions. The handsome building is clearly a product of enough familiarity with Classical design elements on the part of the architects to have the confidence to use them freely and unconventionally, coupled with an eye for composition. They used similar Classical elements in the U.S. Post Office building on I Street in Sacramento.

**Integrity**

The exterior of C. K. McClatchy High School retains all its integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association. The school is in its original location and the neighborhood surrounding it is virtually as it was in 1937. No design elements, materials, or character defining features on the façade of the building have been changed, although the south wing was added to the main building

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<sup>14</sup> Harris C. Allen, "Housing for Ideas" in *The Architect and Engineer*, February, 1938, p. 33.

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(contributing) and the south addition to the gymnasium (contributing) were added using PWA funds in 1938.

The Media Center encroaches into the Center Court; however this addition is not visible from the exterior of the main building. An auto repair shop has been added to the Industrial Arts Building. Detached portable class rooms, which vary in number based on need, are located west of the historic structures. Some classrooms in the main building have been modified to provide for administrative needs.

**Summary**

McClatchy High School is significant at the local level in American architecture and history. Under criterion A, it is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history. In the area of Politics/Government (defined as "[T]he enactment and administration of laws by which a nation, state, or other political jurisdiction is governed; activities related to the political process."), it is a major work in Sacramento undertaken with the aid of the Public Works Administration. As such, it is directly tied to the national political and social aims of Franklin D. Roosevelt's New Deal. Absent the PWA, it is highly likely that this building could not have been built during the Great Depression. These same historical events tie it to the area of Social History (defined as "[T]he history of efforts to promote the welfare of society; the history of society and the lifeways of social groups."). The various entities created under the New Deal, including the PWA, were all aimed at the federal government's efforts to promote the welfare of American society down to the local level. The building of McClatchy High School, enabled by New Deal funding, provided employment for local architects, artists, and builders, and, when completed, offered expanded and improved educational opportunities to the Sacramento residents.

Under Criterion C, McClatchy High School as an excellent and skillfully executed example of Classicized Moderne architecture in Sacramento in a public building. Designed by Starks and Flanders, one of Sacramento's premiere architectural firms, the building reflects the architects' facility with the Classical traditions in architecture. Stylized Classical Revival (or "Mannerist Revival") design elements permeate the building, and stylistically distinguish it among other schools in the city. Partially funded by the PWA, a federal recovery program under Roosevelt's New Deal, the style of the building was responsive to the economies of the time and the funding program. McClatchy High School was one three schools constructed in Sacramento under the PWA program.

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