

PH0047236

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:	California
COUNTY:	Alameda
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
1110.06.0056	10/14/71

1. NAME

COMMON:
Mills Hall

AND/OR HISTORIC:
Mills College

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
Mills College

CITY OR TOWN:
Oakland

STATE	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
California 94613	06	Alameda	001

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious		
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Mills College

STREET AND NUMBER:
Seminary Avenue and MacArthur Boulevard

CITY OR TOWN:
Oakland

STATE:	CODE
California	06

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:
Recorder, Alameda County

STREET AND NUMBER:
1225 Fallon Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Oakland

STATE	CODE
California	06

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Historic American Bldgs. Survey Inventory

DATE OF SURVEY: 1962 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Library of Congress

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:
Washington, D. C.

STATE:	CODE
	11

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: California
COUNTY: Alameda
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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Designed and constructed in 1871 (by S.C. Bugbee and Sons, Architect). Original use; Girls' Seminary -- Present use; conversion to Administrative Headquarters, Mills College.

Construction: wood frame, brick substructure; number of stories; 3 and 4 (central area). Good example of Second Empire or Mansard Style of symmetrical "U" plan with a dramatic central element of four stories flanked by three story wings. Terminated by symmetrical pavillions with bay windows. First story openings generally have gable and square pediments; second story segmented; and third story of wings, and fourth story of central element have round headed dormers set in canted concave Mansard roof. Building is of wood frame with "V" rustic siding, wood cornices and moldings. Interior reception hall is modestly done in Ionic order. Stairs have mahogany newel posts and turned balusters.

(Name of recorder: A. Lewis Koue, A.I.A., Preservation Officer, National Park Service, H.A.B.S.)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

3. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century	

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Political	<input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning
<input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> Engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
<input type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry		_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Science	_____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Art	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	<input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Music	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation			_____

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Mills College began ostensibly in 1852, though under another name when a Young Ladies Protestant Seminary was founded in the then rising city of Benicia. Its significance augmented in 1853-54 when Benicia became the capital of the State, grew rapidly following its acquisition by Miss Mary Atkins who became its owner in 1855. Because of ill health in 1865 she sold the property to Dr. and Mrs. C.T. Mills who continued to operate the school in Benicia until 1871. In 1870, Mills, with financial support, purchased 55 acres in what is now East Oakland, a site formerly occupied by an Indian Rancheria. In June 1870 construction began on the structure submitted for registration, and in 1871 the Seminary left Benicia to take up permanent campus residence in Oakland. Originally the building consisted of classrooms, quarters for the President of the College, teachers, and students, recitation rooms, a music room, lecture halls and a hospital ward. In 1877, the College was deeded to a Board of Trustees. Its first baccalaureate degrees were granted in 1889. Prep. school was abandoned in 1911, following which the College became fully accredited in 1918, and opened a graduate school in 1920. From 1916 till 1943 Aurelia Henry Reinhardt was president of the College, during which time 136 acres were incorporated within its boundaries. During this period the structure nominated was used almost exclusively as a dormitory and social activity hall, little changes having been made in its original construction. Mills College compares with the most exclusive women's colleges in the nation, including Wellesley, Mt. Holyoke and Vassar. Its history in the field of education is equal to the highest standards, exemplified in America.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Richey, Elinor: The Ultimate Victorians of San Francisco Bay, Berkeley, 1970.
 Keep, Rosalind: Four Score and 10 Years--a History of Mills College Mills College, 1946.
 Ferrier, William Warren: Ninety Years of Education in California: 1846 - 1936, Berkeley, 1937.
 James, Elias Olin: The Story of Cyrus and Susan Mills, Standord, 1953.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE			LATITUDE		LONGITUDE
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	0	'	"	37°	46'	47"
NE	0	'	"	122°	10'	50"
SE	0	'	"			
SW	0	'	"			

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 3.46 acres

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
William J. Hein, Assistant to the President

ORGANIZATION: Mills College DATE: May 4, 1971

STREET AND NUMBER:
Seminary and MacArthur Boulevard

CITY OR TOWN: Oakland STATE: California 94613 CODE: 06

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name Robert Meyer DEPUTY DIRECTOR
 for William Penn Mott, Jr.
 Title Director
 Date October 6, 1971

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Ernest A. Connally
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation
OCT 14 1971

Date _____
 ATTEST:
William H. Huesteggs
 Keeper of The National Register
 Date **OCT 13 1971**

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 4181500
 (D)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. STATE CALIFORNIA COUNTY ALAMEDA TOWN OR VICINITY OAKLAND STREET NO. Seminary Ave. Arthur	2. NAME MILLS HALL - MILLS COLLEGE	HABS PRIORITY		
	SEE SPACE BELOW FOR MAP OR DIRECTIONS	1	2	3
3. HABS SURVEY NO. AIA	4. ORIGINAL OWNER Dr. Cyrus T. Mills (Mills College)	PRESENT OWNER Mills College		
5. TO BE FILLED IN BY THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS	DATE OR PERIOD 1870	STYLE 2nd Empire		
	ARCHITECT S.C. Surbee & Sons	BUILDER J.H. Wilber		
INDEX NO.	NEGATIVE FILE	ORIGINAL USE Girls Seminary		
PUBLISHED PHOTOS	PUBLISHED DWGS.	PRESENT USE Residence Hall		
6. HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE & DESCRIPTION	CONSTRUCTION Wood frame	NO. OF STOR. 3 & 4		
Mills College started as Young Ladies Seminary at Benicia, California in 1852.- the first	NOTABLE FEATURES Good example of Second Empire or Mansard style of symmetrical "U" plan with dramatic central element of four stories			
CONTINUE IN SPACE BELOW	CONTINUE IN SPACE BELOW			

7. PHYSICAL CONDITION OF STRUCTURE (OTHER) Very good					8. VAL. TO	NATION	X	QUALITY	VERY HIGH	X
IN DANGER						STATE	X		HIGH	
PRESERVE						COMMUNITY	X		NOTABLE	
REPAIR					OTHER		MENTION			
RESTORE					9. POSSIBLE USE					
RECONSTRUCT					As being used.					
EXTERIOR					10. NEIGHBORHOOD CONDITIONS Good					
INTERIOR					ZONED College campus					
11. AVAILABLE FILES					12. OPEN TO PUBLIC yes					
MEASURED					FEE None					
DRAWINGS					CONTROL BY Board of Trustees					
OLD PHOTOS					14. NAME, ADDRESS AND TITLE OF RECORDER					
OTHER					A. Lewis Koue, A.I.A.					
FIELD REPORTS					Preservation Officer					
RESEARCH REPORTS					West Bay Chapter, A.I.A.					
13. REFERENCES: AUTHOR, TITLE AND PAGES					DATE OF RECORD May, 1962					
Mills College publications										
Oakland Tribune News - Sept. 24, 1961										
DATE										

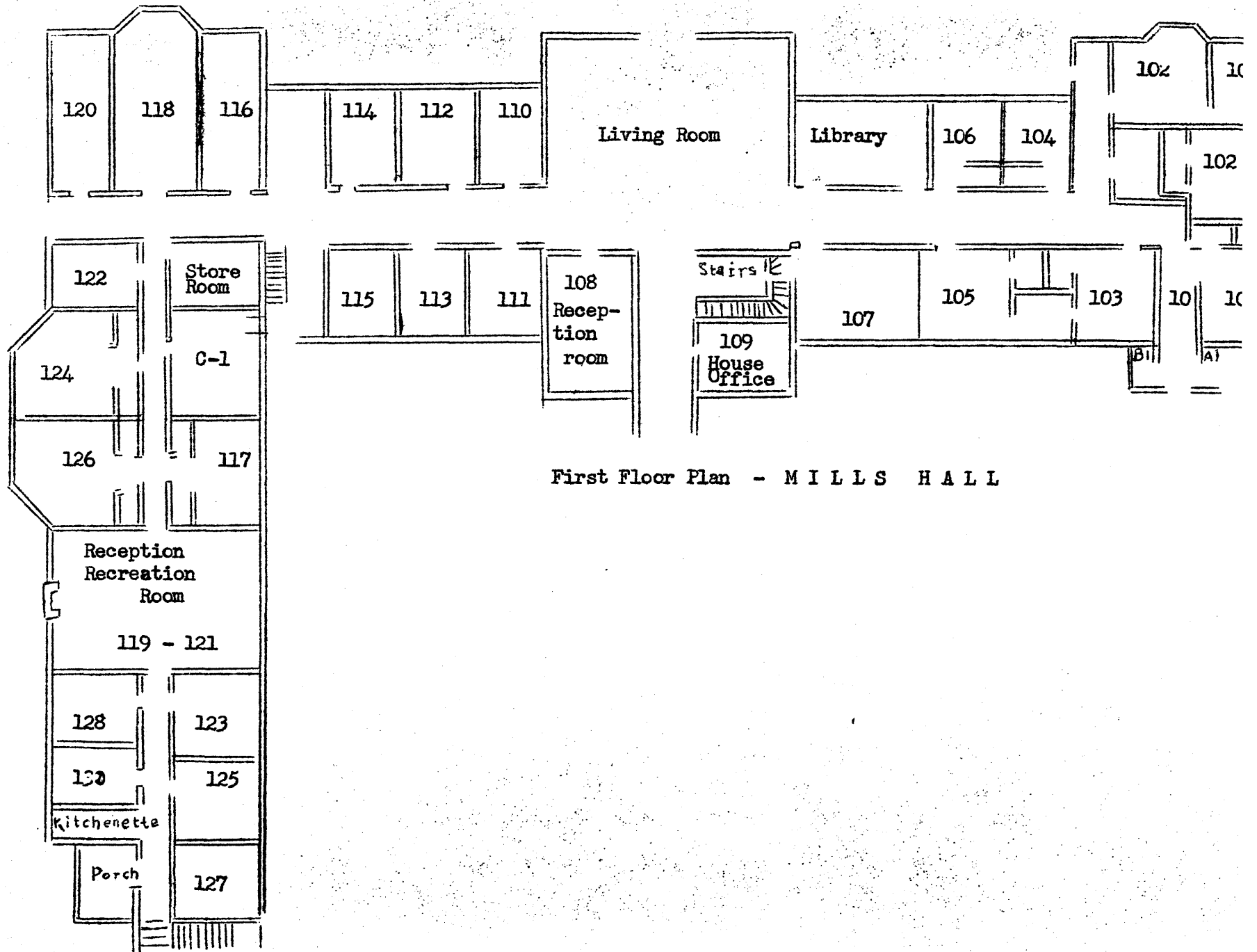
CONTINUE ADDITIONAL DATA, PHOTOGRAPHS, COMMENTS, SKETCH OR MAP IN SPACE BELOW

XXXX

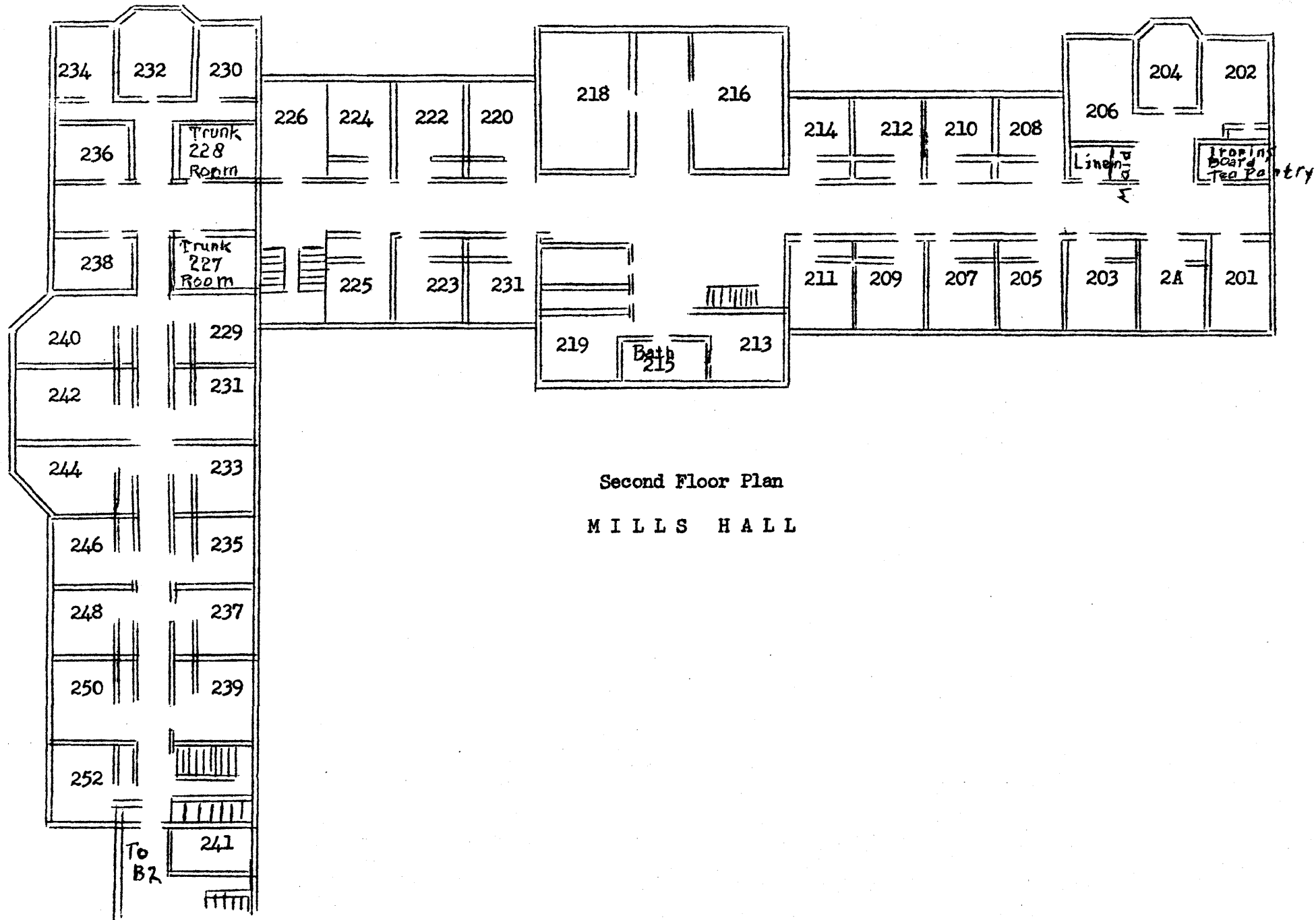
LOCATION

4 (Contin.) flanked by three-story wings terminated by symmetrical pavilions with bay windows. First story openings generally have gable and square pediments; second story segmented; and third story of wings and fourth story of central element have round headed dormers set in canted concave Mansard roof. Bldg. of wood frame with "V" rustic siding, wood cornices and moldings. Interior reception hall is modestly done in Ionic order. Stairs have mahogany newel posts and turned balusters.

6 (Contin.) protestant girls school in California. Mary Atkins was most notable early teacher. She became principal in 1854 and owner in 1855. Because of ill health in 1865 she sold to Rev. Cyrus T. Mills and his wife. With financial support, Mills purchased 55 acres at present site on Leona Creek, site of ancient Indian village. (Campus now 136 acres.) Construction began in June 1870 and seminary moved to new campus in 1871. Decided Seminary to Board of Trustees in 1877. First baccalaureate degree granted in 1889. Prep. school abandoned in 1911. Fully accredited in 1918, and opened graduate school in 1930. Marcia Henry Weishardt was president from 1916 until 1941. Subject bldg. first served as residence hall, academic and administration. Now exclusively as one of six residence halls and center of social activities.

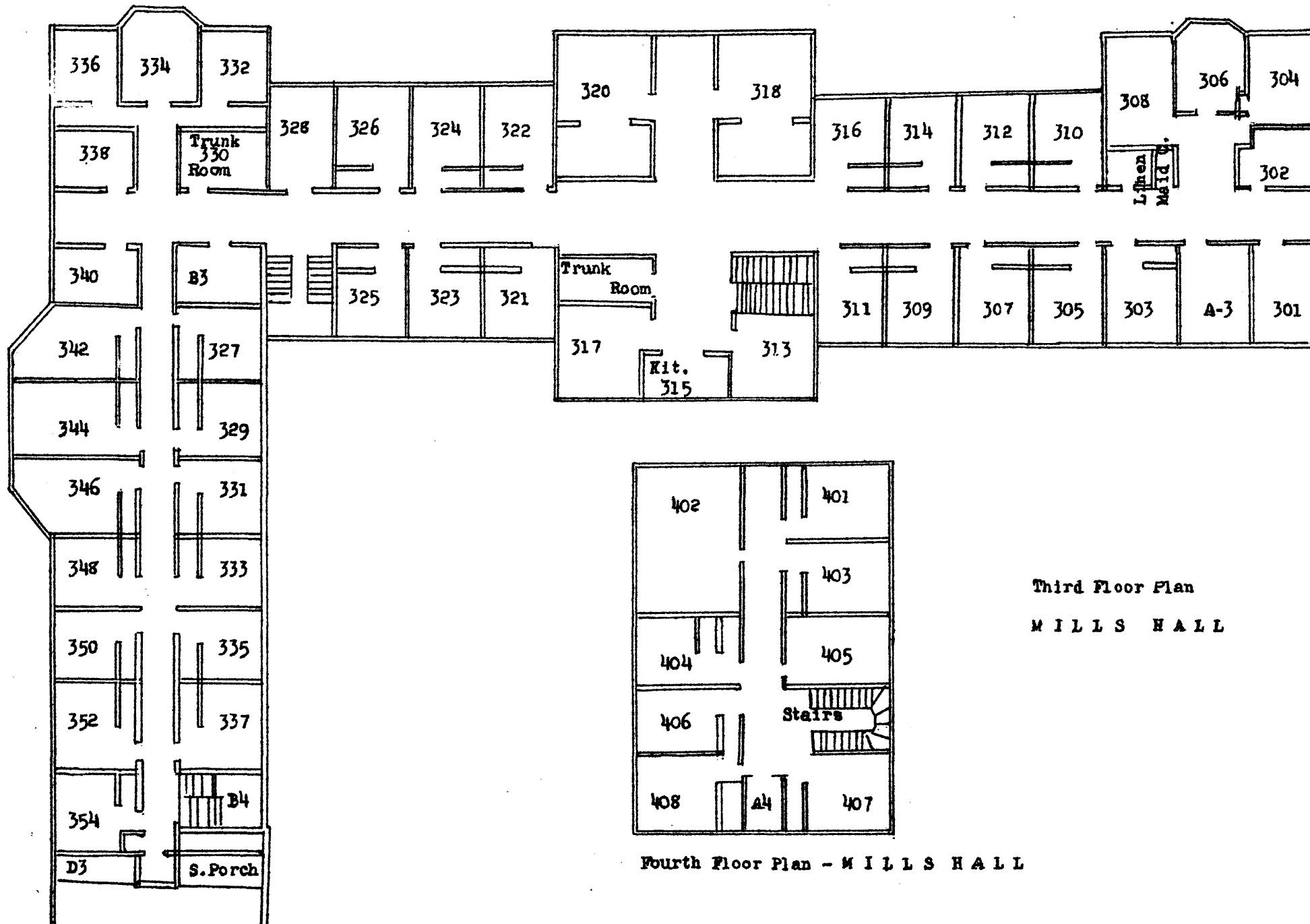


First Floor Plan - MILLS HALL



Second Floor Plan

MILLS HALL



Third Floor Plan
MILLS HALL

Fourth Floor Plan - MILLS HALL