

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

MAR 02 1993

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

NATIONAL
REGISTER

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1. Name of Property

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historic name: Edwards, George C., Stadium _____

other name/site number: _____

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2. Location

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street & number: Bancroft & Fulton, UC Berkeley Campus _____

not for publication: _____

city/town: Berkeley _____

vicinity: _____

state: CA county: Alameda _____ code: 001 zip code: 94720

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3. Classification

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Ownership of Property: Public - State _____

Category of Property: District _____

Number of Resources within Property:

Contributing	Noncontributing	
__3__	__1__	buildings
__1__	__	sites
__4__	__2__	structures
__3__	__	objects
__11__	__3__	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: __0__

Name of related multiple property listing: _____ NA _____

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this x 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 x meets _____ does not meet the National Register Criteria. _____ See continuation sheet.

Shade R. Chazy _____ 2/26/93
Signature of certifying official 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.

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. 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): _____

Entered in the National Register
Allore Byne 4/1/93

Signature of Keeper Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic: Recreation & Culture _____ Sub: Sports Facility _____

Current : Recreation & Culture _____ Sub: Sports Facility _____

9. Major Bibliographical References

X See continuation sheet.

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 # _____

Primary Location of Additional Data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other state agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other -- Specify Repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property: 8 acres

UTM References: Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing

A	10	564760	4191360	B	_____	_____	_____
C	_____	_____	_____	D	_____	_____	_____

____ See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description: Please see attached scale map.
Boundaries include all crosshatched areas.

Boundary Justification: The boundaries encompass all of the contributing resources associated with the stadium.

11. Form Prepared By

Name/Title: Michael R. Corbett _____

Organization: Berkeley Arch. Heritage Assn. Date: June 30, 1992 _____

Street & Number: 2054 University Avenue, #505 Telephone: (510) 548-4123 _____

City or Town: Berkeley _____ State: CA ZIP: 94704 _____

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 7

Edwards Stadium

Page 4A

Alameda Co CA

Resource Count Explanation

Buildings: 3 contributing (ticket booths); 1 non-contributing
(tennis building -- Hellman Center)
Sites: 1 contributing (central field & landscaped areas)
Structures: 4 contributing (east bleachers, west bleachers
walls & fence, scoreboard frame); 2 non-
contributing (track, tennis center)
Objects: 3 contributing (2 flagpoles, memorial bench)

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

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7. Description

Summary Paragraph:

Edwards Stadium is a reinforced-concrete track and field stadium with cast concrete ornament in the Moderne Style at the southwest corner of the campus of the University of California at Berkeley. It occupies an irregular site that includes an area enclosed by a fence, walls, and large bleachers facing each other across a central field encircled by an oval track. Contributing features are the east and west bleachers and the walls and fence that enclose the track; two flagpoles, the scoreboard frame, and the Walter Christie Bench on the field; three concrete ticket booths outside the stadium; and the landscaped areas on the south and west sides. The stadium retains a high degree of integrity. The most significant non-contributing features are the track itself, which is a recent replacement of the original, and the tennis center at the north end of the stadium area.

Additional Description:

Edwards Stadium is located on a sloping site (east to west) at the southwest corner of the campus of the University of California at Berkeley at the intersection of Fulton Street and Bancroft Way, near downtown Berkeley. On the campus sides, it is near a forested area along Strawberry Creek (across Cross Campus Way) on the north, and is part of a complex of athletic facilities extending to the east. Two of these facilities, Clint Evans Diamond (originally Edwards Field) and Harmon Gym were developed in the same period as Edwards Stadium. The third, the Recreational Sports Facility (RSF), completed in 1984 between Edwards Stadium and Harmon Gym on Bancroft Way, was built on a part of what was formerly the baseball field and replaced a section of concrete wall that was a continuation of the south wall of Edwards Stadium.

On the street sides, the stadium faces large parking areas to the south and west, as well as a scattering of one- to three-story commercial buildings. The new Cowell Hospital of the University of California is under construction across Bancroft Way. Because of the topography, there is a broad view from the west side of the stadium to the southeast. This view is little changed today from the time the stadium was completed, including the towers of St. Marks Episcopal and Trinity United Methodist Churches, and the Berkeley City Women's Club, with the East Bay hills in the background.

In addition, three of four original ticket booths remain, near the southwest, northwest, and northeast corners of the stadium. These are six-sided structures with rough, flat roofs supported by battered columns. Between the columns are ticket windows above bulkhead walls canted in the opposite direction from the battered columns.

While Edwards Stadium itself is roughly rectangular, it occupies an irregular site. The west side of the site was created by the extension of Oxford Street at an angle to join Fulton Street at the time the stadium was built, and subsequently by a widening of Oxford-Fulton Street in 1964.¹ This irregular area is a landscaped, park-like strip of land that was landscaped as part of the Stadium development, except for a parcel of land in the center occupied by a building now housing the University Extension.² Its landscaping consists of paths for access to the stadium, and trees around lawn areas. The original configuration of paths, the lawn areas, and some of the trees remains visible, although the western edge has been moved slightly to the east, especially at the south end where the widened street curves into Bancroft. A planting scheme for shrubs along the base of the west side of the stadium is no longer in evidence.

Edwards Stadium itself is an enclosed track and field stadium with a central lawn for field events surrounded by an oval running track. The track, oriented north-south, is flanked by large, reinforced-concrete bleachers on its long, east and west sides; these are known as the east bleachers and the west bleachers. The track is enclosed at the south end by a concrete wall that links the ends of the east and west bleachers and that borders Bancroft Way. The field is extended to the north from the ends of the bleachers by concrete walls, and is closed at the north end by a curvilinear fence of concrete piers and wood, board-and-batten walls along Cross Campus Drive.

Today, the track is a 400-meter hard-surface oval with a 100-meter straightaway on the west side. When it was built, it was a 440-yard cinder-surface oval with 220-yard straightaways on both sides, extending back to the fence along Cross Campus Drive. Because of changing standards in track and field, the track was converted to the metric distance (very close to the old distance for the oval), and the long straightaways were eliminated. By 1956, tennis courts were built between the ends of the straightaways at the north end of the field. In the 1980s, six new tennis courts and a small tennis building were built across the north end where the long straightaways and old courts had been.³ This has a minor impact on the character of the space inside the stadium.

The principal structures of the stadium are the east and west bleachers. Similar in plan, each consists of a stepped seating area above an inner area of enclosed spaces and an outer open-air pedestrian concourse carried on concrete columns. The seating areas are more steeply raked than in a football stadium, providing views of all lanes of the track. The central ten bays of seating have 39 rows of seats, 13 more than the one and a half bays at either end. It is these extra 13 rows of the central bays that are above the pedestrian concourse while the 26 lower rows of seats are above the enclosed areas. The four principal entrances to the stadium, closed by original wood gates, are at either end of each concourse. From each concourse the reinforced-concrete structure of the bleachers is clearly visible with the underside of the stepped seating carried on arched beams between the columns of the concourse and the wall of the enclosed area. From the concourses, passages lead generally at right angles through eleven vomitories on each side into the stands. The stands seat over 22,000 spectators on wood seats (the original wood seats have been replaced with metal in the central sections of the west bleachers). There is a "yell leaders platform" at the base of the stands in the center of each side and there is a Press Box above the center of the west

bleachers. The Press Box consists of two tiers of wood seats and a continuous writing bench sheltered by a concrete canopy cantilevered on a single row of concrete columns. All of the west bleacher and sections of the east bleacher seating areas have been painted with a waterproofing coating.

The seats above the open-air concourses on each side are carried on 18 concrete columns. On the west side, facing the public street, the bases of the columns are enclosed in alternate bays by concrete screens and by entranceways with wood gates. There are 10 entranceways, roughly corresponding to the number of vomitories into the stands. The three entranceways at either end are approached by a flight of steps between concrete walls. The four central entranceways, located behind the University Extension, have never had stairways and can never have been used. On the east side, facing the campus baseball field, the base of the columns is enclosed by a solid wall which also functions as a retaining wall on the sloping site. There are no entrances on this wall.

The enclosed spaces underneath the stands include men's and women's toilets, storage spaces, telephone areas, electric equipment rooms (for telephones, radio broadcasting, and a public address system), and an emergency room on each side. At the north end of the west side, there is a garage. On the east side, there are team quarters for home and visiting teams. These are linked directly to the field by an underground passage near the south end. The higher placement of the vomitories on the east side is due to the higher ground.

The bleachers, the walls at either end, and a few infield objects are unified visually by a common ornamental scheme in the Moderne style. (As is often the case with the Moderne style, the organizational principles and some of the imagery is derived from Beaux-Arts classicism.) The scheme is both sophisticated and playful. It is sophisticated in that it is consistently and rationally applied to emphasize characteristics of the structure and plan. And it is playful in that some of the details exaggerate rationality, perhaps in the way that the performances of athletes can appear super-human. The overall character of the ornament is festive, as is appropriate in a facility for sports.

The ornamental details are almost entirely on the exterior of the stadium, where they are visible to the general public, advertising attractions inside. The entire composition is unified by a horizontal band that wraps around the stadium, staying at the same height as the ground-level changes, changing character as it crosses different parts, and giving a sense of scale to the whole. At its simplest, this band consists of rough, exposed aggregate, rectangular panels flanked by fluted pilasters on a smooth base on the wall along Oxford Street. As it runs into the end of the west bleachers, before reaching the concourse, the same design appears truncated because there is a high wall above it. When it crosses the concourse, the fluted pilasters form the lower part of the columns and between them there are alternating screens of concrete clathery, and embellished entranceways. Above every other entranceway is a base for which statues were designed but never made. As the band wraps around to the south end of the stadium on Bancroft Way, it is the same as on the Oxford Street wall except that with the rising ground its base is receding. In addition, to give scale to a low wall on a busy street, there are two pairs of pylons consisting of clusters of obelisks and oversized details (and two more bases for statues that were never made). One panel on this wall contains an

inscription to George Cunningham Edwards ("Freshman in the first class at this university. Member of its faculty continuously from graduation till death in 1930. Patron of sport and fine example of sportsmanship, he believed in youth and youth made him its confident. Modest, kindly, selfless--to him and his ideals these fields are dedicated"), for whom the stadium is named. Finally, as the band wraps around to the east bleachers, which sit on the highest ground, only stubs of the pilasters remain.

Other decorative systems, integrated with this band, are the concourse columns and their expression of verticality, the square grid of faint verticals and strong horizontals on upper wall surfaces (this creates a thin horizontal texture that contrasts with the three-dimensional verticality of the concourse columns and other major elements of the design), and the articulation of the upper edges of the sloping sides of the bleachers with moldings that turn in a concentric pattern at the top of the top of the wall in a manner that suggests the linking of horizontal and vertical aspects of the design.

Inside the stadium, where the main show is on the track and in the field, the ornamental details are used sparingly and in each case are as much for the athletes as for the spectators. The two pairs of pylons on the south wall of the stadium frame the east and west straightaways on the track and stand near the end point of races as they were originally run here. This is obscured today by the plants that have grown around them. The flagpoles frame the field used by the throwers of the javelin, shot put, discus, and the hammer. At the opposite end of the field, the scoreboard is visible to both athletes and spectators. The ornamental concrete frame of the scoreboard is intact, but the scoreboard itself has been replaced. On the west side of the track is the "Walter Christie Memorial Bench" dedicated to a famous coach: "Walter M. Christie, Track and Field Coach, University of California, 1901-1932, My Heart and Soul for the Good of California."

Although there was originally a complete landscaping plan, it only survives in a few places, as indicated above. On the inside and outside of the south wall, plants obscure important features of the design.

The concrete used in the stadium is of a high quality. The color is due to the intentional use of a mix of tan and gray cements, and the smooth texture, where it is not intentionally rough, due to paper-lined, "Prestwood" form work, and much hand care in the construction process. All the ornamental features of the design were cast in place, integrally with the structure. In other words, no ornament or color has been applied separately to the structure.

Commemorative plaques have been placed in two areas around the outside of the stadium. A cast aluminum plaque on a wall near the northwest main entrance calls attention to the location of the house of the painter William Keith in the area now occupied by the stadium. Recent bronze plaques near the southwest entrance list contributors to recent fund-raising efforts.

8. Significance

Summary:

Edwards Stadium, designed by Warren C. Perry with the assistance of Stafford L. Jory and completed in 1932, appears to be eligible for the National Register under Criteria A and C in the areas of Recreation and

Architecture. It is significant in different areas at the local and state levels for the period of significance 1932-1942. Under Criterion C, this "embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type," it "represents the work of a master," and it possesses "high artistic values." This was the largest, most expensive, and most ambitious stadium built exclusively for track and field in America in its day, it is a contributing element in an important campus plan, it is the best-known work of two distinguished architects long associated with the Department of Architecture at the University of California, and it is a sophisticated example of planning and the Moderne Style. Under Criterion A, it is associated with the track and field program of the University of California and its many distinguished athletes and teams including many Olympic medal winners, and as the site of numerous world records.

History of Edwards Stadium:

The decision in 1930 by the Board of Regents of the University of California to build a stadium for track and field implemented a long-held intention on the part of John Galen Howard, Supervising Architect of the university, and other university planners to build such a facility. In the context of American university planning, this was a highly unusual decision. While the first large stadiums built for American universities were for football only, later stadiums were usually for both football and track and field, and if separate track and field facilities were required, they were generally temporary or inexpensive. When Edwards Stadium was built, it was the largest, most expensive, and most ambitious stadium intended exclusively for track and field in the United States (and it remains one of the largest and most impressive today).

The decision to build the stadium was accompanied by a financing scheme for the estimated \$2,168,000 cost. The Board of Regents would assume roughly half the cost, or \$1,005,124.50, and the Associated Students of the University of California (ASUC) would assume the rest, or \$1,162,875.50. This amount would cover land acquisition, street, streetcar, and utility realignments and upgrades for the whole expansion of the campus to the southwest and about \$250,000 for construction of the stadium. The ASUC share would come from the sale of "scrip" to the Stanford-California football game, the most important game of the year. In a similar scheme, the ASUC had already paid off a substantial share of the cost of California Memorial Stadium built in 1923. The Board of Regents share apparently came from general operating revenues. The minutes of the Finance and the Buildings and Grounds committees of the Board of Regents never refer to any other source. However, it was a period of substantial fund raising for building projects and unspecific references in various sources to the role in assuring financing for various athletic facilities by George C. Edwards, for whom this stadium was named, indicate that private funds may also have been involved. In addition, it seems possible that some bond money was available.

Grading of the site had already begun when the Regents selected Warren C. Perry, chairman of the university's Department of Architecture, as architect for the stadium. With respect to its design,

Perry's contract only stated that the design was "to harmonize with the general plan of the campus." Stafford L. Jory, a professor of architecture and a frequent associate of John Galen Howard assisted Perry and was credited by Perry for developing the obelisks and other ornamental features of the design. In addition, the Board of Regents hired Thomas F. Chace as engineer on the project. Chace had been the engineer for the football stadium completed in 1923. C. Dudley DeVelbiss of San Francisco was the contractor. Near the end of the project, Landscape Architecture Professor John William Gregg prepared a landscape plan. Construction began in July 1931 and was completed in March 1932.

In subsequent years, the track and field program produced many successful athletes, teams, and coaches. In 1941, Grover Klemmer of California set a world record in the 440-yard dash in Edwards Stadium. Numerous Olympic medalists had been on the California team prior to going to the Olympics, including Bob Kiesel and Bob Clark in 1932, Archie Williams in 1936, Guinn Smith in 1948, Leaman King in 1956, and Jack Yeoman in 1960. (See Appendix for complete list). National collegiate championship meets were held in Edwards Stadium in 1932, and on eight later occasions, and numerous other major national meets have been here. Other world records set in Edwards Stadium include the first 15-foot pole vault by Cornelius Warmerdam in 1940 and Jim Ryun's famous 3:51.3 mile in 1966. (A complete list of World Records set in Edwards Stadium appears in the appendix). The year the stadium opened was the last year of the track and field team under coach Walter M. Christie (1901-1932). Christie was succeeded by another famous coach, Brutus Hamilton (1933-1943 and 1946-1965).

When the stadium opened, publicity from the university suggested that it might be useful for purposes other than track and field. However, it was designed only for track and field, and except for commencement exercises in 1949-1953, and tennis courts tucked in at the north end, it appears not to have been used for any other purpose.⁴

In the 1950s-1960s, led by a strong local organizing committee, Edwards Stadium was one of the centers of track and field in the United States. It was noted for innovations in its facilities, such as the first sawdust jogging lane inside lane one; dual runways for long jumping with landing pits at opposite ends to take advantage of the shelter provided by the stadium structure in varying wind conditions; and a compacted hard clay track on a cinder base.⁵

Since the 1960s, track and field throughout the United States has been in decline. The University of California has produced fewer great teams and fewer star athletes. Although it is still not used for public meets on very many days (it is used daily for practice), it is used more now than in its early years and perhaps as much as it ever has been, as the kinds of meets have expanded. In recent years it has been used regularly for high school meets, the Kennedy Games, Special Olympics, and masters meets. In 1971 and 1978, it was the site of the U.S.-U.S.S.R. Track Meets, an annual feature of the Cold War for many years.

Issues in the design of the stadium are reflected in correspondence between the architect and Luther N. Nicols of the comptroller's office, William W. Monahan, Director of Athletics and of the ASUC, and to a lesser extent President W. W. Campbell, under whom the project began,

and President Robert G. Sproul, under whom it was completed. Speed of completion and cost became factors in the architect's insistence on a particular mix of cements to achieve the right color, and on the use of particular kinds of form work in pouring the concrete for the right texture, matters in which the architect prevailed. On another matter, sculptures designed by Robert Boardman Howard for four of the west side entrances and two large pedestals on the south wall were eliminated because of cost, despite the architect's persistence and the preparation of plaster mock-ups by the sculptor.

After construction was underway, the Regents named the stadium for George Cunningham Edwards. Edwards was a near legendary figure on campus who had been a member of the first four-year class at the university, graduating in 1873, was appointed instructor in Mathematics and Commandant of the Corps of Cadets on his graduation, served his entire career as a mathematics professor, and was a conspicuous supporter of university athletics and track and field in particular. He had been involved in raising funds for the first Harmon Gym (his wife was Harmon's daughter) and other athletic facilities, and may have played a role in raising funds for this stadium. Edwards died two days before the stadium was to be dedicated to him as part of the Homecoming Weekend festivities, so the dedication served both as a dedication and memorial service. An inscription to Edwards is on the Bancroft Way wall of the stadium, near the main entrance.

Also during the course of construction, the university sought and was granted the national collegiate track and field championships for 1932, under the auspices of the Intercollegiate American Amateur Athletic Association (ICAAAA). This placed an added urgency to completion of the project.

The stadium was completed in March 1932. The first event was the USC-California track meet on April 2. Subsequent meets in that first year, the last under long-time coach, Walter M. Christie, were against Stanford on April 16, the California Intercollegiate Meet on May 21, and the ICAAAA meet on July 1 and 2. These appear to have been the only uses of the stadium in its first season.

The year 1932 was an important year for track and field in the state of California. In addition to the ICAAAA meet, the Olympic team trials were held at Stanford in July, and the Olympics were held in Los Angeles in August.

Historic Contexts:

University of California

The new Berkeley campus of the University of California and the adjacent College Homestead neighborhood were laid out in a plan by Fredrick Law Olmsted in 1865. The sale of residential lots in College Homestead were to help finance the building of the University, and by the turn of the century it was largely built up with single-family houses. In 1897, an international competition sponsored by Phoebe Apperson Hearst was held for a new campus plan. This was to create a monumental City of Learning which would accommodate a much larger and more ambitious university than previously existed. The competition was

won by a French architect, Emile Bénard. The fourth place finisher, John Galen Howard, was appointed Supervising Architect for the campus and made revisions to the Bénard plan. The revised plan became known as the Hearst plan and formed the basis for the enormous expansion of the university during Howard's tenure (1900-1924) and afterwards. The result was one of the great examples of Beaux-Arts planning and architecture in America.

Among the ideas in Bénard's plan which survived was the creation of thematic groups of buildings in a hierarchical arrangement. For example, the library was located at the center of the campus with the humanities buildings, science and engineering buildings were in another group, and a gymnasium was on a lower site on the south side of the campus. Howard's several revised plans retained the gym and other athletic facilities on the south side of the campus. Over the years, several such facilities have come and gone, including the original Hearst Gym designed by Bernard Maybeck; California Field for football from 1904 to 1923 on the site of the present Hearst Gym for Women; a cinder track on the site of the present Life Sciences Building from 1886 to 1916; and a second cinder track, called the California Oval, west of California Field from 1915 to 1932.

Among the most prominent features in John Galen Howard's 1914 revised plan were two stadiums located in the area between College Avenue and Telegraph Avenue, north of Bancroft Way (the Hearst Gym for Women was built in this area in 1925). The larger of the two stadiums, for football, was shown on the east side of this area, on higher ground. The smaller stadium, for track and field, was shown on the west side, below the football stadium. In January 1922, when proposals were being made for a new football stadium, Howard prepared a "Study for a Theater, Administration Building, Men's Gymnasium, Armory and Stadium" in the vicinity of the present Life Sciences Building. Through all these plans, Howard proposed two separate stadiums, for football and for track and field, on generally flat land on the south side of the campus. Later in 1922, the Board of Regents chose a different site, on much higher ground southeast of the campus, for the new California Memorial Stadium. Although Howard's site was overruled, the long-held ideas that athletic facilities would be on the south side of the campus and that separate stadiums would be built for football and for track and field were maintained.

In all of the planning for the university's expansion for athletic facilities, the sites proposed were actually south of the existing campus and required the purchase and clearance of large amounts of land. Much of this land had been part of the College Homestead Association that the University had once sold.

In the 1920s, the booming population and economy of California generated a big growth in university students and big fund-raising campaigns to build new campus facilities. More academic buildings were needed, and the preferred locations of these buildings, close to the library and to buildings for related purposes, displaced existing athletic facilities. By 1929, the combined building programs at UCLA and Berkeley were said to be as large as for any university in the world.⁶

Planning for new athletic facilities in what was being referred to

as the Southwest Athletic Area began by 1927; in November the first estimates were made for land acquisition costs. By 1928, without any concrete plans for the area, the university began buying property it had once sold in the College Homestead area southwest of the existing campus for expansion purposes. This purchase of property was accompanied by resistance in the neighborhood.⁷ Demolition began in February 1930, and by early 1931, a large area north of Bancroft and south of Ellsworth Street had been cleared and was in use as a temporary athletic and drill field.

In 1929, 1930, and 1931, meetings of the Buildings and Grounds and Finance Committees of the Board of Regents (the Board of Regents has the authority to approve building plans and to raise and spend money for buildings at the University) reflect the development of ideas for the southwest athletic area. By May 18, 1929, two proposals were made for the siting of a new men's gym, a stadium for track and field, and two open fields for team races and intramural sports in the area. In December 1929, the Regents adopted proposal No. 2 which included football and baseball practice fields at the corner of Fulton and Bancroft, a 25,000-seat stadium to the east in the middle of the Southwest Area, and a gymnasium and fields for intramural sports and military science drilling further to the east. Then, after a preliminary design for the stadium had been approved, in February 1931, the Regents changed plans and adopted proposal No. 1, which became the basis for development of the area as it was built. Relocation of the stadium to Fulton and Bancroft necessitated a modification of the original design and shrinking of its size from 25,000 to 22,000 seats. The adopted proposal placed the track stadium and the men's gym in the approximate locations on which were subsequently built Edwards Stadium and Harmon Gym, with a large field between the two, and a smaller field east of Harmon Gym.

Apart from this site plan, there was no comprehensive design plan for the Southwest Area as a group. The track stadium was the first to be taken up. The track stadium and the field to the east, which was designated as a baseball field, were originally named Edwards Fields, but before Warren Perry, the architect of the stadium, took on the baseball field, it was allocated to George Kelham, the Supervising Architect of the University and the architect for the new Gym. Financing for the two was arranged separately and they were built under separate contracts. The baseball field, with its small stands was designed with a stronger functional and visual relationship to the gym than to the track stadium. The design of the enclosing concrete walls is similar to that for Edwards Stadium. The three facilities are related by virtue of their functions and their Moderne styling.

As a group, the relationship of the three facilities was altered with the construction of the Recreational Sports Facility (RSF) at the south edge of the baseball field and between Edwards Stadium and Harmon Gym in 1984. Part of an extension of the Edwards Stadium wall east of the stadium on Bancroft was removed for the RSF.

Architecture:

Stadiums

Large stadiums for mass sporting events are primarily a product of the 20th century, although there are many models for such structures from the ancient Olympics in Greece; from the circusses, amphitheaters, and colisseums of ancient Rome; from the bullrings of Spain since the 18th century; and from grandstands built in England and America in the 19th century for horseracing. The modern era for mass sporting events and stadium building began with the revival of the Olympics in 1896 in Athens.

One of the most important areas for the development of modern stadiums was American intercollegiate competition. Intercollegiate competition began in England between Oxford and Cambridge in the late 19th century and came quickly to the United States. The first college stadiums were built for Notre Dame in 1899 and Harvard and the University of California in 1903-1904. By 1915 there were only five stadiums and most of them were single-purpose stadiums for football only. Other sports were generally accommodated in temporary or makeshift facilities. After World War I, several of these early stadiums were converted so that they could be used for track and field and sometimes other sports as well as football, and throughout the United States there was a boom in stadium building. Track and field was generally accommodated either in a large multi-purpose stadium whose major use was football, or a separate track with unornamented metal bleachers along the sidelines.

Even stadiums well known for track and field were not built as primarily track and field stadiums. Franklin Field in Philadelphia, for example, was converted from a football stadium to a multi-purpose stadium, and the Los Angeles Coliseum was always intended as a multi-purpose stadium.

Through the 1930s, most stadiums were classical in style, like a Roman Coliseum, or Gothic or classical like the adjacent buildings on a campus. Although Gothic or classical, many were designed with a festive character, with exuberant ornament, flagpoles, triumphal arches, and other gestures to their purpose. In the 1920s and 1930s, stadiums were common problems given to architectural students in Beaux-Arts courses of design, and many of these were executed in the Moderne style.

In California, early notable stadiums were the Rose Bowl, the Los Angeles Coliseum, Stanford Stadium, and California Memorial Stadium. Among smaller stadiums, a multi-purpose stadium for Sacramento Junior College built in 1930 bears comparison with Edwards Stadium. It was of reinforced concrete construction, U-shaped in plan with 22,000 seats, and much lower in cost (under \$175,000).

Designers

WARREN CHARLES PERRY (1884-1980) was on the architecture faculty of the University of California from 1911 to 1954 and was dean from 1927-1954. Perry considered the teaching of architecture to be a largely separate career from the practice of architecture, with its own full-time demands. His architectural practice is relatively little known for

someone of his training, influence, and stature. His most prominent and best known work is probably Edwards Stadium. In addition, he designed the School of Law Building, an addition and remodeling of the Faculty Club, and a library addition to the Architecture Building on the University of California campus. He designed several fraternity and sorority houses in Berkeley, numerous residences in San Francisco and Berkeley, and made extensive alterations to St. Mary the Virgin Church and the Octagon House in San Francisco. With Frederick H. Meyer and John Bakewell, Jr., he designed the Potrero Terrace Housing Project in San Francisco. Perry had received a B.S. in Architecture from the University of California in 1907, and spent 1908-1911 at the Ecole des Beaux Arts in Paris.

STAFFORD L. JORY (1889-1968), like Warren Perry, is best known as a teacher of architecture, having served on the faculty of the University of California from 1917 to 1956. And like Perry, his own work is relatively unknown. He designed fraternity and sorority houses in Berkeley, the Oakland Columbarium, and numerous houses. He assisted John Galen Howard in the designs of Wheeler Hall, Hilgard Hall, California Memorial Stadium, and the East Reading Room in Doe Library, and assisted Warren Perry in the designs of Edwards Stadium and the School of Law. Among students and other architects, he was known as an unusually skilled draftsman and persuasive renderer of design ideas. His initials (SLJ) appear on many drawings in the John Galen Howard papers at the College of Environmental Design Documents Collection at the University of California. Jory had received B.S. (1912), M.A. (1913), and Graduate of Architecture (1914) degrees from the University of California.

Athletics

Athletics at the University of California had long been conceived of as an important part of a student's education. In addition, the University realized early on that intercollegiate athletics could be an important source of revenue. By the 1920s, football was far and away the biggest revenue producer, but the university was alert to the potential contributions of other sports, including track and field.

Track and field had been given a boost throughout the country by the revival of the Olympic Games in Athens in 1896. Its place in college athletics in the early decades of the twentieth century was far greater than it is today, perhaps second in popularity to football. This status is indicated at the University of California by the long-standing presence on campus plans of two large stadiums, one for football, and one for track and field.

The early success of the University of California track team, especially against eastern opponents in a tour in 1895 (paid for with money raised by George C. Edwards), was attributed by some as increasing the stature of the University of California in general. The team, coached from 1901 to 1932 by Walter M. Christie, won several national championships including 1920 and 1921, and produced many famous athletes.

University of California Olympic Medal winners and World Records set in Edwards Stadium are listed in an appendix.

Evaluation:

Edwards Stadium appears to be eligible for the National Register following the guidelines in National Register Bulletins 15 and 16A in the areas of recreation and architecture under Criteria A and C, as follows:

Criterion C: Under Criterion C, Edwards Stadium is significant in the area of architecture for its qualities as a collegiate sports stadium, as an element in an important campus plan, as an example of the Moderne Style, and as the work of distinguished architects. In all of these areas, under the guidelines in Bulletin 16A, its period of significance is the period in which it was designed and built, 1930-1932.

As a stadium, it embodies "the distinctive characteristics of a type" and is significant at the state level. It was the largest, most expensive, most ambitious stadium built exclusively for track and field in the United States when it was built. Like the best stadiums from an important period of stadium building, it serves its basic function of providing a place for spectators to watch sports events in a facility that is sophisticated in its planning and generous in the subsidiary spaces provided for. Related to its quality as a stadium, it possesses "high artistic values" in the expression of the relationship between its appearance and its use, and as an example of the Moderne Style. For example, the massing of the parts of its most important structures, the east and west bleachers, reflects the organization of circulation patterns and the orientation of the bleachers to the events, and the different parts are at the same time expressed and unified into a single composition by ornamental devices in the Moderne Style. In this area it is significant at the local level.

As an element in an important campus plan for a State university, both as a sports facility in an athletic area and a stylistically compatible structure with other campus buildings, it contributes in a significant way to a distinguished larger group. In this area it is significant at the State level.

As the largest and possibly best known work of two architects important both as architects and architectural educators at the University of California it is significant at the State level. Warren C. Perry was the Chairman of the Department of Architecture, and Stafford Jory, a professor in the Department of Architecture, was a particularly skilled designer and renderer who had worked with John Galen Howard in a similar capacity.

Criterion A: Under Criterion A, Edwards Stadium is significant in the area of Recreation for its association with the track and field program and its many distinguished athletes and teams, and for the many outstanding performances in the stadium, including many world records. In this area it is significant at the state level for the period 1932 to 1949. Under the guidelines in Bulletin 16A, the period of significance ends 50 years prior to the writing of this nomination, although the patterns and events which establish its significance continue forward of that time.

Integrity: Edwards Stadium possesses a high degree of integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. The most substantial losses of integrity are in the modifications to the track, primarily in its resurfacing and in the elimination of the extensions of the two long straightaways running north of the oval to the north end of the enclosed stadium area, and the subsequent construction of six tennis courts and a small building in that area. Because of the size, character, and location of the tennis center, although non-contributing features, these have little affect on the integrity of the whole.

Notes

- ¹The exact date of the street widening is not known. However, the new sidewalk which was built along the widened street (in the same design as the original 1931 sidewalk by the Oakland Paving Company) is marked by graffiti dated 1964.
- ²At the time Edwards Stadium was built, this was a two-story structure for the Federal Land Bank. In 1950 it was enlarged to its present size. From the design of the stadium, which was done as if there were no building there, it seems likely that the University anticipated the demolition of the building, rather than its enlargement.
- ³Following construction of the first hard surface track at Edwards in 1977 (John Rochmis, "It's the Best: The New Track in Edward's Stadium could be the best in the Nation," *Daily Cal*, April 13, 1977) which did not included straightaways, plans for the new tennis center were described in 1980 (U.C. Department of Facilities Management, *Intercollegiate Athletic Facilities*, Feb. 1980).
- ⁴Because it is the largest open space on the campus away from the Hayward fault and because it is across the street from the new University Health Service building, it has been designated by Alameda County as an emergency staging area and has been proposed for similar status in the Campus Emergency Response Plan. Conversation with Nadesan Permaul, Emergency Management Office of the University of California, October 1, 1992.
- ⁵Conversation with Don Lockerbie of International Sports Management in Durham, North Carolina, September 14, 1992.
- ⁶"The Mammoth Building Program," *California Monthly*, November 1929, pp. 31-32.
- ⁷See for example letter from Robert G. Sproul to M. G. Nutting, September 24, 1931 at the Berkeley Historical Society.

Appendix

A. University of California Olympic Medal Winners who competed in Edwards Stadium

1932	Bob Kiesel	400-meter relay	Gold
	Bob Clark	decathlon	Silver
1936	Archie Williams	400 meters	Gold
1948	Guinn Smith	pole vault	Gold
1956	Leamon King	400-meter relay	Gold
1960	Jack Yerman	1600-meter relay	Gold

B. World Records set in Edwards Stadium (from *California Track and Field Media Guide*)

Year	Event	Mark	Athlete (affiliation)
1940	PV	15-0	Cornelius Warmerdam (San Francisco Olympic Club)
1941	440y	46.6	Grover Klemmer (California)
1942	PV	15-6 7/8	Cornelius Warmerdam (San Francisco Olympic Club)
1947	440y	46.3	Herb McKenley (Jamaica)
1948	440y	46.0	Herb McKenley (Jamaica)
1955	880y	1:47.5	Lon Spurrier (San Francisco Olympic Club)
1958	440y	45.7	Glenn Davis (Ohio State)
1959	220y	20.6	Ray Norton (Santa Clara VYV)
1966	Mile	3:51.3	Jim Ryun (Kansas)
1971	HJ	7-6 1/4	Pat Matzdorf (Wisconsin)
1978	5000	13:06.4	Henry Rono (Washington State)

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0 100' 200 300' 400'

Edwards Stadium, Berkeley CA
BOUNDARY MAP

- KEY**
- T - TICKET BOOTH
 - FP - FLAG POLES
 - S - SCOREBOARD
 - B - W. CHRISTIE BENCH
 - F - FENCE
 - W - WALLS
 - L - LANDSCAPING
 - D - DRIVEWAYS

CROSS CAMPUS ROAD

BANCROFT

OXFORD

NR boundary is shown in cross-hatching

ALLSTON

FULTON

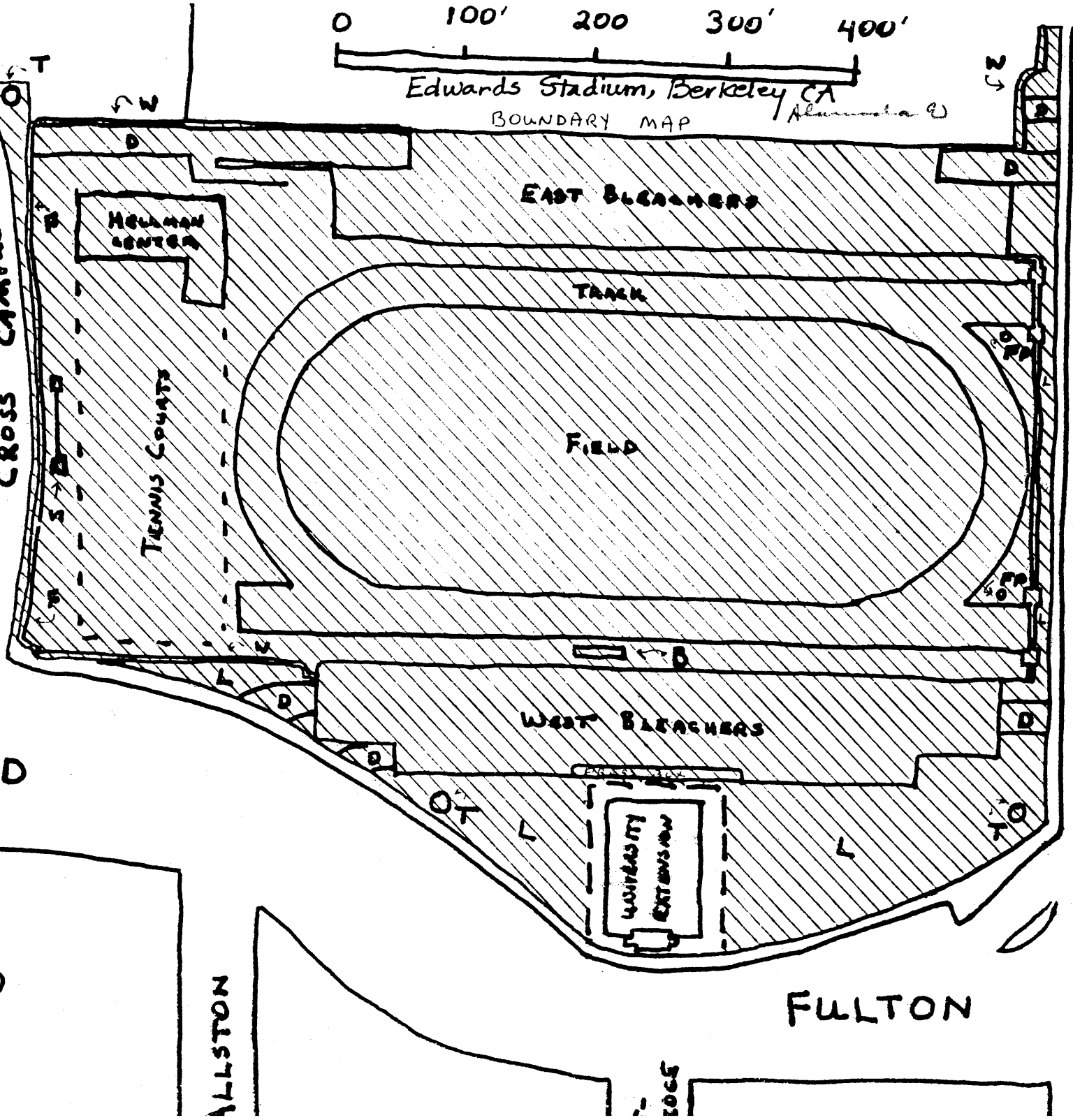


Photo Log

All photographs taken by Michael Corbett on April 18, 1992, except photo #9 taken September 22, 1992. Negatives kept at Berkeley Architectural Heritage Association, P.O. Box 1137, Berkeley, California 94701.

George C. Edwards Stadium
University of California at Berkeley
Alameda County, California

1. Perspective view of Stadium from Bancroft Way.
View to northwest.
2. Track, field and east bleachers from west bleachers.
View to east.
3. Perspective view of west bleachers from Oxford Street near corner of Allston Way.
View to southeast.
4. Perspective view of west bleachers and ticket booth from Bancroft Way.
View to northeast.
5. North end of track and field including tennis complex and scoreboard.
View to northeast.
6. North fence and back of scoreboard from Cross Campus Road.
View to southeast.
7. Detail of side entranceway, west bleachers.
View east.
8. Pylons and south wall from Bancroft Way.
View north
9. Concourse, west bleachers.
View north.
10. Press box, west bleachers.
View south.
11. Flag pole south end of field.
View southeast.