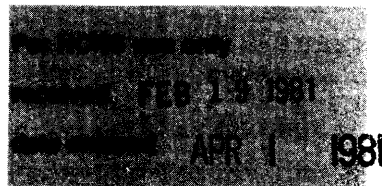


**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**



See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic KERN BRANCH, BEALE MEMORIAL LIBRARY

and/or common BAKER STREET LIBRARY

2. Location

street & number 1400 Baker Street ___ not for publication

city, town Bakersfield ___ vicinity of congressional district 18th

state California code 06 county Kern code 029

3. Classification

Category ___ district <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s) ___ structure ___ site ___ object	Ownership <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public ___ private ___ both Public Acquisition ___ in process ___ being considered	Status <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied ___ unoccupied ___ work in progress Accessible <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted ___ yes: unrestricted ___ no	Present Use ___ agriculture ___ commercial <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> educational ___ entertainment ___ government ___ industrial ___ military	___ museum ___ park ___ private residence ___ religious ___ scientific ___ transportation ___ other:
---	--	--	---	--

4. Owner of Property

name County of Kern, Library Department

street & number 1315 Truxtun Avenue

city, town Bakersfield ___ vicinity of state California 93301

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Property Management Department, Kern County

street & number Civic Center

city, town Bakersfield state California

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Kern County Community Development Department Report on Baker Street Library (12/13/79)
 has this property been determined eligible? yes ___ no

date July 13, 1979 federal state ___ county ___ local

depository for survey records Kern County Community Development Department

city, town Bakersfield state California

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Construction of the library building began on August 25, 1913. Due to delays, the building was not completed until May, 1915. Throughout its 65-year history, it has retained a high level of integrity, with only minimal alterations. It stands on a 135' x 150' lot in East Bakersfield, surrounded by lawn and mature trees at the center of its park-like grounds. A portion of the grounds on the north side of the library has been paved for parking; otherwise, the setting remains intact.

The building is constructed of reinforced concrete with a cement stucco finish scored to simulate stone. It is composed of a large central block with east and west wings. The central block, which contains the main reading room, is divided into three bays on the north and south facades. Each bay is defined by a tall, arched window separated by strongly defined pilasters resting on a continuous elevated base. The central block is capped by a heavy, classical entablature with molded architrave, plain frieze, and dentilated cornice. Wings extend on the east and west; each wing contains a set of three rectangular windows on the north and south sides. These are divided into upper and lower units by a molded spandrel.

The corners of the wings are defined by heavy pilasters supporting a classical entablature reduced in scale, but echoing that of the main block. The rear, or west, wing contains nine narrow bays, divided into upper and lower windows. The front, or east, wing balances the composition with massing and architectural detailing similar to the rear: sets of three vertical windows in the north and south ends, heavy corner pilasters, and classical entablature. The front elevation, however, is marked by a projecting central pavillion which serves as the entrance portico. Here, a small dentilated pediment appears above the classical entablature; the frieze bears the words, "PUBLIC LIBRARY," over the entrance. The portico is supported by two sets of paired columns with Scamozzi capitals embellished with a cascading bud detail. The entrance arch lies within the portico, flanked by paired pilasters. Floral rosettes decorate the intrados, while the archivolt is terminated in a large keystone with acanthus detailing. Through the arch is the entrance vestibule, lighted by windows with crossette surrounds on the north and south sides. Entrance into the building is through a set of (modern) double doors flanked by vertical lights and capped by a tripartite elliptical fanlight. A broad, curved concrete railing flanks the entry steps, sloping from the base of the columns to near ground level. It forms flanking pedestals supporting a pair of slender, metal lampposts at the foot of the stairs. The entire building is raised several feet off the ground, with a basement under the north side; access is by stairs at the northwest corner of the building. There is a lightwell along the north side through which the basement is lighted by windows.

The interior is exquisitely detailed, using classical orders and Renaissance decoration. The interior is virtually unaltered, and the original design is clearly visible. Two fireplaces, which are non-operational, are placed in the west wall of the main room with bracketed mantles and decorative cartouches on the chimneypieces. The ceiling cornices are decorated with garlands and egg and dart molding. Two great elliptical arches supported by pilasters with ornate capitals face each other over the main and stack entrances on the east-west axis in the main reading room. These are flanked by large openings into the wings with flat architraves supported by pilasters.

The dimensions of the building are as follows:

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CONTINUATION SHEET Description ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 2

ELEVATIONS

EAST ELEVATION:

Overall Height	30'6"
Front Room Roof Height	23'0"
Overall Width	56'0"
Porch & Front Room Width	24'6"
Porch Roof Height	21'6"
Porch Width	15'0"
Porch Length	7'6"
Column Height	13'6"
Column Width	1'6"
Window Height	base 7' off ground 9'6" high

WEST ELEVATION:

Overall Height	29'0"
Front & Rear Section Height	23'0"
Flat Column Height	13'0"
Window Height	base 7' off ground, 9'6" High
Window Width	2'2"
Chimney Height at top	30'0"

NORTH ELEVATION:

Overall Height, Center section	29'0"
Overall Height front & rear section	23'0"
Flat Column Height	15'10"
Flat Column Width	3'0"
Arched Window Height	10'6"
Arched Window Width	6'8"

(Continued)

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CONTINUATION SHEET Description ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 3

NORTH ELEVATION (Continued)

Front & Rear Sections

Overall Flat Window Height	9'6"
Overall Flat Window Width	2'4"
Bottom Individual Flat Window Height	5'8"
Top Individual Flat Window Height	2'8"

SOUTH ELEVATION:

Overall Height, Center Section	29'0"
Overall Height Front & Rear Section	23'0"
Flat Column Height	15'10"
Flat Column Width	3'0"
Arched Window Height	10'6"
Arched Window Width	6'8"
Front & Rear Sections	
Overall Flat Window Height	9'6"
Overall Flat Window Width	2'4"
Bottom Individual Flat Window Height	5'8"
Top Individual Flat Window Height	2'8"

(Continued)

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CONTINUATION SHEET Description ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 4

FLOOR PLAN, BAKER STREET LIBRARY

First Floor Square Footage	4,300
Basement Square Footage	1,188
Stairs to Basement - Width	3'
14 Stairs to First Landing	
5 Stairs to Basement Floor	
Rear Stairs Blocked Off	

DIMENSIONS DIVIDED BY ROOM AS ON BLUEPRINT:

ROOM A

Southeast Corner:	Length	14'9"
	Width	16'5"
	Ceiling Height	15'0"

ENTRANCE HALL:

Length	17'0"
Width	11'0"
Ceiling Height	15'0"

ROOM B

Northeast Corner:	Length	14'9"
	Width	9'7"
	Ceiling Height	15'0"

Closet:

Length	8'0"
Width	3'0"

BATHROOM:

Length	4'0" to 6'4"
--------	--------------

MAIN ROOM

Length	33'6"
Width	52'5"
Ceiling Height	20'0"

STACK AREA

Length	14'0"
Width	33'10"
Ceiling Height	15'0"

(Continued)

FHR-8-300A
(11/78)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

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CONTINUATION SHEET Description ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 5

REAR BATHROOM	Length	12' to 11' to 9'9"
	Width	8'3" to 5'7" to 2'7"
REAR STAIRS TO ADDED PLATFORM	Length	6' to Platform
	Width	2'8"

ALTERATIONS

The only alterations on the exterior are the paving of a small area of the grounds on the north side for parking, the loss of the globes on the entrance lampposts, and the addition of air coolers hung on the windows on the south, west, and north sides. The alterations to the interior consist of the addition of an air conditioning system with cooling units and ducts and the hanging of interior fluorescent lights. Unfortunately, these interior alterations were done with little sensitivity to the existing design, but the structure remains intact with no walls cut, moved or changed. All interior surfaces are covered with several coats of paint.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates Dedicated 7/17/1915 **Builder/Architect** O. L. Clark, Architect
Curry & Dolgar, Contractors

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Baker Street Library is significant under category A, associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of history, for its role as a public library in the history of the local community. It is also important under category C, embodying the distinctive characteristics of a type and period, as a strong example of Classical Revival styling deemed appropriate for a public building of the early 20th century.

The building is an important architectural and historical resource of Kern County. It is a unique remaining local example of a distinctive architectural type and period; it is designed well and retains an exceptionally high amount of original integrity. The establishment of the library was a culmination of a community effort of which the citizens took considerable pride. The library is Bakersfield's singular remaining example of a civic project with such an architectural and historical background. In addition, the building represents the last remaining example of its kind in Kern County.

This is the only example of architect O. L. Clark's work still remaining intact in Kern County. Other examples, including the old Kern County Jail in Bakersfield, were demolished as a result of the two earthquakes which occurred in 1952.

The Baker Street Library, formerly known as the Kern or East Bakersfield branch of the Beale Memorial Library, was constructed 1913-15 with funds from bonds which were approved in an election in 1912. Though the original library in East Bakersfield was known as the Kern Branch (the name, "Kern City," preceded East Bakersfield before consolidation in 1910) this building was constructed after that consolidation.

The library was used extensively from the beginning as reported by Miss Sarah E. Bedinger, librarian. According to her report as stated in Louise Blanford's History of the Kern County Library, "Bakersfield, then a tent city in the midst of an oil boom, took the library to its heart, with many patrons walking miles for books and the comfort of a stove on cold nights. The library was a busy place and Miss Bedinger reported in 1916 that no other place in Bakersfield, excepting saloons, kept open as many hours."

The history of the library dates back to the late 19th century. A library association was formed with the purpose to buy a site for, and later to build, a clubhouse for a special center and library. Preliminarily, an old schoolhouse was moved to the site and used as a library. In February, 1896, the Kern Library Association turned over the library to the City of Kern. It became the Kern Public Library and was supported by taxation. Kern County and Bakersfield City voted to consolidate libraries on August 1, 1910; the original library became the East Bakersfield Branch of the Beale Library of Bakersfield. As demand grew, the first building became inadequate for use as a library. A bond vote was put before the people and, on June 18, 1912 a \$22,000 bond was approved. The City accepted O. L. Clark as the architect, and approval was given for his design on April 14, 1913. Approval for the site purchase was also given on this date.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bakersfield Californian; "O. L. Clark's Plans for New Library Accepted",
Bakersfield, California, Tuesday, April 15, 1913

Bakersfield Californian; "East Bakersfield Free Library Building Plan by
O. L. Clark," Bakersfield, California, Tuesday, April 15, 1913 (Continued)

10. Geographical Data

UTM NOT VERIFIED

Acreeage of nominated property .465
Quadrangle name Oil Center

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED
Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A

1	1	3	1	9	2	4	0	3	9	1	7	2	0	0
Zone			Easting				Northing							

B

Zone			Easting				Northing							

C

Zone			Easting				Northing							

D

Zone			Easting				Northing							

E

Zone			Easting				Northing							

F

Zone			Easting				Northing							

G

Zone			Easting				Northing							

H

Zone			Easting				Northing							

Verbal boundary description and justification

Property occupies block 28, lots 28, 29, 30, 31, and 32 as shown on the Kern County Assessor's map number 13-28. Property is located in East Bakersfield and is part of the Bernard Addition. Boundaries encompass the historic limits of the nominated resource.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code

state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

(OHP Staff Revision: 10/23/80)

name/title Christopher D. Brewer, Acting Director

organization Kern County Museum

date 7/22/80

street & number 3801 Chester Avenue

telephone (805) 861-2132

city or town Bakersfield

state California

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

Kenny McEllen

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date 1/30/81

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

Ronnie Ann Boyd
Keeper of the National Register

date 4/6/81

Attest: *Patrick*
Chief of Registration

date 3/30/81

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CONTINUATION SHEET

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Construction began on August 25, 1913, with Curry and Dolger Company as the contractor. A series of delays lengthened the construction period to 21 months, with completion in May, 1915. The library was formally opened at 8 p.m. on July 7, 1915. It has served the community continuously for 65 years since that date, and still functions in its original capacity.

The significance of the building has been recognized by David Gebhard and Robert Winter in their authoritative book, A Guide to Architecture in Los Angeles and Southern California. The authors state, "Most of the Classical-inspired Carnegie (sic) public libraries in California are folksy and marginally respectable, but this one is a gem. A classical portico dominates the front, and the flanks of the building are composed of arched windows deeply set behind strongly articulated piers."

In summary, the Baker Street Library exhibits an unusually high level of integrity throughout. The original design is evident clearly throughout; alterations are minor and are reversible. The building is a strong example of classically-based revival architectural expression deemed appropriate for public buildings in the early 20th century. It integrates major elements of Neo-Classical and Beaux Arts styling into a strong period statement; it is easily one of the most architecturally significant buildings remaining in Bakersfield. It is also important to the local community for its historical role as a library.

¹Louise Blanford, writing in A History of Kern County Library, states, "Many people have mistakenly referred to this building as a Carnegie Library. The fact is that it was constructed in 1915 with bonds voted by the people of Bakersfield..."

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CONTINUATION SHEET BIBLIOGRAPHY

ITEM NUMBER 9

PAGE 2

Bakersfield Californian; BRANCH LIBRARY GETS IMPORTANT ROLE IN COUNTY;
Bakersfield, California, July 22, 1954

Bakersfield Californian; BAKER LIBRARY: GETTING OLDER BUT NOT BETTER;
Bakersfield, California; May 3, 1978

Bakersfield Californian; BAKER LIBRARY SEEMS TO ACCEPT THE UNACCEPTABLE;
Bakersfield, California; May 4, 1978

Bakersfield Californian; BAKER LIBRARY HAS A MIXED BUT LOYAL FOLLOWING;
Bakersfield, California; May 5, 1978

Bakersfield Californian; BAKER LIBRARY NEARS HISTORICAL MONUMENT STATUS;
Bakersfield, California; July 20, 1980

Bakersfield Morning Echo; WORK IS RESUMED ON KERN LIBRARY;
Bakersfield, California; June 20, 1914

Bakersfield Morning Echo; KERN BRANCH LIBRARY TO BE OPENED WITH CEREMONIES TONIGHT;
Bakersfield, California; July 7, 1915

Bakersfield Morning Echo; KERN BRANCH OF BEALE LIBRARY IS FORMALLY OPENED;
Bakersfield, California; July 8, 1915

Bakersfield Morning Echo; RAPID INCREASE IN PATRONAGE AT LIBRARY IN KERN;
Bakersfield, California; July 18, 1915

Blanford, Louise, A HISTORY OF KERN COUNTY LIBRARY; Kern County Historical Society,
Bakersfield, California, 1967

Craig, Anna M., HISTORY OF KERN LIBRARY BEGAN IN EARLY 90's;
Bakersfield, California, Unknown date

PRELIMINARY HISTORICAL REPORT BAKER STREET LIBRARY, Bakersfield, California;
Community Development Department, County of Kern; Bakersfield, California, July 13, 1979

REQUEST FOR DETERMINATION OF ELEGIBILITY FOR INCLUSION IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF
HISTORIC PLACES; Community Development Department, County of Kern;
Bakersfield, California, November 26, 1979

Gebhard, David, and Robert Winter, A Guide to Architecture in Los Angeles and Southern
California, Peregrine Smith, Inc., Salt Lake City, 1977



APR 1 1978
 1978 LOCATOR MAP, EAST BAKERSFIELD
 Showing Location of Baker Street
 Library Building, Oregon & Baker

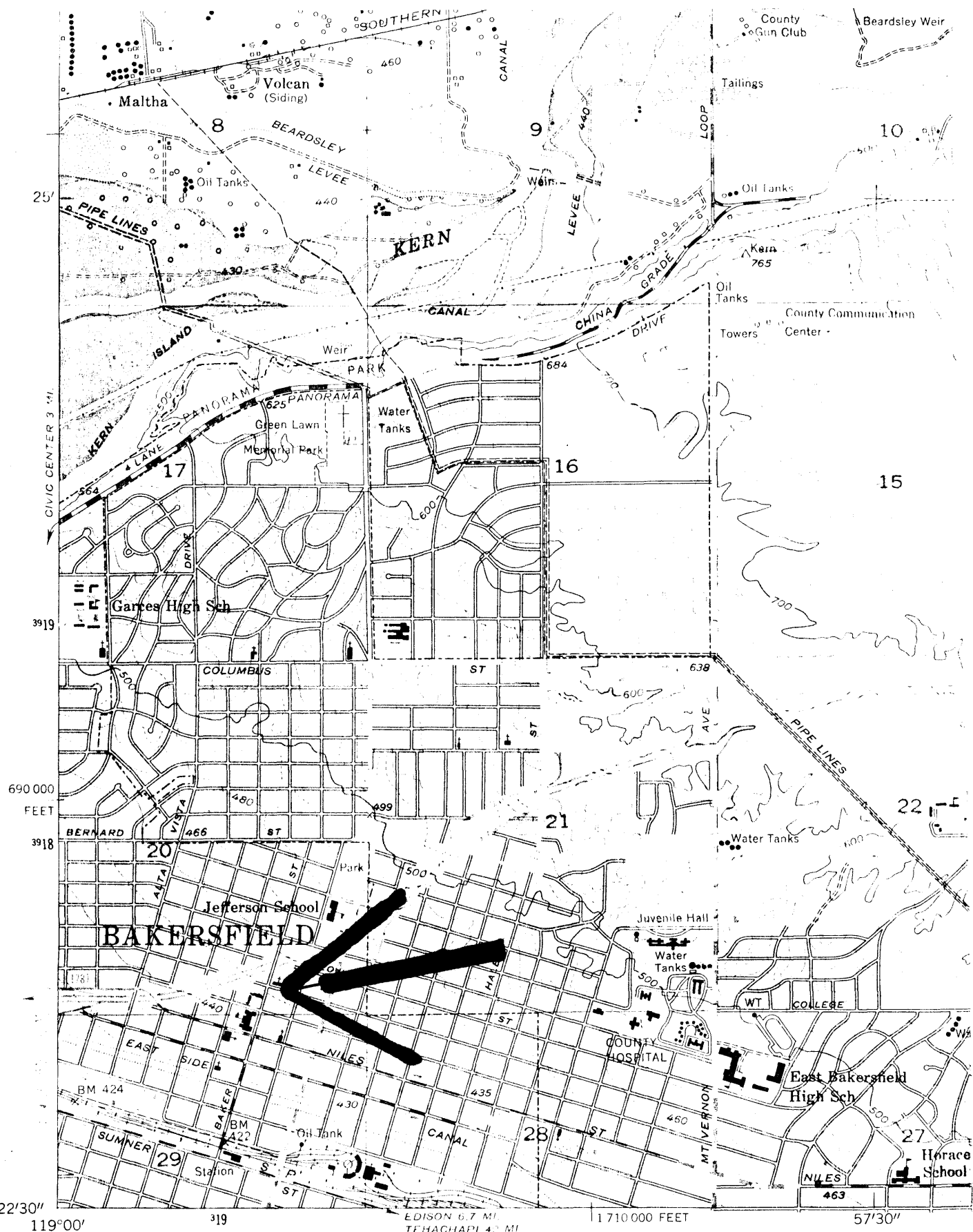
0

178

29

2

28



35°22'30"
119°00'

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey

Control by USGS and USC&GS

Topography from aerial photographs by multiplex methods and by plane-table surveys 1954. Aerial photographs taken 1952

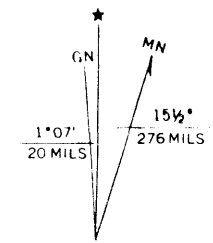
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on California coordinate system, zone 5

Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown

Dashed land lines indicate approximate locations

Unchecked elevations are shown in brown

(GOSFORD)
2154 1 SE



FEB 13 1981

UTM GRID AND 1973 MAGNETIC NORTH