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**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 State Asylum for the Deaf, Dumb and Blind

and/or common California Schools for the Deaf and Blind

2. Location

Bounded by Dwight Way, City Line, Derby and Warring

street & number School for the Deaf, 2601 Warring Street
School for the Blind, 3001 Derby Street n/a not for publication

city, town Berkeley 94704 n/a vicinity of congressional district 17

state California code 06 county Alameda code 001

3. Classification

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

4. Owner of Property

name State of California Department of General Services, Real Estate Services Division

street & number 650 Howe Avenue

city, town Sacramento n/a vicinity of state California 95825

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Alameda County Courthouse

street & number 1225 Fallon Street

city, town Oakland state California

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title State Historic Resources Inventory has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1979 federal state county local

depository for survey records State Office of Historic Preservation
California Dept. of Parks and Recreation

city, town Sacramento state California 95811

7. Description

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

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The California Schools for the Deaf and the Blind, located since 1867 in the City of Berkeley, occupy a 50 acre site with 457,000 square feet of existing buildings -- classrooms, dormitories, auditoria, dining facilities, gymnasias, swimming pools and a variety of landscaped outdoor areas and playing fields. Located at the foot of the Berkeley hills, approximately 1/4 mile southeast of the main campus of the University of California, Berkeley, the site has provided a low density use in a quiet park-like environment within one of the most densely populated cities in California. The site is bounded by Dwight Way on the north, Warring Street on the west, Derby Street on the south, and on the east there are approximately 80 acres of open land, formerly part of the school site, leased to the East Bay Regional Park District since 1970.

The buildings have red tile roofs, light colored walls, and Hispanic details, including arched openings, miradors, circular and quatrefoil windows, metal grills, perforated walls, cantilevered exterior staircases, balconies, interior tilework, coffered ceilings and hanging lamps. All the buildings are of reinforced concrete construction. The buildings of the Blind School are surfaced with stucco, while the buildings of the School for the Deaf express the concrete construction by the pattern of the board forms.

The School for the Deaf occupies 28 buildings, which make up approximately 3/4 of the site and front primarily on Dwight Way and Warring Street. The construction of these buildings occurred generally within two periods, 1929-1931 and 1948-1959. Most of the buildings are connected by tile roofed loggias to form a complex of buildings arranged around courtyards. The School for the Blind consists of 12 buildings, located on the southern 1/4 of the site and front primarily along Derby Street. Generally the buildings were constructed either during the period of 1924-1930 or 1940-1948.

CONTRIBUTING BUILDINGS, SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND

B-1

Administration, Assembly, and Library Building
Architect: The Office of the State Architect
1926, 1930, 1962

This stuccoed structure with 2 stories and a tiled gable roof was built in two stages. The "L" shaped portion to the west, which contains the second floor auditorium, was built in 1926. The eastern "L" shaped section with the tower was built in 1930. In the original wing, the main facade is articulated by quoined corners and entryway flanked by columns and pilasters supporting an entablature. In the 1930 wing the main facade features a false arcade on the south projectory wing, and the arched openings in the tower are each divided by a single column. In the interior, the detailing of the auditorium is of the Spanish Colonial style -- five pointed arches support a simulated wood beam and plank ceiling from which six large lanterns hang. Large Polychrome redwood relief panels, divided into registers filled with flowing geometric forms coupled with plant, human and animal forms, are placed over the stage curtain and over the organ to the rear. These and the smaller panels

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

Specific dates 1914-1949

Builder/Architect Office of the State Architect

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The buildings of the California School for the Deaf and Blind, and their settings, maintain a park-like ambience which has long been a landmark for the residents of Berkeley. The continued use of the site for one hundred and fourteen years has made it one of the principal public institutional open spaces in the area. Educationally the California School for the Deaf and Blind is significant for being the first such institution in California and on the West Coast. Along with the University of California (which arrived three years later), the School was one of the first public educational institutions in Berkeley. The well-planned arrangement of buildings, the use of landscaping to define exterior spaces, and the stylistic unity of the buildings has created a campus which is both functionally and aesthetically successful.

The school site, connecting the surrounding sub-urban area with the Berkeley hills, progresses from more formal and intense usage along the street edges to informal areas of quiet activities within the interior, to the more open areas approaching the hills. The uppermost boundary of the site is here formed by the grove of eucalyptus planted by former student Theophilus d'Estrella. On the more public sides of the site, vegetation, the stone wall, and finally the streets form a series of layers which make the transition from dense residential to institutional open space. The scale and setbacks of the school buildings along the perimeter of the site are sensitive to the context of a residential neighborhood. The central campus is a formal composition of academic and service buildings, arranged in sectors to form large squares and small courtyards, while further up the site toward the hills the siting of the buildings is more informal, the planting more dense, and the topography forms natural zones for the buildings. The arrangement of the buildings not only focuses inward onto the courts, but also frames formal walks and view corridors which focus outward to take advantage of the scenic panorama.

The rhythm of the colonnaded loggias, the texture of the ground surfaces, the placement of sculptures, the towers which mark buildings on the landscape, the variety of plantings, all serve to enrich the experience of moving through the site. Loggias connecting courtyards and buildings are sensitive to the California climate; impart a human scale to the institutional buildings; and serve as a link between the exterior and interior spaces. The series of courtyards, seemingly open but actually sequestered and protected, are among the most striking features of the schools' site planning. The integration of indoor and outdoor spaces via arcaded courtyards; the straightforward expression of structure and materials -- reinforced concrete, painted and/or stuccoed; the Mediterranean-type plantings; and the consistency of design vocabulary -- simple volumes articulated by Hispanic features -- has successfully tied together buildings from different eras. According to David Gebhard, "This capsulated history of California's Hispanic tradition in public architecture is nowhere better represented than in the architecture of these two schools. No other public institution in the state has managed to survive

9. Major Bibliographical References

see continuation sheet

- Albronda, Mildred, Douglas Tilden, Portrait of a Deaf Sculptor, 1980.
- Bower, Michael, "A Sculptor in the Heroic Mold" California Living, San Francisco Sunday Examiner & Chronicle, May 21, 1978.
- Burnes, C.H. and C.M. Ramger, A History of the California School for the Deaf, 1860-1960, 1960.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property c. 50 acres
Quadrangle name Oakland East

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UMT References

A

1	0	5	6	6	0	2	0	4	1	9	1	0	0	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

C

1	1	0	5	6	6	5	1	2	6	4	1	9	0	6	5	0
Zone		Easting				Northing										

E

Zone		Easting				Northing										

G

Zone		Easting				Northing										

B

1	0	5	6	6	4	9	0	4	1	9	1	0	5	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

D

1	0	5	6	6	0	4	0	4	1	9	0	6	2	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

F

Zone		Easting				Northing										

H

Zone		Easting				Northing										

Verbal boundary description and justification Campus of approximately 50 acres, bounded on the west by Warring Street, on the north by Dwight Way, on the south by Derby Street & extension of its line east to the Oakland-Berkeley border, which forms the eastern boundary.

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

state	n/a	code	county	n/a	code
state	n/a	code	county	n/a	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Mary O'Toole
Berkeley Architectural Heritage Association
 organization May 4, 1981
 date P.O. Box 1137
 street & number (415) 845-6591
 telephone Berkeley
 city or town California
 state 94701
 state

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 [Signature]

title State Historic Preservation Officer date April 8, 1982

For HCERS use only

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

[Signature] April 8, 1982

Keener of the National Register

Attest: [Signature]

Chief of [unclear]

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School for the Deaf and Blind

CONTINUATION SHEET Berkeley, Ca. ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 1

which occur over window openings and in the arched lunette of the north wall were commissioned by the Federal Arts Project and designed by the Black sculptor Sargent Claude Johnson in 1937. Addition of fire stair added to west elevation of original wing.

B-2

Vista Del Mar Girls' Residence

Architect: The Office of the State Architect (Alfred Eichler)
1924

This reinforced concrete and hollow tile building with two stories and a tile gable roof is organized around a south-facing courtyard which is open at one end. Deeply recessed double wood casement windows occur throughout the building. The major visual articulation of the south elevation is the large cantilevered chimney with rectangular openings for smoke, topped by a small gable roof. The north facade is enhanced by such Hispanic features as a cantilevered corbeled exterior staircase, small cast-iron balconies and scrollwork over the arched entry.

B-4

Monroe Hall Classrooms and Children's Residence

Architect: Office of the State Architect (R.D. Murray)
1940

This L-shaped two story, low pitched tile gable roofed building reflects the image of the 1920s Spanish Colonial Revival. The general configuration of the building is indicated on the site maps of the 1920s. Major design features are the large circular window in the south gable facade of the woutheast wing and the cantilevered staircase on the north side of the building.

B-6

Infirmmary

Architect: Office of the State Architect (R.D. Murray)
1940

This T-shaped, one story tile gable roof building reflects the image of the Spanish Colonial Revival style of the 1920s. On the south facade two gabled projecting bays enclose a small entrance courtyard. To the west of the court the facade is articulated by square patterned grill work in front of a row of high windows. This wing is terminated at its west end by a high, narrow arched opening framed by pilasters. Within the opening a tile criss-cross grill forms a railing for the balcony. Louvered and lattice-work shutters occur throughout the building.

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B-9

Gymnasium

Architect: Office of the State Architect
1914

This reinforced concrete, veneered with brick and inset tile, rectangular shape, two story, low hipped roof building, achieves its major visual effect through a skillful manipulation of the scale of decorative detail and structural elements. Centered on the narrow south side is a large arch in which the main entry door is recessed. The upper story has a row of casement windows separated by wood half columns. The west facade is divided by giant pilasters into four bays, infilled on the upper and lower stories with a row of double casement windows; separated on the upper story by wood half columns and on the lower story by a brick veneered pier. The original polychrome effect has been lost; the brick, tile and wood members have been painted white.

B- 11

Wilkinson Lodge Boys Residence

Architect: Office of the State Architect
1928, 1950 addition

This building with tile gable roof forms an L-shape with two wings angling out to the southeast and northwest. The rambling plan is responsive to changes in topography. The building retains a domestic and informal character due to its small scale, accretive forms and the irregularity of its plan. At the uppermost part of the site a two story wing angles onto a low one story gabled and shed roofed entry porch with four squat columns. Over the metal door of the entrance is a relief panel of a stylized torch. To the west side of the entry is a similar stylized panel of a torch bearing figure in front of a sunburst. The entry porch merges into a high gabled space articulated by three high windows projecting upward to the gable soffit. The interior of this story and a half space has an open raftered ceiling supported by large beams. From this point the building meanders on joining together various one story gabled wings, shed roofed proches and semi-circular bays. The Hispanic imagery is combined with moderne motifs -- semi-circular drums and vertical window bands, which were quite innovative for the time.

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B-12

Wilkinson Lodge Annex

Architect: Office of the State Architect

1930

This rectangular shaped building with a low pitched tile gable roof was originally designed as multiple housing for school staff. The main facade, which is two stories at the north end, has two large arched garage door openings which are separated by a squat pier. An enclosed exterior stairway on the north end contributes to the hispanic flavor. The central entry porch projecting out to the west is partially enclosed. The small scale of the windows and large central chimney add to the domestic character.

CONTRIBUTING BUILDINGS, SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF

D-1

Administration Building

Architect: Office of the State Architect (Alfred Eichler)

1949

This rectangular building of one story with a low tiled hip roof is situated on a terrace at the terminus of a formal axis leading into the site from Warring Street. The siting recalls the 1890 Educational Building as does the clock tower with clockworks taken from the tower of the 19th century building. The rectangular northeast corner tower juxtaposes a strong vertical element to the horizontality which characterizes the building. The main entry is centrally placed in a shallow recession composed of five bays divided by simplified Ionic columns. The remainder of the west facade is masked by low hedges and the roof overhang. On the east facade the tile roof extends out and is supported by a different variation of Ionic columns to form the loggia facing east into the principal courtyard. This loggia runs the length of the building and joins into the small formal courtyards on the north and south ends of the building. Courtyards are square and held centrally placed sculpture -- "The Bear Hunt" by Douglas Tilden in the north court, and a WPA birdbath sculpture in the south court. (Note: Both pieces have recently been removed to the new School for the Deaf site in Fremont, as have the bells in the clock tower). Large arches and abstract columns from a loggia around the perimeter of each courtyard connecting the Administration Building to the adjacent buildings, and creating a sense of a cloister.

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D-2
Stevenson Secondary School
Architect: Office of the State Architect (Anson Boyd/design by Alfred Eichler)
1949

This building is two stories with a tiled gable roof, and, with its northwest/southeast orientation, is a major departure from the balanced Beaux Arts plan of the rest of the campus. On the east, the building is connected to D-1 by a loggia. The original stone voussoirs from the entrance to the 1875 Educational Building rest on Romanesque capitals and columns, and surround the loggia entrance. On the west, a two-story wing connects D-2 to D-3. The Hispanic and Classical detailing of D-2, although abstracted, relate the building to the other buildings on the site.

D-6
Grady Hall, the Junior High School for Boys
Architect: Office of the State Architect (Anson Boyd/Alfred Eichler)
c.1948

This two-story building has a tile gable roof, loggias on the first floor, and projecting balconies. The building defines the north boundary of the formal courtyard between buildings D-1 and D-6. The Hispanic imagery is continued in this building.

D-16
Intermediate Girls Dormitory
Architect: Office of the State Architect (Anson Boyd/Design by Alfred Eichler)
c. 1950

This building, with tile gable roof, is 3 stories on the west and two stories on the east. A one-story loggia runs the length of the west facade. This facade is the eastern boundary of the principal courtyard east of the Administration Building.

D-18
Main Dining Hall
Architect: Office of the State Architect (Charles F.B. Roeth)
1931

This 2-story building with tiled gable roof adjoins the Kitchen Building on the west and Birk Hall Lower School on the east. The long ends of the rectangular building form the edges of the principal courtyard of the

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principal courtyard for the Dining Hall on the south side of the building. The north facade is dominated by the large concrete arches which form an arcade running the length of the building. The south facade is also defined by large scale elements: high paired casement windows with circular and rectangular mullions, between which are three sets of French doors framed within a massive concrete molding. In the interior, six large concrete portal frames support the ceiling painted to suggest a beamed ceiling. Wood paneling up to the six foot height level and two rows of hanging metal lamps strengthen the effect of a Great Hall.

D-19

Kitchen

Architect: Office of the State Architect (Alfred Eichler)
1930

This building of two stories with low tiled gable roof runs lengthwise between the Main Dining Hall to the east and the Elementary Dining Hall to the west; the south side of the rectangle is attached to the 1932 Commissary Building. Those portions of the east and west facade which extend beyond the Dining Halls to form one edge of the courtyards of each Dining Hall, have been defined by five large piers and infilled with industrial sash. The upper portion of the south gable-end facade which extends above the attached Commissary Building is articulated by a large and deeply inset circular window. The circular drums with louvered circular openings and topped by low conical roof surmount the ridge of the gable roof.

D-20

Elementary Dining Hall

Architect: Office of the State Architect (Alfred Eichler)
1930

This rectangular building with tiled gable roof was designed and built along with the Kitchen to the east as a single unit. On the west the Hall is attached to the Caldwell Elementary School. The loggia along the north facade provides a visual link to the loggia of the Main Dining Hall as well as the small formal courtyard of the Administration Building. The one and a half story space with wood coffered ceiling and hanging lamps, opens onto an enclosed south-facing courtyard. Four large pilasters divide the south facade into three bays. Within each bay a large arch is infilled with glass -- double doors and lunettes. The courtyard is formal in appearance: the paving leading from the south facade is of

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a semi-circular configuration which tapers into a walkway, halfway along this axis, the paving forms a circle marked by a concrete sun dial. The path then tapers down and leads to a wood pergola entwined with roses. The path is bordered by rose bushes and areas of lawn.

D-21

Commissary Building

Architect: Office of the State Architect (Alfred Eichler)
1932

This L-shaped building of one story, with tiled gable roof is attached on the north side to the Kitchen and on the south side to the Bakery Building. The wing projecting toward the east is separated from the Birk Hall Lower School by a stairway. The wing which projects to the south forms an edge for the courtyards on either side; the west facade of this wing has regularly placed casement windows which lend a sense of domesticity. The east facade of this wing has narrow elongated windows and a large painted arched opening, above which is a circular window flanked by small square grill openings.

D-24

Caldwell Elementary School

Architect: Office of the State Architect (Charles F.B. Roeth)
1931

This reinforced concrete rectangular building of two stories with tile gabled roof and the adjacent D'Estrella Assembly Hall (D-25) frame the formal entry court to the School for the Deaf. On this north elevation there are double entrance doors with lantern-like light fixtures at each end of the building. Sets of three wood-framed rectangular windows with grills spaced between each set, articulate the rest of the facade. On the west, where the facade extends above the attached D'Estrella Hall, a large circular window is placed below the peak of the gable roof. The south facade forms an edge for the formal courtyard which is enclosed on the other sides by Norton and D'Estrella Assembly Hall (D-26&D-25). The court is terraced on the east side and a pair of stairs leads to a covered walkway connecting Caldwell and Norton Hall.

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D- 25

D'Estrella Assembly Hall

Architect: Office of the State Architect (Charles F.B. Roeth)
1931

This rectangular building of one and a half stories, with tile hip roof and the adjacent Caldwell Elementary School form the south side of the entrance drive to the School for the Deaf. The main entrance is on the north facade -- four steps lead to a wide porch with large wood panelled and glass recessed doors. Above the oak entry doors is a heavy lintel, and intricately carved oak transoms of a scroll and leaf pattern. Iron grills cast in a fox and grape motif, from the Aesop fable, were designed to partially cover the glass panels on the doors. (Note: The cast iron insets have since been removed). On the northeast side of the building an entrance vestibule with arched doorway, circular window and covered corridor with arched openings lead to the formal courtyard. The foyer of the assembly hall has a ceramic tile wainscoting and quarry tile floor. The interior of the auditorium has wood paneled walls, simulated wood ceiling and wood relief panels by Sargent Johnson which form the balustrade of the auditorium balcony.

D-26

Norton Hall for Elementary Girls

Architect: Office of the State Architect (Alfred Eichler)
1930

This stuccoed reinforced concrete, rectangular-shaped, two story building with tile gable roof and the attached Runde Hall were designed and built as a single project. The wide array of Hispanic details includes the mirador and quatrefoil window on the north facade; the cantilevered balconies of the upper floor on the south facade; the small entrance pavillion where Norton Hall joins D'Estrella; and the square tower marking the juncture of Norton and Runde Halls.

D-27

Runde Hall for Elementary Boys

Architect: Office of the State Architect (Alfred Eichler)
1930

This two-story rectangular building with tile gable roof and the attached Norton Hall were designed and built as a unit. The east elevation has cantilevered upper story balconies supported on large concrete corbels and quatrefoil windows. The west elevation has a hipped roof entry pavillion with arched openings.

FHR-8-300A
(11/78)

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D-28

Elementary Gymnasium

Architect: Office of the State Architect (Anson Boyd, designed by
c.1940 R.D. Murray)

A one-story building with tile gable roof. The design reflects both Hispanic and Modern images. Although not sited in the 1929 or 1933 site plans, a sketch of this building dated 1926 exists.

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SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND -- Contributing

- 1 B-1, Administration, Assembly and Library Building, 1926/1930
- 2 B-2, Vista Del Mar Girls Residence, 1924
- 3 B-4, Monroe Hall, Classrooms and Children's Residence, 1940
- 4 B-6, Infirmary, 1940
- 5 B-9, Gymnasium, 1914
- 6 B-11, Wilkinson Lodge, Boys Residence, 1928/1950
- 7 B-12, Wilkinson Lodge Annex, 1930

SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND -- Non-Contributing

- 1 B-3, Superintendent's Residence, 1922/1950
- 2 B-5, Keller Classroom and Childrens Residence, 1948
- 3 B-7, Temporary Classroom Building, 1971
- 4 B-8, Kitchen, Dining and Commissary Building, 1956
- 5 B-10, Concrete slab foundation. Building has been removed.

SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF -- Contributing

- 8 D-1, Administration Building, 1949
- 9 D-2, Stevenson Secondary School, 1949
- 10 D-6, Grady Hall, the Junior High School for Boys, 1948
- 11 D-16, Intermediate Girls Dormitory, 1950
- 12 D-18, Main Dining Room, 1931/1950
- 13 D-19, Kitchen and Commissary Building, 1930
- 14 D-20, Elementary Dining Hall, 1930
- 15 D-21, Commissary Building, 1932
- 16 D-24, Caldwell Elementary School, 1931
- 17 D-25, D'Estrella Assembly Hall, 1931
- 18 D-26, Norton Hall for Elementary Girls, 1930
- 19 D-27, Runde Hall for Elementary Boys, 1930
- 20 D-28, Elementary Gymnasium, 1940(?)

SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF -- Non-Contributing

- D-3, Stevenson Secondary Addition, 1959
- 5 D-5, Superintendent's Residence, 1954
- 6 D-7, Crandall Hall, The High School for Boys, 1948
- 7 D-8, Tilden Vocational Building, 1952
- 8 D-9, Vocational Auto Body Shop, 1968
- 9 D-10, Howson Gymnasium, 1955
- 10 D-11, Swimming Pool, 1962
- 11 D-12, The Athletic Field, 1955/1956/1960
- 12 D-14, The Practice Cottage, 1950
- 13 D-15, Clark Hall, The High School for Girls, 1950

(continued)

FHR-8-300A
(11/78)

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-
- 12 D-17, Birk Hall, the Lower School and Kindergarten, 1950
13 D-22, Bakery Building, 1953
14 D-23, Heating Plant and Maintenance Building, 1951

SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF -- Non-Contributing Sites

Structure D-4 Building has been removed. Remains consist of a shallow concrete-lined basement and concrete steps leading to what was once the entrance.

Structure D-13 Concrete slab foundation. Building has been removed.

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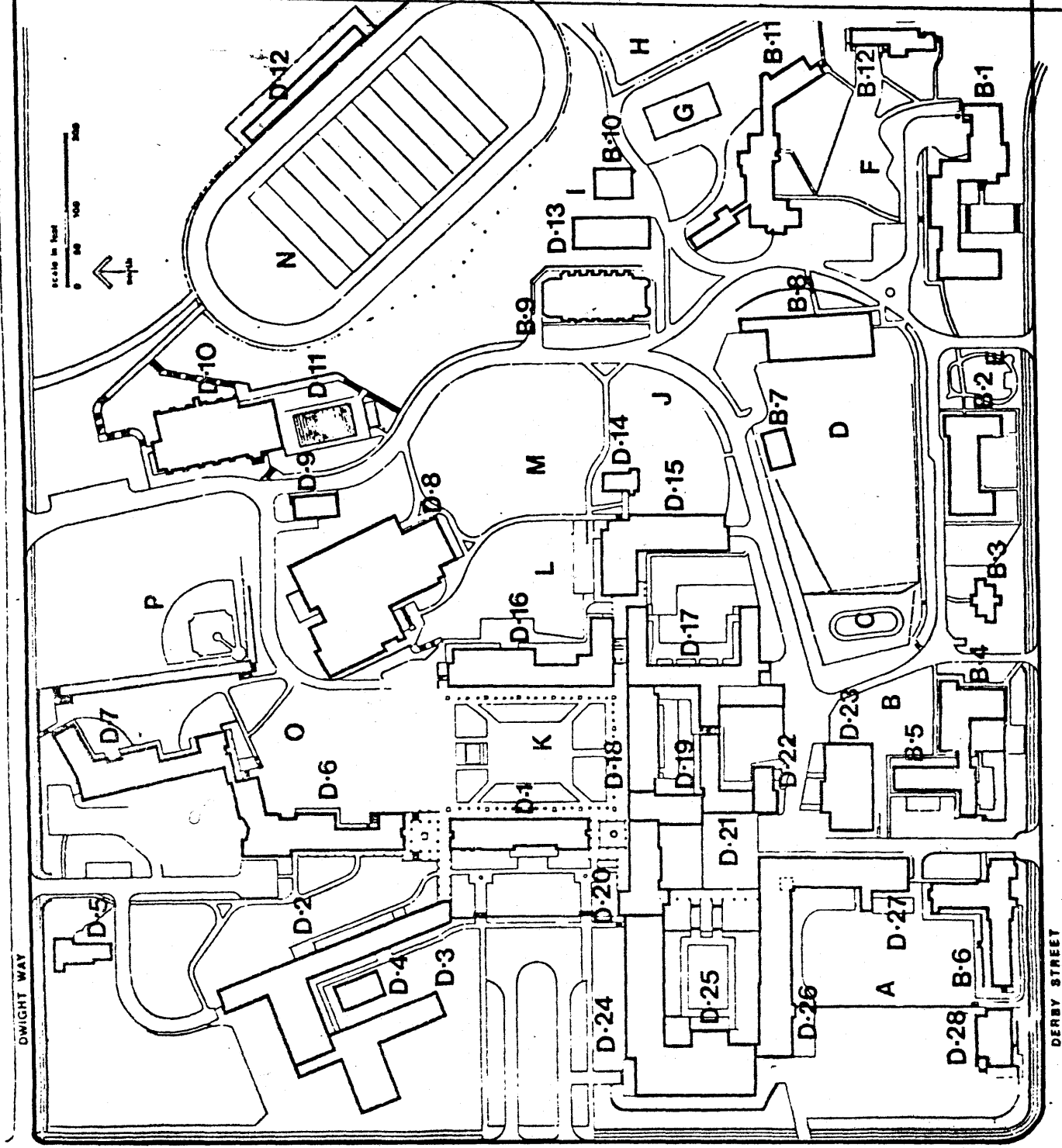
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Schools for the Deaf + Blind
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— Nomination Boundary
- - - Berkeley-Oakland City Line

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the assault of the Modern of the 1950's and 1960's to retain this important episode in California's architectural history." (from The Architectural/Historical Significance of the California Schools for the Blind and Deaf, p.7).

The California School for the Blind and the Deaf was established in San Francisco in 1860. The institution was supported for several years partly by private subscriptions and partly by small appropriations through the state legislature. In 1865 the board of trustees appointed a new principal, Warring Wilkinson, who initiated the movement to make the institution completely state-supported, and to secure a location more advantageous for its service and growth. Both goals were soon realized: in 1866 the State legislature established the California Institution of the Deaf, Dumb, and Blind; and provided for a commission to select a new site which would be within seventy-five miles of San Francisco. In its report to the legislature the commission stated that the location should be "in a suburban locality within reach of the social and economic advantages of a well-established community." The site, unanimously selected by the commission, 131 acres of farmland purchased from John Kearney for the sum of \$12,000, was situated in the foothills of Berkeley, four miles north of Oakland and adjoining the tract belonging to the College of California. In addition to the proximity to downtown Oakland and the future State University, the advantages of the site included a sunny, warm and relatively fog-free climate, as well as panoramic views of San Francisco, the Bay and the Golden Gate.

Early in 1867 the Directors sought proposals from San Francisco architects for the design of the new building. The winning firm, that of John Wright and George Saunders, was one of the principal architectural firms in the Bay Area. Stone that could be quarried nearby was used for the first building erected on the Berkeley site. The cornerstone of this building was laid in September of 1867, and a poem written by Bret Harte for this dedication ceremony was read. The building, which was completed in 1869, was used for six years before being destroyed by fire in 1875.

Following the destruction, Warring Wilkinson, the Board, and the architects redesigned the physical layout, with separate buildings to house the educational, utilitarian, and living spaces. Wright and Saunders' new site plan established a central spine of academic and utilitarian buildings which would allow for "indefinite expansion." As with the 1867 building, the principal structure -- the Education Building -- faced west toward Warring Street. It was connected to the street by the Main Driveway which led up to a circle centered on the front of the building. A short north/south drive ran parallel to the front of the building and connected with a pair of curved driveways which led to the residential homes and from there to the rest of the site. Influences from this site planning are to be found in the present-day design. As a suburban institutional site plan the scheme followed a 19th century tradition of combining some elements of classical symmetry and balance within an overall informal English garden

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design. Since it was not a rigid rectangular axial scheme, it lent itself to later modifications. From the 1860's on, the planning and development of the general landscape of the site was carried out in a somewhat informal manner. Wright and Saunders laid out the major drives and walkways, as well as the stone wall and fencing. The masonry wall along Dwight and Derby, which used stones from the early building, was started in 1896 and finished in 1901.

In 1905 the Institution became part of California's public school system. Ten years later, the California Institution for the Education of the Deaf and Dumb and Blind was officially renamed the California School for the Deaf and Blind. In the same year, 1915, recognition of the differences in teaching methods and programs led the state legislature to provide the framework which would eventually separate the School for the Deaf and the School for the Blind. During the interim (between 1905 and 1915), two new buildings were constructed: a Manual Arts Building and a gymnasium. In contrast to all of the previous buildings, these two were designed by the Office of the State Architect. The general sense of the designs was simplified Classical with references to northern Italian architecture; they were built of reinforced concrete, a major structural advance over the older buildings.

From 1915 to 1921, consideration was given to the possibility of removing both schools to another location. However, in 1922 the decision was made to remain at the Berkeley site. A northeast/southwest diagonal line allocated the northern two thirds of the site to the School for the Deaf and the southern one third to the School for the Blind. The Schools were officially separated in 1922, but continued to share facilities until 1929, when a portion of the buildings for the School for the Blind were completed and new construction began for the School for the Deaf.

The 1923 site plan developed by the State Architect's Office, under the supervision of Alfred Eichler, located the principal buildings of the School for the Blind in a line along Derby Street. With the exception of the Administration Building, the buildings are hidden behind the stone wall surrounding the site, which along with the planting, emphasizes the secluded aspect of this public edge of the site. In contrast, the Administration Building, with its axial orientation to Belrose Avenue and dominant tower, effectively establishes the entrance. In addition to the 1926 Administration Building, the School for the Blind consisted of the 1924 Vista Del Mar Girls Residence; the 1922 Superintendent's Residence; the 1928 Wilkinson Lodge, Boys Residence, and the 1930 Wilkinson Lodge Annex. The Depression of the 1930's stopped all building until 1940. In that year, Monroe Hall Classroom and Children's Residence and the Infirmary were added. In 1948 the Keller Classroom and Childrens Residence was built; in 1966 a new kitchen, dining, and commissary building was constructed; in 1971 a temporary classroom building was placed north of the main playing field; and during the mid-1950s the 1914 gymnasium which had been shared with the School for the Deaf was transferred to the School for the Blind.

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Following the decision to separate facilities, the Office of the State Architect made a study of the 19th century buildings on the School for the Deaf site, and concluded in its report that "Practically all of these buildings are out of date at this writing, and remodeling is not practical." A committee appointed by the State Senate concurred with the recommendation of the Office of the State Architect that the existing physical plant be replaced by new buildings to be constructed over a ten year period. The 1929 report of this committee also presented a site plan indicating the general layout of the proposed new buildings, patios, play areas, gardens, and athletic field. Funding was provided in 1929 for the first phase of the plan: the Kitchen and Commissary Building, the Elementary Dining Hall, Norton Hall for Elementary Girls, and Runde Hall for Elementary Boys were all constructed in 1930. A second appropriation of state funds the following year provided for the construction of the Main Dining Hall, Caldwell Elementary School, and D'Estrella Assembly Hall.

By the time all of these buildings were completed in 1932, the full impact of the 1930s Depression and later the Second World War, caused the realization of the ten year building program to be delayed until after 1945. However a full set of drawings for the site and for all of the proposed buildings, prepared by the Oakland architect Charles F.B. Roeth in 1932, indicate that the later construction adhered to the pre-Depression planning.

In both the 1929 and 1932 site plans the architect abandoned the 19th century ideas of separate structures scattered about in a suburban/semi-rural environment for a much tighter organization of all the buildings. A compact plan allowed for sheltering and greater ease in supervising circulation activities. The long entry court to the School for the Deaf, opening out to the west on Warring Street, was dominated by an administration building with clock tower, sited in a similar fashion to the 19th century Educational Building. The court was flanked by an upper school building on the north, a lower school and auditorium on the south. The remainder of the buildings were organized around three particularly or fully enclosed patios, two play areas for the primary students, and a garden to the north. Facing onto the southwest corner of Dwight Way and Warring Street were residences for the principal and other staff members.

The addition of the 1949 Stevenson Secondary School, the 1959 Stevenson Secondary School Addition, the 1952 Tilden Vocational Building, and the 1955 Howson Gymnasium, brought about modifications to the 1929 and 1932 site plan; for the oblique angling of the newer buildings located along the northern portion of the site bore little relation to the rectilinear geometry of the other buildings. However the majority of the building in the post-World War II era adhered to the rectilinear layout: the 1948 Grady Hall, the Junior High School for Boys; Crandall Hall, the High School for Boys; Clark Hall, the High School for Girls; the Intermediate Girls Dormitory of 1950; the 1950 Birk Hall, the Lower School and Kindergarten, all adjoined or were connected by loggias to the earlier buildings.

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The Tilden Vocational Building was the first departure from the unity of the Hispanic imagery. Four later buildings, housing an auto body shop, bakery, commissary, and heating plant are of no distinction and are hidden by vegetation so they do not dominate the site.

CONTRIBUTION OF INDIVIDUALS

Alfred Eichler (1895-1977) was educated at St. Ignatius College, San Francisco. He worked in a number of offices including those of Alfred Granger, John J. Donovan and Myron Hunt. In the early 1920s, he established his own practice. He officially joined the Office of the State Architect in Sacramento in 1925, and continued to be involved with this office until his retirement in 1963. Among the buildings he is credited with designing are the Downtown Campus, State College, San Francisco (1936); the State of California Public Works Building, Sacramento (1936); the State of California Capitol Mall Buildings, Sacramento (1955). Eichler was also responsible for the restoration of the Old State Capitol Building at Vallejo.

Douglas Tilden (1860-1935) was the first California sculptor to achieve national and even international fame. He was a student at the California School for the Deaf from 1866 until his graduation in 1879. He entered UC Berkeley but left to teach at the School for the Deaf. The trustees provided him with the money to further his studies in Paris, where he was awarded honorable mention by the Salon for one of his peices. This was the highest honor any American had achieved up to that time. He started the sculpture department at the Mark Hopkins Institute of Art, forerunner of the San Francisco Art Institute. Three of his sculptures decorate Market Street, two are located in Golden Gate Park, one is at the U.C. Campus, one is at the campus of the School for the Deaf in Fremont, one at Lakeside Park in Oakland, and one at the Oakland Museum. During Tilden's days of renown his greatest patron was S.F. Mayor and Senator James D. Phelan.

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CALIFORNIA SCHOOLS FOR THE DEAF AND BLIND, Berkeley, Alameda County, California

KEY TO PHOTOS

1. View looking east, c. 1909, from postcard.
2. View looking east, 1979.
3. Stone wall, north of main entrance to Deaf School, 1979.
4. Building D-1, looking northeast, May 1980.
5. Bear Hunt Courtyard, School for the Deaf, looking NW, March 1978.
6. Bear Hunt Statue, School for the Deaf, looking north, May 1980.
7. Loggia surrounding Bear Hunt Courtyard, School for the Deaf, looking west, March 1981.
8. East entrance of Building D-2, looking west, 1981.
9. Loggia surrounding south court of Building D-1, looking east, March 1981.
10. Building D-26, looking southeast, March 1981.
11. Building D-25, entry vestibule, looking west, March 1981.
12. Front Doors, D'Estrella Auditorium, looking north, May 1980.
13. Door detail, D'Estrella Auditorium, looking south, May 1980.
14. Building D-27, east elevation, looking north, March 1981.
15. Building D-20, south facade, looking north, March 1981.
16. Building D-15, mirador detail from north facade, looking south, March 1981.
17. Building D-24, (south elevation) and Building D-19, looking east, March 1981.
18. Building B-1, looking north, c. 1930.
19. Building B-1, looking north, March 1981.
20. Building B-1, west facade, looking east, c. 1930.
21. Building B-1, north facade, looking south, 1981.
22. Building B-1, main entry, south facade, looking north, March 1981.
23. Building B-1, interior of auditorium, looking south, 1980.
24. Building B-2, south facade, looking north, c. 1930.
25. Building B-2, west facade, looking east through terraced garden, c. 1930.
26. Building B-4, entry on south facade, March 1981.
27. Building B-6, detail of south facade, March 1981.
28. Building B-6, window detail, looking northeast, March 1981.
29. Building B-9, looking east, March 1981.
30. Building B-9, entry, looking northeast, 1979.
31. Building B-11, west facade, looking southeast, March 1981.
32. Building B-11, entry porch on south facade, looking NE, March 1981.

