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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

NATIONAL REGISTER

OHP

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Cowell Memorial Hospital
other names/site number Cowell Hospital; Ernest V. Cowell Memorial Hospital

2. Location

street & number 2215 College Avenue not for publication N/A
city, town Berkeley vicinity N/A
state California code CA county Alameda code CA 001 zip code 94720

3. Classification

| Ownership of Property | Category of Property | Number of Resources within Property | |
|--|---|-------------------------------------|---------------------|
| | | Contributing | Noncontributing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> private | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s) | <u>1</u> | <u>0</u> buildings |
| <input type="checkbox"/> public-local | <input type="checkbox"/> district | <u>0</u> | <u>0</u> sites |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public-State | <input type="checkbox"/> site | <u>0</u> | <u>0</u> structures |
| <input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal | <input type="checkbox"/> structure | <u>0</u> | <u>0</u> objects |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> object | <u>1</u> | <u>0</u> Total |

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A
Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 35 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Stade R. Cray 11/25/92
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. 1/6/93
 See continuation sheet.
 determined eligible for the National Register. See continuation sheet.
 determined not eligible for the National Register.
 removed from the National Register.
 other, (explain): _____

[Signature] _____
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Health Care/hospital, clinic
 Education/education-related

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Health Care/clinic

7. DescriptionArchitectural Classification
(enter categories from instructions)

Late 19th and 20th Century Revival/Beaux-
 Arts classicism

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation wire-reinforced concrete
 walls reinforced concrete
 roof terra cotta tile
 other

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

Cowell Memorial Hospital is located at the eastern edge of the University of California, Berkeley campus, at the base of Strawberry Canyon and adjacent to Girton Hall and Strawberry Creek, just to the north of the property. The 108,558 square-foot neoclassic-style hospital (entrance bay and south wing Arthur Brown, Jr., 1930; east pavilion, Weihe, Frick & Kruse, 1954; north wing, E. Geoffrey Bangs, 1960) is constructed of reinforced concrete and is earthquake safe. The centerpiece of three acres of landscaped open space, it is bounded by ivy and a grove of Coast redwoods on the north, a parking area on the west, and a service road on the south. A driveway and retaining wall mark the eastern boundary, above which lies a partially landscaped parking area adjacent to Galey Road. A prominent element of the property's landscaping is a *sequoia dendron giganteum* (giant sequoia) at the southwest corner of the hospital. Lawns and ivy surround the long steps that lead up to the building's main entrance gracing the grounds of the property, the west side of which is planted with olive and ornamental flowering fruit trees, California oaks, pine, spruce, and fir. Although some trees have been replaced and a fire escape above the main entrance removed, the property looks today essentially as it did in the years 1962-1974: a spare neoclassic, off-white concrete structure, partially covered by ivy and located within a large, airy, landscaped area of open space at the eastern extremity of the University of California, Berkeley campus.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Period of Significance

Significant Dates

Social History

1962-1974

1962

Cultural Affiliation
N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Brown, Arthur, Jr., Architect

Weihe, Frick & Kruse, Architects

E. Geoffrey Bangs, Architect

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

It was the "cradle of the movement," one of the few places that can be identified as the exact location in which a movement began and of which it can be said, "It happened in that building." The building is Cowell Memorial Hospital on the University of California campus in Berkeley, California. The movement is the worldwide effort to obtain civil rights for the disabled. The words are those of Ed Roberts and John Hessler, two founders of that movement, which was initiated in Cowell Hospital during the years 1962 to 1974. As the genesis and generator of the Independent Living Movement, Cowell bears witness to the belief that the "American" dream of equality for all, including the disabled, may yet be realized. This is the little known but weighty historical importance of Cowell Hospital, which appears to be eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. It is "associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history" -- Criterion A -- and is a property of exceptional importance, achieving significance "within the past 50 years" -- Criteria Consideration G. The Area of Significance, Social History, is applicable for the Period of Significance 1962 through 1974. During these years the north wing of Cowell Hospital was home to the Cowell Residence Program, the first on-campus residence in the nation for severely disabled students and the birthplace of the effort to gain civil rights for the disabled, which has since expanded from a local setting in Berkeley, California to the international arena. Had Cowell Hospital not opened its doors to a group of remarkable young people, all students and all disabled, there would have been no locus for their association, their pooling of ideas, and their work together to gain independence from the institutionalized existence that until then was the lot of the disabled. More than one of these individuals has said of Cowell Hospital, "It changed my life." Cowell provided the environment and was the catalyst that enabled this small group to launch a worldwide social movement that has changed the lives of hundreds of thousands of people and is recognized today as a powerful force. Cowell Memorial Hospital thus is a landmark to history.

See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

Aguilar, Dianna, Phil Draper and Debbie Lee. *Independent Living: Preparing for the 21st Century Conference Proceedings*. Berkeley: CIL. 1992

Baptiste, Gerald, associate director. Center for Independent Living, Berkeley, California. Personal communication. June 9, 1992

The Berkeley Midweek Gazette. "Helpless Cripple Attends UC Classes Here in Wheelchair." December 5, 1962

Blue and Gold, University of California, Berkeley, yearbook. 1901. 1931

Bolt, Richard Arthur. "Early Personalities and Hygiene at the University of California." *California Medicine*. November 1947

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:

University Archives, The Bancroft Library, Prytanean Alumnae, Inc., archives

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property 1.75 acres

UTM References

| | | | | |
|----|---|-----------|----------------|----------------|
| NW | A | <u>10</u> | <u>5651700</u> | <u>4191640</u> |
| | | Zone | Easting | Northing |
| SW | C | | | |

| | | | | |
|----|---|------|---------|----------|
| NE | B | | | |
| | | Zone | Easting | Northing |
| SE | D | | | |

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

Beginning at the College Avenue steps opposite the north entrance to Minor Hall, proceed 168 feet to the south service road; turn east and, following the road, proceed 240 feet northeast past the giant sequoia, the small parking area and across the hospital's ambulance-service driveway. Turning north, follow the retaining wall 255 feet to the north end of the building. Turn west, cross the driveway, and /

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

Cowell Hospital is an integral part of a large university campus. The property boundary includes the building and: on the east, the ambulance-service driveway, retaining wall, and small parking area immediately behind the south wing of the building; on the south and west, the flora and paths, on the west the concrete steps and retaining wall above the sidewalk on College Avenue. Girton Hall, immediately north of the hospital's northern boundary, is not included.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Sharon Entwistle
 organization Berkeley Architectural Heritage Association date 7/10/90, 7/15/92; 9/28/92
 street & number 1116 Spring Way telephone 510/519-9563
 city or town Berkeley state California zip code 94708

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetCowell Memorial Hospital
Alameda County, CaliforniaSection number 7 Page 1Description

At the top of a gentle slope that leads up to Strawberry Canyon and the Berkeley Hills to the east, Cowell Memorial Hospital (Arthur Brown, Jr., 1930; Weihe, Frick & Kruse, 1954; and E. Geoffrey Bangs, 1960), on the University of California, Berkeley campus, forms a triangular plan with two major University structures by John Galen Howard, the Greek Theatre (1902-1903) and Memorial Stadium (1922-1923) (Figure 8). To the north of Cowell Hospital, next to Strawberry Creek and nestled deep within a redwood grove is Julia Morgan's Girton Hall (National Register, 1991). Minor Hall (formerly Optometry, Arthur Brown, Jr., 1941) lies to the west, beyond the parking that occupies what was originally College Avenue, before it was closed off in 1964. A two-story addition to this building, currently under construction, is eliminating views of the campus, Berkeley, San Francisco Bay, and the Golden Gate that hospital occupants once enjoyed. On the south the property is bounded by a service road, beyond which is Calvin Hall. Directly to the east of the Cowell Hospital building is a driveway/ambulance entrance and retaining wall, and above the wall a partially landscaped parking area added after 1968, which is approached from Gale Road and Piedmont Avenue.

Both the siting and the spare neoclassic style of Cowell Memorial Hospital accord with the masterful Campus Plan (State Landmark No. 945) that John Galen Howard established and carried out in large measure during his tenure as first supervising architect of the University, 1901-1924. Looking at the building from the west, one is impressed by Arthur Brown, Jr.'s noble five-story entry bay (1930, Figure 4) that is in the Howard tradition of Beaux-Arts design for major campus buildings. From it extend Brown's four-story south wing (Figure 5) and the five-story north wing (E. Geoffrey Bangs, 1960, Figure 2). Brown's grand entrance is distinguished not only by its projection between the two wings, but also by modillions on the soffit that do not occur elsewhere on the building, and by a prominent balcony with balusters of cast stone, which is surmounted by an unornamented pediment. At the far end of the north wing, a curved broken pediment over the entrance door echoes this neoclassic feature of the main entrance.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Cowell Memorial Hospital
Alameda County, California

Section number 7 Page 2

On the east side of the building, two projecting ells -- one the eastern extension of the 1930 structure with the 1954 addition, the other the extension of the 1960 north wing -- are a marked contrast to the predominantly horizontal aspect of the west facade. A balustraded faux balcony overhangs the entrance of the north wing ell. Capping all of the building's elements are red tile roofs like those on Howard's Beaux-Arts buildings for this campus, where the landscape and climate are reminiscent of Mediterranean antiquity.

Rustication around the lower floors and rows of two-over-two double-hung windows around the entire facade contribute to a sense of both horizontal mass and architectural unity. Providing contrast in the 1930 south wing are vertical panels of rustication with single small windows that alternate with pairs of larger windows in the non-rusticated sections. Projecting from these panels on the west at the above-ground main floor level are balconies onto which open screened French doors. Each pair of doors is surmounted by a transom.¹ These balconies, which are ornamented with smooth, unadorned corbels, and the recessed windows of the stories above create interesting plays of light and shadow on the building as the sun moves from behind the Berkeley Hills and over San Francisco Bay to descend behind the Golden Gate. In the spirit of much of the architectural design of the time, such detailing was omitted in the 1960 north wing. However, the greater austerity of this wing's design does not detract from its compatibility with the older sections of the building.

Except for the *sequoiadendron giganteum* (giant sequoia) at the southwest corner of the property, which existed even before the 1930 construction of Cowell Hospital, the flora around the structure has been modified over the years. In the 1960s and still today a semi-circle of ivy spreads out from the front steps leading up from College Avenue and into what was all lawn originally. A eucalyptus at the south of the main steps in the 1960s has been removed, and smaller spring-flowering fruit trees along with olive trees, native oaks, pine, spruce, and fir now punctuate the lawn and ivy. Within this setting, the building retains the noble character it has projected with each aspect of its evolution and continues to make a major contribution to the campus as it did in the years 1962 to 1974.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetCowell Memorial Hospital
Alameda County, CaliforniaSection number 7 Page 3

Leading up from the parking area created with the closing off of College Avenue in 1964, a graceful three-pronged set of concrete steps rises to join the path that curves to the left and right in front of the hospital and to meet the wide brick steps at the foot of the entry bay. A bronze plaque announces "The Ernest V. Cowell Memorial Hospital Erected In 1930." A similar plaque, reading "S. H. Cowell Foundation Wing To Cowell Hospital 1960," greets the visitor at the north wing entrance. The arched vault leading up to the main entry doors is flanked by a pair of Florentine Renaissance-style lamps (Figure 4).² A cast stone caduceus ornaments the keystone of the arch (Figure 4). Red brick steps with brass railings continue up the recessed groined vault to doors of golden oak and glass. "Cowell Memorial Hospital" is inscribed in large gilt lettering on the semicircular transom over the doors. Doors with massive oak panels of varying design are a feature of many of John Galen Howard's Beaux-Arts campus buildings: Hearst Memorial Mining Building (1901-1907), California Hall (1903-1905), Hilgard Hall (1916-1917), and Le Conte Hall (1923), among others.

Cowell Hospital was built to be earthquake-proof. The 1981 Seismic Hazard Survey evaluation of all University buildings gives the structure a high earthquake-safety rating.³ In 1930 it was built to be also fireproof, with sound-proofed ceilings, all features that were unusual for the time. Dr. Robert T. Legge, the hospital's founder, acknowledged architect Arthur Brown Jr.'s skill in assembling all of the plans for the most up-to-date hospital design and facilities, while also making "the exterior of the building beautiful."⁴

On entering, the visitor is aware of Brown's skill as well in achieving the sense of warmth and welcome that was Dr. Legge's intent. "We are trying to make the new infirmary a home rather than an institution," Dr. Legge said of his and Brown's plans.⁵ A domed entrance leads into the lobby. Round arches in the lobby lead to sitting areas and corridors. The arches are flanked by pilasters with unadorned capitals and are surmounted by "keystones" in the form of corbels. In the south wing immediately to the right of the entrance, the waiting room for incoming patients was designed as a bright and

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Cowell Memorial Hospital
Alameda County, California

Section number 7 Page 4

comfortable reception room from which in 1930 one had an unobstructed view of San Francisco Bay. Eugen Neuhaus, California landscape artist and founder in 1927 of the University's Department of Art, painted the large mural over the graceful Louis XV-style mantelpiece. In keeping with Dr. Legge's search for warmth and reassurance, today the lobby, ambulance/acute care entrance, and main-floor corridor walls and woodwork are brightly and handsomely painted in peach, pale yellow, and shades of grey-blue and grey-green

Patient rooms as well were planned with physical and psychological comfort in mind. At the end of the south wing's hall a solarium (Figure 9) with large windows on the east, south, and west makes the most of the building's orientation. It gave patients access to sunlight, ventilation, and a magnificent view of the Bay, day and night. John Hessler, who became a resident of Cowell Hospital in the 1963 and was a pioneer of the disabled rights movement that emanated from there, recalls long hours spent in the solarium's warmth and unforgettable views from his room of the Campanile and Bay that are now blocked.⁶

The two-story Donner Pavilion that was added to the rear of Cowell Hospital in 1954 and the 1960 north wing lack the exterior detailing, interior high ceilings, and ornaments in wood and solid brass of Brown's original structure, but both wings are fully compatible with it. They maintain the architectural integrity of the building and enhance its projection of importance.

Cowell Hospital was sited and designed to be respectful of its immediate environment. In 1930 gracious residences lined stately Piedmont Way (State Landmark No. 986) to the southeast (Figures 6, 7), which Frederick Law Olmsted conceived in 1865 in conjunction with his plan for the College of California. On the west, Cowell emerged from a traditional campus setting, the forested environment of Howard's Men's Faculty Club, Senior Men's Hall, and Women's Faculty Club along Strawberry Creek. The integrity of Cowell Hospital's surroundings has been eroded in recent decades. Galey Road was cut through behind it in 1946 as an extension of Piedmont Way, large trees that graced the facade in 1930 have been removed, and the elegant houses adjacent to the building on Piedmont have been destroyed, defaced, or masked by stylistically

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetCowell Memorial Hospital
Alameda County, CaliforniaSection number 7 Page 5

incompatible campus construction. Notwithstanding these incursions, the hospital today rises grandly from landscaped open space, just as it did in 1930 when the original sections were completed and in the 1960s and 1970s after completion and occupancy of the north wing. Temporary wards that were purchased from the Navy and located behind the hospital after World War II were removed in 1968, serving to increase the sense of open space around the hospital. The University's August 1992 destruction of a neighboring brick house on Piedmont Avenue directly to the southeast has increased still further the impression of Cowell's importance. Approaching the hospital today from Piedmont Avenue, one is made fully aware of Cowell Hospital's dominating presence, proportions, and grandeur that echo John Galen Howard's incomparable campus Beaux-Arts buildings, and one envisions with ease the outlook to the Bay and hills that gave pleasure to occupants of the hospital in the 1960s and 1970s. In airy, landscaped open space at the top of the Berkeley campus, Cowell Memorial Hospital in its entirety is a testament to the vision of the University's early architects. Its siting and imposing presence, and the spare neoclassic details of the entire facade are a legacy of the John Galen Howard tradition and the last manifestation of his Campus Plan.

NOTES

1. Arthur Brown's original drawing for Cowell Hospital, "Elevation on College Avenue" (Figure 1), dated July 28, 1928, although somewhat revised in execution, shows the rustication, windows, and balconies.
2. Brown's drawings for the front entrance lamps, dated March 4, 1930, specify "all iron galvanized" and "plate glass."
3. The University-commissioned Seismic Hazard Survey (1981) of all buildings on every University of California campus confirms that Cowell Hospital has a high safety rating (potential lives lost in an earthquake) and low cost/benefit ratio for upgrading. These figures are especially striking when compared with those for other Berkeley campus buildings erected in the 1960s and 1970s.
4. Legge, 1931
5. Ferrier, 1930
6. Hessler, 1992

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 6Cowell Memorial Hospital
Alameda County, CaliforniaThe Cowell Residence Program

From its opening in 1930, Cowell Memorial Hospital had a reputation for excellence and innovation in student health care and, when needed, care for medical emergencies in the community. So, it was not unnatural that in 1962 the new north wing to Cowell Memorial Hospital (E. Geoffrey Bangs, 1960) should become the campus home of Edward V. Roberts, and soon the setting of the Cowell Residence Program for disabled students at the University of California, Berkeley, and the birthplace of the Independent Living Movement. This is the historic basis that prompted Ed Roberts, catalyst of what came to be called familiarly "the Cowell experiment," to state that "Cowell Hospital was the cradle of the movement."¹

Roberts is a respiratory quadriplegic paralyzed by poliomyelitis at age 14 in the epidemic of the early 1950s. Although forced to spend many hours each day in an iron lung, he finished high school and went on to the College of San Mateo near his home. Roberts and his academic counselor were determined that he should continue his studies after completing the two-year junior college course. His advisor believed that his very good mind and his interest in political science made the University of California at Berkeley the logical choice for continuation. Roberts applied and was accepted.

Because the University had no history of accommodating handicapped students on the campus, there was no way of indicating a handicap on the application form. Roberts's response to the question as to his weight -- 87 lbs. -- was no doubt interpreted as a misprint for 187.² When the admissions officers learned of his condition, they backed off. In spite of Roberts's record of scholastic honors, they were afraid to accept a severely disabled student. There were no resources for the handicapped on campus, and certainly no living quarters. Neither the International House nor the University dormitory rooms were big enough to accommodate his iron lung.

Learning of Roberts's stumbling block with housing, then Dean of Students Arleigh Williams called Dr. Henry B. Bruyn, since 1959 the Director of the Student Health Service and Cowell Hospital and consultant in the design of the north wing. Knowing of Dr. Bruyn's considerable experience with polio victims, Williams told him of Roberts's situation and asked that he meet with Roberts and his family. Dr. Bruyn's reaction to the housing problem was immediate: "Of course, we'll set him

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetCowell Memorial Hospital
Alameda County, CaliforniaSection number 8 Page 7

up at Cowell."³ But, bearing in mind that Roberts would occupy one of the hospital's patient rooms and require nursing assistance, and respecting the University's Student Health Service tradition of providing full medical and hospital care at no charge, he warned Roberts that "it must not cost the students anything for you to live here."⁴ Thus, obtaining the funds to cover an attendant's fees and other needed services became another challenge for Roberts. He applied to the California State Department of Rehabilitation, which balked. Their programs were intended for job retraining, not for helping the disabled with their education. Roberts's initiative, persistence, and luck overcame that hurdle as well. In the fall of 1962, Cowell Hospital opened its doors to the first severely disabled student ever to live on campus. A room in the hospital's new north wing was fitted with Roberts's iron lung and wheelchair; Dr. Bruyn gave the nurses instruction about polio, care of its victims, and pumping up the iron lung; an attendant was engaged; and Ed Roberts began classes on the University of California campus (Figure 12).

Stories of Roberts's residency at Cowell Hospital soon spread in newspaper accounts and by word of mouth, prompting a physical therapist at the Contra Costa County Hospital in Martinez to contact Dr. Bruyn about another quadriplegic, John Hessler. Hessler, a 22-year-old college student injured in a diving accident, had been living at the hospital for six years and commuting by taxi to classes at the local community college. Dr. Bruyn recounts that when he went to visit Hessler, he walked into a room with six beds for disabled patients, one of which was almost hidden by piles of books and a large shortwave radio. The bed was Hessler's, a student of French language and literature. Learning from Dr. Bruyn that he might be accommodated at Cowell Hospital, Hessler was encouraged to apply to Berkeley. He was accepted and in 1963 Ed Roberts was joined in Cowell Hospital's north wing by a second severely disabled student.

As "the Cowell experiment" received publicity around the world, more disabled individuals applied for admission. Dr. Bruyn set a limit of 15 who could live at Cowell and at the same time established conditions for their acceptance: all must agree to be interviewed by Dr. Bruyn, be academically qualified, and understand that they would be subject to the same academic competition and level of achievement as all other students on campus. Ultimately, in an effort to make more of a dormitory home for these disabled residents -- they were after all not hospital patients -- the entire third floor of the north wing was given over to the Cowell Residence Program for its exclusive use.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetCowell Memorial Hospital
Alameda County, CaliforniaSection number 8 Page 8

The success of the Cowell experiment was obvious. It had proven that disabled students could live on campus and succeed academically, and the program continued through 1974. Pressed by the Cowell residents, who had long since determined that the disabled should live outside a hospital setting, no matter how welcoming and accommodating it was, the University ultimately equipped dormitory quarters for the handicapped and in 1975 opened Unit 2 of the University Residence Halls, at College Avenue and Haste Street, to the disabled.

In the meantime, the presence on campus of these severely disabled Cowell Program residents, both men and women, spurred other developments. The Cowell residents needed special access to campus buildings. Although it took three or four years to convince the University to act, with the assistance of such foreseeing administrators as Dr. Bruyn and Arleigh Williams, changes were begun long before other colleges and universities in the country were making provisions for the disabled. Dean Williams appointed first Ed Roberts, then John Hessler as Dean of Students interns, to act as ombudsmen (and not incidentally, advocates) for the disabled on campus. They were instrumental in pushing for the installation of special doors and intercom doorbells that were within the reach of wheelchair occupants, making bathrooms on campus accessible, and the undertaking of other necessary remodeling. From being at first more than reluctant to take responsibility for a disabled person on campus, by the initial precedent-setting provision of living quarters for the disabled in the north wing of Cowell Hospital, the University of California was now demonstrating to institutions of higher learning throughout the United States that the severely disabled could be accommodated on a college campus.

The Disabled Students Program

Residency and access to campus facilities defined the eminently successful "Cowell experiment," but that was only the beginning. As early as 1967 the residents in the Cowell program were thinking about how they could leave the institutionalized hospital setting, how they could get out of Cowell to live in the community. The concept of *independent living* was taking root. Ten percent of the federal education bill passed in the mid-1960s was earmarked for the

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**Cowell Memorial Hospital
Alameda County, CaliforniaSection number 8 Page 9

disabled. Ed Roberts, John Hessler, and "the Rolling Quads," a group of Cowell Program residents whom Hessler organized in 1969, conceived the idea of establishing a physically disabled students program on the Berkeley campus. With the encouragement and advice of Dr. Bruyn, they applied to the Department of Health, Education and Welfare for federal funds. Their proposal was funded and the program was established in 1970 with John Hessler as its first director and Ed Roberts as chairman of the board.

Initially, the Physically Disabled Students Program provided a wheelchair repair shop with peers to do the work rapidly (six weeks for repairs was the norm otherwise), an attendants pool, transportation in the van that the independent-minded John Hessler obtained the needed \$15,000 to buy, and which he drove, and advocacy for rights for the disabled. (Already, in 1969, Cowell Program residents had convinced the Berkeley City Council to be one of the first cities in the country to make curb cuts for wheelchairs in downtown streets.) In the years since, what is now known as the Disabled Students Program (DSP) has grown to offer a wide array of services to 800 clients with virtually every known disability, including non-visible disabilities -- and the number continues to grow by 10% annually. DSP now occupies large headquarters in downtown Berkeley, with a full-time director and staff of 35. Every university in the country and many community colleges have a disabled students program, many of them based on the Berkeley model of self-determination and independent living ⁵

Center for Independent Living (CIL)

The concept of self-help services for disabled students, teaching them to control their own lives, which DSP embodies and which grew out of the Cowell Residence Program, is recognized as the forerunner of the Independent Living Movement. Within a short time of the Physically Disabled Students Program's beginning in 1970, word spread about the services offered, and disabled from all over the world, including large numbers of non-students, began to seek help in their efforts to live independently. Because the University resisted helping non-students and Department of Health, Education and Welfare funds were inadequate to cover all requests, a new thrust for a community-based services organization began to take shape. Working together, Cowell Program residents, PDSP, and disabled from the

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetCowell Memorial Hospital
Alameda County, CaliforniaSection number 8 Page 10

community -- including the blind for the first time -- conceived for Berkeley the Center for Independent Living. Then-University-President Clark Kerr provided advice and support in obtaining the first grant, and in the spring of 1972 CIL was incorporated, with offices in an apartment on Haste Street. Returning to Berkeley after a couple of years teaching at UC Riverside and in East Palo Alto, California at a recently founded college for African Americans, Ed Roberts assumed directorship of CIL, with John Hessler on the board of directors.

CIL's purpose is twofold: to offer to the disabled services not provided by the wider community, and to offer advocacy for changing the way the world perceives the disabled. The organization's philosophy holds that the disabled need not a medical model, but the means of making it possible for them to take care of themselves. Now, 20 years after its founding, with headquarters at 2539 Telegraph Avenue and subsidiary offices in other Berkeley and Oakland locations, the Berkeley Center for Independent Living offers services for virtually every disability, including the blind and the mentally disabled, and adds new services regularly. CIL, an element in a nationwide and international movement, currently numbers more than 400 counterparts of the Berkeley program within the United States and 150 beyond the country's borders.⁶ And, as Arleigh Williams remembered it, "the roots of the CIL...were planted" at Cowell Hospital."⁷

A Political Force

The parallel concepts of self-help, independent living, and rights for the disabled that CIL embodies constitute a political force whose "history begins with the Cowell Hospital Resident Program for disabled students at the University of California in Berkeley."⁵ The political process that grew out of "the Cowell experiment" has led to significant legislation, beginning with passage of the model 1968 California legislation mandating access for the disabled, legal requirements for a disabled students program in every state college and university in California, federal legislation mandating education for children with disabilities and improved benefits for the disabled, and provisions in the federal Vocational Rehabilitation Act of 1973 that any program receiving federal funds be accessible to the handicapped. In 1975 Governor Edmund G. Brown, Jr. appointed Ed Roberts director of the California State Department of Rehabilitation, the first severely

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Cowell Memorial Hospital
Alameda County, California

Section number 8 Page 11

disabled person to hold that post. Roberts returned to Berkeley in 1983 to co-found with Judy Neumann and Joan Leon the World Institute on Disability and to help conceptualize and work for passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act. This most recent and major piece of federal legislation, which President George Bush signed with great fanfare in September 1990, is another step in the Independent Living Movement that had its genesis in the Cowell Residence Program. Ed Roberts credits the Cowell Program with producing a whole generation of new leaders who have changed public policy to such a degree that they may yet succeed in "pulling off the American dream of equality."⁹

The Ernest V. Cowell Memorial Hospital on the University of California campus stands as testimony that the dream may yet be realized. It is a landmark of major importance for the State of California, for the United States, and indeed for the entire world.

Background History of Cowell Memorial Hospital

Although Cowell Hospital does not derive National Register significance for the period preceding 1962, due to loss of integrity, the history of the University of California Student Health Service and construction of Cowell Memorial Hospital are both interesting and relevant to the events that occurred in Cowell during the Period of Significance 1962-1974.

The opening of Cowell Memorial Hospital in 1930 was the culmination of nearly 30 years of innovative, generous, and energetic leadership by Benjamin Ide Wheeler, Phoebe Apperson Hearst, Mary Bennett Ritter, George F. Reinhardt, Ernest V. Cowell, Robert T. Legge, and the Prytanean Society.

During his tenure as President of the University of California from 1899 to 1919, Benjamin Ide Wheeler laid the ground work for this university's emergence as one of America's greatest institutions of higher learning. He believed that the highest quality educational opportunities encompassed consideration for the general well-being of students. "The only thing that is of interest to me in a university is men and women," he said. He also understood the significance of good physical health to intellectual achievement. Wheeler recognized the service that was being rendered to the women students by Dr. Mary Bennett Ritter who in

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 12Cowell Memorial Hospital
Alameda County, California

1894 had been appointed the University's first medical examiner of women, and in 1900 he appointed in turn Dr. George F. Reinhardt (UC, 1897; UC Medical Department in San Francisco, 1900) as medical examiner of men. Supporting the Wheeler/Ritter/Reinhardt team's innovative endeavors to provide for the health, hygiene, and welfare of students was Phoebe Apperson Hearst, the University's great philanthropist whose aspirations and interest in the welfare of students coincided with Wheeler's.

To these leaders, the need for a student hospital was becoming ever more apparent. Dr. Reinhardt, whom President Wheeler appointed to the additional post of university physician in 1903, wanted to establish an infirmary that would not only "patch up" students who were ill but would serve the additional function of teaching prevention and early attention to illness.¹⁰ Support for a student hospital was also forthcoming from Prytanean, an honor and service society for University women, "the first organization of its kind in the nation."¹¹ Formed in 1900 in the home of Dr. Ritter and with her guidance, the Prytaneans were ready in 1901 for Dr. Reinhardt's call for the establishment of a student hospital. President Wheeler had encouraged them to assume as their first purpose the raising of funds for an infirmary. In 1905 the Prytanean Society presented a gift of \$2,400 to the University toward that purpose. Early members of the Prytanean Society have remembered this activity as the beginning of Cowell Hospital.¹²

Dr. Reinhardt was not only an ally and an advocate for the proposition that a university hospital would be an important asset to student achievement; he also advocated an innovative method to support such a hospital. He and President Wheeler envisioned a student health care system in which treatment would be free, supported by a flat hospital fee charged to all students. All students would receive medical treatment equally and physicians would be salaried.

In March of 1906, in his annual address on the condition of the University, President Wheeler formally expressed the need for an infirmary and dispensary to be maintained by an annual student hospital fee.¹³ He later called the 26-bed student infirmary that opened on the campus in January 1907 "the University's most original contribution to university life in America."¹⁴

The health care system inaugurated in 1907 with the opening of the new

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetCowell Memorial Hospital
Alameda County, CaliforniaSection number 8 Page 13

infirmary was without precedent among academic institutions in the United States.¹⁵ The earliest prepaid comprehensive student health program in America, it served as a model for similar programs established later at the University of Michigan and the University of Wisconsin, and it became, in President Wheeler's words, a fundamental part of the life and character of the University of California. On the occasion of a visit not many years after the Infirmary opened, Dr. Richard Cabot, a prominent Harvard Medical College heart specialist and social reformer of the time, extolled the University of California infirmary system as his own dream come true: a pioneering step toward the universal health care that he saw as necessary for the entire country.

In 1912 the Regents resolved that an addition to the infirmary was necessary. Ernest Victor Cowell, an 1880 graduate of the University, had made the planning of a great student hospital possible. Son of California pioneer and industrialist Henry Cowell, Ernest Cowell on his death in 1911 left major bequests to the University. Like others in his family, he placed high value on human welfare. His will stipulated that three quarters of a million dollars be given for health and physical culture, of which one third was intended specifically for a student hospital.

Design of Cowell Hospital

In the years between the Cowell bequest and the opening of the hospital that bears his name, serious planning for the new Infirmary was carried out by Dr. Robert T. Legge, successor to Dr. Reinhardt and also a graduate of the University of California Medical Department (1899). To his responsibilities as university physician Dr. Legge brought his experience in occupational health care and hospital development. For 15 years he researched and planned a new hospital for the University, ultimately collaborating with the eminent Beaux-Arts architect Arthur Brown, Jr. Brown's broad experience and unquestioned talent¹⁶ made him the logical choice to design Cowell Hospital, which was to be sited within the context of John Galen Howard's grand Campus Plan (State Landmark No. 945). Indeed, Brown succeeded to the post of campus supervising architect (1938-1948) that had first been held by John Galen Howard.

Working together, Dr. Legge and Brown incorporated under one roof all of the elements necessary for a superbly functioning health care facility: fire- and

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetCowell Memorial Hospital
Alameda County, CaliforniaSection number 8 Page 11

earthquake-proof construction, ¹⁷ out-patient dispensary, laboratories, hospital, pharmacy, and -- advanced for the 1930s -- built-in radio and telephone jacks. Dr. Legge even anticipated the advent of television to the sick rooms. The hospital was characterized as being the "newest creations of hospital construction and design,"¹⁸ and by every measure fulfilled the dream held by the University's early great leaders of giving their students a complete and comprehensive health care system. From his determination that a hospital inspire both confidence and reassurance in the sick, Dr. Legge made sure that the entrance and lobby of Cowell Hospital be imposing and attractive. Views (Figure 10), sunlight and air, bright colors, pictures, and flowers would provide an aesthetically stimulating environment, offer warmth and welcome, and allow the hospital to get "away from institutionalism." ¹⁹

Excellence and Innovation

Commenting on Cowell Hospital in 1935, the prominent physician Dr. William T. Foster characterized it as the best university hospital in the nation and offered the opinion that not 10% of Americans had care equal to that provided to University of California students. ²⁰ Over the years, as new services were added, prestigious physicians and surgeons known in both their specialties and general practice joined the medical staff. The hospital had gained an international reputation and appointments to service at Cowell Hospital were considered professional plums.

Over the years, right up to the early 1970s, Cowell continued to be the setting of many innovations in medicine both for the students and the wider the community as well. At the University's Radiation Laboratory and highly respected Donner Medical Physics Laboratory (Arthur Brown, Jr., 1942), a team of scientists under the direction of Dr. John H. Lawrence experimented with treatments for polycythemia, leukemia, and problems of the human metabolism using radioisotopes and radiophosphorus. Cowell Hospital provided the facilities for patients being treated with these radically new procedures. In recognition of the hospital's essential relation to this work, the Donner Foundation donated funds to add the 1954 two-story Donner Pavilion (Weihe, Frick & Kruse) to the hospital's original eastern extension.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetCowell Memorial Hospital
Alameda County, CaliforniaSection number 8 Page 15

As Cowell Hospital's reputation grew and use of its facilities increased, a major addition became imperative. In 1956, the S. H. Cowell Foundation granted \$1.5 million to the University to build a new wing.²¹ The north wing, which opened in 1960, provided emergency facilities adjacent to the ambulance entrance and increased bed capacity, making it possible eventually to replace the wooden hospital wards purchased from the Navy at the end of World War II and installed to the east of the hospital. It was this new north wing that was destined to make history.

The hospital that opened in 1930 was constructed precisely to carry out the early University leaders' ideals of comprehensiveness, quality, and equality in the health and medical care provided for the campus's students. The health care system and the hospital itself were seen as models for the rest of the country. When it opened its north wing as residence for the severely disabled, the hospital forged a new element in the University's tradition of setting precedents that the rest of the nation would follow.

As the cradle of events that have left their mark on history -- locally, in the state, in the nation, and internationally -- Cowell Memorial Hospital is a true landmark whose significance is unarguable.

NOTES

1. Roberts, Ed, 1991
2. Roberts, Zona, 1991
3. Bruyn, 1991
4. Roberts, Zona, *op. cit.*
5. Roberts, Ed, *op. cit.*
6. *Ibid.*
7. Williams, Arleigh and Betty Neely, 1987
8. Aguilar, et al., 1992
9. Roberts, Ed, *op. cit.*
10. That function, unusual for the time, remained over the years one of the stated purposes of the University of California Student Health Service.
11. The Prytaneans, 1970

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Cowell Memorial Hospital
Alameda County, California

Section number 8 Page 16

12. In the oral history taken of early 20th-century Prytaneans, one member recalls that "Cowell is obviously something we can look at now and say Prytanean began this, and this is something which is obviously now very much a part of the University."

13. University Chronicle, Vol. 8, No. 2, March 1906

14. California Alumni Weekly, September 10, 1913

15. University Chronicle, Vol. 16, No. 3, July 1914

16. To all of his designs Brown brought an eclectic aesthetic that grew out of his years of formal training at the Ecole des Beaux-Arts in Paris (1898-1903) and his informal tutelage by Bernard Maybeck, professor of architecture at the University of California. Now considered a major exponent of the Beaux-Arts tradition in the San Francisco Bay Area, Brown produced, in the opinion of Professor Richard Guy Wilson and Allan Temko, "monuments of orthodox classicism" whose architecture is "masterfully controlled." His ability also to blend classicism with stylistic variation and aspects of a client's locale and era is evident in his work with the firm Bakewell and Brown, where he is considered to have been the superior designer: Berkeley City Hall, 1908 (National Register, 1981); City of Paris Department Store, San Francisco, 1909 (State Landmark; National Register, 1975); Santa Fe Railway Station, San Diego, 1914-1915 (National Register, 1972); Pacific Gas and Electric Headquarters, San Francisco, 1922-1925 (National Register, 1986); San Francisco City Hall (1915), which is considered a monument of Beaux-Arts style and the centerpiece of the Civic Center Historic District (National Register, 1978) for whose planning John Galen Howard had been largely responsible. Independent of the firm after 1927, Brown went on to complete the San Francisco Civic Center complex, designing the War Memorial Opera House and Veterans' Building (1931-1932), twin structures that face and complement City Hall, and the Federal Office Building, 1932-1936 (determined eligible for the National Register in 1978). Brown's 1935 Department of Labor and Interstate Commerce Commission in Washington, D.C. are considered the most distinguished buildings of the Federal Triangle complex. Interestingly, architecture critic Paul Goldberger, writing in the February 11, 1990 New York Times, noted the requirement that all designs in the competition for completion of the Federal Triangle "be in the classical spirit."

All of the buildings constructed while Brown was supervising architect of the Berkeley campus show his sensitivity to site, scale, style, and tradition. Optometry, now Minor Hall, 1941; Administration Building, now Sproul Hall, 1941; Donner Medical Physics Laboratory, 1942; and the Library Annex Bancroft Library, 1949, as well as Cowell Hospital, are evidence of his respect for John Galen Howard's Campus Plan and harmonize stylistically with Howard's core of major buildings. In the opinion of William Wurster, dean of architecture who organized the University's College of Environmental Design, Brown "was a great Beaux-Arts advocate who should have

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetCowell Memorial Hospital
Alameda County, CaliforniaSection number 8 Page 17

succeeded Mr. Howard instead of Kelham if architectural philosophy had been the criteria." It is interesting to note, also, that the University Archives reference index to campus architectural plans singles out as "well-known architects" of University buildings only two names: John Galen Howard and Arthur Brown, Jr.

Always uncompromising in his vision and standards, in 1957, the year he died, Brown expressed his opposition to the plan for expanding the U. S. Capitol east front, fearing that the alteration would destroy the "dome's beautiful relationship to the front." In the opinion of most critics, his prediction was accurate.

17. Degenkolb, 1981

18. California Monthly, May 1964

19. Legge, 1931

20. The Daily Californian, November 15, 1935

21. Samuel H. Cowell, younger brother of the hospital's benefactor and last surviving member of the Cowell family, had died in 1955. The grant to the University was one of the first made by the charitable foundation established with the proceeds of his estate.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Cowell Memorial Hospital
Alameda County, California

Section number 9 Page 18

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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 19

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Alameda County, California

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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Cowell Memorial Hospital
Alameda County, California

Section number 9 Page 20

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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Cowell Memorial Hospital
Alameda County, California

Section number 9 Page 21

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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Cowell Memorial Hospital
Alameda County, California

Section number 9 Page 22

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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Cowell Memorial Hospital
Alameda County, California

Section number PHOTOGRAPHS
& MAPS Page 23

All photographs and maps include or are in reference to the Ernest V. Cowell Memorial Hospital, University of California, Berkeley, California.

The photographers are unknown.

Figures 1-11 were submitted with the original Ernest V. Cowell Memorial Hospital National Register application, July 10, 1990. The additional figure, * 12, accompanies this application.

| Figure # | Item # |
|----------|--|
| 1 | 4: July 28, 1928 5: original negative, courtesy, The Bancroft Library 6: New infirmary building (Cowell Hospital) "elevation on College Avenue," looking east |
| 2 | 4: circa 196_ 5: original negative, courtesy, The Bancroft Library 6: "Cowell Memorial Hospital, view of west facade after addition of north wing"; camera directed east 7: sketch map #2 |
| 3 | 4: 1990 5: N/A 6: southeast section of University of California, Berkeley, campus, showing Cowell Hospital, Greek Theatre, Memorial Stadium |
| 4 | 4: circa 1930 5: original negative, N/A; courtesy, Library, University of California, San Francisco 6: entrance to Cowell Memorial Hospital; camera directed east 7: sketch map #4 |

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Cowell Memorial Hospital
Alameda County, California

PHOTOGRAPHS
Section number & maps Page 24

- 5 4: circa 1932
 5: original negative, courtesy, The Bancroft
 Library
 6: "Cowell Memorial Hospital c 1932; view of
 the west facade; postcard view"; camera
 directed east
- 6 4: 1928
 5: original negative, N/A
 6: Sanborn Maps, Volume I, Berkeley,
 California, showing north end of Piedmont
 Avenue and houses facing onto the avenue
 7: sketch map #6
- 7 4: 1929
 5: original negative, N/A
 6: Sanborn Maps, Volume I, Berkeley,
 California, showing prospective Cowell
 Memorial Hospital and its Piedmont Way environs
 7: sketch map #7
- 8 4: 1931
 5: original negative, courtesy, The Bancroft
 Library
 6: map of the University of California,
 Berkeley, showing Cowell Hospital and
 Piedmont Way
- 9 4: circa 1931
 5: original negative, courtesy, The Bancroft
 Library
 6: interior of Cowell Hospital, south wing
 solarium; camera directed west
 7: sketch map #9

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

PHOTOGRAPHS

Cowell Memorial Hospital
Alameda County, California

Section number & MAPS Page 25

- 10
- 4: 1922
 - 5: original negative, courtesy, The Bancroft Library
 - 6: John Galen Howard, Architect, sketch for Women's Faculty Club, showing Infirmary, its outbuildings, and "New Location of Infirmary Annex
- 11
- 4: circa 1935
 - 5: original negative, courtesy, The Bancroft Library
 - 6: panorama of University of California, Berkeley, campus, San Francisco Bay, and the Golden Gate from the Berkeley Hills behind Cowell Hospital, shown in lower left; camera directed west
- 12
- 4: 1962
 - 5: original negative, N/A
 - 6: Ed Roberts, at home in his Cowell Memorial Hospital room

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Cowell Memorial Hospital
Alameda County, California

Section number 10 Page 26

proceed 222 feet to College Avenue, through the ivy that separates Cowell Hospital from neighboring Girton Hall and across the path. Turn south and proceed 135 feet back to the College Avenue steps.



Ed Roberts, 23, a polio victim, is shown studying in his Cowell Hospital bed for his classes at the University of California. He turns pages of his books with a wand held between his teeth.

Helpless Cripple Attends UC Classes Here in Wheelchair

There are more than 25,000 students on the University of California campus here, but only one like Ed Roberts, 23, of Burlingame.

In fact his case is so unusual that University officials tentatively describe his attendance as "experimental" and have announced that only one such individual will be accepted at this time.

Ed, who was stricken with bulbar polio at the age of 14, sleeps in an iron lung in his second floor room at Cowell Memorial Hospital on campus. He goes to class in a wheelchair. Unable to move any part of his body but his head, he must depend upon others to bathe, feed, dress and care for him. Even his class notes must be taken by an assistant.

It is believed this is the first time in the 25-year history of the National Foundation - March of Dimes that a polio victim so severely involved has uprooted himself to this extent. The move meant that an iron lung had to be transferred to Cowell Hospital from Fairmont Hospital to supplement the lung kept at Ed's home in Burlingame for use during school vacations. It meant special training for the staff at Cowell. It meant hiring two attendants, Chuck Taylor, who has the day shift and takes him to class, and Charles Buff, who works evenings, gives Ed his tub bath and puts him in the iron lung, where the polio victim spends 12 to 14 hours each night.

All costs involved in Ed's attendance at UC are borne by his family or outside agencies such as the Vocational Rehabilitation Serv-

ice, which is underwriting the cost liberal arts course in three years of tuition, books, and supplies; with a grade point average of better than 3.2. He is majoring in National Foundation, the iron lung, and the Burlingame Rotary political science at UC, hoping to receive his degree in three years. cost of attendants.

Later? Maybe law school.

Ed already has proven his ability to cope with college by attending the iron lung during the day by the College of San Mateo, frog breathing, a method of gulping air.

The Berkeley Weekly Gazette, Dec. 5, 1962

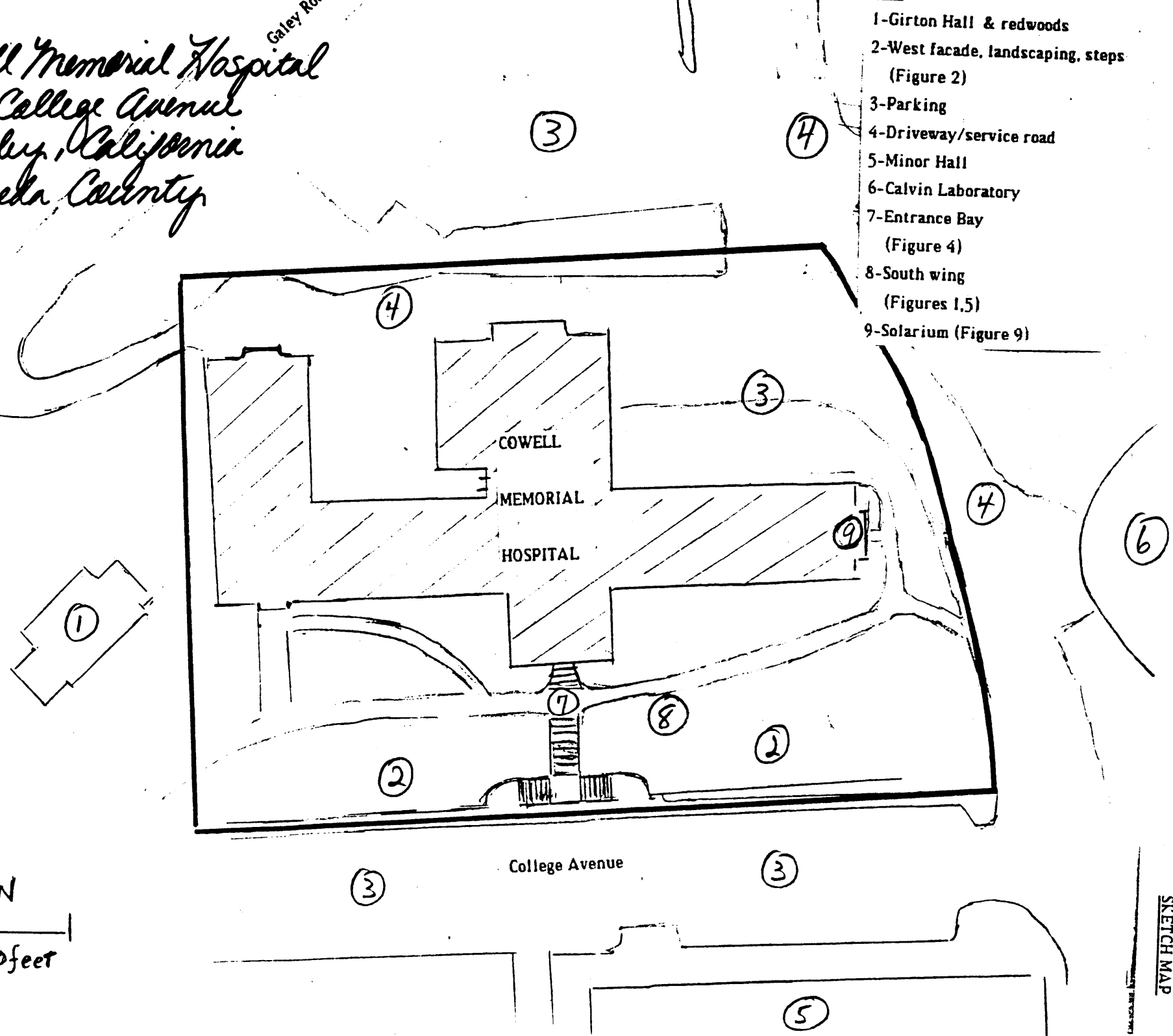
Figure 12

Figure 12

Cowell Memorial Hospital
 2215 College Avenue
 Berkeley, California
 Alameda County

Galey Rd.

- 1-Girton Hall & redwoods
- 2-West facade, landscaping, steps (Figure 2)
- 3-Parking
- 4-Driveway/service road
- 5-Minor Hall
- 6-Calvin Laboratory
- 7-Entrance Bay (Figure 4)
- 8-South wing (Figures 1,5)
- 9-Solarium (Figure 9)



SKETCH MAP

