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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

FEB 13 1989

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

NATIONAL
REGISTER

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 Bowles Hall
other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number Stadium and Gayley Way not for publication
city, town Berkeley vicinity
state California code 006 county Alameda code 001 zip code 94720

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> buildings
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> objects
		<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 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Kathryn Maltzen 3/9/89
Signature of certifying official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau _____

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau _____

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register.
 See continuation sheet.

determined eligible for the National Register. See continuation sheet.

determined not eligible for the National Register.

removed from the National Register.

other, (explain:) _____

Albous Byers 3/16/89
Entered in the National Register Date of Action

Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)
Education/Education-related housing

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)
Education/Education-related housing

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(enter categories from instructions)

Collegiate Gothic

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation reinforced concrete
walls hollow clay brick, sheetrock
roof terra cotta tile
other _____

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

Bowles Hall was built in 1928 in the Collegiate Gothic style to reflect the architectural traditions of the great English universities. As it was built of high-quality reinforced concrete and concrete block, and its form has served its function well, there have been only a few minor interior and exterior changes over the past 60 years. Harmonizing with the natural landscape and contours of the Berkeley hills, it is nestled against the steep slope of Charter Hill up which it climbs. The multi-faced building gives each resident a view of either the bay or the sweep of the hills, while also allowing an external viewer from any direction to admire the pattern of windows, bays, dormers, and gables. Bowles is compact and well-integrated, without out-buildings, thereby projecting the vision of a picturesque English manor.

Bowles Hall is an eight story U-shaped building that rises in tiers, with the main body of the building being flanked by two interlocking wings. The front of the north wing includes the first through fifth floors. The rest of the wing steps up to include only the third, fourth, fifth, and a small portion of the sixth floor as it joins the main building at the point of the tower. The front of the shorter south wing includes the third through sixth floors, stepping up to include the seventh floor under a connecting gable as it joins the main building. Due to the slope of the hill, only one floor extends through the entire building. The main central-wing floor, which floats between the third and the fourth floors, has a large lounge containing a fireplace, the Hart Library which also contains a fireplace, a dining hall, and a large kitchen. The eighth floor is made up of the fan room and a large attic. Double-loaded corridors run through the building on each floor, while

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)
architecture
community planning and development
education

Period of Significance
1928-1929

Significant Dates
Jan. 26, 1929

Cultural Affiliation
N/A

Significant Person
N/A

Architect/Builder
Kelham, George, Architect

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

Bowles Hall, an all-male residence hall, opened on January 26, 1929 as the first public university-owned dormitory in California. Mary McNear Bowles donated Bowles Hall to the University of California in memory of her late husband, Philip Ernest Bowles, who graduated from the University as class president in 1882 and served the University as a regent from 1911-1923. The University's early educational leaders had sought to create a culturally and educationally healthy environment, of which residence halls were to be an important facet. Bowles Hall was the realization of these ideals which was to serve as a model for future residence halls. As such, George Kelham, University Supervising Architect from 1927-1932, designed Bowles Hall to the high architectural standards appropriate for the first residence hall. Furthermore, the hall continued John Galen Howard's (university Supervising Architect 1901-1924) grand campus plan for the "Athens of the West." Accordingly, Bowles was sited to accomodate the ridges of the Berkeley Hills. Today Bowles Hall stands as a singular manifestation of the motto "education through fellowship" given to Bowles at the time of its dedication.

Prior to 1928, the University Regents relegated the task of providing student housing on both the Berkeley and the Los Angeles (U.C.L.A.) campuses almost entirely to the private sector or to the students. Some of the students formed house clubs. At the peak of their existence, there were 50 fraternities and twenty-four sororities. In 1874, eight small

9. Major Bibliographical References

Brechin, Gray Allen, "Bowles Hall", Historic Resources Inventory, California Parks & Recreation, September, 1977

Kelham George, "The University of California", The Architect Volume XIV Number 2, San Fransisco, August, 1917

Campbell, William Wallace, Dedication Speech, Berkeley Gazette, Berkeley, January 26, 1929. Copy to be found in Bowles Hall Hart Library.

Heilbron, Louis, Dedication Speech, copy to be found in Bowles Hall Scrapbook in the Hart Library at Bowles Hall

Dowrick, Kathleen, "Bowles Hall", California Engineer, March, 1928

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-Bancroft Library
Bowles Hall - Hart Library

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of property 1

UTM References

A 1,0 56,58,0,0 4,19,18,0,0
Zone Easting Northing

C _____

122° 15' 8" W, 37° 52' 23" N

B _____
Zone Easting Northing

D _____

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

Beginning at the wall at the bottom of the front steps at the corner near the sprinkler head. Follow south along the wall 187' to the south edge of the wall. The wall turns east. Follow wall 8' till it ends.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes the building, the lawn, the back patio, and the foliage along the west edge of the building. It also includes the parking lot which has historically been associated with the building. It excludes the hillsides and basketball court See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Kenneth Landau
organization Bowles Hall Association date September 11, 1988
street & number Stadium and Gayley Way telephone (415) 643-2514
city or town Berkeley state CA zip code 94720

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five stairways and an elevator connect the floors and various levels.

As Bowles Hall was sited to conform to the hill, the U-shaped building creates a central courtyard with a midway retaining wall above a sloping terraced lawn. A flight of stairs leading from the retaining wall at Stadium Way curves gracefully from below the north wing to the central main entrance. The stairs are formally enhanced by Italian Cyprusses. The courtyard features a flagstone walkway which leads to an entry arcade. Over the gothic entry arch, the words "Bowles Hall '28" are inscribed. They have been moulded in concrete bas-relief along with decorative scroll work which frames the arch and double doorway. To the north and east of the building, a steeply-graded parking lot was added in 1930. Behind the building, a narrow red-brick patio with a red-brick barbeque has been laid before a sharp ascent of Charter Hill. Towering Eucalyptus trees separating Bowles from the Greek Theater blend to create a magnificent harmony between Bowles and the natural surroundings.

Bowles Hall is highlighted by the use of texture and the arrangement of its exterior features. The reinforced concrete walls are natural in color with visible impressions of the wood forms used for pouring. The front facade is divided into five bays introduced by gothic arches along an open arcade with two half bays in the inner corners. Three of these bays project out from the main roof and are capped by cross gables with moulded cornices. The other bays are capped by shed-roofed dormers. The many windows are industrial sash and accentuated by poured concrete mouldings. A prominent oriel window occupies two floors of the central bay directly above the main entrance. Four other oriel windows occupy the north wing, and one oriel window occupies the south wing. Windows are grouped and repeated in sets of two, then four, then two again across the front facade, notably reflecting the inner living space. Around the north and south wings and in the back they are set again in relationship to the configuration of the inner rooms with cross gables and shed-roofed dormers. The end section of each wing steps down a half

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floor, breaking the roof line, finishing with moulded cornices at the ends. The placement of a square crenelated turret, 'the tower', at the intersection of the north and central wings gives the structure a subtle but magical touch as it contrasts with the high-gabled roof over the central wing. There are four chimneys to add to the architectural charm, two of which are decorative. Finally, atop the tower there is a flagpole added by Mrs. Bowles in 1930.

The configuration of the living quarters is unique in that it varies from floor to floor. There are forty-six suites of two bedrooms and a study, eleven single rooms, and two suites with one bedroom and a study. The hardwood doors and window sills, baseboards, picture moulding door frames, and mullioned windows give each room a traditional charm. While the number of residents rose from 104 to 204 after World War II, the room configuration remains the same, seemingly quite ample.

The interior of Bowles Hall is designed to be as intimate and as homelike as possible, offering gracious common areas for group living. The outside entry arcade, framed by the five gothic arches, has a red brick floor and a ceiling with decorative open beams. Light fixtures having a green patina, suggesting brass, are set in the beams and over the two side doors which are at each end of the arcade leading to each wing. Two sets of three windows on each side of the entry, looking directly into the lounge and the dining hall, make the arcade more inviting. The high-ceiling hallway inside the gothic-shaped entry doors is panelled with darkly stained oak and veneered inserts and has a floor of glazed terra cotta tile. A small chandelier hangs from the open-beamed ceiling. An oak staircase with a carved oak balustrade tracing the line of the gothic arch, leads from the hallway, as do four doorways leading to the lounge, dining hall, Hart Library, and house-manager's office.

The lounge has virtually remained as it was when Mrs. Bowles saw to its arrangement in 1929. It is divided into three unequal bays that are

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structurally related. Decorative oak leaf and acorn moulding span the ceiling beams at these divisions. Stylized pillasters separate the bays which are pannelled with dark stained oak and veneer inserts. Two chandeliers give central light to the room. Four sets of windows, two facing the arcade, and two facing the patio behind, break up the panelling, providing natural light and expansive views. One of the sets has a door opening onto the patio. A large fireplace made of marble with a copper hood is centrally located along the southern wall. The fireplace opening is arched, echoing the shape of the arcade openings and the entry doors. Plaques commemorating many Bowlesmen accomplishments mount the walls. A large cabinet displaying athletic trophies stands in the corner of the lounge. Adorning the room is a large portrait of Philip Ernest Bowles painted by R.L. Partington in 1924.

When Bowles Hall opened, full table service was used in the dining hall. Since that time, the kitchen has been redesigned for cafeteria-style service, thus affecting the dining room as well. At the north end where there were two pannelled swinging doors once separating the kitchen area from the eating area, there is no longer a wall, thereby opening up a clear view into the kitchen so that the kitchen can be easily accessed by the diners. While the updated kitchen has some new tile and appliances, much of the original tile and windows are still intact and in good condition. Concrete beams divide the dining room into three bays that are structurally related. Three wrought iron chandeliers hang centrally in each bay. A set of oars and a commemorative plaque from a 1948 Olympic victory by two Bowlesmen have been hung over the first of the beams. Again, there are sets of windows providing natural light from the arcade and the back patio. However, one section of windows along the back wall has been replaced with concrete for reinforcing. The original china service and table furniture selected by Mrs. Bowles has since been replaced.

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In addition, the Hart Library, the attic, and the dungeon deserve special description. The library was donated by Dr. James Hart and his sister, Mrs. Joseph Brensten, in 1938 in memory of their parents, Helen and Julien Hart, relatives of the Bowles family. The library is different in appearance from the rest of the hall in that it is more simplified with light colored hardwood bookcases from floor to ceiling. Its windows overlook the patio. The attic holds great importance to past and present Bowlesmen. A long standing tradition that graduating Bowlesmen sign their name on its wall remains as a testament to the fraternal bond between the first residents and today's Bowlesmen. The dungeon lies at the end of the third floor on the southern wing. It serves as a game room and television room for the residents.

While the changes to Bowles Hall over the years have been minimal, the few changes that have occurred, as well as the repairs which may be needed in the future, should be noted. In 1938, the Hart Library was added. In the 1970's, at the time of the kitchen remodelling, the architect, Michael Goodman, supervised several fire and safety alterations. These included replacement of the original double-french glass doors leading into the lounge and dining room, placement of corrugated steel-roofed canopies in front of the courtyard doors and covering the back patio, installation of a four-foot open grill resting on the balustrade spanning across the arcade, reinforcement of the hollow brick interior partition walls, and adoption of a system of containment for the flat-tiled terra cotta roof. According to Mr. Goodman, the foundation reinforcement was perfectly constructed. However, earthquake safety is still speculated to be insufficient. Furthermore, the roof and the containment method for the roof tiles appear to be in great need of repair. There are currently tarps on portions of the roof to help protect the hall from serious recurring leaks. Additionally, the moisture in the restrooms and showers has caused some deterioration. Finally, the entry balustrade and stairs need reinforcing.

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cottages were built on the lower edges of the campus along Strawberry Creek to house about a dozen students each. However, after fifty years without university-owned residence halls, the student housing situation was becoming desperate. Old homes which had been turned into rooming houses and boarding houses were inadequate and progressively less habitable. Furthermore, private capital was difficult to attract into housing that often stood vacant during the summer. As a result, the University recognized its need to provide quality student housing. Consequently, the campus plan, devised in the early 1900's by John Galen Howard, contained provisions for student residence halls.

John Galen Howard's monumental Beaux-Arts plan for the Berkeley campus called for a complex of academic buildings oriented to a central axis facing the Golden Gate (originally proposed by Frederick Law Olmstead, 1865), while also respecting the branches of Strawberry Creek, significant groves of trees, and the presence of the hills. In accordance with the Beaux-Arts tradition which encouraged large-scale ensemble planning, Howard designed buildings of monumental proportions and classic styles. In addition, the design of each building or group of buildings was considered in relationship to its academic discipline or particular activity. For instance, the theme was Greco Roman for Doe Library, Italian Renaissance for Hilgard Hall, French Broque for the humanities building, Wheeler Hall, glorified Tuscan for the Agricultural Group, "vernacular" rustic for the Faculty Clubs, and Gothic for Stephen's Student Union. Kelham, praising Howard's plan, wrote in "The Architect" in 1917, ten years before he designed Bowles Hall:

"Because we have a university built, to express it in the simplest terms, on 'the side of a hill,' and also we have a site differing from all others in its great irregularity and fixed conditions of natural beauty; as perfect a setting, however, for a group of monumental buildings as could be imagined...he (Howard) has transformed and condensed what was a limitless ideal

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into a practical working plan, meeting at each step the requirements of the individual buildings...and while each building has naturally taken a form of its own, he has through it all, kept clearly in mind the final goal - the ensemble."

Howard's plan was almost fully-completed by 1928, but it still lacked the construction of the student residence halls that Howard has envisioned on the hillsides above the campus proper. When the opportunity finally came in the form of Mrs. Bowles bequest of \$350,000 for the University to construct a major residence hall, Kelham had the resources necessary to adapt his architectural skills to Howard's general principles.

George W. Kelham (1871-1936), a Harvard Graduate, was schooled in architecture at the École des Beaux Arts about a decade after John Galen Howard. He began his career with the New York firm of Trowbridge and Livingston before coming to San Francisco in 1906 to supervise the reconstruction of the Palace Hotel. He gained prominence designing some of San Francisco's most impressive post-earthquake buildings, including the Public Library (1917), Standard Oil Building (1921), Bohemian Club (1922), Federal Reserve Bank (1922), and The Russ Building (1927). He served as Chairman of the Architectural Committee of the Panama-Pacific International Exposition (1912-1915). In the early 1930's, before his death, he was Chairman of the Golden Gate International Exposition Architectural Commission. In 1922, he prepared a campus plan for the proposed southern branch of the University of California at Los Angeles (U.C.L.A.), also designing four of its first buildings: the Library, Royce Hall, Chemistry Building, and the Education Building. During his tenure as Supervising Architect of the University of California, Kelham designed ten buildings on the Berkeley Campus.

When the time came for Kelham to design Bowles, the two major aspects of Howard's plan to which he sought to adhere were that the residence hall be placed on the hillside, and that its design be appropriate to its function. University President William Wallace Campbell, former President

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David Prescott Barrows, and Mrs. Bowles convinced Kelham, along with Provost and future President Robert Gordon Sproul, to travel to eastern college campuses to study dormitories of distinction. The predominance of Gothic buildings, especially at Princeton University, appealed to Kelham. Previously, Howard had used the Gothic style in designing Stephens Student Union (1923) on the slopes along Strawberry Creek in central campus. The Gothic style had allowed Howard to place the student Union on the difficult site, as well as suggesting a sense of conviviality appropriate to a student union. Similarly, Kelham used the Gothic style which allowed him the flexibility to master his own challenging site while suggesting traditional values appropriate to a great home. It was no small feat for Kelham to place, on the steep incline of Charter Hill, a residence hall that could accommodate 204 residents as if it were "a home with all the appropriate surroundings." In this way, Bowles is an exceptional building, not only because of its magnificent appearance, but also because of Kelham's exploitation of the Gothic Style in order to mould the building into its surroundings. Following its completion in 1929, The American Institute of Architects awarded Bowles Hall a certificate of honor in recognition of its exceptional merit with reference to its design and execution of work in the fields of architecture and fine arts. Today Bowles Hall displays all of its original features, thereby serving as an indication of the architectural and educational attitudes which prevailed in the early years of the University of California.

In addition to its architectural value, the interior of Bowles Hall contributes directly to the educational and cultural development of its students. The thoughtful and unique layout of the living quarters and the common areas fulfill the long-standing desire of the university's early educators, including Philip E. Bowles, to provide a supportive environment for the social and spiritual development of its students. In tribute to her husband's service toward this end, Mrs. Bowles, at the

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dedication of the building, enunciated some of the ideals to which she hoped this careful planning would allow Bowles to aspire:

"Bowles Hall, the initial dormitory on the campus, should set a standard that it should not be a mere boarding house where men would eat and sleep, but that it should be a home, with home surroundings, and that the men who lived in it would look upon it as such, and would carry with them into the world when they left, the memories of the 'home' life that they enjoyed there during their university career."

Accordingly, the handsome lounge, dining hall, tower, spiral stairway, and living suites encourage fraternization and mutual education. Each 4-man suite consists of a center study room connected to two single siderooms which each house one resident. The center rooms were one of the aspects of Bowles which contributed most to the home-like atmosphere because they dispensed with the notion of a residence hall which consists solely of bedrooms. However, since World War II, these center rooms have been used to house two freshmen, while the siderooms are reserved for upperclassmen. Interestingly, despite the reduced living space, this living arrangement has several benefits, particularly its effectiveness in fostering interaction between freshmen and upperclassmen.

In addition to the room structure, Bowles Hall instituted a system of dormitory self-government which also contributes to its significance as an educational force. By the time Bowles was constructed, student government at the University was well-advanced, having been innovatively promoted under the leadership of University President Benjamin Ide Wheeler (1899-1919) who advocated student government as a means of fostering character development. In this spirit, the Bowles Hall Association was established as the self-governing body for Bowles Hall. The Hall Association has been responsible for planning social events, providing maintenance and improvements, and taking disciplinary action if necessary. In addition, it has provided continued support for

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charitable causes, community welfare and disaster relief. It is through this ongoing passage of leadership that Bowles has developed rites that give the men a sense of belonging. Bowles has also initiated various activities enjoyed by the University community at large, including the "Cal Band Great" display after each home football game, the passing of the "Axe" between Cal and Stanford, and the big spring social Luau. The time-tested system of leadership at Bowles has provided the students with the means to thrive in a group living situation while also teaching a respect for authority and tradition.

After the construction of Bowles, the University continued to lack the public funds to build more student residences. Two more halls were provided as private gifts to the University. John D. Rockefeller donated the International House (George Kelham, 1932), and Mrs. Sigmund Stern donated Stern Hall (1942). Following these private donations, the University felt the immediate impact of World War II. Enrollment jumped from 11,000 in 1944 to 25,000 in 1946. In response to this overcrowding on campus, the University built its first publically-funded residence halls - large impersonal housing units, several of which are appropriately called Unit 1, Unit 2, and Unit 3. Recent University efforts are addressing the goal of housing all incoming freshmen as a priority. This emphasis since World War II on financially-efficient bulk housing has resulted in a sacrifice of the thoughtfulness and quality which were invested in Bowles.

In September, 1987, Bowles Hall was visited by the U.C. Berkeley Dean of Student Life, Donald Billingsley. After an informal tour of Bowles by the residents, Billingsley concluded that Bowles is an impressive success in establishing the highest possible quality of student life. Billingsley explained that administrators in Berkeley and at other college campuses have been continuously looking towards the Ivy League schools for model residence halls. Billingsley pointed out that Bowles has all of those features that could be desired in a residence hall, including those which

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are most difficult to attain - those which pertain to student life. As such, Billingsley referred to Bowles as an untapped model for future residence halls that has been hiding 'under our noses' for all of these years. This is an ironic turn of events. Bowles was built to be only the first of many fine residence halls to be designed for the "Athens of the West". Indeed, dormitories have been built, and a major construction program is underway for more dormitories, but Bowles Hall stands singular as a building of architectural significance giving "education through fellowship" on the University of California, Berkeley, campus.

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Pettitt, George A, Berkeley: the Town and Gown of It, Howell-North Books, Berkeley, 1973

Whitney, C. Mason, "The Architectural Development of the University of California" Volume II, College of Architecture, University of Michigan, 1934. Original to be found in Bancroft Library.

Witney, Henry, Biographical Dictionary of American Architects (Deceased), New Age Publishing, Los Angeles, 1956

Partridge, Loren, John Galen Howard and the Berkeley Campus; Beaux-Arts Architecture in the Athens of the West, Berkeley Architectural Heritage Association, Berkeley, 1978

Bender, Dean Richard, Campus Historic Resources Survey, University of California, Berkeley, 1975

Bowles Hall Scrapbooks, kept in the Hart Library at Bowles Hall

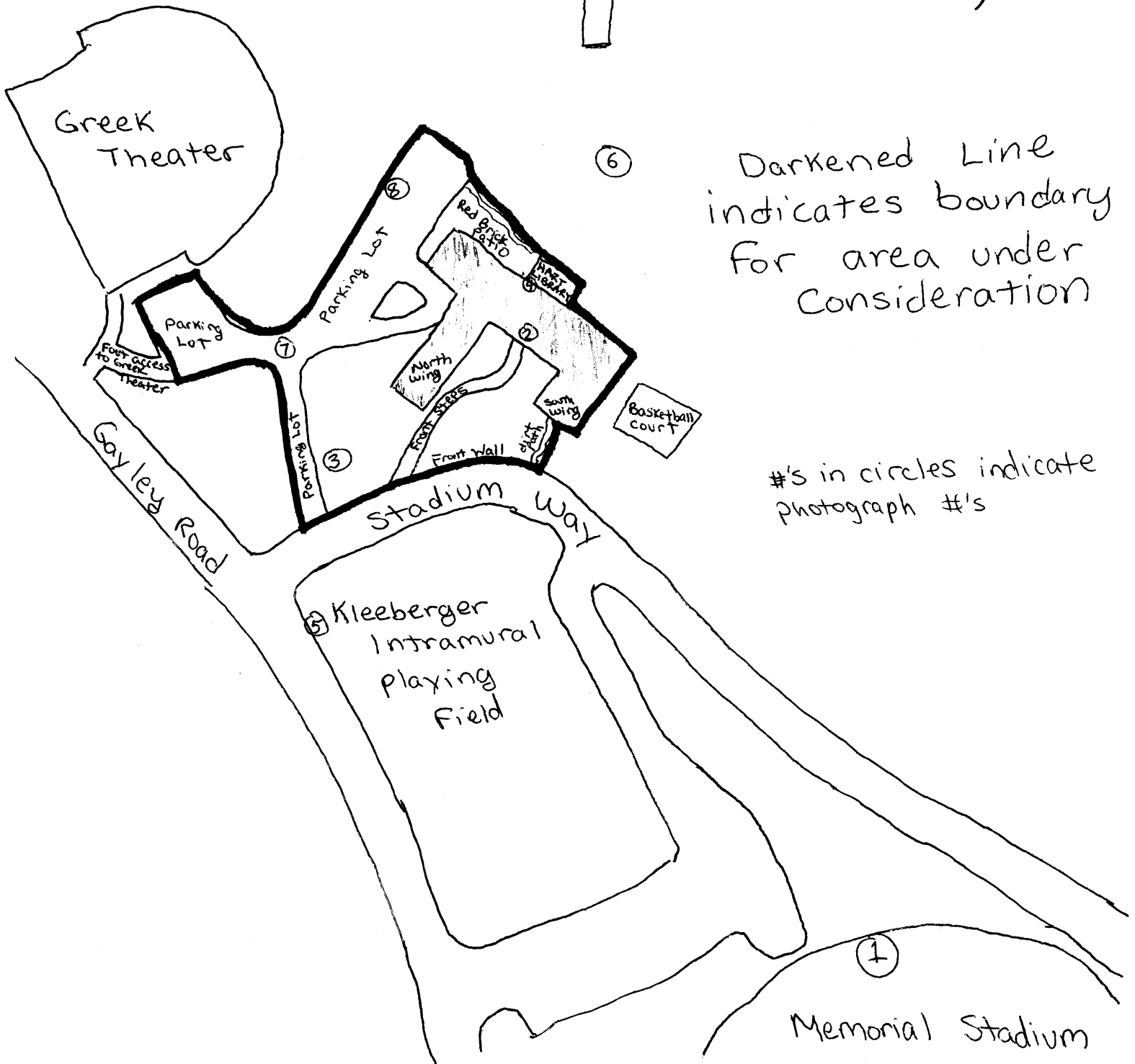
Bowles Hall Picture Collection, kept in the University Archives at the Bancroft Library in Bancroft Hall, U.C. Berkeley campus

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Follow dirt path at the end of the wall 73' to the front edge of the south wing where the gutter drainage pipe is. Follow the edge of the building south 13' to the southwest corner of the building. Follow the edge of the building east 95' to the southeast (right rear) corner of the building, excluding the basketball court, the hillside, and all other exterior items south of the building. Follow the rear edge of the building north 176' to the edge of the back red-brick patio, excluding the hillside and all other exterior items behind the building. Follow the edge of the red bricks 119 feet to the parking lot, including the back patio and red-brick walkway, but excluding the hillside and all other items east of the red brick. Follow the edge of the parking lot 810' to the sidewalk, including the parking lot, but excluding the hillsides. Follow the edge of the parking lot 20' across the driveway entrance. Follow the edge of the sidewalk 96' to the front wall, excluding the sidewalk. Follow the front wall across the front steps 24' to the beginning point, including the steps, but excluding the sidewalk.

Sketch Map

Bowles Hall
Stadium + Gayley Way
Berkeley, CA
Alameda County



Darkened Line indicates boundary for area under consideration

#'s in circles indicate photograph #'s