

PH 0036765

Form 10-300
(Rev. 6-72)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:	California
COUNTY:	Fresno
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY DATE	MAY 1 1974

1. NAME

COMMON: Old Administration Building, Fresno City College

AND/OR HISTORIC: Fresno State Normal School

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: 1101 University Avenue

CITY OR TOWN: Fresno CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: Sixteenth

STATE: California CODE: 06 COUNTY: Fresno CODE: 019

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____ _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: State Center Community College District

STREET AND NUMBER: 924 North Van Ness Avenue

CITY OR TOWN: Fresno STATE: California CODE: 06

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Fresno County Hall of Records

STREET AND NUMBER: 2281 Tulare Street

CITY OR TOWN: Fresno STATE: California CODE: 06

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

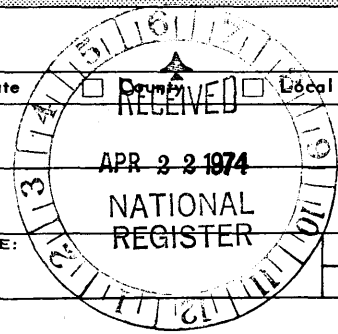
TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY: Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE:



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: COUNTY: ENTRY NUMBER: DATE: FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

 Excellent
 Good
 Fair
 Deteriorated
 Ruins
 Unexposed

(Check One)

 Altered
 Unaltered

(Check One)

 Moved
 Original Site

(Check One)

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

DESCRIPTION

Exterior walls: solid brick with tapestry face brick.

Corridors: walls, floors, and stairways are of concrete.

Interior partitions: metal lath and plaster.

Ceilings: metal lath and plaster.

Typical floors: hardwood on wood framing.

Lobby and foyer floors: quarry tile.

Roof construction: mission clay tile on wood roof construction.
Tile roof in excellent condition.

GENERAL

Exterior: Original physical appearance maintained in original condition and appearance. Tapestry face brick and details are in good condition. All stone work, except for a few minor areas, show no sign of deterioration. Covered arcades in courts are in good condition. A large portion of brick details are covered with ivy and not exposed to visual appreciation. However, brick details surrounding inner courts are not covered. Wood columns with fine wood details are in good condition.

Interior: The old library room on the second floor of the main unit has been subsequently divided by a partition. On one side, carpeting has been installed over the wood floors and steel cubicles have been set up for faculty office use. The skylight on this side has been maintained in its original condition. On the other side of the partition, the original hardwood floors are still exposed. This room is currently being used as a classroom. The skylight on this side has been covered over. Elsewhere in the complex, some of the classrooms and vocational rooms have been modified and adapted for other educational or administrative functions. The lecture halls are in good condition and could be reused again for this purpose. Naturally, all of the rooms have been repainted or revarnished as required for maintenance. However, maintenance has more or less maintained original environment of all the rooms in general.

S E E I N S T R U C T I O N S

5. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian 16th Century 18th Century 20th Century
 15th Century 17th Century 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Old Administration Building on the present Fresno City College campus holds a position of unique historical significance in relationship to the institutions of higher learning in Fresno and in the entire San Joaquin Valley. It is the only surviving complex remaining from the Fresno State Normal School which was the first institution of higher education for the training of teachers in the San Joaquin Valley. Prior to the establishment of the Fresno State Normal School in 1911, there was a serious shortage of trained teachers in this region. Mr. Charles McLane, Superintendent of Schools for Fresno at this time, found it difficult to secure and retain teachers who had graduated from accredited normal schools. The nearest State Normal Schools were at Los Angeles and San Jose with the latter institution supplying 90% of the normal trained teachers to this area. Not only were these two closest normal schools over-crowded, but many of their graduates, after gathering one or two years of experience in Fresno, often returned to teach in their own home communities. Believing that the only practical solution was the establishment of a State Normal School in Fresno, Superintendent McLane appeared before the Fresno County Chamber of Commerce in November, 1908, and successfully urged the start of a campaign to establish just such an institution. Ultimately, a committee composed of some of the leading citizens in the community sought after and secured the passage of legislation in 1911 providing for a Normal School in Fresno. After holding the initial classes at the old Fresno High School campus in 1911 and 1912, the administrators moved classes in 1913 to temporary quarters on what is now the present location of Fresno City College. Construction on the Administration Building followed in the spring of 1915. Containing administrative offices, classrooms, and even a large room for a library on its second floor, the Administration Building complex, at the time of its completion in 1916, offered the first permanent structure on the Fresno State Normal School campus. Moreover, since the building housing the old Junior College was subsequently demolished and its present site now occupied by an automobile agency, the Old Administration Building complex is the only remaining structure symbolizing the founding of facilities of higher education in the San Joaquin Valley. It is also

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Dowler, Lloyd. "A Brief History on the Development of Agriculture at Fresno State College." Manuscript in the possession of Professor Dowler, School of Agriculture, California State University, Fresno.

Hogan, Fred P. "The History Of The Fresno State Teacher's College." Unpublished M.A. thesis, Stanford University, 1929.

McLane, Charles L. "The Growth And Development Of The Fresno State College For The First Twenty-Five Years, 1911-1936. Unpublished (see continuation sheet)

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

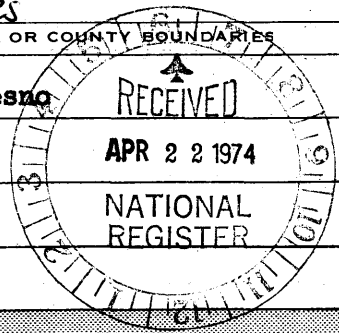
LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES				
CORNER	LATITUDE		LONGITUDE		LATITUDE		LONGITUDE		
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	0			36	46	5	119	47	50
NE	0								
SE	0								
SW	0								

UTM
11/250 310
1072 560
C3

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **6.4 acres**

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
California	06	Fresno	019
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Dr. Ephraim K. Smith, Chairman, Preservations Committee,

ORGANIZATION: **Fresno County Historical Society** DATE: **February, 1974**

STREET AND NUMBER:
7160 West Kearney Blvd.

CITY OR TOWN: **Fresno** STATE: **California** CODE: **06**

12 STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name: *[Signature]*

Title: State Historic Preservation Officer

Date: **MAR 11 1974**

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

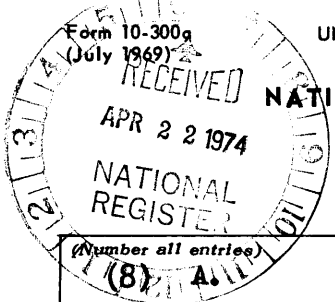
[Signature]
Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 5/1/74

ATTEST:

[Signature]
Keeper of The National Register

Date: 4.30.74



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
COUNTY	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
MAY 1	1974

apparently one of the few buildings in the entire state, still in use on a college campus, which dates back to the pre-1921 Normal School period.

The Old Administration Building, or what was originally the first permanent structure on the Fresno State Normal School campus, also has a unique historical significance in relationship to agriculture. Its establishment fulfilled a need for the training of teachers in agriculture. That such a need existed was recognized by those involved in public education at that time. Mr. J. W. McClymonds, Superintendent of Schools for Oakland, California, responding to a circular letter from McLane outlining his plans for a normal school which would provide agricultural and other industrial training, wrote in early 1909 that the proposed Normal School "ought not to graduate a teacher from it who has not had complete work in manual training, who is not a capable cook and an exceptionally good seamstress, and who does not know something of the practical work of agriculture." (Fresno Morning Republican, January 26, 1909). He was "in favor of this school," McClymonds added, "simply to get a new type of a normal school, because I believe that the only way to change the educational viewpoint is to change the educational viewpoint of the teacher, and certain it is that we must return to more practical things in the training of the children." (Fresno Morning Republican, January 26, 1909). Likewise, President Morris E. Dailey of San Jose State Normal School, referring to the efforts to bring a normal school to Fresno which would "pay special attention to agriculture and the training of teachers in agriculture," stated on February 6, 1909, that there "is need for that kind of a normal school for there is no school now teaching teachers of that kind." (Fresno Morning Republican, February 7, 1909).

Thus, when Fresno State Normal School was established two years later, it was apparently the first Normal School in California, and possibly the first Normal School in the west, to offer agricultural training for teachers. In the legislative act of April 10, 1911, which provided for the establishment of a State Normal School in Fresno, it was specified that the course of study was to include agriculture and manual training. By 1914, the Normal School's catalog listed courses on: California Soils and Crops, Irrigation Farming, California Fruits and Garden Crops, Rural Architecture and Sanitation, Live Stock and Dairying, Rural Economics and Sociology, and Agricultural Education and Dry Farming. According to a Stanford master's thesis prepared by Mr. W. F. Hogan on "The Fresno State Teachers College," the offering of agricultural courses meant that: "Our basic industry Agriculture was for the first time to have a place in the course of study in the West." (Hogan, p. 17)

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
COUNTY	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	MAY 1 1974

(Number all entries)

(8) B.

Fresno State Normal School also made other distinctive contributions to the field of education. During the first two years of its existence before moving out to temporary buildings on its present campus, the Fresno Normal School shared facilities at the old Fresno High School with the Junior College. A special relationship was immediately established with the Junior College which greatly enhanced the academic program for Normal School students. Normal School students were allowed to challenge some of the required Normal School subjects by examination. Upon satisfactory completion of such examination or examinations, students were then allowed to take one or more electives from the Junior College. Since it was not until a decade later that the State Legislature passed legislation allowing the newly named State Teacher's Colleges to affiliate with local junior colleges, this seems to have provided a unique early opportunity, albeit temporary, for Normal School students in California. Such an opportunity was clearly beneficial to the educational process. "To be thrown into such an educational environment where ambitious students could be in touch with advanced work of university standards," Hogan has written, "was only one of the signals for higher attainment." (Hogan, p. 17). This contact with the Junior College, as well as the offering of agricultural training for teachers, were, according to Hogan, among the "several distinctive features of the Fresno State Normal School which placed it in the vanguard of teacher training institutions in the west, and gave it a strategic position of leadership among the normal schools of California." (Hogan, p. 17).

There seems to be yet another distinctive feature as to the training of teachers at Fresno State Normal. While many normal schools had established model or training schools by the turn of the century, there was growing criticism that such schools, by emphasizing an idealized situation, were not properly preparing students for actual teaching conditions. Dr. Eugenia Rowland, in a University of California (Berkeley) doctoral dissertation, emphasized the significance of the Normal Training School which was opened in 1913. "At the time," Dr. Rowland wrote, "there was no other normal training school in California, and very few such schools in the United States, that had a training department conducted on the same basis as that of Fresno." (Rowland, pp. 164-165). "Every effort," Rowland added, "was made to approximate actual conditions in a classroom; regular classes and regular teachers of the city schools were utilized for training purposes." (Rowland, p. 165)

The Old Administration Building also acquires a significance status if considered in the broader context of a campus which developed from Fresno State Normal School into Fresno State Teacher's

APR 22 1974

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
COUNTY	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	MAY 1 1974

(Number all entries)
(8) C.

College in 1921, into Fresno State College in 1935, and into Fresno City College in 1956 when Fresno State College, the present California State University at Fresno, moved to a new campus several miles to the north. Some of the other campus facilities associated with this growing expansion have acquired an unusual significance of their own. This was the case with the University Street Playhouse, formerly a Methodist Church, which was used on the Fresno State campus for college productions and as a broadcasting and recording studio. Although recently demolished, it was described by Rowland in 1949 as "one of the most complete theatrical centers to be found on a college campus west of the Rocky Mountains." (Rowland, p. 180). Moreover, the West Coast Relays, which were established in 1927 by Fresno State Teacher's College officials and local civic leaders, and held at the college's Ratcliffe Stadium, are of even greater historical significance. "Aside from having been the scene of world record achievement," Dr. Rowland wrote in 1949, "the West Coast Relays have provided a stimulus to the development of track and field competition on the Pacific Coast." (Rowland, p. 222). "The first track carnival of its kind west of the Rocky Mountains, the West Coast Relays were also the first major outdoor meet to be held at night under lights." (Rowland, p. 222). Lastly, the "fast clay track of Ratcliffe Stadium, particularly conducive to outstanding sprint performances, is generally considered to be one of the best in the world." (Rowland, p. 222)

It is also obvious that the evolution of Fresno State Normal School into Fresno State Teacher's College into Fresno State College and into Fresno City College and California State University, Fresno, has greatly contributed to the intellectual, cultural, physical, and economic development of the community. In this sense, the old Administration Building complex, as the first permanent structure on the Fresno State Normal School campus, thus serves as a symbol linking the accomplishments of the past with the hopes for the future through Fresno's commitment to higher education.

In addition to its historical significance, the Old Administration Building has architectural significance. In a statement prepared by the State Architect, Mr. George McDougall, for inclusion in the Souvenir Program of November 17, 1916, it was noted that the sunny features of the California climate were largely responsible for the remarkable open air features of the courtyards. He had decided, McDougall wrote, "to use brick and stone in warm shades and of a style reminiscent of the Renaissance architecture built with these materials in Northern Italy and Spain." While modern requirements had necessitated "a free translation of these styles," he had nevertheless introduced themes "recalling Spanish woodturning and Lombard brickwork." The roof was covered with tile in the shape and color of those materials utilized by the old Spanish buildings.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
COUNTY	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	MAY 1 1974

(Number all entries)

(8) D.

"We think," McDougall concluded, "the building of the Fresno Normal School is a distinct step in the advancement of school architecture in this state."

An examination of the building today reinforces Mr. McDougall's conclusion. With its handmade hard-burned bricks, its tile roofs, its classic ornamentation at the main and secondary entrances, its classic brick arches and stone balconies overlooking the courtyards, and with its lavish and rich Moorish geometric details in brick on the east and west walls of the auditorium and above the arches of the covered walks around the perimeter of the courts, the whole complex represents an era of gracious living and environment characteristic of the early twentieth century which contrasts vividly with the utilitarian architecture used for our contemporary schools. The serenity and dignity of the inner courts, providing a retreat from the hot sun and a cool area for relaxation, is all in the spirit and traditions of the Spanish Renaissance buildings in Spain mixed with the traditional Early Spanish Architecture of the west coast. The Old Administration Building is thus not only an historical landmark but it is also architecturally one of the few remaining examples in the State of California of college campus buildings of the Spanish Renaissance style.

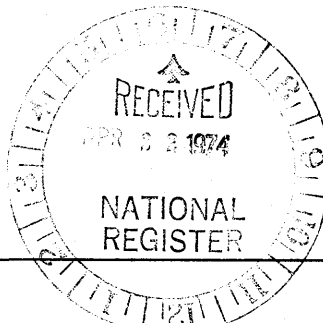
(9) A.

manuscript, University Archives, California State University, Fresno.

Nargis, James J., A.I.A. "Report On Historical Preservation Of The Existing Administration Complex Now Used By The Fresno City College And Formerly Used As The Administration Unit For The Old Fresno State College." December 3, 1973.

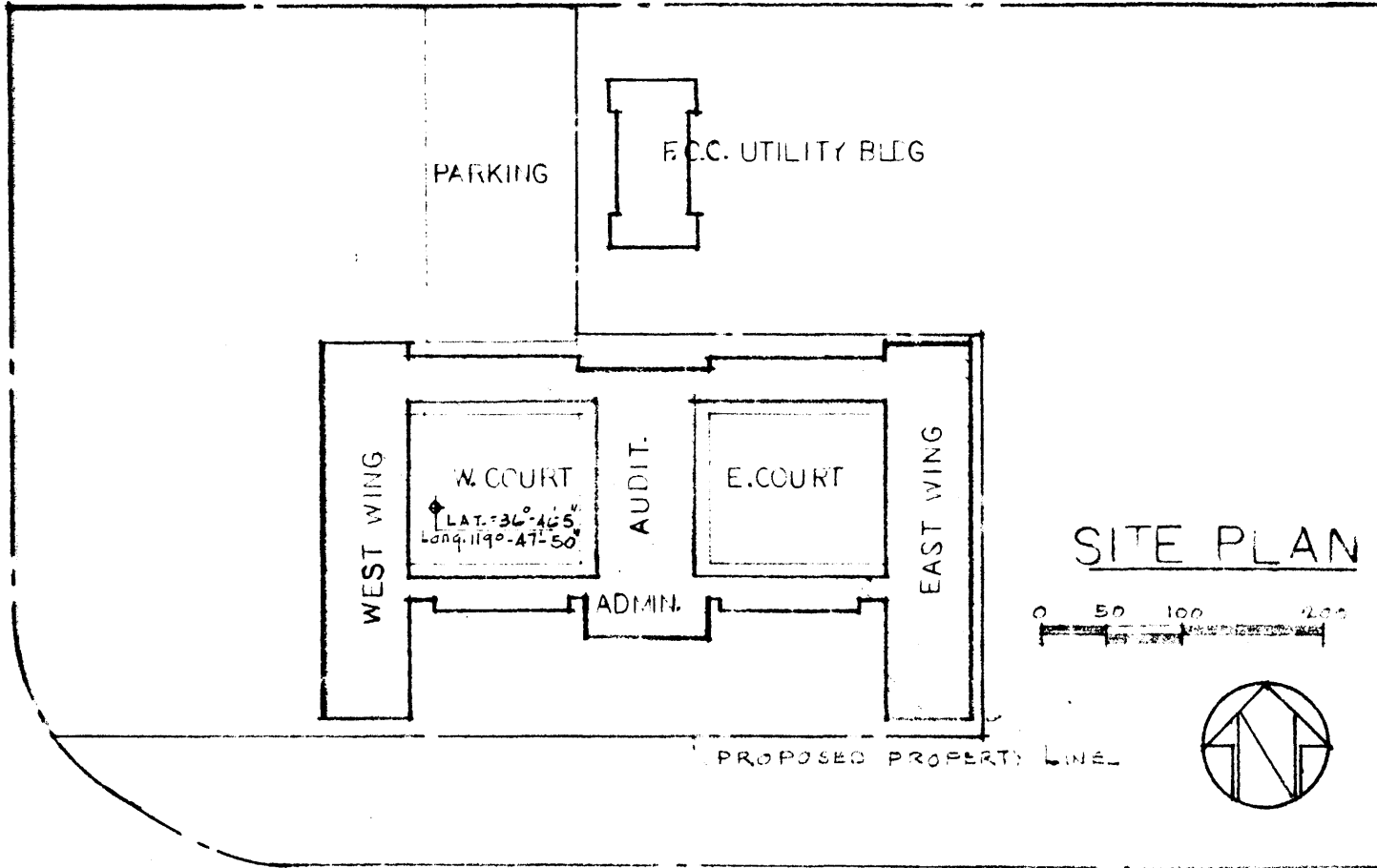
Rowland, Eugenia. "Origin and Development of Fresno State College." Unpublished Ph. D. dissertation, University of California, Berkeley, 1949.

Selected articles, Fresno Morning Republican, 1909-1916.

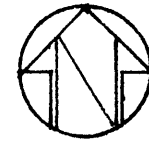
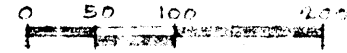


WELDON

VAN NESS



SITE PLAN



PROPOSED PROPERTY LINE

UNIVERSITY

OLD ADMINISTRATION B'LD'G. FRESNO CITY COLLEGE CA.