

Appendix C

Historic Resource Evaluation

**MacLaren Hall Campus-DCFS,
County of Los Angeles
El Monte, California
Historic Resource Evaluation**

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Submitted by:

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY AND PURPOSE

This report, completed by Kaplan Chen Kaplan, presents the findings of the historic resource evaluation conducted for the property known as MacLaren Hall, a facility of the County of Los Angeles located in El Monte, California. The purpose of this evaluation is to determine whether the property contains historical resources as defined by the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

The MacLaren Hall site contains buildings and open space areas that were designed and constructed in the mid 1970s. There are two major buildings, an Office Building (originally shown as two buildings, one for the Department of Public Social Services and the other for the Probation Department), a School/Maintenance Building, as well as six dormitory buildings. These buildings are arranged along an axis and the buildings' plans are a hybrid of the finger- and cluster plans. A utilitarian Cafeteria Building and two prefabricated trailers are also located on the site. There are two major open space areas, on the North and the South which consist primarily of flat terrain covered with grass. There are large mature trees in small clusters around the site.

The parcels that created the site contained groves of trees in the early 20th Century. The groves of trees were removed as the parcels were developed first as the Ruth Protective Home for Girls in 1930 which was added onto later in the decade as the site expanded and in the 1940s as the site evolved to become the Sister Kenny Polio Treatment Hospital.

In 1960 Los Angeles County acquired the site and used the existing buildings to open MacLaren Hall, a facility to house foster youth for short-term stays. In 1971, with funding from passage of a bond, planning for redevelopment of the site began and was implemented in two phases. All of the existing buildings were demolished, and landscape elements removed to make way for the new MacLaren Hall which was opened in 1975. The new MacLaren Hall operated from 1975 to 2003 but following years of public scrutiny and problems, it was closed after 28 years in operation.

The buildings at MacLaren Hall are a modest version of the Modern architectural style. The design of the buildings is spare and employs a vocabulary of elements that are repeatedly used on the two major buildings and the Dormitories. The site plan was based on school site design principles developed decades earlier in the 1940s to 1960s. The MacLaren Hall buildings and site plan were designed by William Allen; Allen is not considered to be a master architect. The materials were basic and unremarkable. The general contractor, the Vanlar Construction Co. of Long Beach. Vanlar is not considered to be master builders or craftsmen.

There is no evidence that any historic persons, events or broad patterns of history are associated with the subject property.

The findings of this report are the result of thorough research, field observations and building evaluations using current technical guidance from national, state, and local historic preservation agencies. Based on this evaluation, the MacLaren Hall buildings and do not meet the criteria to be eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places, the California Register of Historical Resources, or as a Los Angeles County Landmark either for any individual buildings or as a historic district.

SUMMARY OF RESEARCH AND METHODOLOGY

A comprehensive methodology for researching the development history of properties and evaluation of the research to determine potential historic eligibility included conducting the following activities:

- Field review of subject property in May 2020
- Field review of adjacent area in May 2020
- Photography of subject property and adjacent area
- Review of original building plans
- Los Angeles County Assessor data research
- Research online databases and sources
- Research Los Angeles Public Library online resources
- Review of aerial and topographic maps
- Research online photographic databases
- Research historic newspaper databases
- Records search South Central Coastal Information Center
- Evaluation of properties in accordance with federal, state and local eligibility criteria

All of the field data and research data were analyzed and evaluated by an architectural historian who meets the Secretary of the Interior's Professional Qualification Standards for Historic Preservation and by an architect who meets the Professional Qualification Standards for Historic Architect.

REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

The importance of historic resources has been recognized by federal, state, and local governments through programs and legislation that identify and recognize buildings, structures, object, landscapes and districts that possess historic significance.

California Environmental Quality Act

The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) considers historical resources part of the environment. A project that may cause a substantial adverse effect on the significance of an historical resource may have a significant effect on the environment. A property that is eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources, is listed in a local register of historical resources, or has been identified as historically significant in an historic resources survey that meets specific criteria is considered a historical resource under CEQA. In order to determine if a property is a potential historical resource it must be evaluated for its eligibility for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places, the California Register of Historical Resources and/or as a local historical resource.

National Register of Historic Places

The National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966 established the National Register of Historic Places (National Register) as an authoritative guide “used by Federal, State, and local governments, private groups and citizens to identify the Nation’s cultural resources and indicate what properties should be afforded protection from destruction or impairment.”¹ Buildings, districts, sites and structures may be eligible for listing in the National Register if they possess significance at the national, state or local level in American history, culture, architecture or archeology, and in general, are over 50 years old. Significance is evaluated using established criteria:

- A. Are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history; or
- B. Are associated with the lives of persons significant in our past; or
- C. Embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or that represent the work of a master, or that possess high artistic values, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction; or
- D. Yield, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Significance of Association National Register Bulletin 32, Guidelines for Evaluating and Documenting Properties Associated with Significant Persons, provides guidance on evaluating potential historic association with people who have “made contributions or played a role that can be justified as significant.” For association with leaders or prominent families it is necessary “to explain their significant accomplishments” and they “must be compared to those of others who were active, successful, prosperous, or influential in the same field.” Most properties nominated for associations with significant persons also are nominated for other reasons and a majority of properties nominated under the association criterion are also significant in the area of architecture or for the area in which the individual(s) achieved recognition.

National Register Bulletin 32 adds that the fact that we value certain professions or the contributions of certain groups historically does not mean that every property associated with or used by a member of that group is significant. Associations with one or more individuals in a particular profession, economic or social class, or ethnic group will not automatically qualify a property. The contribution must be distinctive: it is not enough to show that an individual has acquired wealth, run a successful business, or held public office, unless any of these accomplishments, or their number or combination, is a significant achievement in the community in comparison with the activities and accomplishments of others.

Integrity. Properties may be eligible for inclusion on the National Register as individual resources and/or as contributors to an historic district. *National Register Bulletin 15: How to Apply National Register Criteria for Evaluation* states that in addition to meeting at least one of the four criteria, a resource should be evaluated to assess its integrity. For

¹36 Code of Federal Regulations, Section 60.

individual resources to qualify for inclusion they must represent an important aspect of an area's history and possess integrity. An historic district must retain integrity as a whole, "the majority of the components that make up the district's historic character must possess integrity even if they are individually undistinguished."

The seven aspects of integrity are location, design, feeling, association, setting, workmanship and materials. To "retain historic integrity a property will always possess several, and usually most, of the aspects." For a resource to be evaluated as significant for its design, a "property important for illustrating a particular architectural style or construction technique must retain most of the physical features that constitute that style or technique."

Historic Context. A resource must also be significant within an historic context. *National Register Bulletin 15* states that an historic context explains "those patterns, themes, or trends in history by which a specific...property or site is understood and its meaning...is made clear." To be determined eligible for listing on the National Register a property must possess significance within a historic context and possess integrity.

Historic District. According to *National Register Bulletin 15*, an historic district derives its importance from being a unified entity whose identity as a district "results from the interrelationship of its resources, which can convey a visual sense of the overall historic environment." An historic district is "a definable geographic area that can be distinguished from surrounding properties by changes such as density, scale, type, age, style of sites, buildings, structures, and objects, or by documented differences in patterns of historic development or associations...the boundaries must be based upon a shared relationship among the properties constituting the district."²

California Register of Historical Resources

The California Register, based on the National Register, is the "authoritative guide to be used by state and local agencies, private groups, and citizens to identify the state's historical resources and indicate which properties are to be protected." A building, site, structure, object, or historic district may be eligible for inclusion on the California Register if it meets one or more of the following criteria:

1. It is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of local or regional history, or the cultural heritage of California or the United States
2. It is associated with the lives of persons important to local, California, or national History
3. It embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, region, or method of construction, or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values
4. It has yielded, or has the potential to yield, information important to the prehistory or history of the local area, California, or the nation.

² National Register Bulletin 15, How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation, pp. 5-6, <https://www.nps.gov/nr/publications/bulletins/pdfs/nrb15.pdf>

California Office of Historic Preservation Technical Assistance Series #6, California Register and National Register: A Comparison states that in addition to meeting one of the criteria of significance, a resource must “retain enough of their historic character or appearance to be recognizable as historical resources and to convey the reasons for their significance” and “integrity is evaluated with regard to the retention of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.” Historical resources that “have been rehabilitated or restored may be evaluated for listing.”

Series 6 Guidance also states, “Alterations over time to a resource or historic changes in its use may themselves have historical, cultural, or architectural significance.” Historical resources that do not retain sufficient integrity to qualify for the National Register may still be eligible for listing in the California Register: “a resource that has lost its historic character or appearance may still have sufficient integrity for the California Register if it maintains the potential to yield significant scientific or historical information or specific data.”³

Los Angeles County Historic Preservation Ordinance

In 2015, the County of Los Angeles established a historic preservation program to recognize the importance of preserving the County’s distinctive architectural and cultural history by adopting the Historic Preservation Ordinance that specifies criteria and procedures for the designation of landmarks and historic districts.⁴

Criteria for Designation of Landmarks and Historic Districts.

- A. A structure, site, object, tree, landscape, or natural land feature may be designated as a landmark if it is 50 years of age or older and satisfies one or more of the following criteria:
 - 1. It is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of the history of the nation, State, County, or community in which it is located;
 - 2. It is associated with the lives of persons who are significant in the history of the nation, State, County, or community in which it is located;
 - 3. It embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, architectural style, period, or method of construction, or represents the work of an architect, designer, engineer, or builder whose work is of significance to the nation, State, County, or community in which it is located; or possesses artistic values of significance to the nation, State, County, or community in which it is located;
 - 4. It has yielded, or may be likely to yield, significant and important information regarding the prehistory or history of the nation, State, County, or community in which it is located;

³California Office of Historic Preservation Technical Assistance Series #6: California Register and National Register: A Comparison, p. 3.

⁴ Los Angeles County Code Section 22.82.010 addresses historic districts and Section 22.124 of the Code contains the Historic Preservation Ordinance.

5. It is listed, or has been formally determined eligible by the United States National Park Service for listing, in the National Register of Historic Places, or is listed, or has been formally determined eligible by the State Historical Resources Commission for listing, on the California Register of Historical Resources;
 6. If it is a tree, it is one of the largest or oldest trees of the species located in the County; or
 7. If it is a tree, landscape, or other natural land feature, it has historical significance due to an association with a historic event, person, site, street, or structure, or because it is a defining or significant outstanding feature of a neighborhood.
- B. A property less than 50 years of age may be designated as a landmark if it meets one or more of the criteria set forth in Subsection A, above, and exhibits exceptional importance.
- C. The interior space of a property, or other space held open to the general public, including but not limited to a lobby, may be designated as a landmark or included in the landmark designation of a property if the space qualifies for designation as a landmark under Subsection A or B, above.
- D. Historic Districts. A geographic area, including a noncontiguous grouping of related properties, may be designated as a historic district if all of the following requirements are met:
1. More than 50 percent of owners in the proposed district consent to the designation;
 2. The proposed district satisfies one or more of the criteria set forth in Subsections A.1 through A.5, above; and
 3. The proposed district exhibits either a concentration of historic, scenic, or sites containing common character-defining features, which contribute to each other and are unified aesthetically by plan, physical development, or architectural quality; or significant geographical patterns, associated with different eras of settlement and growth, particular transportation modes, or distinctive examples of parks or community planning.

PROJECT LOCATION AND SETTING

Location Maps, c2019 (Google Earth)



The MacLaren Hall campus is located in the City of El Monte in the San Gabriel Valley in the eastern area of Los Angeles County. The facility is about 15 miles east of the Los Angeles County Hall of Administration in downtown Los Angeles.

The site address is 4024 Durfee Avenue. The site is composed of two large parcels with Los Angeles County Assessor ID Numbers of 8549-004-900 and 8549-005-900. The site is bounded by Durfee Avenue on the west, Kerrwood Street on the north, and Gilman Road on the east. The south boundary abuts residential development that extends south to Deana Street.

Across Gilman Road at the south end of the campus is the Twin Lakes Elementary School.

To the east of the facility is the San Gabriel River and a wash and river trail which is part of the Emerald Necklace Nature Preserve in the San Gabriel Valley and Gateway Cities Regions of Los Angeles County. The 605 Freeway is located to the east of the river.



Area around MacLaren Hall site (Google Earth, 2019)

HISTORY OF MACLAREN HALL

William Gordon MacLaren (1869-1946) was born in Scotland to a family with a heritage of tea plantations in the East Indies. MacLaren began a career with a Glasgow tea firm and in 1893 came to the US as a salesman in Chicago for a tea and coffee import company. While in Chicago he attended the Moody Bible School and subsequently was appointed as superintendent of a Chicago mission and settlement house and became an ordained Free Methodist minister.

MacLaren worked his way westward in superintendent positions in a number of rescue missions eventually locating in Portland, Oregon where he founded the Pacific Coast Rescue and Protective Society (the Protective Society) in 1908. The purpose of the Protective Society was “to conduct missions for the uplifting of fallen humanity and to do any and all things necessary for the physical, mental and moral betterment of those who come under its custody and care.” The Protective Society worked in the states of Oregon, Washington, Idaho and California.

The Protective Society opened the Louise Home in Portland, a rescue home “For the care of unfortunate girls and women” which provided care and medical treatment for maternity cases, girls infected with venereal disease, and delinquent girls. The Portland program became a model for similar programs including the Washington Girls’ Home in Everett (1917), the California Rescue Home for Girls in Oakland (1924), and the Ruth

Sanitarium for Girls (later The Ruth Home named after Ruth Kerr) in Los Angeles (1924).⁵



The Ruth Protective Home was established at 3931 Compton Avenue in Los Angeles in 1924-25. The first Ruth Home was a small Craftsman style cottage that provided temporary housing for infected girls. By 1929 the facility was “struggling along in inadequate quarters” and began raising funds to construct a new home to be located on a ten acre site in El Monte. The \$15,000 donation of land

was made by Ruth Kerr, wife of the secretary of the Pacific Protective Society, Alexander H. Kerr.⁶



In 1930 construction began on the new Ruth Protective Home’s first unit which was built at a cost of \$85,000 with J.J. Frauenfelder as architect. The buildings were Spanish Colonial revival in style. Objectives of the institution according to Mrs. Kerr were to “prevent blindness at birth, to provide scientific treatment for young mothers, to help decrease insanity and to educate and make worth-while citizens of the young women who enter the institution...we also

try to find suitable homes and employment for our patients.”⁷ The new facility was to provide accommodations for 66 girls and forty babies including a 100-bed hospital and a school building. Every effort was to “be made to create a homelike atmosphere for its occupants” and training was seen as an essential program element.⁸



By 1935 The Ruth Home “was treating an average of 320 girls and babies annually, most of whom were younger than 12 years of age and whose stay ranged from two months to two years.” The Ruth Home operated into the 1940s. Development of anti-biotics such as penicillin for treatment of sexually transmitted diseases in the 1940s rendered many programs of the Ruth Home obsolete and by the end of the 1940s portions of the facility had been decommissioned.

In 1948 Los Angeles County Juvenile facilities were under scrutiny by the Grand Jury which

⁵ “The Louise Home Hospital and Residence Hall,” *National Register for Historic Places Registration Form*, 1987. <https://npgallery.nps.gov/GetAsset/85b2504d-6f82-4555-b6d3-aaa389e9a299>

⁶ “Ruth Home Radio Plea Made,” *Los Angeles Times*, August 16, 1929.

⁷ “New Ruth home to Rise: Work Starts at El Monte on ?first Unit Which Will Increase Capacity of Institution,” *Los Angeles Times*, August 15, 1930.

⁸ “Home for Girls Ceremony Set,” *Los Angeles Times*, October 23, 1930.

registered concern that non-delinquent children and delinquent children were being confined together.⁹ The Juvenile Hall had been constructed in 1929 to house 320 children and was overcrowded. A bond measure was to be put to the voters to construct a new Juvenile Center that “would provide for segregation of delinquent and non-delinquent children and have a capacity of 550.”¹⁰ With passage of the bond, a new facility was to be constructed on Henry Street and Eastlake Avenue replacing the older Juvenile Hall. However, until that facility could be constructed the County needed interim facilities.

The County Board of Supervisors pursued leasing a vacant portion of the Ruth Home campus as a “stop-gap branch’ of Juvenile Hall to house up to 50 non-delinquent juveniles.” The vacant buildings could be immediately occupied and “kitchen, sleeping and other equipment” were available and the facility was deemed “the County’s best chance to solve a problem which developed as correctional facilities lagged behind population growth.” The converted quarters were opened in late 1948 and operated for approximately two years.



In the 1940s the number of infantile paralysis began to increase in Southern California and the nation and growing into an epidemic by the end of the decade. Poliomyelitis, known as polio, is an infectious disease caused by the poliovirus. There was no vaccine or cure for the disease in the 1940s. A treatment for polio victims was developed by Australian nurse Sister Elizabeth Kenny and caused a major controversy in the medical field. Her treatment of “re-educating muscles” was ultimately accepted by the medical profession and was praised at the California Medical Convention in 1942.¹¹

(Photo: Ruth Home, c1948)

In 1949-50 an effort was undertaken in Los Angeles to establish a hospital facility dedicated to treating polio victims using the Kenny treatment. The sister Elizabeth Kenny Campaign for a hospital included many civic leaders in its fund raising drive. The group identified the Ruth Home in El Monte which would be offered rent-free to the Kenny Foundation and was considered a “front-line bulwark against childhood’s most feared disease.”¹² The facility included a 100-bed hospital with nurses’ quarters, operating rooms, executive offices, reception rooms and school for elementary and high school grades.¹³ The arrangement was for the Foundation to use the facility with the provision

⁹ “County Seeks Remedies at Juvenile Hall: Grand Jury Awaits Reply to Criticism of Detention Unit.” *Los Angeles Times*, October 20, 1948.

¹⁰ “Juvenile Hall Branch at Ruth Home Sought,” *Los Angeles Times*, October 27, 1948.

¹¹ “Nurse’s Paralysis Therapy Indorsed (sic),” *Los Angeles Times*, May 7, 1942.

¹² “Sister Kenny Hospital Drive Enters Final Week,” *Los Angeles Times*, January 11, 1950.

¹³ “Ruth Home Proposed as First Kenny Permanent Center for Polio in West,” *Los Angeles Times*, May 15, 1950.

that they equip the establishment and maintain the property, paying all operating costs. It was to be known as the Ruth Home-Sister Kenny Polio Hospital. In 1950 Sister Kenny was given a cottage on the hospital's campus as her Southern California home.¹⁴ In 1953 another of the Ruth Home's buildings was reconditioned to become a hospital annex to the polio hospital.¹⁵ In 1955 Jonas Salk developed an effective vaccine to prevent polio and the need for treatment of the disease ceased and the Ruth Home-Kenny Polio Hospital closed in the mid-1950s.

Los Angeles County continued to need facilities to care for juveniles and in 1958 the County Probation Department surveyed the grounds of the Ruth Home-Kenny Polio Hospital as a possible location for a facility for non-delinquent youth.

Los Angeles County began providing social services for children in 1913 with establishment of the Department of Charities. In 1935 California law allowed for abandoned children to be eligible for adoption. In 1938 the Division of Outdoor Relief was expanded and renamed the Bureau of Indigent Relief and was renamed the Bureau of Public Assistance in 1943 which became the Department of Public Social Services in 1966.¹⁶

The County purchased the property in 1960 for \$300,000 and invested another \$300,000 to "bring it up to required standards as a shelter for youths." The facility was to serve 148 youths and 100 staff. In addition to rehabilitating existing buildings a perimeter security system was installed and new features including a small courtroom in one wing and a library were developed.¹⁷ The facility for non-delinquent children who were wards of the County Probation Department opened in March 1961.¹⁸ By 1967 there were 1,400 child welfare institutions in the U.S. of which 150 were public institutions.¹⁹

Just two years later, the facility was described as "overcrowded." Bond measures were placed before voters in 1963 and 1964. The 1962 measure was to add 200 more beds to the facility. The 1964 bond measure was for an expansion and improvement program. Both measures failed. Another bond measure, this one to replace MacLaren Hall, was placed on the November 1968 ballot and was passed by the voters of Los Angeles County.

A new facility and campus was proposed and all of the existing buildings and structures including the Spanish Colonial Revival style buildings from the Ruth Home and facilities of the Kinney Polio Hospital were to be demolished. Construction of the new facility was done in two phases so that the County facility could continue to care for children during construction of the new facility. The architect for the buildings was William Allen and the contractor was Vanlar Construction, Inc. of Long Beach.²⁰

¹⁴ "Sister Kenny Given Cottage at El Monte," *Los Angeles Times*, October 9, 1950.

¹⁵ "Sister Kenny Hospital Annex Dedicated," *Los Angeles Times*, October 29, 1953.

¹⁶ Los Angeles Department of Child and Family Services, website: <https://dcfs.lacounty.gov/about/who-we-are/>

¹⁷ "New MacLaren Hall to House Juvenile Wards," *Los Angeles Times*, November 6, 1960.

¹⁸ "Dedication of Neglected Child Facility Held," *Los Angeles Times*, March 28, 1961.

¹⁹ Geiser, Robert L., *The Illusion of Caring: Children in Foster Care*, p. 170.

²⁰ "County to Investigate Lack of Bidders on Pact for Gasoline," *Los Angeles Times*, May 2, 1973. There were problems with the construction bids and the Vanlar Construction Company was eventually awarded the contract.

The new facility plan consisted of a pair of two-story buildings, one for the Probation Department and the other for the Department of Public Social Services, "along with an education building with basement, six single-story living units and a one-story service building with a kitchen and employs dining facilities. The 15-acre property will be landscaped, and parking will be provided for 156 cars." The Probation Department would be responsible for the care of 150 non-delinquent children and the Department of Public Social Services (DPSS) would operate a 50 bed "diagnostic and treatment facility for children who are emotionally disturbed." The two operations would have separate housing, classrooms and play areas with the gymnasium-auditorium to be shared by both groups.²¹

Construction of the facility was completed in 1976. In 1975 the six dormitories, an infirmary, nursery and administrative offices were completed and in 1976 the school building was finished. The nursery was for children under four years old. The children had been housed in large dormitories but with the new facilities there will be "20 in each dormitory, 10 each in two wings with a multi-purpose room in the center.... A high fence surrounds MacLaren and serves not only to keep the children in but to keep out relatives and others who might complicate the treatment and care of the youths."²²

In describing the MacLaren Hall facility an article in the *Los Angeles Times* in 1975 describes the youth as "about equally divided between boys and girls. Their ages vary from a few months to 18 years, and they may stay from a few hours to a month or so....and the youth are those who, for various reasons, have come under court custody and are laced there until a court detention hearing puts them in a foster home or returns them to their own home. They come to MacLaren at all hours...battered children whose injuries do not require hospitalization and those sexually assaulted and in need of protection from parents or other adults find their way to MacLaren. Older children who couldn't make it in one foster home are sent there until another placement can be found. From throughout the county they come scared, angry, bewildered."²³

In the 1970s and 1980s nationwide saw a shift in mental health laws, medicine and treatment. In late 1975 the County Board of Supervisors approved transfer of MacLaren Hall from the Probation Department to the Department of Public Social Services (DPSS). Board Chair James Hayes said of the youths housed at MacLaren, "they are not criminals, but youngsters who are getting the short end of the stick from society either because of shattered families or other problems." Hayes added that DPSS could provide the treatment non-delinquent youth needed. With this separation the Probation Department had "as its key function the care of youngsters in the juvenile justice system" who were housed at other county facilities.²⁴

In 1977 there were an estimated 7,000 children in placement with 6,000 in foster homes and 1,00 in group homes and institutions. There are an additional 2,500 children who have committed felony or misdemeanor crimes and under the supervision of the Probation Department. The *Los Angeles Times* featured a major article about the foster care system in Los Angeles County. They observed that "on any day, more than 10,000 children in Los Angeles County are living away from their homes and parents...The

²¹ "Pasadena Firm May Get \$6.8 Million Pact," *Los Angeles Times*, January 29, 1973.

²² "MacLaren Hall Awaits Completion of Buildings," *Los Angeles Times*, April 6, 1975.

²³ "MacLaren Hall Awaits Completion of Buildings," *Los Angeles Times*, April 6, 1975.

²⁴ "MacLaren Hall Transfer OKd," *Los Angeles Times*, December 4, 1975.

County's foster care population changes from day to day, week to week; some stay only a few days while others sent their entire childhood. Where they live, how long they stay and what happens to these children is the responsibility of a sprawling chaotic, fragmented system that the Los Angeles County government calls 'out-of-home placement' [which] meanders over three separate county departments, employs about 2,600 county workers, utilizes the services of over 4,000 private households and more than 500 group homes and large institutions."²⁵

The article goes on to observe that "the system suffers from all the expected frailties of large bureaucracies—mountains of paper work, limited funds, inadequate resources and a general lack of communication among its various parts... Both participants and observers agree—the system does not work as well as it should." It adds that "not surprisingly then, the foster care system here is frequently criticized. A federal General Accounting Office study released earlier this year accused the county of warehousing and forgetting children."²⁶

Amid charges of inadequate care and overcrowding of MacLaren Hall in 1980 the *Los Angeles Times* ran several articles on problems at the facility as the Public Social Service Commission began to hold hearings on conditions at MacLaren. "Shortages and staffing problems combined with a high population have created a poor atmosphere for children who have a desperate need for a stable atmosphere, critics of MacLaren say. The staffers say they are 'burned out,' administrators say they are disgruntled."²⁷

"Officials said one of the principal problems facing the facility is finding an adequate way to deal with the sometimes psychotic and sometimes violence-prone youngsters who are sent to MacLaren by other institutions." MacLaren Hall had been designed as "a temporary home for displaced youngsters, acting as a halfway house for youngsters sent on to foster homes. But in recent years, officials said they have been receiving children who are prone to violence or who are suffering from severe mental disorders." The County's Public Social Services Commission began a study of the problems "of overcrowding, short staffing and alleged inadequate care at MacLaren."²⁸

Between 1976 and 1984 MacLaren Hall had four directors and eight residential care directors. In 1984 the County consolidated all children's services from three departments into a new Department of Child Services. The new department was created "in response to a public outcry over the mishandling of children under county care." The new department was given "a mandate to improve services to nearly 50,000 abused or neglected children a year and to implement recent state law." The Board of Supervisors also appointed a new Commission for Children's Services.^{29 30}

²⁵ "Foster Homes: A Huge System With Major Problems: Quality Too Variable, Placements Too Many, Case Loads Too Heavy," *Los Angeles Times*, December 4, 1977.

²⁶ "Foster Homes: A Huge System With Major Problems: Quality Too Variable, Placements Too Many, Case Loads Too Heavy," *Los Angeles Times*, December 4, 1977.

²⁷ "Basics Often Lacking at MacLaren Hall: Children May Find Their Problems Compounded at Facility," *Los Angeles Times*, February 13, 1980.

²⁸ "Officials Begin Study of Overcrowding, Inadequate Staffing at MacLaren Hall," February 15, 1980.

²⁹ "5 Finalists Named for County Child Services Post; Selection Set for Today," *Los Angeles Times*, September 4, 1984.

³⁰ In 1994 the department was renamed the Department of Child and Family Services. Los Angeles Department of Child and Family Services, website: <https://dcfs.lacounty.gov/about/who-we-are/>

In 1984, the director of the new department, Lola Hobbs, said that MacLaren's problems were "not unique: they are the same faced by public shelters throughout the nation and to some extent by all 24-hour institutions, such as jails and hospitals. She and her team are looking at similar systems 'to see what we can borrow to use here, rather than invent.'"³¹ A year later Robert L. Chaffee was appointed interim director of the Department replacing Hobbs (and later in the year he was appointed as permanent director). He appointed a new assistant director for MacLaren Hall, Helen Maxwell. "Chaffee said he created the assistant's post because the job of director 'is almost overwhelming for any one single person.'"³² In 1986 Helen Maxwell became MacLaren's eighth director in ten years.³³ In 1989 The *Los Angeles Times* featured a profile of MacLaren's Director Maxwell and reported on improvements.³⁴

However, in spite of improvements the last decade of the 20th Century saw continuation of problems at MacLaren. An article in *Los Angeles Magazine* in 2003 stated that "the County has been down this road before, pushed by deaths and scandals and lawsuits into pronouncing a new day, trying new programs—even a privatized version of MacLaren that lasted less than a year in the 80's. For three decades the problem of MacLaren has persisted."³⁵

The ACLU filed a lawsuit regarding conditions at MacLaren in 2002 and the article observed that "odds are good that the suit will lead to some sort of agreement to alter MacLaren, perhaps an assurance that it will be used as a temporary shelter, the way it was intended to be...[and] despite the good intentions of many of its workers, MacLaren is not designed to be a wholesome home for needy kids."³⁶ The tenure of MacLaren Hall was described as having "a bleak, decades-long history of faltering attempts to provide children with a safe, welcoming place during the fitful first hours after they are removed from their homes."³⁷

Just a few months later in 2003 Los Angeles County announced that the MacLaren Hall facility in El Monte would be closed. The *Los Angeles Times* reported that MacLaren Hall was "shadowed by a federal lawsuit over its treatment of mentally ill children." MacLaren Hall had been "intended to house foster children for just a few days or weeks [but] had grown perilously overcrowded with a mix of mentally ill, delinquent and abused youths who often lived there for months. Children ran away, and violent outbursts were common, as were staff shakeups and lawsuits against the center." The article reported that on Friday, March 7, MacLaren said goodbye to its last child, a 17 year-old boy who was sent to a group home, and closed its doors" as a facility to provide services and housing to youth.³⁸

Since 2003 portions of MacLaren's buildings have remained in use as administrative offices for County departments.

³¹ "MacLaren Hall: The Storing of Neglected Children," *Los Angeles Times*, December 11, 1984.

³² "Veteran County Aide to Head Troubled MacLaren Center," *Los Angeles Times*, April 20, 1985.

³³ "New Director To Take Reins at MacLaren," *Los Angeles Times*, April 13, 1986.

³⁴ "Director Healing MacLaren's Wounds," *Los Angeles Times*, September 7, 1989.

³⁵ "The Unwanted," *Los Angeles Magazine*, January 2003, p. 136.

³⁶ "The Unwanted," *Los Angeles Magazine*, January 2003, p. 136.

³⁷ "Los Angeles to Shutter Celebrated Center for Abused Children," *The Chronicle of Social Change*, February 11, 2016. <https://chronicleofsocialchange.org/featured/los-angles-to-shutter-celebrated-center-for-abused-children/15655>

³⁸ "County Closes Center for Troubled Children," *Los Angeles Times*, March 11, 2003.

DEVELOPMENT HISTORY OF MACLAREN HALL SITE

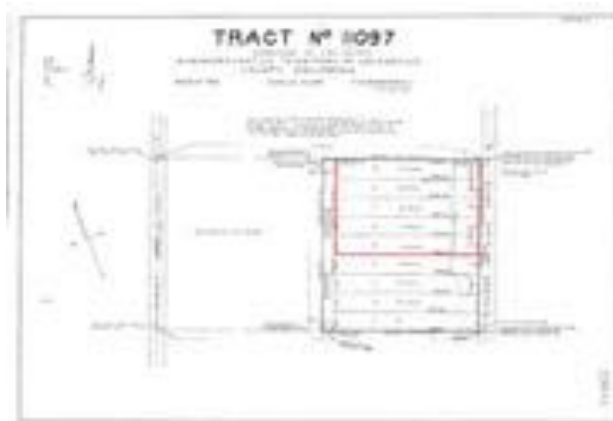
MacLaren Hall campus covers two parcels that result from the consolidation of parcels. The north half of the property was Block C of the Cogswell Tract, a subdivision of a portion of the Champion Tract that was recorded in 1902. The southern half of the campus included five long, narrow parcels in Tract No. 11097. That Tract was recorded in 1936 and five of the long narrow parcels of that Tract were consolidated and became part of the campus in 1960 when Los Angeles County acquired these parcels and Block C of the Cogswell Tract.³⁹



Cogswell Tract, recorded 1902



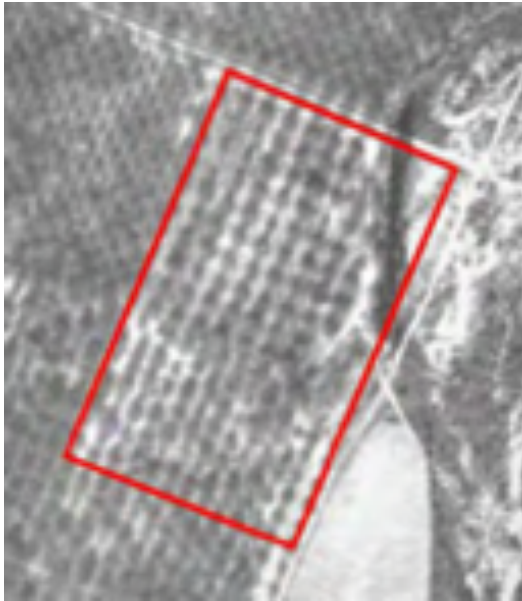
Block C of Cogswell Tract



Tract No. 11097, recorded in 1936

³⁹ The Block C Tract, on the north side of the MacLaren campus, is slightly more than one-half of the site. For ease of reading throughout the report the campus will be described as two halves, north and south, although the south "half" is slightly less than half. Also, throughout the report at times the campus will be described using quadrant references.

An aerial image of the MacLaren campus site from 1928 shows the area containing a grove of planted trees and no development around it. The 1938 aerial image shows the south half of the MacLaren campus still with a grove of trees. The northern half had been developed with the Ruth Home buildings on the northeast quadrant of today's campus. In the 1938 image a building with five wings radiating from a central pavilion. In the northwest corner of that quadrant was a rectangular building. There were a number of trees planted throughout that northeast quadrant. The northwest quadrant appears to have no plantings at its north end and smaller vegetation in that quadrant's south section did in 1938.



1928



1938



1948



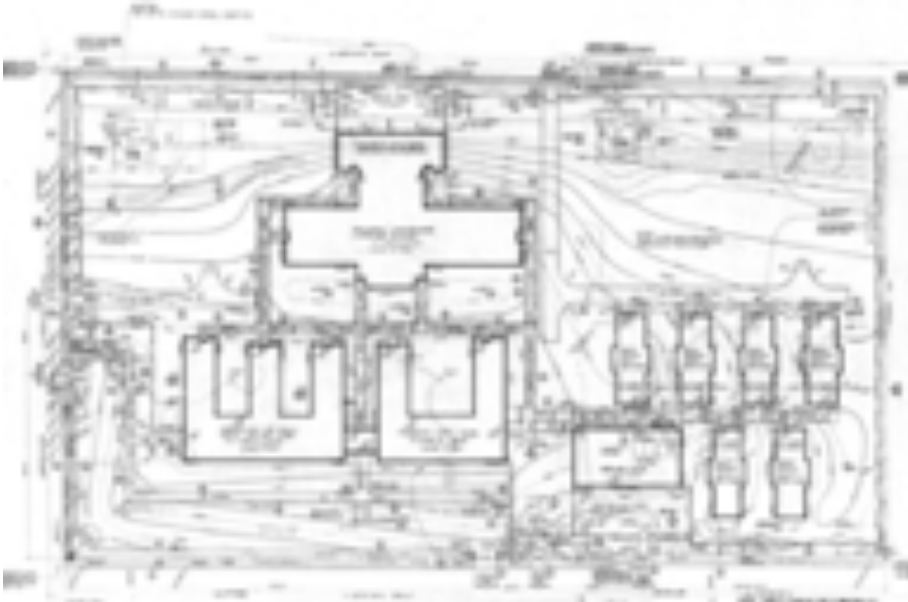
1972



The site plan illustrates the layout of the proposed development. It features several building footprints, including a large central structure, a smaller building to the left, and a row of smaller units at the bottom. Parking areas are designated with 'P' and 'PARKING' labels. Landscaping is indicated by green areas and tree symbols. The plan also shows a 'WALKWAY' and a 'DRIVE'.

The 1972 aerial image shows the MacLaren Hall campus right before the redevelopment of the site began. The 1972 image shows that all the groves of trees had been removed except for those in the northeast quadrant. The other three quadrants were mostly unplanted open space; there were only a few trees along the south border of the property and a few trees in-between two surface parking lots.

The 1977 aerial image shows the redeveloped MacLaren Hall campus. The campus as seen in 2019 is substantially the same in terms of building placement. Three prefabricated trailer buildings have been added, two on the Open Space North area and another adjacent to the Open Space North Area. A pool was added to the Open Space South area. The 1977 aerial image shows that most of the trees and landscaping elements on the site at that time were removed—the site was scraped to make way for the new MacLaren Hall development.



Site Plan, 1971



Site Plan, 2018

The MacLaren Hall Existing Conditions Site Plan from 2018 shows that the major buildings built on the site in the early 1970s remain today. A swimming pool and small pool house was added to the open space in the southeast quadrant of the campus and temporary structures were added at the north end of the campus.

Buildings on the site included the Department of Public Social Services Building, an “E” shaped building in plan was located at the northwest quadrant of the site. To its south was the “U” shaped Probation Department Building. These two buildings are connected by a public lobby/entry. They are considered a single building today providing offices and are known as Building 6144 MacLaren Children Center in the *2018 Full Site Report for the MacLaren Children Center*. This complex will be referred to as the Office Building throughout the current report.

The northeast quadrant of the site included an open space at the north end and an Education Maintenance and Storage Building to the east of the Probation Department Building. This building is known as Building 6146 MacLaren Child Center School/Maintenance Building in the *2018 Full Site Report for the MacLaren Children Center*. The building spaces include services, offices, gym, and classrooms. This building will be referred to as the School/Maintenance Building throughout the current report.

There are six linear shaped Residential Buildings located in the southwest quadrant of the site as is a Service Building. They are known as Buildings 6147 – 6152, MacLaren Child Center Residence Cottages F through K in the *2018 Full Site Report for the MacLaren Children Center*. These buildings will be referred to as the Dormitories throughout the current report.

There is a Service Building with service yard in the southwest quadrant adjacent to Durfee Avenue. The building is known as Building 6145 Cafeteria in the *2018 Full Site Report for the MacLaren Children Center*. This building will be referred to as the Cafeteria throughout the current report.

There are Open Space areas on the east side of the site, to the north and to the south of the School/Maintenance Building on the Gilman Road side. They will be referred to as Open Space South and Open Space North in the current report. There are three prefabricated trailer buildings in the Open Space North area and are referred to as Prefabricated trailer Buildings.

Security walls surround much of the site. Public access is allowed to the main office building by a single entrance lobby. A surface parking lot is located along the Durfee Avenue and Kerrwood Street sides of the Office Building with no security walls or barriers to the public sidewalk. A tall concrete perimeter wall is attached to the “E” shaped building along Kerrwood Street and continues around the site, along Kerrwood Street, along Gilman Road (except for a vehicular opening into the service area), along the southern boundary of the property and then along Durfee Avenue until it meets the Service Building. A segment of security wall connects the Service Building to the Office Building.

The vehicular entrance onto the site is a vehicle entrance off of Kerrwood Street. There are service yards behind the Education, Maintenance & Storage Building and behind the Service Building; both have driveways onto the adjacent streets.

HISTORIC CONTEXT: INSTITUTIONAL SITE DESIGN

The purpose, planning and design of the MacLaren Hall site and buildings was to support the care of children including their housing and schooling needs. Other functions of buildings on the site were to provide administrative offices for social service agencies, care of infants and toddlers as well as provision of health care.

The design of MacLaren Hall site and buildings employed principles developed for designs of schools from the period 1940 to 1969. By the post-war period, school design had entered “a new age of innovation” In California and elsewhere, three main plan types emerged during the period 1940-1969: the finger-plan school, the cluster-plan school, and the open-plan school. As trends came and went, these plan typologies morphed, hybridized, and changed and by the 1950s and 1960s there was a proliferation of standardized plans and facades. They shared “basic design principles, and most reflected the tenets of midcentury modern design.”⁴⁰

The “finger-plan,” based on a trunk corridor with side branches, emerged in the 1940s. By the early 1950s, the popularity of the finger-plan school began to decline as its design required large swaths of land. Also, the need for cost-effective design and construction was another factor. This led to development of a more compact campus plan design, the cluster-plan which called for the grouping wings, or fingers, more closely. As with the finger-plan, the cluster-plan “was interpreted and designed in many different variations but the basic ideas remained the same.” The hybridized design featured buildings arranged on an axis with finger-like wings.⁴¹

The Modern architectural style, the International Style “became the idiom of choice for expressing the new ideas, for its relative economy, informality, accessibility, and, increasingly, ‘democratic’ spirit.” These “ideas about how to create the best possible modern school were developed in tandem and shared among architects, builders, researchers, and school officials throughout the United States” in the 1940s to 1970s and were based on “evolving philosophies about childhood development and education.”⁴²

The “stylistic vocabulary of choice” in this period was modernistic, an anti-historicist modern design idiom, decentralized, with “function instead of style the driving concern.” Buildings were informal and non-monumental in scale.⁴³ Buildings were primarily one-story but “when necessary, massing might climb to two stories...roofs were flat, sloped, or occasionally gabled, with simple, exposed construction systems of steel or concrete framing.” Buildings were of concrete frame construction with generous expanses of windows set flush to the wall plane, and a sheltered corridor with unadorned post supports providing circulation and outdoor spaces.⁴⁴

Ornamentation was spare and “in terms of materials, the treatment and finishing were simple and unpretentious.” Buildings were clad with brick, concrete, stucco, stone, wood. Materials included steel and aluminum for windows which were plentiful. The varying

⁴⁰ *Los Angeles Unified School District Historic Context Statement, 1870 to 1969*, p. 82.

⁴¹ *Los Angeles Unified School District Historic Context Statement, 1870 to 1969*, p. 88.

⁴² *Los Angeles Unified School District Historic Context Statement, 1870 to 1969*, pp. 73, 75-76.

⁴³ *Los Angeles Unified School District Historic Context Statement, 1870 to 1969*, p. 77.

⁴⁴ *Los Angeles Unified School District Historic Context Statement, 1870 to 1969*, pp. 77, 82

elevations of the buildings and their wings displayed differentiated window sizes and configurations.⁴⁵

In the postwar period, architects economized through use of new prefabricated materials, such as plywood, glass, and steel, as well as modular design and coordination. Modular design, independent parts of standard interfaces, allowed designs to be customized, upgraded and repaired and for parts to be reused. Use of standardized components and construction techniques allowed for expedited construction and easy expansion. Modular design imparted a rhythmic, asymmetrical but balanced composition. Modular design also lent itself particularly well to creating indoor-outdoor connections.⁴⁶

Outdoor walkways with canopies were “essential” parts of both the finger- and cluster-plan designs. Supports were “simple posts or pilotis, either in steel or wood post-and-beam. It was a feature used in schools throughout the United States. Outdoor corridors lined classroom wings, providing sheltered circulation throughout the campus as well as outdoor gathering spaces.” These outdoor corridors form links between buildings on the site.⁴⁷

The basic plans were axial with building placement organized along the axis in a finger-like or clustered manner or a hybridized combination of the two. Site design was unified with buildings extending across the site and oriented in relation to outdoor spaces such as courtyards, patios, outdoor play areas. And typical of these campus plans, the site plan turned inward with automobile traffic and drop-off areas located on the exterior. Within the campus the landscape design of outdoor spaces included patios, courtyards, terraces as well as landscaped lawn areas and recreation fields.

DESCRIPTION OF MACLAREN HALL SITE FEATURES

MacLaren Hall is organized as a hybrid finger- and cluster-plan. There is a main axis with the major buildings with fingers, clustered along the north-south axis. The two major buildings, the original Department of Public Social Services Building and the connected Probation Department Building, are now treated as a single Office Building. This building is located along the west side of the main axis in the northwest area of the site. To the south of the Office Building, the main axis shifts slightly west and a series of six Dormitories and a cafeteria are clustered to the west of the axis. On the east side of the axis, at the middle of the site, is the School/Maintenance Building. To either side of this building, to its north and its south are large open space areas.

The vehicular access is from Kerrwood Street on the north and a “L”-shaped surface parking lot is located along the northwest corner of the site. This is the only publicly accessible area of the site. There are shallow areas of lawn on both sides of the parking area which includes landscaping of trees and shrubs and other plantings. The majority of the perimeter of the site has tall concrete security along the property line. The interior of the site has controlled access.

⁴⁵ *Los Angeles Unified School District Historic Context Statement, 1870 to 1969*, pp. 77, 81.

⁴⁶ *Los Angeles Unified School District Historic Context Statement, 1870 to 1969*, p. 81.

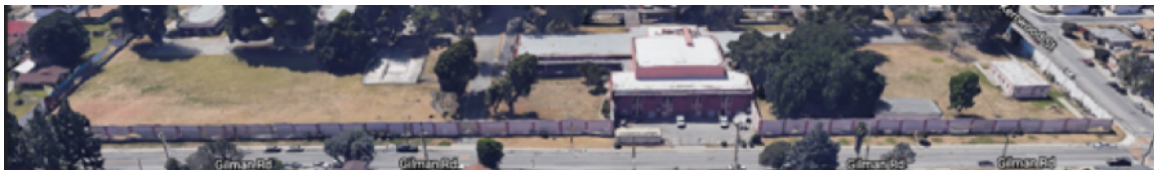
⁴⁷ *Los Angeles Unified School District Historic Context Statement, 1870 to 1969*, p. 79.



MacLaren Hall site (Google Earth, c2019)



Durfee Avenue elevations, parking area and security wall (Google Earth, c2019)



Gilman Road elevations and security wall (Google Earth, c2019)



Kernwood Street elevations and security wall (Google Earth, c2019)



Southern border of MacLaren site with security wall (Google Earth, c2019)



Kerrwood St. and Durfee Ave.



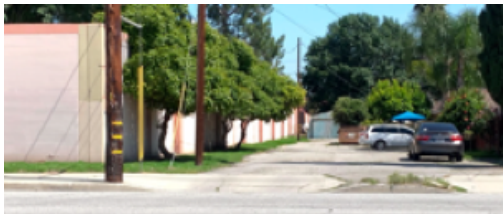
Gilman Road and Kerrwood Street



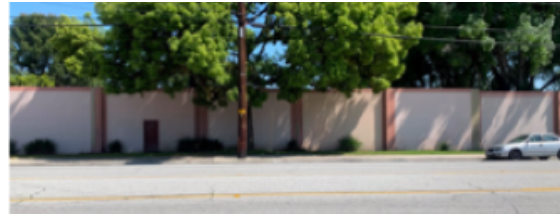
Gilman Road



South border of site and Gilman Road



Durfee Ave. and south border of site.



Along Durfee Avenue



North end of Durfee Road



Vehicle entry from Kerrwood St.



Service area of School/Maintenance
Building along Gilman Road



Service area of Cafeteria along Durfee Ave.

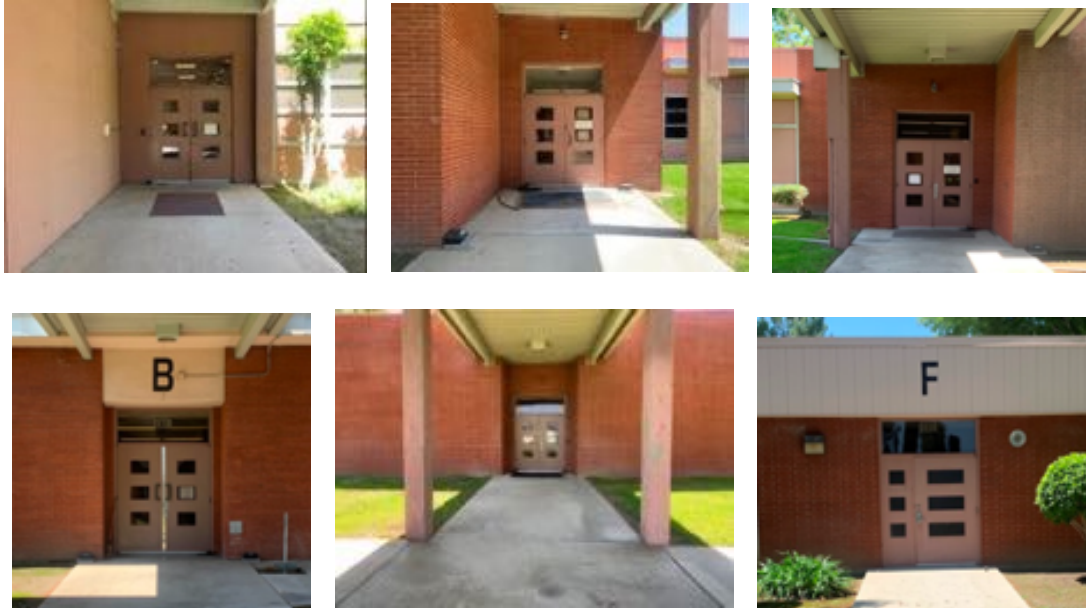
Architectural Vocabulary of Architectural Elements of MacLaren Hall

The major buildings on the MacLaren Hall site use the same architectural vocabulary of arranged in a variety of ways. The major repeating elements include: windows, concrete panels, brick in stretcher pattern, aluminum frame windows; doors; and covered walkways.

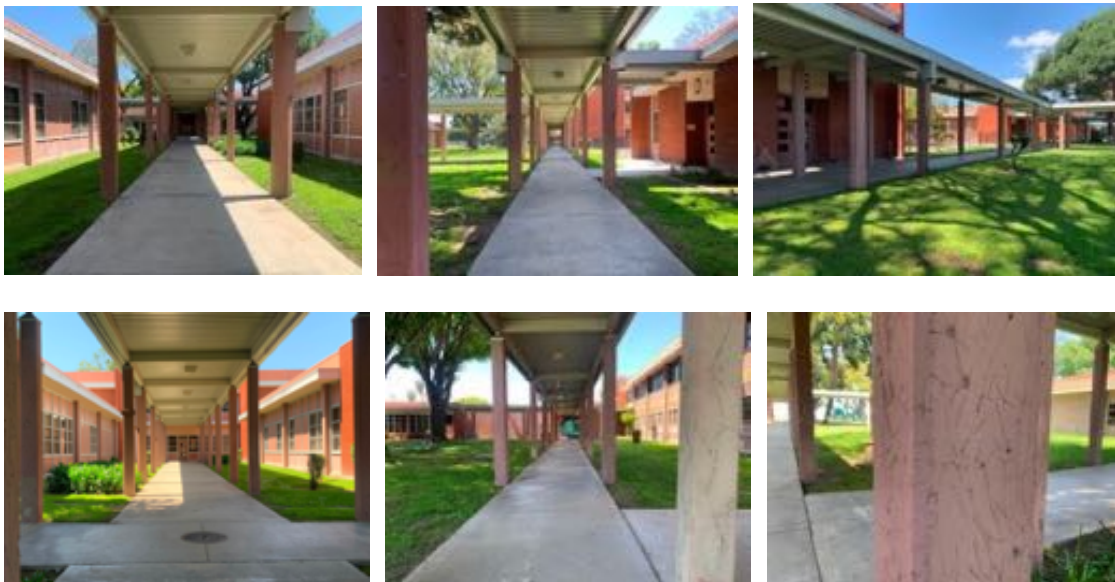
Repeating modules include windows, concrete panels, brick in stretcher pattern, aluminum frame windows and canopies. Window modules are rectangular and organized in stacks of two or three. One type of window is horizontal oriented; another is closer to square. Windows have metal/aluminum frames. Areas of concrete exterior are defined by narrow vertical and horizontal bands of concrete strips. End sections of buildings can consist of a brick clad bay with bricks laid in stretcher pattern.



Repeating modules include doors. The majority of door assemblies include double doors of painted metal with each of the doors having three stacked glass panes and a glass transom. Doors on the Dormitories include a wider single door with a stack of three glass panes and a single adjacent fixed panel with three square stacked glass panes.

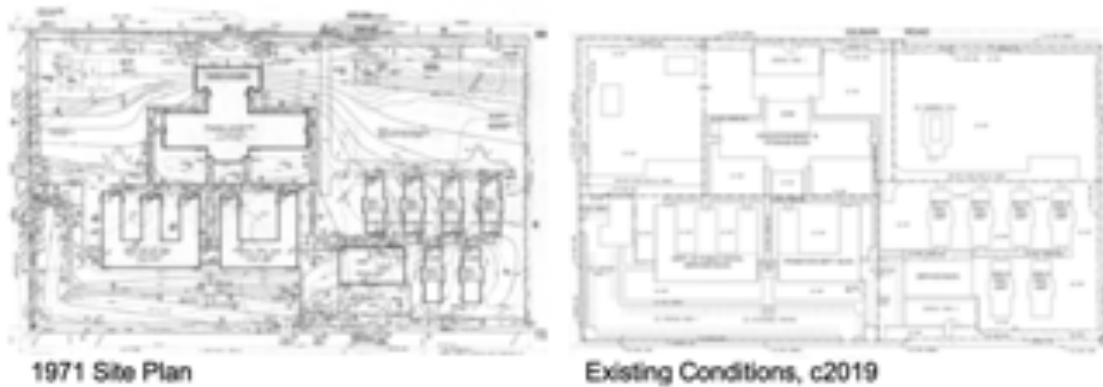


Repeating elements: covered walkways. Covered walkways connect buildings and spaces on the site. The walkways have cement paved paths with flat roof metal canopy supported by simple squared posts.



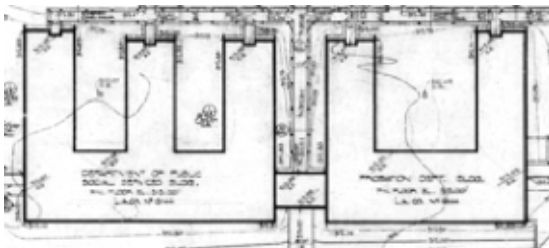


Building Descriptions



Office Building Description

The Office Building was originally treated as two separate buildings with a one-story connection. One of the buildings, constructed to house the Department of Public Social Services is “E” shaped in plan—with three projecting fingers. The other building, constructed for the Probation Department is “U” shaped in plan with two projecting fingers. Both buildings are connected by a narrow lobby module.



1971 Drawing of Office Building



Office Building plan view, c2019 (Google Earth)

The west elevation of the two sections of the Office Building have long expanses that face the public right of way. These sections are two-stories high with a flat roof. The ends of each building has a wide bay that is clad with bricks laid in a stretcher bond. Between these brick clad end modules are bands of windows at the upper story and ground story with concrete panels between the rows of windows. These panels and the windows are separated by thin concrete vertical and horizontal strips. The rows of windows consist of horizontal windows in stacks of three clustered five to a bay with the

bays separated by vertical concrete piers. A canopy projects above the upper row of windows. The area above the canopy at the cornice, is clad with vertical metal siding.

There is a narrow two-story bay that connects the two original buildings. The main entry into the MacLaren Hall site is located in this connector. The connector consists of door flanked by windows on the ground floor and a row of windows on the upper story. There is a projecting canopy over the upper level windows and above the door assembly.



West elevation



West elevation



Entry on west elevation



Entry on east elevation

The fingers at the far end of the building complex, the farthest north and farthest south fingers are two-stories high; the other three fingers are one-story high. The ends of the long elevations of long elevations of the fingers have a brick section that projects out beyond the plan of the finger's east elevation; a canopy stretches along the east elevation attached to each of the projecting wall segments. The area above the canopy is clad with vertical metal sheathing. The upper level has two pairs of three stacked windows. On the ground level, the entry door module is centered and there is a talk stack of windows on one side of the door. The east elevations of the fingers of the building are clad with brick laid in a stretcher bond.



East end of two-story finger



East end of one-story finger



Courtyard between "U" shaped building



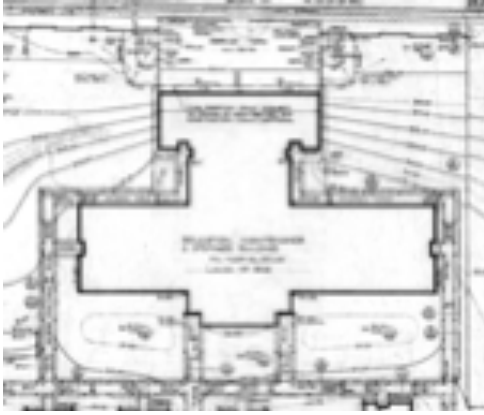
Courtyard between two fingers of "E" finger

The long elevations of the fingers have flat roofs and have a brick clad module at the far east end. The rest of those elevations consist of a series of stacked window modules and concrete panels defined by narrow concrete strips, in a similar vocabulary and design as the west elevations. Similar to the west elevations, there is a canopy over the first story windows supported with wood posts on the one-story fingers and a projecting canopy over the upper story windows on the two-story fingers. The area above the canopies have the vertical metal sheathing.

The courtyard area of the "U" shaped section has a tree located in the center with a paved walkway around it. The courtyards of the "E" shaped fingers are paved with no landscape elements.

School/Maintenance Building Description

The School/Maintenance Building was constructed as the Education Maintenance and Storage Building.



1971 Drawing of Office Building



School/Maintenance Building plan view, c2019
(Google Earth)

The building is generally “T” shaped in plan. The building is one-story with a partially subterranean basement and a two-story gymnasium. It is a reinforced brick building with a flat roof. The building exterior combines the typical modular elements used on buildings throughout the site and includes brick bays without windows, long expanses of concrete exteriors with panels and windows separated by thin concrete vertical and horizontal strips. Windows are grouped and stacked at various locations along the building’s elevations except for the gymnasium and rear storage/maintenance areas of the building. The south wing of the building is longer than the north wing. A front entry area is located slightly off center (due to the longer south wing); this area projects out slightly. It is clad with concrete and features the modular panel and stacked window design.



South wing



South elevation



North elevation



Entry wing, west elevation



South end of west elevation adjacent to
Open Space South



North wing, west elevation

Dormitory Building Descriptions

Six dormitory buildings are located in the southwest quadrant of the site (along with the cafeteria building). The buildings are sited with two near the western perimeter of the site and another four dormitory building to the east. The buildings are staggered along both sides of a covered walkway.



1971 Drawing showing Dormitories



Dormitories, plan view, c2019 (Google Earth)

The dormitory buildings are basically “I” shape in plan with a slightly projecting bay located on the long elevations of the building. The roof is flat; there is a deep fascia at the cornice that runs around the length of each building. The exterior sides of the long elevations of each dormitory building feature the concrete modules and stacked windows typical of the site’s architectural vocabulary. The narrow, end elevations, are clad with brick laid in stretcher bond. The entry door assembly is centered along this elevation and consists of a single door with a panel of stacked sidelights. There is a column of stacked windows on this elevation on both sides of the door.



Dormitories area



Typical dormitory building, front elevation



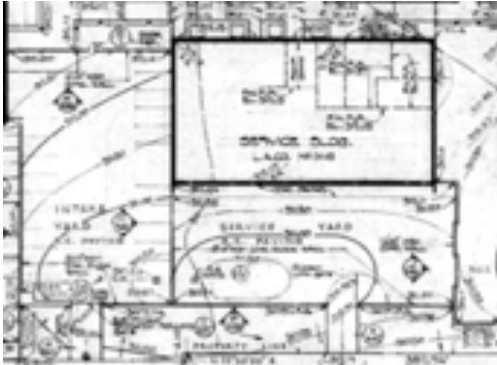
Area between dormitory buildings



Dormitory buildings adjacent to security wall

Cafeteria Building Description

The Cafeteria Building is a one-story building, square in plan with a flat roof. It is located on the west side of the site, near Durfee Avenue. There is a paved service yard to the north of the building and on the west side of the building. The west parking/service yard area opens onto Durfee Avenue.



1971 Drawing showing Cafeteria Building (originally Service Building)



Cafeteria plan view, c2019 (Google Earth)

The Cafeteria Building incorporates elements of the site's architectural vocabulary on its east elevation which faces into the site towards the dormitory cluster. The building has areas of concrete panels and stacked windows. The other elevations of the building are more utilitarian, and the "rear" west elevation includes a loading dock service area.



East elevation



Cafeteria Building entrances

Prefabricated Trailer Buildings

There are three prefabricated trailer buildings on the site located in the north area of the site. These are not original buildings and are not permanent buildings. They are prefabricated trailers with wood exterior siding and wood frame windows and doors.



Prefabricated Trailer



Prefabricated Trailer

Perimeter Wall

The MacLaren facility was designed as a secure facility with limited points of entry. The public face of the facility is along Durfee Avenue. The main office buildings have their long elevations facing Durfee Avenue and a side elevation facing Kerrwood Street. These buildings create a barrier to entrance to the site. Sited along the area further south along Durfee Avenue is the cafeteria/service building which also served as a barrier. The rest of the perimeter of the site is bounded by a tall concrete wall.



Plan view of MacLaren Hall facility with perimeter wall (Google Earth, c2019)

The cement wall is painted. Portions of the interior side of the wall also have images painted on them. These “murals” appear on portions of the wall’s interior facing sides. They are simple images including cartoon characters. Other segments have painting of people. There are also long stretches of the interior side of the wall without any “murals.”



Examples of murals located on the interior side of the cement perimeter walls



Example of murals located on the interior side of the cement perimeter walls



Examples of murals located on the interior side of the cement perimeter walls



Portion of interior side of cement wall without murals



Portion of interior side of cement wall without murals

Research inquiries into County records and staff sources have yielded no information on the provenance of the paintings and there is no evidence that they are considered to be works of art.

Open Space North

The Open Space North area is rectangular in plan located to the east of the Dormitory cluster and south of the School/Maintenance Building. The security wall bounds the Open Space North area on the north and east sides. There are two prefabricated trailers located in the Open Space North area. The area is planted with grass. The aerial image from 1977 shows the only plantings were a few trees at the west side of the Open Space North area. Since then additional trees were planted adjacent to the School/Maintenance Building.



Aerial view of Open Space North 1977



Aerial view of Open Space North c2019



Looking east at Open Space North from Dormitories



Looking west at Open Space North towards Dormitories

Open Space South Description

The Open Space South area is rectangular in plan located at the southeast corner of the site due east of the Dormitory buildings. In 1977 this area of the site was bare except for what appear to be a few trees near the Dormitories. The rest of the area was not landscaped. Over the years most of the area has remained lawn area devoid of other plantings.



Aerial view of Open Space South 1977.



Aerial view of Open Space South c2019

A swimming pool area was added to the Open Space South area in 1983. This pool area includes a cement deck with one small pool and a larger rectangular swimming pool. There is also a small pool shed building. The pools, deck and shed are contained by a metal rail fence.



Looking west toward Dormitories and the southwest corner of the sit



Looking north toward pool



Looking north along south border security wall.



Looking south toward southeast corner of site bounded by security walls



Looking toward Pool Area



Pool Area



Pool Area



Pool



Pool shed in pool area



Pool area

REVIEW OF PREVIOUS SURVEYS

A records search was conducted at the South Central Coastal Information Center (SCCIC), California State University, Fullerton. The rolls of the National Register of Historic Places, California Historical Landmarks, California Points of Historical Interest, and the California State Historical Resources Inventory were examined. Also reviewed was the Los Angeles County Historical Landmarks Registry. The City of Downey does not have a historic preservation program or an ordinance that enables designation of historic resources.

There is no documentation or evidence that MacLaren Hall was identified in any historic resources survey or determined or designated as an historic resource either in terms of individual buildings or as a historic district.

EVALUATION OF SIGNIFICANCE

National Register of Historic Places

The property at MacLaren Hall is evaluated for eligibility for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places under the four National Register criteria for significance. The National Register has a threshold of 50 years of age for a resource to be placed on the National Register.

The National Register Criteria for Evaluation exclude properties that achieved significance within the last fifty years unless they are of exceptional importance. Fifty years is a general estimate of the time needed to develop historical perspective and to evaluate significance. This consideration guards against the listing of properties of passing contemporary interest and ensures that the National Register is a list of truly historic places. Special Consideration G of the National Register evaluation guidance provides the method for evaluating properties less than 50 years old to determine if they possess exceptional importance.

The MacLaren Hall property is less than 50 years old however it is approaching 50 years of age as the planning and design of the site began in 1971. The redevelopment of the site took place in two stages (with services continuing at the site during construction)

and was the second stage was completed in 1975. As the timeline for any new proposed development to the site would push beyond the 50 year mark, the MacLaren Hall property will be evaluated under the criteria for buildings 50 years old or older.

Criterion A

To be eligible for inclusion on the National Register under Criterion A, a property must have a direct association with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history and cultural heritage.

A portion of the MacLaren Hall site was first developed in 1930 as the Ruth Protective Home for young girls. Buildings were added to the site in the 1930s however with the discovery of anti-biotics, the services provided for the Ruth Protective Home were no longer needed. The facility was adapted for use as a hospital for the treatment of polio in the late 1940s-early 1950s. With the discovery of a vaccine for polio the services provided by this, the Sister Kenny Polio Hospital, were no longer needed.

In 1960 Los Angeles County acquired the property and adapted it for use as MacLaren Hall, a facility to serve non-delinquent who needed foster care. The buildings were used for this purpose until the early 1970s when the County embarked on redevelopment of the site. The redevelopment was staged over four years and included removal of all of the buildings on the site and removal of most of the vegetation on the site (the acreage had been planted with groves of trees throughout the 20th Century; the trees were removed as the facility expanded). Thus, the earliest years of Los Angeles County providing services at this site pre-dates the current buildings of MacLaren Hall.

The history of providing services to young people in need began with the first facilities constructed on the site: the Ruth Home which evolved into the Sister Kenny Polio Hospital during the first half of the 20th Century. Another social mission, that of serving foster children began in the later part of the 20th Century. There are no buildings, structures or landscape features that date from the period of the Ruth Protective Home, the Sister Kenny Polio Hospital which established the mission for which the site was used throughout the 20th Century. The first 15 years of the County's use of the MacLaren Hall site to deliver social services to non-delinquent youth. The current facilities were constructed in the later part of the 20th Century. No historic resources from the first half of the 20th Century, when the uses of the site to provide social services was established, remain to represent the broad pattern of history of social services.

The buildings of the 1975 MacLaren Hall redevelopment, which remain today, were used to provide services to youth for 28 years until MacLaren Hall was closed in 2003. During those 28 years services were provided to youth however there is no evidence that during this brief period any service innovations or significant practices were developed. Since 2003 portions of the facility have been used for County administrative offices. There is no evidence that any significant service was performed at this site during the period 2003 to today. There is no evidence that any significant historic events took place on the at MacLaren Hall.

As the current MacLaren Hall has no physical resources connected with operations in the early and mid-20th Century and thus no longer any association with the early delivery of social services and as there is no evidence of any historic events occurring at the site

in its 28 years of operation as a care facility for youth or during the past 15 years of use as administrative offices, the MacLaren Hall property, its buildings and site, does not meet Criterion A and is not eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under this criterion.

Criterion B

To be eligible for inclusion on the National Register under Criterion B, a property must be associated with the lives of persons significant in the past who have made an important impact on national, state or local history.

There are no longer any physical features, buildings, structures or landscaping that are associated with the early service providers of the Ruth Protective Home, the Sister Kenny Polio Hospital or the first 15 years of MacLaren Hall thus, there is no association with individuals from that period.

During the 28 years the redeveloped facility was in operation as MacLaren Hall (1975-2003) the facility was served by many dedicated staff. However, there is no evidence that any of the staff accomplishments, their number or combination, were of a significant achievement in comparison with the activities and accomplishments of others in similar occupations and situations. There is no evidence that any individual achieved historic significance through their work at MacLaren Hall during its period of operation as a youth care facility.

Many notable people contributed financial support to the facility as well as serving on boards and committees that supported MacLaren Hall in its mission. Financial and social support for an organization from notable community members does not impart historic significance to a property.

The property at MacLaren Hall does not meet Criterion B and is not eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under this criterion.

Criterion C

A property is eligible under Criterion C if it embodies the distinguishing characteristics of an architectural type, specimen, or is inherently valuable for study of a period style or method of construction. A property also is eligible if it represents notable work of a master builder, designer or architect or possesses high artistic values or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction.

The building was designed by architect William Allen who was born in 1901. Allen had a full professional career as an architect. He began work in Southern California as an "architectural designer" in the mid-1920s. He partnered with Allen Ruoff in the late 1920s and with William George Lutzi from 1939 to 1953. He continued to practice on his own from 1953 until his death in 1986 at the age of 85. He designed MacLaren Hall late in his career. Allen worked with Los Angeles County on several projects in the later years of his career including county courthouses in Los Angeles and Huntington Park.

The firm of Allen and Lutzi designed the Burbank City Hall, a Late Moderne style building in 1941. The building is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Other than this

building, there are no references to Allen's work in local architectural histories. Little biographical information could be located regarding Allen and his career. There are no monographs regarding Allen and his body of work. William Allen is not considered to be a master architect.

No biographical information was identified about the history of the Vanlar Construction Co. which was the general contractor for the MacLaren Hall redevelopment project. There is no evidence that they would be considered master builders or craftsmen.

The design of the buildings at MacLaren Hall used principles developed in the years between 1940 to 1969 for institutional uses especially applied to schools. The site organization is an axial design with buildings located along the axis in a manner that combines the finger-plan and the cluster-plan. This hybrid type of site design had been in use for over 20 years by the time the MacLaren Hall 1970s redevelopment was developed. These principles for design of school/institutional facilities had been widely shared throughout the architectural and design field among professionals who worked in institutional design and development.

Thus, the use of these principles to guide the design of MacLaren Hall were not ground-breaking or creatively applied but rather were typical. The use of these hybrid design principles for MacLaren Hall was not an innovative or exceptional design as it had been well established in the institutional design community for over 20 years.

The buildings on the site, the Office Building, School/Maintenance Building and Dormitories all are of the Modern style of architecture, popularized in the mid-20th Century. The choice of the style was especially suited to frugal institutional budgets as ornamentation was spare and simple building materials employed. The buildings of the campus were designed from a "kit of parts." These parts included modules of brick and concrete which were used on building elevations. There were two basic window types that could be stacked in columns of two to four based on programmatic needs. A few basic door types were used throughout the buildings of the site.

The Cafeteria Building is a simple, utilitarian building that is even sparer in its design and use of materials. There are two prefabricated buildings on campus that are not permanent structures.

The only spaces on the campus where the public was allowed (unescorted) was the central lobby area between the original Department of Social Services wing and the Probation Department wing. That area is unremarkable with utilitarian finishes. The other interior spaces of the buildings were work areas and offices, health care facilities, classrooms and activity spaces and dormitories, and back of house support areas such as kitchens, storage and maintenance spaces. These spaces were typical of utilitarian private areas of facilities and many of the spaces have been modified by their users over the decades. There is no evidence of any historic interior spaces within the buildings of MacLaren Hall.

There are two major open space areas on the MacLaren Hall site, Open Space North and Open Space South. The full acreage of the site was planted with groves of trees in the early 20th Century. These trees were removed as the portions of the site were developed with institutional facilities over most of the 20th Century. In the early 1970s

when MacLaren Hall was redeveloped, the site was essentially scraped of all buildings, plantings and most of its remaining trees. It does not appear from historic aerial images that there was any landscape design of the site before the 1970s redevelopment. A swimming pool, deck and pool shed were added to the Open Space South area in 1983.

Other than small lawn areas, regularly placed trees and other plantings that are typical of later 20th Century office parks which are located in front of the west elevation of the Office Building (the only building elevations visible from the public right of way) there is no evidence of any landscape design on the site. The two open space areas on the site are primarily lawn areas with a few trees located near buildings or the perimeter security walls. There are no other plantings in either the Open Space North or Open Space South areas.

There are courtyard areas between the fingers of the Office Building however, except for one which has a tree, these areas are devoid of landscape features. There are small areas of vegetation along some of the elevations of buildings but there is no consistency or significant design related to this vegetation.

The cement wall that surrounds the property has sections which have characters (primarily cartoon characters) painted on the interior side of the walls. Los Angeles County records and staff were consulted but no information was identified as to the provenance of these paintings. Also, there is no record of these paintings being considered as artistic murals.

The site design is not innovative or exceptional but is based on design principles for institutional/school buildings that had been well established at least 20 years before the design of MacLaren Hall. The main buildings of MacLaren Hall, the Office Building, the School/Maintenance and the Dormitories are not excellent examples of the Modern Architecture style. The materials are functional and basic. The massing, volume, and juxtaposition of building elements are not creative or unusual and the materials are ordinary. The architect, William Allen, is not considered a master architect. The general contractor is not considered to be a master builder. There is no evidence of landscape design; the two major open space areas are primarily lawn with little other vegetation. The landscaped area on the public side of the Office Building is unremarkable and typical of office buildings of the late 20th century.

There are several bronze plaques around the facility identifying donors. There is also a display that includes cornerstones from buildings that were previously on the property and have been demolished. These cornerstones have been removed from their original context and are now artifacts. Honorific plaques and artifacts are not eligible for inclusion to the National Register of Historic Places.

None of the buildings or open space areas of MacLaren Hall meet Criterion C and thus none of the features of MacLaren Hall are eligible for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places under this criterion.

Criterion D.

This criterion applies to archaeological resources. The property was constructed during historic times in the late 20th Century replacing development from the early 20th Century.

The construction techniques and materials from the late 20th Century are known and will not yield information important to the prehistory or early history of the area, state or nation. Thus, Criterion D is not applicable to MacLaren Hall under this criterion.

California Register of Historical Resources

Because the California Register criteria are based on the National Register criteria, the MacLaren Hall property, evaluated above, is ineligible for listing to the California Register for the same reasons explained under the National Register evaluation.

County of Los Angeles Historic Resource

Criterion 1 through 4 of the County of Los Angeles Criteria for Designation of Landmarks and Historic Districts are based on the National Register criteria. As such, the MacLaren property, evaluated above, is ineligible for designation a County of Los Angeles landmark for the same reasons explained under the National Register evaluation.

There are three additional criteria in the County of Los Angeles ordinance, and they are analyzed below:

Criterion 5. A property is eligible under Criterion 5 of the County of Los Angeles Landmark Ordinance if It is listed, or has been formally determined eligible by the U.S. National Park Service for listing, in the National Register of Historic Places, or is listed, has been formally determined eligible by the State Historical Resources Commission for listing, on the California Register of Historical Resource.

None of the buildings or open spaces at MacLaren Hall have been determined eligible or listed on the National Register of Historic Places or to the California Register of Historical Resources either individually or as contributors to an eligible historic district.

None of the buildings or open space areas of MacLaren Hall meet Criterion 5 of the Los Angeles County Landmark ordinance.

6. A property is eligible under Criterion 6 of the County of Los Angeles Landmark Ordinance if it is a tree that is one of the largest or oldest trees of the species located in the County.

In the early 20th Century the MacLaren Hall site was covered with groves of trees. As areas of those parcels were developed the trees were removed. In the early 20th Century as buildings were constructed on the site, trees were removed. When the site was redeveloped in the 1970s all buildings and it appears most of the trees and landscaping were removed. There are no legacy or exceptional/mature specimen trees located on the premises of MacLaren Hall.

Thus, none of the trees at MacLaren Hall meet Criterion 6 of the Los Angeles County Landmarks ordinance.

7.A property is eligible under Criterion 7 if it is a tree, landscape, or other natural land feature, and it has historical significance due to an association with a historic event, person, site, street, or structure, or because it is a defining or significant outstanding feature of a neighborhood.

None of the trees, landscape or natural features of the MacLaren Hall property are associated with any historic event, person, site, street, or structure at MacLaren Hall as explained under National Register Criteria B and C.

Historic District Evaluation

According to *National Register Bulletin 15, How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation* a district derives its importance from being a unified entity, even though it is often composed of a variety of resources. The identity of a district results from the interrelationship of its resources, which can convey a visual sense of the overall historic environment or be an arrangement of historically or functionally related properties.” In addition, “a district must be significant, as well as being an identifiable entity. It must be important for historical architectural...values.” Also “the majority of the components that add to the district’s historic character, even if they are individually undistinguished, must possess integrity.” And “the number of noncontributing properties a district can contain yet still convey its sense of time and place and historical development depends on how these properties affect the district’s integrity.”⁴⁸

The County of Los Angeles Historic Preservation Ordinance allows for designation of historic districts if “the proposed district exhibits either a concentration of historic, scenic, or sites containing common character-defining features, which contribute to each other and are unified aesthetically by plan, physical development, or architectural quality; or significant geographical patterns, associated with different eras of settlement and growth, particular transportation modes, or distinctive examples of parks or community planning.”

As explained under the National Register criteria evaluation, while the buildings are organized on an axis in a hybrid version of the finger- and cluster-plans, this organization is not of historical significance. That pattern had been employed in institutional/school settings for at least 20 years before the 1971 design of MacLaren Hall and is not historic as applied in a 1970s era project. While the design of the major buildings (the Office Building, School/Maintenance Building and the Dormitories) employ a similar scale and vocabulary, they are not excellent examples of the Modern architectural style. There is no eligible historic district that includes the properties of MacLaren Hall.

⁴⁸<https://www.nps.gov/nr/publications/bulletins/pdfs/nrb15.pdf>, p. 5.

CONCLUSION

Based on the facts presented above, the property at MacLaren Hall is not eligible for the National Register of Historic Places, the California Register of Historical Resources, as a Los Angeles County Landmark either for any individual buildings nor as a historic district as the property:

- Is not associated with any historic events or patterns of history;
- Is not associated with any historic persons;
- is not excellent historic example of the Modern architectural style;
- is not the work of a master architect, designer, or master craftsman;
- does not possess high quality workmanship or materials;
- are not contributing buildings to an eligible historic district.

Therefore, the property at MacLaren Hall does not contain any historic resources as defined by CEQA and there will be no adverse impacts as a result demolition of any building on the property or from any changes made to any of the buildings or landscape elements of the property.

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Sanborn Maps. EDR Environmental Data Resources, Inc.

Attachment A: Photographs



1. MacLaren site perimeter at Kerrwood Street and Durfee Avenue



2. MacLaren site perimeter at Kerrwood Street and Gilman Road



3. MacLaren site perimeter at Gilman Road



4. MacLaren site perimeter at south border and Gilman Road



5. MacLaren site perimeter at south border and Durfee Avenue



6. MacLaren site perimeter along Durfee Road



7. MacLaren site perimeter, vehicular access area of School/Maintenance Building off Gilman Road



8. MacLaren site perimeter, vehicle entrance from Kerrwood Street



9. MacLaren site perimeter, School/Maintenance Building vehicular access area along Gilman Road



10. MacLaren site perimeter, Cafeteria Building vehicular access area along Durfee Avenue



11. Office Building, west elevation



12. Office Building, main entry and parking area on west side



13. Office Building, main entry, west elevation



14. Office Building, west elevation



15. Office Building, north wing, west elevation



16. Office Building, south wing, west elevation



17. Office Building, walkway to lobby from east side



18. Office Building, elevation of one-story wing



19. East side of Office Building with walkway



20. East side of Office Building, two-story wing



21. East side of Office Building, one-story wing



22. East side of Office Building, one-story wing



23. East side of Office Building, two-story wing



24. East side of Office Building, patio area between wings (former Probation Dept. Building)



25. East side of Office Building, patio area between wings (former Dept. Public Social Services Building)



26. Office Building, north elevation and security wall



27. Walkway to School/Maintenance Building and its west elevation



28. West elevation of School/Maintenance Building



29. School/Maintenance Building, north wing, west elevation



30. School/Maintenance Building, south wing, west elevation and walkway



31. School/Maintenance Building, south end of west elevation adjacent to Open Space South



32. School/Maintenance Building, Entry Wing, west elevation



33. School/Maintenance Building, Entry Door on west elevation



34. School/Maintenance Building, north elevation



35. School/Maintenance Building, south elevation



36. Dormitories area



37. Dormitory F, east elevation



38. Dormitory G, east elevation



39. Dormitory H, east elevation



40. Dormitory I, east elevation



41. Dormitory K, west elevation



42. Area between Dormitories



43. Area between Dormitories



44. Area between Dormitories



45. Dormitories adjacent to south security wall



46. Cafeteria Building, east elevation



47. Cafeteria Building, east elevation and Dormitory, north elevation



48. Cafeteria Building, east elevation



49. Cafeteria Building, west elevation



50. Walkway system



51. Walkway system



52. Walkway system



53. Walkway system



54. Detail of Walkway post



55. Detail of Walkway ceiling



56. Detail of Walkway posts and ceiling



57. Detail of Walkway ceiling



58. Window and concrete panel and brick detail



59. Window and concrete panel detail



60. Window and concrete panel and brick detail



61. Window and concrete panel detail



62. Window and concrete panel bulkhead detail



63. Window and brick bulkhead detail



64. Brick stretcher pattern detail



65. South end of School/Maintenance Building adjacent to Open Space South



66. Open Space South looking west towards Dormitories



67. Open Space South looking west toward Dormitories and the southwest corner of the site



68. Basketball court by Dormitories adjacent to Open Space South



69. Open Space South, looking north



70. Open Space South looking north toward pool



71. Open Space South looking north along south border security wall



72. Open Space South looking south toward southeast corner of site bounded by security walls



73. Pool area in Open Space South



74. Pool Area in Open Space South



75. Pool in Open Space South



76. Pool in Open Space South



77. Pool deck area in Open Space South



78. Pool Hours in Open Space South



79. Pool House and small pool in Open Space South



80. Marker at Pool in Open Space South



81. Looking towards Open Space North



82. Basketball Court at west side of Open Space North



83. Looking east at Open Space North from basketball court



84. Looking east at Open Space North and Modular Buildings from basketball court



85. Modular Building along Kerrwood Street, west elevation in Open Space North



86. Modular Building along Kerrwood Street, south elevation in Open Space North



87. Modular Building along Gilman Road, north and east elevations, by security wall in Open Space North



88. Open Space North, looking southwest



89. Open Space North, looking north to Kerrwood Street from northwest corner near the Office Building

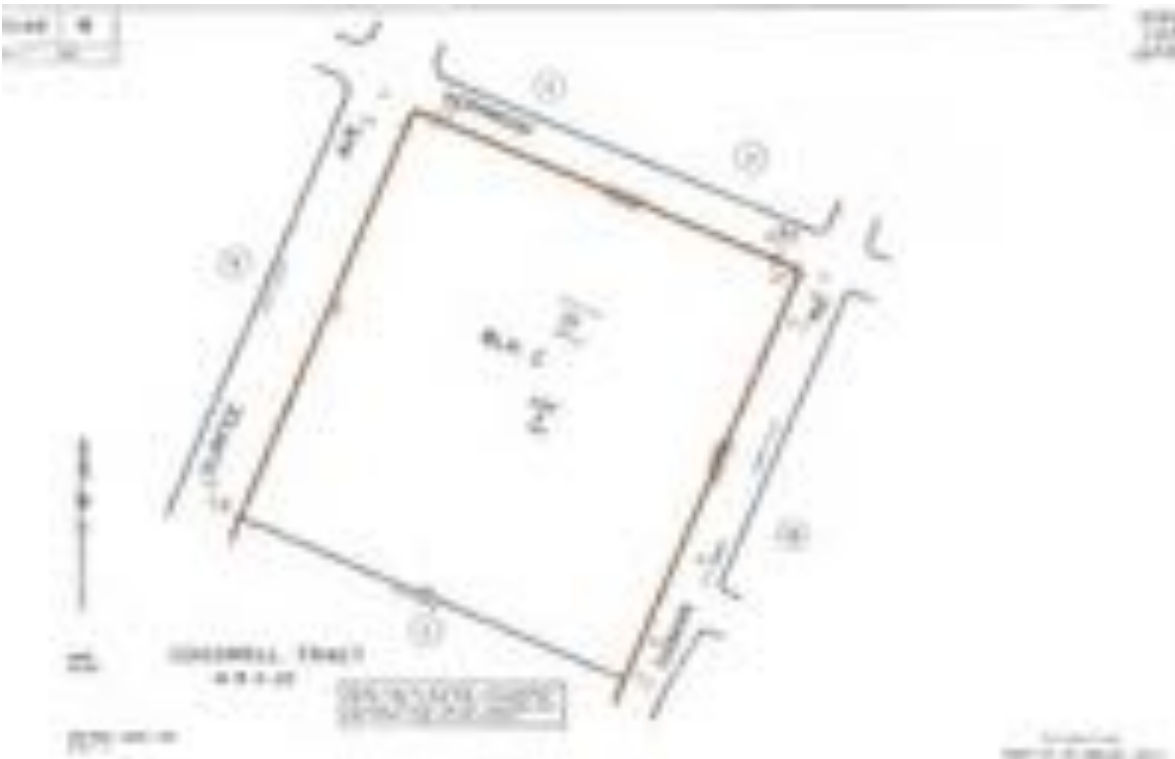


90. Marker with cornerstones from demolished buildings and dedication for current buildings

Attachment B: Maps



Aerial photograph (ca. 2018)



Los Angeles County Assessor's Map (part 1)

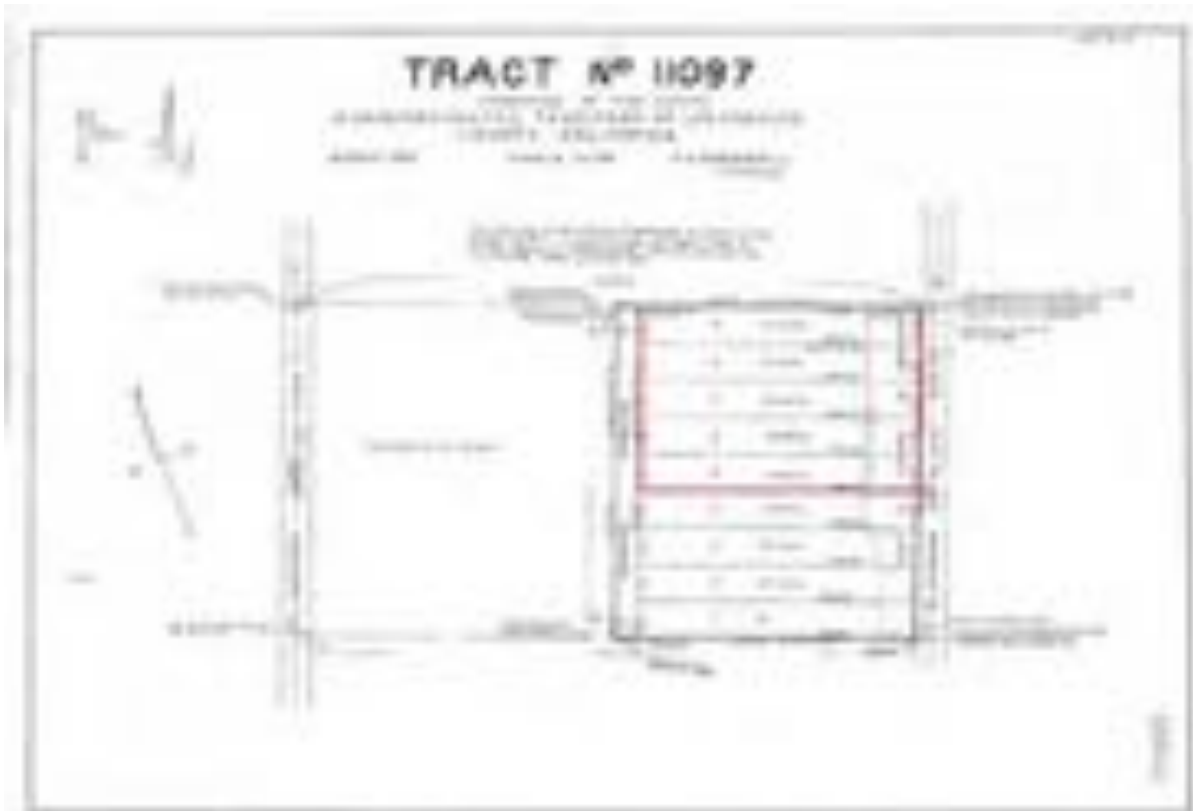


Los Angeles County Assessor's Map (part 2)



Original Tract Map

Original Tract Map



Original Tract Map

Attachment C: Historic Aerials and Sanborn Insurance Maps

Historic Aerials



Aerial Photo 1928



Aerial Photo 1938



Aerial Photo 1948



Aerial Photo 1952



Aerial Photo 1964



Aerial Photo 1972



Aerial Photo 1977



Aerial Photo 1981



Aerial Photo 1989



Aerial Photo 1990



Aerial Photo 1994



Aerial Photo 2002



Aerial Photo 2005



Aerial Photo 2009



Aerial Photo 2012



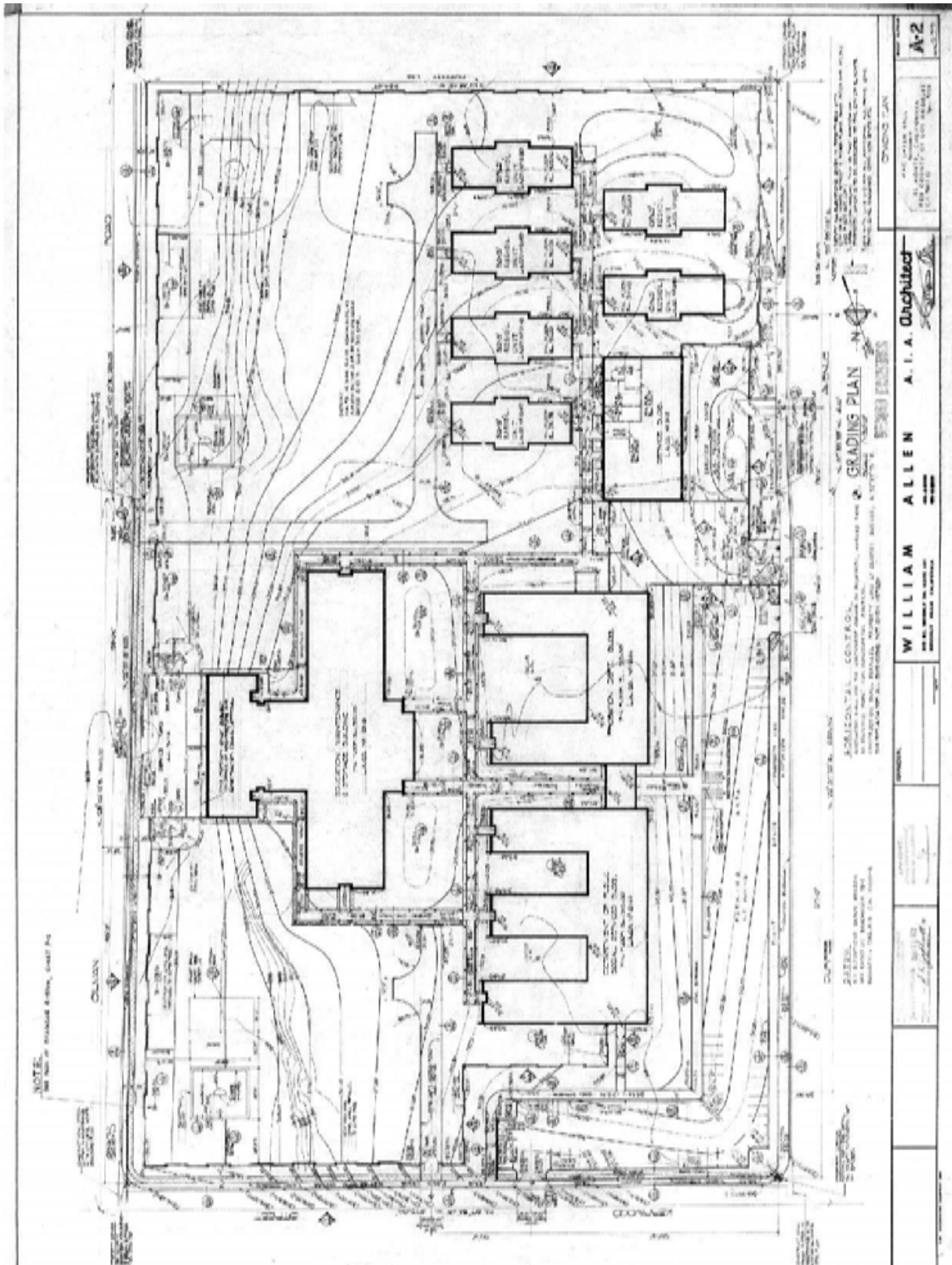
Aerial Photo 2016

Sanborn Insurance Maps

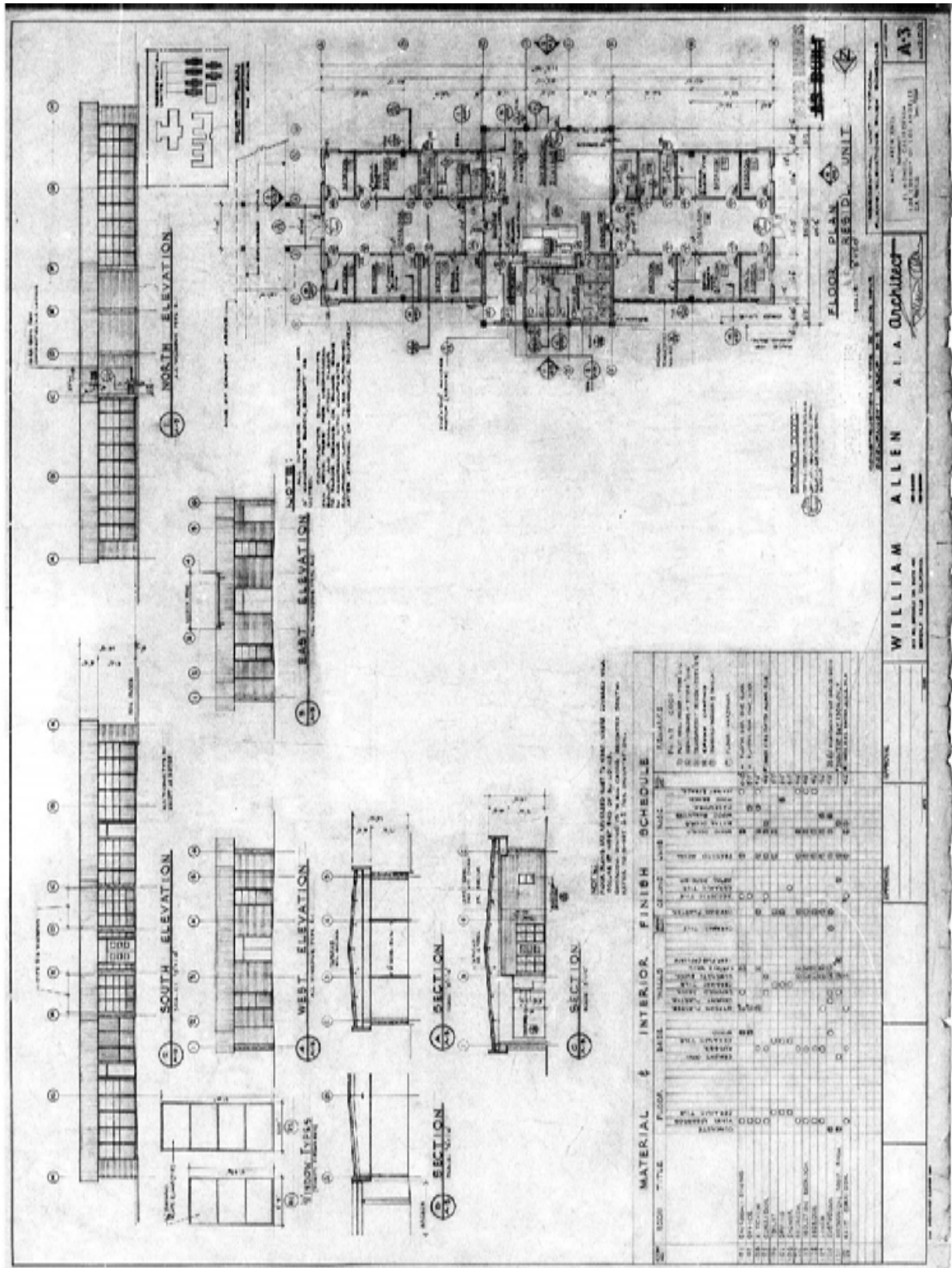
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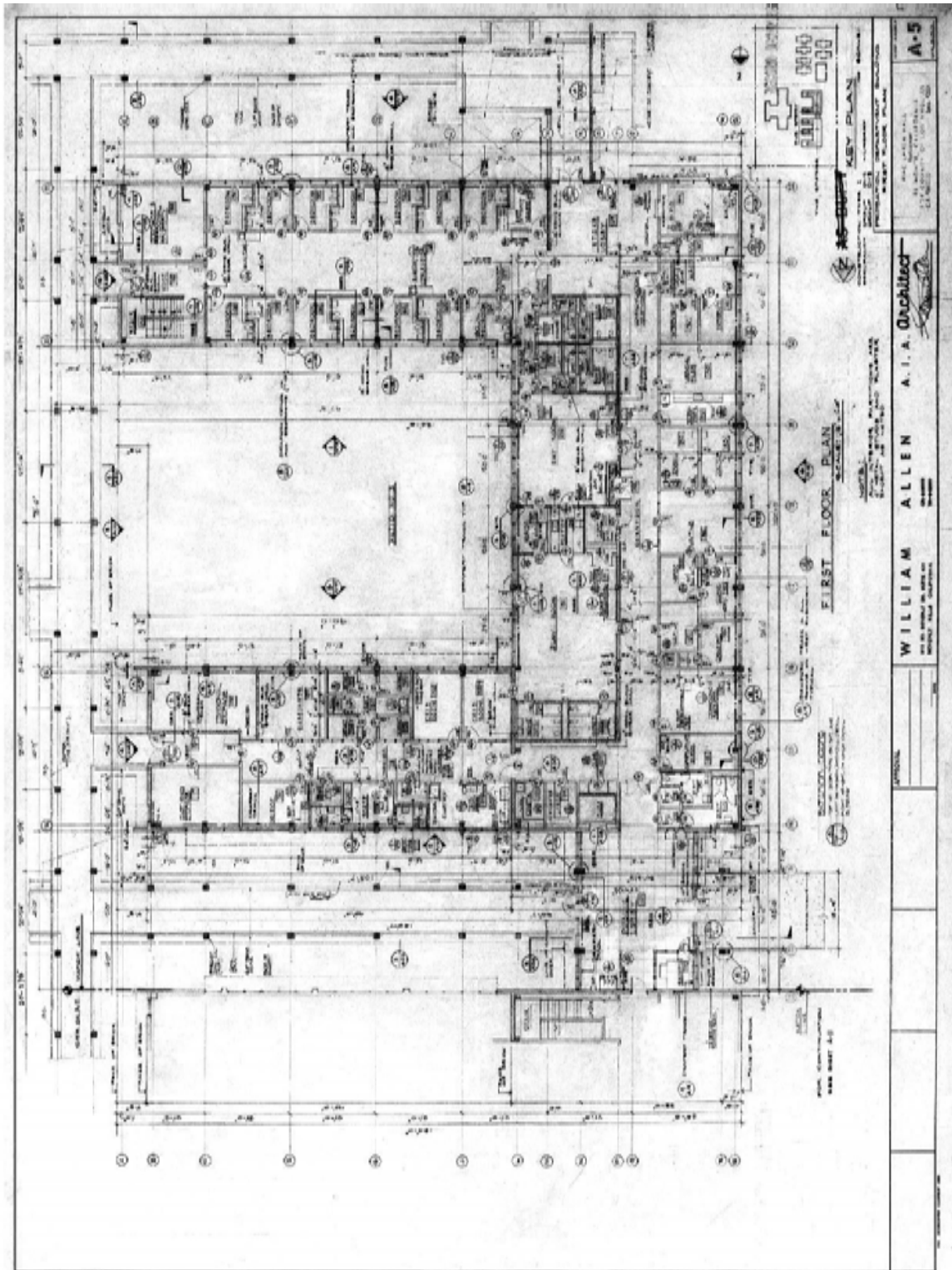
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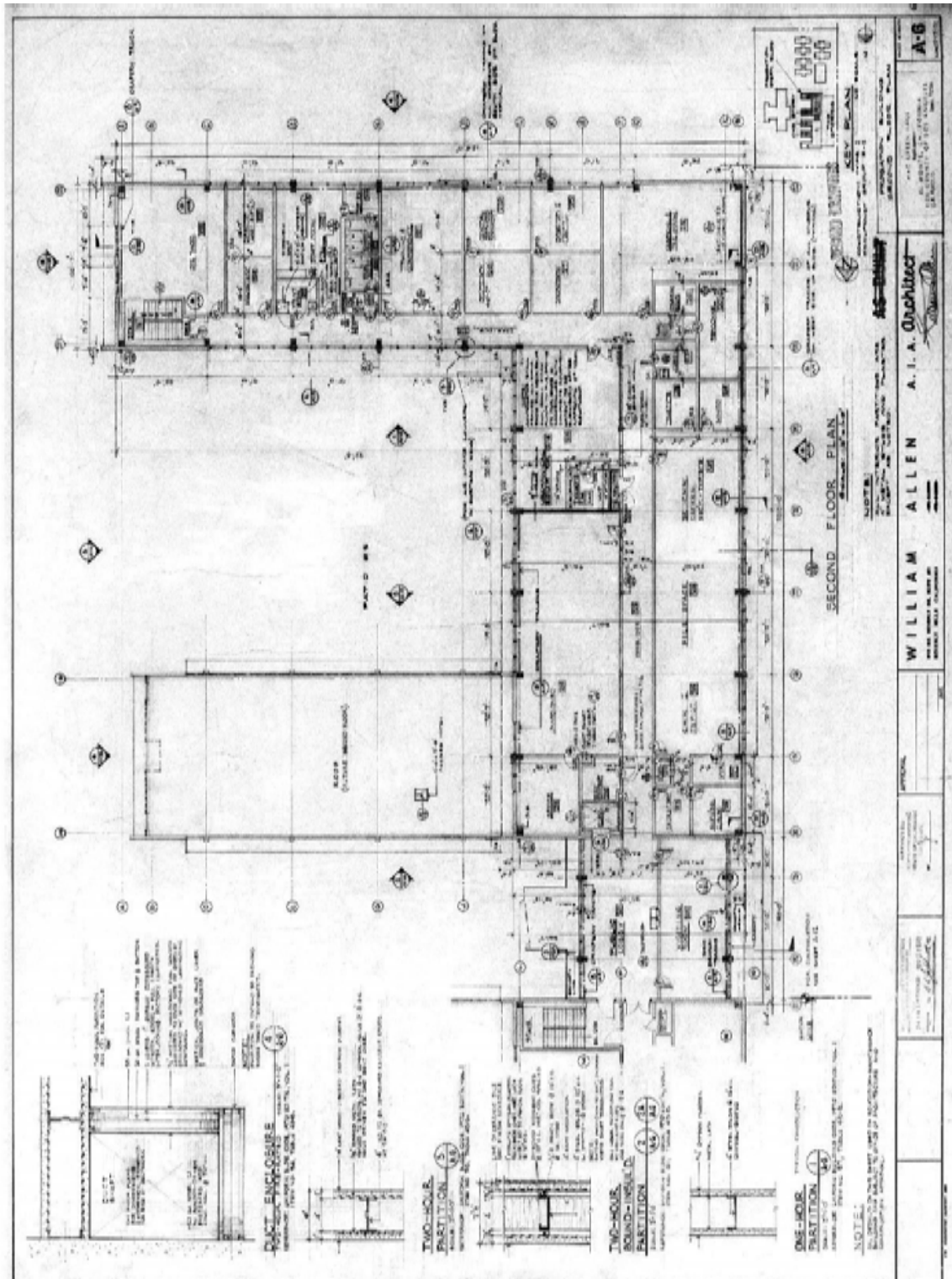
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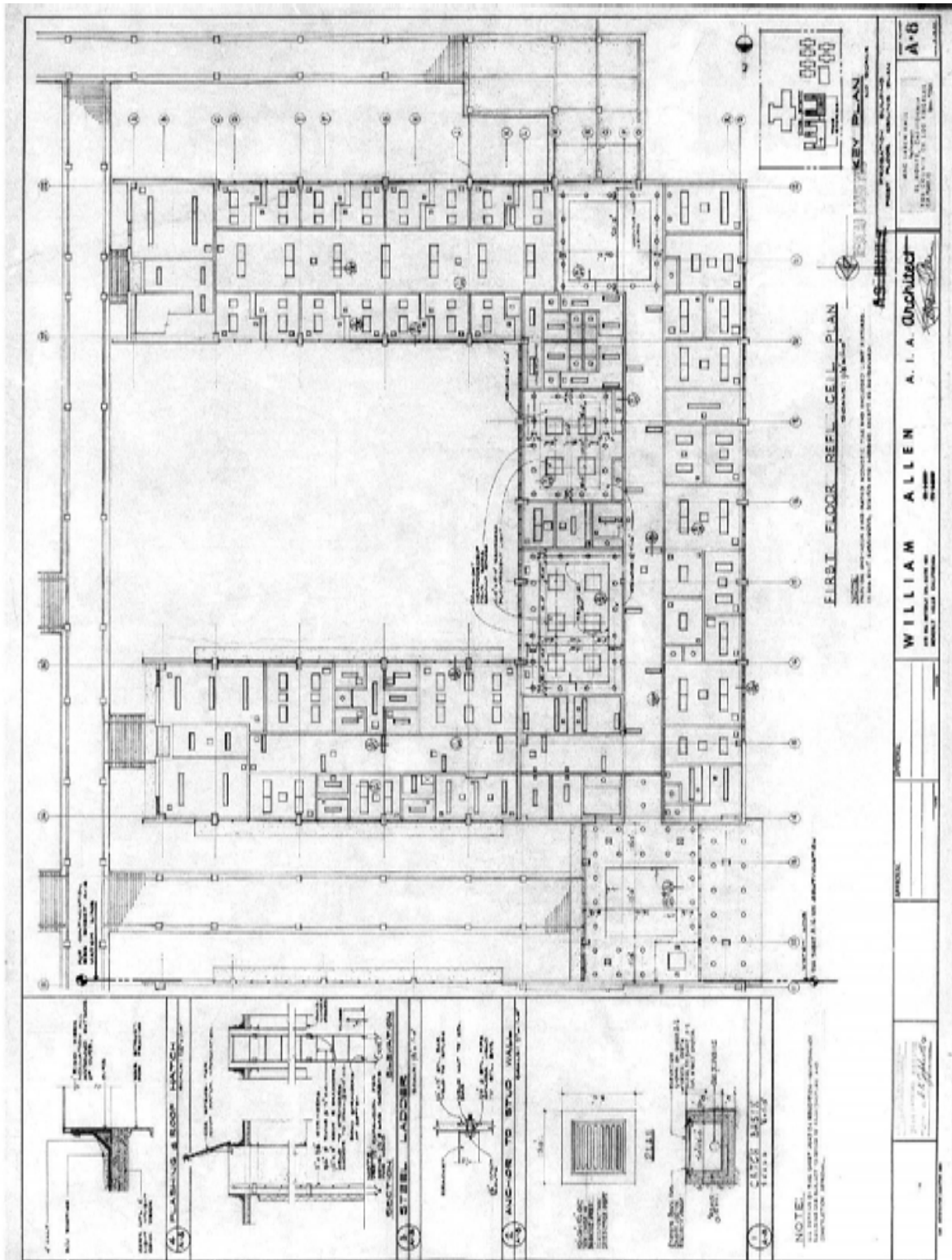
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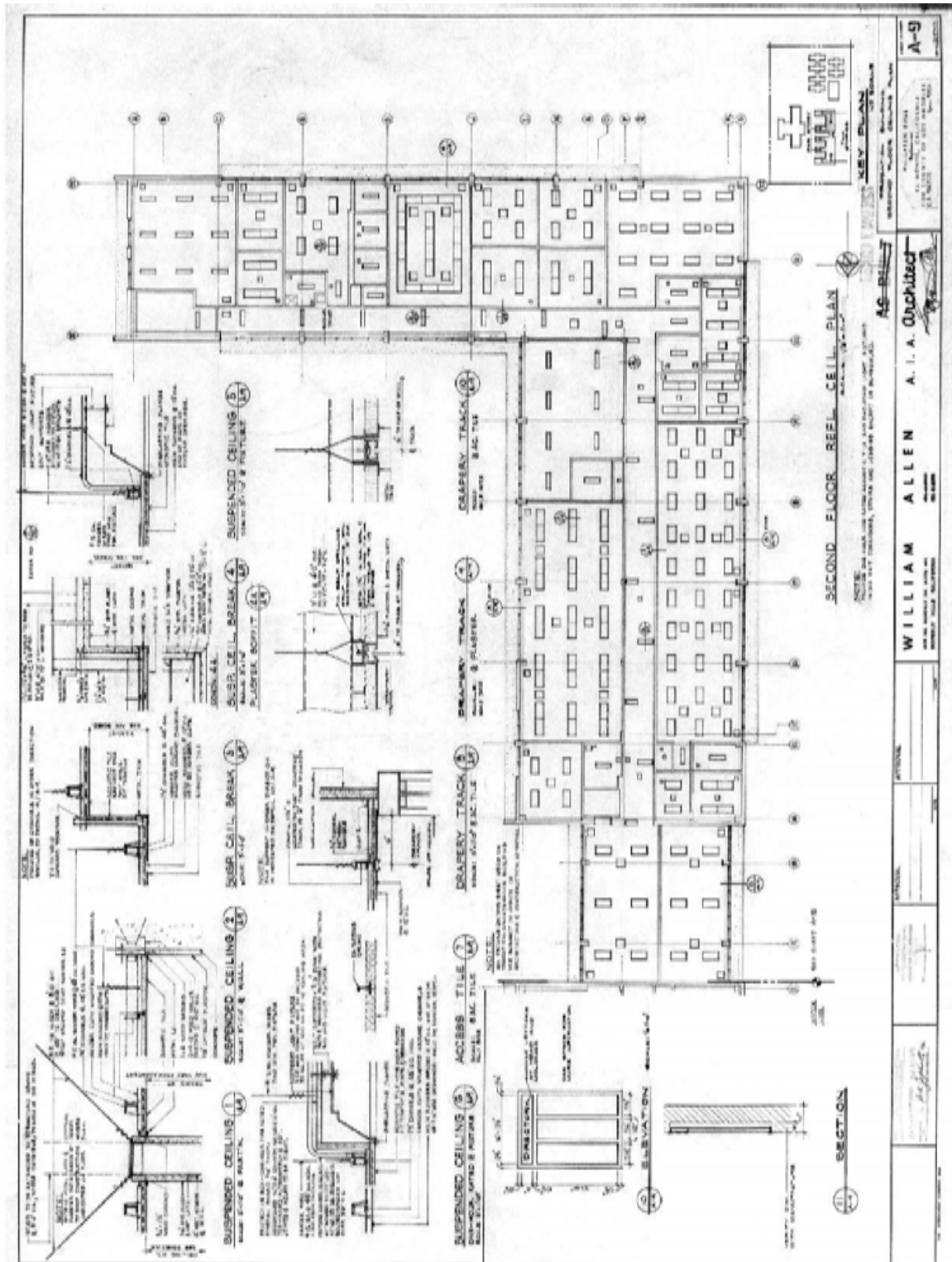
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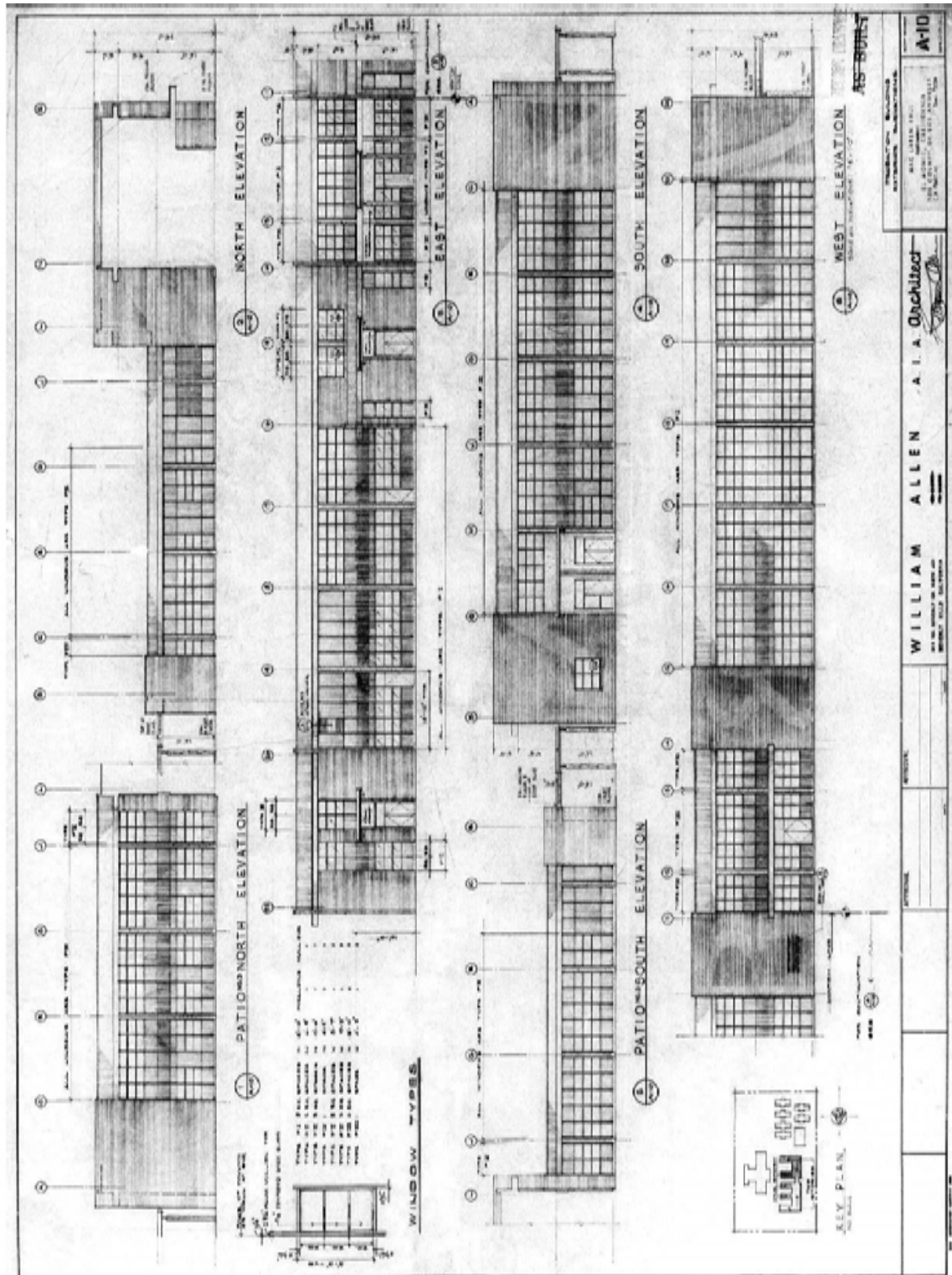
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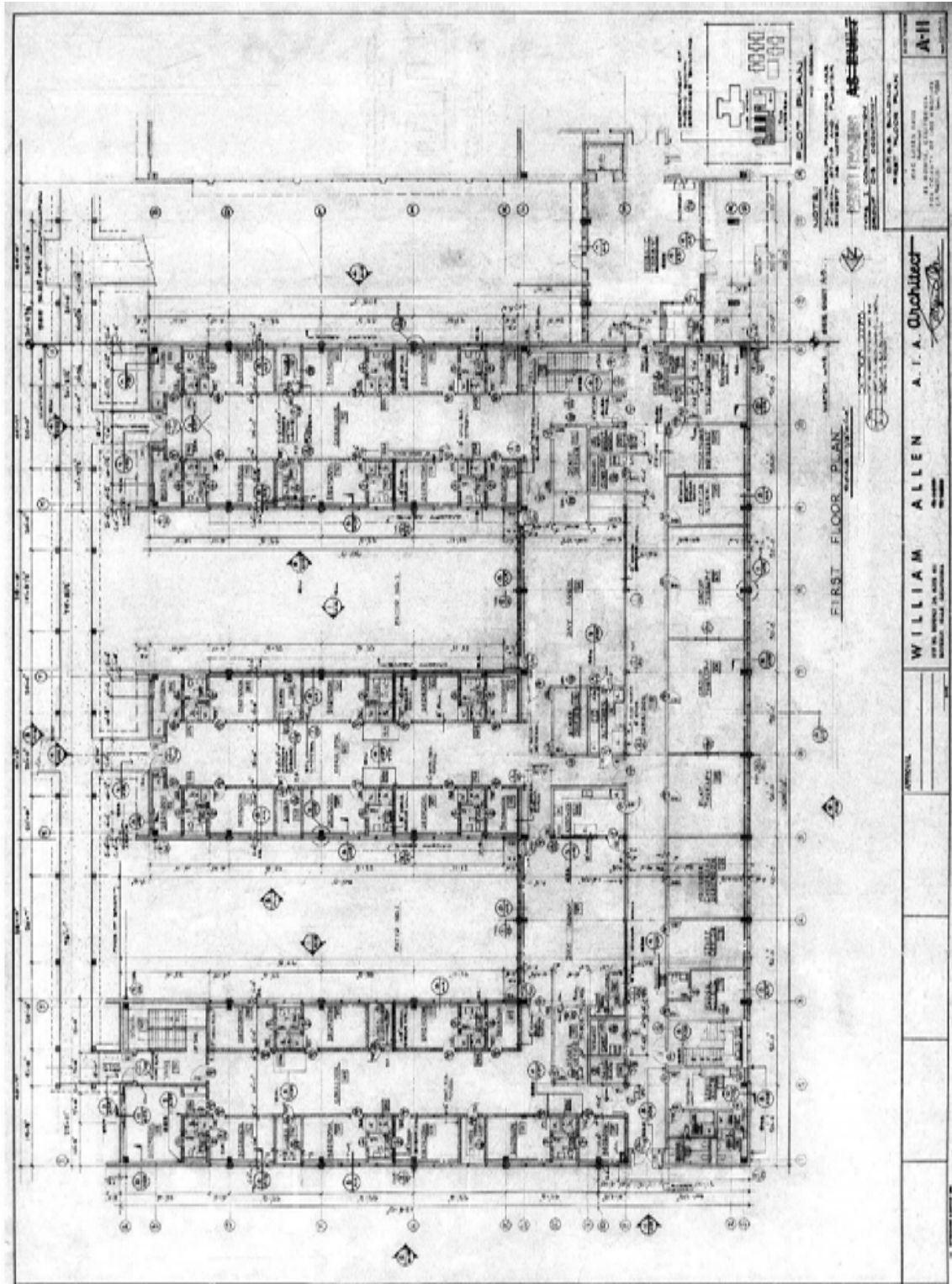
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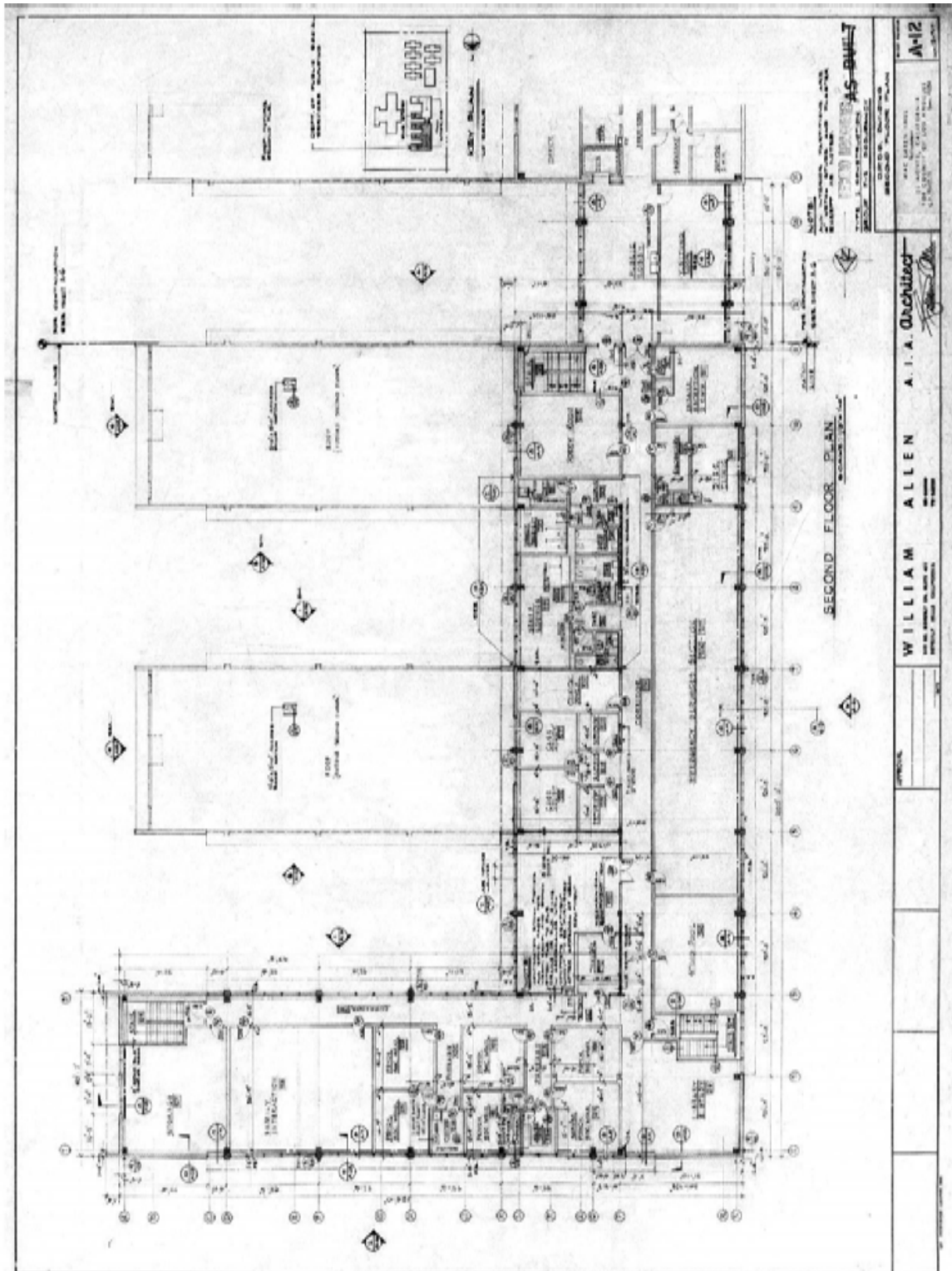
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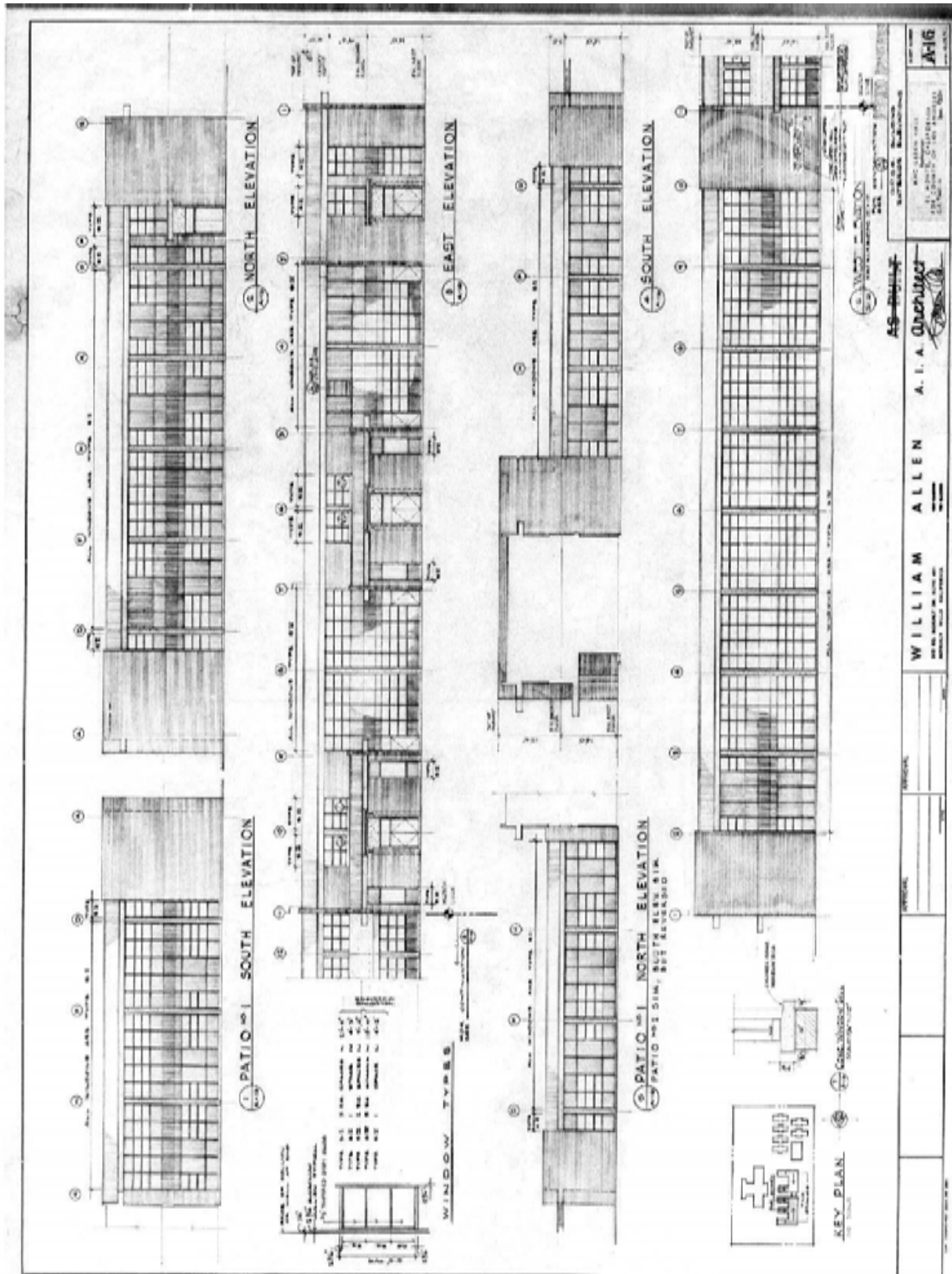
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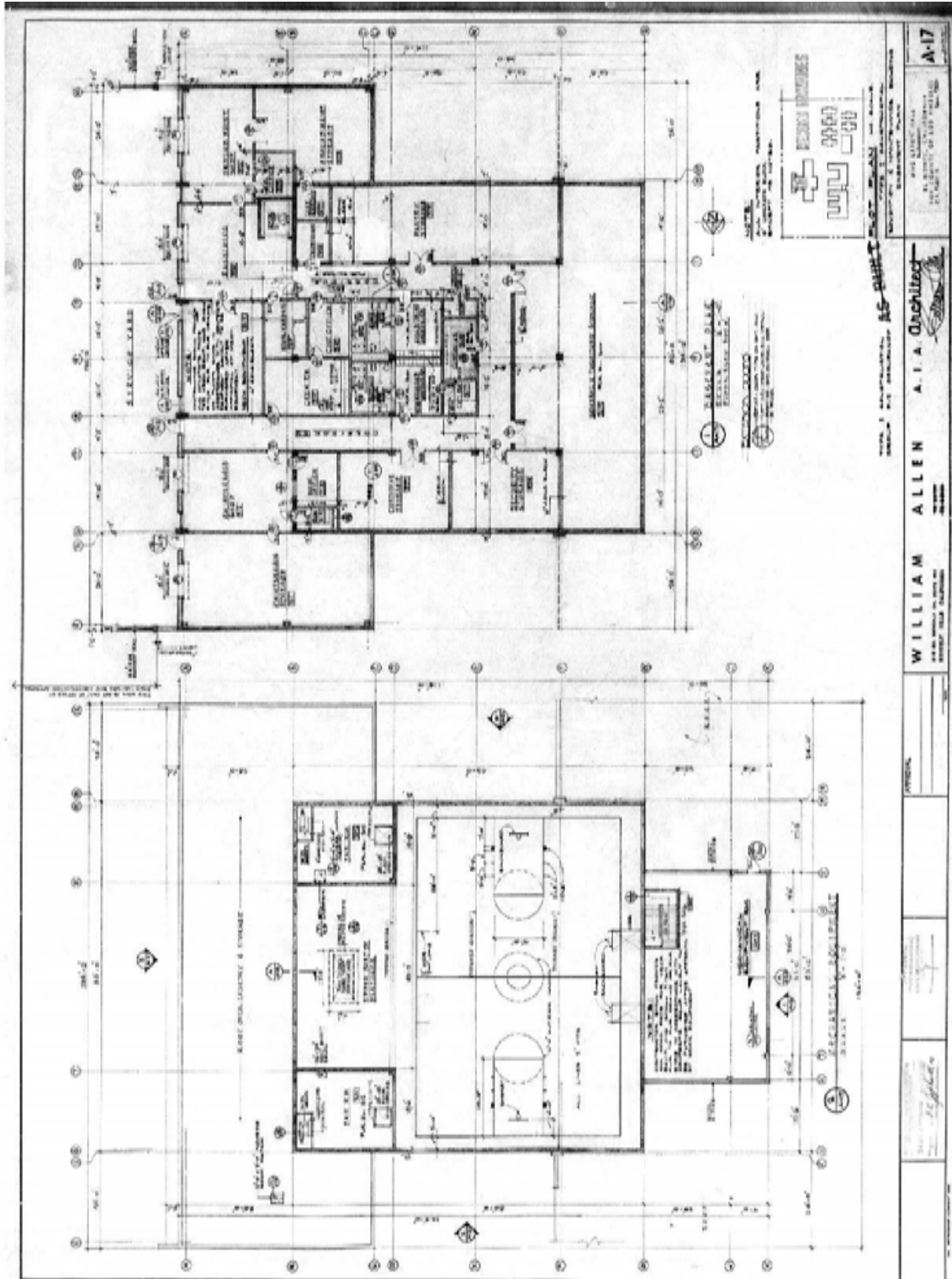
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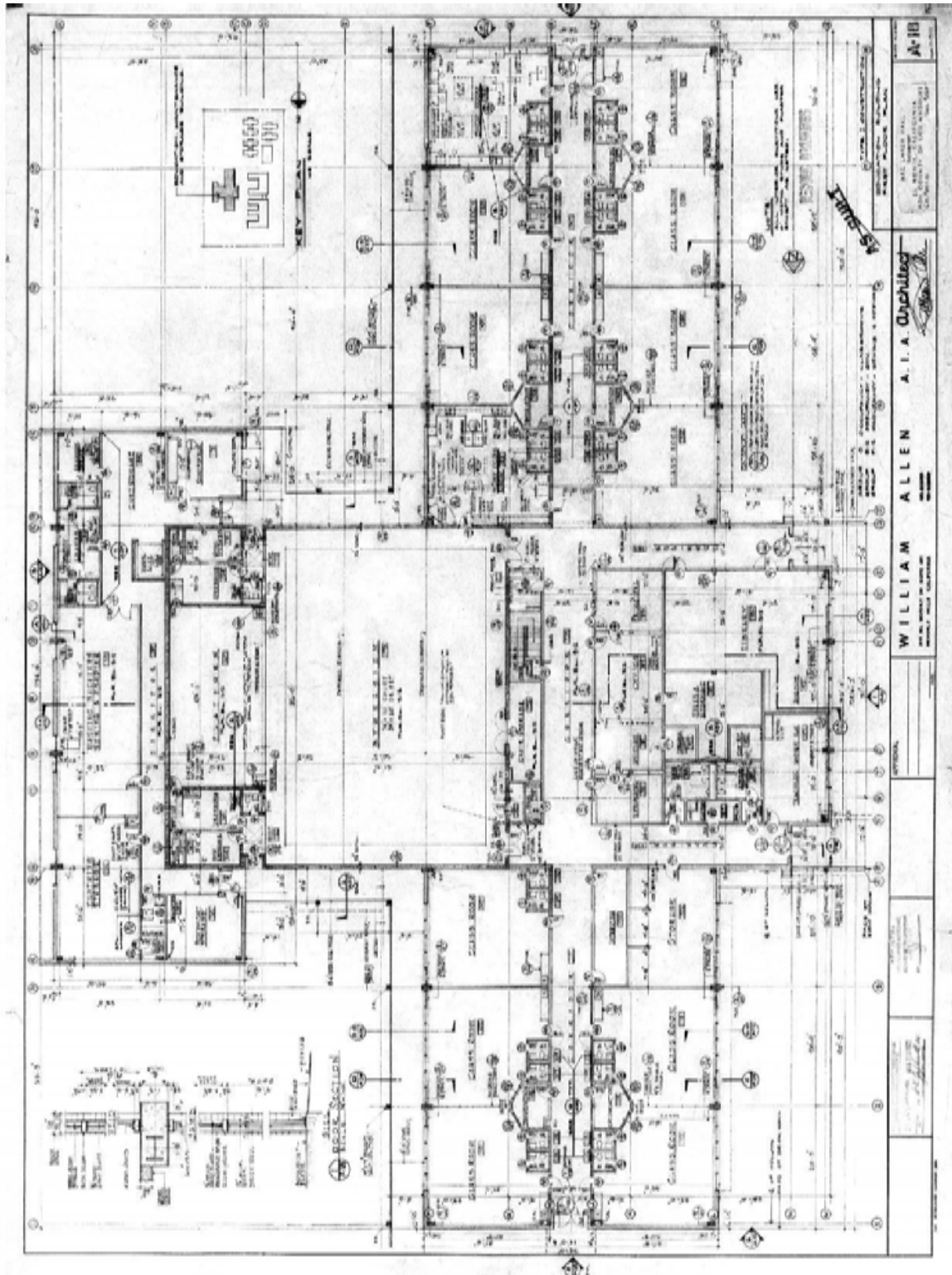
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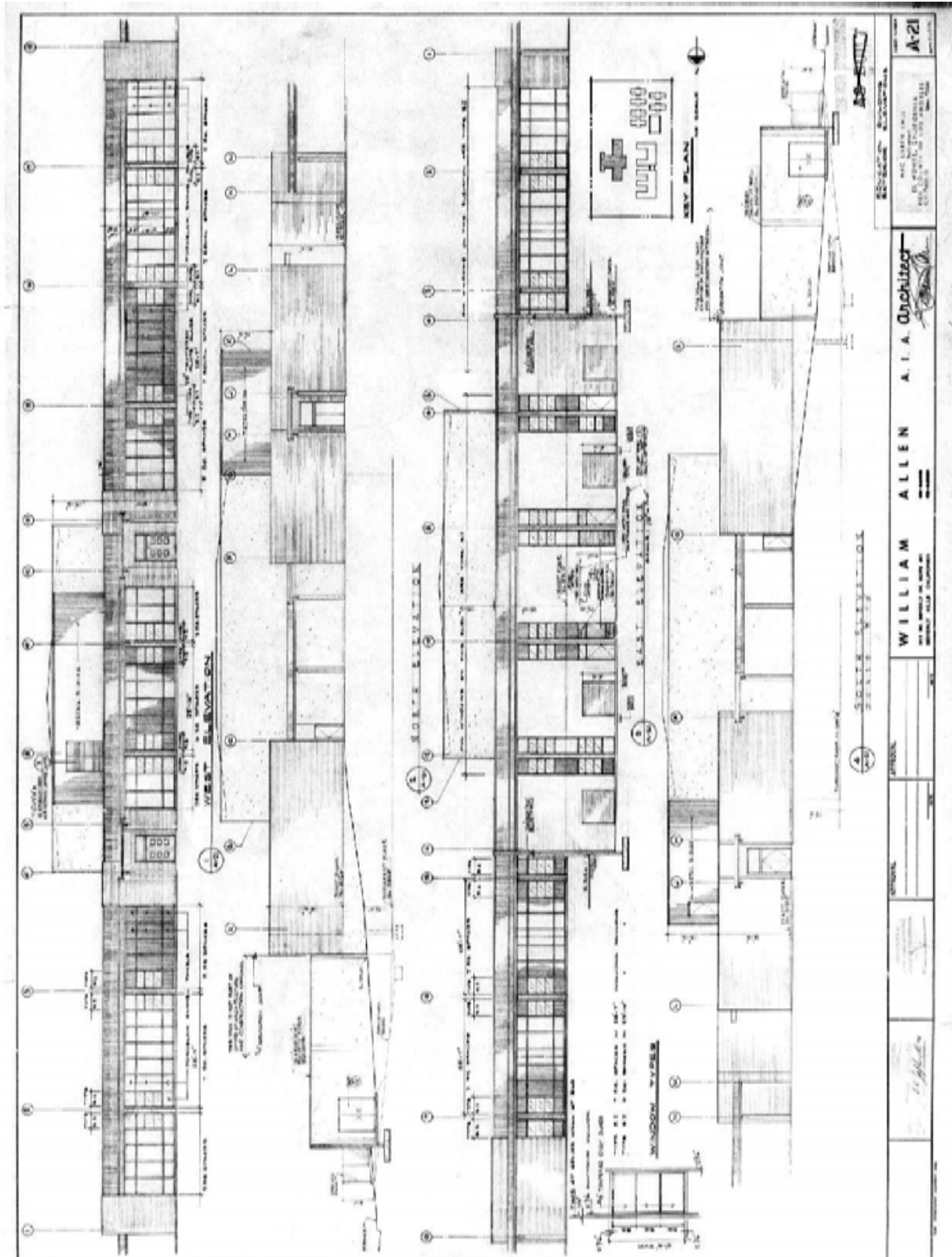
A-16



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15619 Ogram Avenue
Gardena, CA 90249-44

W.H. Bonner Associates

Archaeofaunal Studies
Archaeological Surveys
Historical & Genealogical Research



(310) 675-27
E-mail: whbonner@aol.com

June 5, 2020

David Kaplan
KCK Architects
2526 18th Street
Santa Monica, CA 90405

Subject: Historic Records Search Results for 4024 Durfee Avenue, El Monte, Los Angeles County, CA

Dear Mr. Kaplan:

At your request, W. H. Bonner Associates has conducted a historic records search for your project located at 4024 Durfee Avenue, El Monte, California 91732. The records search was conducted on June 4, 2020, at the South Central Coastal Information Center (SCCIC), California State University, Fullerton.

To identify any historic properties, the rolls of the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP), California Historical Landmarks (CHL), and California Points of Historical Interest (CPHI) were examined. The California State Historic Resources Inventory (HRI), Historic Preservation was also reviewed to determine local resources previously evaluated for their historic significance. Built dates were determined from the website of the Los Angeles County Tax Assessor.

Record Search Results

4024 Durfee Avenue, El Monte, CA 91732, APN 8549-004-900

Government owned miscellaneous property

Built date not listed

Directory of Properties in the Historic Property Data File – Not Listed

National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) – Not listed

California Points of Historic Interest (CPHI) – Not listed

California Historical Landmarks (CHL) – Not listed

Please Note: Due to processing delays and other factors, not all of the historical resource reports and resource records that have been submitted to the Office of Historic Preservation are available via this records search. Additional information may be available through the federal, state, and local agencies that produced or paid for historical resource management work in the search area. Additionally, Native American tribes have

historical resource information not in the CHRIS Inventory, and you should contact the California Native American Heritage Commission for information on local/regional tribal contacts.

We appreciate this opportunity to assist you on your project. If we can be of any further assistance, or if you have any questions concerning this letter, please do not hesitate to contact our office at (310) 675-2745 or via e-mail, whbonner@aol.com.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Wayne H. Bonner". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized 'W' and 'B'.

Wayne H. Bonner, M.A.
RPA Certified Archaeologist #10085

	569405	120165		10627	E BROCKWAY EL MONTE	LOS ANGELES	91731 6Y, 03/31/1999, DOE-19-99-0081-0000 6Y, 03/31/18579-005-004A	P	
0	569406	120166		10631	E BROCKWAY EL MONTE	LOS ANGELES	91731 6Y, 03/31/1999, DOE-19-99-0082-0000 6Y, 03/31/18579-005-005	P	1924



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April 26, 2021

Wendy Lockwood
Sirius Environmental
1478 N. Altadena Drive
Pasadena, CA 91107

Subject: Cultural Resources Records Search Results for the MacLaren Community Park Project,
City of El Monte, Los Angeles County, CA

Dear Ms. Lockwood:

At your request, W. H. Bonner completed a cultural resources records search for the MacLaren Community Park Project, located at 4024 Durfee Avenue, City of El Monte, California 91732 (see Figure 1). The records search was conducted on April 26, 2021, by staff at the South Central Coastal Information Center (SCCIC), California State University, Fullerton (SCCIC No. 22260.8431).

The project site is a 5.6-acre portion of the County-owned 13.65 MacLaren Hall property at 4024 N. Durfee Avenue in the City of El Monte. The MacLaren Hall property borders the project site on the north, west and south. Seven single-family homes are located directly across Gilman Road from the project site to the east.

The MacLaren Community Park project is proposed to be located on approximately 5.3 acres of the northeast quadrant of the 13.65-acre MacLaren Hall property (4024 Durfee Avenue) in the City of El Monte in Los Angeles County (an additional 0.3 acres is included in the project site because demolition of buildings would occur in this area). The project site includes portions of existing buildings, paved areas, trees and a grassy area. The project would include the following: one regulation size soccer field with field netting and bleacher seating, with a superimposed softball field and decomposed granite walking path around the field; the football field would be sunk 48 inches below the present grade, in order to provide for storm water management including increased infiltration and improved water quality in the Central Groundwater Basin; a flex event lawn; a walking promenade; fitness area, tennis courts and basketball court; family gathering/barbeque area and book exchange/chess tables; two play areas (for pre-school and grade school) with rubber surfacing; water feature, children's discovery garden, play mound, native botanic garden, and bio swales; raised performance pavilion/gazebo; restrooms and storage; and walking path connection to Kerrwood Street.

The project would include demolition of 130,300 square feet of unused and underused buildings, some of the buildings to be demolished would not be within the proposed park boundary but would need to be demolished because portions of the buildings are within the park area. The project would remove portions of the existing 20-foot-tall perimeter wall (mainly along the eastern park boundary) and replace it with new fencing which would extend around the park perimeter. The project would include field/court lighting with shields to ensure minimal to no spillover lighting or glare at adjacent residences as well as security lighting. Access to the park would be

from Durfee Avenue, Kerrwood Street and Gilman Road. The community park project does not include parking because it is intended to primarily serve the local community. However, until the remainder of the MacLaren Hall property is redeveloped, the existing parking lot on Durfee Avenue (with approximately 138 spaces) would be available for use by park users. In the future this parking would also be available for other uses on the rest of the MacLaren Hall property.

Record Search Results

- No Cultural Resources have been recorded on the subject property.
- Two cultural resources have been recorded within the quarter-mile search radius, but not on the subject parcel (see Attachment 1):

P-19-187085 – Historic Old Mohave Road (CHL-963) (approximately 1,000 feet northwest of the project location)

P-19-192309: SCE's Rio Hondo-Amador-Jose-Narrows-Mesa 66kV Transmission Line (approximately 1,300 feet east of the project location)

- Five Cultural investigations have been performed within the quarter-mile radius. None of these assessed the project parcel (see Attachment 2):

LA00637 – Did not assess the project location

LA03834 - Did not assess the project location

LA09242 - Did not assess the project location

LA09705 - Did not assess the project location

LA10175 - Did not assess the project location

To identify any historic properties, the rolls of the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP), California Historical Landmarks (CHL), and California Points of Historical Interest (CPHI) were examined. The California State Historic Resources Inventory (HRI), was also reviewed to determine local resources previously evaluated for their historic significance

- Directory of Properties in the Historic Property Data File – Not Listed
- National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) – Not listed
- California Points of Historical Interest (CPHI) – Not listed
- California Historic Landmarks (CHL) – The Mojave Road (CHL 963) is plotted within the search radius but not on the project parcel.

PALEONTOLOGY/GEOLOGY

The geological formation occurring directly beneath the subject parcel is composed of Recent Age alluvium (Qal) deposits, consisting of clays, silts, sands, and gravels. These soils are unconsolidated and poorly to well stratified. This alluvium generally forms along the base of mountains and stream deposits that follow the course of major streams and rivers across the valley floor. This young deposit reaches a depth of 100 feet in thickness. Upper Pleistocene alluvium deposits (Qc) occur below the Recent alluvium and consist of unsorted, angular to sub-rounded sedimentary deposits. Thickness can vary between 40 feet in the north of the San Gabriel Valley to some 4,100 feet in the central portion of the valley.

According to the Los Angeles County Natural History Museum, no known paleontological resources have been recorded within a quarter mile of the property.

Summary

The results of the records search indicate that although two cultural resources have been identified within the search radius, neither is located at the project location. Additionally, five previous cultural investigations have been reported within the search radius.

Guidelines

The entire ground surface within the project site has been previously disturbed; archaeological deposits located at or near the surface have long since been removed or destroyed by urbanization. Based upon the human occupation history of the region, excavation below previously disturbed levels may encounter buried resources. Excavation to a depth of about 48 inches (four feet) is proposed. If archaeological or paleontological resources are discovered during excavation activities such resources must be evaluated in accordance with federal, State, and local guidelines. Several federal and state laws regulate the treatment of cultural resources, as well as make it a criminal violation to destroy those resources. These include, but are not limited to:

California Penal Code Section 622.5 provides the following:

Every person, not the owner thereof, who willfully injures, disfigures, defaces, or destroys any object or thing of archeological or historical interest or value, whether situated on private lands or within any public park or place, is guilty of a misdemeanor.

Public Resources Code Section 5097.5 (a) states, in part, that:

No person shall knowingly and willfully excavate upon, or remove, destroy, injure, or deface, any historic or prehistoric ruins, burial grounds, archaeological or vertebrate paleontological site, including fossilized footprints, inscriptions made by human agency, rock art, or any other archaeological, paleontological or historical feature, situated on public lands, except with the express permission of the public agency having jurisdiction over the lands.


California Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5(b) specifies the protocol for when human remains are discovered. The Code states:

In the event of discovery or recognition of any human remains in any location other than a dedicated cemetery, there shall be no further excavation or disturbance of the site or any nearby area reasonably suspected to overlie adjacent remains until the coroner of the county in which the human remains are discovered has determined, in accordance with Chapter 10 (commencing with section 27460) of Part 3 of Division 2 of Title 3 of the Government Code, that the remains are not subject to the provisions of section 27492 of the Government Code or any other related provisions of law concerning investigation of the circumstances, manner and cause of death, and the recommendations concerning treatment and disposition of the human remains have been made to the person responsible for the excavation, or to his or her authorized representative, in the manner provided in PRC Section 5097.98.

Please Note: Due to processing delays and other factors, not all of the historical resource reports and resource records that have been submitted to the Office of Historic Preservation are available via this records search. Additional information may be available through the federal, state, and local agencies that produced or paid for historical resource management work in the search area. Additionally, Native American tribes have historical resource information not in the CHRIS Inventory, and you should contact the California Native American Heritage Commission for information on local/regional tribal contacts.

We appreciate this opportunity to assist you on your project. If we can be of any further assistance, or if you have any questions concerning this letter, please do not hesitate to contact our office at (310) 675-2745 or via e-mail, whbonner@aol.com.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Wayne H. Bonner". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "W" and "B".

Wayne H. Bonner, M.A.
RPA Certified Archaeologist #10085

ATTACHMENT 1-RESOURCES RECORDED WITHIN SEARCH RADIUS

Resource List

Primary No.	Trinomial	Other IDs	Type	Age	Attribute codes	Recorded by	Reports
P-19-187085		Resource Name - The Mojave Rd; CHL - 963	Structure, Other	Historic	HP37	1989 (S. Elder); 2014 (Marc Beherec, AECOM)	LA-12788, LA- 12808, LA-13259
P-19-190504		Resource Name - SCE Rio Hondo-Amador-Jose-Mesa- Narrows 66kV Transmission Line	Structure	Historic	HP09; HP11	2010 (Wendy L. Tinsley Becker, Urbana Preservation & Planning); 2018 (Audrey von Ahrens, GPA)	LA-12552, LA-13259



