

LOS ANGELES COUNTY POOR FARM
(Rancho Los Amigos, Los Angeles)
(Rancho Los Amigos National Rehabilitation Center)
(Rancho Los Amigos Medical Center)
7601 Imperial Highway
Downey
Los Angeles County
California

HABS CA-2800
HABS CA-2800

HABS
CA-2800

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

FIELD RECORDS

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

LOS ANGELES COUNTY POOR FARM
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HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE OVERVIEW

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INTRODUCTION

This Historical and Descriptive Overview provides background information for the Rancho Los Amigos Historic District located at the Rancho Los Amigos National Rehabilitation Center (Rancho Los Amigos), in Downey, California, including the district contributors documented as part of a complex in Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS) No. CA-2800. The buildings and structures were part of the former Los Angeles County Poor Farm, an institution which played a significant role in County public welfare and health care history. Begun in 1887/1888, the Los Angeles County Poor Farm provided work, housing, and medical care for the indigent, evolving by the late 20th century into the hospital facility known as Rancho Los Amigos National Rehabilitation Center.

HISTORICAL OVERVIEW

The historical overview presented here was developed from research completed between August 2007 and December 2008. Research methodology focused on the review of a variety of primary and secondary source materials relating to the history and development of the Los Angeles County Poor Farm. Historical research for the property was conducted in public records and a number of repositories, including building permits; the California History Index of the Los Angeles Public Library; as-built plans and drawings available at the County of Los Angeles Rancho Los Amigos Facilities Management Department; historical newspaper clippings indexed by ProQuest Newspaper Database; the Downey History Center; the narrative history of the Rancho Los Amigos National Rehabilitation Center prepared by Colleen Adair Fliedner; historical aerial maps and photographs; the archives at the Rancho Los Amigos National Rehabilitation Center; and the Rancho Los Amigos collection in the California Social Welfare Archives, housed at the Doheny Library, University of Southern California, Los Angeles.

Colonial and Early American Eras

The historic period in California as a whole began with the arrival of Spanish navigator Juan Rodriguez Cabrillo and his party, who anchored in San Diego Bay on September 28, 1542. The area comprising present-day Los Angeles County was first explored by Europeans in 1769 when Gaspar de Portola and a group of missionaries camped on what are now the banks of the Los Angeles River. They named the area "Nuestra Senora de Los Angeles de la Porciuncula" (Our Lady the Queen of the Angels of Porciuncula). The first settlement was established in 1771 with the founding of Mission San Gabriel Arcangel by Father Junipero Serra and a party of Spaniards.

Ten years later, the Pobladores, a group of 11 families recruited from Mexico by Captain Rivera y Moncada, traveled from the San Gabriel Mission to a spot selected by Alta California Governor Felipe de Neve to establish a new pueblo. The settlement was named El Pueblo de la Reina de Los Angeles (The Pueblo of the Queen of the Angels. Over time, the area became known as the Ciudad de Los Angeles, "City of Angels."¹

During Spanish rule, from 1769 to 1824, two dozen land grants were made, primarily as compensation to soldiers upon their retirement. In 1784, the Spanish granted 300,000 acres of land (later reduced to 150,000), stretching from the San Gabriel River to the Santa Ana River and encompassing the area later developed as the Los Angeles County Poor Farm, to Jose Manuel Nieto. A former soldier who had served at the San Diego presidio, Nieto was a member of the 1769 Serra-Portola expedition. After his death, Nieto's land holdings were divided into smaller ranchos among his heirs, becoming the Ranchos Los Alamitos, Las Bolsas, Los Cerritos, Los Coyotes, and Santa Gertrudes. In 1821, Mexico gained independence from Spain and subsequently assumed rule over Alta California. The 1834 secularization of the mission system and distribution of its holdings dramatically shifted the character of land ownership in Southern California. During Mexican rule of California, which lasted until 1848, land owned by the Spanish crown and clergy was distributed in over 800 land grants, passing mostly to Mexican settlers born in California, or *Californios*.²

With the signing of the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo in 1848, the U.S.–Mexican War formally ended and California was annexed to the United States. After gaining statehood in 1850, California's legal and political system was transformed, setting in motion a series of changes that began to erode the rancho system. The introduction of property taxes proved onerous for many Southern California ranchers, given the size of their holdings.³ In addition, the 1851 creation of the U.S. Land Commission required that property owners prove the validity of their property titles, many of which had been granted relatively informally and without the benefit of formal survey. Because appeals were allowed (but were usually prolonged affairs), property ownership disputes were resolved via expensive litigation proceedings. Ranchers often paid legal debts with portions—or all—of their ranchos; during this period, 40 percent of rancho-held lands in the County of Los Angeles passed to the U.S. government.⁴ However some ranchos, such as Rancho Santa Gertrudes, were purchased by private individuals who understood that the Rancho era had come to an end, and purchased a large rancho property for the purpose of dividing it into smaller farm sites.

Rancho Santa Gertrudes and the City of Downey

Originally, Rancho Santa Gertrudes, which included the present-day cities of Downey and Santa Fe Springs, was awarded to Antonio María Nieto following the death of Jose Manuel Nieto. In 1834, Nieto's claim to Rancho Santa Gertrudes (by then in the hands of his widow Josefa Cota de Nieto) was confirmed by the Mexican government. Nieto's widow subsequently sold the rancho to

¹ Los Angeles, County of. Available at: <http://lacounty.info/history.htm>

² Poole, Jean Bruce. 2002. *El Pueblo: The Historic Heart of Los Angeles*. Los Angeles, CA: Getty Publications, p. 13.

³ Fogelson, Robert M. 1967. *The Fragmented Metropolis: Los Angeles, 1850–1930*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, p. 9.

⁴ Nadeau, Remi. 1960. *Los Angeles, from Mission to Modern City*. New York: Longmans, Green and Co, pp. 46–49. See also Fogelson, Robert M. 1967. *The Fragmented Metropolis: Los Angeles, 1850–1930*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, pp. 13–14.

Kentuckian Lemuel Carpenter, a soap maker who had married her niece, Maria de los Angeles Dominguez.⁵ For four years, Carpenter and his wife and family enjoyed the lifestyle of a large land-holding Don. After the signing of the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo in 1848, Carpenter's loyalty to the United States and his land holdings were questioned. When his attempt to maintain his property by seeking credit was unsuccessful, he sold a portion of his land holdings to José Ramirez in 1855, as well as to other individuals, realizing it was becoming too difficult to repay his creditors.⁶ In 1859, apparently due to his overwhelming debts, Carpenter committed suicide, causing Rancho Santa Gertrudes to be auctioned off by the local sheriff. The property was purchased for \$60,000 by successful Los Angeles drug store owner and a founder of the Los Angeles Farmers and Merchants Bank, John Gately Downey, and his partner James P. McFarland.⁷ Downey was elected Lieutenant-Governor of California in 1859, but ending up becoming governor instead in January 1860. He placed any plans for the rancho on hold until after his term as governor ended in 1862. He allowed the Carpenter heirs to live on the land for many years.⁸

Downey and McFarland eventually subdivided Rancho Santa Gertrudes and sold plots of land, most of which were developed for agricultural uses. A section of the land located between the Rio Hondo and the San Gabriel River was named after Downey, and established as a town in 1873. The property was called the "Tract of the Downey Land Association" according to tax assessor records. This land, consisting of 96 acres, was valued at \$2,940 with improvements of \$330.⁹ Located about ten miles east of the Pacific Ocean and just southeast of downtown Los Angeles, Downey quickly became an important settlement within the County of Los Angeles. In 1888, a depot was constructed and soon the Southern Pacific Railroad began bringing settlers and visitors to the new community. Much of the city's pattern of development was determined by the railroad. The construction of the Christian Church on the corner of Fourth and New Streets marked the beginning of Downey's downtown. As the town began to grow over the next decade, 300 homes were constructed as well as a courthouse, post office, schools, churches, and businesses.¹⁰

By the 1900s, Downey was an established community featuring a variety of profitable businesses such as a Sunkist packing plant, a department store, banks, restaurants and mercantile shops. Downey also established its own grammar and high schools. In the following decades, Downey continued to flourish, with the addition of several important industries, including agriculture and aviation. Residential development expanded continuously throughout the 20th century, particularly in the period following World War II. In 1956, the City of Downey incorporated.¹¹

County of Los Angeles

On February 18, 1850, the year California was admitted to the Union, the County of Los Angeles was established as one of the 27 original counties of the soon-to-be thirty-first state. The people of

⁵ Hoover, Mildred Brooke, Hero Eugene Rensch, Ethel Grace Rensch, William N. Abeloe; revised by Douglas E. Kyle. 2002. *Historic Spots in California* Fifth edition. Stanford, CA: Stanford University Press, p. 157.

⁶ Hoover, Mildred Brooke, Hero Eugene Rensch, Ethel Grace Rensch, William N. Abeloe; revised by Douglas E. Kyle. 2002. *Historic Spots in California* Fifth edition. Stanford, CA: Stanford University Press, p. 157–158.

⁷ Quinn, Charles Russell. 1973. *The History of Downey, California*. Downey, CA: Elena Quinn, p. 22.

⁸ Quinn, Charles Russell. 1973. *The History of Downey, California*. Downey, CA: Elena Quinn, p. 30.

⁹ Downey, City of. Available at: http://www.downeyca.org/city_about.php#railroad

¹⁰ Downey, City of. Available at: http://www.downeyca.org/city_about.php#railroad

¹¹ City of Downey Planning Department. Adopted 25 March 2005. *Downey Vision 2025 General Plan*. Available at: http://www.downeyca.org/city_planning_gp.php

Los Angeles County elected a three-man Court of Sessions as their first governing body on April 1, 1850. A total of 377 votes were cast in this election. In 1852 the Legislature dissolved the Court of Sessions and created a five-member Board of Supervisors.¹²

After the Civil War ended, there was a large immigration into the Los Angeles area. Several large Mexican ranches were divided into many small farms, and cities such as Compton, Norwalk, San Fernando, Santa Monica, Pasadena, and Downey were founded. Los Angeles also experienced a large boom in population and development with the completion of the Southern Pacific Railroad route from San Francisco in 1876 and its subsequent links to the southeast, followed by the arrival of the Santa Fe Railroad, which reached Los Angeles in 1887. Tourism was promoted and new towns were planned to attract investors, to raise land values, and to increase the value of railroad shipments and holdings. The Southern California citrus industry flourished, able to reach national markets in record time due to the availability of the rail lines. The Los Angeles population increased from about 11,000 in 1880 to about 60,000 in 1890.¹³

County Poor Farm Beginnings 1887/1888-1907

Begun in 1887/1888 as the new County Poor Farm, Rancho Los Amigos upon its inception was an agricultural facility that provided work, housing, and medical care for the indigent. The original purchase of 124.4 acres in the vicinity of the town of Downey was graded for roads and supplied with water from an artesian well. In addition, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors reviewed plans from architects for the first buildings planned for the campus. In 1888, the Board of Supervisors awarded the contract to design the layout of the new Poor Farm to the preeminent Los Angeles architectural firm of the time, Kysor, Morgan, and Walls.¹⁴ Ezra F. Kysor (1835–1907), Octavius Morgan (1850–1922), and John A. Walls (1858–1922) were individually and collectively responsible for the architecture of many of the most notable buildings constructed in the Los Angeles area in the late-19th century, including Pico House in the El Pueblo Historic District (Kysor, 1869/1870), the former St. Vibiana's Cathedral (Kysor, 1871/1876), Hollenbeck Home for the Aged (Morgan and Walls, 1896), and Widney Hall at the University of Southern California (Kysor and Morgan, 1880).¹⁵

The firm envisioned a U-shaped configuration, with a central courtyard defined by the North (Female) and South (Male) Wards and a central Dining Hall (Refectory) (Figure 1, *Original U-Shaped Configuration by Kysor, Morgan, and Walls*). While the commissions for the two wards were given to Kysor, Morgan, and Walls, the job of designing the Refectory fell to another local architect, Jacob Friedlander. The central courtyard was landscaped with lawns and flower beds. A year later, in 1889, Morgan designed the fourth building on the campus, which was to serve as an office, residence for the physician and superintendent, and laboratory.¹⁶ The completed set of buildings was situated on what is now known as the South Campus, just south of the intersection of today's Erickson Avenue and Descanso Street at the west terminus of Consuelo Street. Three of the

¹² Los Angeles, County of. Available at: <http://lacounty.info/history.htm>

¹³ Los Angeles, County of. Available at: <http://lacounty.info/history.htm>

¹⁴ Fliedner, Colleen Adair. 1990. *Centennial, Rancho Los Amigos Medical Center, 1888–1988*. Downey, CA: Rancho Los Amigos Medical Center, p. 25.

¹⁵ Gebhard, David, and Robert Winter. 2003. *An Architectural Guidebook to Los Angeles*. Rev. Ed. Salt Lake City, UT: Gibbs Smith.

¹⁶ "The Supervisors." 27 February 1889. *Los Angeles Times*, p. 2.

buildings were designed in a brick Victorian-era institutional style, were two-stories in height, and measured 45' × 75' (Figure 2, *Original Administration Building and North and South Wards*). The fourth building was constructed at a cost of \$9,000, and was a simple wood-framed building with Victorian-era detailing.¹⁷ A continuous veranda connected the buildings, and framed a garden courtyard, featuring lawns, rose garden, and aviary (Figure 3, *View of Original Courtyard Designed by Kysor, Morgan, and Walls*). The aviary remains the oldest surviving structure on the Rancho Los Amigos campus and is now located in the northwest section of the interior courtyard of the Men's Psychiatric Ward Complex. The buildings from the original poor farm plan are no longer extant.

By December 1888, the first patients were being transported by wagon to the new facility, and the Board of Supervisors had established the rules and regulations governing the operation of the Los Angeles County Poor Farm.^{18,19} The following February, Missouri native and physician Edwin L. Burdick was appointed superintendent and resident physician. Burdick and his wife, Ellen, had relocated to Los Nietos Valley from Kansas City in 1876 in order to enjoy what they regarded to be the more healthful climes of California. Upon his arrival at the Poor Farm, Superintendent Burdick and his family moved into the second floor residential area of the newly constructed Administration Building.

From the beginning, the County's goal was to make the Poor Farm as self-sufficient as possible through the planting of crops and the raising of dairy cows, chickens, and pigs. The inmates at the Poor Farm largely provided the labor for the agricultural efforts, with the assistance of several farm supervisors. Inmates also tended to the numerous trees, lawns, and gardens that decorated the farm's landscape. The agricultural program at the Poor Farm became highly successful. Throughout the first half of the 20th century, it was a nationally recognized in the fields of cultivation and scientific breeding as a successful producer of prized crops and livestock.

During the 1890s, the inmate population of the Poor Farm nearly doubled, from approximately 125 to nearly 200 patients, most of whom were over 60 years of age. Many of those seeking care were manual laborers, originally from other states or countries, who had fallen ill or were injured and lacked a safety net provided by family or financial resources. The facilities expanded to accommodate the growing patient population and staff. The Refectory was enlarged, and new buildings were constructed, including a bathhouse and laundry building, outdoor toilet facilities, a bunkhouse, barns, and various outbuildings. A freight and passenger depot, operated by the Terminal Railroad Company, was also constructed in the 1890s, with the County paying Terminal Railroad Company approximately \$14 a month to ship milk from the County Farm to the County Hospital in Los Angeles (Figure 4, *County Poor Farm Depot Operated by the Terminal Railroad Company [No Longer Extant]*).²⁰ In 1897, a new two-story, 40-bed Women's Ward was constructed adjacent to the Administration Building.

¹⁷ Fliedner, Colleen Adair. 1990. *Centennial, Rancho Los Amigos Medical Center, 1888–1988*. Downey, CA: Rancho Los Amigos Medical Center, pp. 24–25.

¹⁸ Fliedner, Colleen Adair. 1990. *Rancho Los Amigos Medical Center Centennial, 1888–1988*. Downey, CA: Rancho Los Amigos Medical Center, pp. 28, 40.

¹⁹ Foster, Henry. 1959. "History of Rancho." Box 25, Folder 57. Papers Rancho Los Amigos Hospital 1887- California Social Welfare Archives. Los Angeles: University of Southern California, Specialized Libraries and Archival Collections.

²⁰ Fliedner, Colleen Adair. 1990. *Rancho Los Amigos Medical Center Centennial, 1888–1988*. Downey, CA: Rancho Los Amigos Medical Center, p. 35.

Burdick's tenure as superintendent lasted for 12 years until 1901, when he was forced to resign for health reasons.²¹ The expansion and development carried out under Burdick's leadership established the Poor Farm's reputation as an important agricultural producer and haven for the destitute and ill. By 1902, the institution had grown to 227 acres with a total value of \$92,046, and the annual net value of agricultural products \$5,176.^{22,23} After Burdick's departure, the dual roles he held as superintendent and resident physician were split into two separate posts. T.F. Simpson, the Poor Farm steward and bookkeeper, became superintendent, and the position of resident physician went to Dr. F.L. Norton, a graduate of the University of Southern California College of Medicine and Burdick's assistant physician and druggist.

As the Poor Farm continued to expand and develop, the residents and community leaders of Los Angeles County became aware of the farm's achievements. This high profile also brought a greater degree of public scrutiny and comment on facility operations. Initially in the 1900s this public comment was positive. In May 1902, a delegation from the General Federation of Women's Clubs, convening in Southern California, arrived to inspect the County Poor Farm in order to learn about the successful mix of commerce and social welfare services. After a tour of the facilities led by Superintendent Simpson and chairman of the County Board of Supervisors, E.S. Field, the women were quoted commenting on the Poor Farm's combination of "charity and industry . . . in such a manner as to afford recreation and exercise for the inmates, as well as to return more than half the cost of maintenance to the county."^{24,25}

However, one year later, in 1903, newspapers began reporting on problems at the Poor Farm, including overcrowding of the wards, poor sanitation and maintenance, too few "suitable and sufficient" toilet facilities, and poor oversight of the agricultural operations (which were nonetheless found to be in "good condition" overall).²⁶ In April 1903, the County Hospital and Farm had a new superintendent and resident physician. After having served only two years, Superintendent Simpson left the post and was replaced by George S. Clarke, who remained as superintendent until January 1907. The resident physician, Norton, left and was replaced by Marshall E. Price.

Poor Farm Faces Problems 1903-1907

Marshall E. Price was a graduate of Chicago Medical College in Illinois and moved to Los Angeles in the 1890s, where he began his private practice. Price was appointed physician of the Poor Farm on April 1, 1903. At that time, he and his family moved into the third floor of the Administration building. Prior to his arrival, nurses were inmate assistants. Price made the decision to hire a

²¹ *Los Angeles Times*. 13 August 1901. "Political Pie in County Slices: New Regimes at County Hospital and Farm."

²² *Los Angeles Times*. 1 April 1902. "Grand Jury Reports and Gets Scored: Suggestion for Sitting All Year Displeases Judge Smith—Many Recommendations, No Indictments."

²³ Fliedner, Colleen Adair. 1990. *Rancho Los Amigos Medical Center Centennial, 1888–1988*. Downey, CA: Rancho Los Amigos Medical Center, p. 49.

²⁴ Fliedner, Colleen Adair. 1990. *Rancho Los Amigos Medical Center Centennial, 1888–1988*. Downey, CA: Rancho Los Amigos Medical Center, pp. 56–58.

²⁵ *Los Angeles Times*. 14 June 1891. "The County Farm. Where the Poor of Los Angeles are Cared for." P. 10.

²⁶ *Los Angeles Times*. 1 April 1903. "County Farm Ripped Out: Wretched Conditions Shown by Grand Jury," p. 14.

professionally trained nurse, Mr. H.S. Readon, for the day shift and kept the inmate assistants to work as night nurses.²⁷

Although early reports about the County Farm praised the institution as pleasant and relaxing, in 1903 inspectors from the State Board of Charities and Corrections stated in their report that the facility was overcrowded, furniture had to be replaced, and that the use of tallow candles for light was a fire hazard. The report also criticized the outdated water closets for their drainage problems (the male patients could only use outdoor toilets) as well as the lack of electricity on the Farm.²⁸ In spite of the negative publicity, progress continued at the Poor Farm. In 1905, a much-needed water pump was installed. To the relief of the Supervisors, the pump provided more water than needed, allowing the Poor Farm to sell the excess water to neighboring cities rather than pay the excess of \$600 to \$700 a year in water fees.²⁹

By the following year, negativity surrounding the institution resurfaced. Overcrowding at both the County Poor Farm and County Hospital was largely blamed on men that came from outside Los Angeles County to the Farm and Hospital during the winter months looking for relief. These men stayed at the expense of Los Angeles taxpayer's money and were difficult to send away. To alleviate the Poor Farm's financial crisis, a bond issue, which would allocate \$70,000 for improvements, was placed on the November 1906 ballot. Although two well-known doctors, Drs. Webster and Cook, tried to help pass the bond by visiting the Poor Farm and writing newspaper articles in support of the issue, it failed. A grand jury visited the institution and urged the County Board of Supervisors to designate funds for the remodeling of the existing wards and the construction of additional ward buildings, as well as a new dining room, kitchen, laundry facility, bathing facilities and modern toilets. The board abided by the jury's suggestion and made necessary upgrades.³⁰

Expansion and Progress 1907-1915

Following the departure of Clarke in 1907, Donald Chick was temporarily appointed superintendent of the County Farm. Superintendent Chick's brief tenure resulted in several important accomplishments, which had lasting effects at the County Poor Farm. He established the landscaping department, constructed the Poor Farm's first chapel, and built the original Psychiatric (currently known as psychiatric) ward, the first building purpose-built hospital building to be erected at the institution.³¹

Constructed in 1907, the original psychiatric ward (LACO No. 1205) housed both male and female mentally impaired patients who were transferred from the overcrowded Los Angeles County Hospital. The single-story brick building located at the intersection of Erickson Avenue and

²⁷ Fliedner, Colleen Adair. 1990. *Rancho Los Amigos Medical Center Centennial, 1888–1988*. Downey, CA: Rancho Los Amigos Medical Center, p. 58.

²⁸ Fliedner, Colleen Adair. 1990. *Rancho Los Amigos Medical Center Centennial, 1888–1988*. Downey, CA: Rancho Los Amigos Medical Center, pp. 58–59.

²⁹ *Los Angeles Times*. 31 May 1905 "County Farm's Surplus Water," p. 112.

³⁰ Fliedner, Colleen Adair. 1990. *Rancho Los Amigos Medical Center Centennial, 1888–1988*. Downey, CA: Rancho Los Amigos Medical Center, pp. 68–69.

³¹ Fliedner, Colleen Adair. 1990. *Rancho Los Amigos Medical Center Centennial, 1888–1988*. Downey, CA: Rancho Los Amigos Medical Center, pp. 62–63.

Golondrinas Street was organized into rows of rooms, each with a window), on either side of a central corridor. The men's section was on the north side of the corridor and the women's was on the south side. The windows were barred and had heavy wire screens, and the doors were kept padlocked. The patients were locked outside of their cells a few hours each day to get fresh air and sunshine by sitting under shade trees in a fenced yard.

The psychiatric ward building was enlarged several times, beginning in 1909. The original single-story, rectangular shaped building was expanded to form a U-shape enclosing a courtyard area by the addition of two parallel wings on its north and south elevations. These wings were elongated in 1916 for additional ward space, and a partial second story was added to house the resident attendants. Also at this time, a projecting cafeteria wing was constructed along the center of the east (rear) elevation of the original 1907 building.

After eight months of temporary management under Chick, Superintendent Andrew Wade arrived at the Poor Farm in September 1907. Under Wade's management, conditions at the farm continued to improve. By 1908, the institution had grown to 333 acres, with a value of about \$200,000. The staff expanded, including nurses, interns and other laborers; and an average of 210 patients remained on the Farm monthly.³²

Andrew Wade served as the first Postmaster at the Poor Farm in 1908. The Farm at the time had over 200 patients and over 20 staff members and the Postal Service thought the Farm had enough mail to warrant its own post office. Wade received the mail in the Administration Building, sorted it, and made it available for staff and patients to come in and pick it up. Superintendents were generally elected postmasters until 1933, when the amount of mail received required a full-time postmaster to attend to the Poor Farm's post office.³³

More construction occurred in 1909 under Wade's supervision. Employee housing was added, and the first Power House (LACO 1302) (HABS No. CA-2800-C) was constructed. The Power House, located on the corner of Hawthorn and Descanso Streets, housed the power plant, new telephone system, ice house, brine room and laundry. The Power House facilities consisted of a broiler room with three broilers and pump pit. A fourth broiler and shallow trenches with pipes were added later.³⁴

The Poor Farm began to make a profit off its crops in 1909. One of their most notable and high paying crops were oranges. In April of that year, the Semi-Tropical Fruit Exchange paid over \$10,000 for 33 cars of navel oranges, which constituted about one half of the total crop.³⁵ In May, another \$5,000 worth of oranges were sold. Due to its value, the crop was protected from thieves by a high fence. Estimates calculate that this fence saved the County from approximately two carloads worth of stolen oranges that year.³⁶

³² Fliedner, Colleen Adair. 1990. *Rancho Los Amigos Medical Center Centennial, 1888–1988*. Downey, CA: Rancho Los Amigos Medical Center, pp. 60–61.

³³ Fliedner, Colleen Adair. 1990. *Rancho Los Amigos Medical Center Centennial, 1888–1988*. Downey, CA: Rancho Los Amigos Medical Center, p. 69.

³⁴ Fliedner, Colleen Adair. 1990. *Rancho Los Amigos Medical Center Centennial, 1888–1988*. Downey, CA: Rancho Los Amigos Medical Center, pp. 71–72.

³⁵ *Los Angeles Times*. 20 Apr 1909 "Poor Farm Riches," p. 1114.

³⁶ *Los Angeles Times*. 3 May 1909 "Fence Saves County Cash," p. 15.

In addition to operating as a successful agricultural enterprise, the Poor Farm gradually expanded its role as a County medical facility. By the 1910s, an increasing number of inmates with chronic medical disorders were being admitted to the Poor Farm, prompting administrators to employ a staff of physicians and nurses to treat them. This surge in patients and employees created an impetus to expand the Poor Farm. The resulting development program reflected a critical shift in the mission of the Poor Farm, and marked the early stages of the transition from a rehabilitative care facility for indigents into a hospital to house long-term invalid patients. Also at this time, a Milk House was added to provide a place to pasteurize the milk produced on the farm.

Wade left the Poor Farm in January 1911 and was immediately replaced by Charles C. Manning. Under the management of Superintendent Manning (1911 to 1915), expansion of the County Farm accelerated in response to a dramatic upswing in admittance under his tenure. Between 1911 and 1914, the inmate population increased 280 percent, from 198 to 479. In 1912, Manning requested plans for the first two General Ward Buildings, later called Buildings 30 and 40 (LACO Nos. 1184 and 1185), to be constructed along the west side of Erickson Avenue south of the original Administration Building (no longer extant) (Figure 5, *1912 Block Plan Depicting Location of the First Two General Ward Buildings [Known as Buildings 30 and 40]*). The buildings were to be connected on their west (or rear) elevations by a one-story hyphen addition that provided a covered walkway and handicapped access between the two buildings. It was necessary to demolish the original pump house building and water tower for the construction of Building 30. A recording device was installed under the new building to continue to record the local water table for the water district (Figure 6, *Northeastern View of the General Ward Buildings Constructed in 1913*).³⁷ A new large steel water tower and tank (LACO No. 1301) (was constructed to the rear of the original powerhouse (LACO No. 1302) HABS No. CA-2800-C). Building 30 also housed the first receiving ward for the campus and became known as the Medical Offices and Pharmacy Building. Once the first two General Ward Buildings were completed in 1913, the old North Ward (no longer extant) reverted from a hospital ward back to its original use as a General Ward for male patients. The series of General Ward Buildings begun under Manning's direction in 1912 were completed in the late 1920s. Manning left the County Farm in June 1915 and was briefly succeeded by Carl P. Talle.

Harriman Era 1915-1952

In June 1915, William Ruddy Harriman was appointed the new Superintendent at the County Poor Farm. Harriman promptly moved his family into the new Craftsman residence that had been constructed by Manning at the center of the property. When he took over management of the institution, the Poor Farm was providing care to 500 indigent men and women with a staff of 45 (Figure 7, *The Superintendent's House [Also Known as the Harriman House], Constructed in 1915*).³⁸ With Harriman came a significant change in the direction of the Poor Farm; he is credited with rebuilding the Poor Farm after the damage caused by a devastating flood in 1914. In addition, Harriman drastically improved the property, installing an irrigation system, upgrading the utilities, constructing new buildings, organizing administration duties and developing the park-like

³⁷ Fliedner, Colleen Adair. 1990. *Centennial, Rancho Los Amigos Medical Center, 1888–1988*. Downey, CA: Rancho Los Amigos Medical Center, p. 74.

³⁸ Fliedner, Colleen Adair. 1990. *Centennial, Rancho Los Amigos Medical Center, 1888–1988*. Downey, CA: Rancho Los Amigos Medical Center, p.62.

landscape, which is still visible today. These improvements were largely accomplished in the wake of the financial surge following World War I.

Harriman's first major building effort was the construction of additional General Ward buildings. By 1917, the patient population had reached a new high of over 600, prompting Harriman to construct Building 50, the third General Ward Building (LACO No. 1186), directly south of Building 40. The influx of new patients at the Poor Farm provided the impetus for the expansion of services and facilities needed, resulting in the construction of a number of the extant significant buildings at the property (Figure 8, *1917 Plot Plan for Los Angeles County Poor Farm*).

At this time, the Psychiatric Wards were enlarged by the addition of two wings, including a partial upper story containing rooms for the attending staff (Figure 9, *Men's Psychiatric Wards, Constructed in 1907 and Enlarged in 1924*).³⁹ By 1918, the "insane" population had risen to more than 160 patients, and Superintendent Harriman was forced to seek funding for a separate building to house the female psychiatric patients. The new ward was constructed in 1919 and was located directly south of the Men's Psychiatric Ward Building. It was designed in an H shape and accommodated centrally located matron's and administrative rooms; a wing to house the kitchen and dining room; a wing for the patient rooms; and a fenced inner courtyard with a lawn, trees, and flowers.

The numbers of insane patients continued to rise each year, reaching 257 in 1924.⁴⁰ Plans were initiated by Harriman to begin the construction of two new ward buildings for 156 men and 98 women, respectively, to be built directly east of the existing psychiatric ward buildings. The new men's ward opened in late 1924, followed by the new women's ward in the summer of 1925. Both buildings mirrored the design and configuration of the original wards. New one-story wall hyphens connected the two men's ward buildings and the two women's ward buildings on the north and south elevations. These wall connectors created an enclosed courtyard space which allowed the patients to roam in a confined area. Over the next several years, additional, freestanding, mostly brick vernacular style buildings (LACO Nos. 1239, 1240, 1241, 1243, 1244, 1245, 1249, and 1251) were constructed within the courtyard areas of the two psychiatric ward complexes. These buildings served several functions, including linen rooms, toilet buildings, and open shelters. In 1931, the Aviary, the sole remnant of the 19th-century Poor Farm, was moved to the courtyard of the Men's Psychiatric Ward Complex in hopes of bringing a sense of calmness to the patients.

Throughout the 1920s, as residency continued to increase, Harriman expanded and improved the facilities, including a number of large building projects (Figure 10, *1922 Aerial Photograph of the Los Angeles County Poor Farm*). Understanding the need to house additional patients, Harriman began the construction of four Patient Ward buildings in 1922 followed by an additional four wards soon after (HABS Nos. CA-2800-A and B). This project signaled the full-fledged transition of the farm from a rehabilitative care facility for indigents into a hospital to house long-term invalid patients. By 1922, the institution had a staff of approximately 175 employees to care for the needs of the 1,500 ambulatory patients living at the South Campus (Figure 11, *Staff Cottages Located on*

³⁹ Fliedner, Colleen Adair. 1990. *Centennial, Rancho Los Amigos Medical Center, 1888-1988*. Downey, CA: Rancho Los Amigos Medical Center, p. 89.

⁴⁰ Fliedner, Colleen Adair. 1990. *Centennial, Rancho Los Amigos Medical Center, 1888-1988*. Downey, CA: Rancho Los Amigos Medical Center, p. 33.

Flores Street, Constructed in 1921) (HABS Nos. CA-2800-E and F).⁴¹ By late 1925, an additional five infirmary wards had been constructed (Figure 12, *Northwestern View of Infirmary Wards circa 1929 and Floor Plan*). Even with the new facilities, there was a lack of beds in the wards, forcing many patients to reside on the sleeping porches. When administrators realized that this temporary fix was going to become permanent, they enclosed the porches circa 1936.⁴²

Substantial buildings continued to be erected through the 1920s (Figure 13, *1926 Aerial Photograph of the Los Angeles County Poor Farm*). The old Administration Building constructed in 1889 was in dire need of repair and was replaced by a new building in 1926 (Figure 14, *The New Administration Building, Constructed in 1926*). The old administration building was demolished in 1929 and replaced with a fish pond, and an 18' × 12' wrought iron shelter was constructed to mark the location of the former building. A new kitchen and service building (LACO 1295) (HABS No. CA-2800-D) was constructed for employees of the nearby infirmary ward and general ward buildings (Figure 15, *The New Kitchen and Employee Dining Room, Constructed in 1929*). The old brick refectory building was razed and replaced with an 850-seat Spanish Colonial Revival Auditorium which provided much needed diversions to the ailing patients and staff (Figure 16, *The Spanish Colonial Revival Style Auditorium, Constructed in 1928*). Movies were screened weekly in the Auditorium and other musical types of entertainment were offered as well. A radio and reading room was located in the rear of the building. A new Woman's Ward, Casa Consuelo (LACO No. 1238), featured Spanish Colonial Revival styling, and was able to accommodate 188 female patients in bright and cheery rooms, all with an exterior view (Figure 17, *Casa Consuelo, Constructed in 1930*). Harriman's wife, Elinor, is credited with having a huge design influence on the building.⁴³

In addition to the physical changes that occurred under Harriman's leadership, there were also philosophical changes at the Poor Farm. Harriman subscribed to the idea that the physical condition of an individual could be improved through activities and their surroundings. Harriman's philosophy for self-improvement soon encompassed every activity at the Poor Farm. Harriman insisted that the patient's needs and comfort be addressed through the development of amenities at the Poor Farm. He insisted that the patients work towards their own physical improvement, through active rehabilitation. Patients were assigned to work on the farm or in the greenhouse, based on their physical capabilities and individual talents. These occupational therapy activities were also intended as physical therapy, by providing the patients with fresh air, sunshine and independence.

The Occupational Therapy Department was established in 1926, and was integral to the improvement in lifestyle at the Poor Farm. Eighteen types of craft and handy work were taught through the department, ranging from rug making and basket weaving to leather work. The Occupational Therapy Department allowed the institution to become virtually self-sufficient; patients were employed to create all the necessary objects from equipment, furniture, linens, food, shelters, repairs, entertainment brooms and beds (Figure 18, *Patients Creating Wicker Furniture at*

⁴¹ Foster, Henry. 5 October 1959. "History of the Rancho." Los Angeles: University of Southern California Archives. Box 25, Folder 57.

⁴² Fliedner, Colleen Adair. 1990. *Centennial, Rancho Los Amigos Medical Center, 1888–1988*. Downey, CA: Rancho Los Amigos Medical Center, p. 120.

⁴³ Fliedner, Colleen Adair. 1990. *Centennial, Rancho Los Amigos Medical Center, 1888–1988*. Downey, CA: Rancho Los Amigos Medical Center, pp. 142–148.

the Occupational Therapy Shop). In 1929, a new building was constructed on Bontia Street to house the occupational therapy shops.⁴⁴

By the end of the 1920s, the Poor Farm comprised an impressive 540 acres of farmland and buildings, with a property value of \$2 million dollars. Real estate improvements included 3 annual crop yields, one mile of paved roads, an additional one and one-fourth miles of decomposing granite roads, miles of sewer mains connected to the County sanitation system, hundreds of acres of new lawns, gardens, and trees and numerous buildings serving a variety of purposes⁴⁵ (Figure 19, *1928 Aerial Photograph of the Los Angeles County Poor Farm*).

The stock market crash of 1929 and ensuing Depression created a challenge for the Poor Farm. Not only did admittance at the County Farm rise due to the increased number of indigents within the County health care system, but also funding was significantly reduced. By 1934, a shift in the types of patients served had become apparent, with an increasingly number of patients arriving from the professional, or “white collar” sector of society. Records from the period detail the various occupations of the new patients, including attorneys, physicians, professors, and accountants.⁴⁶

Despite a reduced budget for improvements, Harriman was still able to accomplish several upgrades to the facility and new buildings continued to appear. Improvements during this period primarily consisted of maintenance to existing buildings including making all building ramps nonslip and providing patients in wheelchairs improved access throughout the Rancho. Several significant buildings were erected, including the Harriman Building in 1933 (not located within the boundaries of the Historic District), (Figure 20, *Harriman Building under Construction in 1930*), which became the first modern medical facility on the property grounds⁴⁷ (Figure 21, *1930 Aerial Photograph of the Los Angeles County Poor Farm*). The Poor Farm managed to maintain all of its existing services and features, including its landscaping department, thanks to the supply of labor provided by the increasing number of admitted inmates.

In 1932 Harriman petitioned the County of Los Angeles to change the official name of the institution from County Poor Farm to “Rancho Los Amigos,” or “Ranch of the Friends.” This name change served as public notice of the evolving medical mission of the facility, as well as helping to shed the stigma associated with the title of “Poor Farm.” The 1932-1933 Annual Report for Rancho Los Amigos reported that the institution’s beds were occupied at 97% capacity, averaging 2,976 beds by mid-year.⁴⁸ Rancho continued to take in patients who were physically disabled or over the age of 65. The Depression-era budget precluded the addition of more infirmary wards, so Harriman converted buildings-- the cow barn became the men’s General Ward--and added extra beds in

⁴⁴ Fliedner, Colleen Adair. 1990. *Centennial, Rancho Los Amigos Medical Center, 1888–1988*. Downey, CA: Rancho Los Amigos Medical Center, p. 140.

⁴⁵ Harriman, William R. “1927–1928 Annual Report for Rancho Los Amigos.” Los Angeles: University of Southern California. Box 22, Folder 13.

⁴⁶ Quinn, Charles Russell. 1973. *The History of Downey, California*. Downey, CA: Elena Quinn, p. 146.

⁴⁷ Harriman, William R. “1929–1930 Annual Report for Rancho Los Amigos.” Los Angeles: University of Southern California. Box 22, Folder 13.

⁴⁸ Harriman, William R. “1932–1933 Annual Report for Rancho Los Amigos.” Los Angeles: University of Southern California. Box 22, Folder 13.

hallways and porches of the other General Wards to accommodate the swelling numbers of patients.⁴⁹

Before the stock market crash of 1929, money was set aside for the construction of a patient recreation hall. Bonita Hall opened in 1932 to serve the recreational needs of the patients (Figure 22, *Bonita Hall, Constructed in 1932*). Designed in the Spanish Colonial Revival Style, the single story building featured a large room for male patients to gather, as well as several rooms which housed utilities, employment offices and the patients' canteen.⁵⁰

The 1933 Long Beach Earthquake provided the catalyst for much-needed improvements to the institution's infrastructure (Figure 23, *Impact of 1933 Long Beach Earthquake*). Utilities in particular were upgraded. Equipment was installed to ensure a back-up power source in the event of another disaster, and a contract was secured with Southern California Edison to provide power to the new buildings situated north of Imperial Highway, as well as back-up power on an as-needed basis. Additionally, improvements were made to many of the unreinforced masonry buildings damaged during the earthquake. Employees quickly went to work bracing the weakened walls and making repairs to various buildings. Four buildings were condemned and razed following the earthquake, including the original women and men's wards.

By late 1937, Rancho Los Amigos was treating close to 3,000 patients annually. The average patient age had been dramatically reduced due to the 1933 enactment of the National Social Security Act, which gave individuals over the age of 65 a \$35 monthly allowance. This enabled older inmates to leave institutional care and provide for themselves. Their departure freed space for chronically ill children to be admitted to the new medical center.⁵¹ This shift in types of patients propelled Rancho Los Amigos into becoming an exclusively hospital facility. The majority of patients could no longer contribute to the production of the farm, which increased the cost of patient care and caused the gradual phasing out of the farming operations. This was confirmed in an April 14, 1941 *Los Angeles Times* article, which stated, "For several years the institution has been more of a convalescent hospital than a county farm, therefore the persons cared for there are designated as patients rather than inmates."⁵² (Figure 24, *1938 Aerial Photograph of Rancho Los Amigos*).

By the end of World War II, the patient population at Rancho Los Amigos had more than doubled from 2,500 to 5,579. A significant portion of this patient increase resulted from the wide-spread polio outbreak which began in 1944. In 1950, General Ward 40 (LACO No. 1185) was remodeled to accommodate polio patients.⁵³

In the late 1940s, directly after World War II, Superintendent Harriman began the construction of four ward buildings adjacent to the Medical Building (Harriman Building). This was the first large-

⁴⁹ Fliedner, Colleen Adair. 1990. *Centennial, Rancho Los Amigos Medical Center, 1888–1988*. Downey, CA: Rancho Los Amigos Medical Center, p. 158.

⁵⁰ Harriman, William R. "1932–1933 Annual Report for Rancho Los Amigos." Los Angeles: University of Southern California. Box 22, Folder 13.

⁵¹ "County Moving Sick Children." 4 October 1937. *Los Angeles Times*, p. A18.

⁵² "Poor Farm's Cost Declines." 14 April 1941. *Los Angeles Times*, p. 26.

⁵³ Harriman, William R. "1949–1950 Annual Report for Rancho Los Amigos." Los Angeles: University of Southern California. Box 22, Folder 13.

scale construction project to take place at Rancho Los Amigos in a number of years and it initiated a large-scale building program located north of Imperial Highway. Harriman also planned a convalescent home for the growing number of children, a physiotherapy and hydrotherapy building, a larger chapel, warehouses, and garages.⁵⁴ He added the departments of pediatrics and speech and hearing. He also opened a Rehabilitation Shop where patients handicapped by illness or injuries could be trained in wood and leather working, watch making, ceramics, and other crafts.⁵⁵

The most important shift in the development of Rancho Los Amigos in the post World War II years was the response to the mass outbreak of polio in Los Angeles County. As the epidemic continued for several years, Rancho Los Amigos became a well-known polio rehabilitation center.⁵⁶ Many of the existing buildings underwent first-floor improvements to accommodate polio patients.⁵⁷ Most of the polio ward staff became polio treatment experts who taught their methods to other medical professionals all over the country.

Post-Harriman Era, 1952 –Present Day

In 1952, Superintendent Harriman retired, and Robert Thomas assumed the duties of superintendent. Under his guidance, a Respiratory Center was constructed in 1952 in the growing campus area north of Imperial Highway (Figure 25, *1954 Aerial Photograph Rancho Los Amigos*). Thomas reorganized the staff into the Professional Services Department, the Nursing Department, and the Dietary Department, to better coordinate the various services of Rancho Los Amigos. New departments and programs initiated under Thomas' watch included a Home Care Department, an Orthopedic Department, a pilot rehabilitation program, and Social Services Department. Although Thomas left after only four years in 1956, Rancho Los Amigos continued to expand its medical services for polio patients and develop a cutting-edge rehabilitative program.

With the waning of the polio epidemic after the development of vaccines in the mid-1950s, Rancho Los Amigos made its transition to rehabilitative care through the development of its progressive rehabilitation program (Figure 26, *Polio Patients Receiving Rehabilitative Care at Rancho Los Amigos National Rehabilitation Center in the 1950s*). In 1958, the hospital sought accreditation, which was granted in May 1959. By the end of the decade, Rancho Los Amigos was recognized as a quality medical facility and the farming facilities of the old Poor Farm were completely abandoned.⁵⁸

Rancho Los Amigos continued to grow throughout the late-20th century and to develop into a state-of-the art medical facility. As the emphasis for expansion and development occurred north of Imperial Highway, the existing buildings from the County Farm era were vacated and used for

⁵⁴ Fliedner, Colleen Adair. 1990. *Centennial, Rancho Los Amigos Medical Center, 1888–1988*. Downey, CA: Rancho Los Amigos Medical Center, p. 224.

⁵⁵ "Rehabilitation Shop to Open." 4 March 1946. *Los Angeles Times*, p. 8.

⁵⁶ Fliedner, Colleen Adair. 1990. *Centennial, Rancho Los Amigos Medical Center, 1888–1988*. Downey, CA: Rancho Los Amigos Medical Center, p. 216.

⁵⁷ Fliedner, Colleen Adair. 1990. *Centennial, Rancho Los Amigos Medical Center, 1888–1988*. Downey, CA: Rancho Los Amigos Medical Center, p. 216.

⁵⁸ Fliedner, Colleen Adair. 1990. *Centennial, Rancho Los Amigos Medical Center, 1888–1988*. Downey, CA: Rancho Los Amigos Medical Center, p. 300.

office space, storage, or were abandoned. Today, Rancho Los Amigos Medical Center remains one of four hospitals in the Los Angeles County Department of Health Services and has become a leading center for rehabilitative care.

SIGNIFICANT HISTORICAL THEMES

Rancho Los Amigos Role in the County Health and Welfare Systems

Rancho Los Amigos is significant as one of the lynch pins of the public services provided by the County of Los Angeles, initially as a poor farm and subsequently as a hospital whose mission evolved into one of rehabilitation. The Los Angeles County Poor Farm was founded on the basic principles of the poorhouse system developed during the Industrial Revolution in England to provide care to the poor, disabled and elderly. It was not unusual for the dual goals of welfare for the indigent and medical care for the impoverished to overlap.

Prior to the inception of the national idea of a county hospital system, many American general care facilities were administered through federal aid. This type of government funding became available in 1798 to both governmental and private hospitals that served as marine hospitals under the terms of legislation for the "relief of sick and disabled men."⁵⁹ Government funding seemed to be an incentive for various private groups across the country to open their own hospitals. According to H.S. Mustard in *Government in Public Health*, the financial appropriation for a hospital in the 1800s was "a favorite mode of starting a new town in the West, if it was anywhere on a stream or on a good size puddle."⁶⁰

During this time, states were somewhat involved with subsidizing hospitals through the issuing of grants; however, such grants were not intended to serve as substitutes for government hospital provision. States tended not to be involved in the provision of general hospital care and preferred funding psychiatric hospitals. Generally, states that provided funds for general hospitals did it on a selective, ad hoc, individualized basis, responding to specific requests from individual local groups.⁶¹ One exception to this was the state of California, which in 1851 established a short-lived state accident hospital in the gold-mining areas of Stockton and Sacramento.⁶² Later, Pennsylvania and West Virginia followed California's lead and established their own accident hospitals. Some states also provided welfare medical care through the hospitals of the state university system.

Local governments also provided early medical care, consisting mainly of infectious disease and isolation hospitals in major cities and areas of seaports whose intention was to quell the recurring epidemics of smallpox, cholera, typhoid, and diarrhea. Counties and cities also provided a substantial amount of hospital care in almshouses, or County Poor Farms, for the destitute and

⁵⁹ Stevens, Rosemary. Autumn 1982. "A Poor Sort of Memory": Voluntary Hospitals and Government before the Depression. The Milbank Memorial Fund Quarterly. *Health and Society*, 60(4): 551–584.

⁶⁰ Mustard, H.S. 1945. *Government in Public Health*. New York: Commonwealth Fund.

⁶¹ Stevens, Rosemary. Autumn 1982. "A Poor Sort of Memory": Voluntary Hospitals and Government before the Depression. The Milbank Memorial Fund Quarterly. *Health and Society*, 60(4): 553.

⁶² Cahn, F., and Barry V. 1936. *Welfare Activities of Federal, State and Local Governments in California, 1850–1934*. Berkeley, CA: University of California Press.

impoverished.⁶³ Sometimes, local governments supported general care hospitals by providing land. The beginnings of today's welfare medical system were evident in the grants provided to hospitals for the care of indigents. And according to Stevens, "Similarly, in cities with large immigrant populations, such as New York City, government payments to voluntary hospitals supplemented the governmental hospital system. Where government aid existed, its form was determined by a combination of local political conditions, commonsense, the strength of local interest groups, and the taxing structures which obtained in different states."⁶⁴

California's hospital system began in the mid-1800s, as a result of the Gold Rush. Approximately 250,000 "49-ers" entered California during the Gold Rush, significantly increasing the state population. The majority of emigrants settled in Northern California. Poor sanitation in gold fields and newly formed mining settlements resulted in a variety of health problems and diseases for miners, many of whom ended up in the state's cities, destitute and in bad health, resulting in mass outbreaks of scurvy, rheumatism, dysentery, and fevers. In response to public outcries, the state legislature passed a bill to provide funding for a much-needed state Marine Hospital in San Francisco.

Due to the overcrowded conditions in Northern California, many of the emigrants drifted south, causing a concern over sanitary conditions in Los Angeles County. At this time, Los Angeles, still a growing frontier town with little infrastructure, was unequipped to handle a large influx of impoverished and ill settlers. Smallpox epidemics broke out, periodically killing hundreds of residents.⁶⁵ Medical treatment was available from eight local County-funded doctors or was left to the responsibility of the individual or his family.

Public care for the poor officially began in 1850, when the California state legislature made a provision that the court of session should "perform all acts necessary to the county welfare." Following the creations of Boards of Supervisors in 1852 for each county, the task of caring for the aged and needy became a local venture. Consequently, in 1855, the California state legislature passed a bill known as the "Poor Law of 1855," which transferred responsibility for providing medical care for the indigent ill from the state to the county boards of supervisors.⁶⁶ Through this legislation, counties received authorization to raise funding through taxes to establish hospitals and poor houses. In response to this legislation, in July 1855 the County of Los Angeles appointed two prominent residents, Abel Stearns and John G. Downey, to spearhead efforts to establish the county's first public hospital. On May 29, 1858, the new hospital was officially opened in a house owned by a Los Angeles resident named Cristobal Aguilar and identified in the publication, the *Southern Vineyard*, as being "north of the church."⁶⁷ It was operated by the Sisters of Charity and overseen by the county physicians. The new hospital consisted of two wards: a ward for paying patients and a ward for charity patients.

⁶³ Stevens, Rosemary. Autumn 1982. "A Poor Sort of Memory": Voluntary Hospitals and Government before the Depression. The Milbank Memorial Fund Quarterly. *Health and Society*, 60(4): 554.

⁶⁴ Stevens, Rosemary. Autumn 1982. "A Poor Sort of Memory": Voluntary Hospitals and Government before the Depression. The Milbank Memorial Fund Quarterly. *Health and Society*, 60(4).

⁶⁵ Fliedner, Colleen Adair. 1990. *Centennial, Rancho Los Amigos Medical Center, 1888-1988*. Downey, CA: Rancho Los Amigos Medical Center, p. 8.

⁶⁶ Fliedner, Colleen Adair. 1990. *Centennial, Rancho Los Amigos Medical Center, 1888-1988*. Downey, CA: Rancho Los Amigos Medical Center, p. 9.

⁶⁷ Fliedner, Colleen Adair. 1990. *Centennial, Rancho Los Amigos Medical Center, 1888-1988*. Downey, CA: Rancho Los Amigos Medical Center, p. 10.

In 1860, the state Legislature passed a law requiring county hospitals to provide care for all indigent persons, despite their health condition or income level. Due to this new responsibility put on the County Hospital, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors saw no alternative but to move the facility to larger accommodations. The hospital was relocated to a building on a nine-acre lot on Naud Street between North Main and San Fernando Streets. In addition to the building, the nine acres of grounds offered scenic landscaping of orange groves, pepper and walnut trees, and a vegetable garden.⁶⁸

By 1869, conditions at the County Hospital had again become overcrowded. The situation worsened by the mid-1870s due to the influx of settlers that arrived in Los Angeles following its connection with the Southern Pacific Railroad network. Public outcry demanded the construction of a hospital facility with an adjoining Poor Farm that offered destitute but able-bodied indigents a way to offset the costs of their food and care.

Poor Farms or Poorhouses had first appeared in the United States during the early 1800s. Offered as the least expensive option for caring for the indigent, the poorhouse or almshouse system was designed to be tax-supported, and offered long-term care to the poor, disabled and elderly. Early poorhouses served as the origins of the modern American welfare system and followed the English tradition of care, jointly serving as a rehabilitation center and correctional institution. These establishments did not distinguish between individuals suffering from poverty and criminal behavior, as evidenced by the use of the term *inmate* to refer to the patients at the poorhouse or poor farm.⁶⁹ This system was widely supported, as it was believed that such housing could reform people and heal them of the bad behavior, which caused the “afflictions” of poverty and criminality.

By the mid-1800s, the poor farm emerged out of the poorhouse system. Although the poor farm was essentially a poorhouse with farming capabilities, it served to advance the public goal of offering the least-expensive indigent care possible, as the costs of care could be subsidized through the farming activities of the inmates. The poor farms generally were staffed by farmhands who directed the work and were aided by the able-bodied inmates. These farming operations proved highly successful; most became self-sustaining, and some even became profitable. Many poor farms went beyond merely serving the needs of the community’s indigent, playing an integral role in the lives of residents who benefited from the poor farm’s use as an agricultural center, economic hub, and charity supplier.⁷⁰

In 1878, the County of Los Angeles opened a new Hospital and Poor Farm on a 30-acre lot about a mile from downtown Los Angeles on Mission Road with funds raised through a hospital bond campaign. The new facility offered 106 beds and was the first hospital to be completely owned and operated by the County.⁷¹

⁶⁸ Fliedner, Colleen Adair. 1990. *Centennial, Rancho Los Amigos Medical Center, 1888–1988*. Downey, CA: Rancho Los Amigos Medical Center, p. 11.

⁶⁹ Wagner, David. 2005. *The Poorhouse: America’s Forgotten Institution*. Lanham, MD: Rowan and Littlefield, p. 120.

⁷⁰ Wagner, David. 2005. *The Poorhouse: America’s Forgotten Institution*. Lanham, MD: Rowan and Littlefield, pp. 5–7, 120.

⁷¹ Fliedner, Colleen Adair. 1990. *Centennial, Rancho Los Amigos Medical Center, 1888–1988*. Downey, CA: Rancho Los Amigos Medical Center, pp. 13–15.

The 1880s witnessed another population boom in Los Angeles County, this one triggered by rate war between two competing railroads serving Los Angeles. The influx of new residents caused overcrowding at the County Hospital once again. To manage the growing hospital demands, the County Board of Supervisors voted in January of 1887 to create the Office of the Superintendent of the County Hospital to oversee the hospital operations, medical supplies, and the duties of the County Physician.⁷² Although the hospital operations had improved substantially, the facility could still not accommodate the new wave of settlers to the area. A decision was made to sell the farmland (which now included a dairy) and relocate the farm facility to a larger area outside of the city of Los Angeles, which could accommodate a larger facility and more patients. In the tradition of poorhouses or almshouses, the County Board of Supervisors proposed a County Farm where patients would receive shelter, food, and an opportunity to earn a paycheck if contributing to farm production. The County hoped this type of facility not only would be cost sustaining but also would rehabilitate its patients to return to society by creating an atmosphere of work opportunity and community service.

In 1887, the Board of Supervisors decided to purchase a 124.4 parcel of land a few miles from the city of Downey in an area known for its agricultural successes. Ward buildings were immediately constructed to accommodate ambulatory indigents, freeing-up the County Hospital to offer more room for bedridden patients. In November of 1888, the first patients were transferred from the County Hospital to the new County Poor Farm. Over the next three months, patients continued to be transferred as the buildings were completed, the kitchen was stocked, and the farm began its operations. In 1889, a general superintendent was hired to oversee the Poor Farm and also serve as the resident physician.⁷³

It was the intention of the County to provide complete medical care by the county physician to the patients of the County Poor Farm; however, the County Hospital was to remain the dominant medical facility. In the Poor Farm's early history, the primary emphasis of the institution was on the farming operations and the rehabilitative care of the indigent patients. Over the years, the Poor Farm began giving care to an increasing number of bedridden and terminal patients due to the continued overcrowding conditions at the County Hospital. By the mid-1920s, the County Farm had begun to transition into a facility focusing on hospital care rather than on agricultural operations.

The early inmates at the County Farm were mainly destitute foreign and American immigrants. Additional inmates included blue-collar workers, such as miners, laborers, carpenters, wagon makers, brick masons, farmers, and teamsters. Many laborers came to the County Farm to recover from injuries, such as sore arms, injured ankles, or broken legs, which prevented them from working at their occupations. The Poor Farm provided shelter and food until they were well enough to return to work.⁷⁴

For many years, the County Hospital continued to transfer indigent patients to the County Farm whenever they had a large number of admissions. This news was not always met with enthusiasm

⁷² "The Supervisors: Hospital, Jail, and Other Reforms Being Considered." 25 January 1887. *Los Angeles Times*, p. 2.

⁷³ "An Ordinance." 20 February 1889. *Los Angeles Times*, p. 7.

⁷⁴ Fliedner, Colleen Adair. 1990. *Centennial, Rancho Los Amigos Medical Center, 1888-1988*. Downey, CA: Rancho Los Amigos Medical Center, p. 43.

by the patients who had come to view the Poor Farm as a place for destitute individuals and oftentimes represented "a place of lost hopes and shattered dreams."⁷⁵ This sentiment was confirmed by a report given by the County Hospital Physician in 1891, which stated,

During the first of the month, the number of admissions was large, and the hospital was very much overcrowded, the average number of patients being 142. On the 12th and 19th 11 patients were sent to the county farm, and it was surprising then how many patients discovered that they had friends who could care for them. In a week, the men had dropped from 119 to 92.⁷⁶

Although this stigma continued among the public, the County Farm became self-sustaining through agricultural growth and prosperity. Not only did the agricultural operations meet the daily food supply needs of the Poor Farm, it also allowed the County Farm to provide a daily supply of milk and fresh produce to the County Hospital. It was stated in a 1907 *Los Angeles Times* article that much of the food at the time was being traded for coffins made in the hospital basement workshop.⁷⁷ Trades between the County Farm and Hospital saved the County of Los Angeles thousands of dollars each year. By 1911, it was reported that the Poor Farm was supplying the County Hospital with over \$13,000 worth of produce and milk, in addition to providing laundry services.⁷⁸ And by 1917, the Poor Farm was supplying the hospital with some 167,269 gallons of milk per year. The Poor Farm continued to provide the County Hospital with milk and produce until farming operations ceased in the 1950s.

Another strong early connection between the County Hospital and the Poor Farm was the shared responsibility for the treatment of psychiatric patients. At the beginning of the 20th century, the state mental institutions were extremely crowded, and patients were sent to county hospitals for care. Los Angeles County created a Psychiatric Ward at the County Hospital to provide treatment for these individuals. Once the patients had completed their treatment and had been deemed "harmlessly insane," they were sent to the County Farm where they would be visited regularly by parole officers and a representative of the Lunacy Council. In 1907, the first Psychiatric ward had been constructed at the Poor Farm.⁷⁹ Additional Psychiatric wards were constructed at the Poor Farm in the early 1920s. If the individual could not afford to pay for their treatment and stay once they were transferred to the Poor Farm, the County assumed the cost. Los Angeles County was the only county in the United States at the time to assume the expense of caring for these individuals once they left the psychiatric ward at the County Hospital.⁸⁰

By 1918, the County Farm had taken on more chronically sick and insane patients than the institution was equipped to handle. The County Hospital was chronically overcrowded, resulting in the transfer of patients who needed extended medical care. Then Superintendent William R.

⁷⁵ Fliedner, Colleen Adair. 1990. *Centennial, Rancho Los Amigos Medical Center, 1888–1988*. Downey, CA: Rancho Los Amigos Medical Center, p. 45.

⁷⁶ "The County Hospital." 9 April 1901. *Los Angeles Times*, p. 3.

⁷⁷ "Coffins and Milk." 21 August 1907. *Los Angeles Times*, p. 17.

⁷⁸ "County Farm Not Poor." 15 January 1911. *Los Angeles Times*, p. 113.

⁷⁹ Fliedner, Colleen Adair. 1990. *Centennial, Rancho Los Amigos Medical Center, 1888–1988*. Downey, CA: Rancho Los Amigos Medical Center, p. 65.

⁸⁰ "New High Mark in Mind-Healing." 18 January 1920. *Los Angeles Times*, p. 119.

Harriman requested funding from the County to construct the first infirmary wards (also known as patient wards) at the Poor Farm. An April 29, 1923, *Los Angeles Times* article stated:

The point of distress at the farm is the great overcrowding. Extra beds are on porches, in corridors and storerooms and in the loft of the work-stock stable. In all these places, the beds are crowded, often to the extent of being down the aisles. We are receiving daily applications and are unable to admit many worthy applicants. Further, because of the severe congestion at the hospital, there are being housed at the farm many persons of a type for which the present construction at that institution is not designed. There are 100 inmates of the general wards who must receive food-tray service, whereas the farm is equipped only for those able to go to the dining rooms. Seventy-five men are now housed in the work-stock stable loft.⁸¹

The first four infirmary wards were completed in 1923, housing some 130 bedridden patients transferred from the County Hospital.⁸² Dozens of additional employees had to be hired, including physicians, nurses, orderlies, porters, and cleaners. Additional kitchen and living facilities were constructed. A total of 13 wards had been constructed by 1927 and were providing care for hundreds of chronically ill patients. According to Colleen Fliedner in *Centennial, Rancho Los Amigos Medical Center, 1888–1988*:

Mr. Harriman, who seems to have relished statistics, pointed out that “the cost of a single bed at County General Hospital will build and equip five to eight beds at the Farm.” Every bed vacated at the hospital was used for an average of 18 acute patients; thus, in 1924, more than 4,000 patients received care at County Hospital due to the fact that the Infirmary Wards had relieved the hospital of 260 patients.

Furthermore, the cost of one bed per day at County Hospital was \$3.75, while the net cost in the Infirmary Wards was \$1.58 per patient per day. Mr. Harriman estimated that based on these figures \$257,000 had been saved in one year alone by having these patients at the County Farm. “This is sufficient to pay for the entire group of buildings and equipment every eight months, as the cost per bed of buildings and equipment is only about one-seventh of that at the General Hospital [County Hospital was called General Hospital in 1925].”⁸³

The construction of the infirmary wards signaled a new era for the Poor Farm as it metamorphosed into an institution offering hospital care. The medical staff was expanded to include not only additional general health physicians but also specialists in fields such as eye, ear, nose, and throat; urology; orthopedic; hydrotherapy; physiotherapy; dental care; psychiatry; and dietetics. New medical offices and a pharmacy were created in one of the General Ward Buildings (LACO No. 1184), and state-of-the-art medical equipment, including an X-ray machine, was purchased. Also at this time, the Occupational Therapy Department opened to rehabilitate patients by instructing them in the creation of crafts such as baskets, brushes, pottery, leather, woven articles, needlework,

⁸¹ *Los Angeles Times*. 29 April 1923. “County Bonds Will Aid All.” p. 117.

⁸² Fliedner, Colleen Adair. 1990. *Centennial, Rancho Los Amigos Medical Center, 1888–1988*. Downey, CA: Rancho Los Amigos Medical Center, p. 105.

⁸³ Fliedner, Colleen Adair. 1990. *Centennial, Rancho Los Amigos Medical Center, 1888–1988*. Downey, CA: Rancho Los Amigos Medical Center, pp. 119–120.

metal work, and crepe-paper novelties.⁸⁴ This type of therapy also was offered in the wards for those patients who were less mobile.

In 1930, Superintendent Harriman constructed the modern medical building (now known as the Harriman Building) north of the original buildings, on what is now known as the Rancho Los Amigos North Campus. This building was filled with the latest equipment, laboratories, and surgery facilities, and also provided separate rooms to isolate patients with varying illnesses. Two months after the completion of the building, the medical department, laboratories, dental services, various treatment rooms, X-ray, and the new surgical unit moved in, as well as over 200 patients. Although the County Farm had not yet been identified as an official hospital, major surgery was performed in the new building beginning in late 1931. Over fourteen operations of seven different classifications were carried out the first year, saving the County the amount of money it would take to transport the patients to the County Hospital.⁸⁵ To mark this new direction, Harriman petitioned in 1931 to change the name of the institution from the antiquated County Farm to Rancho Los Amigos. The name was officially adopted in 1932.⁸⁶

Over the years, many serious illnesses were treated at Rancho Los Amigos. A few tuberculosis patients were transferred during the institution's early days. Either the County Hospital did not diagnose their condition prior to transferring them or the overcrowding conditions forced their transfer despite the possibility of spreading the highly contagious disease. As knowledge of the disease was gained, tubercular patients were isolated from the rest of the inmates. Another serious disease treated was syphilis. The institution served as a facility for syphilis research between 1922 and 1928. Some 120 treatments were given to about 60 patients each week.⁸⁷ In 1944, Rancho Los Amigos began treating polio patients during the mass outbreak in Los Angeles County. Rancho's success in rehabilitating polio patients and its cutting edge physical therapy methods led to its role as a well-known polio rehabilitation center and reputation as the leading post-polio respiratory center in the world.⁸⁸ Polio wards were created in the Medical Building, as well as on the first floors of many of other buildings. By 1951, the role of Rancho Los Amigos within the County health system according to Fliedner was to be "one of the five hospitals operated by the county with the primary mission of providing geriatric, medical, and nursing care, as well as care for those suffering from chronic diseases or convalescing from medical or surgical conditions. Rancho also provided the necessary medical, surgical, and ancillary care for the largest concentration of respirator-dependent poliomyelitis patients in history."⁸⁹ Today, Rancho Los Amigos continues to be one of four hospitals operated by the County of Los Angeles.

⁸⁴ "Handicaps Forgotten in Therapy Work." 27 September 1937. *Los Angeles Times*, A16.

⁸⁵ Fliedner, Colleen Adair. 1990. *Centennial, Rancho Los Amigos Medical Center, 1888–1988*. Downey, CA: Rancho Los Amigos Medical Center, pp. 161–162.

⁸⁶ "Amigos Rancho: Over the Hill." 14 October 1932. *Los Angeles Times*, p. 11.

⁸⁷ Fliedner, Colleen Adair. 1990. *Centennial, Rancho Los Amigos Medical Center, 1888–1988*. Downey, CA: Rancho Los Amigos Medical Center, p. 124.

⁸⁸ Fliedner, Colleen Adair. 1990. *Centennial, Rancho Los Amigos Medical Center, 1888–1988*. Downey, CA: Rancho Los Amigos Medical Center, pp. 216–217.

⁸⁹ Fliedner, Colleen Adair. 1990. *Centennial, Rancho Los Amigos Medical Center, 1888–1988*. Downey, CA: Rancho Los Amigos Medical Center, p. 235.

Setting and Landscape

The historic character of the Rancho Los Amigos Historic District has been shaped by its design, including the physical layout, which evolved over the facility's approximately 120 year history to the campus apparent today. Although the landscaping department of the County Poor Farm was not officially established until 1907, landscaping was always an integral component of the design and activities of the institution. This concern was evident from the initial work on the property to create the Poor Farm. Local laborers were employed to clear the land, grade the roadways, and plant eucalyptus saplings along planned walkways and roads, as well as along much of the property's periphery. The eucalyptus trees provided a supply of hard wood for use in building fence posts, and created a shaded, lush setting for the grounds. Along Main Drive, which ran north-south, date palms lined one side of a walkway with eucalyptus trees on the other side.⁹⁰ Groupings of native willows and sycamores were left in place around the property and dozens of small areas were prepared for plantings of roses and various flowers. According to Fleidner, "By the end of February, 1888, the Board of Supervisors noted that the task of planting the shade and ornamental trees had been completed, and everything was ready for the buildings to be constructed."⁹¹

The original 1887/1888 design for the County Poor Farm, by the Los Angeles architecture firm of Kysor, Morgan and Wells, included plans for immediate construction of buildings (the Men's and Women's Wards), as well as future buildings which would be erected as necessity and funding allowed. In addition, the architects included plans for landscaping and infrastructure improvements to the property. So confident in the design, original architect Octavius Morgan proclaimed,

When all of the buildings are completed and the orchards and gardens are in good trim the poor farm will be one of the prettiest spots on the face of the globe. The farm is beautifully situated, and if the plans are carried out the poor will have a home that cannot be surpassed in the United States.⁹²

The plan envisioned a U-shaped configuration of the buildings, with a central courtyard defined by the North (Female) and South (Male) Wards and a central Dining Hall (Refectory). While the commissions for the two wards were given to Kysor, Morgan, and Walls, the job of designing the Dining Hall fell to another local architect, Jacob Friedlander. The central courtyard was landscaped with lawns and flower beds. A year later, in 1889, Morgan designed the fourth building on the campus (the Administration Building), which was to serve as an office, residence for the physician and superintendent, and laboratory.⁹³ During the 1890s, fountains were built in front of the Men's and Women's Wards. Trees, lawns, and gardens with flower beds were planted and cultivated throughout the property.

In 1891, the Poor Farm was visited by a group of benevolent women from Los Angeles, as well as two women representing the *Los Angeles Times*. They were given a guided tour and are quoted as describing the landscaping characteristics of the property in the following way:

⁹⁰ Fliedner, Colleen Adair. 1990. *Centennial, Rancho Los Amigos Medical Center, 1888–1988*. Downey, CA: Rancho Los Amigos Medical Center, p. 23.

⁹¹ Fliedner, Colleen Adair. 1990. *Centennial, Rancho Los Amigos Medical Center, 1888–1988*. Downey, CA: Rancho Los Amigos Medical Center, pp. 23–24.

⁹² "For Indigents. Something About the County's Poor Farm Near Downey." 5 August 1888. *Los Angeles Times*, 5.

⁹³ "The Supervisors." 27 February 1889. *Los Angeles Times*, p. 2.

There are three of the main buildings, all built of brick and connected by wide verandas. . . . The space between them is a lovely court with a green and well-kept lawn, playing fountains and beds of flowers. Around this space upon three sides the covered verandas extend, and here the inmates may sit listening to the tinkling of the flashing water which falls in diamond-like drops upon the greensward or into the bed of the pool. Birds sing their songs here, and flowers blossom all year, and there is nothing but beauty and quiet everywhere in this spot. Between the buildings the vista opens upon a wide expanse of tree and orchard-crowned plains. In another direction are the harvest and alfalfa fields of green and gold.

It is surprising to see the results of the two and a half years during which the farm has been occupied. Substantial frame out-buildings have been completed; 32,000 orange trees have been planted with 800 other varieties – apples, apricots, pears and figs. There are four miles of eucalyptus trees; twenty acres sown to alfalfa; ten to barley, and about the same number to corn, and there are two acres devoted to vegetables.⁹⁴

The group's enthusiastic response to the Poor Farm's park-like setting was noted by the County Board of Supervisors. Soon mention of the property's beauty and tranquility was a regular feature in the *Los Angeles Times*. This publicity influenced the Board of Supervisors to "beautify" the County Hospital in 1900. Under the supervision of one of the inmates, a gardener by trade, a hothouse was erected and plantings from many local conservatories and parks were relocated to the hospital grounds.⁹⁵

By 1902, a map of the Poor Farm depicts the curved east-west roadway entrance (currently known as Consuelo Street) as the main entrance into the property, leading west towards the center of the farm where a circular drive encloses the core of the original four buildings. To the south of the farm driveway the map indicates the location of the livestock pens, where the hogs, poultry and cows were kept. To the west of the circular driveway and buildings, the remaining acreage of the Farm is planted as orange and lemon orchards (Figure 27, *1902 Map of the Los Angeles County Poor Farm*).

To maintain the vast gardens of the Poor Farm, Superintendent Chick established a Landscape Department in 1907. Mr. O.D. Pond was hired as the first full-time gardener, with a monthly salary of \$50. Pond was responsible for directing the landscaping efforts at the Poor Farm, primarily through the use of inmates who provided the labor to maintain the growing expanse of lawns, trees and gardens at the Farm.⁹⁶ By 1917, the farm included a separate area with ancillary buildings and tools specifically for landscaping the property grounds.⁹⁷

⁹⁴ "The County Farm. Where the Poor of Los Angeles are Cared for." 14 June 1891. *Los Angeles Times*, p. 10.

⁹⁵ "Alleviating Misery. Many Improvement Made In The County Hospital." 14 April 1900. *Los Angeles Times*, p. 112.

⁹⁶ Fliedner, Colleen Adair. 1990. *Centennial, Rancho Los Amigos Medical Center, 1888–1988*. Downey, CA: Rancho Los Amigos Medical Center, pp. 62–63.

⁹⁷ Landscape Greenhouse Quarters Historic Photograph. 1917. Los Angeles: University of Southern California. Box 27, Folder 37.

Over the years, the maintenance of the grounds of South Campus continued to be supplemented by the patients. The able-bodied general ward patients kept steady jobs and supplied much of the man power needed to keep the South Campus operating smoothly. In addition to working at the farm and dairy, approximately 125 patients worked on the landscaping crews, keeping specific areas of the South Campus landscape manicured and clean of debris.⁹⁸

The maintenance of the grounds was made a priority by Superintendent Harriman in the 1920s when he reserved a significant portion of the annual budget to maintain and improve the landscape of the South Campus, through the purchase of trees, shrubs and irrigation systems. Believing that the setting offered patients beneficial healing powers, Harriman insisted that the architectural landscape of the property was maintained at the same level of excellence reflected in the new architecture of the South Campus. As Harriman explained in the Rancho Los Amigos Annual Report of 1928:

We believe that the surroundings are far more pleasant and the actual feeling of "home" more evident than in many smaller institutions. The buildings are well lighted and ventilated, and all are provided with steam heat, hot and cold water service and facilities of every kind. They are located in a park-like setting of flowers and shrubbery, with drives bordered by magnificent 45-year old eucalyptus trees. The Farm employees are constantly on the alert to improve the comfort and happiness of the sick and unfortunate in their care with a sincere and helpful spirit.⁹⁹

During the 1920s, the east-west running entrance into the Poor Farm gained prominence with the construction of the new Administration Building in 1926 (LACO No. 1100). The street was given the name Administration Drive (later named Consuelo Street) and officially became the primary entranceway into the institution. Administration Drive was distinguished by a recognizable bow, which began east near the entrance to the Administration Building and bent northwest around the east and north elevations of the building. Two circular driveways landscaped with mature trees and lawns filled the space created by the curvature of Consuelo Street. This organized lawn setting created a distinct separation between the public Administration Building and the private inmate and support buildings located farther west on Consuelo Street toward the center of South Campus. These characteristics are still visible today.

In 1929, an ornamental courtyard was created in the center of South Campus after the original Administration Building was demolished. At this time, a fifty-one foot-long fish pond was built near the front of the Auditorium (LACO No. 1264) where two cast iron tiered fountains were located. This area was further enhanced by an 18' x 12' wrought-iron gazebo (LACO No. 1265) which was added to the space circa 1933. Large flower beds were planted, and the walkways were paved with flagstone slabs.¹⁰⁰ A sundial was also positioned to the rear of the gazebo. This area provided a public green space for the inmates and staff, as well as creating a focal point for the historic traffic

⁹⁸ Foster, Henry. 5 October 1959. "History of the Rancho." Los Angeles: University of Southern California Archives. Box 25, Folder 57.

⁹⁹ Harriman, William R. "1927-1928 Annual Report for Rancho Los Amigos." Los Angeles: University of Southern California. Box 22, Folder 13.

¹⁰⁰ Fliedner, Colleen Adair. 1990. *Rancho Los Amigos Medical Center Centennial, 1888-1988*. Downey, CA: Rancho Los Amigos Medical Center, pp. 143-144.

circle at the intersection of Erickson Avenue and Consuelo Street. The curvature of these streets around the traffic circle has remained generally in the same configuration, except for a slight alteration to the western edge of the traffic circle when Erickson Avenue (then Horton) was widened circa 1950.

By the end of the 1920s, landscape improvements at the farm included one mile of paved roads, one and one-fourth miles of decomposing granite roads, cast-iron sewer piping, and hundreds of acres of new lawns, gardens, trees, curbs, walkways and fencing.¹⁰¹ Despite the lull in building construction caused by the Depression, improvements to the landscape at the Farm continued throughout the early 1930s. Acres of new lawn were planted throughout the property and an automatic sprinkler system was installed. Street lights were erected along Golondrinas Street and Dahlia Avenues, providing additional lighting to the newly constructed Psychiatric Ward Buildings (LACO Nos. 1202 and 1204) and Casa Consuelo (LACO No. 1238).¹⁰²

Superintendent Harriman took great pleasure in the expansion and development of the landscape at the Farm, proudly stating in his 1932-1933 Annual Report :

As a further step toward mental and physical welfare of the patients, the grounds surrounding their homes are beautifully landscaped and maintained in perfect order and cleanliness at all times. Acres of flower gardens provide cut flowers in abundance and these are used in decorating the wards through the year. Many patients assist trained crews of gardeners in the general care of the lawns and gardens and the propagation of plants, trees and shrubs in the operation of the greenhouse. Around the grounds, numerous benches are placed in the shade of the magnificent eucalyptus trees that have bordered the drives for nearly fifty years. . . . The drab colors so common at many institutions have no place at the Rancho as furniture, interior finishes and trim are decorated in pleasing colors conducive cheerfulness and rest.¹⁰³

Harriman continued to emphasize the importance of the landscaping on the South Campus. In 1934, Harriman reported that the eucalyptus trees were maintained at 75 feet tall. The buildings were surrounded in landscaping with lawn and shrubbery and large flower gardens which supplied the various offices and wards with bouquets. The work of landscaping was largely controlled by landscape supervisors with patient labor.¹⁰⁴ By 1935, the landscaping department employed some twenty-four men.

However, by 1950, the Landscaping Department had been reduced to a full-time staff of 17, who were assisted by 46 patient "helpers." Each day the landscaping team cleaned six miles of streets,

¹⁰¹ Harriman, William R. "1927-1928 Annual Report for Rancho Los Amigos." Los Angeles: University of Southern California. Box 22, Folder 13. And Harriman, William R. "1929-1930 Annual Report for Rancho Los Amigos." Los Angeles: University of Southern California. Box 22, Folder 13.

¹⁰² Harriman, William R. "1930-1931 Annual Report for Rancho Los Amigos." Los Angeles: University of Southern California. Box 22, Folder 13.

¹⁰³ Harriman, William R. "1932-1933 Annual Report for Rancho Los Amigos." Los Angeles: University of Southern California. Box 22, Folder 13.

¹⁰⁴ Harriman, William R. "1934-1935 Annual Report for Rancho Los Amigos." Los Angeles: University of Southern California. Box 22, Folder 13.

hauled away garbage and maintained 56 acres of landscaping with lawn, flowers and trees. Thousands of fresh-cut flowers grown in Rancho greenhouses were supplied for the creation of special bouquets which were placed within buildings.¹⁰⁵ Many of the trees which are still present today, had been planted by this time, including: Avocado; Bottle Tree; Bunya Bunya; Camphor; Carob; Coast Live Oak; Date Palm; Laurel Fig; Mexican Fan Palm; Morton Bay Fig; Primrose Tree; Queensland Pittosporum; Redwood; and Southern Magnolia.¹⁰⁶ The Moreton Bay fig tree (located on Erickson Avenue in the ornamental lawn in front of the Auditorium) and redwood trees were identified in 1988 as Landmark trees by the City of Downey.¹⁰⁷

By 1960, the eucalyptus trees that lined Erickson Avenue had been removed and the landscaping efforts diminished as the focus of the institution began to be centered on the new medical buildings constructed north of Imperial Highway in the area called North Campus. By the 1980s, many of the buildings located in South Campus were being abandoned and the surrounding landscape began to deteriorate, leaving only vestiges of the original “park-like” environment.

Architectural Character

From the founding of the Los Angeles County Poor Farm in 1887/1888, the institution’s built environment has consistently evolved. During the farm’s early history, there were few buildings, allowing the majority of the property to be devoted to farming activities. As the patient population increased, a demand for administrative offices, additional ward space, dining facilities, and staff housing initiated several periods of growth and expansion. The largest period of construction occurred from the 1920s through the early 1930s when the “poor farm” was transitioning from a rehabilitative care facility for indigents into a hospital to house long-term invalid patients known as Rancho Los Amigos Medical Center.

The first buildings constructed at the Poor Farm in 1887/1888 were designed by the preeminent Los Angeles architectural firm of the time, Kysor, Morgan, and Walls and lesser-known architect Jacob Friedlander.¹⁰⁸ The first four buildings were the North and South Wards, Dining Hall (Refectory), and the office, residence for the physician and superintendent, and laboratory (Administration Building).¹⁰⁹ Three of the buildings were designed in a brick Victorian-era institutional style, and the fourth was a simple wood-framed building with Victorian-era detailing.¹¹⁰ A continuous veranda connected the buildings, and framed a garden courtyard, featuring lawns, rose garden, and aviary. Out of these four initial buildings, only the aviary (LACO No. 1312) survives today, albeit in an altered condition, and remains the oldest surviving structure on the Rancho Los Amigos campus. It is now located in the northwest section of the interior courtyard of the Men’s Psychiatric Ward Complex (LACO Nos. 1204 and 1205).

¹⁰⁵ Harriman, William R. “1949–1950 Annual Report for Rancho Los Amigos.” Los Angeles: University of Southern California. Box 22, Folder 13.

¹⁰⁶ Sapphos Environmental, Inc. “Historic and Landmark Tree Report.” March 2008. On file at Sapphos Environmental, Inc. office.

¹⁰⁷ City of Downey Rancho Business Center Specific Plan 88-1.

¹⁰⁸ Fliedner, Colleen Adair. 1990. *Centennial, Rancho Los Amigos Medical Center, 1888–1988*. Downey, CA: Rancho Los Amigos Medical Center, p. 25.

¹⁰⁹ “The Supervisors.” 27 February 1889. *Los Angeles Times*, p. 2.

¹¹⁰ Fliedner, Colleen Adair. 1990. *Centennial, Rancho Los Amigos Medical Center, 1888–1988*. Downey, CA: Rancho Los Amigos Medical Center, pp. 24–25.

As the farm expanded and additional buildings were constructed, particularly during the first three decades of the 20th century, distinct architectural styles began to emerge, defining the visual character of the campus and identifying the function of the various buildings. Buildings dating from this era substantially shape the current architectural landscape of the area of seventy-six buildings identified as the Rancho Los Amigos Historic District. A few appear to have been designed by the office of the County Architect, which was headed by Karl Muck during much of the 1920s and 1930s. However, a few of the original plans for the buildings list only that they were constructed under the supervision of the Los Angeles County Mechanical Department, while many other buildings have no existing plans.

The contributing features of the Rancho Los Amigos Historic District can be divided into five general architectural styles or types: Craftsman and Wood Vernacular, Classical Influence, Spanish Colonial Revival, Brick Vernacular, and Utilitarian. These five styles and types were typical during the first part of the 20th century and were reflected throughout Southern California architecture.

Craftsman and Wood Vernacular

The Craftsman style dominated residential architecture in southern California from circa 1902 through the mid 1920s. Rooted in the principles of the late-19th-century Arts and Crafts movement in England, the Craftsman aesthetic and ideals were developed and promoted in the United States by furniture maker Gustav Stickley and his 1901 magazine *The Craftsman*. Stickley envisioned residences for people of moderate means designed as a unified whole, including furniture and fittings. He discounted the ornamentation of the Victorian-era and preferred a much more simplified style that accented the beauty of natural materials such as wood and stone. He stated in the first issue of *The Craftsman*, "Beauty does not imply elaboration or ornament."¹¹¹ Drawing inspiration from English architect and designer William Morris, Stickley published plans and construction drawings in *The Craftsman* that epitomized his philosophy. The dissemination of his drawings exerted a strong influence on the development of the Craftsman Style.

Craftsman architectural design reached its apogee with the work of two brothers, Charles S. Greene and Henry M. Greene, who practiced together in Pasadena from 1893 to 1914 and with the work of a handful of other architects primarily located in the vicinity of the Arroyo Seco and the San Francisco Bay Area. The Greene brothers created an architectural style that combined elements of Stickley's influence, the Stick Style, the English Arts and Crafts Movement, and, especially, Japanese techniques of joinery.¹¹² The concurrent work of Frank Lloyd Wright also is said to have been an influence. Advocates of total design and craftsmanship, the Greenes also lavished attention on interior finishes and details and furniture. Some of the Greene's most notable commissions include the Gamble House, the Blacker House, and the Duncan-Irwin House, all located in Pasadena.

The work of the Greene brothers and other Craftsman style architects was widely published in both professional and popular journals. This exposure fueled the popularity of the Craftsman style, which spread quickly throughout the country. Craftsman house plans became easily accessible to the middle-class through pattern books and mail-order houses such as Sears, Roebuck & Company,

¹¹¹ Roth, Leland M. 1980. *A Concise History of American Architecture*. New York: Harper & Row, p. 198.

¹¹² Roth, Leland M. 1980. *A Concise History of American Architecture*. New York: Harper & Row, p. 211.

and Montgomery Ward's. Affordable and easily constructed from locally available materials, one-to-one and a half-story Craftsman homes became known as bungalows and dominated middle-class residential design during the first quarter of the 20th century. Although some Craftsman homes were two stories in height, large-scale versions of Craftsman houses were rare except in California.¹¹³ A limited number of commercial and public buildings also reflect Craftsman influences.

Craftsman buildings utilize materials such as wood, stone, and brick in a natural-appearing state. Structural features were left exposed and exploited for their decorative qualities. Earth tones were favored, integrating the building with the surrounding landscape. Horizontality was emphasized through low, ground-hugging massing, employment of broadly pitched, overhanging roofs, and utilization of wood siding and flat trim laid in continuous bands. Often, the lower portion of the exterior walls or porch supports was battered or tapered so as to be heavier at ground level. Capacious front porches were nearly ubiquitous features, often overlooked by generous expanses of windows clustered in groups. A combination of window types was used, with casement windows and fixed windows commonly appearing on the facade and double-hung sash on the sides and rear. Entries typically were characterized by oversized, heavy, wood-paneled doors. Craftsman interiors were distinguished by built-in features such as bookshelves, cabinets and hutches with leaded glass doors, and seating nooks and by the use of wood for picture rails, continuous header moldings, window and door casings, and doors.

Vernacular architecture is defined as "a mode of building based on regional forms and materials."¹¹⁴ Commonly, a wood vernacular building would be constructed to reflect the design trends of the region in which it was located. In Southern California, a common 20th century treatment for wood houses was to add modest Craftsman details, such as exposed rafters and beams, wide window and door trim, and a Craftsman front door. The character-defining features of a Wood Vernacular style building include wood framing and cladding, one or two story height, low- to moderate-pitched roof, and a partial- or full-width porch.

Classical Influence

Numerous architectural styles throughout Western history have been influenced by the temples, villas, and other buildings of ancient Greece and Rome. Classicism has played a central role in American architecture as well, contributing to many of the dominant architectural styles throughout the nation's history. According to Poppeliers, Chambers, and Schwartz in *What Style is it? A Guide to American Architecture*, the mass appeal of Classicism when America was a young country "undoubtedly was the often expressed sentiment that America, with its democratic ideals, was the spiritual successor of ancient Greece, a feeling evident not only in the architecture but also in the very names of newly established towns—Athens, Sparta, Ithaca—from Georgia to Maine and throughout the Midwest."¹¹⁵ Political decision makers and architects agreed that the Greek ideals of democracy, beauty, and simplicity were considered fitting for many buildings in the new nation. Classical architecture quickly became the prevalent style for churches, banks, civic buildings, and residences.

¹¹³ McAlester, Virginia, and Lee McAlester. 1994. *A Field Guide to American Houses*. New York: Alfred Knopf, p. 454.

¹¹⁴ Harris, Cyril M. 1993. *Dictionary of Architecture and Construction*. 2nd ed. New York: McGraw Hill, p. 884.

¹¹⁵ Poppeliers, John C., Chambers, S. Allen Jr., and Schwartz, Nancy B. 1983. *What Style Is It? A Guide to American Architecture*. Washington, DC: Preservation Press, p. 36.

The sense of order implied by Classicism appealed to many early architects who felt it was important to study classical forms to understand and practice architecture as a discipline. The identifying characteristics commonly associated with the Classicism of antiquity include the following: a temple-style porch supported by large columns, symmetrical facade, a low-pitched roof, a heavy cornice and frieze under the eaves, and decorative column capitals. Rediscovered and reinterpreted during the Renaissance, the Classical vocabulary that was inherited by American architects also included balanced, symmetrical facades; horizontal division of buildings corresponding to base, shaft, and capital; vertical divisions articulated by piers or pilasters; decorative details such as pedimented doors and windows, dentils, quoins, and pilasters; and occasionally colonnaded one-story (and less commonly, two-story) entrance porches. Numerous architectural styles throughout American history have reflected this legacy, from the literal Classical Revival of Thomas Jefferson's Virginia State Capitol to the simple, ubiquitous Colonial Revival bungalow of the early 1920s.

With the mass industrialization of the late-19th century, large-scale commercial and industrial buildings were constructed featuring Classical detailing. This new trend carried over into the 20th century. Architects and contractors gave industrial and commercial buildings a clear sense of order and unity by employing the Classical styles, especially those that emphasized balance, symmetry, and restraint. This also allowed a uniformed style to develop for buildings associated with a distinct usage or company affiliation. Classicism lost its popularity in the mid-20th century, when historicism was rejected in favor of the new International Style. By the 1960s, however, some contemporary designers embraced the symmetry, clarity of hierarchy, and geometrically pure massing of the Classical, producing buildings in the New Formalism style.¹¹⁶ In the 1970s, architects such as Michael Graves and Philip Johnson led a new revival of interest in Classicism.

The character-defining features of a Classical building include the following: a symmetrical facade; a low-pitched gabled or hipped roof or a flat roof; pediments and parapets at the roof line; wide cornice and a frieze under the roof eaves; temple-style front with columns; decorative column capitals; symmetrical fenestration of windows (commonly double-hung); pedimented and/or segmental arched doors and windows; paneled wood doors, occasionally with decorative glazing and trim; and decorative details such as dentils, quoins, pilasters, belt courses, and blind arcades. Vernacular interpretations of Classicism often pared these features down to a mere suggestion but retained the essential balance and form of the more high style examples.

Spanish Colonial Revival

From the 17th century until 1821, the southwestern portion of the United States was Spanish territory. The domestic dwellings constructed during the Spanish period exhibited few decorative or stylistic details and were built out of necessity rather than luxury. The dwellings were commonly one-story, with a low-pitched roof covered in thatch or flat roof with parapet, and thick masonry walls of adobe brick or rubble stone covered in protective stucco. There were usually multiple exterior door openings which opened onto long, narrow porches, and a minimal number of small window openings protected by shutters. It wasn't until the United States opened their trade routes

¹¹⁶ Gebhard, David, and Robert Winter, January 1977. *A Guide to Architecture in Los Angeles and Southern California*. Gibbs, Smith. Santa Barbara and Salt Lake City, pp. 706–707.

in 1823 that prosperity reached the inhabitants of these dwellings and Anglo immigrants began altering the simple buildings with wood decorative details such as carved posts (particularly from the Greek Revival Style), double-hung windows, and the addition of a framed, shingled roof.¹¹⁷ This style continued until the 1880s when the spread of the railroad provided easy access to milled lumber, and the adobe building style declined in favor of wood-framed houses.

In 1915, architect Bertram Goodhue designed the Panama-California Exposition in San Diego, California. Goodhue was an influential proponent of Spanish Colonial architecture adapted to the 20th century. He felt that the climate and cultural heritage of the Southwest was well suited to the style. Goodhue is considered instrumental in bringing the newly created Spanish Colonial Revival Style to California, Arizona, Texas, and in Florida, all regions where original Spanish Colonial building occurred and continued into the 19th-century.¹¹⁸ Due to the popularity of his exhibit, other influential architects began looking directly to Spain for inspiration.

The Spanish Colonial Revival style was popular from the early 1920s until the 1940s. Although the style was prevalent in the southwest and Florida, vernacular examples were located throughout the country. The style was particularly utilized in California, where the idea of Spanish heritage was embraced by many cities who named their streets and communities after Spanish antecedents. In the 1920s when communities were developing planned housing developments to create a uniform appearance, older California cities, such as Santa Barbara and Ojai, "passed ordinances requiring that new downtown buildings conform to the Spanish Colonial Revival style in order to build a tourist trade based on the aristocratic grandee aspects of their Hispanic heritage."¹¹⁹

A Spanish Colonial Revival building borrows decorative details from the entire history of Spanish architecture, rather than just the simple dwellings erected during the Spanish period here in the United States. According to McAlester in *A Field Guide to American Houses*, "These may be of Moorish, Byzantine, Gothic, or Renaissance inspiration, an unusually rich and varied series of decorative precedents."¹²⁰ A Spanish Colonial Revival building was generally asymmetrical in appearance with a round or square tower. The exterior wall surface was almost always stucco, and the roof was a low-pitched gabled roof with little or no overhang sheathed in either Mission tiles or Spanish tiles, or a flat roof with parapet wall. Heavy carved doors were often emphasized by spiral columns, pilaster, carved stonework, or patterned tiles. Many times there was one focal arched fixed window or a grouping of them. Casement windows were also commonly used. Exterior gardens, patios and balconies were a strong feature, as well as arcaded walkways. Additional features include tiled chimney tops, fountains, and brick or tile vents.¹²¹

The character-defining features of the Spanish Colonial Revival style include: exterior wall surface covered in stucco; asymmetrical appearance; round or square towers and cupolas; low-pitched

¹¹⁷ McAlester, Virginia, and Lee McAlester. 1994. *A Field Guide to American Houses*. New York: Alfred Knopf, p. 454.

¹¹⁷ Harris, Cyril M. 1993. *Dictionary of Architecture and Construction*. 2nd ed. New York: McGraw Hill, pp. 129–130.

¹¹⁸ Roth, Leland M. 1980. *A Concise History of American Architecture*. New York: Harper & Row, p. 250.

¹¹⁹ Wright, Gwendolyn. 1981. "Building the Dream: A Social History of Housing in America." Boston, MA: MIT Press, p. 201.

¹²⁰ McAlester, Virginia, and Lee McAlester. 1994. *A Field Guide to American Houses*. New York: Alfred Knopf, p. 454.

¹²⁰ Harris, Cyril M. 1993. *Dictionary of Architecture and Construction*. 2nd ed. New York: McGraw Hill, p. 417.

¹²¹ McAlester, Virginia, and Lee McAlester. 1994. *A Field Guide to American Houses*. New York: Alfred Knopf, p. 454.

¹²¹ Harris, Cyril M. 1993. *Dictionary of Architecture and Construction*. 2nd ed. New York: McGraw Hill, pp. 417–418.

gabled roof with little or no overhang sheathed in Mission or Spanish tiles or flat roof with parapet wall; heavy wood door, commonly carved or paneled, emphasized by spiral columns, pilaster, carved stonework, or patterned tiles; arched focal windows and casement windows; exterior balconies with wrought-iron railings; exterior gardens and patios; arcaded walkways; tiled chimney tops; brick or tile vents; and fountains.

Brick Vernacular

The technique of using masonry materials to construct buildings was brought by European immigrants to America close to 300 years ago. From the time of its introduction into this country, brick has consistently been one of the most popular building materials and has played a large role in the evolution of American architecture. Brick provided a much stronger and more fire-resistant alternative to wood, as well as offered additional insulation against the weather. It has been used in conjunction with various architectural styles in most parts of the country for all types of buildings, from elaborate residences and commercial edifices, to modest houses, Main Street commercial buildings, and vernacular farm and industrial buildings.

One of the most common uses for brick in the late 19th and early twentieth centuries was the application of the material to large-scale commercial, institutional, and industrial buildings. Due to the development of the steel frame in the mid-1800s, architects were able to rethink the idea of building height and scale.¹²² In this new age of industrial advancement, buildings were constructed to serve the growing uses of the business, industrial, and medical industries. The term Brick Vernacular was used to describe these brick buildings that were designed to support their function rather than make an architectural style statement.

The overall appearance of a Brick Vernacular building tended to be very simple and largely devoid of decorative ornamentation. The character-defining features include the following: brick exterior walls, often with “face” brick utilized for the public facade, and rougher, more random brick for the sides and rear; one to three stories in height; flat roof with parapet; windows arranged in a linear fenestration pattern; segmental arched window and door openings with double- or triple-header brick rows above; wood-paneled doors; and limited classical detailing such as cornices, friezes, piers, quoins, or stringcourses, sometimes highlighted by the use of glazed or colored brick.

Utilitarian

“Utilitarian” is not really a style at all; it is an approach to construction predicated on function rather than appearance and as such cannot not be described in terms of a standard set of character-defining features. Utilitarian buildings and structures utilize materials and structure appropriate to the intended use. Although often undistinguished and unremarkable, at its best, the utilitarian building or structure may be an honest and even an elegant expression of function and engineering.

¹²² Roth, Leland M. 1980. *A Concise History of American Architecture*. New York: Harper & Row, p. 173.

DESCRIPTIVE OVERVIEW

Location

Rancho Los Amigos is located at 7601 Imperial Highway, City of Downey (City), County of Los Angeles (County), California, 90242. The property is currently composed of 212-acres and is bisected by Imperial Highway, creating two distinct campuses: 1) a 48-acre north campus, and 2) a 164-acre south campus (Figure 28, *Regional Vicinity Map*). Rancho Los Amigos lies approximately 1 mile north of U.S. Interstate 105 (Century Freeway), 4 miles southwest of U.S. Interstate 5 (Golden State Freeway), 1.2 miles east of U.S. Interstate 710 (Long Beach Freeway), and 3.1 miles west of U.S. Interstate 605 (San Gabriel River Freeway). The property sits on the western edge of the City of Downey. Cities surrounding the area include Bellflower to the southeast, Paramount to the south, Lynwood to the southwest, South Gate to the west, and Bell Gardens to the northwest (Figure 29, *Local Vicinity Map*). The property is located within the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) 7.5-minute series South Gate, California, topographic quadrangle, in the southwest portion of the Santa Gertrudes (McFarland and Downey) Land Grant Boundary (Figure 30, *Topographic Map*). The topography of the proposed project area is relatively flat.

The Rancho Los Amigos Historic District is located on the South Campus. The South Campus is bounded by Flores Street and Golondrinas Street to the north, Rives Avenue and Dahlia Street to the east, Aliso Avenue and Gardendale Street to the south, and the Union Pacific Railroad to the southwest, with a strip that runs east along Consuelo Street to Paramount Boulevard. The North and South campuses are connected by Erickson Avenue (Figure 31, *Location Map*). Consisting of 52 acres, the Rancho Los Amigos Historic District is roughly bounded by Flores Street and Golondrinas Street to the north, Dahlia Avenue to the east, Gardendale Street to the south, and Laurel Street to the west (Figure 32, *South Campus Aerial Map*).

General Description of Rancho Los Amigos Historic District

The Rancho Los Amigos Historic District consists of buildings and structures set within a park-like campus of 52 acres originally constructed as part of the Los Angeles County Poor Farm located in the western portion of the City of Downey, County of Los Angeles, California. The buildings, structures, and features of the district represent the evolution of the property from a rehabilitative institution for the indigent into a medical hospital for the mentally and physically infirm. Contained in the district are a number of hospital wards, infirmaries, residential units, an administration building, a power plant, and support buildings including mechanical shops, kitchen and dining quarters, storage structures, laundry and toilet buildings, and a bathhouse as well as remnants from the agricultural origins of the Poor Farm, such as a stable and Brooder House. The district also contains landscaping elements which contribute to the park-like historic character of the site, including the street pattern, mature trees, lawns, and vestiges of gardens.

The contributing buildings and structures of the historic district can be described as representative of five general architectural styles or types: Craftsman and Wood Vernacular, Classical Influence, Spanish Colonial Revival, Brick Vernacular, and Utilitarian. The Classical Revival, Spanish Colonial Revival and Craftsman styles were utilized for some of the most visibly prominent buildings of the district: the 1925 wing of the Power Plant (LACO No. 1300, HABS No. 2800-C, Classical Revival), Administration Building (LACO No. 1100, Spanish Colonial Revival), Casa Consuelo (LACO No.

1238, Spanish Colonial Revival), and the Harriman House (LACO No. 1101, Craftsman). Brick Vernacular characterizes many service buildings, including the older wing of the Power Plant (LACO No. 1302, HABS No. CA-2800-C). A Utilitarian approach was employed for the mechanical and outbuildings. All five architectural styles were typical of the types of building construction taking place in the first half of the 20th century throughout Southern California.

The historic district is characterized by low-rise buildings, ranging in height from one to two-stories. Most have flat roofs, although gabled and hipped roofs are also present. Typical exterior building materials include brick, stucco, wood, and concrete. Both wood-framed and metal-framed windows are present in a variety of types, including double-hung sash, casement, hopper, and awning. Most windows and doors are currently covered by wood boards. In general, integrity of the individual buildings to the period of significance, 1888-1952, is relatively good, but, with the exception of one building which is in use (the Administration Building, LACO No. 1100), the buildings are vacant and in deteriorated condition.

Historic Status

In 1995, an evaluation of the Rancho Los Amigos South Campus was conducted as part of a survey of earthquake-damaged properties in compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act.¹²³ The survey of the Rancho Los Amigos South Campus was apparently triggered by the involvement of the Federal Emergency Management Agency in the recovery from the 1994 Northridge Earthquake. As a result of the 1995 survey, the Rancho Los Amigos South Campus was officially determined eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) as a district. The inventory forms prepared in support of the 1995 survey indicated that 102 buildings, structures, and features (including a Moreton Bay fig tree) were located within the boundaries of the District. Of the 102, 76 were found to be contributors to the District, 23 were identified as noncontributors, 2 were not surveyed,¹²⁴ and 1 was no longer extant at the time of recordation. The Rancho Los Amigos Historic District was determined to be eligible for listing in the NRHP under Criterion A (association with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of history), with a period of significance of 1888 through 1945.¹²⁵ The District and its contributing buildings, structures, and tree were automatically listed in the California Register of Historical Resources (CRHR) in 1998.

In 2004, the Rancho Los Amigos South Campus was resurveyed for historic significance.¹²⁶ The 2004 survey report concluded that the previously identified District, as well as many of its contributors, did not retain sufficient integrity to be eligible for listing in either the NRHP or the CRHR. Eleven individual buildings, structures, and features were recommended as eligible for individual listing in both registers under Criterion C (NRHP) and Criterion 3 (CRHR), for

¹²³ *National Historic Preservation Act*, Section 106, 36 CFR, Part 8.

¹²⁴ The 1995 survey identified 2 out of 102 buildings as not surveyed, the Greenhouse (LACO No. 1353) and an unknown building (LACO No. 1242).

¹²⁵ As a result of the 1995 determination of NRHP eligibility, the buildings, structures, and features were automatically listed in the CRHR when regulations implementing the CRHR were adopted in 1998. The Historic District was officially listed in the Office of Historic Preservation's Historic Resources Inventory database in 2000.

¹²⁶ Post/Hazeltine Associates. 19 March 2004. *Intensive Historic Structures/Sites Survey for the South Campus of Rancho Los Amigos Rehabilitation Center, Los Angeles County, California*. Santa Barbara, CA. Prepared for: County of Los Angeles.

embodiment of the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, with a period of significance of 1887 through 1950.¹²⁷ Despite the contradictory findings of the 2004 survey, the 1995 survey, as a formal, consensus-based determination of eligibility that was submitted to the California Office of Historic Preservation and recorded in the State Historic Resources Inventory (HRI), dictates the official historic status of the District.

In 2006, the County of Los Angeles retained Sapphos Environmental, Inc., Pasadena, California, to assess the feasibility of rehabilitation and adaptive reuse of the historic buildings, structures, and features within the District. The results of the field surveys, historic research, and analysis prepared in support of the 2007-2008 Historic District Analysis update and related Feasibility Analysis indicate that, of the 78 original contributing resources identified in the 1995 survey,

- 6 are no longer extant;
- 4 no longer retain sufficient integrity to contribute to the significance of the District;
- 1 additional building has been identified as a potential contributor to the District; and
- 1 structure (the Smoke Stack) was addressed as a separate resource in 1995, when it should have been included as part of the Power Plant (LACO No. 1300).

The remaining extant 45 buildings, structures, and features on the South Campus were identified as noncontributors to the Historic District, either because they were previously determined to be noncontributors or because they lack sufficient age, historic association, and/or architectural character to be a part of the District. Attachment A, *2007–2008 Survey Results*, provides a list of buildings, structures, and features identified in the 2007–2008 survey as District contributors and noncontributors. Within the table, the buildings are listed by both the Los Angeles County number (LACO No.) assigned to them for County identification purposes, and by a corresponding name which reflects either their historic or current use. Figure 33, *Rancho Los Amigos Historic District Map*, illustrates the Historic District contributors and noncontributors according to the 2007-2008 survey results.

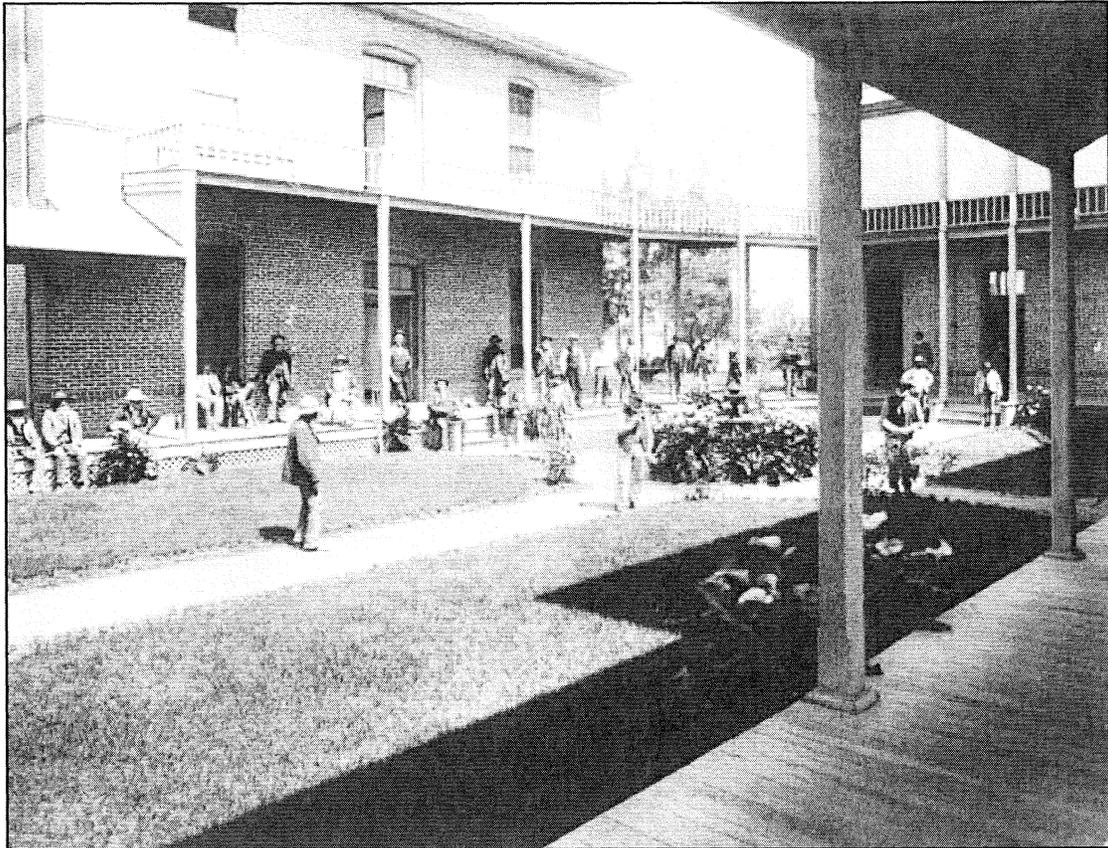
¹²⁷ Conclusions for the 2004 Post/Hazeltine Associates report were taken from the inventory forms attached to the report and not from the survey report, which contains numerous inconsistencies.



SOURCE: Fliedner, Colleen Adair. 1990. *Centennial, Rancho Los Amigos Medical Center, 1888-1988*. Downey, CA



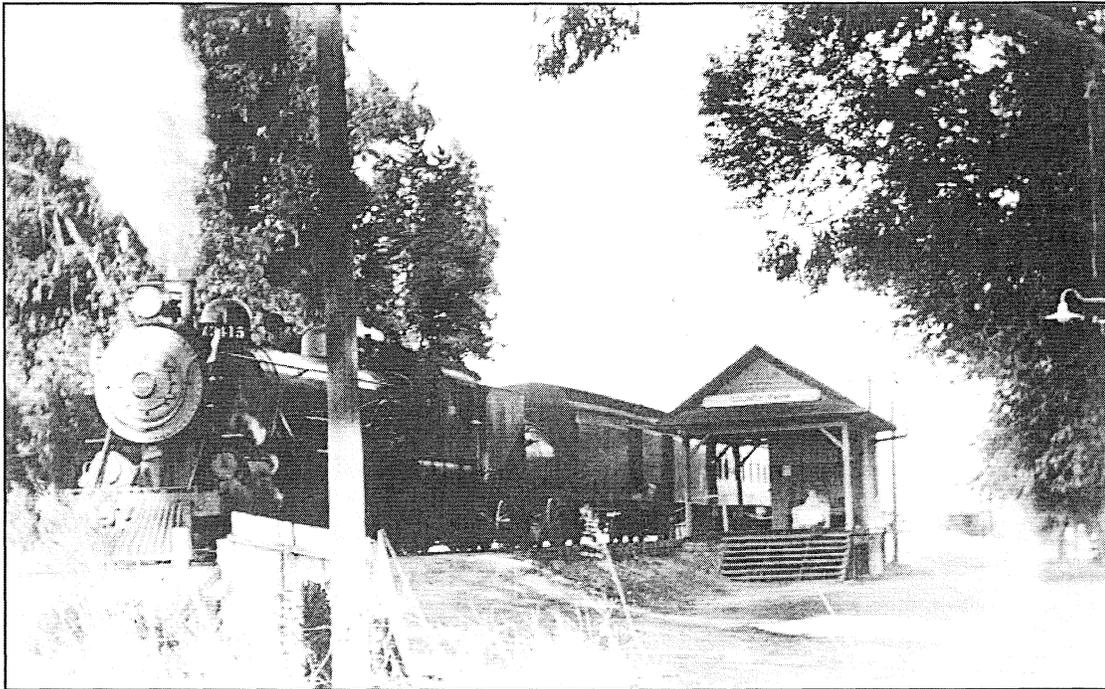
FIGURE 2
Original Administration Building and North and South Wards



SOURCE: Fliedner, Colleen Adair. 1990. *Centennial, Rancho Los Amigos Medical Center, 1888-1988*. Downey, CA



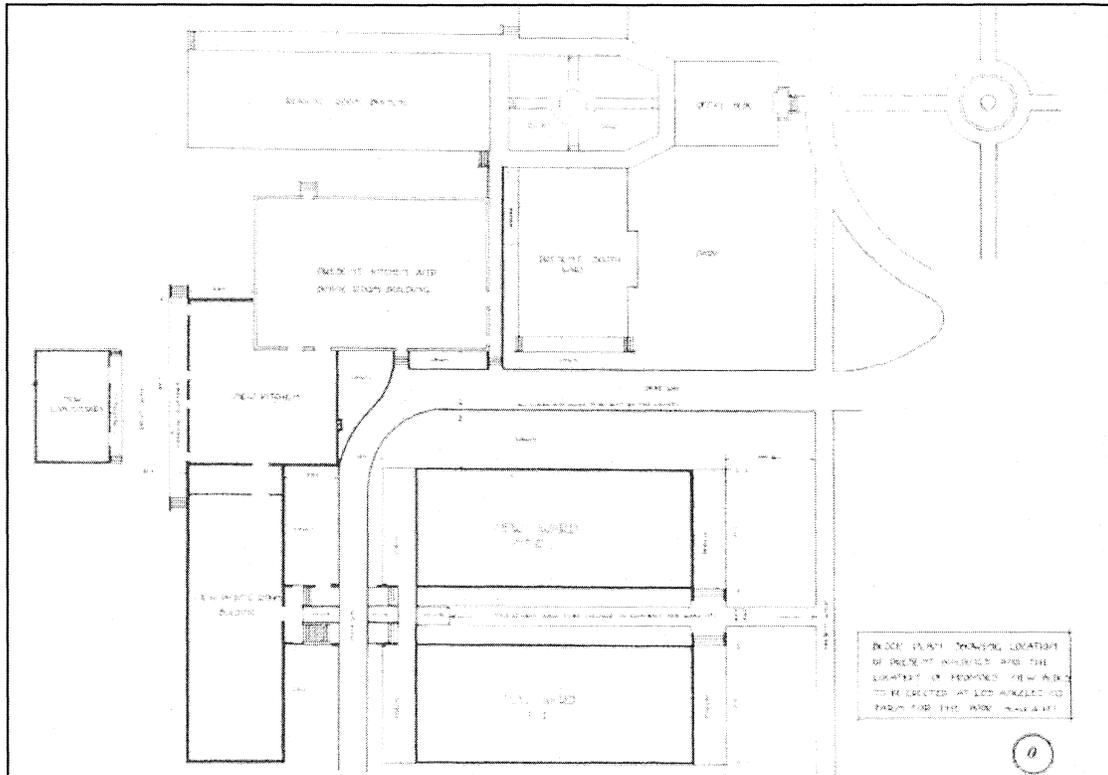
FIGURE 3
View of Original Courtyard Designed by Kysor, Morgan and Walls



SOURCE: Flidner, Colleen Adair. 1990. *Centennial, Rancho Los Amigos Medical Center, 1888-1988*. Downey, CA



FIGURE 4
County Poor Farm Depot Operated by the Terminal Railroad Company
(No Longer Extant)



SOURCE: Fliedner, Colleen Adair. 1990. *Centennial, Rancho Los Amigos Medical Center, 1888-1988*. Downey, CA



FIGURE 5
1912 Block Plan Depicting Location of the First Two General Ward Buildings
(Known as Buildings 30 and 40)



SOURCE: Fliedner, Colleen Adair. 1990. *Centennial, Rancho Los Amigos Medical Center, 1888-1988*. Downey, CA



FIGURE 6
Northeastern View of the General Ward Buildings Constructed in 1913



SOURCE: Fliedner, Colleen Adair. 1990. *Centennial, Rancho Los Amigos Medical Center, 1888-1988*. Downey, CA



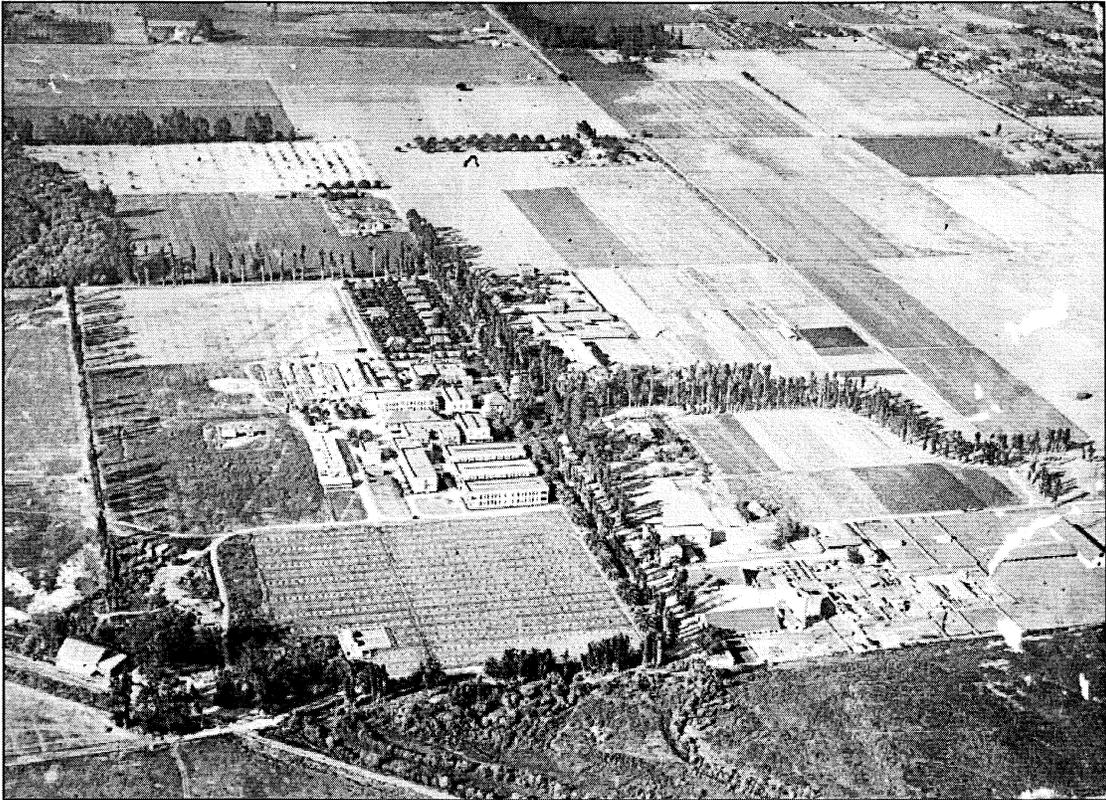
FIGURE 7
The Superintendent's House (also known as the Harriman House),
Constructed in 1915



SOURCE: Fliedner, Colleen Adair. 1990. *Centennial, Rancho Los Amigos Medical Center, 1888-1988*. Downey, CA



FIGURE 9
Men's Psychopathic Wards, Constructed in 1907 and Enlarged in 1924



SOURCE: Fliedner, Colleen Adair. 1990. *Centennial, Rancho Los Amigos Medical Center, 1888-1988*. Downey, CA



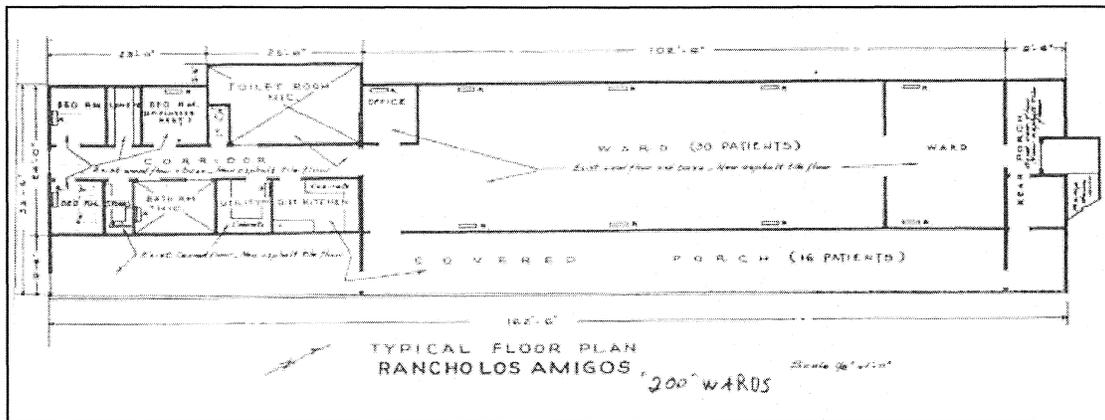
FIGURE 10
1922 Aerial Photograph of the Los Angeles County Poor Farm



SOURCE: Flidner, Colleen Adair. 1990. *Centennial, Rancho Los Amigos Medical Center, 1888-1988*. Downey, CA



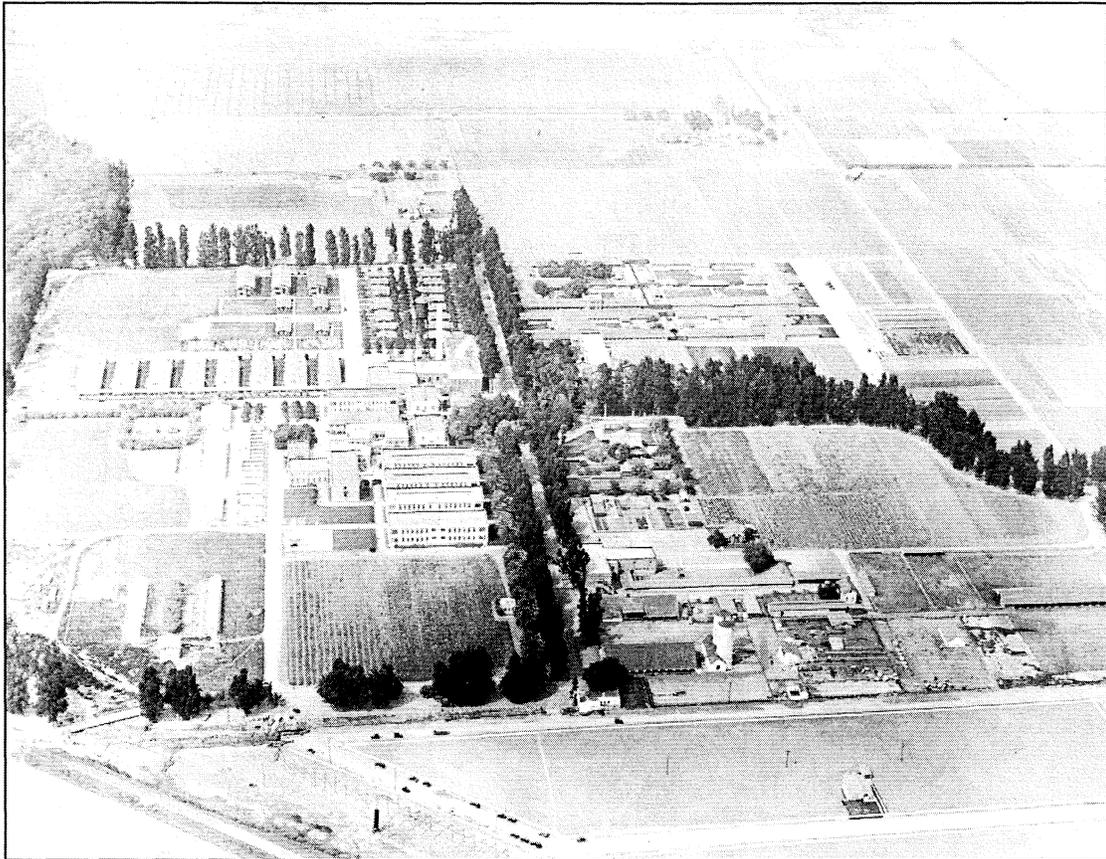
FIGURE 11
Staff Cottages Located on Flores Street, Constructed in 1921



SOURCE: Fliedner, Colleen Adair. 1990. *Centennial, Rancho Los Amigos Medical Center, 1888-1988*. Downey, CA



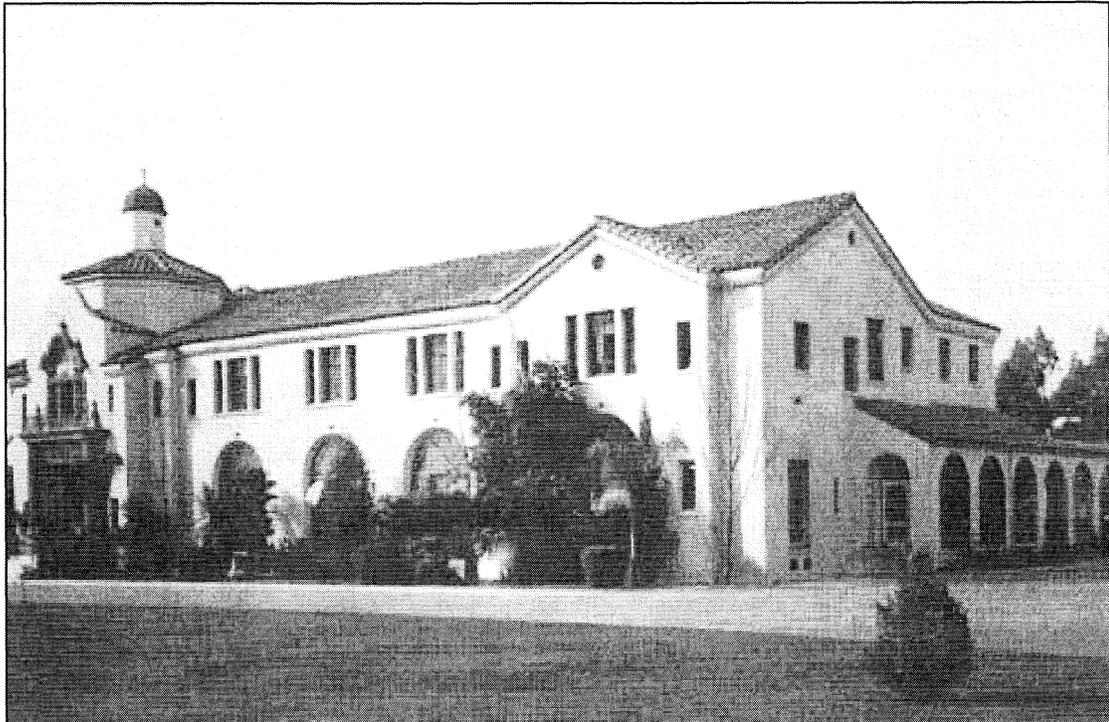
FIGURE 12
Northwestern View of Infirmary Wards Circa 1929 and Floor Plan



SOURCE: Fliedner, Colleen Adair. 1990. *Centennial, Rancho Los Amigos Medical Center, 1888-1988*. Downey, CA



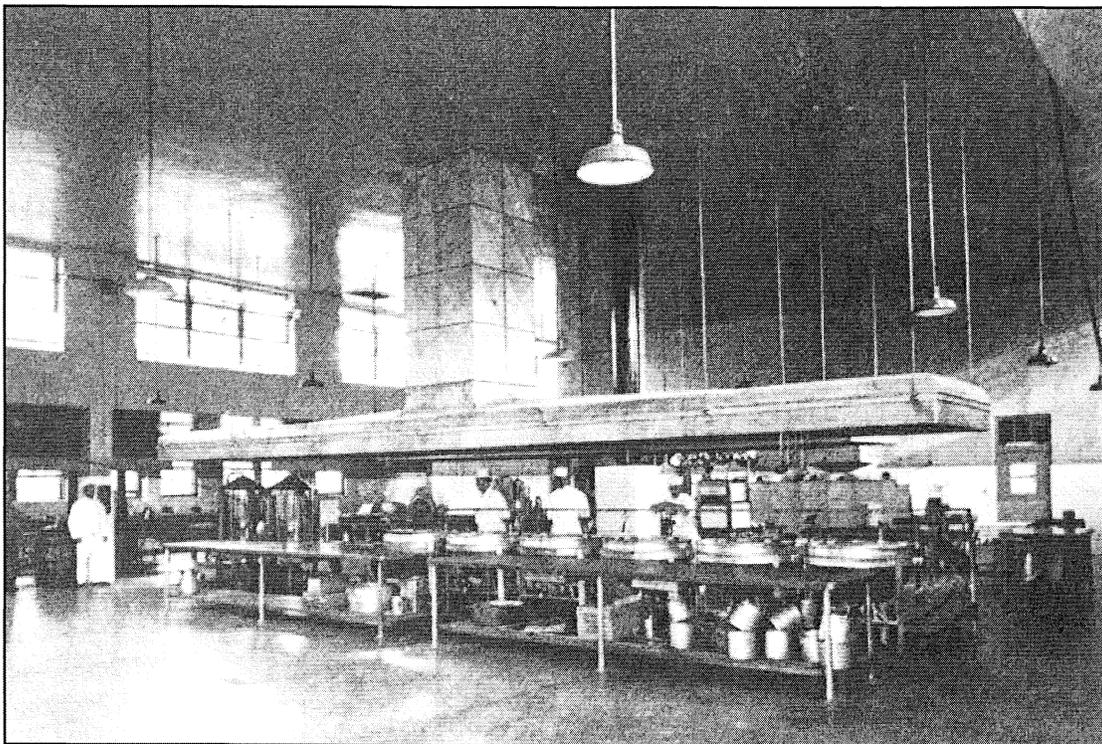
FIGURE 13
1926 Aerial Photograph of the Los Angeles County Poor Farm



SOURCE: Flidner, Colleen Adair. 1990. *Centennial, Rancho Los Amigos Medical Center, 1888-1988*. Downey, CA



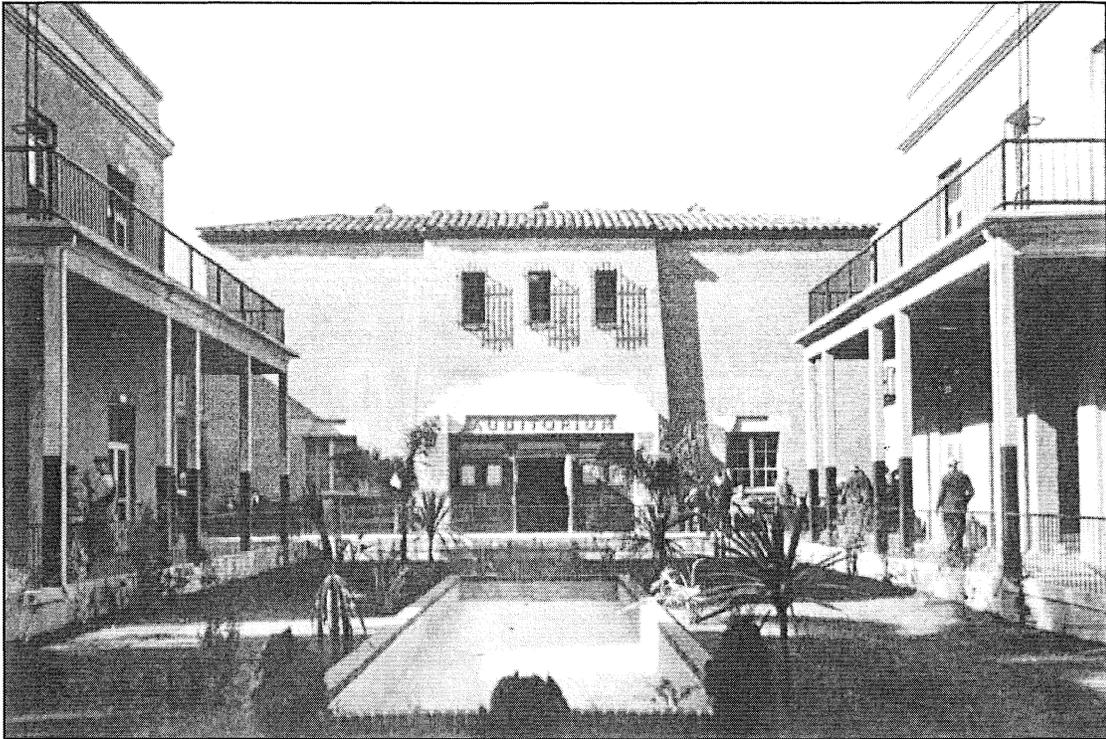
FIGURE 14
The New Administration Building, Constructed in 1926



SOURCE: Fliedner, Colleen Adair. 1990. *Centennial, Rancho Los Amigos Medical Center, 1888-1988*. Downey, CA



FIGURE 15
The New Kitchen and Employee Dining Room, Constructed in 1929



SOURCE: Fliedner, Colleen Adair. 1990. *Centennial, Rancho Los Amigos Medical Center, 1888-1988*. Downey, CA



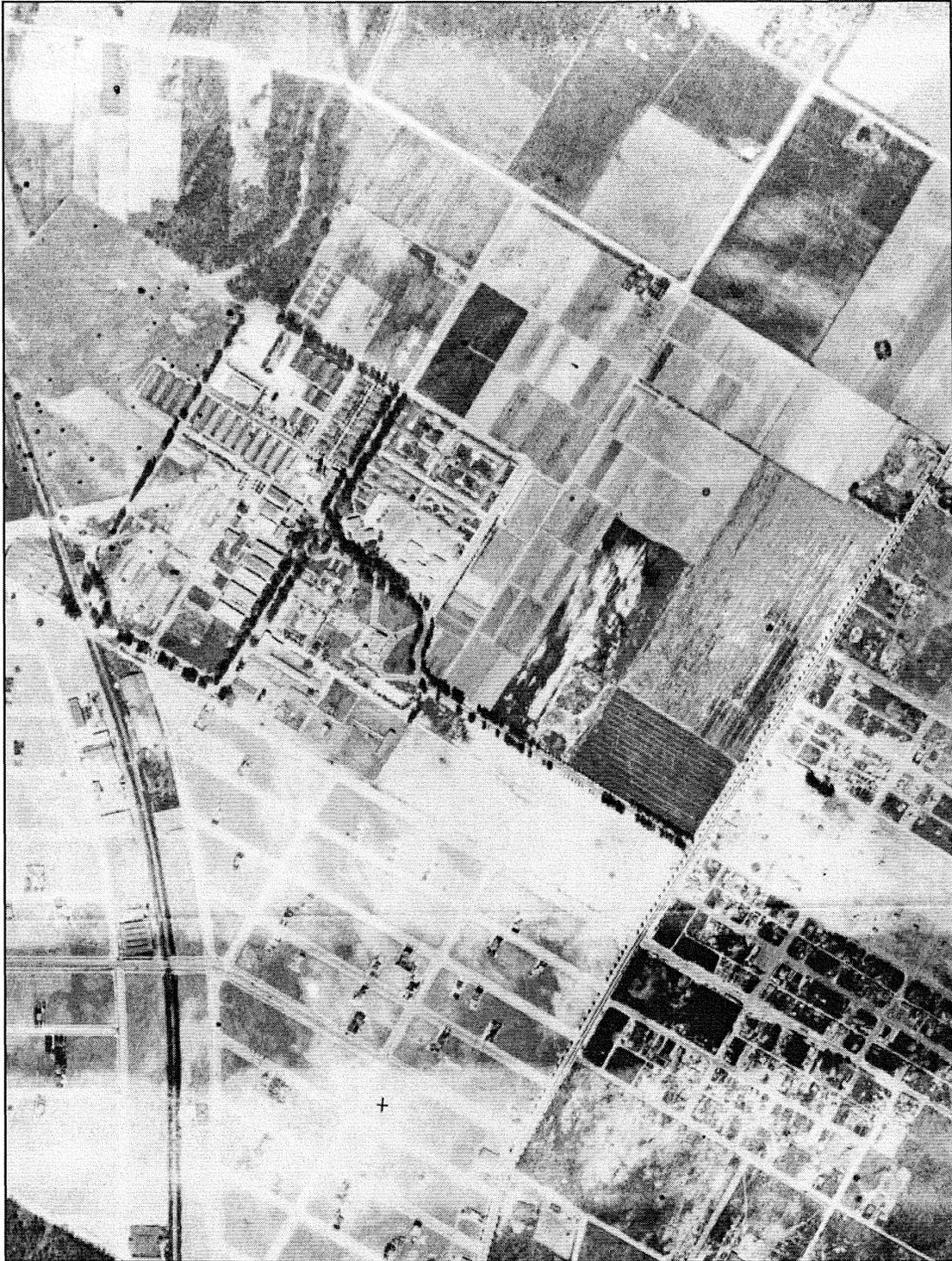
FIGURE 16
The Spanish Colonial Revival Style Auditorium, Constructed in 1928



SOURCE: Fliedner, Colleen Adair. 1990. *Centennial, Rancho Los Amigos Medical Center, 1888-1988*. Downey, CA



FIGURE 17
Casa Consuelo, Constructed in 1930



SOURCE: Fliedner, Colleen Adair. 1990. *Centennial, Rancho Los Amigos Medical Center, 1888-1988*. Downey, CA



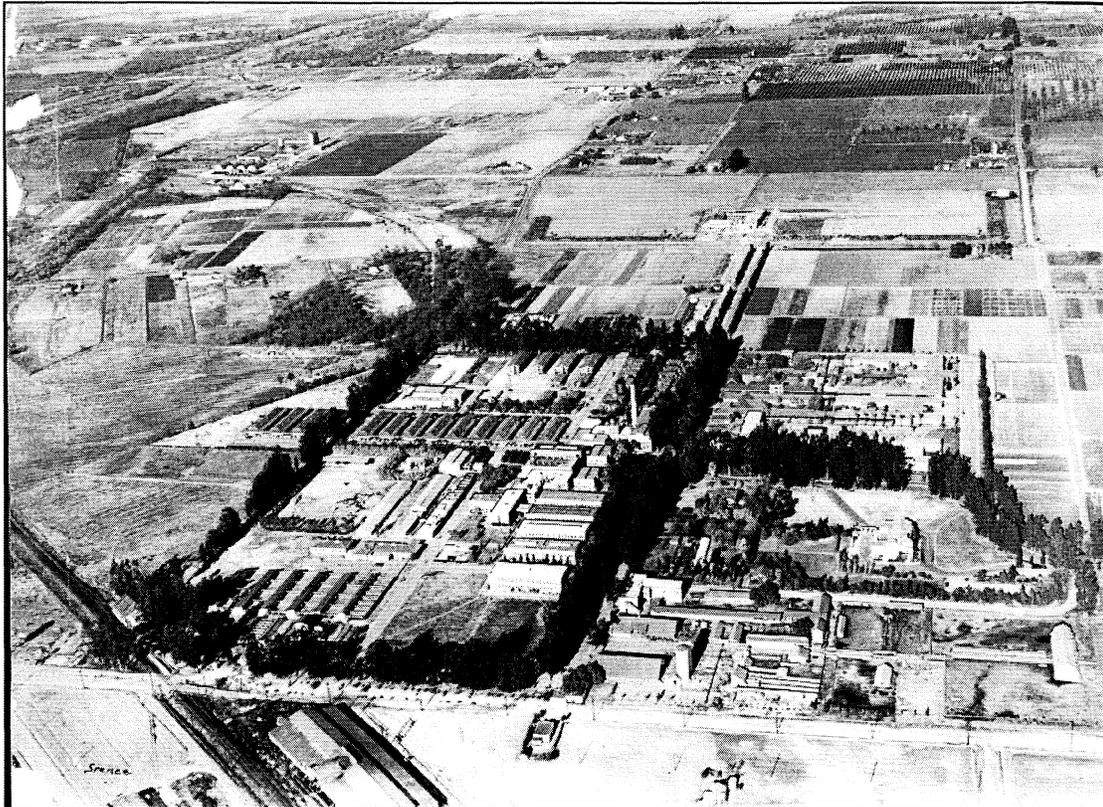
FIGURE 19
1928 Aerial Photograph of the Los Angeles County Poor Farm



SOURCE: Fliedner, Colleen Adair. 1990. *Centennial, Rancho Los Amigos Medical Center, 1888-1988*. Downey, CA



FIGURE 20
Harriman Building Under Construction in 1930



SOURCE: Fliedner, Colleen Adair. 1990. *Centennial, Rancho Los Amigos Medical Center, 1888-1988*. Downey, CA



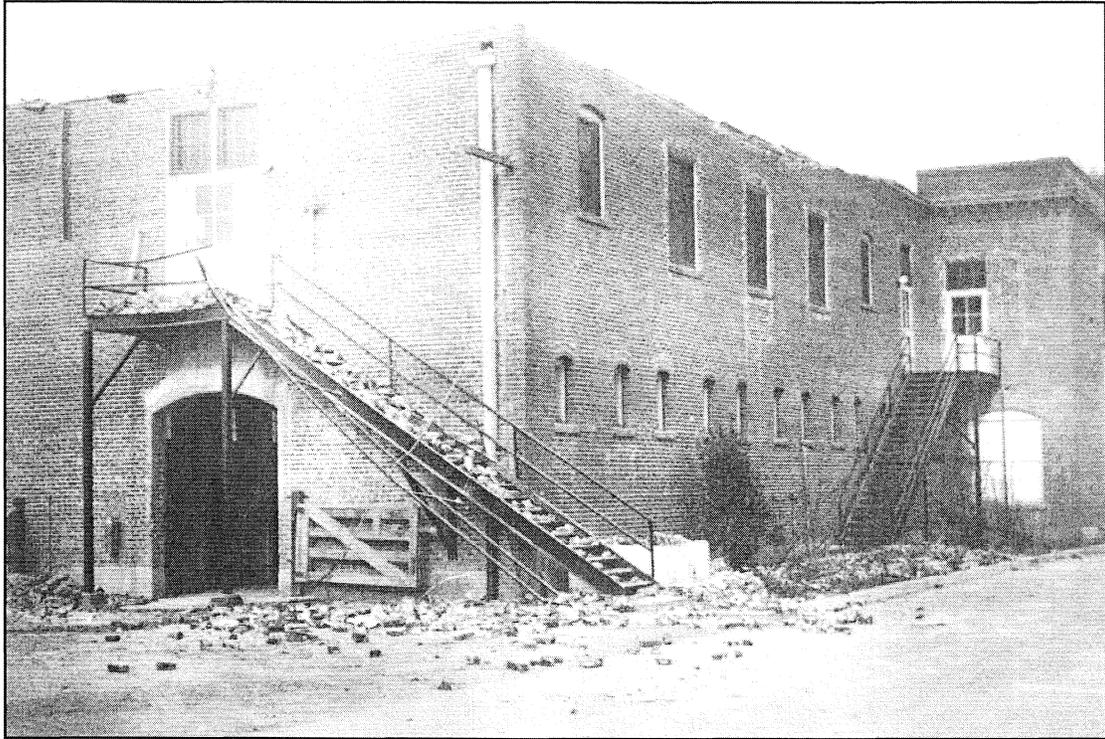
FIGURE 21
1930 Aerial Photograph of the Los Angeles County Poor Farm



SOURCE: Fliedner, Colleen Adair. 1990. *Centennial, Rancho Los Amigos Medical Center, 1888-1988*. Downey, CA



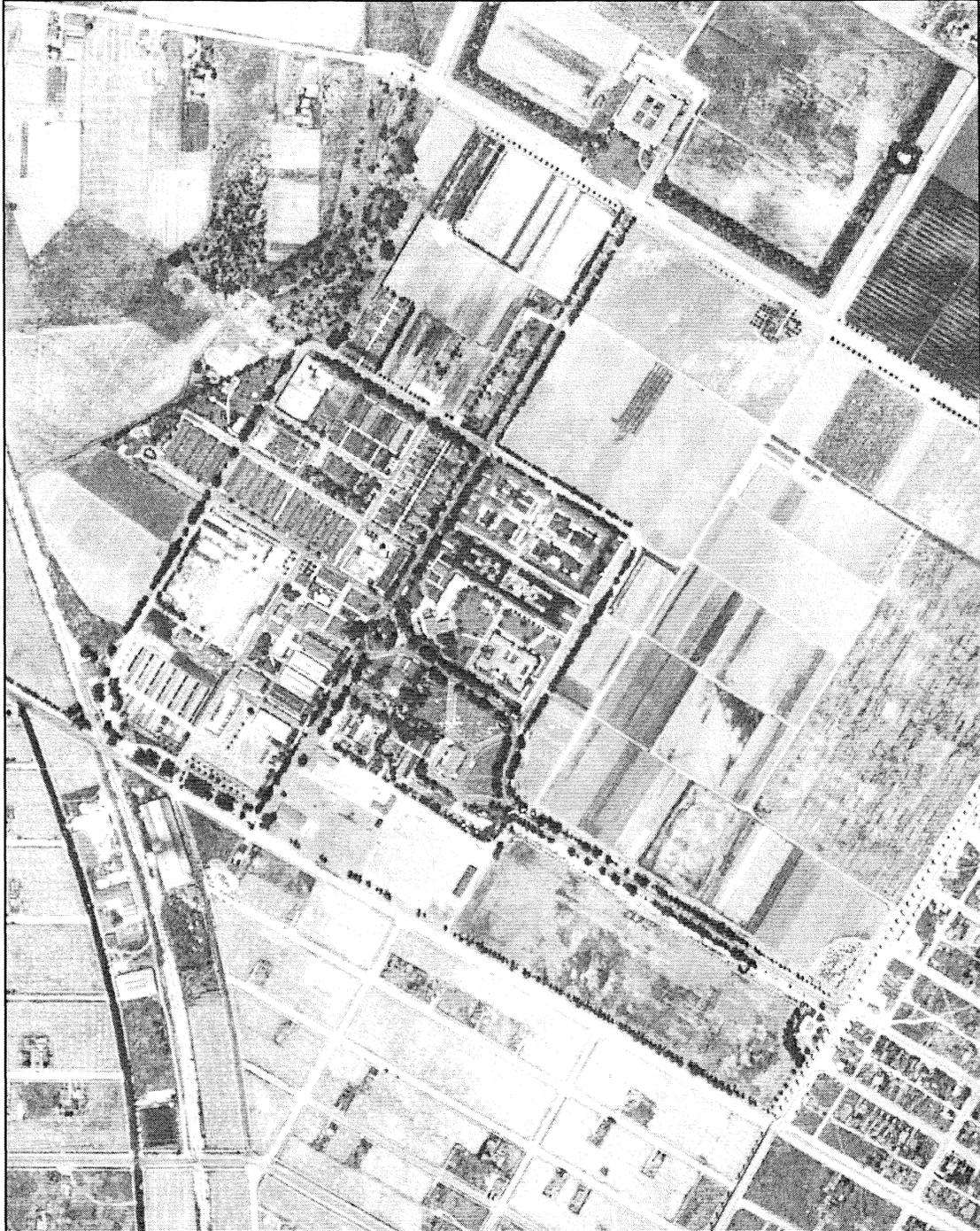
FIGURE 22
Bonita Hall, Constructed in 1932



SOURCE: Fliedner, Colleen Adair. 1990. *Centennial, Rancho Los Amigos Medical Center, 1888-1988*. Downey, CA



FIGURE 23
Impact of 1933 Long Beach Earthquake



SOURCE: Fliedner, Colleen Adair. 1990. *Centennial, Rancho Los Amigos Medical Center, 1888-1988*. Downey, CA



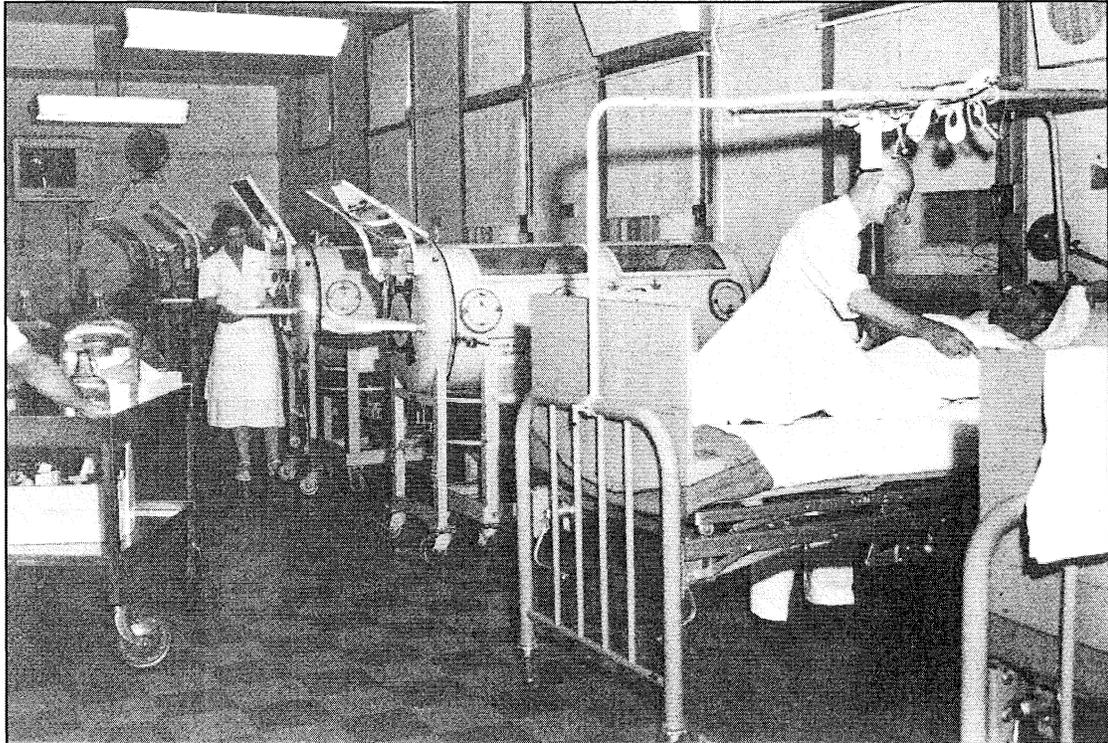
FIGURE 24
1938 Aerial Photograph of Rancho Los Amigos



SOURCE: Fliedner, Colleen Adair. 1990. *Centennial, Rancho Los Amigos Medical Center, 1888-1988*. Downey, CA



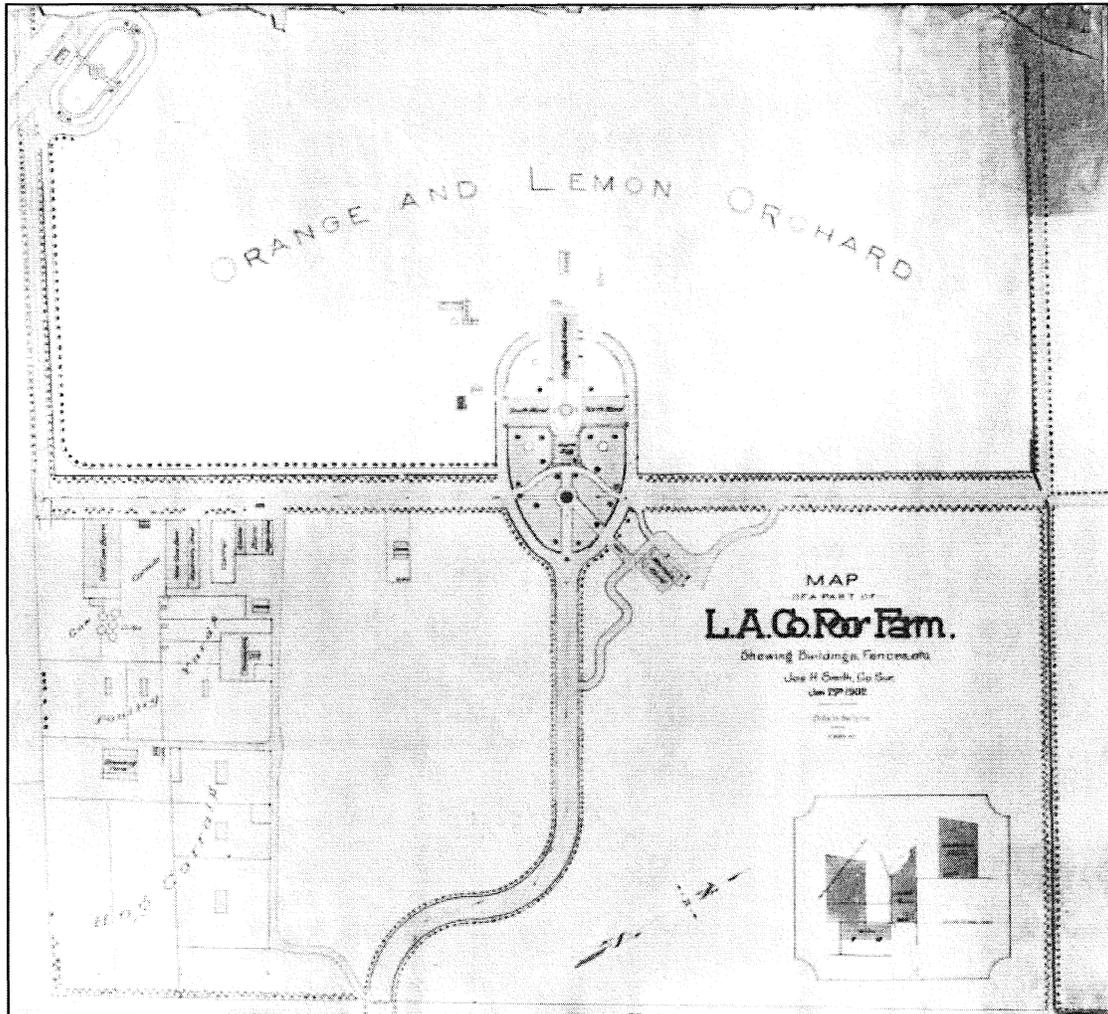
FIGURE 25
1954 Aerial Photograph of Rancho Los Amigos



SOURCE: Fliedner, Colleen Adair. 1990. *Centennial, Rancho Los Amigos Medical Center, 1888-1988*. Downey, CA



FIGURE 26
Polio Patients Receiving Rehabilitative Care at
Rancho Los Amigos National Rehabilitation Center in the 1950s



SOURCE: Fliedner, Colleen Adair. 1990. *Centennial, Rancho Los Amigos Medical Center, 1888-1988*. Downey, CA



FIGURE 27
1902 Map of the Los Angeles County Poor Farm

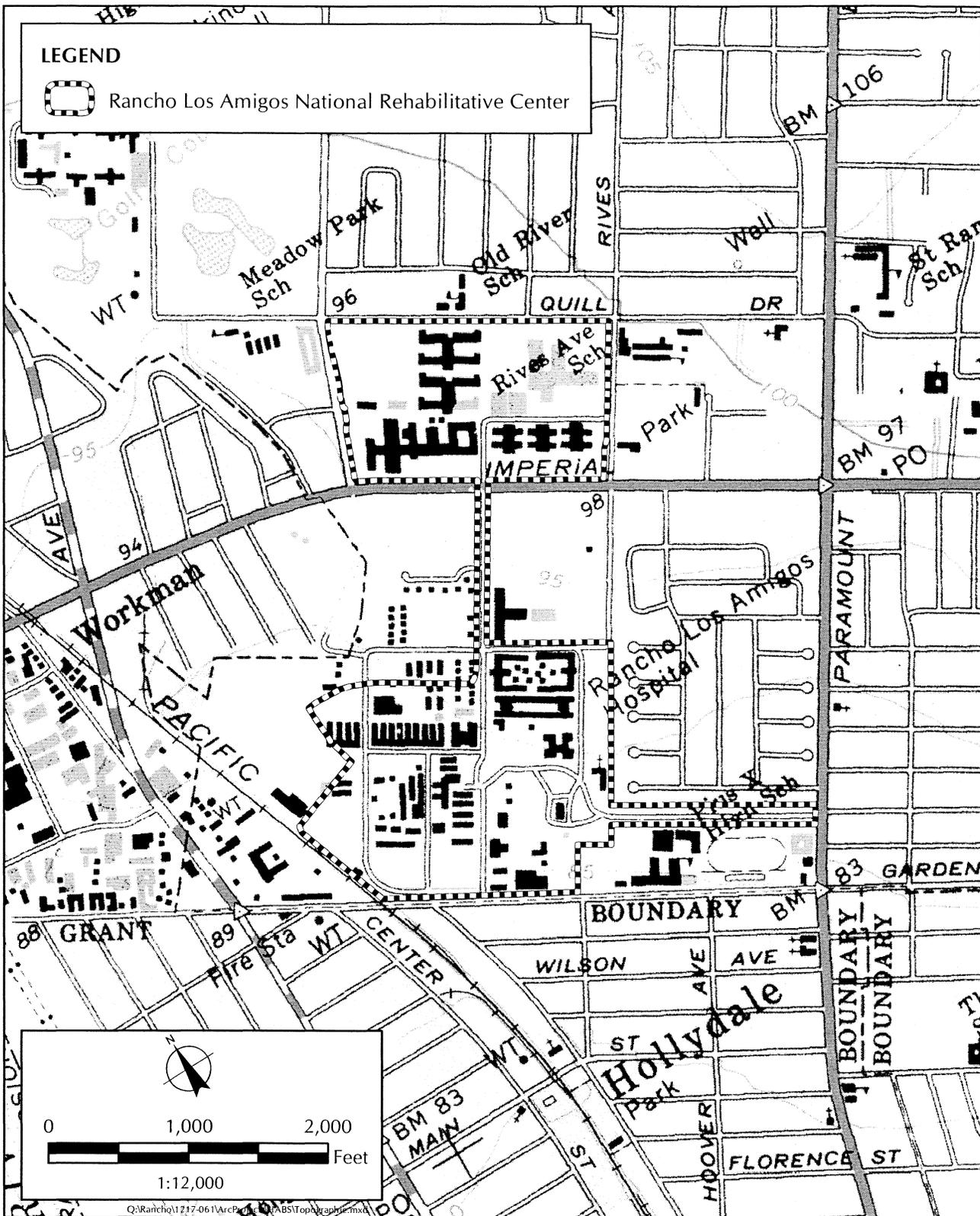


FIGURE 30
Topographic Map

ATTACHMENT A
2007-2008 SURVEY RESULTS

LACO No.	Name ¹	Year Constructed ²	Net Area (Interior) (square feet) ³	Gross Area Plus Overhang (square feet)	Gross Area (exterior) (square feet)	Building Footprint (square feet) ⁴	Contributor Status of 1995 Survey ⁵	Significance Status of 2004 Survey ⁶	Contributor Status of 2007-2008 Survey ⁷	Comments
None	Moreton Bay Fig Tree	Circa 1900 (planted)	n/a	N/A	N/A	N/A	Contributor	Not addressed	Contributor	
589	Vocational Training 215	1941	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Noncontributor	Not addressed	Not extant	Demolished prior to 2004 Survey
590	Vocational Training 216	1941	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Noncontributor	Not addressed	Not extant	Demolished prior to 2004 Survey
954	Lumber Shed	1942	2,436	2,527	2,527	2,527	Contributor	Not significant	Contributor	
1100	Administration/Safety Police Building	1926	13,565	14,975	14,975	7,634	Contributor	Significant	Contributor	
1101	Harriman/Superintendent's House	1915	3,917	4,122	4,122	3,267	Contributor	Significant	Contributor	
1121	Staff Cottage	1921	1,369	1,789	1,448	1,448	Contributor	Not significant	Contributor	
1123	Staff Cottage	1924	1,360	1,789	1,448	1,448	Contributor	Not significant	Contributor	
1137	Dairyman's House	1907	1,138	1,256	1,256	1,256	Contributor	Not significant	Contributor	
1163	Generator House	N/A	N/A	N/A	140 ⁸	140	Not addressed	Not addressed	Noncontributor	Determined not to exhibit features that contribute to the historic significance of the district
1177	Superintendent's Garage	1917	413	446	446	446	Contributor	Significant	Contributor	
1178	Superintendent's Shed	Circa 1917-1922	52	62	62	62	Not addressed	Significant	Noncontributor	Building was determined to not exhibit features that contribute to the historic significance of the district
1179	Dairyman's Garage	1926	204	228	228	228	Contributor	Not significant	Contributor	
1184	General Ward 30	1913	13,860	14,500	14,500	8,039	Contributor	Not significant	Contributor	
1185	General Ward 40	1913	14,260	14,924	14,924	8,080	Contributor	Not significant	Contributor	
1186	General Ward 50	1916	14,353	14,924	14,924	8,104	Contributor	Not significant	Contributor	
1187	General Ward 60	1926	13,880	14,500	14,500	7,941	Contributor	Not significant	Contributor	
1188	General Ward 70	1928	13,995	14,644	14,644	7,923	Contributor	Not significant	Contributor	
1189	Patient Ward 201	1923	3,697	5,583	3,862	3,862	Contributor	Not significant	Contributor	
1190	Patient Ward 202	1923	3,697	5,583	3,862	3,862	Contributor	Not significant	Contributor	
1191	Patient Ward 203	1923	3,697	5,583	3,862	3,862	Contributor	Not significant	Contributor	
1192	Patient Ward 204	1923	3,697	5,583	3,862	3,862	Contributor	Not significant	Contributor	
1193	Patient Ward 205	1926	3,697	5,583	3,862	3,862	Contributor	Not significant	Contributor	
1194	Patient Ward 206	1926	3,697	5,583	3,862	3,862	Contributor	Not significant	Contributor	
1195	Patient Ward 207	1926	3,697	5,583	3,862	3,862	Contributor	Not significant	Contributor	
1196	Patient Ward 208	1928	3,697	5,583	3,862	3,862	Contributor	Not significant	Contributor	
1197	Patient Ward 209	1928	3,697	5,583	3,862	3,862	Contributor	Not significant	Contributor	
1198	Patient Ward 210	1928	3,781	5,946	3,943	3,943	Contributor	Not significant	Contributor	
1199	Patient Ward 211	1928	3,781	5,946	3,943	3,943	Contributor	Not significant	Contributor	
1200	Patient Ward 212	1926	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Contributor	Not extant	Not extant	Demolished prior to 2004 survey
1201	Patient Ward 214	1926	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Contributor	Not extant	Not extant	Demolished prior to 2004 survey
1202	Women's Psychiatric Ward	1924	19,567	22,927	22,927	22,927	Contributor	Not significant	Contributor	
1203	Women's Psychiatric Ward	1919	19,419	22,193	22,193	22,193	Contributor	Not significant	Contributor	
1204	Men's Psychiatric Ward	1924	25,068	28,917	28,917	28,917	Contributor	Not significant	Contributor	
1205	Men's Psychiatric Ward	1907	25,389	30,388	30,388	25,025	Contributor	Not significant	Contributor	

ATTACHMENT A
2007-2008 SURVEY RESULTS, Continued

LACO No.	Name ¹	Year Constructed ²	Net Area (Interior) (square feet) ³	Gross Area Plus Overhang (square feet)	Gross Area (exterior) (square feet)	Building Footprint (square feet) ⁴	Contributor Status of 1995 Survey ⁵	Significance Status of 2004 Survey ⁶	Contributor Status of 2007-2008 Survey ⁷	Comments
1207	Work Preparation Center No. 2	1925	3,753	3,946	3,946	3,946	Contributor	Not significant	Contributor	
1238	Casa Consuelo	1930	36,222	37,808	37,808	21,320	Contributor	Significant	Contributor	
1239	Toilet Building	1930	286	286	286	286	Contributor	Not significant	Contributor	
1240	Shelter	1930	1,404	1,097	1,097	1,097	Contributor	Not significant	Contributor	
1241	Linen Room	1932	585	812	812	812	Contributor	Not significant	Contributor	
1242	Toilet Building	1920	N/A	N/A	336 ⁸	336	Not addressed	Not significant	Contributor	
1243	Open Shelter	1916	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Contributor	Not significant	Noncontributor	Due to fire damage prior to 2007-2008 survey, the structure no longer exhibits features that contribute to the historic significance of the district
1244	Toilet Room	1916	476	728	728	728	Contributor	Not significant	Contributor	
1245	Linen Room / Snack Bar No. 3	1932	950	1,222	1,222	1,222	Contributor	Not significant	Contributor	
1246	Canopy	1930	1,818	1,818	1,818	1,818	Contributor	Not significant	Contributor	
1247	Toilet Building	1925	459	459	459	459	Contributor	Not significant	Contributor	
1249	Pump House	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Not addressed	Not addressed	Not extant	
1251	Open Shelter	1916	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Contributor	Not significant	Noncontributor	Structure has had several alterations and no longer exhibits features that contribute to the historic significance of the district
1254	Chapel / Computer Center	1908	2,353	2,414	2,414	2,414	Contributor	Not significant	Contributor	
1256	Toilet Building	1925	363	421	421	421	Contributor	Not significant	Contributor	
1259	Wheelchair Repair	1932	1,993	2,087	2,087	2,087	Contributor	Not significant	Contributor	
1260	Bathroom and Ward	1922	9,560	10,148	10,148	5,225	Contributor	Not significant	Contributor	
1261	Auditorium	1928	8,153	8,700	8,700	6,695	Contributor	Significant	Contributor	
1262	Dining Room, Kitchen, Staff Room	1913-1926	31,175	33,090	33,090	17,093	Contributor	Significant	Contributor	
1263	Commissary and Receiving Room	1912	3,854	4,089	4,089	1,367	Contributor	Significant	Contributor	
1264	Bonita Hall	1932	4,875	5,508	5,508	5,508	Contributor	Not significant	Contributor	
1265	Shelter	Circa 1933	232	232	232	232	Contributor	Not addressed	Contributor	
1266	Amigos Hall	1928	N/A	N/A	7,840 ⁹	7,374	Noncontributor	Not significant	Noncontributor	Due to fire damage prior to 2007-2008 survey, the structure no longer exhibits features that contribute to the historic significance of the district
1267	Transportation Office	1930	N/A	N/A	3,200 ⁹	3,200	Noncontributor	Not significant	Noncontributor	Building suffered fire damage and no longer exhibits features that contribute to the historic significance of the district
1268	Storage	1932	2,124	2,189	2,189	2,189	Contributor	Not significant	Contributor	
1270	Garage	1932	566	596	596	596	Contributor	Not significant	Contributor	
1272	Shed	1930	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Contributor	Not significant	Not extant	
1275	Workshop	1917	9,771	10,638	10,638	10,638	Contributor	Not significant	Contributor	
1276	Lock Shop	1913	624	724	724	724	Contributor	Not significant	Contributor	
1277	Garage	1925	6,010	6,109	6,109	6,109	Contributor	Not significant	Contributor	
1278	Garage and Storage	1924	6,202	6,396	6,396	6,396	Contributor	Not significant	Contributor	

ATTACHMENT A
2007-2008 SURVEY RESULTS, Continued

LACO No.	Name ¹	Year Constructed ²	Net Area (Interior) (square feet) ³	Gross Area Plus Overhang (square feet)	Gross Area (exterior) (square feet)	Building Footprint (square feet) ⁴	Contributor Status of 1995 Survey ⁵	Significance Status of 2004 Survey ⁶	Contributor Status of 2007-2008 Survey ⁷	Comments
1279	Garage	1925	N/A	N/A	352 ²	352 ²	Contributor	Not significant	Noncontributor	Building has had several alterations and no longer exhibits features that contribute to the historic significance of the district
1280	Garage Storage	1928	8,646	8,833	8,833	8,833	Contributor	Not significant	Contributor	
1283	Trunk Storage	1923	6,870	7,736	7,736	6,235	Contributor	Not significant	Contributor	
1284	Water Tanks	Unknown	N/A	N/A	175 ⁵	175 ⁵	Noncontributor	Not significant	Noncontributor	Determined not to exhibit features that contribute to the historic significance of the district
1286	Garage/Storage	1920	3,041	3,545	3,545	3,545	Contributor	Not significant	Contributor	
1287	Oil and Storage	1909	1,085	1,306	1,306	867	Contributor	Not significant	Contributor	
1290	Shelter	1952	N/A	N/A	1,960 ⁶	1,960	Noncontributor	Not significant	Noncontributor	Determined not to exhibit features that contribute to the historic significance of the district
1292	Pump House	1932	N/A	N/A	269 ⁶	269	Noncontributor	Not addressed	Noncontributor	Determined not to exhibit features that contribute to the historic significance of the district
1295	Kitchen and Dining Building	1927	18,235	18,908	18,908	18,908	Contributor	Not significant	Contributor	
(1300) ⁸	Smoke Stack	1925	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Contributor	n/a	n/a	See notes below
1300	Power Plant	1925	10,023	10,175	10,175	10,175	Contributor	Significant	Contributor	
1301	Water Tower	1913	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Contributor	Significant	Contributor	
1302	Shop, Laundry, Ice Plant	1909-1911	11,592	12,738	12,738	11,154	Contributor	Significant	Contributor	
1312	Aviary	1888	N/A	N/A	64 ⁸	64 ⁸	Contributor	Not significant	Contributor	
1333	Shed	1931	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Contributor	Not significant	Not extant	Demolished prior to 2007-2008 survey
1334	Vivarium	1926	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Contributor	Not significant	Not extant	Demolished prior to 2007-2008 survey
1335	Brooder House / Vivarium Annex	1929	342	342	342	342	Contributor	Not significant	Contributor	
1352	Train Station	1907	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Contributor	Not extant	Not extant	Demolished prior to 2004 survey
1353	Greenhouse	Unknown	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Not addressed	Not significant	Noncontributor	Determined not to exhibit features that contribute to the historic significance of the district
1355	Greenhouse	1926	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Not extant	Not extant	Not extant	Demolished prior to 1995 survey
1356	Tool House	1926	429	429	429	429	Contributor	Not significant	Contributor	
1357	Landscape Office	1938	299	299	299	299	Contributor	Not significant	Contributor	
1373	Grain Tank	N/A	N/A	N/A	175 ⁵	175	Not addressed	Not significant	Noncontributor	Determined not to exhibit features that contribute to the historic significance of the district
1374	Grain Tank	N/A	N/A	N/A	175 ⁵	175	Not addressed	Not significant	Noncontributor	Determined not to exhibit features that contribute to the historic significance of the district
1379	Garage	1929	3,052	3,052	3,052	2,825	Contributor	Not significant	Contributor	Determined not to exhibit features that contribute to the historic significance of the district
1464	Shed	1945	N/A	N/A	384 ⁴	384	Noncontributor	Not significant	Noncontributor	Determined not to exhibit features that contribute to the historic significance of the district

ATTACHMENT A
2007-2008 SURVEY RESULTS, Continued

LACO No.	Name ¹	Year Constructed ²	Net Area (Interior) (square feet) ³	Gross Area Plus Overhang (square feet)	Gross Area (exterior) (square feet)	Building Footprint (square feet) ⁴	Contributor Status of 1995 Survey ⁵	Significance Status of 2004 Survey ⁶	Contributor Status of 2007-2008 Survey ⁷	Comments
1991	Shed	N/A	N/A	N/A	2,000	2,000	Not addressed	Not significant	Noncontributor	Determined not to exhibit features that contribute to the historic significance of the district
2434	Shed, Men's Gymnasium	1949	N/A	N/A	1,100 ⁸	1,007	Noncontributor	Not significant	Noncontributor	Determined not to exhibit features that contribute to the historic significance of the district
2435	Patient Recreation Shed	1949	N/A	N/A	1,100 ⁸	1,073	Noncontributor	Not significant	Noncontributor	Determined not to exhibit features that contribute to the historic significance of the district
2436	Classroom Hut/Shed	1949	N/A	N/A	1,100 ⁸	1,079	Noncontributor	Not significant	Noncontributor	Determined not to exhibit features that contribute to the historic significance of the district
2437	Metal Shed	1949	N/A	N/A	1,100 ⁸	1,095	Noncontributor	Not significant	Noncontributor	Determined not to exhibit features that contribute to the historic significance of the district
2492	Toilet Room	1948	N/A	N/A	84 ⁸	84	Noncontributor	Not significant	Noncontributor	Determined not to exhibit features that contribute to the historic significance of the district
2494	Shed	Unknown	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Not addressed	Not addressed	Noncontributor	Determined not to exhibit features that contribute to the historic significance of the district
2637	Old Laundry	N/A	N/A	N/A	26,888 ⁸	24,378	Not addressed	Not significant	Noncontributor	Determined not to exhibit features that contribute to the historic significance of the district
2677	Post Office	1949	N/A	N/A	1,000 ⁸	1,000	Noncontributor	Not significant	Noncontributor	Determined not to exhibit features that contribute to the historic significance of the district
3020	Bus Stop	N/A	N/A	N/A	54 ⁸	54	Not addressed	Not addressed	Noncontributor	Determined not to exhibit features that contribute to the historic significance of the district
3021	Bus Stop	N/A	N/A	N/A	54 ⁸	54	Not addressed	Not addressed	Noncontributor	Determined not to exhibit features that contribute to the historic significance of the district
3022	Bus Stop	N/A	N/A	N/A	54 ⁸	54	Not addressed	Not addressed	Noncontributor	Determined not to exhibit features that contribute to the historic significance of the district
3348	Garbage Can Room	1951	N/A	N/A	400 ⁸	400	Noncontributor	Not significant	Noncontributor	Determined not to exhibit features that contribute to the historic significance of the district
3368	Shed	N/A	N/A	N/A	130 ⁸	130	Not addressed	Not addressed	Noncontributor	Determined not to exhibit features that contribute to the historic significance of the district
3390	Prosthetic Shop	1953	N/A	N/A	797 ⁸	797	Noncontributor	Not significant	Noncontributor	Determined not to exhibit features that contribute to the historic significance of the district

ATTACHMENT A
2007-2008 SURVEY RESULTS, Continued

LACO No.	Name ¹	Year Constructed ²	Net Area (Interior) (square feet) ³	Gross Area Plus Overhang (square feet)	Gross Area (exterior) (square feet)	Building Footprint (square feet) ⁴	Contributor Status of 1995 Survey ⁵	Significance Status of 2004 Survey ⁶	Contributor Status of 2007-2008 Survey ⁷	Comments
3591	Warehouse	N/A	N/A	N/A	4,000 ⁸	4,000	Not addressed	Not significant	Noncontributor	Determined not to exhibit features that contribute to the historic significance of the district
3592	Chapel	N/A	N/A	N/A	7,712 ⁸	7,712	Not addressed	Not addressed	Noncontributor	Determined not to exhibit features that contribute to the historic significance of the district
3820	Loading Dock	1954	N/A	N/A	250 ⁸	250	Noncontributor	Not significant	Noncontributor	Determined not to exhibit features that contribute to the historic significance of the district
4118	Garage	Post-1965	N/A	N/A	1,584 ⁸	1,584	Contributor	Not significant	Noncontributor	Original construction date for Garage is later than period of significance (1887/1888-1965)
4121	Garage	1926	3,052	3,052	3,052	3,052	Contributor	Not significant	Contributor	
5513	Station 18	N/A	N/A	N/A	35 ⁸	35	Not addressed	Not addressed	Noncontributor	Determined not to exhibit features that contribute to the historic significance of the district
5547	200,000 Gallon Tank	1966	N/A	N/A	1,017 ⁸	1,017	Noncontributor	Not significant	Noncontributor	Determined not to exhibit features that contribute to the historic significance of the district
5548	Steam Plant	1966	N/A	N/A	7,400 ⁸	7,400	Noncontributor	Not significant	Noncontributor	Determined not to exhibit features that contribute to the historic significance of the district
5593	Time Clock Shelter	N/A	N/A	N/A	80 ⁸	80	Not addressed	Not significant	Noncontributor	Determined not to exhibit features that contribute to the historic significance of the district
5750	Work Preparation Center No. 1	Unknown	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Noncontributor	Not extant	Not extant	Determined not to exhibit features that contribute to the historic significance of the district
5793	Electrical Distribution Panel	N/A	N/A	N/A	24 ⁸	24	Not addressed	Not addressed	Noncontributor	Determined not to exhibit features that contribute to the historic significance of the district
5798	Electrical Station 16	N/A	N/A	N/A	40 ⁸	40	Not addressed	Not addressed	Noncontributor	Determined not to exhibit features that contribute to the historic significance of the district
5799	Electrical Station 4C	N/A	N/A	N/A	51 ⁸	51	Not addressed	Not addressed	Noncontributor	Determined not to exhibit features that contribute to the historic significance of the district
5801	Generator House	N/A	N/A	N/A	40 ⁸	40	Not addressed	Not addressed	Noncontributor	Determined not to exhibit features that contribute to the historic significance of the district
6223	Electrical Station	N/A	N/A	N/A	35 ⁸	35	Not addressed	Not addressed	Noncontributor	Determined not to exhibit features that contribute to the historic significance of the district
6225	Electrical Station	N/A	N/A	N/A	35 ⁸	35	Not addressed	Not addressed	Noncontributor	Determined not to exhibit features that contribute to the historic significance of the district

**ATTACHMENT A
2007-2008 SURVEY RESULTS, Continued**

LACO No.	Name ¹	Year Constructed ²	Net Area (Interior) (square feet) ³	Gross Area Plus Overhang (square feet)	Gross Area (exterior) (square feet)	Building Footprint (square feet) ⁴	Contributor Status of 1995 Survey ⁵	Significance Status of 2004 Survey ⁶	Contributor Status of 2007-2008 Survey ⁷	Comments
6407	Unknown	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Not addressed	Not addressed	Noncontributor	Determined not to exhibit features that contribute to the historic significance of the district
7000	Butler Building	Unknown	N/A	24,052	24,052	24,052	Noncontributor	Not addressed	Noncontributor	Determined not to exhibit features that contribute to the historic significance of the district
7704	Facilities Management Metal Building	1992	N/A	N/A	18,900	18,900	Not addressed	Not addressed	Noncontributor	Determined not to exhibit features that contribute to the historic significance of the district
None	Credit Union	Unknown	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Noncontributor	Not addressed	Not extant	Determined not to exhibit features that contribute to the historic significance of the district
None	Family Home	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Not addressed	Not addressed	Noncontributor	Determined not to exhibit features that contribute to the historic significance of the district
None	Family Home	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Not addressed	Not addressed	Noncontributor	Determined not to exhibit features that contribute to the historic significance of the district
Unknown	Shed	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Not addressed	Not addressed	Noncontributor	Determined not to exhibit features that contribute to the historic significance of the district
TOTAL			425,554	503,234	575,191	479,219	78 Contributors	11 Potentially Eligible¹⁰	68 Eligible¹¹	

KEY: n/a = not applicable; N/A = survey data not available.

- NOTE:**
- Names used in this Attachment A to identify contributing resources are based on the results of the current survey and correlate with the buildings' historic use and name and may contradict previously used resource names. However, the LACO numbers have not changed.
 - Construction dates used in this Attachment A to calculate the age of contributing resources are based on the results of the current survey and were calculated using historical aerials, maps, and personal narratives. The current year-built dates may contradict previously estimated construction years; however, the LACO numbers have not changed.
 - Unless otherwise noted, the square footages calculated in support of the Historic District surveys were prepared by Diamond West Engineering and/or the Mollenhauer Group.
 - To derive the footprint area for buildings with more than one story, the gross floor area of each floor excluding the first floor was subtracted from the total gross floor area.
 - Contributor status identifies which buildings, structures, and features were determined to be eligible for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) as a result of the 1995 survey. The contributors to the Historic District were subsequently listed in the California Register of Historical Resources (CRHR) in 2000.
 - Significant status identifies which buildings, structures, and features were identified as potentially eligible for individual listing in the NRHP and CRHR as a result of the 2004 survey. The 2004 survey report concluded that the previously identified district and most of its contributors did not retain sufficient integrity to be eligible for the NRHP or CRHR. However, the 2004 report was not finalized and remains a draft document that was not circulated for public use. Given the 1995 surveys findings confirmed by the State Historic Preservation Office, the results of the 2004 survey are superseded by the 1995 survey and are provided here for comparison purposes only.
 - Contributor status identifies which Historic District contributors from the 1995 survey are still extant and retain sufficient integrity. Sapphos Environmental, Inc. is currently preparing the Historic District Assessment Update. Completion is anticipated in October 2008.
 - Square footage calculation was provided by the County of Los Angeles on January 12, 2007.
 - The 1995 survey identifies the Smoke Stack (with no LACO No.) as a separate individual resource. The 2004 and 2007 survey lists the Power Plant and Smoke Stack as a single resource, under one LACO number (LACO No. 1300). This difference results in a discrepancy of one in the total number of buildings within the Historic District.
 - The 1995 survey identifies the Smoke Stack (with no LACO No.) as a separate individual resource. The 2004 survey lists the Power Plant and Smoke Stack as a single resource, under one LACO number (LACO No. 1300). This difference results in a discrepancy of one in the total number of buildings within the Historic District.
 - The 1995 survey identifies the Smoke Stack (with no LACO No.) as a separate individual resource. The 2007 survey lists the Power Plant and Smoke Stack as a single resource, under one LACO number (LACO No. 1300). This difference results in a discrepancy of one in the total number of buildings within the Historic District.