

Community Coalition of University Heights

P.O. Box 635045 ♦ San Diego CA 92163

Teachers Training Annex 1 Timeline: 1898 to 2018

1898: The Board of Trustees for the San Diego Normal School hired the San Diego architectural firm of Hebbard and Gill to build the Normal School, to help the town grow and increase certification of teachers.

1910: The Normal School opened in 1899 and in 1910 the Teachers Training Annex 1 was built by Nathan Ellery to train teachers in classroom procedures under real-life conditions.

1921: The San Diego Normal School became San Diego State Teachers College and could now grant certificates and degrees. Also in 1921, the State legislature moved San Diego Junior College to the Normal School campus where it remained until 1947, when it became independent.

1922: The San Diego Normal School Drafting Classroom & Men's Locker Room was built by an unknown architect, possibly Nathan Ellery.

1928: The student body outgrew the facilities at the Normal School and moved to its present day location on Montezuma Mesa, where it eventually became San Diego State University. After the Normal School moved to Montezuma Mesa, the buildings at the Ed Center site, including the Teachers Training Annex 1, continued to be used for educational purposes and new buildings were constructed, all of which stand today.

1936: The Alice Birney Elementary School Kindergarten Building Annex 2 was built by master architect William Wheeler.

1936: The Horace Mann Jr. High School Domestic Science Hall & Band Room was built by master architect William Wheeler.

Circa 1936: The Horace Mann Jr. High School Girl's Showers & Locker Room possibly built by master architect William Wheeler.

Circa 1940: The Birney School/Horace Mann Jr. High School Teachers Cafeteria Building was built by Earl F. Giberson.

1953: The Eugene Brucker Education Center was built by master architect Clyde Hufbauer and is noted in the City's "San Diego Modernism Historic Context Statement 1935-1970."

1999: University Heights Historical Society Historian, Alex Bevil, successfully nominated the *Teacher Training School Building—San Diego State Normal School* for placement on the National Register of Historic Places.

2001: At the request of the University Heights Library Task Force Chair Ron Johnston, Uptown Planners strongly supported the community's efforts to acquire the Teachers Training Annex 1 for adaptive reuse as a new University Heights Library.

2002: Under the leadership of Councilmember Toni Atkins, an amendment was adopted by the City Council allocating \$250,000 to an in-depth engineering study of the Teachers Training Annex 1 to determine the feasibility of adaptively re-using the building to include a library.

2003: Councilmember Toni Atkins and the University Heights Library Task Force conducted a workshop to determine community needs for the Teachers Training Annex 1.

2004: The final *Historical Significance Assessment Adaptive Reuse Analysis* by Fields Devereaux Architects & Engineers was presented at a University Heights Community Association meeting.

2006: New School of Architecture, *Conceptual Study of the Education Center Complex* was prepared by architectural students under the supervision of Professor Michael Stepner, FAIA, FAICP, to identify concepts for the utilization of the historic San Diego Unified Education Center Complex as an arts & cultural development center, including the Teachers Training Building.

2008: Under the leadership of Friends of the University Heights Library, Board members unanimously proposed funding for architectural historian Wendy Tinsley of Urbana Preservation and Planning to complete an historical survey of the *San Diego State Normal School Campus and San Diego City*

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Schools Historic Education Complex. This was completed in 2009 and submitted to the South Coastal Information Center.

2009: The San Diego Unified School District Board of Education voted 5-0 to support preservation and adaptive reuse of Teachers Training Annex 1 as the UH Library. However, the vote was taken in closed session so there was no written documentation of the vote.

2010: The University Heights Community Development Corporation celebrated the 100th anniversary on site of the Teachers Training Annex 1. Speakers at the event included Superintendent Kowba, School Board President Barrera, District 3 Councilmember Gloria, Public Library Director Barrows and Foundation Director Jay Hill.

2011: Save our Heritage Organization (SOHO) added the Teachers Training Annex 1 to its countywide *Most Endangered List of Historic Resources.*

December 2017: The San Diego Unified School District Board of Education released a Request for Proposals to exchange three of its properties, including the Ed Center site, for one property to become the new District Central Office.

January to May 2018: Under the leadership of UH residents Kristin Harms and Bill Ellig, the Community Coalition of University Heights (CCUH) was formed to advocate for preservation and adaptive reuse of the Teachers Training Annex 1 as part of a possible real estate exchange. The CCUH conducted a community-wide survey to gauge community priorities for the Ed Center site. Based upon the survey results and the 2010 Uptown Community Plan, the CCUH developed and submitted a vision and guiding principles to the Board of Education to guide any decisions regarding the proposed property exchange.

April 2018: In collaboration with Cultural Landscape Specialist Vonn Marie May, Save our Heritage Organization (SOHO) conducted a site visit and review of a 1928 aerial photograph of the Ed Center site landscaping and submitted recommendations to the CCUH regarding preservation of significant trees.

May 2018: The Board of Education voted to reject all 5 proposals for exchange of three of its properties, including the Ed Center site, for one property to become the new District Central Office.

June 2018: The Board of Education approved a bond measure for the November ballot, which included a line item to “Acquire property for, design and construct new school administrative facilities and/or renovate existing school administration center facilities.” However, the bond measure did not include a specific line item for preservation and adaptive reuse of the Teachers Training Annex 1.

June 2018: CCUH members met with Senator Toni Atkins who agreed to send a letter to the Board of Education urging support of the preservation and adaptive reuse of the Teachers Training Annex if the proposed bond measure passed.

July 2018: Board of Education member Richard Barrera met with CCUH members to discuss the coalition’s recommendations. The CCUH submitted a resolution to the Board of Education to implement the following if the bond measure passed:

- Adaptively reuse Teachers Training Annex 1 as a teachers training facility and potential joint-use library or community education facility to support students and neighborhood families;
- Restore and install the original University Heights Library mural inside Annex 1;
- Adaptively reuse the Alice Birney Kindergarten Building Annex 2 as a community resource facility for joint-use to support students and neighborhood families;
- Install wireless facilities and solar panels on the Teachers Training Annex 1 and the Alice Birney Kindergarten Building Annex 2 to offset maintenance and energy costs;
- Explore the feasibility of a paid parking structure with electric vehicle charging stations and solar panels for joint-use to support students and neighborhood families;
- Create a collaborative outdoor learning space and green space on the lawn in front of Annex 1 for joint-use to support students and neighborhood families;

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July 2018: Under the leadership of Board of Education President Kevin Beiser and Board member Richard Barrera, the Board unanimously adopted the resolution submitted by the CCUH.

November 2018: The bond measure, Measure YY, was approved by 61% of the voters.

December 2018: Save our Heritage Organization removed the Teachers Training Annex 1 from its countywide *Most Endangered List of Historic Resources*.

December 2018: Superintendent Cindy Marten scheduled the first meeting of the proposed University Heights Task Force composed of District and community representatives to plan and implement the projects approved in the July Resolution.