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Guide to the California and San José State University Master Plan for Higher Education Records

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Processed by:
Jane Gilvin
Date Completed:
2009
Encoded by:
Robert Donahue

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Descriptive Summary

Title: California and San José State University Master Plan for Higher Education Records

Dates: 1954-1987

Bulk Dates: 1958-1962

Collection number: MSS-2009-03-01

Creators: San José State University Master Plan Committee and California Master Plan Survey Team

Collection Size: 2 Boxes(2.5 linear feet)

Repository: San José State University. Library.

San José, California 95192-0028

Abstract: The California and San José State University Master Plan for Higher Education Records (1954-1987 [bulk 1958-1962]) document the 1960 California Master Plan for Education and the 1962 San José State University Campus Master Plan. The records consist of newspaper clippings, blueprints and correspondence. This collection is arranged into two series: Series I. California Master Plan, 1954-1960, 1987; and Series II. San José State University Master Plan, 1955-1963, 1976.

Physical location: For current information on the location of these materials, please consult the Library's online catalog.

Languages: Languages represented in the collection: English

Access

The collection is open for research.

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Preferred Citation

California and San José State University Master Plan for Higher Education Records, MSS-2009-03-01, San José State University Library Special Collections and Archives.

Processing Information

Collection processed by Jane Gilvin. Finding aid EAD encoded by Robert Donahue. Reviewed by Danelle Moon and Erin Louthen.

Project Information

This finding aid was created as part of the Survey and Cataloging Project, a two-year San José State University Library grant project funded by the National Historical Publications and Records Commission. The project began in 2008. The Project Director is Danelle Moon. The Project Archivist is Erin Louthen.

Organizational History

In 1857 the San Francisco Board of Education established Minns' Evening Normal School for current and prospective teachers in the city. Named after its principal, George W. Minns, the institution was formally established as the first California State Normal School by the State Legislature in 1862. A decade later, the Legislature voted to move the Normal School to San José, and the school relocated to its new home on Washington Square prior to the fall term of 1872. After a fire destroyed the Normal School building in 1880, the Legislature authorized $200,000 to construct a new building on the same site. Completed in 1881, the building was commonly referred to as the Second State Normal School. After several names and curriculum changes, Minns' Normal school is now San José State University, offering more than 134 bachelor's and master's degrees with 110 concentrations, and is recognized as one of the top public universities granting such degrees in the West.

In the late 1950s California faced a large increase in the number of students entering state colleges and universities. Several factors contributed to this increase, including the post-World War II Baby Boom, educational assistance for military veterans, immigration to California, larger high school graduating classes and more of those students pursuing a college education. As a result, the state legislature passed the California Master Plan for Higher Education, also known as the Donahue Act, in 1960 outlining how the state would deal with the rising enrollment in the state university, college and junior college systems. The California Legislature's adoption of the Master Plan recognized the importance of higher education to the state's economy and committed resources to promote low tuition costs for state residents. Admission standards were set for each system and a new governance system was established for the state colleges including San José State University. Subsequently, the plan became a model for other states and countries.

The Master Plan Survey Team was created in June of 1959 when Bakersfield Democratic Assemblyperson Dorothy Donahue introduced the resolution for the Master Plan to the California Assembly. Two years later, the newly established Trustees for the California State University system coordinated "Campus Physical Master Plans" for individual campuses. The 1962 plan for San José State University was developed to prepare the campus for the next 10 to 15 years, and includes a discussion of closing 7th Street to vehicular traffic or the possibility of creating a traffic bypass. Although 7th Street was eventually closed to traffic in 1994, the initial proposal was not accepted by the San José City Council, as documented by newspaper clippings included in these records. The plans also include purchasing additional land and erecting new buildings on the San José State University campus. Discussion of demolishing or renovating historic Tower Hall and whether the Trustees would purchase all of the land proposed is also documented in the records. Tower Hall was not demolished and remains one of the iconic buildings on campus.

Bibliography

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Scope and Content of Collection

In the late 1950s California faced a large increase in the number of students entering state colleges and universities. Several factors contributed to this increase, including the post-World War II Baby Boom, educational assistance for military veterans, immigration to California, larger high school graduating classes and more of those students pursuing a college education. As a result, the state legislature passed the California Master Plan for Higher Education, also known as the Donahue Act, in 1960 outlining how the state would deal with the

rising enrollment in the state university, college and junior college systems. Individual "Campus Physical Master Plans" were written for each campus after the statewide plan was written.

The California and San José State University Master Plan for Higher Education Records (1954-1987 [bulk 1958-1962]) consist of newspaper clippings, blueprints and correspondence documenting the 1960 California Master Plan for Education and the 1962 San José State University Campus Master Plan. The records include a copy of the published 1960 California Master Plan and a copy of the 1987 Commission for the Review of the Master Plan's findings. The newspaper clippings of the 1962 San José State University Master Plan document discussions about demolishing or renovating Tower Hall, as well as the possibility of closing 7th Street to vehicular traffic.

Arrangement

This collection is arranged into two series: Series I. California Master Plan, 1954-1960, 1987; and Series II. San José State University Master Plan, 1955-1963, 1976.

Indexing Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the library's online public access catalog.

San José State University. Master Plan Committee -- History

California State Colleges -- History

San José State College -- History

California State University, San José -- History

San José State University -- History

Universities and colleges -- California -- Planning

Education, Higher -- California -- Planning

Education, Higher -- California -- San José

Series I: **California Master Plan for Higher Education and Revisions 1954-1960 1987**

Physical Description: 1 Box

Series Scope and Content Summary

This series contains correspondence, meeting minutes, newspaper clippings and blueprints from the California Master Plan Survey Joint Advisory Team. In addition, this series includes formulation data specific to the San José State University campus.

The Joint Advisory Team had members from many state university and college campuses, including San José State University. The educators worked with the legislative members of the Joint Advisory Team. Campus-specific data was solicited from each state university and college. The California Master Plan plotted a course for providing low tuition education to California residents at well-funded and respected state schools. California state colleges and universities are still highly respected, but the price of education has seen a sharp rise since the plan's inception.

Arrangement

This series is arranged chronologically by date range.

Box 1 **California Master Plan for Higher Education and Revisions 1954-1960 1987**

Series II: **San José State University Master Plan Materials 1955-1963 1976**

Physical Description: 1 Box

Series Scope and Content Summary

This series contains correspondence, newspaper clippings and blueprints concerning the San José State University Master Plan from 1962. The San José State University Master Plan called for street closures, land purchases and new buildings. Not all of the proposed plans were completed in the plan's 15 year time frame because of failure to obtain San José City Council approval, state budgetary constraints or public opposition. Some of the proposed plans were completed after the conclusion of the Master Plan survey, including the plan to close 7th street to vehicular traffic. A copy of the plan from the California State Architect’s office has visual renderings of the proposed plans.

Arrangement

This series is arranged chronologically by date range.

Box 2 **San José State University Campus Master Plan Materials 1955-1963 1976**