

2010

# San José State University Campus Buildings Records

San Jose State University, Special Collections and Archives

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## Guide to the San José State University Campus Buildings Records

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Collection number: MSS-2010-02-03



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UNIVERSITY

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Processed by:  
R. Schuyler Selden  
Date Completed:  
2010  
Encoded by:  
Silke Higgins

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### Descriptive Summary

**Title:** San José State University Campus Buildings Records

**Dates:** 1903-1999

**Bulk Dates:** 1960-1995

**Collection number:** MSS-2010-02-03

**Creator:** San José State University

**Collection Size:** 7 boxes, 4.5 linear feet

**Repository:** San José State University. Library.

San José, California 95192-0028

**Abstract:** The San José State University Campus Buildings Records, 1903-1999 (bulk 1960-1995), document the history of major campus buildings and landmarks, including Tower Hall, Spartan Memorial Chapel, the Scheller House, Dwight Bentel Hall and other departmental buildings. The records consist of building reports, specifications and evaluations, brochures, committee papers, negatives, newspaper clippings, and photographs. This collection is arranged into two series: Series I. Campus Buildings and Landmarks, 1906-1999 (bulk 1960-1995); and Series II. Campus Buildings History and General San José History, 1903-1999 (bulk 1960-1995).

**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.

### Publication Rights

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#### **Preferred Citation**

San José State University Campus Buildings Records, MSS-2010-02-03, San José State University Library Special Collections & Archives.

#### **Processing History**

Collection processed by R. Schuyler Selden. Finding aid EAD encoded by Silke Higgins. 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.

Since laying the cornerstone for the San José State Normal School in 1870, the SJSU campus has expanded several times throughout its 150-year history. Tower Hall, the centerpiece of the university, was constructed in 1910 to replace a previous building damaged in the 1906 earthquake. The oldest structure on campus, Tower Hall was spared demolition in the 1960s and has been renovated twice, once in 1966 and again in 2007. From the late 1920s through the 1950s, under the direction of President Thomas W. MacQuarrie, many buildings were constructed on the SJSU campus, including the Education Building, Spartan Stadium, the Science Building, the Student Union, and the Spartan Memorial Chapel. The campus experienced another era of major renovation and expansion in the early 2000s, including the construction of the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Library, as well as the renovation of Clark Hall and Morris Dailey Auditorium. Today, all aspects of the maintenance, planning and sustainability of SJSU's campus buildings are managed by the Division of Facilities Development and Operations (FD&O).

#### **Bibliography**

Gilbert, Benjamin F., and Burdick, Charles. *Washington Square, 1857-1979: The History of San José State University*. San José, California: San José State University, 1980.

San José State University. *About SJSU*. [http://www.sjsu.edu/about\\_sjsu/](http://www.sjsu.edu/about_sjsu/)

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Walsh, James P. *San José State University: An Interpretive History, 1950-2000*. San José, California: San José State University, 2003.

#### **Related Material**

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

#### **Scope and Content**

The San José State University Campus Buildings Records, 1903-1999 (bulk 1960-1995), document the history of major campus buildings and landmarks, including Tower Hall, Spartan Memorial Chapel, the Scheller House, Dwight Bentel Hall and other departmental buildings. The records consist of building reports, specifications and evaluations, brochures, committee papers, negatives, newspaper clippings, and photographs.

#### **Arrangement**

This collection is arranged into two series: Series I. Campus Buildings and Landmarks, 1906-1999 (bulk 1960-1995); and Series II. Campus Buildings History and General San José History, 1903-1999 (bulk 1960-1999).

#### **Subject Headings**

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 -- History.

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San José State Normal School -- History.  
San José State Teachers College -- History.  
California State University, San José -- History.  
Historic buildings -- California -- San José.  
College buildings -- California -- San José.  
San José (Calif.) -- History.

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Series I: **Campus Buildings and Landmarks 1906-1999 (bulk 1960-1995)**

**Physical Description:** 6 boxes

**Series Scope and Content Summary**

This series contains information about the construction and renovation of various campus buildings, including Tower Hall, Spartan Memorial Chapel, the Scheller House, Dwight Bentel Hall and the Engineering Building. The materials in this series consist of building reports, specifications and evaluations, brochures, committee records, newspaper clippings, and photographs.

**Arrangement**

This series is arranged by subject.

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Box: 1                      **Tower Hall 1962-1981**

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Box: 2                      **Spartan Memorial Chapel 1944-1952**

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Box: 3                      **Aeronautics Building, Campus Photographs, Social Sciences Building 1906-1978**

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Box: 4                      **Engineering Building (Project 88) 1954-1985**

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Box: 5                      **Dwight Bentel Hall, Spartan Memorial Chapel Committee Meeting Minutes 1980-1996**

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Box: 6                      **Scheller House 1980-1995**

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Series II: **Campus Buildings History and General San José History 1903-1999 (bulk 1960-1999)**

**Physical Description:** 1 box

**Series Scope and Content Summary**

This series contains information about various campus buildings, as well as general historical information about the City of San José. Comprised primarily of newspaper clippings, this series includes topics such as campus dormitories, fraternity and sorority houses, departmental buildings, and Washington Square. This series also includes aerial photographs of the campus.

**Arrangement**

This series is arranged by alphabetically by subject.

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Box: 7                      **Campus Buildings History and General San José History 1903-1999**

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