

EAST AGNEWS DEVELOPMENTAL CENTER
HABS-STYLE DOCUMENTATION

SAN JOSÉ, CA
[14203]

PREPARED FOR:
SANTA CLARA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT



PAGE & TURNBULL

imagining change in historic environments through design, research, and technology

JULY 2015

EAST AGNEWS DEVELOPMENTAL CENTER HISTORIC CAMPUS 3500 ZANKER ROAD, SAN JOSÉ, CALIFORNIA

PROJECT INFORMATION:

The Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS) originated in 1933 as the United States' first federal architectural documentation program. The HABS program is a division of the National Park Service (NPS). In addition to providing a public archive of the nation's architectural heritage, the HABS program is also responsible for establishing national standards for recording historic architecture. As a collection, HABS represents "a complete resume of the builder's art," ranging "from the smallest utilitarian structures to the largest and most monumental."¹

HABS recording combines measured drawings, written historical reports, and large-format black-and-white photography to produce a comprehensive, interdisciplinary record of a historic building, site, structure, or object. HABS documentation can range in scope depending upon the level of significance and complexity of the resource, with Level I being the most detailed and Level IV being the most abbreviated.²

This HABS-style documentation report is a required mitigation measure for the planned demolition of the historic campus of the East Agnews Developmental Center in San José, California. The report focuses on seven buildings, in addition to landscape features within the campus, that have been previously identified as historically significant and eligible to the National Register of Historic Places and California Register of Historical Resources. One additional historic structure, the campus water tower (Building 263), may remain on the site and therefore is not documented in-depth in this report. The report was prepared to HABS Level II standards and includes large-format exterior and interior photographs, supplemental digital photographs, a written history, and oral histories, all in an archivally stable format.³ A description of the landscape of the historic campus is included within the report following the guidelines of the Historic American Landscape Survey (HALS), a sibling program to HABS intended for the documentation of cultural landscapes. The report was prepared by Page & Turnbull, Inc.

Copies of this report will be submitted to the following repositories: the California Room of the San José Public Library, History San José, the Preservation Action Council of San José, the Northwest Information Center of the State Office of Historic Preservation, and the California State Library.

LOCATION:

3500 Zanker Road
San José, CA 95134

¹ National Park Service, "Historic American Building Survey (HABS)," accessed March 30, 2015, <http://www.nps.gov/hdp/habs/>.

² Ibid.

³ National Park Service, *HABS/HAER Standards*, accessed April 5, 2011, <http://www.nps.gov/history/hdp/standards/standards.pdf>.

PRESENT OWNER:

Santa Clara Unified School District
1889 Lawrence Road
Santa Clara, CA 95051

PRESENT USE:

The hospital grounds have been vacant since the closure of the East Agnews Developmental Center in 2011 but are used intermittently for local law enforcement training.

SIGNIFICANCE:

Buildings and landscape features within the historic campus of the East Agnews Developmental Center, located at 3500 Zanker Road in San José, California, are eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places (National Register) and the California Register of Historical Resources (California Register). Four buildings within the campus have been found individually eligible to these registers: Buildings 51, 52, 53, and 263 (water tower). These buildings, as well as four further buildings (Buildings 152, 153, 154, and 155) and landscape features, are contributing resources within an eligible National Register and California Register historic district.

Contributing landscape features include vegetation patterns that remain from the original grounds; path networks surrounding Buildings 51, 52, and 53; automobile roadways that form the historic crescent-shaped site with radiating streets (Balboa Avenue, De Soto Road, Anza Road, Anza Road East, Anza Road West, Cortez Street, and Cabrillo Street); and Panighetti Park, the broad boulevard park located between Buildings 51 and 52.

Historic resources within the East Agnews Developmental Center, whether individually eligible or contributing to the proposed historic district, are significant to the City of San José and the State of California for the facility's contribution to the history of mental health treatment, as an example of the "colony" planning concept, and as an impressive collection of Spanish Colonial Revival buildings tied together within their campus according to a formal landscape plan.

Historic resources within the East Agnews Developmental Center are significant under National Register Criterion A/California Register Criterion I (Events) as a satellite campus (initially known as the Annex) to the Agnews State Hospital (also known as the West Campus), one of the earliest hospitals in California that explored and utilized new philosophies in mental health treatment developed during the early twentieth century. Agnews was one of the first hospitals in California to transition from confinement and permanent housing of patients to a more scientific approach based on rehabilitation and medical treatment, which included the removal of physical restraints and "asylum" elements. During this time period, the facility's philosophy acknowledged the patients as individuals and recognized the positive effects of an open-air treatment plan involving exercise and recreational activities. This philosophy was reflected in the planning of the Annex and its architecture by the immersion of the campus in a farm-like setting and by the self-sufficient nature of the hospital ward buildings (also see Criterion C/3). Due to the previous demolition of the majority of the West Campus, the East Campus gains further significance as one of the last surviving examples of this mental health philosophy.

The historic campus of the East Agnews Developmental Center is also significant at the state and local levels under Criterion B/2 (Person) for its association with Dr. Leonard Stocking, known as the "dean of psychiatrists in California." Dr. Stocking was the superintendent of the Agnews State Hospital from 1903 until his death in 1931. He guided the development of Agnews and was instrumental in its progressive policies towards mental health and the physical development of both campuses. His policies encouraged physical exercise and outdoor work for the patients, as well as the elimination of physical restraints, such as handcuffs, barred windows, and padded cells. He stressed the importance of the environment in the treatment of patients. Prior to his death, Stocking planned the Annex according to a "colony building group" mentality, whereby individual buildings were constructed to be entirely self-sufficient; each building had its own heating and refrigeration plants and working kitchens. Stocking obtained the land and the funding for this new group of buildings by tapping into the Public Works Administration funds. In consultation with the Office of the State Architect (under the direction of state architect George

McDougall), Stocking designed a campus that deviated from the typical concept of a central heating plant, powerhouse, and kitchen. Stocking imagined a campus rather than an institution. His ideas were carried forward into the construction of three of the six buildings originally planned for the site.

Although Stocking's association with the Annex was limited, his early work and ideas permeated the design and construction of this group of buildings. According to the National Park Service, "Properties associated with an individual's formative or later years may also qualify if it can be demonstrated that the person's activities during this period were historically significant or if no properties from the person's productive years survives."⁴ If the West Campus had survived, it would have been the most significant group of buildings associated with Dr. Leonard Stocking. As the West Campus has largely been demolished, the East Campus is the most significant surviving example of Stocking's influence on the philosophies of mental health treatment.

The historic campus of the East Agnews Developmental Center is significant under Criterion C/3 (Design/Construction) for embodying the distinctive characteristics of a type and as a representation of a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction. The East Campus features eight buildings that exemplify the Spanish Colonial Revival architectural style, as exhibited by typical design elements including red clay tile roofs, stucco walls, ornamental railings, arched window and door openings, and courtyard arrangements. The universal Spanish Colonial Revival elements connect the buildings into a cohesive district representative of early 1930s architecture. The choice of this style by state architect George McDougall was in part due to its connection to California's Spanish colonial history, and also because the style was compatible with the California Mission/Mediterranean Revival style of the buildings on the West Campus.

In addition to its architectural style, the East Campus is significant for its "colony" planning and design. Originally intended to hold approximately 500 patients, the three residential buildings (Buildings 51, 52, and 53) were designed to be self-contained communities with heating, refrigeration, and kitchen areas included in each building. Each of the residential buildings featured H-shaped plans with multiple exterior courtyards, and entrances. These buildings had several projecting wings to allow for the maximum amount of light and air to enter into the interior. In general, the colony plan can be viewed as an evolution of the "cure cottage" concept, which was heavily utilized throughout many smaller East Coast hospitals and sanitariums, particularly during the period between the 1880s and the 1920s. The cure cottage planning concept was based upon early recreational camp architecture and involved a grouping of smaller pavilions or cottages that maximized the exposure to the outdoor elements through their simple construction, usage of porch elements, and heavy fenestration. The East Campus furthered this concept through the physical separation of each building, which had individual mechanical and electrical support. In addition, the placement of buildings throughout the site according to a formal landscape plan, surrounded by belts of trees, created a bucolic environment that reflected Dr. Stocking's progressive treatment philosophies during his era.

The period of significance for historic resources within the East Agnews Developmental Center campus is 1930-1939, encompassing the first campaigns of development that resulted in the three large residential buildings, employees' quarters, associated automobile garages, and formal

⁴ National Park Service, *National Register Bulletin #15: How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation* (Washington D.C., National Park Service, 1991), 15.

landscape plan designed by the State Architect with the input of Dr. Leonard Stocking. These features, which represent the extent to which the original East Campus site plan was realized, convey Stocking's "colony plan" treatment philosophy as it related to fashioning a therapeutic environment for hospital patients.

PROJECT TEAM:

This HABS-style documentation report was prepared by Page & Turnbull, Inc. of San Francisco, California. Historical information contained herein is based primarily on the previously written *Historic Resources Assessment*, completed by Page & Turnbull in 2006.

Page & Turnbull staff responsible for this report include Principal-in-Charge Ruth Todd, project manager Christina Dikas, and architectural historian Jonathon Rusch. All staff meet or exceed the Secretary of the Interior's *Professional Qualifications Standards* for Historic Architecture, History, or Architectural History.

Contact information for the consultants involved in completing this documentation:

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PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION: BUILDING 5I

A. Physical History

1. Date of Construction

1930-1931

2. Architect

George B. McDougall, State Architect and Division Chief
Wesley K. Daniels, Deputy Chief
Division of Architecture, State of California Department of Public Works

3. Original and Subsequent Owners

1930	State of California
2014	Santa Clara Unified School District

4. Builder, Contractor, Suppliers

Unknown

5. Original Plans and Construction

Original drawings for Building 5I were completed by the Division of Architecture within the State of California Department of Public Works and are dated October 6, 1930. Title blocks refer to the building as “Ward Kitchen Steam Plant Bldg.” Architectural drawings include the following: a key plan showing general dimensions (Sheet 1A); first and second floor plans of the wards (Sheets 1, 2, 3, and 4); sections and elevations of the wards (Sheets 5 and 6); plan, elevations, and sections of the central kitchen and boiler room (Sheets 7 and 12); exterior and interior details (Sheets 8, 9, and 10); and roof plans and sections (Sheet 11). Structural drawings include foundation plans (Sheets S-1 and S-2), framing plans (Sheets S-3 and S-4), roof framing plans (Sheets S-5 and S-6), beam and girder details (Sheets S-7, S-8, and S-9), and column and footing details (Sheet S-10). A set of detail drawings contains nine sheets: roof and cornice (Sheet D-1); door, window, and trim (Sheets D-2 and D-3); main entry (Sheet D-4); column, gate, and handrails (Sheet D-5); gate and iron window grille (Sheet D-6); kitchen and dining room features (Sheet D-7); doors and roof vents (Sheet D-8); and stairs and roof vents (Sheet D-9). Additional drawings show the building’s original plumbing plan (Sheets M-1, M-2, M-3, and M-4), heating and ventilation systems (Sheets M-5, M-6, M-7, M-8, M-9, and M-10), and electrical plans (Sheets E-1, E-2, E-3, E-4, and E-5).

6. Alterations and Additions

1959: Loading dock constructed in service courtyard; various kitchen updates installed including kitchen hood; arched porches enclosed with wire screens behind linked iron grilles

1962: Four exterior fire egress stairs constructed, with new doors inserted in place of original second-floor balconies; partition walls constructed at stairwells

1965: Interior remodeled, involving removal of select partition walls and doors

1976: Gabled elevator shafts constructed at residential wings; loading docks with ramps constructed at service courtyard

1979: Interior rooms refinished with plaster patching on walls and ceilings, sheet vinyl and tile floorings; corridor addition constructed at west façade

1990: Dining room remodeled with new suspended acoustical tile ceiling

1991: Dormitory room partition walls replaced

1994: Fire walls constructed within residential wings

Undated: Four exterior stairwell additions built at east and west façades in place of one-story shed-roof projections; iron grilles removed from arched porch windows, and stucco fill added to those facing service courtyard; handicap accessibility ramps constructed at north and south entrances; original iron gate doors removed from wall openings at north and south courtyards

Building 51's utilities and mechanical systems (plumbing and sewer, electrical, HVAC, fire suppression) have been updated continually over the course of the building's lifespan and are not included in this summary.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION: BUILDING 52

A. Physical History

1. Date of Construction

1930-1931

2. Architect

George B. McDougall, State Architect and Division Chief
Wesley K. Daniels, Deputy Chief
Division of Architecture, State of California Department of Public Works

3. Original and Subsequent Owners

1930	State of California
2014	Santa Clara Unified School District

4. Builder, Contractor, Suppliers

Unknown

5. Original Plans and Construction

Original drawings for Building 52 were completed by the Division of Architecture within the State of California Department of Public Works and are dated December 29, 1930. Title blocks refer to the building as “Ward Unit #2 at Farm.” The drawing set is largely identical to that of Building 51, as the buildings share the same design—although their boiler room wings were placed on opposite sides of their respective ward buildings. Architectural drawings include the following: a key plan with general dimensions (Sheet 1A); first and second floor plans of the wards (Sheets 1, 2, 3, and 4); sections and elevations of the wards (Sheets 5 and 6); plan, elevations, and sections of the central kitchen and boiler room (Sheets 7 and 12); exterior and interior details (Sheets 8, 9, and 10); and roof plans and sections (Sheet 11). Structural drawings include foundation plans (Sheets S-1 and S-2), framing plans (Sheets S-3 and S-4), roof framing plans (Sheets S-5 and S-6), beam and girder details (Sheets S-7, S-8, and S-9), and column and footing details (Sheet S-10). Additional drawings show the building’s original plumbing plan (Sheets M-1, M-2, M-3, and M-4), heating and ventilation systems (Sheets M-5, M-6, M-7, M-8, M-9, and M-10), and electrical plans (Sheets E-1, E-2, E-3, E-4, and E-5). Unlike Building 51, no set of detail drawings has been located for Building 52.

6. Alterations and Additions

1959: Loading dock constructed in service courtyard; various kitchen updates installed, including kitchen hood; arched porches enclosed with wire screens behind linked iron grilles

1962: Four exterior fire egress stairs constructed, with new doors inserted in place of original second-floor balconies; partition walls constructed at stairwells

1965: Interior remodeled, involving removal of select partition walls and doors

1976: Gabled elevator shafts constructed at residential wings; loading docks with ramps constructed at service courtyard

1979: Interior rooms refinished with plaster patching on walls and ceilings, sheet vinyl and tile floorings; corridor addition constructed at east façade

1990: Dining room remodeled with new suspended acoustical tile ceiling

1994: Fire walls constructed within residential wings

Undated: Four exterior stairwell additions built at east and west façades in place of one-story shed-roof projections; iron grilles removed from arched porch windows, and stucco fill added to those facing service courtyard; handicap accessibility ramps constructed at north and south entrances; original iron gate doors removed from wall openings at north and south courtyards

Building 52's utilities and mechanical systems (plumbing and sewer, electrical, HVAC, fire suppression) have been updated continually over the course of the building's lifespan and are not included in this summary.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION: BUILDING 53

A. Physical History

1. Date of Construction

1939

2. Architect

George B. McDougall, State Architect and Division Chief
Wesley K. Daniels, Deputy Chief
Division of Architecture, State of California Department of Public Works

3. Original and Subsequent Owners

1939	State of California
2014	Santa Clara Unified School District

4. Builder, Contractor, Suppliers

Unknown

5. Original Plans and Construction

Original drawings for Building 53 were completed by the Division of Architecture within the State of California Department of Public Works and are dated March 30, 1938. Title blocks refer to the building as “Ward Unit #3 at Farm.” The drawing set is similar to that of Buildings 51 and 52, as Building 53’s design is based on that of the earlier constructed ward buildings. Building 53 shares the same arrangement of wings radiating from a central volume containing a kitchen and dining areas; this central volume, however, has a different arrangement of interior spaces, with the kitchen located in an attached wing alongside the boiler room, opposite a gabled wing containing the employees’ dining room. Architectural drawings include the following: a plot plan, roof plan, and key plan with general dimensions (Sheet 1A); first and second floor plans of the wards (Sheets 1, 2, 3, and 4); sections and elevations of the wards (Sheets 5 and 6); plan, elevations, and sections of the central dining rooms, kitchen, and boiler room (Sheets 7, 8, and 9); sections, plans, and details of interior staircases and arched openings (Sheets 10 and 11); details of roof features (Sheet 12); window details (Sheet 13); and sections and plan of the second-story projection room (Sheet 14). Structural drawings include foundation plans (Sheets S-1 and S-2), framing plans (Sheets S-3 and S-4), roof framing plans (Sheets S-5 and S-6), beam and girder details (Sheets S-7, S-8, and S-9), and rigid frame details for the employee dining room (Sheet S-10). Additional drawings show the building’s original plumbing plan (Sheets M-1, M-2, M-3, M-4, and M-5), details of kitchen equipment

(Sheets M-6, M-7, and M-8), heating diagrams (M-9, M-10, M-11, M-12, and M-13), boiler room details (M-14), and electrical plans (Sheets E-1, E-2, E-3, E-4, E-5, and E-6). Additionally, a grounds and plantings plan, dated July 14, 1931, shows the arrangement of trees and other types of vegetation originally recommended to be planted surrounding Building 53.

6. Alterations and Additions

1956: Four arched porches enclosed with wire screens

1957: Dishwashing rooms updated with new equipment

1959: Loading dock constructed in service courtyard; various kitchen updates installed, including kitchen hood; arched porches enclosed with wire screens behind linked iron grilles

1965: Service elevator installed, and loading platform constructed at service courtyard

1967: Two elevator shafts constructed in residential wings; two loading docks constructed at service courtyard

1979: Interior rooms refinished with plaster patching on walls and ceilings, sheet vinyl and tile floorings

1986: Wheelchair ramps constructed in north courtyard

1990: Dining room remodeled with shaped dividing walls and new suspended acoustical tile ceiling

1994: Fire walls constructed within residential wings

Undated: handicap accessibility ramps constructed at east and west entrances; iron grilles removed from arched porch windows, and stucco fill added to those facing service courtyard; original iron gate doors removed from wall openings at north and south courtyards

Building 53's utilities and mechanical systems (plumbing and sewer, electrical, HVAC, fire suppression) have been updated continually over the course of the building's lifespan and are not included in this summary.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION: BUILDING 152

A. Physical History

1. Date of Construction

1931

2. Architect

George B. McDougall, State Architect and Division Chief
Wesley K. Daniels, Deputy Chief
Division of Architecture, State of California Department of Public Works

3. Original and Subsequent Owners

1931	State of California
2014	Santa Clara Unified School District

4. Builder, Contractor, Suppliers

Unknown

5. Original Plans and Construction

Original drawings for Building 152 are included within the set “Employee Quarters at Farm,” dated April 6, 1931 and completed by the Division of Architecture within the State of California Department of Public Works. Architectural drawings included in this set show Building A (Building 153) and note that Building B (Building 152) is “similar reversed.” These drawings include first- and second-story floor plans (Sheets 1 and 2), elevations (Sheet 3), balcony details and roof plan (Sheet 4), section and employee apartment floor plan (Sheet 5), and arched passageway and vent details (Sheet 6). Sheet 7 shows elevations of the reversed Building B. Structural and mechanical drawings include first- and second-story framing and foundation plans (Sheets 1S and 2S), roof framing plan (Sheet 3S), first- and second-floor heating plans (Sheets M-1 and M-2), first- and second-floor plumbing diagrams (Sheets M-3 and M-4), and electrical plans (Sheets E-1 and E-2), all for Building A (again with note “Building B similar reversed”). Sheets M-5 and M-6 contain plumbing diagrams specifically for Building B, Building 152.

6. Alterations and Additions

Undated: Interior finishes and fixtures appear to have been updated continuously over the course of the building’s lifespan.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION: BUILDING 153

A. Physical History

1. Date of Construction

1931

2. Architect

George B. McDougall, State Architect and Division Chief
Wesley K. Daniels, Deputy Chief
Division of Architecture, State of California Department of Public Works

3. Original and Subsequent Owners

1931	State of California
2014	Santa Clara Unified School District

4. Builder, Contractor, Suppliers

Unknown

5. Original Plans and Construction

Original drawings for Building 153 are included within the set “Employee Quarters at Farm,” dated April 6, 1931 and completed by the Division of Architecture within the State of California Department of Public Works. Drawings in this set show Building A (Building 153) and include a note that Building B (Building 152) is “similar reversed.” Architectural drawings include first- and second-story floor plans (Sheets 1 and 2), elevations (Sheet 3), balcony details and roof plan (Sheet 4), section and employee apartment floor plan (Sheet 5), and arched entrance and vent details (Sheet 6). Structural and mechanical drawings include first- and second-story framing and foundation plans (Sheets 1S and 2S), roof framing plan (Sheet 3S), first- and second-story heating plans (Sheets M-1 and M-2), first- and second-story plumbing diagrams (Sheets M-3 and M-4), and electrical plans (Sheets E-1 and E-2), all for Building A (again with note “Building B similar reversed”).

6. Alterations and Additions

Undated: Interior finishes and fixtures appear to have been updated continuously over the course of the building’s lifespan.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION: BUILDING 154

A. Physical History

1. Date of Construction

1931

2. Architect

George B. McDougall, State Architect and Division Chief
Wesley K. Daniels, Deputy Chief
Division of Architecture, State of California Department of Public Works

3. Original and Subsequent Owners

1931	State of California
2014	Santa Clara Unified School District

4. Builder, Contractor, Suppliers

Unknown

5. Original Plans and Construction

Original drawings for Building 154 are included within the set “Employee Quarters at Farm,” dated April 6, 1931 and completed by the Division of Architecture within the State of California Department of Public Works. Sheet 8 of this set contains elevations and a floor plan of Building 154, showing the wall that originally projected from the south façade of the building. This wall and an identical wall projecting from the north façade of Building 155 originally flanked the present-day Anza Road and formed an entrance gate to the hospital campus. Sheet 9 of this set contains a roof plan, sections, and roof vent detail for Building 154.

6. Alterations and Additions

Undated: The wall projecting from the south façade of Building 154, opposite an identical wall projecting from Building 155, was removed.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION: BUILDING 155

A. Physical History

1. Date of Construction

1931

2. Architect

George B. McDougall, State Architect and Division Chief
Wesley K. Daniels, Deputy Chief
Division of Architecture, State of California Department of Public Works

3. Original and Subsequent Owners

1931	State of California
2014	Santa Clara Unified School District

4. Builder, Contractor, Suppliers

Unknown

5. Original Plans and Construction

The original drawings for Building 155 are included within the set “Employee Quarters at Farm,” dated April 6, 1931 and completed by the Division of Architecture within the State of California Department of Public Works. Sheet 8 of this set contains elevations and a floor plan of Building 155, including the wall that originally projected from the north façade of the building. This wall and an identical wall projecting from the south façade of Building 154 originally flanked the present-day Anza Road and formed an entrance gate to the hospital campus. Elevations indicate that a wood batten gate door, with hand-wrought iron hinges and latch, was intended to be installed within the passageway on the wall connecting the two detached volumes of the building; Sheet 9 of this set contains a roof plan, sections, and roof vent detail, as well as a detail of a shed-roofed arbor planned on the north façade at the passageway; no available information confirms that the gate door and arbor were constructed as planned.

6. Alterations and Additions

Undated: The wall projecting from the north façade of Building 155, opposite an identical wall projecting from Building 154, was removed. The shed-roof arbor and original batten door at the garage’s passageway were also removed.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION: CAMPUS LANDSCAPE

A. Physical History

1. Date of Construction

1930-1939

2. Architect

George B. McDougall, State Architect and Division Chief
Wesley K. Daniels, Deputy Chief
Division of Architecture, State of California Department of Public Works

The layout of roads and buildings within the East Campus grounds was developed by the Division of Architecture, State of California Department of Public Works. Staff of this office likely designed the campus's original vegetation plan, although drawings have not been located to confirm this. A landscape design section was established in the Division of Architecture in 1938; an available planting plan for the site of Building 53, dated 1939, identifies the designer as staff member "Tyson."

3. Original and Subsequent Owners

1926	State of California
2014	Santa Clara Unified School District

4. Builder, Contractor, Suppliers

Unknown

5. Original Plans and Construction

Original plans for the campus landscape have not been located, apart from a planting plan for the Building 53 site, dated 1939.

6. Alterations and Additions

1932-1933: Hose sprinkler system installed throughout the campus

1939: Building 53 constructed, involving the extension of roadways, installation of a hose sprinkler system, and the planting of trees, shrubs, and other vegetation in the building's general site

1941: Physicians' houses constructed south of Anza Road

c. 1951-1954: Surface parking lot constructed north of Building 154; edge parking pads laid throughout the campus (along Cabrillo Street north of Building 53 and northeast of Building 52; along Cortez Street east of Building 51; along Balboa Street south of Buildings 51 and 52 and west of Building 53). Edge trees were removed in these locations.

1952: Street and yard lighting installed

1957-1960: Buildings 28, 7, 264, 54, and 55 constructed, forming the north half of the campus; new roadway system laid to access these buildings

1963: Three religious buildings constructed north of Building 51, across Cabrillo Street.

c. 1962-1966: New curbing, pavement shoulders, gutters, and ramps installed throughout the campus

c. 1980-1982: Main entrance relocated to Center Road at north boundary of campus, and original main entrance at Anza Road converted to a cul-de-sac; Zanker Road lengthened along western boundary of the hospital grounds; Malovos Road, formerly the southern boundary of the campus, removed during the construction of River Oaks Parkway

c. 1994-1998: Construction of automobile compound (surrounded by Buildings 17, 18, 19, and 20) and surface parking lots south of Balboa Avenue

New utilities and maintenance systems—such as sprinkler irrigation systems, sanitary and storm sewer lines, and electrical and telephone cables—have been installed continually as building systems were upgraded, causing minor disruptions to the campus landscape. These alterations are not included in this summary.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Historical Context

I. Early History of the Santa Clara Valley

The current-day location of the East Agnews Developmental Center is located on land inhabited for thousands of years by the indigenous Ohlone or Costanoan people, who occupied an area that stretched south from the San Francisco peninsula into present-day Monterey County. The Santa Clara Valley provided a range of landscapes (grasslands, wetlands, and woodlands) and natural resources that supported the fishing, hunting, gathering, and subsistence agriculture that were central to Ohlone society.⁵

Among the earliest European settlements within present-day Santa Clara County was the Pueblo de San José de Guadalupe, founded in 1777 in the current location of the City of San José. The Pueblo, unassociated with either a Mission or a military Presidio, was an agricultural community intended to provide food for the presidios in San Francisco and Monterey. European colonialism was a sea change for the Ohlone, who saw the land they had inhabited for centuries claimed by the Catholic Church. A network of rudimentary roads and trails connected the pueblo with other Spanish settlements and support locations throughout the surrounding area.⁶

Mexican rule began in 1822, and land use in the Santa Clara Valley changed substantially. Following the secularization of mission lands under Mexican rule, much of the undeveloped land outside of the missions, pueblos, and presidios was sold off to private landowners, who established large ranchos anchored by haciendas and small villages that served each rancho's functions. Between 1833 and 1845, forty-three ranchos were granted to Mexican settlers throughout the Santa Clara Valley; the Rancho Rincon de los Esteros encompassed the future site of the East Agnews Developmental Center.⁷

In 1846, upon the culmination of the Mexican-American War, California came under the control of the United States. Beginning in 1849, the Gold Rush brought an influx of settlers to California, leading to the widespread restructuring of property lines and land ownership. Santa Clara County was established in 1850, when California gained statehood and its original twenty-seven counties were created. At this time, San José was the only urban area in Santa Clara County, and thus the center of the county's commerce, government, and culture. By 1869, San José was linked with the Transcontinental Railroad and a nationwide system that allowed the area's bountiful produce to be shipped throughout the country.⁸

Throughout the nineteenth century, the Santa Clara Valley boasted a flourishing agricultural industry. Prior to and during the Gold Rush, cattle ranching was the primary industry in California, and the Santa Clara Valley boasted pastureland in the foothills and

⁵ Archives & Architecture, LLC, *County of Santa Clara Historic Context Statement*, prepared for County of Santa Clara Department of Planning and Development, December 2004 (revised February 2012), 19-21.

⁶ *Ibid.*, 22-26.

⁷ *Ibid.*, 26-34.

⁸ *Ibid.*, 35-40.

feed lots on the valley floor. This industry continued, but the high cost of fresh vegetables and flour during the Gold Rush made many realize that horticulture would be a lucrative pursuit. Many miners returning from the gold fields settled in Santa Clara Valley, where they established successful farms. The valley was dominated by fields of wheat and other grain crops until 1880, when yields became poor and competition from farms in the Central Valley mounted. This triggered a shift toward fruit growing. Prunes, grapes, and apricots became the major crops, and by the 1890s orchards dotted the valley, replacing most of the wheat fields.⁹

2. Early History of the Agnews State Hospital

The Agnews Developmental Center has a long history in Northern California and the San José area as one of California's earliest mental health and developmental facilities. Founded in 1888 by the California State Legislature, the facility was originally known as the California Hospital for the Chronically Insane in Agnew and was the third of this type in California, preceded by asylums at Stockton (1853) and Napa (1875). The original campus was located in the small village of Agnew in unincorporated Santa Clara County (later incorporated into San José) and was designed by local architect Jacob Lenzen, who followed the "Kirkbride Plan" for hospitals. This plan, developed by Philadelphia psychiatrist Thomas Story Kirkbride, was popular during the mid- to late nineteenth century and was primarily used in East Coast mental health hospitals; hospitals designed according to this scheme were organized around a central administration building with long, staggered wings that functioned as the patient wards.¹⁰ During this same time period, insane asylums (as they were designated) functioned primarily as detention facilities with resident populations that included vagrants, alcoholics, those with physical problems, and those considered a "burden to families."¹¹ Patients were classified as either "acute" or "chronic" and mixed into a general population. Treatments varied according to classification and included surgeries, experimental drugs, confinement, and restraints.

In 1889, the institution's name was officially changed to the State Asylum at Agnews. From 1890 to 1906, the hospital was one of five mental state-operated health facilities in California; other facilities were constructed at Mendocino and Patton in 1894. On April 18, 1906, a massive earthquake destroyed the majority of the original hospital campus. The Army Corps of Engineers found that the campus was one of the worst examples of poor design, workmanship, and materials within the earthquake disaster zone.¹² As a result, the campus was rebuilt under the direction of the State of California's Office of the State Architect and its influential superintendent, Dr. Leonard Stocking.

⁹ Ibid.

¹⁰ Social History Welfare Project, "Thomas Story Kirkbride," accessed March 3, 2015, <http://www.socialwelfarehistory.com/organizations/kirkbride-thomas-story/>.

¹¹ Lorie Garcia, *Agnews: Asylum, Hospital, Developmental Center, 1885-1996* (Santa Clara: Lorie Garcia, 2003), 19.

¹² Ibid., 3.

3. Dr. Leonard Stocking and the Development of the Agnews State Hospital

Dr. Leonard Stocking was the superintendent of the Agnews State Hospital (as it was subsequently renamed in the early twentieth century) from 1903 to 1931. Stocking was involved in the physical reconstruction of the original campus (West Campus) and the foundation of the Annex (East Campus), and he influenced the prevailing institutional philosophy towards mental health. He was the first superintendent to envision the facility as a place of rehabilitation rather than long-term detention. Prior to Stocking's tenure, the concept behind mental health treatment in California consisted of housing the maximum volume of patients in order to remove them from the general population.¹³ Stocking, however, believed that "mental hospitals should provide facilities to treat patients who could be cured and released back to society, pointing out that these types of facilities would also provide for research, which could 'lead to more knowledge and more successful treatment.'"¹⁴

After the 1906 Earthquake, Stocking guided the reconstruction of the Agnews campus in conjunction with George C. Sellon and Leonard Willeke of the Office of the State Architect. The State Legislature had allocated \$1.5 million to reconstruct Agnews. Stocking's new plan for the campus called for both the elimination of all asylum features—barred windows, padded cells, screens and physical restraints—and the incorporation of a bucolic, park-like setting. The "Stocking-Sellon Plan" that was developed for the rebuilt campus derived elements from the Garden City movement.¹⁵ Originating in turn-of-the-century Britain, this movement broadly advocated for the incorporation of urban and rural environments, specifically for the introduction of greenbelts amidst residential areas. Accordingly, the new hospital campus was organized around a large central park space lined with trees and surrounded by a collection of buildings. This de-centralized facility focused on smaller, low-rise buildings, constructed of reinforced concrete—a common structural system used in post-earthquake buildings. The new hospital buildings were designed in the California Mission or Mediterranean Revival style, including architectural elements such as tile roofs, rustic wooden balconies, porch columns and banisters, and decorative tile patterns. These architectural styles allowed the hospital to reflect California's colonial history. Surrounding the main park space were service buildings and staff residences. By 1909, George C. Sellon left the Office of the State Architect and was eventually replaced by George McDougall in 1913. McDougall finished up work on the Agnews campus, and by 1915, the most important buildings had been completed, including the treatment buildings, receiving wards, offices, and assembly hall. While not an architect, Stocking participated in the design of each of the buildings. He ensured that they provided the maximum amount of light and air. As noted in a 1915 account of the hospital,

In the entire hospital there is not a basement room. Every room is well lighted, well-heated and well ventilated. There are no dark corners and

¹³ *Ibid.*, 39.

¹⁴ Eva Charlotte Reid, "Agnew's State Hospital, Agnew, California – An Institution 'Dreamed Out' by Leonard Stocking – The Dream Came True – Making a Unique Home and Hospital for the Mentally Sick," *The Modern Hospital* 4 (May 1915).

¹⁵ Garcia, *Agnews: Asylum, Hospital, Developmental Center, 1885-1996*, 41.

no dust catchers. Everywhere are flush panel doors, round corners and coves. Every ward has a porch so situated as to exclude neither light nor air from the ward. Every dormitory has cross ventilation – windows on both sides. Every sleeping room has sunshine and every dining room has windows on two, and most of them on three sides. The laboratories, operating and special treatment rooms and photographic gallery are on the north side [...] No two of the cottages are alike. Each one was specially designed for a particular class of patients and designed and equipped so as to best fulfill its purpose [...] Every detail of construction [...] has received the most careful and painstaking attention of Dr. Stocking.¹⁶

In terms of care, Stocking also instituted a refined system of patient classification, so that quieter patients were separated from noisy and excited ones, and the terminally ill were separated from those in good physical health. Patients were constantly occupied by recreational activities, social functions, and work in the surrounding agricultural fields. Exercise played a significant role in treatment, and accordingly the hospital grounds incorporated a number of open spaces, gardens, gymnasiums, baseball fields, and drilling areas.¹⁷

Stocking asserted that the Agnews facility contributed to mental health rehabilitation. He stated, “The purpose of the Agnews complex; It [sic] is not simply to cure mental cases but to study the causes of mental health.”¹⁸ Elsewhere he wrote:

Briefly, the modern Hospital worthy of the name has abolished physical restraint—muffs, wristlets, cribs, strait-jackets, as relics of the dark ages. Neat dormitories, cozy single rooms, pleasant sitting rooms, home-like dining rooms, pictures, plants, rugs, birds, curtains, open windows, unlocked doors, have been substituted for restraint, dark corridors, and bare walls. Instead of solitary idleness there is now occupation and recreation. In place of deadening drugs—hydrotherapy. Laboratories to aid in understanding have taken the place of superstition and fanaticism.¹⁹

Stocking’s philosophy was considered highly progressive in comparison to the prevalent treatments used during this time period. He pushed for more scientific measures to be employed in psychiatric treatment and hired only staff with the highest qualifications. Ultimately, he became known within the psychiatric community as the “Dean of California Psychiatrists,” a title that he carried until his death in 1931.

¹⁶ Reid, “Agnew’s State Hospital, Agnew, California,” 3.

¹⁷ Garcia, *Agnews, Hospital, Developmental Center*, 61.

¹⁸ Reid, “Agnew’s State Hospital, Agnew, California,” 52.

¹⁹ Leonard Stocking, “Treating of Our Mentally Ill: Being a True Portrayal of the Conception and Treatment of Insanity since the Dark Ages,” (September 1928), quoted in Garcia, *Agnews: Asylum, Hospital, Developmental Center, 1885-1996*, 54.

4. The Annex and the Colony Plan

In 1926, during Dr. Stocking's tenure as superintendent, the Agnews State Hospital acquired 426 acres of agricultural land on the east side of the Guadalupe River, approximately one and one-half miles away from the existing hospital. Dr. Stocking proceeded to develop this site in order to expand hospital facilities in keeping with his mental health philosophy. Held in comparison to the existing hospital (West Campus), the new campus—known as the Annex, as well as the Colony, the Farm, and the East Campus—can be viewed as an evolution of Stocking's philosophies on mental health.

The Annex was designed according to the “colony” plan. The main guiding concept was that each ward or housing building functioned as a separate and independent unit. No central powerhouse, boiler room, or universal kitchen was planned for the site as a whole. As represented in an initial rendering of the grounds published in the *San José Mercury News*, the campus layout was conceived of as a grouping of six ward buildings radially sited around a central, ellipse-shaped park space, and intersected by a network of diagonal roads, paths, and two broad boulevard parks. Trees and other vegetation played an important role in the site plan and were to be planted in continuous belts along the campus's automobile roads. Service buildings and staff apartments were sited outside of the main hospital area but in close proximity to the rest of the buildings. The East Campus colony plan was originally intended to cover one hundred acres, with the remainder of the site dedicated to farmland. This land would ultimately become part of the occupational therapy program at the main campus and Annex.²⁰

According to the January 1931 newspaper article detailing the Annex, the colony plan represented a revolutionary institutional planning concept.²¹ The colony plan was implemented on the Annex site by the Office of the State Architect under the direction and supervision of State Architect George B. McDougall, who designed the buildings. For the Annex, McDougall chose the Spanish Colonial Revival style, which had been used for buildings constructed on the West Campus in the 1920s and was considered compatible with the California Mission/Mediterranean Revival styles of the original West Campus. Spanish Colonial Revival elements included red tile roofs, stucco cladding on exterior walls, and ornamental wrought iron railings and window grilles. The Office of the State Architect commonly designed in this style in order to associate their buildings with California's Spanish colonial history.

5. George B. McDougall and the California Department of Public Works, Division of Architecture

George B. McDougall was born in San Francisco on October 11, 1868 and trained under his father, noteworthy California architect Barnett McDougall. George and his brothers, Charles and Benjamin, all practiced in their father's firm before establishing their own, which they ran from 1896 to 1913. Benjamin McDougall practiced first out of Bakersfield and subsequently Fresno, but he struck out on his own following the 1906 San Francisco

²⁰ Jim Chesnutt, “\$2,500,000 Project at Agnew,” *San José Mercury News*, January 1931.

²¹ Ibid.

Earthquake.²² George and Charles operated the firm's San Francisco office, and their significant contracts in the city included the Calvary Presbyterian Church at 2501 Fillmore Street, the Y.M.C.A. Building at 220 Golden Gate Avenue, and the Park Branch Library at 1833 Page Street.

The McDougall Brothers firm was dissolved in 1913 after George was appointed State Architect within the California Department of Public Works. In 1921, McDougall became the Chief of the Department of Architecture. He was specifically responsible for supervising the design and construction of public buildings in San Francisco and Sacramento,²³ although his office was involved in designing educational and medical institutions throughout the state. As described in the National Register of Historic Places nomination form completed for the West Campus of the Agnews State Hospital:

As State Architect for 25 years, during a period when California's population and economy grew enormously and when the role of the State in public affairs expanded far beyond its place in the 19th century, McDougall oversaw the largest production of any architectural office in California. Among projects built under his name were a teachers' college in San Diego (1935); the Whittier State School (1923); buildings at the School for Girls in Ventura, the Home for the Adult Blind in Oakland, and the State Normal School in Santa Barbara; buildings for the Port of San Francisco including the Agriculture Building and the piers and pier bulkhead buildings along the Embarcadero; and buildings at several state hospitals including Napa, Patton, Norwalk, and Agnews.²⁴

During the 1930s, the Division of Architecture within the Department of Public Works employed approximately 58 staff members. At the time of the East Campus's construction, George McDougall's architectural designer was P.T. Poage, and his deputy chief was Wesley K. Daniels. A landscape design section was established in 1938.²⁵ McDougall served as division chief until his retirement that same year, and he died on April 20, 1957.²⁶

6. Initial Construction of the Agnews State Hospital Annex

The first buildings constructed on the Annex site were two nearly identical colony wards, Ward Unit No. 1 (now Building 51) and Ward Unit No. 2 (Building 52). Plans were drawn up by the Division of Architecture within the California Department of Public Works in 1930, and the buildings were completed the following year. Extremely complex in arrangement, the buildings reflected Dr. Stocking's colony plan treatment philosophies. Each building was formed by a central 'H'-shaped plan with four branching ward wings, creating a series of exterior courtyards. The individual wings contained two wards—one

²² John Edward Powell, "Biography: McDougall Bros.," last modified March 29, 1997, <http://www.fresno.edu/preserve/bio/mcdougal.htm>.

²³ "Road Engineer to Head State Public Works," *San Francisco Chronicle*, July 28, 1921, 5.

²⁴ National Register of Historic Places, Agnews Insane Asylum, Santa Clara, Santa Clara County, California, National Register #97000829, 8-6, 8-7.

²⁵ *Ibid.*, 8-5, 8-6.

²⁶ Powell, "Biography: McDougall Bros."

per floor—totaling eight within each building; the wards could hold fifty patients apiece. The new colony buildings were intended for “chronic” patients and therefore were planned for long-term patients.²⁷ Following Dr. Stocking’s principles, these separate ward “colonies” functioned as independent treatment units with shared kitchen and dining areas.

Ward Units No. 1 and 2, placed facing one another across the broad boulevard park now known as Panighetti Park, were designed with floor plans identical to one another—although their projecting boiler room wings and surrounding service courtyards were placed on opposite sides of their respective buildings, creating an impression of mirror-image reflection.

Additional buildings designed and constructed at the Annex by the California Division of Architecture in 1931 included two residential buildings containing employee apartments, as well as two associated automobile garages. All were built at the southwest corner of the campus—and while none had designs approaching the complexity of the ward buildings, all new construction on the campus was designed with shared elements of the Spanish Colonial Revival architectural style. The apartment buildings and garages were constructed of concrete walls with exterior stucco cladding, crowned with multi-ridge gabled roofs covered in half-round clay tiles. The apartment buildings featured large, arched central passageways to match the entrances of the two larger wards. The garages had vents projecting above their roofs, which were unusually elaborate features for utilitarian buildings of this kind. In addition, the garages were attached to stucco-clad walls that flanked Anza Road and terminated in peaked piers, forming a gate at the main entrance to the campus.

An octagonal water tower was constructed as a component of the campus’s infrastructure, but it was also designed with a level of ornamental detail to match the surrounding buildings, with an upper parapet featuring tapering brackets and rounded-tile grates. According to original drawings for the tower, a tiled, conical roof was intended for the top of the upper water tank, but it does not appear that this roof was ever installed—although a copper finial was attached at the peak of the roof as planned.

While the majority of campus buildings were completed in 1931, the Annex opened on October 10, 1932, with a capacity of 1,500 patients.²⁸ Patients were received from other mental health facilities in California, and capacity was quickly reached. According to statistical reports from this time period, the institution’s population consisted primarily of people being treated for mental, alcoholic, and narcotic issues. According to an account entitled “Agnews Annex – October 10, 1932. First Year”:

Ward B, first ward to be opened October 10, 1932, 51 patients from A. S. H. [Agnews State Hospital]. October 15 received to Women’s Division 200 patients from Norwalk. October 22 received to Men’s Division 200 men from Patton.²⁹

²⁷ E.W. Mullen to J.M. Toner, “Agnews State Hospital: History,” December 10, 1931, 4.

²⁸ *Statistical Report of the Department of Institutions of the State of California* (Sacramento: California State Printing Office, 1935), 9.

²⁹ Horace E. and Mary Collett, “Agnews Annex—October 10, 1932. First Year,” 1933.

This same account details the site, which was described as follows:

The first building as one enters the grounds is the Nurses and Employees home. The Monte Vista and Sycamore Drive [currently Anza Road East and Anza Road West] separate the man and women's division. Each building has eight wards, capacity of each ward 50, equipped with its own heating and refrigeration system. The front and back wards are separated by a massive kitchen. The kitchen and dining room is always the center of interest and activity. The modern and up-to-date equipment adds a great deal to the wholesome preparation of the food. All the vegetables and fruit used on the tables are grown and cared for on the Farm by the men patients.³⁰

The campus's setting in rural Santa Clara County supported its agricultural therapy program. Limited information on the farming operations of the hospital has been uncovered—but as the quotation above reveals, male patients at the East Campus worked in fields and orchards run by the Agnews State Hospital, starting the first year the Annex opened. It remains unclear where the fields or other facilities were located during this first decade, although a hospital master plan prepared in 1959 stated that the farm area at that time was located north of the East Campus alongside Coyote Creek, containing a barn, implement shed, greenhouse, vegetable processing building, vegetable shed, old colony building, carpentry shops, well, tank houses, and employee's residence.

As demand remained steady at the Agnews State Hospital, one further ward building—Ward Unit No. 3 (Building 53)—was constructed north of Ward Unit No. 2, within an additional wedge-shaped parcel of the campus's original radial site plan. This building was also designed by the Division of Architecture within the California Department of Public Works, based closely on the two previously constructed ward buildings. The primary difference was that arrangement of spaces at the center of Ward Unit No. 3 was altered from the design of the earlier wards, with a large central patient dining room attached to a side wing containing an employees' dining room. In addition, the kitchen was not located at the exact center of the building with a hipped roof; rather, it was located in a side wing alongside the boiler room. Apart from these changes to the original ward plans, Building 53 was largely identical to Buildings 51 and 52 in its floor plan and exterior design.

With the construction of Ward Unit No. 3, the original campus design for the Annex became half realized. No subsequent developments, however, appear to have been faithful this initial plan. While statistical reports from the late 1930s to the mid-1940s show that the capacity of the facility was consistently maximized and often overloaded, little construction occurred on the Annex during this time period, except for the construction of two small staff cottages (Buildings No. 150 and 151), completed in 1941. These two cottages were the only two such buildings ever completed within the campus, despite plans for additional single-family staff residences.

³⁰ Ibid.

7. From Colony Plan to Institution

A new medical director and superintendent, Dr. Walter Rapaport, stepped forward to guide the Agnews State Hospital's development during the 1940s. Rapaport led the institution as medical director from 1947 to 1953, and eventually he became director of the State of California's Department of Mental Hygiene. Rapaport was instrumental in securing funding for the Agnews State Hospital. In 1946, the Department of Mental Hygiene funded major construction projects at Agnews State Hospital. While most of this funding went to construction on the main campus, some minor alterations were made at the Annex site, including improvements to the ward facilities.³¹ During this time period, the Annex became known as the East area or East Campus. According to the California Department of Mental Hygiene's *Biennial Report for 1950-1952*, the Annex continued its agricultural therapy program, as "Much of the land [surrounding the ward buildings] is devoted to the raising of fruit, vegetables, and livestock."³²

According to the 1954-1955 *Statistical Report of the Department of Mental Hygiene*, Agnews State Hospital received \$3.7 million for a new receiving and treatment center.³³ In 1959, the Receiving and Treatment Building (now known as Building 54, or the Rapaport Building) was completed on the East Campus, north of the colony buildings, at a total cost of \$4.1 million.³⁴ This building was the first major construction project on the Annex site in over a decade. Its design was contemporary in style, as expressed in its modern materials and simple concrete forms, and represented a striking departure from the Spanish Colonial Revival style employed throughout the campus during the 1930s. The new building contained 185,000 square feet of space and could accommodate 512 patients within its seven wards. The building was designed under the direction of State Architect Anson Boyd and supervising architect Alfred Eichler, who completed several other buildings on the East Campus, such as the Main Kitchen (1957), Boiler Plant (1958), and Administration Building (1960). The construction of these elements did not align with Stocking's colony plan philosophy, which called for self-sustaining, low-rise buildings. With the completion of these new facilities at the East Campus, the Agnews State Hospital took steps towards becoming a typical modern hospital, primarily focused on scientific and medical treatments.

In 1959, Eichler also executed one of the first documented master plans for the East Campus. Eichler's plan developed upon the existing campus, which consisted of the colony buildings (wards, staff apartments, and water tower), staff residences, receiving and treatment building, administration building, infrastructure, and the kitchen and farming area. New buildings envisioned for the East Campus included additional six H-shaped wards, chapel, auditorium, student nurses' classrooms, rehabilitation pavilion, additional employee residences and apartments, new carpentry shops and mechanical buildings, warehouses, and garages. Under this plan, the East Campus would expand northwards, in close proximity to the small farming area. The only buildings actually

³¹ Dr. Walter Rapaport and Dr. Hyman, "Agnews State Hospital, Agnew, California: A Facility of the Department of Mental Hygiene," October 1955.

³² State of California Department of Mental Hygiene, *Biennial Report for 1950-1952* (1953), 5.

³³ *Statistical Report of the Department of Mental Hygiene, State of California* (Sacramento: State of California Printing Office, 1955).

³⁴ State of California, Department of Public Works Division of Architecture, *Receiving and Treatment Building, Agnews State Hospital, Department of Mental Hygiene*, 1959.

constructed on the East Campus based on this plan were three chapels (Protestant, Catholic, and Jewish), completed in 1963. These three buildings were designed by the Department of Public Works Division of Architecture at a cost of \$489,000. They were partially funded through volunteer efforts and the State Advisory Committee on Institutional Religion.³⁵

8. Agnews Developmental Center

In the decades after the chapels were completed in 1963, little building occurred on the East Campus. Despite the lack of construction, major events in the mental health field guided the future of the entire Agnews State Hospital. Prior to the 1960s, people with mental illness and intellectual disabilities were often grouped together in the same mental health institutions. In 1966, Agnews began to transition to a facility for individuals with developmental disabilities, and it received 534 individuals transferred from Fairview, Pacific, Porterville, and Sonoma State Hospitals. In 1967, the Lanterman-Petris-Short Act of California mandated the transfer of all mentally ill from state hospitals to community facilities.³⁶ Finally, the 1971 Lanterman Act closed the DeWitt, Mendocino, and Modesto state hospitals in the process of restructuring California's entire mental health system. As a result of these changes, Agnews became a regional facility serving solely developmentally disabled clients. The facility was commonly referred to as the Agnews Residential Facility, and in 1985 the Agnews State Hospital was renamed the Agnews Developmental Center.

As part of a state developmental center, the East Campus housed clients in numerous program units in Buildings 51, 52, and 53; generally each of these three buildings contained six residential units, with the remaining two units used for administration or therapy purposes. Each program unit was focused on a particular subset of the facility's residents, including senior citizens, clients with psychiatric disorders, children and adolescents, and behaviorally active clients. Medically fragile clients resided in the Rapaport Building (originally the Receiving and Training Building), where they had access to more intensive supervision and care. Each program unit was staffed by a program director and assistants, as well as by a team of nurses, doctors, social workers, and therapists.³⁷

Ultimately, the facility focused upon its community programs, which enabled developmentally disabled people to live in smaller communities, thus moving away from the larger institutional state hospital model. The number of residents at Agnews decreased from 1,000 in 1992 to 775 in 1995.³⁸

At the same time as this change in treatment philosophy, the Santa Clara Valley experienced rapid development due to the area's growing high-tech industry; real estate prices around San José rose accordingly. In 1996, the State of California declared the West Campus surplus property. This property was ultimately sold to Sun Microsystems

³⁵ "Chapels for Three Faiths Dedicated At Agnews," *San José News*, January 23, 1963.

³⁶ Garcia, *Agnews, Hospital, Developmental Center*, 77-78.

³⁷ Angela Vrbanc-Libby, interviewed by Jonathon Rusch, Santa Clara, California, April 21, 2015.

³⁸ Garcia, *Agnews, Hospital, Developmental Center*, 84.

for \$149 million, the largest sale of state surplus real estate at the time. With the closure of the West Campus, the Agnews Developmental Center was consolidated in the facilities on the East Campus. To accommodate the facility, the hospital built several temporary and semi-permanent buildings and structures on the East Campus site. These buildings included the Marion Bracken Education and Training Center, the Auto Compound, the Multi-Purpose Building, and a series of modular buildings located throughout the site and around the Rapaport Building.

Former staff members recall having heard as early as the 1980s that the entire Agnews facility was planned to shut down, but the eventual closure of East Agnews first became apparent during the early 2000s. In the years leading up to closure, parents and other family members of clients advocated to legislators and state-level staff of the Department of Developmental Services in order to plan for high-quality community housing.³⁹

By March 2006, the East Campus's population had dropped to 285 clients, and the facility ultimately concluded its residential treatment programs in 2009. Clients were gradually relocated to 61 community houses (operated by private companies but funded by the State of California) constructed for this purpose throughout the San José region.⁴⁰ Approximately 40 staff members, however, remained at the campus to operate an outpatient clinic until its ultimate closure in 2011.⁴¹

As had occurred over a decade before at the West Campus, the State of California declared the East Agnews Developmental Center surplus property following the hospital's closure. The Department of General Services subsequently made the full 81-acre property available for sale. In 2014, 59 acres of the campus were sold to the Santa Clara Unified School District (SCUSD), with the remainder of the property acquired by the City of San José. The SCUSD purchased the portion of the property that contains the hospital's historic campus and has developed plans to construct a new K-12 educational facility on the site.

³⁹ Joanie Pepper, interviewed by Jonathon Rusch, phone interview, April 28, 2015.

⁴⁰ Elizabeth Fernandez, "Agnews Closure Delayed While Homes are Built," *San Francisco Chronicle*, July 4, 2008, B5.

⁴¹ Angela Vrbanc-Libby, interviewed by Jonathon Rusch.

PART II. LANDSCAPE INFORMATION

A. General Statement

I. Landscape Character

The subject property encompasses approximately 59 acres of generally level land, containing the historic designed landscape of the Agnews State Hospital Annex campus. Planned and developed between 1930 and 1939, the campus landscape is formed by a network of formally placed roadways and vegetation patterns that surround eight historic buildings that include client residential buildings, employee housing, and support facilities. The historic landscape represents half of an elliptical site originally envisioned for the hospital, so that the roadways create a semicircular or crescent-shaped area containing the three large residential buildings. Additional buildings are located alongside Anza Road, the original entrance drive to the campus that currently terminates in a cul-de-sac at the southwestern corner of the campus property.

Vegetation that appears to be original to the site includes edge belts of mature trees that line roadways, as well as trees of a variety of species that are grouped throughout the yards surrounding the residential buildings. The trees offer the campus a forested quality that reflects the original therapeutic intentions for the hospital as proposed by Dr. Leonard Stocking. Panighetti Park, a boulevard park radiating from the center of the original site plan, is a defining component of the landscape due to the strong visual impact created by the belts of trees that line either edge. The residential buildings are edged with planting beds that currently contain a variety of shrub species; it is not known which of these, if any, date to the original construction of the site.

The landscape has been altered over time through the construction of modern buildings, small-scale features, and other interventions such as surface parking areas. In spite of these changes, the extant historic landscape is discernable through automobile and pedestrian circulation patterns, formal patterns of trees alongside roadways and Panighetti Park, and historic buildings that share the Spanish Colonial Revival architectural style.

2. Condition of Landscape

The campus landscape of the East Agnews Developmental Center is in moderate condition. Since the closure of the hospital in 2009, the landscape has not been kept up extensively beyond the basic maintenance of the grass cover and automobile roadways. Belts of trees lining roadways, as well as groupings of trees surrounding Buildings 51, 52, and 53, appear to date to the first decade of the campus and generally appear to be healthy. It is not known if any of the ornamental shrubs currently planted alongside the buildings date to the original construction of the hospital; these plantings have been removed at certain building façades, while in other areas the shrubs have been left in place and, in some instances, have become heavily overgrown.

A. Character-Defining Features

I. Natural Features

a. Topography

The East Agnews Developmental Center campus occupies a largely level site with an elevation of approximately 20' above sea level. This appears to have been the condition of the site when the State of California acquired the land in 1926; available information on the history of the hospital does not indicate that extensive regrades were required for original construction or later development.

b. Vegetation

The historic campus of the East Agnews Developmental Center features character-defining vegetation patterns that date to the hospital's original construction and have developed over the ensuing several decades. As Dr. Leonard Stocking envisioned a shaded, bucolic environment to aid in patient treatment, the campus is planted with a variety of trees and ornamental shrubs and bushes. Grass covers the entire site apart from paved roadways and walks, creating a park-like setting surrounding the campus buildings and within their courtyards. The grass is currently maintained by a goat herd that is rotated throughout the campus.

Mature trees of a variety of species are located throughout the campus and are defining elements of the property's designed landscape. Trees were consciously planted to delineate the edges of major circulation paths, as well as to fill open spaces between buildings, thus creating the campus's wooded character. While a planting plan dating to the 1930s has not been located for the entire East Agnews site, historic aerial photographs indicate that many of the trees located along roadways and surrounding the residential buildings date to the hospital's first decade.

Edge belts of Oriental sycamore (*Platanus orientalis*) line both sides of several of the campus's roadways—Balboa Avenue, Cabrillo Street, De Soto Road, and Anza Road—evenly spaced approximately every 50 feet. Similar tree belts are located alongside the outer edges of Anza Road West and Anza Road East. This strategy—particularly along the curvilinear Balboa Avenue and Cabrillo Streets—creates the impression of a dense, formal vegetation pattern within the campus. Other species, including coast live oak (*Quercus agrifolia*), are found occasionally throughout these belts. These nonconforming species disrupt the uniformity of the edge belts and may have been planted to replace original Oriental sycamores. The tree belts are interrupted alongside Balboa Avenue in areas where parking pads were added during the early 1950s. No trees line Cortez Street, and few are located alongside Cabrillo Road near Buildings 51 and 52; tree belts were not planted in these areas originally.

Panighetti Park, the broad boulevard park located between Buildings 51 and 52, is lined by mature, multi-trunk bay laurel trees (*Laurus nobilis*), arranged as two allées alongside the inner edges of Anza West and Anza East. The strong linear axes of these allées accentuate the elongated shape of the park, thus drawing a viewer's eye to focal points at its north and south ends. The distinctive branching patterns and impressive canopies of these trees create the most commanding visual impression within the campus.

Mature trees are placed throughout the residential buildings' courtyards and broader vicinities, arranged by species in small groupings. These trees create a naturalistic, forest-like landscape that contrasts with the formal edge belts located alongside the roadways. Each of the three residential buildings has a grouping of cork oak (*Quercus suber*). Other identified species include white birch (*Betula papyrifera*), blue gum eucalyptus (*Eucalyptus globulus*), Oriental sycamore, and species of poplar and yucca.

Buildings 51, 52, and 53 feature similar ornamental planting schemes within their vicinities. Each building is edged with planting beds that contain a number of different species of shrubs and small trees. Whereas some façades of the three large residential buildings feature no edge plantings, other façades have dense arrangements of unmaintained and overgrown shrubs. Identified species planted alongside the residential buildings include Italian cypress (*Cupressus sempervirens*)—typically arranged in groupings of three, appearing within the service courtyards of Buildings 51 and 52—in addition to bay laurel and desert fan palm (*Washingtonia filifera*). Rose bushes line the exterior courtyard wall at Building 52's south façade.

Buildings 152 and 153 also feature edge plantings and several mature trees within their immediate vicinities. As with the large residential buildings, plantings have been removed from some of the buildings' façades, while in other areas shrubs and trees are dense and overgrown. Additional species found at these buildings include ponderosa pine (*Pinus ponderosa*), prickly pear cactus (*Opuntia*), and date palm (*Phoenix dactylifera*).

c. Water

None

2. Designed Features

a. Land Patterns

The pattern of development within the historic East Agnews campus is the result of its long-term use as a mental health treatment facility. Dr. Leonard Stocking's progressive philosophies for psychiatric care guided the design of

the three ward buildings, with their complex branching wings following his colony plan ideology. Moreover, the extensive use of trees throughout the site created a naturalistic setting thought to be beneficial to those who resided at the facility. Its formal site plan, containing the campus's historic buildings and other landscape features, stands in relief to the buildings and roadways constructed north and east of Cabrillo Street starting in the 1950s. This portion of the campus did not abide by the original site plan and featured modernist institutional architecture that differs substantially from the Spanish Colonial Revival style of the original buildings.

b. Circulation

The East Agnews Developmental Center features concrete paved roadways allowing automobile circulation throughout the campus. The distinctive historic road pattern is still extant, forming a crescent-shaped area of the historic campus that is divided into three wedge-shaped parcels by radial streets, each containing one of the large residential buildings. This arrangement reflects the original ellipse-shaped plan for the campus that was only half realized for the hospital. The sweeping, semi-circular Balboa Avenue marks the outer half-ring of the original street plan, while Cabrillo Street is the inner half-ring that was planned to fully encircle a central, oval-shaped park. Cortez Street, Anza Road East and Anza Road West, De Soto Road, and the northwestern half of Cabrillo Street radiate outwards from the half-ring. Anza East and Anza West, parallel streets located approximately 150' apart, bound the edges of Panighetti Park lying between them. Anza West continues southwest as Anza Road, the historic entrance to the hospital that now ends in a cul-de-sac at the campus's southwest corner. Paved access roads to the residential buildings' service courtyards are also historic to the campus. These roads branch from Cortez Street (for Building 51) and from De Soto Road (for Buildings 52 and 53), widen as they approach their respective buildings, and then join parking and loading aprons within the service courtyards.

Alterations have been made to the campus's automobile circulation routes since it was originally developed in the 1930s. De Soto Road extends west beyond Balboa Avenue to meet Zanker Road, forming one of the main entrances to the campus. The property can also be entered at Center Road, which forms its northern boundary. A short span of road leads north from the intersection of Balboa Avenue and Cabrillo Street (the northernmost point of the historic road pattern) to intersect with Center Road. East Anza Road and Cabrillo Street continue to the northeast and lead through the non-historic area of the campus, which does not abide by the original street plan.

Several surface parking areas have been added within or alongside the historic area of the East Agnews campus. A large automobile storage complex and surface parking lots are located surrounding the historic

employees' residences and garages within the southwestern corner of the campus. In addition, a broad surface parking lot is located south of Building 51, across Balboa Avenue. Several linear parking pads are also located alongside Balboa Avenue and Cabrillo Road.

Paved sidewalks accommodate pedestrian circulation throughout the campus. At Buildings 51, 52, and 53, sidewalks provide access to the primary entrances within the buildings' courtyards. These sidewalks lead through the openings located in the exterior courtyard walls and terminate at the recessed, arched entryways. Additional sidewalks follow alongside the buildings' facades to reach secondary entrance doors. At Buildings 152 and 153, similar paved sidewalks approach the buildings from adjacent roadways and lead through the central, arched passageways.

c. Views and Vistas

Owing to the campus's flat topography, the site does not offer natural vantage points from which to view features of visual interest. Even so, the placement and complex designs of buildings, in addition to vegetation and curvilinear circulation patterns throughout the historic campus, suggest that the site was designed to produce a stimulating and continually shifting visual experience as one moves throughout the campus. In particular, the tree allées that line the otherwise unobstructed Panighetti Park create striking views from its north and south ends. According to original renderings of the site plan, this radial green space would have formed a view towards the elliptical park located at the center of the campus, and then to another boulevard park beyond. As the central park and second half of the campus were never completed, Panighetti Park now forms a focal point northward that ends at a parking strip and Building 28, the main kitchen building constructed during the late 1950s.

Within the eastern portion of the historic campus, the water tower functions as a prominent landmark and is visible from a number of viewpoints along the roadways and throughout the yards surrounding Building 51.

d. Water

None

e. Buildings and Structures

The East Agnews Developmental Center contains eight buildings that date to the 1930s, the first decade of the campus's development. The three immense residential buildings (Buildings 51, 52, and 53) are dominant within the site, each located within a separate wedge-shaped lot bounded by the

radiating streets of the campus's original road layout. Two buildings containing employee residential units (Buildings 152 and 153) are located at the southwest corner of the campus, near two automobile garages (Buildings 154 and 155) that flank Anza Road. These buildings are described in detail in the preceding sections of this report. In addition, the campus's original water tower (Building 263) is located near the eastern boundary of the property, beside Cortez Street and the access drive leading to the service courtyard of Building 51. This building, constructed of reinforced board-formed concrete, is a five-story, tapering, octagonal tower capped by a riveted cylindrical water tank with conical roof. The eight buildings constructed during the 1930s were designed by the California Office of the State Architect, under the supervision of George McDougall, and all feature elements that convey a consistent Spanish Colonial Revival architectural style. Seven of these buildings will be described in greater detail in subsequent sections of this report.

Two near-identical cottages constructed for the hospital's physicians (Buildings 150 and 151) are located along the southeast edge of Anza Road. Dating to the early 1940s, these residences were also designed by the Office of the State Architect and are distinguished from earlier construction within the campus by their less ornate ranch architectural style—although they are clad in plain stucco to match the buildings that preceded them.

Utilitarian support buildings and structures were constructed throughout the property currently owned by the Santa Clara Unified School District, dating to the second half of the twentieth century. Buildings housing plumbing and electrical utilities systems (Buildings 260, 261, and 262), between between the 1950s-1970s, surround the base of the water tower. A cluster of simple, gabled buildings with elongated rectangular plans (Buildings 18, 28, 19, 20 and 21), constructed in 1997, form an automobile compound alongside Balboa Avenue southwest of Building 52. A large multi-purpose building (Building 30) is located northwest of Building 53, near the northern boundary of the hospital property. The campus also contains several simple, hipped-roof modular buildings constructed in 1999 following the closure of the West Campus. Two of these (Buildings 15 and 16) are located alongside Cortez Street east of Building 51, while the remaining four (Buildings 22, 23, 24, and 25) stand near the intersection of Balboa Road and De Soto Road. Other small storage buildings and bathroom facilities are located throughout the property.

Additional buildings within the East Agnews Developmental Center campus are located northeast of the historic campus, occupying land currently owned by the City of San José. The Rapaport Building (Building 54) is an immense, Modernist-style medical facility that dominates this portion of the campus. Several small, flat-roofed equipment and support buildings (Buildings 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6) are located adjacent to Building 54. To the northwest of Building 54 is the flat-roofed, U-shaped Administration Building (Building 55). South of Building 54 are the Kitchen Building (Building 28), Boiler Building

(Building 7), a cluster of modular support buildings (Buildings 8, 9, 10, and 11), and three religious buildings (Buildings 12, 13, and 14).

f. Small-Scale Elements

Two modern entrance signs are located at the primary entrances to the campus: the intersection of Zanker Road and Center Road, and the intersection of De Soto Road and Zanker Road. The signs are formed by metal panels with a painted, textured surface to appear as stucco on concrete. Each sign features a broad metal beveled-edge panel with large raised letters spelling “Agnews.” Vinyl panels reading “Santa Clara Unified School District” have been applied over existing raised text.

Buildings 51, 52, and 53 feature wood identification signs located beside the openings into the courtyards surrounding the buildings’ primary entrances. These signs are formed by posts carrying shaped boards. Each identifies the building number and four numbered program units that can be accessed through the corresponding entrance.

Other small-scale features located within the subject area include the following: chain-link fencing along the perimeter of the campus, surrounding areas of lawn at Buildings 51, 52, and 53, and encircling the base of the water tower; utilities infrastructure such as fire hydrants and exposed metal pipes; traffic signage; recreational equipment such as basketball hoops within the courtyards of Building 52; and streetlights alongside roadways.

g. Archeological Sites

Unknown

h. Other

None

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION: BUILDING 51

A. General Statement

I. Architectural Character

Building 51 is a Spanish Colonial Revival-style residential building constructed in 1931 to house patients of the Agnews State Hospital Annex. The building, originally known as Ward Unit #1, was constructed simultaneously to Building 52 (Ward Unit #2), a nearly identical building based on the same architectural plans and located across the Panighetti Park boulevard. Building 51 has an irregular, modified 'H' floor plan consisting of numerous intersecting volumes. At the center of the building is a one-story square kitchen volume. It is adjoined by one-story arms, containing dining areas, that lead north and south. These volumes form the central axis of the building; they intersect two two-story wings that are oriented with perpendicular axes. The wings have various projections containing residential rooms, which branch off in irregular patterns. A one-story boiler room wing is attached to the east side of the central kitchen. The roof of the kitchen is hipped with a continuous band of clerestory windows; all other volumes of the building have gabled roofs. At the west façade, a one-story flat-roof addition is attached to the central kitchen. The building stands on a concrete slab foundation and has a concrete structural system. The building's exterior walls are clad in stucco, and the wood-frame roof is covered in half-round clay tiles. A molded stucco cornice is located underneath the eaves on all non-gabled walls of the building.

The building's complex plan, with many wings branching from the central axis, creates courtyards located around the exterior of the building. The courtyards at the north and south façades surround the primary, arched entrances to the building. These courtyards are enclosed by stucco-clad walls with central rectangular openings, which feature clay tile coping roofs. A large service courtyard, located at the east façade, surrounds the boiler room wing and contains loading platforms with modern, flat metal roofs.

The exterior doors on the building are primarily modern, partially-glazed metal replacements. The building has numerous styles of windows across its façades. Many are steel-sash, divided-light casement windows variously arranged with three, six, eight, nine, and twelve lights. The building also features bands of second-story rounded-arch windows, containing twelve-light steel-sash casement windows, that correspond to areas at the north and south façades that were originally built as porches. The boiler room wing features twenty-four-light steel-sash windows. Above each of the arched main entrances to the building is a wrought-iron balcony with scrolled brackets, positioned in front of a paired, glazed five-light wood door. In addition, the building features two wrought-iron boxed grilles with rosette details—one each on the north façade and south façade.

Building 51 has several non-original exterior staircases. Four are half-turn staircases with sloped stucco walls to match the main body of the building, and they adjoin two-story, flat-roofed additions with egress doors located at the east and west façades of the residential wings. These additions replaced one-story, shed-roof projections that were

original to the building. Four straight-run staircases, formed by cast concrete treads and steel railings, are located within the building's exterior courtyards.

Building 51's roof features two prominent towers located above the primary entrances, where the central axis of the building intersects with the side wings. Circular tile vents are arranged on the walls of each tower; the pyramidal roofs are clad in clay tiles. The peaks of the tower roofs feature metal ball finials with sheet metal weather vanes. The building's roof also features many projecting stucco-clad vents, some featuring sloped, triangular cast concrete caps. The boiler room wing features a tapered chimney, with round tile vents on its sides, that rises approximately 15' from the roof ridge. Tile vents are found in many of the building's gable ends.

While Building 51's interior features and finishes have been altered substantially since it was constructed, the original spatial configuration of the building—related to Dr. Leonard Stocking's "colony plan" ideals—has been largely retained. Located across two floors and four wings, eight self-contained wings radiate from the building's central kitchen and dining room core. The wings are arranged so that one enters a large reception and social room with attached porch before proceeding into corridors lined with residential rooms, offices, lavatories, and washing and dressing rooms. Each corridor terminates with one or two dormitory rooms.

2. Condition of Fabric

Building 51 is in poor to fair condition. The exterior walls, windows, and roof materials all appear to be largely intact, although areas of cracks, spalling, discoloration, delaminated paint, and rusting have been observed. The lower half of a large boiler house window has been covered with plywood boards.

Extensive damage is found within the interior, as vandals have intruded and removed copper piping from walls throughout the building.

B. Description of Exterior

1. Overall Dimensions

The kitchen and dining room volumes that comprise the central 'H' within Building 51's irregular plan measure between 60' and 100' long and approximately 40' wide. Each of the building's branching dormitory wings measures approximately 25' x 45'. The footprint of Building 51 covers an area measuring approximately 400' x 300'.

2. Foundations

Building 51 stands on a concrete slab foundation.

3. Walls

The walls of Building 51 are formed by concrete and covered on the exterior by cement stucco.

4. Structural System & Framing

Building 51 has a concrete structural system, formed by columns engaged in interior walls that support concrete beams carrying the floors plates above. Interior partition walls are framed in wood. The intersecting gables of the building's roof are framed by a system of timber trusses.

5. Porches, Stoops, Balconies, Porticoes, & Bulkheads

Building 51 features two wrought-iron balconies, located above the building's arched entrances on the north and south façades. The balconies are formed by scrolled brackets supporting the balcony platform, which is surrounded by spiral balusters. The handrail features ball finials at its corners.

The building has eight exterior staircases that reach second-story emergency egress doors; none are original to the building. Four are half-turn, with stucco-clad walls sloped to match the rise of the steps. The remaining four are straight-run concrete staircases with landings surrounded by simple steel railings.

First-story doors that open to the exterior courtyards feature modern concrete landings with metal pipe railings.

6. Chimneys

Building 51 features one chimney, which rises approximately 15' from the roof of the boiler room. This chimney is clad in stucco and tapers slightly through its rise, terminating with a simple cornice below a stepped-back cap. Immediately below the cornice, each chimney face features an arrangement of sixteen rounded tile vents.

The building also has twenty historic vents, located across its various roof forms above the building's residential wings. The wings feature stucco vents with a single or paired cap of sloped, triangular cast concrete over metal lath. The building also features simple vents with no caps. Most vents project from the roof ridge, although some rise flush with the exterior wall.

In addition, the building features several non-historic vents with metal louvered panels and metal hipped roofs.

7. Openings

a. Doorways and Doors

The stucco walls that enclose the north and south courtyards have central rectangular openings. Paved concrete walks lead through these openings to reach the building's main entrances. The wall rises to form these openings and features a simple coping roof, covered in rounded clay tiles with a grouted tile ridge cap. The openings feature concrete lintels; iron gates were originally outfitted at these openings but have subsequently been removed.

Building 51 features two arched main entrances, located at the center of the building's north and south façades. The entrances are recessed within exterior vestibules, accessed through arched openings with molded-stucco surrounds. As on Buildings 52 and 53, each vestibule features a band of painted and glazed decorative tiles; the tile design is unique to Building 51 and features a multi-color flower motif. Each of these entrances is accessed by a disability access ramp, flanked by sloped walls containing raised planting beds. The main entrances contain partially glazed metal doors, featuring upper lights of chicken-wire glass.

Other entrances to the building primarily contain modern, partially-glazed steel doors featuring wire glass. They are located on the first and second stories, opening to exterior stairs, as well as in the service courtyard. One partially-glazed steel door with fifteen upper lights is located at one loading platform; other doors within this area include paired, louvered doors. The boiler house is accessed through oversized, paired steel doors with louvered lower grates.

b. Windows and Shutters

Building 51 features steel-sash, divided-light windows arranged across the building's façades according to evenly-spaced bays. Windows differ by size, as well as by number and arrangement of lights. The most common window type on the building is an eight-light casement window that opens from center. Other variations include three-light, six-light, nine-light, and twelve-light steel-sash casement windows. The building features strings of rounded arches at first- and second-story porches within the residential wings. While the second-story porches feature twelve-light casement windows shaped with rounded tops to fit their arches, the first-story porches contain rectangular, twelve-sash windows surrounded by areas of stucco fill. The gabled ends of the boiler room contain twenty-four-light windows, with the uppermost eight lights operating as awning windows.

Decorative treatments are found at several of the building's windows. Two window arrangements are formed by a twelve-light window flanked by eight-light windows; the windows are divided by wood posts with chamfered corners, supporting shaped brackets underneath a slightly projecting concrete lintel with angled ends. Arched windows feature simple projecting stucco sills and molded stucco capitals. Two of the building's eight-light windows, located at the north and south façades, are located

behind decorative wrought-iron boxed grilles with rosette ornamentation, supporting a small stucco hood with molded cornice. No windows on the building feature shutters.

Above each of the building's arched, exterior entry vestibules is a pair of five-light wood doors opening to a wrought-iron balcony.

The square kitchen volume located at the center of the building has a hipped roof that is broken by a continuous band of clerestory windows, formed by a ribbon of six steel-sash windows on each façade. Those located on the west and east façades are fixed, four-light windows, while those located on the north and south façades have two lights and are hopper windows operated using an interior hand wheel mechanism.

8. Roof

a. Roof Shape, Covering

Building 5 I has a complex, cross-gabled roof formed by numerous intersecting volumes. The center of the building, containing the kitchen, has a hipped roof whose slopes are interrupted by a band of clerestory windows. This roof adjoins gabled volumes that lead north and south, over the interior dining areas, to meet the gabled roofs of the residential wings. These wings run perpendicular to the central axis of the building and intersect with additional gabled roofs belonging to the irregular, branching arrangement of wings that contain rooms. A gabled volume is attached to the southeast side of the central kitchen and joins with the side-gabled boiler room. Flat roofs are found above additions that adjoin the central kitchen and wings. Flat metal roofs are found above loading platforms within the service courtyard.

All hipped and gabled roof forms are covered with regularly laid half-round, tapered clay tiles. The building's roof ridges are covered with ridge caps formed by similar tiles grouted in place.

b. Cornice, Eaves

The non-gabled exterior walls of Building 5 I feature molded stucco cornices underneath the eaves.

c. Dormers, Cupolas, Towers

The building features two towers, located above the main entrances where the central axis intersects the perpendicular side wings. The towers are square in shape and project from the roof ridge. They feature arrangements of rounded tile vents, molded stucco cornices, and hipped roofs covered with half-round clay tiles. At the peak of each tower roof is a molded stucco base carrying a metal ball finial ornament

with decorative weather vane cut from sheet metal. The weather vane is shaped as a banner, with a cross enclosed within a square.

C. Description of Interior

I. Floor Plan

The irregular floor plan of Building 51 reflects Dr. Leonard Stocking's Colony Plan, as a strategy to house and treat psychiatric patients within small, self-contained units. While the building has shared spaces at its center (kitchen and dining rooms), its four branching wings each contains one program unit per floor, for a total of eight colony units within the building.

The building's two main entrances open to interior lobbies, each with an adjoining stairwell that leads to a second-story corridor. The lobbies and upper corridors each provide access to two wings, one on either side. The program unit is the base component of the building; while the exact arrangement of spaces differs slightly among the wings, each was built with the same interior programmatic spaces and amenities as the others and was meant to function in the same manner. The first room one enters within the wing is a large rectangular space, labelled on original plans as the "Living Room," that currently contains a nurses' station and reception desk. To the side of this room is an elongated rectangular room that originally was a porch for patients. Each living room adjoins a corridor, lined with doors that open to small side rooms, originally single residential rooms and offices. This corridor terminates at a large, rectangular dormitory room. A second, perpendicular corridor branches off from the first and is lined with rooms that originally served as washing and dressing rooms for the ward's residents. The end of this corridor reaches two additional dormitory rooms. Mechanical equipment is now located in a room beside the intersection of the corridors within each wing.

The two first floor lobbies at the interior of the building's main entrances also join the two large dining rooms, each of which served the four units located within its respective half of the building. The dining rooms flank the kitchen, located at the center of the building. The kitchen comprises a large food preparation area in addition to side offices and storage rooms. A corridor branches from the kitchen and leads east to the building's square boiler room.

2. Stairways

Building 51 contains two closed, half-turn concrete stairways that lead from the first-floor lobbies to the lobby corridors located between the wings on the second floor. Each stairway rises from the first floor through a segmental-arched opening, supported on one side by a molded stucco Tuscan column. The landing at each staircase has a pair of five-light wood doors that open to an exterior balcony.

One additional half-turn stairway is located in each of the building's four wings, connecting the first-story residential units to those on the second story.

3. Flooring

The floors of Building 5 I are generally covered in non-historic materials, primarily rolled vinyl flooring. The kitchen features ceramic tile flooring, as do several lavatories within the wings.

4. Wall and Ceiling Finish

Interior walls are finished principally with cement plaster and are painted. The kitchen features a tile wainscot, with a band of multi-colored triangular tiles below the wainscot cap. The age of this feature is unknown but possibly dates to the building's construction. The building's dining rooms and entrance lobbies feature adhered roll-out vinyl wainscots with wood chair rails.

Ceilings are also painted cement plaster in select areas, such as the building's kitchen and first-story lobbies. The remaining ceilings throughout the building feature systems of suspended T-bar grids with lay-in acoustical tiles.

5. Openings

a. Doorways and Doors

Building 5 I's kitchen features original, partially-glazed wood doors between the central preparation area and adjacent offices and storage areas. The remaining doors throughout the building are replacement, wood veneer over composite core doors. Doors within residential wings do not feature glazing, with the exception of partially glazed doors, with wire glass set in steel frames, located between nurse's office and living rooms. Doors are primarily single, although paired doors are located between the building's lobbies and dining rooms, as well as at entrances to dormitory rooms within the wings.

b. Windows

Building 5 I contains interior windows within the kitchen. A ribbon of four fixed, wood-sash windows—three with twelve lights, and one with eight lights—is located within the wall of the original chef's office, which faces the central food preparation area.

6. Decorative Features and Trim

Each of Building 5I's two entrance lobbies features two segmental-arched openings, located side by side: one leads to the exterior main entrance, while the other contains the half-turn stairway to the second floor. A molded stucco Tuscan column is located between the arches.

Concrete ceiling beams remain exposed in the entrance lobbies and in some of the wings' living rooms, enclosed porches, and dormitories.

The interior of the building has been substantially altered and no longer appears to retain additional historic decorative features.

7. Hardware

The kitchen features two wall-mounted hand wheels attached to steel opening mechanisms that open hopper windows within the clerestory band overhead.

8. Mechanical Equipment

a. Heating, Air Conditioning, Ventilation

Building 5I was constructed with a boiler room adjacent to the central kitchen. The boiler provided steam service to wall radiators throughout the building, which are no longer present. Mechanical rooms were subsequently placed within the building's individual wings, facilitating forced-air heating using concealed ceiling ducts.

The kitchen was originally ventilated with suspended ducts leading to a fan and louvered roof vent. Projecting roof vents allowed ventilation throughout the wings. These roof vents are still in place. At an undetermined date, the kitchen's ventilation system was updated with a large, stainless-steel hood with cylindrical metal pipe leading to a roof vent above the band of clerestory windows.

b. Lighting

The lighting system in Building 5I consists of fluorescent lights in modern textured vinyl ceiling fixtures. Within the dining rooms, the lights are integrated within the suspended panel ceiling.

c. Plumbing

Metal piping is located within the walls of the building.

d. Security

None

9. Original Furnishings

Building 51 contains five enameled, cast-iron tubs with stands located in bathing rooms within the residential wings. Each respective wing originally had one such tub, but three have been removed from the building.

D. Site**1. General Setting and Orientation**

Building 51 is located near the southeast corner of the Agnews Developmental Center campus, occupying the wedge-shaped area bounded by Balboa Avenue to the south, Cortez Street to the east, Cabrillo Street to the north, and Anza Road East to the west. The northwest façade of the building faces Panighetti Park and the near-identical Building 52 beyond. An asphalt-paved access drive approaches the building from Cortez Street to the east and widens to form a large loading apron within the service courtyard. The site surrounding the building is generally level and covered with maintained grass. Planting beds alongside the building's facades contain a variety of shrubs, and the yards surrounding the building contain several stands of trees. The cultural landscape of the campus is described in greater detail in an earlier part of this report.

Building 51 is the nearest major building within the campus to the water tower, Building 263, located approximately 200' to the east near the intersection of Balboa Street and Cortez Street.

2. Historic Landscape Design

The Agnews State Hospital Annex campus was originally designed with a formal landscape and street plan, encompassing six large residential buildings sited around a central oval-shaped park. Radial streets, including two with broad boulevard parks, were to connect a road ring the central park to an outer circular drive and exit roads from the campus. Lines of trees were to be planted alongside the circular drives. Three of the buildings were ultimately constructed, leaving half the original plan for the campus complete. Panighetti Park, one of the two proposed boulevard parks, is located immediately to the west of Building 51. While no original planting plan has been located, historic aerial photographs indicate that the stands of trees in the vicinity of the building, grouped by species, were planted during the 1930s.

3. Outbuildings

None

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION: BUILDING 52

A. General Statement

I. Architectural Character

Building 52 is a Spanish Colonial Revival-style residential building constructed in 1931 to house patients of the Agnews State Hospital Annex. Originally known as Ward Unit #2, the building was constructed simultaneously to Building 51 (Ward Unit #1), a nearly identical building based on the same architectural plans and located across the Panighetti Park boulevard. Building 52 has an irregular, modified 'H' floor plan consisting of numerous intersecting volumes. At the center of the building is a one-story square kitchen volume. It is adjoined by one-story arms, containing dining areas, that lead northeast and southwest. These volumes form the central axis of the building; they intersect two two-story wings that are oriented with perpendicular axes. The wings have various projections containing residential rooms, which branch off in irregular patterns. A one-story boiler room wing is attached to the west side of the central kitchen. The roof of the kitchen is hipped with a continuous band of clerestory windows; all other volumes of the building have gabled roofs. At the west façade, a one-story flat-roof addition is attached to the central kitchen. The building stands on a concrete foundation and has a concrete structural system. The building's exterior walls are clad in stucco, and the wood-frame roof is covered in half-round clay tiles. A molded stucco cornice is located underneath the eaves on all non-gabled walls of the building.

The building's complex plan, with many wings branching from the central axis, creates courtyards located around the exterior of the building. The courtyards at the north and south façades surround the primary, arched entrances to the building. These courtyards are enclosed by stucco-clad walls with central rectangular openings, which feature clay tile coping roofs. A large service courtyard, located at the west façade, surrounds the boiler room wing and contains loading platforms with modern, flat metal roofs.

The building's exterior doors are primarily modern, partially-glazed metal replacements. The building has numerous styles of windows across its façades. Many are steel-sash, divided-light casement windows variously arranged with three, six, eight, nine, and twelve lights. The building also features bands of second-story rounded-arch windows, containing twelve-light steel-sash casement windows, that correspond to areas that were originally built as porches. The boiler room wing features twenty-four-light steel-sash windows. Above each of the arched main entrances to the building is a wrought-iron balcony with scrolled brackets, positioned in front of a pair of glazed, five-light wood doors. In addition, the building features two wrought-iron boxed grilles with rosette details, one each at the north façade and south façade.

Building 52 has several non-original exterior staircases. Four are half-turn staircases with sloped stucco walls to match the main body of the building, and they adjoin two-story, flat-roofed additions with egress doors located at the east and west façades of the residential wings. These additions replaced one-story, shed-roof projections that were original to the building. Four straight-run staircases, formed by cast concrete treads and steel railings, are located within the building's exterior courtyards.

Building 52's roof features two prominent towers located above the primary entrances, where the central axis of the building intersects with the side wings. Circular tile vents are arranged on the walls of each tower; the pyramidal roofs are clad in clay tiles. The peaks of the tower roofs feature metal ball finials with sheet metal weather vanes. The building's roof also features many projecting stucco-clad vents, some featuring sloped, triangular cast concrete caps. The boiler room wing features a tapered chimney, with round tile vents on its sides, that rises approximately 15' from the roof ridge. Tile vents are found in many of the building's gable ends.

While Building 52's interior features and finishes have been altered substantially since it was constructed, the original spatial configuration of the building—related to Dr. Leonard Stocking's "colony plan" ideals—has been largely retained. Located across two floors and four wings, eight self-contained program units radiate from the building's central kitchen and two dining room core. The wings are arranged so that one enters a large reception and social room, with attached porch, before proceeding into corridors lined with residential rooms, offices, lavatories, and washing and dressing rooms. Each corridor terminates with one or two dormitory rooms.

2. Condition of Fabric

Building 52 is in poor to fair condition. The exterior walls, windows, and roof materials all appear to be largely intact, although areas of cracks, spalling, discoloration, delaminated paint, and rusting have been observed.

Extensive damage is found within the interior, as vandals have intruded and removed copper piping from walls throughout the building.

B. Description of Exterior

I. Overall Dimensions

The kitchen, dining room, and boiler room volumes that comprise the central 'H' within Building 52's irregular plan measure between 60' and 100' long and approximately 40' wide. Each of the building's branching dormitory wings measures approximately 25' x 45'. The footprint of Building 52 covers an area measuring approximately 400' x 300'.

2. Foundations

Building 52 has a concrete pier foundation.

3. Walls

The walls of Building 52 are formed by concrete and covered on the exterior by cement stucco.

4. Structural System & Framing

Building 52 has a concrete structural system, formed by columns engaged in interior walls that support concrete beams carrying the floor plate above. Interior partition walls are framed in wood. The intersecting gables of the building's roof are framed by a system of timber trusses.

5. Porches, Stoops, Balconies, Porticoes, & Bulkheads

Building 52 features two wrought-iron balconies, located above the building's arched entrances on the north and south façades. The balconies are formed by scrolled brackets supporting the balcony platform, which is surrounded by spiral balusters. The handrail features ball finials at its corners.

The building has eight exterior staircases that reach second-story emergency egress doors; none are original to the building. Four are half-turn, with stucco-clad walls sloped to match the rise of the steps. The remaining four are straight-run concrete staircases with landings surrounded by simple steel railings.

First-story doors that open to the exterior courtyards feature modern concrete landings with metal pipe railings.

6. Chimneys

Building 52 features one chimney, which rises approximately 15' from the roof of the boiler room. This chimney is clad in stucco and tapers slightly through its rise, terminating with a simple cornice below a stepped-back cap. Immediately below the cornice, each chimney face features an arrangement of sixteen rounded tile vents.

The building also has twenty historic vents, located across its various roof forms above the building's wings. The wings feature stucco vents with a single or paired cap of sloped, triangular cast concrete over metal lath. The building also features simple vents with no caps. Most vents project from the roof ridge, although some rise flush with the exterior wall.

In addition, the building features several non-historic vents with metal louvered panels and metal hipped roofs.

7. Openings

a. Doorways and Doors

The stucco walls that enclose the north and south courtyards have central rectangular openings. Paved concrete walks lead through these openings to reach the building's main entrances. The wall rises above these openings and features a simple coping roof, covered in rounded clay tiles with a grouted tile ridge cap. The openings feature concrete lintels; iron gates were originally outfitted at these openings but have subsequently been removed.

Building 52 features two arched main entrances, located at the center of the building's north and south façades. The entrances are recessed within exterior vestibules, accessed through arched openings with molded-stucco surrounds. As on Buildings 51 and 53, each vestibule features a band of painted and glazed decorative tiles; the tile design is unique to Building 51 and feature a multi-color foliage motif. Each of these entrances is accessed by a disability access ramp, flanked by sloped walls containing raised planting beds. The main entrances contain partially glazed metal doors, featuring upper lights of chicken-wire glass.

Other entrances to the building primarily contain modern, partially-glazed steel doors featuring wire glass. They are located on the first and second stories, opening to exterior stairs, as well as in the service courtyard. Two partially-glazed steel door with twelve upper lights are located at one loading platform; other doors within this area include paired, louvered doors. The boiler house is accessed through oversized, paired steel doors with louvered lower grates.

b. Windows and Shutters

Building 52 features steel-sash, divided-light windows arranged across the building's façades according to evenly-spaced bays. Windows differ by size, as well as by number and arrangement of lights. The most common window type on the building is an eight-light casement window that opens from center. Other variations include three-light, six-light, nine-light, and twelve-light steel-sash casement windows. The building features strings of rounded arches at first- and second-story porches within the residential wings. While the second-story porches feature twelve-light casement windows shaped with rounded tops to fit their arches, the first-story porches contain rectangular, twelve-sash windows surrounded by areas of stucco fill. The gabled ends of the boiler room contain twenty-four-light windows, with the uppermost eight lights operating as awning windows.

Decorative treatments are found at several of the building's windows. Two window arrangements are formed by a twelve-light window flanked by eight-light windows; the windows are divided by wood posts with chamfered corners, supporting shaped brackets underneath a slightly projecting concrete lintel with angled ends. Arched windows feature simple projecting stucco sills and molded stucco capitals. Four of the arched porch windows feature wrought-iron, linked mesh grilles that are original

to the building. In addition, two of the building's eight-light windows, found at the north and south façades, are located behind decorative wrought-iron boxed grilles with rosette ornamentation, supporting a small stucco hood with molded cornice. No windows on the building feature shutters.

Above each of the building's arched entrance vestibules is a pair of five-light wood doors opening to a wrought-iron balcony.

The square kitchen volume located at the center of the building has a hipped roof that is broken by a continuous band of clerestory windows, formed by a ribbon of six steel-sash windows on each façade. Those located on the west and east façades are fixed, four-light windows, while those located on the north and south façades have two lights and are hopper windows operated using an interior hand wheel mechanism.

8. Roof

a. Roof Shape, Covering

Building 52 has a complex, cross-gabled roof formed by numerous intersecting volumes. The center of the building, containing the kitchen, has a hipped roof whose slopes are interrupted by a band of clerestory windows. This roof adjoins gabled volumes that lead north and south, over the interior dining areas, to meet the gabled roofs of the wings. These wings run perpendicular to the central axis of the building and intersect with additional gabled roofs belonging to the irregular, branching arrangement of wings that contain residential rooms. A gabled volume is attached to the northwest side of the central kitchen and joins with the side-gabled boiler room. Flat roofs are found above additions that adjoin the central kitchen and wings. Flat metal roofs are found above loading platforms within the service courtyard.

All hipped and gabled roof forms are covered with regularly laid half-round, tapered clay tiles. The building's roof ridges are covered in ridge caps formed with similar tiles grouted in place.

b. Cornice, Eaves

The non-gabled exterior walls of Building 52 feature molded stucco cornices underneath the eaves.

c. Dormers, Cupolas, Towers

The building features two towers, located above the main entrances where the central axis intersects the perpendicular side wings. The towers are square in shape and project from the roof ridge. They feature arrangements of rounded tile vents, molded stucco cornices, and hipped roofs covered with half-round clay tiles. At the

peak of each tower roof is a molded stucco base carrying a metal ball finial ornament with decorative weather vane cut from sheet metal. The weather vane is shaped as a banner, with a cross enclosed within a square.

C. Description of Interior

I. Floor Plan

Nearly identical to Building 51, the irregular floor plan of Building 52 reflects Dr. Leonard Stocking's Colony Plan, as a strategy to house and treat psychiatric patients within small, self-contained units. While the building has shared spaces at its center (kitchen and dining rooms), its four branching wings each contains one program unit per floor, for a total of eight colony units within the building.

The building's two main entrances open to interior lobbies, each with an adjoining stairwell that leads to a second-story lobby. The lobbies provide access to two program units, one on either side. The program unit is the base component of the building; while the exact arrangement of spaces differs slightly among the units, each was built with the same interior programmatic spaces and amenities as the others and was meant to function in the same manner. The first room one enters within the unit is a large rectangular space, labelled on original plans as the "Living Room," that currently contains a nurses' station and reception desk. To the side of this room is an elongated rectangular room that originally was a porch for patients. Each living room adjoins a corridor, lined with doors that open to small side rooms, originally single residential rooms and offices. This corridor terminates at a large, rectangular dormitory room. A second, perpendicular corridor branches off from the first and is lined with rooms that originally served as washing and dressing rooms for the unit's residents. The end of this corridor reaches two additional dormitory rooms. Mechanical equipment is now located in a room beside the intersection of the corridors within each wing.

The two first-floor lobbies at the interior of the building's main entrances also join the two large dining rooms, each of which served the four program units located within its respective half of the building. The dining rooms flank the kitchen, located at the center of the building. The kitchen comprises a large food preparation area in addition to side offices and storage rooms. A corridor branches from the kitchen and leads west to the building's square boiler room.

2. Stairways

Building 52 contains two closed, half-turn concrete stairways that lead from the first-floor lobbies to the lobby corridors located between wings on the second floor. Each stairway rises from the first floor through a segmental-arched opening, supported on one side by a molded stucco Tuscan column. The landing at each staircase has a pair of five-light wood doors that open to an exterior balcony.

One additional half-turn stairway is located in each of the building's four wings, connecting the first-story residential units to those on the second story.

3. Flooring

The floors of Building 52 are generally covered in non-historic materials, primarily rolled vinyl flooring. The kitchen features ceramic tile flooring, as do several lavatories within the residential units.

4. Wall and Ceiling Finish

Interior walls are finished principally with cement plaster and are painted. The kitchen features a tile wainscot, with a band of multi-colored triangular tiles below the wainscot cap. The wainscot is heavily patched with newer tiles. The age of this feature is unknown but possibly dates to the building's construction. The building's dining rooms and entrance lobbies feature adhered roll-out vinyl wainscots.

Ceilings are also painted cement plaster in select areas, such as the building's kitchen and first-story lobbies. The remaining ceilings throughout the building feature systems of suspended T-bar grids with lay-in acoustical tiles.

5. Openings

a. Doorways and Doors

Building 52's kitchen features original, partially-glazed wood doors between the central preparation area and adjacent offices and storage areas. The remaining doors throughout the building are replacement, wood veneer over composite core doors. Doors within wings do not feature glazing, with the exception of partially glazed doors with wire glass set in steel frames, located between the nurses' office and adjacent living rooms. Doors are primarily single, although paired doors are located between the building's lobbies and dining rooms, as well as at entrances to dormitory rooms within the wings.

b. Windows

Building 52 contains interior windows within the kitchen. A ribbon of four fixed, wood-sash windows—three with twelve lights, and one with eight lights—is located within the wall of the original chef's office, which faces the central food preparation area.

6. Decorative Features and Trim

Each of Building 52's two entrance lobbies features two segmental-arched openings, located side by side: one leads to the exterior main entrance, while the other contains the half-turn stairway to the second floor. A molded stucco Tuscan column is located between the arches.

Concrete ceiling beams remain exposed in the entrance lobbies and in some of the residential units' living rooms, enclosed porches, and dormitories.

The interior of the building has been substantially altered and no longer appears to retain additional historic decorative features.

7. Hardware

The kitchen features two wall-mounted hand wheels attached to steel opening mechanisms that open hopper windows within the clerestory band overhead.

8. Mechanical Equipment

a. Heating, Air Conditioning, Ventilation

Building 52 was constructed with a boiler room adjacent to the central kitchen. The boiler provided steam service to wall radiators throughout the building, which are no longer present. Mechanical rooms were subsequently placed within the building's individual wings, facilitating forced-air heating using concealed ceiling ducts.

The kitchen was originally ventilated with suspended ducts leading to a fan and louvered roof vent. Projecting roof vents allowed ventilation throughout the wings. These roof vents are still in place. At an undetermined date, the kitchen's ventilation system was updated with a large, stainless-steel hood with cylindrical metal pipe leading to a roof vent above the band of clerestory windows.

b. Lighting

The lighting system in Building 52 consists of fluorescent lights in modern textured vinyl ceiling fixtures. Within the dining rooms, the lights are integrated within the suspended panel ceiling.

c. Plumbing

Metal piping is located within the walls of the building.

d. Security

None

9. Original Furnishings

Building 52 contains four enameled, cast-iron tubs with stands located in bathing rooms within the wings. Each respective unit originally had one such tub, but four have been removed from the building.

D. Site**1. General Setting and Orientation**

Building 52 occupies the wedge-shaped area bounded by De Soto Road to the north, Balboa Avenue to the southwest, Anza Road West to the southeast, and Cabrillo Street to the northeast. The southeast façade of the building faces Panighetti Park and the near-identical Building 51 beyond. An asphalt-paved access drive approaches the building from De Soto Road to the northwest and widens to form a large loading apron within the service courtyard. The site surrounding the building is generally level and covered with maintained grass. Planting beds alongside the building's facades contain a variety of shrubs, and the yards surrounding the building contain several stands of trees. The cultural landscape of the campus is described in greater detail in an earlier part of this report.

2. Historic Landscape Design

The Agnews State Hospital Annex campus was originally designed with a formal landscape and street plan, encompassing six large residential buildings sited around a central oval-shaped park. Radial streets, including two with broad boulevard parks, were to connect a road ringing the central park to an outer circular drive and exit roads from the campus. Lines of trees were to be planted alongside the circular drives. Three of the buildings were ultimately constructed, leaving half the original plan for the campus complete. Panighetti Park, one of the two proposed boulevard parks, is located immediately to the east of Building 52. While no original planting plan has been located, historic aerial photographs indicate that the stands of trees in the vicinity of the building, grouped by species, were planted during the 1930s.

3. Outbuildings

None

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION: BUILDING 53

A. General Statement

I. Architectural Character

Building 53 is a Spanish Colonial Revival-style residential building constructed in 1939 to house patients of the Agnews State Hospital Annex. The building, originally known as Ward Unit #3, was constructed in a later campaign than Buildings 51 and 52 but is based on a similar architectural plan. Building 53 has an irregular, modified 'H' floor plan consisting of numerous intersecting volumes. A central, one-story gabled volume, containing the building's dining areas, forms the central axis of the building leading from east to west. It intersects two two-story residential wings that are oriented with perpendicular axes. The wings have various projecting wings, containing residential rooms and administrative offices, that branch off in irregular patterns. A one-story kitchen and boiler room wing is attached to the south side of the central volume; an additional one-story wing projects from the north side of the central volume. All of the building's intersecting roofs are hipped, with the exception of the kitchen, which has a flat roof. The building stands on a concrete pier foundation and has a concrete structural system. The building's exterior walls are clad in stucco, and all areas of the wood-frame roof are covered in half-round clay tiles. A molded stucco cornice is located underneath the eaves on all non-gabled walls of the building.

The building's complex plan, with many wings branching from the central volume, creates courtyards located around the exterior of the building. The courtyards at the west and east façades surround the primary, arched entrances to the building. These courtyards are enclosed by stucco-clad walls with central rectangular openings, which feature clay tile coping roofs. A large service courtyard, located at the south façade, surrounds the kitchen and boiler room and contains loading platforms with modern, flat metal roofs.

The building's exterior doors are primarily modern, partially-glazed metal replacements. The building has numerous styles of windows across its façades. Many are steel-sash, divided-light casement windows variously arranged with three, six, eight, nine, and twelve lights. The building also features bands of rounded-arch windows, containing twelve-light steel-sash casement windows, that correspond to areas that were originally built as porches. The boiler room features one twenty-four-light steel-sash window. An ocular window is located above the central entrance on the north façade. The building features six wrought-iron balconies with scrolled brackets, positioned in front of paired, glazed five-light wood doors. In addition, the building features one wrought-iron boxed grille with rosette details at the west façade. Unlike Buildings 51 and 52, Building 53 has no exterior staircases.

Building 53's roof features two prominent towers located above the primary entrances, where the central volume of the building intersects with the side wings. Circular tile vents are arranged on the walls of each tower; the pyramidal roofs are clad in clay tiles. The peaks of the tower roofs feature metal ball finials with sheet metal weather vanes. The building's roof also features many projecting stucco-clad vents, some featuring

sloped, triangular cast concrete caps. The boiler room features a stucco-clad chimney that rises approximately 15' from the roof ridge. Tile vents are found in many of the building's gable ends.

While Building 53's interior features and finishes have been altered substantially since it was constructed, the original spatial configuration of the building—related to Dr. Leonard Stocking's "colony plan" ideals—has been largely retained. Located across two floors and four wings, eight self-contained program units radiate from a central kitchen, boiler room, and two dining rooms. The units are arranged so that one enters from the interior lobbies into a large reception and social room, with attached porch, before proceeding into corridors lined with residential rooms, offices, lavatories, and washing and dressing rooms. Each corridor terminates with one or two dormitory rooms. An interior space unique to Building 53 is the employees' dining room, attached to the central serving area, which retains its distinctive exposed ceiling beams and second-story balcony accessed by a wood full-turn stair.

2. Condition of Fabric

Building 53 is in fair condition. The exterior walls, windows, and roof materials all appear to be largely intact, although areas of cracks, spalling, discoloration, delaminated paint, and rusting have been observed.

Extensive damage is found within the interior, as vandals have intruded and removed copper piping from walls throughout the building.

B. Description of Exterior

I. Overall Dimensions

The component volumes that comprise the central 'H' within Building 53's irregular plan measure between 60' and 100' long and approximately 40' wide. Each of the building's branching dormitory wings measures approximately 25' x 45'. The footprint of Building 53 covers an area measuring approximately 450' x 250'.

2. Foundations

Building 53 has a concrete pier foundation.

3. Walls

The walls of Building 53 are formed by concrete and covered on the exterior with cement stucco.

4. Structural System & Framing

Building 53 has a concrete structural system, formed by columns engaged in interior walls that support concrete beams carrying the floors plates above. The central dining area and employees' dining room feature rigid frames, formed by arched steel beams positioned within the roof approximately every 18'. Interior partition walls are framed in wood. The intersecting gables of the building's roof are framed by a system of timber trusses.

5. Porches, Stoops, Balconies, Porticoes, & Bulkheads

Six wrought-iron balconies are located across the building's façades, with two located above the building's arched entrances on the west and east façades. The balconies are formed by scrolled brackets supporting the balcony platform, which is surrounded by spiral balusters. The handrail features ball finials at its corners.

The entrance located at the center of the building's north façade is sheltered underneath a shed-roof portico, supported at its outer corners by two stucco piers. Each pier has a molded base and capital. The portico roof is covered with half-round clay tiles and features exposed rafters with curved rafter ends.

First-story doors that open to the exterior courtyards feature modern concrete landings with metal pipe railings. A poured concrete loading dock edged with a cinder-block half-wall surrounds the west and south sides of the boiler room; its flat roof is supported by metal pipe columns. The courtyard contains two additional concrete loading platforms.

6. Chimneys

Building 53 features one chimney, which rises approximately 15' from the roof of the boiler room. This chimney is clad in stucco; unlike the boiler room chimneys on Buildings 51 and 52, Building 53's does not taper and has a recessed panel on each side. The chimney has a stepped-back cap.

The building also has twenty historic vents, located across its various roof forms above the building's wings. The wings feature stucco vents with a single or paired cap of sloped, triangular cast concrete over metal lath. The building also features simple vents with no caps. Most vents rise from the roof ridge, although some rise flush with the exterior wall.

7. Openings

a. Doorways and Doors

The stucco walls that enclose the east and west courtyards have central rectangular openings. The walls rise to form these openings and feature simple coping roofs, covered in rounded clay tiles with a grouted tile ridge cap. The openings feature

concrete lintels. Paved concrete walks lead through these openings to reach the building's main entrances.

Building 53 features two arched main entrances, located at the center of the building's east and west façades. The entrances are recessed within vestibules, accessed through arched openings with molded-stucco surrounds. As on Buildings 51 and 52, each vestibule features a band of painted and glazed decorative tiles; the tile design is unique to Building 53 and features a multi-color rosette motif. Each of these entrances is accessed by a disability access ramp, flanked by sloped walls containing raised planting beds.

The entrance located within the portico at the center of the north façade contains a partially glazed wood door with six upper lights and nine lower panels. The remaining entrances to the building contain modern, partially-glazed steel doors featuring wire glass. The boiler house is accessed through oversized, paired steel doors with louvered lower grates.

b. Windows and Shutters

Building 53 features steel-sash, divided-light windows arranged across the building's façades according to evenly-spaced bays. Windows differ by size, as well as by number and arrangement of lights. The most common window type on the building is an eight-light casement window that opens from center. Other variations include three-light, six-light, nine-light, and twelve-light steel-sash casement windows. The building features strings of rounded arches at first- and second-story porches within the residential units. While the second-story porches feature twelve-light casement windows shaped with rounded tops to fit their arches, the first-story porches contain rectangular, twelve-sash windows surrounded by areas of stucco fill. One gabled end of the boiler room contains a 24-light window, with the uppermost eight lights operating as awning windows.

Decorative treatments are found at several of the building's windows. Two window arrangements are formed by a twelve-light casement window flanked by eight-light casement windows; the windows are divided by wood posts with chamfered corners, supporting shaped brackets underneath a slightly projecting concrete lintel with angled ends. Arched windows feature simple projecting stucco sills and molded stucco capitals. Four of the building's arched porch windows feature wrought-iron, linked mesh grilles that are original to the building. In addition, one of the building's eight-light windows, located at the north façade, is placed behind a decorative wrought-iron boxed grille with rosette ornamentation, supporting a small stucco hood with molded cornice. No windows on the building feature shutters.

The building features six pairs of five-light wood doors, each opening to a wrought-iron balcony.

8. Roof

a. Roof Shape, Covering

Building 53 has a complex, cross-gabled roof formed by numerous intersecting volumes. The central volume of the building is gabled and spans from east to west, over the interior dining areas, to meet the gabled roofs of the wings. These wings run perpendicular to the central axis of the building and intersect with additional gabled roofs belonging to the irregular, branching arrangement of wings that contain residential rooms. A gabled wing is attached perpendicular the north side of the central volume; the south side of the central volume adjoins the flat-roofed kitchen and gabled boiler room. Flat metal roofs are found above loading platforms within the service courtyard to the south.

All gabled and shed roof forms are covered with regularly laid half-round, tapered clay tiles. The building's roof ridges are covered with ridge caps formed by similar tiles grouted in place.

b. Cornice, Eaves

The non-gabled exterior walls of Building 53 feature molded stucco cornices underneath the eaves.

d. Dormers, Cupolas, Towers

The building features two towers, located above the main entrances where the central axis intersects the side wings to the east and west. The towers are square in shape and project from the roof ridge. They feature arrangements of rounded tile vents, molded stucco cornices, and hipped roofs covered with half-round clay tiles. At the peak of the tower roof is a molded stucco base carrying a metal ball finial ornament with decorative weather vane cut from sheet metal. The weather vane is shaped as a banner, with a cross enclosed within a square.

Whereas the kitchens of Buildings 51 and 52 have clerestory windows to provide daylighting, Building 53 features two gabled skylights featuring wire glass located in the flat roof above its kitchen.

C. Description of Interior

I. Floor Plan

Building 53 was constructed with an irregular floor plan similar to that of Buildings 51 and 52. While the building has shared spaces at its center (kitchen and client and employee dining rooms), its four branching wings each contain one program unit per floor, for a total of eight colony units within the building.

Building 53's two main entrances at the east and west façades open to interior lobbies, each with an adjoining stairwell that leads to a second-story lobby. The lobbies provide access to two program units, one on either side. The program unit is the base component of the building; while the exact arrangement of spaces differs slightly among the units, each was built with the same interior programmatic spaces and amenities as the others and was meant to function in the same manner. The first room one enters within the unit is a large rectangular space, labelled on original plans as the "Living Room," that currently contains a nurses' station and reception desk. To the side of this room is an elongated rectangular room that originally was a porch for patients. Each living room adjoins a corridor, lined by doors that open to small side rooms, originally used as single residential rooms and offices. This corridor terminates at a large, rectangular dormitory room. A second, perpendicular corridor branches off from the first and is lined with rooms that originally served as washing and dressing rooms for the unit's residents. The end of this corridor reaches two additional dormitory rooms. Mechanical equipment is now located in a room beside the intersection of the corridors within each wing.

Adjoining the second-story lobby within the west half of the building is a film projection room. The east wall of this room is located above the central dining room, whose original full-height ceiling allowed for films to be projected from the second story. This functional relationship is now obscured by the dining room's suspended T-bar ceiling.

The central volume of the building contains two client dining rooms, which flank a large serving room located at the center of the building. The dining rooms contain stepped half-walls that divide the spaces into small seating areas.

The kitchen is attached to the south side of the serving area and contains rooms that originally were used for supply storage and dishwashing. The building's boiler room is attached to the south side of the kitchen. Adjoining the central serving area to the north is the original employee dining room. This room is accessed from the exterior through a small entryway.

2. Stairways

Building 53 contains two closed, half-turn concrete stairways that lead from the first-floor entrance lobbies to the lobby corridors located between the program units on the second floor. Each stairway rises from the first floor through a segmental-arched opening, supported on one side by a molded stucco Tuscan column. The landing at each staircase has a pair of five-light wood doors that opens to an exterior balcony.

Each of the building's four wings contains two additional half-turn stairways, connecting the first-story residential units to those on the second story. These stairways have concrete steps and are lined with metal mesh half-walls.

The entryway to the employees' dining room contains an open full-turn wood staircase that leads to the second-story balcony.

3. Flooring

The floors of Building 53 are generally covered in non-historic materials, primarily rolled vinyl flooring. The kitchen features ceramic tile flooring, as do several lavatories and shower rooms within the residential units.

4. Wall and Ceiling Finish

Interior walls are finished principally with cement plaster and are painted. Gypsum board is found on walls that have been added during renovation campaigns, such as those between the food serving room and the client dining rooms. Stainless steel panels and areas of ceramic tile are adhered to walls of the kitchen.

The building's dining rooms and central serving room feature fiberglass-reinforced wainscot panels.

Ceilings are painted cement plaster in select areas, such as the building's kitchen and first-story lobbies and stair landings. Some of the building's interior enclosed porches and dormitory rooms have plaster ceilings with exposed concrete beams. The employee dining room features an exposed framing system of wood rafters and purlins. The remaining ceilings throughout the building feature suspended T-bar grids with lay-in acoustical tiles.

5. Openings

a. Doorways and Doors

Building 53 features replacement, wood veneer over composite core doors throughout the units and common areas. Doors within residential units do not feature glazing. Two doors located between the employee dining room and the central serving room are partially glazed, featuring round windows and lower metal ventilation grates. Doors are primarily single, although paired doors are located between the building's lobbies and dining rooms (containing narrow upper lights in steel frames).

The food serving room at the center of the building is accessed from the side dining rooms by stepped-arch door openings, inserted during a renovation campaign in 1990 and matching the adjacent pass-throughs and half-walls within the dining rooms.

b. Windows

A large rectangular pass-through opening is located in the wall separating the building's kitchen from the central food serving room. Additional pass-throughs are located within the walls standing between the food serving area and the adjacent

dining rooms. These pass-throughs are irregularly shaped, with stepped top or bottom sills to match the adjacent doorways and half-walls within the dining rooms. These openings were added during interior renovations in 1990.

The east wall of the second-story projection room features three square, glazed projection ports that can be closed with metal panels that slide up and down on vertical tracks.

6. Decorative Features and Trim

Each of Building 53's two entrance lobbies features two segmental-arched openings, located side by side: one leads to an exterior door and entrance vestibule, while the other contains the lower rise of the half-turn stairway to the second floor. A molded stucco Tuscan column is located between the arches.

The employees' dining room features a number of intact, historic decorative elements, including exposed wood rafters and purlins that support the ceiling, as well as a wood chair rail. At the north end of the room is the second-story balcony, featuring a wood balustrade with molded handrail, supported by six quarter-round brackets. The door opening leading from the dining room into the attached entryway is set within a recessed arch.

Concrete ceiling beams remain exposed in the entrance lobbies and in some of the living rooms, enclosed porches, and dormitories.

The dining rooms were renovated in 1990 and now contain partition half-walls that create compartmentalized eating areas. These walls have stepped profiles to match the shape of doorways and pass-throughs located at the walls between these rooms and the central food service room. The half-walls feature oak trim.

7. Hardware

None

8. Mechanical Equipment

a. Heating, Air Conditioning, Ventilation

Building 53 was constructed with a boiler room adjacent to the central kitchen. The boiler provided steam service to wall radiators throughout the building, which are no longer present. Mechanical rooms were subsequently placed within the building's individual wings, facilitating forced-air heating using concealed ceiling ducts.

The kitchen was originally ventilated with suspended ducts leading to a fan and louvered vent at the roof. At an undetermined date, the kitchen's ventilation system

was updated with a large, stainless-steel hood with cylindrical metal pipe leading to a roof vent above the band of clerestory windows. Projecting roof vents allowed ventilation throughout the program units. These roof vents are still in place.

b. Lighting

The lighting system in Building 53 consists of fluorescent strip lighting in modern textured vinyl ceiling fixtures. Within areas with suspended panel ceilings, lighting fixtures are integrated within the T-bar system.

c. Plumbing

Metal piping is located within the walls of the building.

d. Security

None

9. Original Furnishings

Building 53 contains two enameled, cast-iron tubs with stands located in bathing rooms within the residential units. Each respective unit originally had one such tub, but six have been removed from the building.

D. Site

I. General Setting and Orientation

Building 53 occupies the wedge-shaped area bounded by De Soto Road to the south, Balboa Avenue to the northwest, and Cabrillo Street to the northeast. An asphalt-paved access drive approaches the building from De Soto Road to the south and widens to form a large loading apron within the service courtyard. The site within the courtyards and surrounding the building is a generally level lawn covered with maintained grass. A network of poured concrete walkways approach entrances located at the west, north, and east façades. Planting beds alongside the building's facades contain a variety of shrubs, and the yards surrounding the building contain several stands of trees. The cultural landscape of the campus is described in greater detail in an earlier part of this report.

2. Historic Landscape Design

Building 53 is the northernmost building constructed within the original elliptical campus plan for the Agnews State Hospital Annex. Cabrillo Street originally formed the inner ring road, and Balboa Avenue formed the outer ring. The original 1939 planting plan for Building 53 specified dozens of tree, shrub, and flower varieties to be planted surrounding the building and throughout its immediate site. Camphor trees were to be evenly spaced on either edge of the streets encircling Building 53, forming shaded edge belts; it appears that Oriental sycamore was planted instead. Other tree species were to be grouped throughout the site. While this general strategy appears to have ultimately been employed, analysis of the current site indicates that the exact species and placement of mature trees located there do not follow the original plan.

According to the 1939 planting plan, beds were to surround all exterior walls of Building 53, containing a wide variety of shrub species. As with the site's trees, the shrub varieties do not appear to match those specified by the original plan. Six planting beds were also to be located at the center of the building's east courtyard; each bed would contain eighteen President Herbert Hoover rose bushes. Historic aerial photographs of the campus suggest that these planting beds were never installed.

3. Outbuildings

None

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION: BUILDING 152

A. General Statement

I. Architectural Character

Building 152, constructed in 1931 to provide housing to employees of the Agnews State Hospital Annex, is a two-story, Spanish Colonial Revival-style building formed by seven intersecting, modular rectangular volumes. The volumes are arranged to form a roughly 'U'-shaped plan. Four volumes are laid end-to-end, comprising the building's primary southwest-northeast axis; the remaining three volumes are positioned perpendicular to the main axis and form the building's northeast wing (one volume) and southwest wing (two volumes). The wings and rear façade surround a rear courtyard. Building 152 stands on a concrete slab foundation and has reinforced concrete walls clad in cement stucco. Its wood-framed roof is formed by several offset and intersecting gables covered in half-round clay tiles with grouted tile ridge caps. The building also features six stucco-clad vents: three project from the roof ridge, and the remaining three are located at the eaves and project flush with the wall below. In each of the building's exposed gable ends are five tile vents arranged in a cross pattern.

The building's entrance doors are partially glazed and formed by vertical wood boards. Five of these doors open to the rear (northwest) courtyard. The building features three-light, wood-sash windows that are arranged in groupings of two and three; smaller two-sash windows are also found across the building. Several metal balconies are located on the second floor, each accessed by paired, glazed doors opening from an interior living area. The building's primary façade, which faces southeast toward Anza Road, features a central, prominent arched passageway that leads through the building to the rear courtyard. The passageway's entrances have decorative surrounds formed in stucco, comprised of lower pilasters and a molded arch that passes overhead. At the south corner of the building is a wood balcony with shed roof, which is continuous with the adjacent roof slope. An exterior stairway located along the northwest façade leads to the basement boiler room.

The interior of the building is divided into seven apartment modules, each containing a central staircase and two employee living units per floor. Most living units have identical configurations, containing one living room, one dressing room, and one bathroom. Four of the living units, however, contain two living rooms each.

2. Condition of Fabric

Building 152 appears to be in poor to fair overall condition. The exterior fabric of the building does not exhibit obvious damage; only occasional areas of spalling, biological growth, or broken window lights were observed. Areas of the interior, however, have been infested with mold, particularly in the building's southwest wing. These areas are deemed not safe for entry, and detailed investigation of these areas was not undertaken for this report.

B. Description of Existing Exterior

1. Overall Dimensions

The primary axis of Building 152, oriented from southwest to northeast, measures approximately 170' wide; each of the building's side wings measures approximately 60' across.

2. Foundations

Building 152 has a concrete slab foundation.

3. Walls

The exterior walls of the building are formed by reinforced concrete and are covered with cement stucco cladding.

4. Structural System & Framing

Building 152 has a structural system of reinforced concrete exterior walls; steel beams frame the stairwells. Other interior walls are framed in wood. The roof of the building is wood-framed, consisting of trussed rafters.

5. Porches, Stoops, Balconies, Porticoes, & Bulkheads

Building 152 features six metal balconies on the second story, arranged across the building's façades. Five of these balconies open from interior living rooms, while the remaining balcony, located on the southwest façade, opens from a landing in the interior stairwell. Each metal balcony consists of a rectangular steel-framed platform edged by a simple wrought iron balustrade.

A second-story wood balcony is located at the south corner of Building 152. This balcony, which adjoins an interior living room, has a shed roof covered in half-round clay tiles that is continuous with the roof slope above. The balcony platform features a plain wood balustrade, and a square wood post supports the outer corner of the balcony's roof. The outer corner of the balcony platform was originally supported by a diagonal wood brace, but this feature has been replaced with a square wood post.

6. Chimneys

Building 152 has six wood-frame, stucco-clad vents that project above the roof. Three of the vents rise from the building's roof ridges; the remaining three vents are located at the

eaves and extend flush with the wall surface below. All vents are rectangular, and five of the six feature sloped, triangular cast concrete caps. Gabled ends feature vents formed by five round tiles arranged in a cross pattern.

7. Openings

a. Doorways and Doors

Building 152 features a prominent passageway at the center of the southeast and northwest façades, which leads through the building between Anza Road and the rear courtyard. Both ends of the passageway have large stucco surrounds consisting of pilasters with capitals and molded arched profiles above the entrance.

The building has seven exterior wood doors that open to interior apartment modules and provide access to the living units. Five of these doors face the rear courtyard, while the remaining two are located on the opposite façades. The doors are formed with vertical boards and are partially glazed, featuring four upper vision lights.

Each second-story balcony is accessed through a glazed, pair of doors with five-light storm doors.

b. Windows and Shutters

All façades of Building 152 feature wood-sash, three-light casement windows, arranged in pairs or in groupings of three. These windows correspond to the interior apartments' living rooms and bathrooms. The building also features several small two-light casement windows, arranged individually or in pairs. These windows correspond to some interior dressing rooms, as well as second-story stairwell landings. No windows on Building 152 have shutters.

8. Roof

a. Roof Shape, Covering

The roof of Building 152 consists of six intersecting gabled forms. The primary axis of the building, leading from southwest to northeast, contains four side-gabled sections that are slightly offset from one another. The two outer wings are also gabled, with roof ridges that run perpendicular to the primary axis. All sections of the roof are covered in half-rounded clay tiles, with similar tiles grouted along roof ridges to serve as a ridge cap.

b. Cornice, Eaves

The eaves of Building 152 feature shaped brackets with rounded profiles, spaced approximately one foot apart. A metal gutter system has been installed below the eaves on all non-gabled facades.

c. Dormers, Cupolas, Towers

None

C. Description of Interior

1. Floor Plan

The interior of Building 152 is divided into seven separate apartment modules arranged roughly in a 'U' plan. Four modules are placed in the building's primary axis, two comprise the building's southwest wing, and the remaining one forms the northeast wing. The modules are all nearly identical. Each module is rectangular in plan and contains two living units per story; the building, therefore, has a total of 28 living units. At the center of each apartment module is an entrance central hall, stairwell, and closet, with living units located on either side. At the top of the stairwell is a landing with doors that lead to living units on either side. Each living unit contains one combined living room/bedroom, which is attached to a small dressing room and bathroom to the rear. Kitchens are not located within the living units. Four living units (two per story) located near the center of the building's primary axis are larger, containing two rooms.

2. Stairways

The center of each apartment module contains a half-turn stairwell that leads from the first-floor entry hall to the second-floor landing. The two rises of the stairwell are separated by a sloped central half-wall. The stairs are wood, with wood wall stringers abutting either side. The stairs feature rubber treads, and round wood handrails are attached to the wall.

3. Flooring

Exposed wood board flooring is found in select living units, as well as in the first-story closets. Rolled laminate flooring covers the floors in entry hallways, as well as in the remaining living units.

4. Wall and Ceiling Finish

Interior walls and ceilings are finished with cement plaster. Bathtubs within the living units feature modern laminate surrounds applied to the plaster wall.

5. Openings

a. Doorways and Doors

Interior doors within Building 152 are located between living units and the central stairwells, as well as between individual rooms within the living units. Many original interior wood doors remain in place, featuring six vertically-oriented panels. In some instances, original doors have been removed from doorways within the living units. Some doorways have been left without doors, while modern vinyl accordion doors have been installed in other doorways.

b. Windows

None

6. Decorative Features and Trim

The interior of Building 152 features wood trim throughout. Windows predominantly feature molded wood trim with rounded, projecting sills; window trim within dressing rooms and bathrooms, however, has a plain, squared profile. Molded wood trim is found around doorways and as baseboards and crown molding. Rubber baseboard has been applied over the wood baseboard in some living units. Some bathrooms feature plain wood wainscot caps midway up the wall.

7. Hardware

Historic panel doors located within living units feature original rounded brass turn knobs, while doors that separate the living units from the central stairwells have replacement metal keyed turn knobs. Windows feature their original brass turn latches, and interior wood screens have simple wood pull knobs. Interior doors and window screens feature ball tip hinges.

8. Mechanical Equipment

a. Heating, Air Conditioning, Ventilation

Building 152 was constructed with a basement boiler room that supplied steam service to wall radiators throughout the building. The system does not appear to

have been updated; radiators remain in some residential units but have been removed from others.

b. Lighting

Lighting within Building 152's stairwells and living units is provided by incandescent light fixtures. Select units feature white glass schoolhouse pendant lights that hang from a chain; these fixtures appear to be original to the building. Other units feature modern replacement fixtures. Within the living units' bathrooms, metal vanity lights are located on the walls above the built-in cabinets and sinks.

c. Plumbing

Plumbing connected to the bathtubs and sinks within Building 152's bathrooms is located within interior walls and ceilings and is not visible.

d. Security

None

9. Original Furnishings

None

D. Site

1. General Setting and Orientation

Building 152 is located near the southwest corner of the East Agnews Developmental Center campus. The building's primary axis leads from southwest to northeast, roughly parallel to Anza Road, which is located immediately east of the building. Another employees' residence, Building 153, is positioned west of Building 152. Both buildings share the same design, although reversed; Building 153 is positioned on the site rotated 90 degrees from Building 152. A paved concrete sidewalk leads from Anza Road to the large arched passageway at the center of the building.

The area immediately surrounding Building 152 is covered in grass and contains mature trees and shrubs.

2. Historic Landscape Design

Unknown

3. Outbuildings

A modern, corrugated metal storage building is located within Building 152's rear courtyard.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION: BUILDING 153

A. General Statement

I. Architectural Character

Building 153 is identical in design to Building 152, although reversed in arrangement and situated with its primary axis leading from northwest to southeast. Constructed in 1931, Building 153 provided housing to employees of the Agnews State Hospital Annex. It is a two-story, Spanish Colonial Revival-style building formed by seven intersecting, modular rectangular volumes. The volumes are arranged to form a roughly 'U'-shaped plan. Four volumes are laid end-to-end, comprising the building's primary southeast-northwest axis; the remaining three volumes are positioned perpendicular to the main axis and form the building's northwest wing (comprising two volumes) and southeast wing (one volume). The wings and rear façade surround a rear courtyard. Building 153 stands on a concrete slab foundation and has reinforced concrete walls clad in cement stucco. Its wood-framed roof is formed by several offset and intersecting gables covered in half-round clay tiles with grouted tile ridge caps. The building also features six stucco-clad vents: three project from the roof ridge, and the remaining three are located at the eaves and project flush with the wall below. In each of the building's exposed gable ends are five tile vents arranged in a cross pattern.

The building's entrance doors are partially glazed and formed by vertical wood boards. Five of these doors open to the rear (northeast) courtyard. The building features three-light, wood-sash windows that are arranged in groupings of two and three; smaller two-sash windows are also found across the building. Several metal balconies are located on the second floor, each accessed by paired glazed doors opening from an interior living area. The building's primary façade, which faces southeast toward Anza Road, features a central, prominent arched passageway that leads through the building to the rear courtyard. The passageway's entrances have decorative surrounds formed in stucco, comprised of lower pilasters and a molded arch that passes overhead. At the south corner of the building is a wood balcony with shed roof, which is continuous with the adjacent roof slope. An exterior staircase located along the southwest façade leads to the basement boiler room.

The interior of the building is divided into seven apartment modules, each containing a central staircase and two employee living units per floor. Most living units have identical configurations, containing one living room, one dressing room, and one bathroom. Four of the living units, however, contain two living rooms each.

2. Condition of Fabric

Building 153 appears to be fair overall condition. The exterior and interior fabric of the building does not exhibit obvious damage; only occasional areas of spalling, biological growth, or broken window lights were observed. The interiors of inspected units do not display extensive damage.

B. Description of Existing Exterior

1. Overall Dimensions

The primary axis of Building 153, oriented from northwest to southeast, measures approximately 170' wide; each of the building's side wings measures approximately 60' across.

2. Foundations

Building 153 has a concrete slab foundation.

3. Walls

The exterior walls of the building are formed by reinforced concrete and are covered with cement stucco cladding.

4. Structural System & Framing

Building 153 has a structural system of reinforced concrete exterior walls; steel beams frame the stairwells. Other interior walls are framed in wood. The roof of the building is wood-framed, consisting of trussed rafters.

5. Porches, Stoops, Balconies, Porticoes, & Bulkheads

Building 153 features six metal balconies on the second story, arranged across the building's façades. Five of these balconies open from interior living rooms, while the remaining balcony, located on the northwest façade, opens from a landing in an interior stairwell. Each metal balcony consists of a rectangular steel-framed platform edged by a simple wrought iron balustrade.

A second-story wood balcony is located at the north corner of Building 153. This balcony, which adjoins an interior living room, has a shed roof covered in half-round clay tiles that is continuous with the roof slope above. The balcony platform features a plain wood balustrade, and a square wood post supports the outer corner of the balcony's roof. The outer corner of the balcony platform was originally supported by a diagonal wood brace, but this feature has been replaced with a square wood post.

6. Chimneys

Building 153 has six wood-frame, stucco-clad vents that project above the roof. Three of the vents rise from the building's roof ridges; the remaining three vents are located at the

eaves and extend flush with the wall surface below. All vents are rectangular, and five of the six feature sloped, triangular cast concrete caps. Gabled ends feature vents formed by five round tiles arranged in a cross pattern.

7. Openings

a. Doorways and Doors

Building I 53 features a prominent passageway at the center of the southwest and northeast façades, which leads through the building to the rear courtyard. Both ends of the passageway have large stucco surrounds consisting of pilasters with capitals and molded arched profiles above the entrance.

The building has seven exterior wood doors that open to interior apartment modules and provide access to the living units. Five of these doors face the rear courtyard, while the remaining two are located on the opposite façades. The doors are formed with vertical boards and are partially glazed, featuring four upper vision lights.

Each second-story balcony is accessed through a glazed pair of doors with five-light storm doors.

b. Windows and Shutters

All façades of Building I 53 feature wood-sash, three-light casement windows, arranged in pairs or in groupings of three. These windows correspond to the interior apartments' living rooms and bathrooms. The building also features several small two-light casement windows, arranged individually or in pairs. These windows correspond to some interior dressing rooms, as well as second-story stairwell landings. No windows on Building I 53 have shutters.

8. Roof

a. Roof Shape, Covering

The roof of Building I 52 consists of six intersecting gabled forms. The primary axis of the building, leading from southwest to northeast, contains four side-gabled sections that are slightly offset from one another. The two outer wings are also gabled, with roof ridges that run perpendicular to the primary axis. All sections of the roof are covered in half-rounded clay tiles, with similar tiles grouted along roof ridges to serve as a ridge cap.

b. Cornice, Eaves

The eaves of Building 153 feature shaped brackets with rounded profiles, spaced approximately one foot apart. A metal gutter system has been installed below the eaves on all non-gabled facades.

c. Dormers, Cupolas, Towers

None

C. Description of Interior**1. Floor Plan**

The interior of Building 153 is divided into seven separate apartment modules arranged roughly in a 'U' plan. Four modules are placed in the building's primary axis, two comprise the building's northwest wing, and the remaining one forms the southeast wing. The modules are all nearly identical. Each module is rectangular in plan and contains two living units per story; the building, therefore, has a total of 28 living units. At the center of each apartment module is an entrance central hall, stairwell, and closet, with living units located on either side. At the top of the stairwell is a landing with doors that lead to living units on either side. Each living unit contains one combined living room/bedroom, which is attached to a small dressing room and bathroom to the rear. Kitchens are not located within the living units. Four living units (two per story) located near the center of the building's primary axis are larger, containing two rooms.

2. Stairways

The center of each apartment module contains a half-turn stairwell that leads from the first-floor entry hall to the second-floor landing. The two rises of the stairwell are separated by a sloped central half-wall. The stairs are wood, with wood wall stringers abutting either side. The stairs feature rubber treads, and round wood handrails are attached to the wall.

3. Flooring

Exposed wood board flooring is found in select living units, as well as in the first-story closets. Rolled laminate flooring covers the floors in entry hallways, as well as in the remaining living units.

4. Wall and Ceiling Finish

Interior walls and ceilings are finished with cement plaster. Bathtubs within the living units feature modern laminate surrounds applied to the plaster wall.

5. Openings

a. Doorways and Doors

Interior doors within Building 153 are located between living units and the central stairwells, as well as between individual rooms within the living units. Many original interior wood doors remain in place, featuring six vertically-oriented panels. In some instances, original doors have been removed from within the living units.

b. Windows

None

6. Decorative Features and Trim

The interior of Building 153 features wood trim throughout. Windows predominantly feature molded wood trim with rounded, projecting sills; window trim within dressing rooms and bathrooms, however, has a plain, squared profile. Molded wood trim is found around doorways and as baseboards and crown molding. Rubber baseboard has been applied over the wood baseboard in some living units. Some bathrooms feature plain wood wainscot caps midway up the wall.

7. Hardware

Historic panel doors located within living units feature original rounded brass turn knobs, while doors that separate the living units from the central stairwells have replacement metal keyed turn knobs. Windows feature their original brass turn latches, and interior wood screens have simple wood pull knobs. Interior doors and window screens feature ball tip hinges.

8. Mechanical Equipment

a. Heating, Air Conditioning, Ventilation

Building 153 was constructed with a basement boiler room that supplied steam service to wall radiators throughout the building. The system does not appear to have been updated; radiators remain in some residential units but have been removed from others.

b. Lighting

Lighting within Building 153's stairwells and living units is provided by incandescent light fixtures. Other units feature modern replacement fixtures. Within the living units' bathrooms, metal vanity lights are located on the walls above the built-in cabinets and sinks.

c. Plumbing

Plumbing connected to the bathtubs and sinks within Building 153's bathrooms is located within interior walls and ceilings and is not visible.

d. Security

None

9. Original Furnishings

None

D. Site

1. General Setting and Orientation

Building 153 is located near the southwest corner of the East Agnews Developmental Center campus. The building's primary axis leads from northwest to southeast, perpendicular to the adjacent and identical employees' residence, Building 152. Both buildings share the same design, although reversed; the buildings are arranged on the site rotated 90 degrees from one another. An automobile access drive leads southwest of Building 153, and a paved concrete sidewalk leads from this drive to the large arched passageway at the center of the building.

A paved surface parking lot lies between the northeast façade of Building 153 and Balboa Street. To the west of this parking lot are five contemporary buildings and large parking pad that form the campus's auto compound.

The area immediately surrounding Building 153 is covered in grass and contains mature trees, as well as several overgrown shrubs.

2. Historic Landscape Design

Unknown

3. Outbuildings

A small, gabled storage shed, Building 156, is located beside the parking lot to the northeast of Building 153. This building is contemporary construction that does not appear to be programmatically linked to either of the adjacent employees' residences.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION: BUILDING 154

A. General Statement

1. Architectural Character

Building 154 is a one-story automobile garage, designed in the Spanish Colonial Revival style, comprised of three rectangular volumes that face north and are arranged end-to-end in a stepped fashion. The building stands on a concrete slab foundation and has exterior walls of board-formed concrete clad in cement stucco. The eastern and central volumes of the garage are side-gabled and have roofs covered with half-round clay tiles. The eastern volume is slightly oriented to the northeast, so that it intersects the central volume at an angle. The western volume is detached apart from a connecting wall containing a door opening, and it is differentiated from the other volumes by its flat parapet roof, with half-round tile coping along the roof edge.

On the north façade, each component volume of the garage features four automobile bays that contain paired batten doors of diagonal wood boards with iron strap hinges. The south façade of the eastern volume features one wood-sash, four-light window set deep within the wall. The central volume features one vent, clad in stucco, that features four rectangular ventilation openings and a gabled cap covered in half-round clay tiles.

2. Condition of Fabric

Building 154 appears to be in fair overall condition. The stucco cladding appears intact across all façades. Areas of delaminated paint are visible on the stucco walls, and the garage doors show moderate warping and deterioration.

B. Description of Existing Exterior

1. Overall Dimensions

Each constituent volume of Building 154 measures approximately 40' x 20', so that the building is approximately 120' long and 20' wide.

2. Foundations

Building 154 has a concrete slab foundation.

3. Walls

The exterior walls of the building are board-formed concrete covered by cement stucco cladding.

4. Structural System & Framing

Building 154's structural system comprises concrete exterior walls and a wood-frame roof. Roof trusses are carried by wood posts within the interior walls.

5. Porches, Stoops, Balconies, Porticoes, & Bulkheads

None

6. Chimneys

A four-sided vent, formed by stucco over a wood frame, rises from the roof ridge of the central volume of the garage. The chimney is gabled and features half-round roof tiles along its ridge and on its slopes. The vent features four rectangular openings, two each on its east and west faces.

7. Openings

a. Doorways and Doors

Building 154 has twelve automobile bays, four per volume. Each bay contains a pair of wood batten rectangular doors with an exterior face comprised of diagonal boards of varying widths. Each door leaf is hung on three iron strap hinges. The doors retain iron pull handles.

The opening within the wall connecting the western and central volumes of the garage contains a pedestrian door of vertical wood boards.

b. Windows and Shutters

One window is located on Building 154, on the south façade of the eastern volume. The window is a square, four-light wood-sash casement window set deep in the wall. The surrounding stucco angles in toward the window, creating a splayed surround. The window is boarded over on the interior.

8. Roof

a. Roof Shape, Covering

The roofs of the central and eastern volumes of Building 154 are side-gabled and covered with half-round clay tiles. Similar tiles set in mortar serve as ridge caps. The west volume of the building has a flat roof that appears to be covered in asphalt. A

parapet rises around the perimeter of the roof, and tiles line the top edge of the parapet walls.

b. Cornice, Eaves

On the eastern and central volumes, the stucco walls of the non-gabled façades angle out immediately below the eaves and form simple cornices.

c. Dormers, Cupolas, Towers

None

C. Description of Interior

1. Floor Plan

Building 154 has interior partition walls that divide the interior of each individual volume into four automobile bays, for a total of twelve. All bays measure approximately 10' x 20' and correspond to an exterior paired door.

2. Stairways

None

3. Flooring

Building 154 has poured concrete floors throughout.

4. Wall and Ceiling Finish

The garage's board-formed concrete walls have no interior finishes. Walls between the automobile bays are wood framed and are covered with areas of chicken wire mesh and plywood board. The ceiling has no finish, so that the wood purlins and roof sheathing are exposed.

5. Openings

a. Doorways and Doors

None

b. Windows

None

6. Decorative Features and Trim

None

7. Hardware

None

8. Mechanical Equipment

a. Heating, Air Conditioning, Ventilation

The building does not have heating or air conditioning systems, as these were not required for its use as an automobile garage.

b. Lighting

Incandescent light bulbs are installed at the ceilings of the automobile bays.

c. Plumbing

None

d. Security

None

9. Original Furnishings

None

D. Site

1. General Setting and Orientation

Building 154 is located within the southwest corner of the East Agnews campus, immediately north of Anza Road. The building is situated opposite another historic garage, Building 155; the garages originally flanked the main entrance to the campus. Anza Road now terminates in a cul-de-sac immediate west of the garages, inside of the property boundary. The north façade of Building 154 bounds the southern end of a triangular, asphalt-paved parking area that measures approximately 170' by 150'. A chain-link fence passes to the west of Building 154 and the parking area, delineating the boundary of the East Agnews campus. An automobile drive leads past the east wall of the garage to connect the parking area with Anza Road.

2. Historic Landscape Design

Unknown

3. Outbuildings

None

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION: BUILDING 155

B. General Statement

1. Architectural Character

Building 155 is a one-story automobile garage designed in the Spanish Colonial Revival style, formed by two largely rectangular, side-gabled volumes arranged according to an 'L' plan. The two volumes are detached from one another apart from a connecting wall that rises above the height of the adjoining eaves. The wall contains a rectangular opening that provides access to the gravel parking area situated in front of the garage to the south. The building stands on a concrete slab foundation; its exterior walls are formed by concrete walls clad in stucco. Round clay tiles cover the wood-frame roof, as well as the top ridge of the connecting wall.

The primary volume faces south; its rectangular plan is slightly curved. The volume features five automobile bays. The north façade features one wood-sash, four-light window set deep within the wall. Rising from the roof is one square vent, clad in stucco, that features a round tile vent on each face. The other volume faces east and contains three automobile bays, each with a paired wood batten doors. All bays contain a paired batten door of diagonal wood boards with iron strap hinges.

2. Condition of Fabric

The overall condition of Building 155 appears to be fair. The exterior stucco has been gouged at the northeast corner of the building and near one of the automobile bays, likely as the result of vehicle collisions. The doors have deteriorated somewhat near the ground, with areas of delaminated paint and weathered/warped boards.

C. Description of Existing Exterior

1. Overall Dimensions

The primary volume of the garage, facing south, measures approximately 20' x 50'. The secondary volume, facing east, measures approximately 20' x 30'.

2. Foundations

Building 155 has a concrete slab foundation.

3. Walls

The exterior walls of the building are board-formed concrete covered with cement stucco cladding.

4. Structural System & Framing

Building 155's structural system comprises concrete exterior walls and wood-frame roof.

5. Porches, Stoops, Balconies, Porticoes, & Bulkheads

None

6. Chimneys

Building 155 features one vent located near the eave on the north-facing roof slope. The four-sided vent is formed by the same stucco that covers the walls of the building. It rises approximately 4' above the roof and has one round tile vent on each face, located within a simple frieze. The crown of the vent, also stucco, is pyramidal and terminates in a ball finial.

7. Openings

a. Doorways and Doors

Building 155 has eight automobile bays: five are located on the volume facing south, and the remaining three are located on the volume facing east. Each bay contains a paired wood batten door with an exterior face comprised of diagonal boards of varying widths. Each door leaf is hung on three iron strap hinges. Five of the doors have been secured shut by plywood boards or wood beams. Four doors retain iron pull handles. The opening located within the connecting wall between the garage's two volumes is rectangular and features no door, although hinges are present.

b. Windows and Shutters

Building 155 has one window, located on the north façade of the primary volume. The window is a square, four-light wood-sash casement window set deep in the wall. The surrounding stucco angles in toward the window, creating a splayed surround. The glass lights are currently broken, and the window is boarded over on the interior.

8. Roof

a. Roof Shape, Covering

Each component volume of Building 155 has a side-gabled roof covered in half-round clay tiles. Similar tiles set in mortar serve as ridge caps.

b. Cornice, Eaves

On the garage's non-gabled facades, the stucco walls angle out immediately below the eaves and form cornice belt courses.

c. Dormers, Cupolas, Towers

None

D. Description of Interior

2. Floor Plan

Partition walls divide the interior of the garage into eight automobile bays, each approximately 10' x 20' and corresponding to an exterior pair of doors.

3. Stairways

None

4. Flooring

The floor of the garage is poured concrete.

5. Wall and Ceiling Finish

The interiors of the garage's board-formed concrete structural walls have no interior finishes. Partition walls between the automobile bays are wood framed and are covered by areas of chicken wire mesh and plywood board. The ceiling has no finish, so that the wood purlins and roof sheathing are exposed.

6. Openings

a. Doorways and Doors

None

b. Windows

None

7. Decorative Features and Trim

None

8. Hardware

None

9. Mechanical Equipment

a. Heating, Air Conditioning, Ventilation

The building does not have heating or air conditioning systems, as these were not required for its use as an automobile garage.

b. Lighting

Incandescent light bulbs are installed at the ceilings of the automobile bays.

c. Plumbing

None

d. Security

None

10. Original Furnishings

None

E. Site

I. General Setting and Orientation

Building 155 is located within the southwest corner of the East Agnews campus. The building stands south of Anza Road, opposite another historic garage, Building 154. The garages originally flanked the main entrance to the campus. Anza Road now terminates in a cul-de-sac immediate west of the garages, inside of the property boundary. The two volumes of Building 155, arranged as an 'L', bound two edges of a gravel parking area to the south that measures approximately 30' x 60'. A chain-link fence lines the southern

edge of the parking area, delineating the boundary of the East Agnews campus. An automobile drive leads past the east wall of the garage to connect the parking area with Anza Road.

2. Historic Landscape Design

Unknown

3. Outbuildings

None

PART III. SOURCES OF INFORMATION

A. Early Views

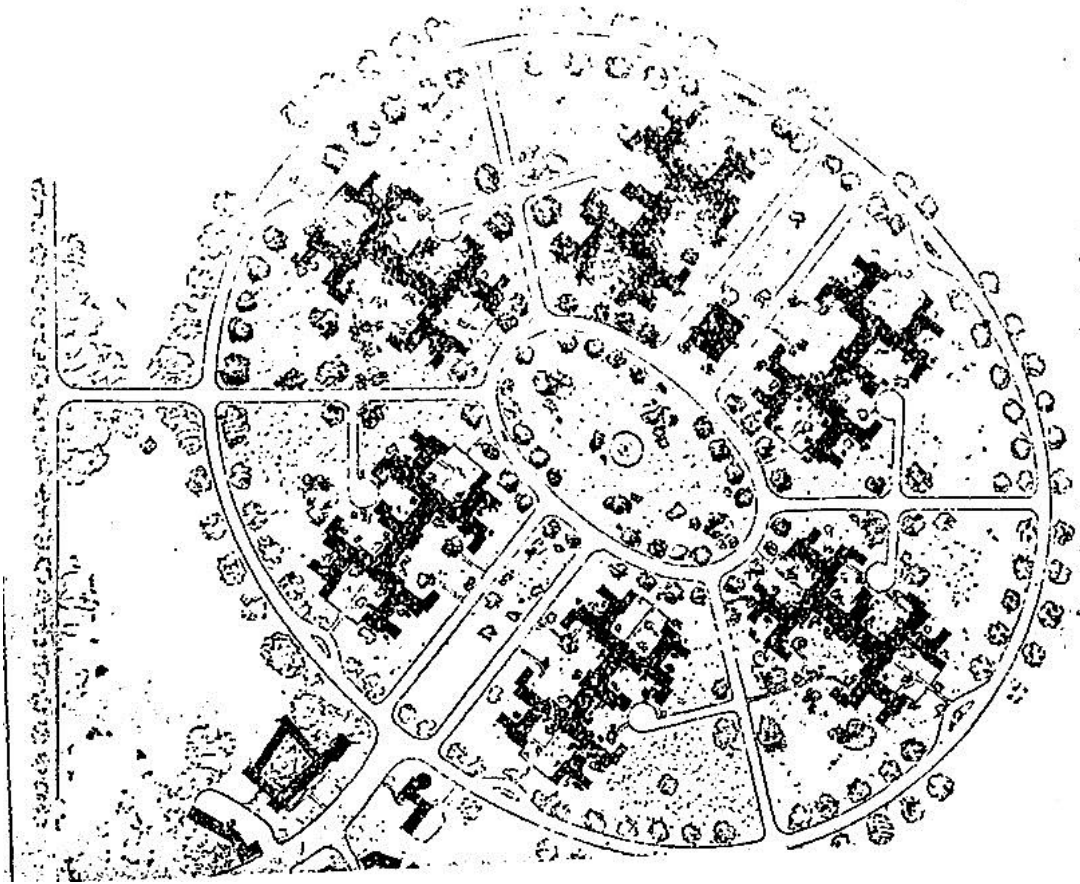


Figure I. Dr. Leonard Stocking's Colony Plan, 1931

Source: Jim Chesnutt, "\$2,500,000 Project at Agnew," *San José Mercury News*, January 1931

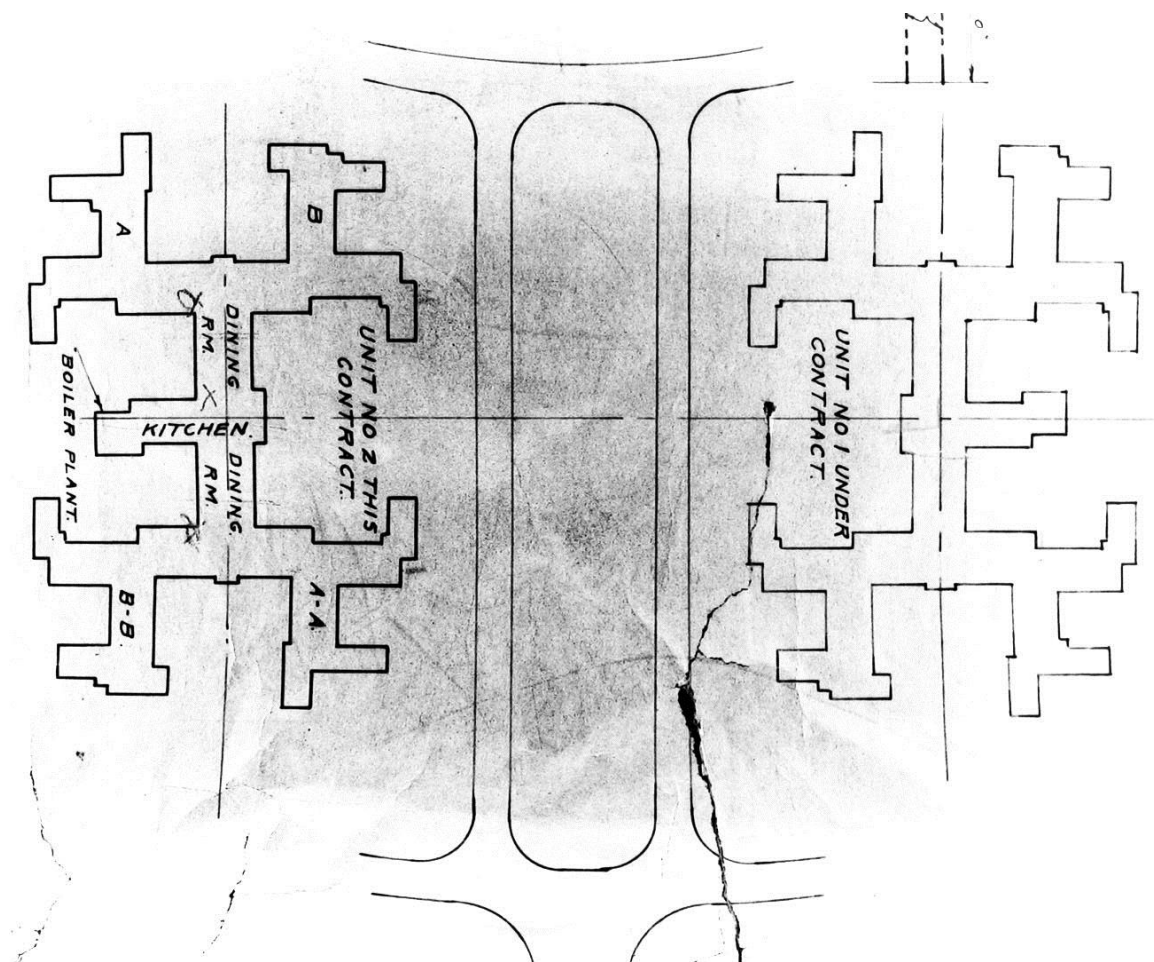


Figure 2. Key plan showing the original two wards, Building 51 (right) and Building 52 (left)
Source: Facilities Management Office, Agnews Developmental Center



Figure 3. East Campus of the Agnews State Hospital, c. 1932,
with water tower under construction
Source: Private collection of Henry Pohler, Ph.D.

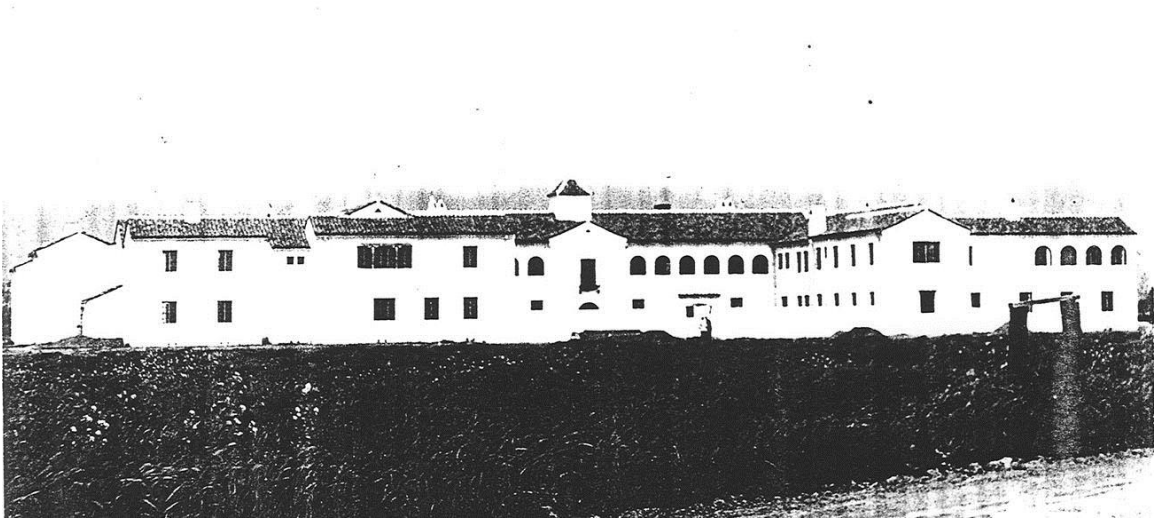


Figure 4. Ward building, 1932
Source: Private collection of Henry Pohler, Ph.D.



Figure 5. East campus, c. 1933
Source: Agnews Museum

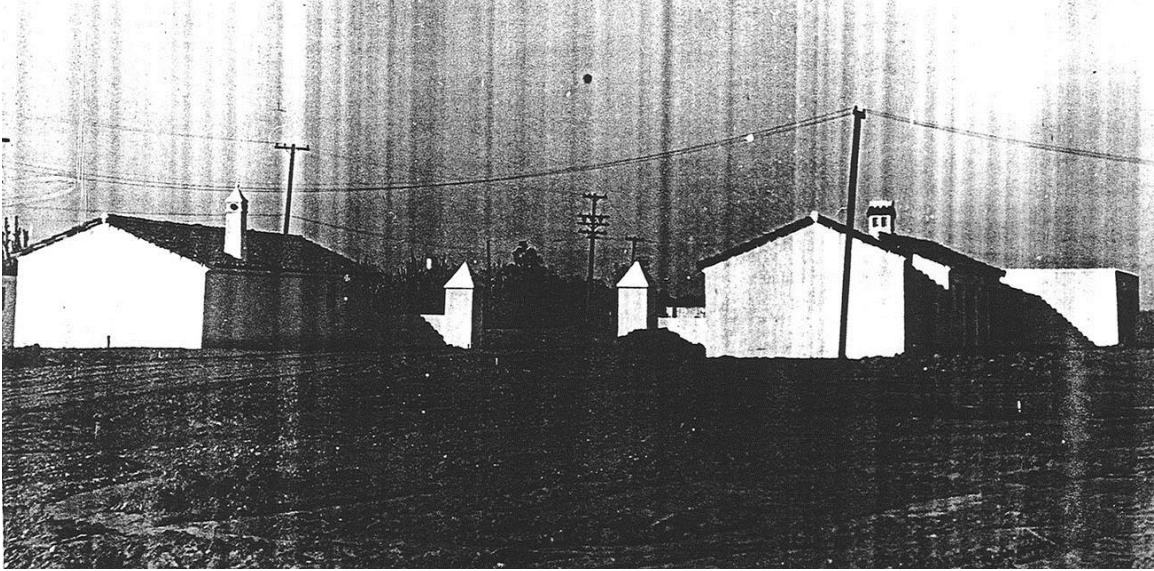


**Figure 6. Main entrance gate,
formed by walls attached to garages (Buildings 154 and 155), 1932
Source: Private collection of Henry Pohler, Ph.D.**

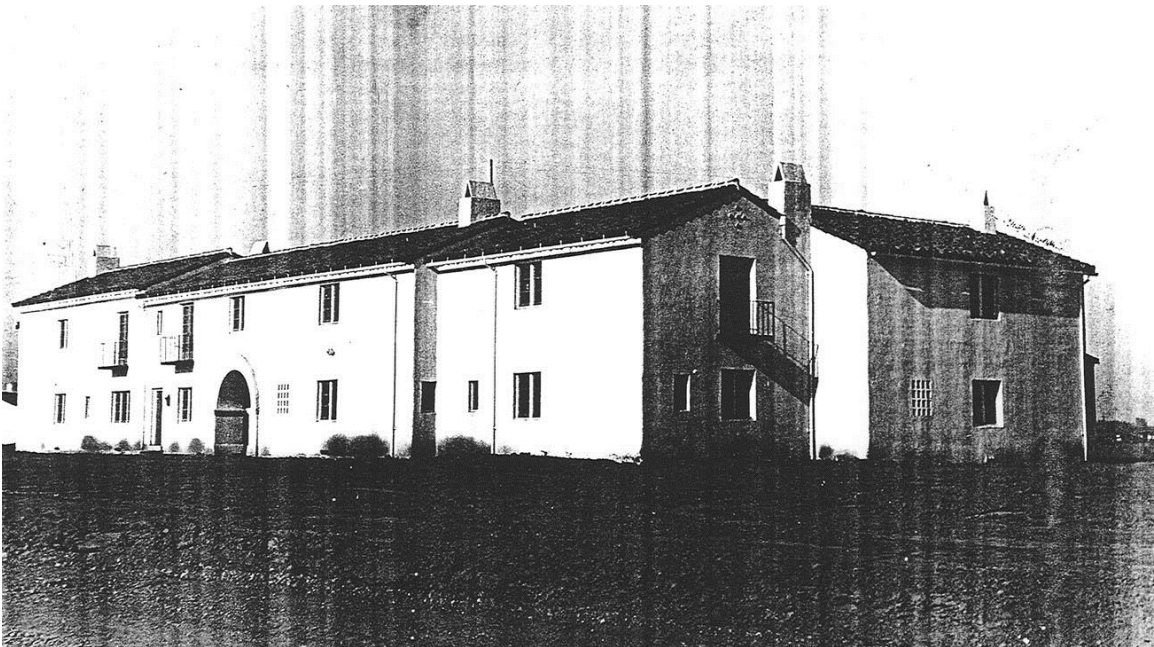


**Figure 7. Staff residential building, 1932
Source: Private collection of Henry Pohler, Ph.D.**



Figure 8. Aerial photograph of the East Campus, 1939
Source: Environmental Data Resources, Inc.



Figure 9. Aerial photograph of the East Campus, 1951
Source: Pacific Aerial Surveys

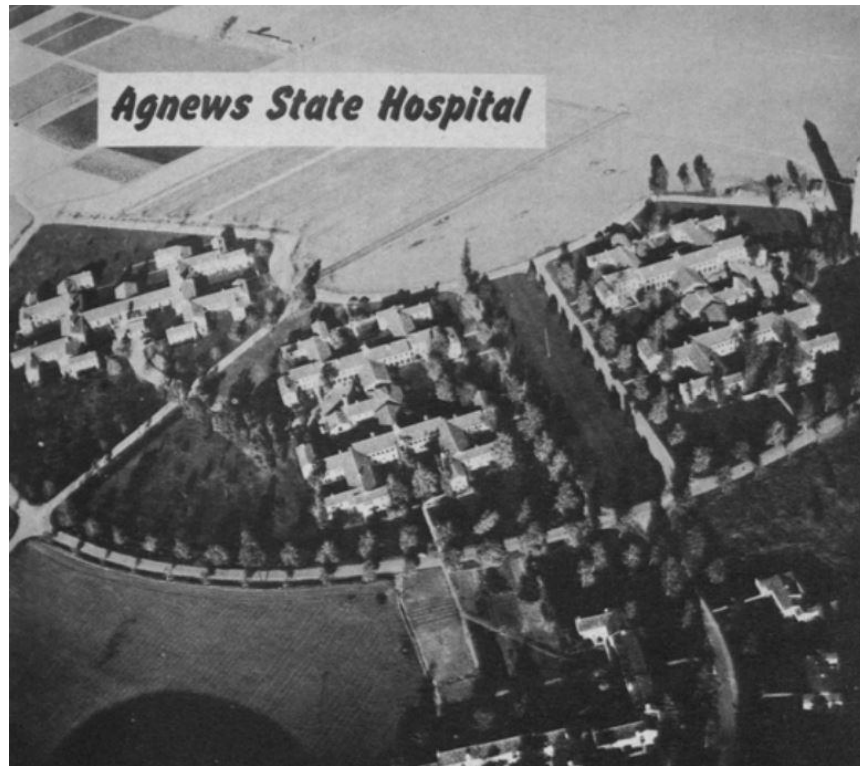


Figure 10. Aerial photograph of the East Campus, c. 1952

Source: State of California Department of Mental Hygiene, *Biennial Report for 1950-1952*



Figure 11. Aerial photograph of the East Campus, 1960

Source: Pacific Aerial Surveys



Figure 12. Aerial photograph of the East Campus, 1974
Source: Pacific Aerial Surveys



Figure 13. Aerial photograph of the East Campus, 1984
Source: Pacific Aerial Surveys



Figure 14. Aerial photograph of the East Campus, 1998
Source: Environmental Data Resources, Inc.

B. Original Architectural Drawings

The selection of reproduced architectural drawings that accompany this report, summarized below, offers a representative sample of original drawings produced by the State of California Department of Public Works in preparation for the construction of the Agnews State Hospital Annex. Full sets of drawings—including structural, mechanical, and electrical drawings—are available in the collections of the California State Archives.

Buildings 51 and 52

First floor plan (Sheet 1, 10/6/1930)
First floor plan (Sheet 3, 10/6/1930)
Section and front elevation (Sheet 5, 10/6/1930)
Sections and side elevations (Sheet 6, 10/6/1930)
Center plan, elevations, and sections (Sheet 7, 10/6/1930)
Stairs and details (Sheet 8, 10/6/1930)
Window and grille details (Sheet 9, 10/6/1930)
Gate and roof vent details (Sheet 10, 10/6/1930)
Roof plan and boiler room sections (Sheet 11, 10/6/1930)
Kitchen sections (Sheet 12, 10/6/1930)

Building 53

Planting plan (Sheet 1, 7/14/1939)
Dining rooms and kitchen plan, elevations, and sections (Sheet 7, 3/30/1938)
Dining room elevations and sections; balcony plan (Sheet 9, 3/30/1938)
Projection room sections, plan, and details (Sheet 14, 3/30/1938)

Buildings 152 and 153

Second floor plan with site plan (Sheet 2, 4/6/1931)
Elevations (Sheet 3, 4/6/1931)
Living unit section and plan (Sheet 5, 4/6/1931)
Roof vent and arch details (Sheet 6, 4/6/1931)

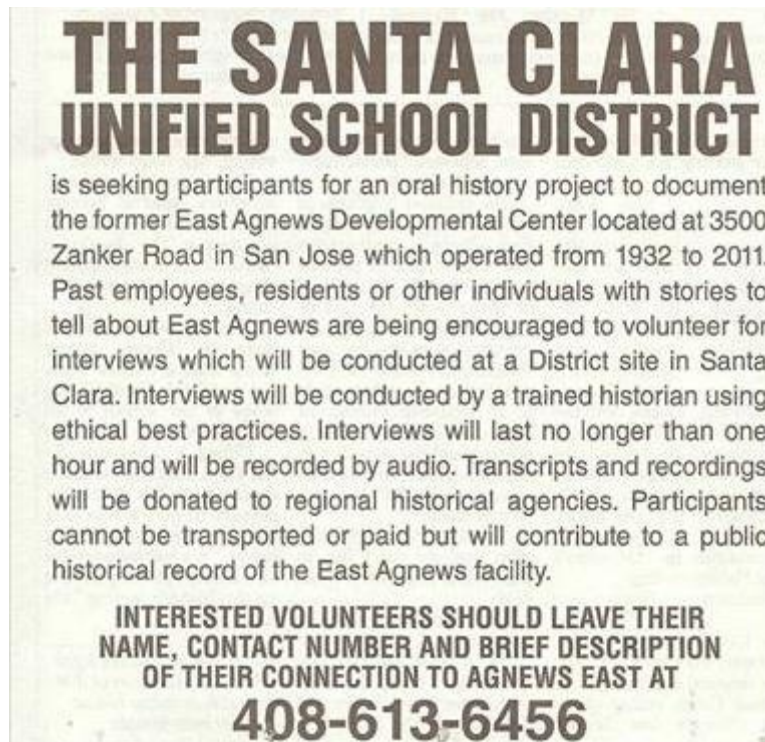
Buildings 154 and 155

Garage plans and elevations (Sheet 8, 4/6/1931)
Garage sections and details (Sheet 9, 4/6/1931)

C. Interviews

Oral History Preface and Methodology

The following section of the HABS documentation report presents the transcripts of oral history interviews with five former employees of the East Agnews Developmental Center, as well as with the parent of an Agnews client who was heavily involved in policy advocacy leading up to the facility's closure. Participants were recruited through a newspaper advertisement published in the *San José Mercury News* several times during March and April 2015. The advertisement was drafted by Jonathon Rusch, architectural historian with Page & Turnbull, and edited by staff of the Santa Clara Unified School District. The advertisement is reproduced below:



Prospective participants were asked to call and leave messages with the Santa Clara Unified School District, who then forwarded the messages to Jonathon Rusch. Rusch called the respondents and asked preliminary questions about their relationships to the East Campus of the Agnews Developmental Center and their availability to be interviewed. During these conversations, he also explained the anticipated risks and benefits of participation. Following these telephone calls, Rusch chose six participants who together represented as broad a range of experiences at the facility as possible, given the respondent pool. Rusch then contacted these six individuals and scheduled the interviews.

Jonathon Rusch prepared for the oral history interviews by reviewing past documentation of the East Agnews Developmental Center, including research previously conducted by Page & Turnbull for the *Historic Resources Assessment* completed in 2006. Rusch became familiar with the campus during two site visits during October and November 2014, which were arranged by Mike Bowers, an employee of Strawn Construction.

Rusch compiled an informed consent form using guidance from the Oral History Association and based on several example forms for similar oral history projects located online. All participants completed the forms prior to being interviewed so that they could become aware of their rights and could request special provisions if desired, such as the opportunity to review and edit their transcripts prior to publication.

The interviews were conducted by Jonathon Rusch in April 2015. The five former employees were available to be interviewed at the Bond Project Office of the Santa Clara Unified School District, located at 3350 Brookdale Drive, Santa Clara, CA. The school district reserved a conference room in this building for a full day for the purpose of conducting the interviews. Joanie Pepper, the sixth participant, preferred to be interviewed via telephone from her home. Rusch called her from the offices of Page & Turnbull in San Francisco. Rusch recorded all interviews with a digital voice recorder and edited the written transcripts, which were prepared by Jo Ann Wall of JSTS Transcription Service. One participant requested that their name not be used within the report, and this name has been removed from the appropriate transcript. Two participants requested to review and edit their transcripts; the edited transcripts are included in the following section.

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Informed Consent Form

East Agnews Developmental Center Oral History Project Santa Clara Unified School District Informed Consent Form

Interview information

1. You are being asked to participate in an interview in connection with the Santa Clara Unified School District's East Agnews Developmental Center Oral History Project. The District has contracted with Page & Turnbull, an architecture and historic preservation firm in San Francisco, to conduct the interviews.
2. You are one of six individuals who will be interviewed. You are being asked to participate because of your experience as a past employee of East Agnews, or as a parent of a former patient of the facility. Your participation is voluntary.
3. You will be asked about your experiences with the daily operations and policies of the East Agnews Developmental Center during the time that you had a relationship with the facility.
4. The interview will be recorded, transcribed, and included within a package of materials to be made available for public use at five California historical repositories: the San José Public Library, History San José, the Preservation Action Council of San José, the California State Library, and the Northwest Information Center of the State of California Office of Historic Preservation (located at Sonoma State University). Any member of the general public will have access to a transcript of the interview at these locations, and your words may be quoted in scholarly and popular publications.
5. No photographs or video recording will be taken during the interview.
6. Interview will take approximately one hour.

Risks and Benefits

There are no anticipated risks to participation in this interview. In the event that you choose to withdraw during or after the interview, any recording made of the interview will be either given to you or destroyed, and no transcript will be made of the interview. During the interview you may request to stop the recording at any time to discuss or clarify how you wish to respond to a question or topic before proceeding. If you wish, you will have the opportunity to review the interview transcript for accuracy.

Interview participants will not receive payment but may receive a complimentary transcript and recording of their interview, if desired.

Your rights

This project is voluntary. You do not have to answer any questions that you do not wish to answer. You may stop your participation at any time during the interview. If you do not want to be identified by name, we will assign you a number on your transcript, and you will not be asked specific questions about the identification of your relatives. Your contact information such as address and telephone will not be disclosed to the public. If you choose not to participate, it will not affect your relationship with the Santa Clara Unified School District, nor will there be any penalty or loss of benefits to which you are already entitled.

You will be given a copy of this consent form to keep.

Deposit of materials

You will agree to have the recording and final edited transcript stored at the San José Public Library, History San José, the Preservation Action Council of San José, the California State Library, and the Northwest Information Center.

Any restrictions as to use of portions of the interview indicated by you will be handled by editing those portions out of the final copy of the transcript.

Yes_____ No_____ I consent to the use of my name.

Yes_____ No_____ I would like to review and edit the transcript prior to its use.

Yes_____ No_____ I would like to receive a copy of the final transcript and recording of my interview.

Yes_____ No_____ I consent to the Santa Clara Unified School District's deposit of the transcript as part of a report into the collections of the San José Public Library, History San José, the Preservation Action Council of San José, the California State Library, and the Northwest Information Center of the State of California Office of Historic Preservation.

I would like the following restrictions be placed on this material:

If you have questions about the research project or procedures, you may contact:

Jonathon Rusch
Architectural Historian/Cultural Resources Planner
Page & Turnbull
417 Montgomery Street, 8th Floor
San Francisco, CA 94104,
415-593-3248; rusch@page-turnbull.com.

Interviewer signature _____

I agree to participate in this interview.

Interviewee Printed Name _____

Interviewee signature _____

Address _____

Phone number _____

Date ____/____/____

Interview Summaries

Deirdre Demorest

(Interview: April 21, 2015 at Santa Clara Unified School District Bond Project Office in Santa Clara)

Education prior to internship at Agnews – Familiarity with Agnews before taking position there – Volunteer position at West Campus as a high school student – Isolated setting of East Agnews – Impressions of East Agnews campus – Medically fragile unit – Connection between position at Agnews and career goals – Daily schedule – Daily interactions with teachers – Typical activities with clients – Relationships with certain clients – Impression of changes during time spent at Agnews – Relationships with other staff members – Attempt to arrange a home visit with clients – Interactions with clients' parents – Impression of campus landscape – Flood of area around East Agnews campus – Comparison to facilities on West Campus – Following developments at Agnews following the end of position – Thoughts on the preservation of the campus

Rick Kirske

(Interview: April 21, 2015 at Santa Clara Unified School District Bond Project Office in Santa Clara)

Pharmacist position prior to Agnews – Overview of responsibilities of new position reviewing clients' drug regimens – Daily schedule split between west and east campuses – Involvement in annual team meetings – Introducing unit-dose distribution system for drug accountability – Additional staff hiring – Promotion to Pharmacist 2 – Supervisor Bonus Award and recognition of accomplishments – Effect of client's murder by staff member within the pharmacy – Position as chair of committee against psychotropic overdosing – Promotion in 2001 and new state position in Sacramento – Return to Department of Developmental Services – Shift at Agnews from exclusive psychiatric care to care for those with developmental disabilities – Location of pharmacy in Rapaport Building – Efforts to clean up medication rooms – Interactions with clients in residences – Sense of family among colleagues – Employee apartments at the east campus – Response of executive director to client murder – Involvement in closing the facility – System of collaborative problem solving among staff

Kathleen Lee

(Interview: April 21, 2015 at Santa Clara Unified School District Bond Project Office in Santa Clara)

Overview of positions held at Agnews – First day during licensing procedures – Educational and career background prior to career at Agnews – Philosophy towards Agnews positions – Responsibilities as special events coordinator – Responsibilities during final 18 months as Agnews employee – Medieval Fair – Creating swimming pool opportunity for clients – Special Olympics – Father Byrne's blessings at special events – Role for medically fragile clients during Special Olympics – Daily interactions with clients in office – Thoughts on Agnews as a confined institution – Medically fragile infants at Agnews – Recollections of client Clem – Process of moving Clem to new housing during East Agnews closure – Activities involving volunteers from local Catholic high schools – August concert nights – Location of various divisions throughout the campus – Yearly Christmas tree lighting ceremony – Overview of different program groups at Agnews – Arrangement of residential units – Experience of 1989 earthquake at Agnews

Joanie Pepper

(Interview: April 28, 2015 via telephone)

Son Bruce's 30-year residence at Agnews – Dental and medical care for Agnews clients – Vocational programs – Efforts of parents organization, AMRA, to secure good housing for clients after Agnews closure – Details on legislation that shaped housing options – Quality of care in son's current home – First favorable impressions of Agnews campus and staff when Brucie was placed there – Homey feeling of institutional setting – Individual Patient Plan collaborative care – Brucie's first placement in Marin County as a teenager – Transfer to Stockton Developmental Center and ultimately to Agnews – Brucie's changing medical needs – Transfer between Agnews campuses – Membership in Save Agnews Now after learning of impending closure – Fears about the consequences of the closure – Account of police officer at closure meeting – Role of AMRA prior to and during closure proceedings – Reaction of parents to high-profile negative episodes at Agnews – Involvement in the legislative process – Brucie's gradual introduction to his new home – Efforts to place clients in homes with friends – Wheelchair vans at new homes – Party to introduce neighbors to clients – Changing reactions of neighbors – Brucie's Family Talent Show in community housing

Angela Vrbanac-Libby

(Interview: April 21, 2015 at Santa Clara Unified School District Bond Project Office in Santa Clara)

Prior positions in developmental centers and promotion to Agnews – Overview of positions held at Agnews – Initial impressions of East Campus – Comparison of Agnews to other state developmental centers – First position as program director of skilled nursing program in Rapaport Building – Efforts to bring medically fragile patients outdoors – Client who graduated from high school – Size and structure of programs at Agnews – Impending closure of the facility beginning in the 1980s – Transition towards care of the developmentally disabled during the 1960s and 1970s – Ethnically diverse workforce at Agnews – Position as program director at Program 5/Building 51, including Child/Young Adult Program – Older Adults Program in Building 53 and Behavior Adjustment Program in Building 52 – Transition in behavioral interventions away from restraints – Position as quality assurance director in Administration Building – Responsibilities as Administrator on Duty throughout career – Incident of being paged from movie theater in Palo Alto – Isolation and programs of Agnews prior to her time there – Preparing and undertaking accreditation surveys from the ACMRDD – Examples of upgrades made to residential areas – Incident of husband's visit to Fairview Developmental Center and interaction with client – Limits of accreditation-driven upgrades within institutional system – Memories of low points at Agnews, including murder of client on the West Campus – Resulting changes in hiring practices – Employee protections from union and State Personnel Board – Reactions of families of clients – Promotion to clinical director at Sonoma Developmental Center in 2005 – Return to Agnews as executive director in 2006 – Responsibilities of closing the facility and laying off staff – Process of relocating clients – Final client moved on March 26, 2009 – Reflections on closure of Agnews and new care paradigms for the developmentally disabled – Recent interaction with fragile former Agnews patient and his mother in community setting

Anonymous Agnews Employee

(Interview: April 21, 2015 at Santa Clara Unified School District Bond Project Office in Santa Clara)

Overview of positions held at Agnews between 1985 and 2001 – Types of adaptive equipment made for clients – Personal impact of working with clients at Agnews – Communicating with clients – Preparation for current teaching position – First impressions of the East Campus – Working with profoundly disabled clients – Initial temporary position at Agnews – Opinion of politics within the state development center system – Role preparing one client to interact with licensing team, and Agnews's response to client – Reaction of another client who was asked not to clean the ward – Staff response to pressure from administration – Program 2 (Rapaport Building) – Floating and involvement in different programs – Volunteering with Father Byrne – Workshop to make adaptive equipment – Locations of some of his positions within the campus – Church buildings and clients' preferences for religious services – Canteen in the food service building – Catholic priest at East Agnews – Position as adult education teacher – Further types of adaptive equipment made for clients – Typical workday and evening class in the Rapaport Building – Duties within the residential units – Responsibilities during the evening shift – Experience with clients and computers – Interaction with parent of client after her daughter's death – Leading adult education classes at the Wilson Adult Education Center – Taking a client on the train for the first time – Hopes for the future of care for people with developmental disabilities

Deirdre Demorest

Jon Rusch (JR): My name is Jon Rusch. I'm an architectural historian with Page & Turnbull in San Francisco, and I am in the Bond Project Office of the Santa Clara Unified School District on April 21, 2015 with Deirdre Demorest doing an oral history interview on the history of the East Agnews Developmental Center in San José. I just would like to start with a pretty straightforward question. If you could describe your background before you had a relationship with Agnews, and then state your dates of employment there.

Deirdre Demorest (DD): Prior to working at Agnew, I had graduated from UC Berkeley, and I was going to San José State and starting a Master's program in, actually, marriage and family therapy. It was a position I applied for that they were looking for. You had to be a student. It was in their Education Department on one of the units. It was the Medically Fragile Unit. I was there, I don't have the exact dates, but it would have been like August of 1981 and probably through August of '83, because it was a two-year program.

JR: Do I remember correctly that you grew up in Santa Clara, or in the area?

DD: I moved here in 1968, so I grew up in this area. I went to Santa Clara schools. This campus that we're interviewing at was where I went to middle school. My children all went to the Santa Clara School District. So, I've been kind of a local since I moved here in, like, third grade.

JR: Before you started your graduate program and had your position there, did you have any sort of exposure to it? Would the name Agnews mean anything to you as a local?

DD: It was, because, I think, initially it had the reputation of people who were mentally ill, or quote "crazy." There probably were some derogatory terms were out at Agnews. When I was in high school, I, actually, volunteered on the West Campus, which is off the Rivermark area now, Montague. A friend and I, we would go, and I can't even remember how I got involved other than I was—I'm in mental health now, so I was always one that did volunteer and helped that kind of thing. We would go out to that branch of Agnews then, so that would have been mid-'70s, once a month, and we would throw birthday parties for whoever residents of that month. They had a workshop, kind of like HOPE, so they would be screwing things together for maybe companies. I don't know how much was for companies and how much of it was, also, activities, more occupational therapy kind of activities. I did that one summer in high school, but I did, for a couple of years, go out once a month, again, but that was the Agnews that was not the East, but the West.

JR: Right, it's where the Sun Microsystems campus is now.

DD: Yes, now where that is and all the shopping area that's there. I think, there was a lot of misunderstanding probably around Agnews, but I know when I went there, my experience was very positive with both the staff and the residents in terms of—my impression, they were fairly impaired in the West Campus. Just looking back now, I wouldn't have known anything like what a diagnosis was, but certainly, people might be walking around talking to themselves, but everyone was very kind and happy we were

there. In the West Campus, the population, I worked there, was very different. That was my exposure prior to 1981.

JR: Can you describe your first, or an early visit, to East Agnews, when you first started your position? Maybe your first impressions of the campus?

DD: If I recall, it was out in kind of fields. So at that point, the West Campus was more off Montague Expressway and so there were roads. And then it was out in an area that was a lot of farmland. In the winters, it got very swampy. I had trouble one time even getting to work because it flooded. It would kind of be driving through the farmlands and then you would drive up, and what I recall, I can't remember where I parked, but, I think, there was parking in front of the building, but it was a very old, more a Spanish—I don't know if my terms are correct. That's what my impression was. So, it was quite a large building and the halls were very wide, and it felt like an institution in that regard. Going in, it kind of had the smells of it. Then I was in a classroom, so even though it was education, I mean that was probably used very loosely, because these were what they called medically fragile, so they were all under 18, and they needed education. So, there were about four special ed teachers. I was assigned to one, and so she had a caseload. There was somebody who was brain injured from a motorcycle accident. There were kids who were born, some of them had suffocated, but had been revived, but were severely brain damaged. Some of them had odd neurological—I always remember this kid, because he, I think, he looked like me, so I got a lot of—when I would visit initially, they thought I was, actually, related. I mean, he had his own family that visited, but he was a toddler, and he had like the myelin sheath over your neurons were deteriorating. I don't know all the terms of it. So, he was very impaired. Most of them were tube-fed. A lot of it was more kind of stimulation, sometimes trying to teach them how to swallow. So, it was very different from the West Campus where people would come in, and you could give them a birthday cake, and they wanted to chat.

So, my impression was certainly driving up and then this large classroom, and then you would go to the unit and get whichever child you were working with and wheel them to the classroom, and then wheel them back. We didn't do the medical thing. Some of them needed regular suction, and that kind of thing. I don't particularly remember doing that. I know some of the teachers would do that, but a lot of it was the OT kind of things. Like, again, trying to help them swallow, because they would choke.

JR: Just to clarify, this large Spanish-style building that you're remembering, that was where the classroom was located, or that's where the clients were?

DD: It was both. It was both. They had different units where the clients obviously lived and had round-the-clock medical staff. We were in that same building. It was close. I can't remember if it was down the hall, or a floor down, but it was very close. You wouldn't have to wheel them in and out. I think, once in a while, we might take them outside, but around there there were some kind of trees and lawn, but we didn't do that very often, but you could. But, for the most part, you would just be wheeling them from their unit to this large classroom and then back, but it was all within the same building. If there were other buildings around there, at this point, I don't recall very well, because I, primarily, went in and did my thing and then left.

JR: So, how was this position related to what you were studying in graduate school, because it sounds like there might have been—

DD: Well, it was kind of loose. They probably were being flexible, because I ended up—I had a degree in psychology from Cal and then I wanted to go into clinical psychology and work with children. The children was the connection. Obviously, these children weren't going to have therapy, even play therapy. They weren't going to manage it. At one point I had thought about being a special ed teacher as well, but, I think, a lot of it was that I was interested in families and children, and it was probably kind of loose, because I did not end up going into special ed. I did end up doing child therapy for many years and got my PhD. Now, I primarily work with adults, but for many, many years, I did a lot of children, adolescence work.

JR: You described a little bit what the classroom life was like, but do you want to say some more things about that, like how many people you were working with at a time, or maybe how the day was scheduled?

DD: I would have varied days. I know the teachers would be there all day. So, the classroom was very large, and each teacher had their area, and then we had a staff area, so we'd have like a big table where you could go eat lunch, or take a break. It was all open, there wasn't like cubicles, or separate doors, or anything. Each teacher had a number of students and, I'm trying to think. My hunch is they had eight to ten, but don't hold me to that. Then it would be the teacher that I worked with, her name was Lisa, I would come in and she'd saying, "This is who we have today, and I want you to take Billy." Billy was a little blond boy. "And work with him." Some of it may be when they were available and how they were doing in terms of, you know, if the physician was coming in to see them, or they had family come. Then of course, you wouldn't just go take them. Some of it might be how long they could tolerate that kind of stimulation. So, it would just really vary on who you had. They make him like 30 to 40 minutes, or something like that. Some of them, the fellow who was there who I recall because of the motorcycle accident, he was an adolescent. So, sometimes they would let him—and again, very, very brain damaged at that point, so I was never sure how aware he is, but you certainly would treat him as if he was very aware. Talk to him, and sometimes, I think, they would just let him be part of the room, that kind of thing. But, you just had to be careful, again, because there's issues with the swallowing and their positioning and most of them were strapped in a wheelchair. They couldn't manage it themselves.

Then I remember taking a break. The teachers were all very outgoing as I recall. I remember one getting married. Everyone would take lunch and look at wedding pictures and that kind of thing. Then one was a big traveler. Also, the kids at that point were being fed, and, again, they were fed by the medical staff. So, then we'd have a break and then, again, you'd have to, depending on the schedule, you would get somebody else, maybe, in the afternoon.

I don't remember it being one after the other, or being exhausting. It was more emotional, because you'd hear these terrible stories of why they were there, whether it

was a genetic thing, or a lot of them were from some kind of accident, yet had been revived.

JR: What were the specific activities that you were involved with?

DD: Well, I think, one I do remember about the swallowing. Trying, again, that was probably more of an OT thing. I do remember those who were more cognizant, maybe trying to get them to do a kind of a puzzle thing, or put shapes on a board. The fellow with the motorcycle accident, I do remember, with him it was reading to him, some of the stimulation and trying to read to him, trying to see if you read and asked if they could move a finger. They were very impaired. I'm trying to think of what else. The little guy, Billy, would laugh a lot. Some of it, I remember walking him outside, and he was thrilled to be out in the—just as a toddler might, being under a tree, or that kind of a thing.

I don't remember a lot of games, honestly, but maybe it also kind of helps to maintain them and certainly, hopefully, gave them some quality. It seemed like a real laugh, but I don't know, maybe it was the neuron, the brain, but he seemed to have some enjoyment for that. Or, the motorcycle in terms of trying to read like an age-appropriate. I mean, obviously, what you'd read to a toddler even though he's not functioning very well, you would still try to read adolescence. A lot of it was just stimulating and quality. I'm sure a special ed teacher in OT would have more details about the specifics in terms of the reasoning behind it. But, as the aide, I was, "Take this," you know.

JR: You were always directed, it sounds like.

DD: Pretty much directed. You'd have your favorites. So, I think, when I was there, this little guy, Billy, they would, "Oh, okay, you take him because you're here." I wasn't full time. I think, you kind of got into, like probably anything, some people you're drawn to more than others. Or, if the teacher, they were busy, they'd be like, "Okay, could you take care of this?" But I was directed a lot. They had IEPs and those kinds of plans. They might ask me how it was going, but I wasn't part of—I mean, I didn't have the credentials to do that piece of it. They were very experienced special ed people.

JR: You just mentioned having a connection with clients. Is that something that you felt the whole time you were there with just a few different people, or was that—

DD: I think, I felt some kind of connection and care for all of them. I think, some a little bit—like this young toddler I mentioned, maybe a little bit more, maybe because he was a little more interactive. Also, when you get something back, it makes it a little easier to connect. But, you've got to learn, even though they're very disabled, you certainly got to know each of their personalities, just the little things that they liked, or what they didn't like. I certainly enjoyed them. If they did holiday things, again, you were trying to treat them like children. I don't know, I certainly liked the job. Again, it was very sad, but in terms of between the staff there and trying to do what you can. The medical staff I don't remember as well, because we went in, and we'd take them and then go out. There was nothing that stood out in terms of harshness. I think, all staff there were interested in the kids. I always thought they were well treated. I was always well treated.

JR: Did you notice any kind of significant changes in campus life while you were there?

DD: I was there for a very short period. I think, for me, it was such a short time. What has been more interesting over the years is that I've stayed in the area, but I haven't worked there, and there's just been such changes, so just kind of noticing those. But, I don't recall, when I was there--again, it was just those stretch. I don't remember the program changes. I don't even know what happened to that kind of program once things changed. No, I don't. I guess it was too short.

JR: Did you have a lot of interaction with the other staff members? Was there any interaction outside of the campus? Did you feel any community with staff, or did you get a sense that there was one with maybe the people who were there full time?

DD: I think, I know within the special ed class, probably because they particularly worked so close together, I do think that they were friends and did things outside of the class. I'm trying to think, because I do remember with this teacher, she and I talked, and she was a runner and, I think, we might have talked about doing things outside of the classroom, but I don't think we actually ever did honestly. But, I know she and some of the other teachers were friends and did things, but in terms of like beyond that, I wasn't aware of any, and it wasn't with myself, and maybe it was partly being part-time, and it was really kind of a transition position. I mean, this wasn't going to be where I was—it was time limited, because once I wasn't a student any more, part of it was you had to be a student, and so once I graduated, and then I worked a while before I went back to school again, but I didn't meet that criteria anymore. So, that was the end of that.

JR: Were there a number of other people who were part-time like you, in kind of similar situations?

DD: I don't think there was many. There might have been one or two. Isn't that funny, that I don't remember. I remember the teachers, and, I think, one, because Lisa and I worked so closely together, and a couple of other of them, because they were real characters. One in particular, she was just very flamboyant, might be a little bit too strong, but she was just a real personality. So, even after all these years, I don't remember her last name. I just remember her first name. She'd have her students, I mean, they called them students. Bring them in and then she'd be singing and setting up things. So, I remember them more. I would imagine she had an assistant, too, so, like I said, I'm sure it was kind of, "Hi, what are you doing?" But, mostly for me, it was focused with the teachers, or the actual students.

JR: I'm really interested in talking to you about kind of what you've seen, actually, after you've left and stayed in the area, but is there anything else that you can think of seems important to discuss from your time there. We've sort of covered the day-to-day.

DD: Well, I think, for me, which is really funny—and I don't know if it has more to do with me, or versus the Agnews East, is I, actually, got very attached to some of the kids, and at one point, had talked to the staff about taking them for home visits. I don't know what I was thinking now, because I was really young. I was married and had a home to bring them to, but still—and I always remember the physician there who was kind of an older,

- kind, man said, “Oh, don’t get so attached to these kids. Don’t take them home, because medically...” I mean, what was I thinking really, that was my youth. Medically, what could have happened if they choked, or something. I remember those more emotional pieces in terms of were there other buildings, or whatever. I never did take them home.
- JR: That was something you brought up to people and then it was shut down?
- DD: Yes, it was funny, because the teachers were supportive of it. “Oh, if you want to do that, well, we could see.” But the medical staff, particularly there was the physician in charge, and he was very kind about it, but he was like, “Oh, don’t get so attached,” and, “No.” And, again, he was nice about it. But now looking back, it makes so much sense. I remember more those kinds of things probably than some of the physical details.
- JR: It’s really interesting.
- DD: Yes, one of them was an old guy, Billy. And Billy had a family, so I mean again, what was I thinking? The family probably would have went, “What are you doing?” But, I don’t think they were close, and they had other children and, I think, it got difficult at times to visit. Then for some of these parents, obviously, to have had a lot of them were born healthy, and then, again, because of accidents, it was quite difficult to come and visit, I think.
- JR: Did you have any interaction with families?
- DD: It was more kind of in passing. I remember a couple of them. A little girl came in toward the end, maybe the last six months, and she had suffocated in cushions, and I remember her mom initially coming quite a bit. The teachers, again, talked to the parents more, but it was talking to them just a little bit. But, they had social workers, and there is just so much grief. I do remember, because she cried, this infant was very hard to comfort—again, I don’t remember all the brain damage specifics. So, we would hold her and say, “Yes, I’d be crying too.” So, there’s a little bit of interaction with the parents in terms of who you were. We were doing for the children, but, I think, they were often very caught up in their own—the difficulty of just the situation.
- JR: If you remember when parents were there, how involved were they? Were they with their children at the same time you were, or is it just they would spend time in the residential area?
- DD: They would spend time in the residential area. They could take them outside in terms of for a walk, or something. They would spend more their time with—they wouldn’t come in the classroom. It may be the teacher, I think, sometimes Lisa would say, “Oh, this is their schedule, and this is when we’ll take her here,” and that kind of thing. “These are the kind of services that we will provide for her.” I think there was more of that, and I was probably more as a doing a little help. I wasn’t, again, she had the credentials to do that. So, I think that was it, but I think, when they came and visited, if we went and obviously they were there, we’d be like, “Oh, we’ll come back,” or “We’ll come tomorrow,” or something like that so they could have their own—because sometimes they were there with grandparents and that kind of thing.

JR: You talked a couple of times about taking them for walks, and I guess my impression of the site is its having this historic area that's really well planted with trees, or it seems that way to me. Do you have an impression of the landscape there at all?

DD: My impression of the landscape, again, looking back all these years, is the parking in front, which I don't know if this is correct, but that's my recollection, and the building, and then kind of some lawn and tree areas. Then, beyond that was farm field, was farmland. The farmland, as I recall, kind of went around it. You really had to drive down some back roads. So, it had a very different feel to it, because when I had been in high school and been in Agnews West, it was you just kind of drive in off the—you could see the workshop where I was at. Here was Montague and here was the buildings and there was the road, because it was kind of a campus there. But, it looked more like maybe a military base-ish, in terms of roads and different buildings. They weren't barracks, they were more the Spanish look, but kind of that feel to a campus. Whereas when you went out to Agnews East, it was like you were going down this road, through the field. It just felt like you were just going with fields by you. You were really off the beaten track, is how it felt. Oh, then there you were. There's this building, and all those years, initially, I had not known that it was out there. Then I applied for this position and it was like, "Oh really, I didn't even know this was out here," and you go through the fields.

JR: It's so different than how it is now.

DD: I haven't been over that way.

JR: It's just off of Zanker Road.

DD: Yes, it is Zanker.

JR: I just know having looked at historic aerial photographs that that was like '84, or something, just after you left when they put in the major—

DD: That 237, I think. No, that was there.

JR: It might have been there. When they connected Zanker Road to up on the western boundary of the campus, and they built—I don't remember, but the street that goes with the major thoroughfare that goes on the southern boundary.

DD: No, that wasn't there at all. And, I think, First Street, all that area, now it's just so built up. If I ever go down 237 I'll see Zanker and I'll go, "Oh yes, that's where I used to—because I used to live more in the east foothills over there for a few years, so I'd be coming in the other direction, and I'd go left on Zanker. There would be like nobody, I mean, I had to wait for the light, but there would nothing there. Now, there's Caltrain repair and all sorts of stuff. But, it just used to be a field, which was where the flooding, I remember, and I had such a clunky old car. I remember getting a little further in and going, "You know, I'll bet if I get any more water height, and I'm going to be out here," and this is before cell phones. I'd have been out there who would have known. I wasn't on Zanker, I was trying the other way off First Street, which was just as bad. I probably didn't tell my husband, "Yes, if I don't come home, check First Street." So, I did back up

- and got home and called. My hunch is probably the medical staff had to work—I mean, you can't go, whereas, I was like, "Okay, I think I could come the next day when it started to drain.
- JR: There are, and maybe you were aware of this when you were there, there are employee apartments that are at the south end of the campus.
- DD: Oh, okay. I didn't know that.
- JR: I don't actually know very much how those were used in the last few decades. They were built specifically—they don't have kitchens, so it's more like a bedroom, a bathroom, and shower. So, I'm guessing that was probably—
- DD: Maybe why or how it was used.
- JR: Something isolated like that.
- DD: And that might have been more medical, because, again, if you missed a day of doing some of these stimulation things, you could say, "Okay, we'll pick it up tomorrow," but obviously, you can't do that for, again, these kids who were so fragile. Because I don't think the staff stayed there, I know they all commuted in. The commute wasn't what it is now, but that was 30 years ago. I mean, there was still a commute, but just, again, not the volume that there is around here, which is getting worse year by year.
- JR: So, back when it was surrounded by farm fields, were you aware of any sort of programs that actually were related to farming, because that was an original—on this campus, they listed occupational agricultural programs when it was first built. I don't even know when those ended, so I guess that's why I'm asking the question, because—
- DD: I recall that they were farmed, but I don't recall—my hunch is, because I was with this unit, obviously, no one was going to be farming, I probably didn't even put two and two together other than—yes, I didn't realize there was any programs out there. Then, on the West Campus, the years before that, I wasn't aware of anything, because, again, I wasn't with a group that had those capabilities. It was more the workshop kind of skills that they were doing, bolting, or whatever. They had a lot more ability.
- JR: What other types of units were on the campus that you had exposure to?
- DD: Not on the East Campus that I recall. On the West, again, there were different buildings, and I do recall, I think, there was housing for staff there, maybe like administrative-type of housing. There were some pretty nice ones, but I don't recall on the East. I mostly recall this one big building, which felt out of the blue in that it was just surrounded by farmland. It was, actually, I lived in the suburbs, so it was kind of nice to come to work. It had a very different feel to it in that regard. The building was probably made at some point, I don't know when it was built, but it had that kind of California look to it that by the '80s they were not building. But, again, the walls were extra thick and very wide hallways, so it had kind of that—even though it was an institution, it did kind of have an older, wide feel to it, which was probably good with all those wheelchairs.

JR: Yes, but to me, I definitely think, it was probably part of the original intent to sort of make it seem more—

DD: Is that building still there?

JR: Yes.

DD: I haven't driven out that way in years.

JR: I think that there are three buildings that are kind of like the wards, and they're all still there. There's sort like a northern part of the campus, too, that has a very large modernistic-type of building. I think, it was the receiving building, and that's all there. I think, they've started, actually, to tear down some of the buildings, like some of the smaller ones, or newer ones.

DD: They have? Are they going to try and preserve any of them, or is that the hope?

JR: Good question. They're going to preserve the water tower. That's, essentially, all that's going to be left. That's how it goes.

DD: Yes, well, look at the West Campus.

JR: Yes, right. I guess we were talking about your having stayed in the area, did you keep paying attention to things that were going on there, or pick up stories in the news at all?

DD: A little bit. If it came up in the news like when *Sun* initially had some of the campus there and what they were going to keep, I think, I just followed it by the news. If I ever drive out that way, I'm sure I'd drive my family crazy by going, "God, you know what was out here?" I still do that after all these years in terms of that. It just looks so very different and now it just—I mean, they did a nice job, but it's just houses and shopping and like everywhere else, basically, around here. I think, I followed it more than that way. I know now and then there were difficulties when they were closing some of them down, what to do with the residents. But, it was primarily through the media that I followed it.

JR: Do you remember any specifics about things that were being discussed?

DD: I think, it was around the preservation, I think, at some point, like what to keep and what not to keep in terms of the history of it. So, I think there were some—because wasn't there a tower with—you know, I haven't really checked. There were some things saved.

JR: On the West Campus, there's this large clock tower, and that might be one of the only things that's still there.

DD: I know. It was very large and there were a number of—like I said, in terms of that, there was a number of buildings, though. If that's all there is, they really did take a lot apart. I just followed it generally like that, but nothing stands out, other than, I think, there were the pros and cons of how much to—I think, with the volume of companies that have

expanded here, it was probably going to be hard to hold the ground against some of those buildings.

JR: One question I have, and maybe this will be hard to answer, but from the time since you were working there, you've stayed in the area for the most part, and have you felt like people are aware of the East Campus? You didn't know about it before you started work there.

DD: My guess is that they don't. I don't know that people knew all that much then, and I would say, not now, no. I would say even the whole Agnews system--my kids are in their 20s, they may kind of vaguely remember something, because I said something, but, I think, it's certainly kind of fallen away.

JR: Why do you think that is?

DD: The east, I think, was more physically isolated, so that would be my guess about out there. I think, this is such a high tech area, I just think people start focusing on it. So, that's why when I saw this [advertisement to recruit interview participants] in the paper in terms of the history of it, I thought, so these things in some form get remembered, because they really were part of this area out in that part of the valley for a very long time. I guess, it's just like a lot of things, people just start kind of doing their own life and looking forward. But like anything, like the history of San José when they put things together like that, that area out there, they have it set up. I don't think they have anything about Agnews out there set up, but in terms of just being able to have the history part remembered. It just doesn't come up so much anymore. It's just so different. I think, before, the other thing that kept it probably more in the mindset is you drive by that West Campus, you couldn't miss it, and people would be walking out there, so there would be residents. So, I think, it just gave it more that human—God, that there really are people out there that needed care and that kind of thing.

Hopefully, that gives some information. Like I said, I was there very briefly in the scheme of things.

JR: We can maybe wrap up, but can you think of anything else that seems worth mentioning about your experience?

DD: Probably not. For me, like I said, I was aware of the weather and the fields, and I think for me, there was, I mean for me I, obviously, remember the structures to a point, but it was really kind of the experience of working with the kids and the staff. If you had to have a part-time job in graduate school, it was really, overall, again—there were sad stories, but it was a positive experience for me and a very supportive group to work with. Once in a while, not so much lately, maybe now because we're talking about it, but over the years, I had wondered how and where some of those kids ended up, but I never did try and find—but anyway, there's HIPAA and all sorts of things that would complicate it.

No, I can't think at the moment anything else at this point. Like I said, it's been a lot of years. Hopefully, it can add to my little piece here.

JR: Absolutely. I just want to thank you for participating.

DD: I'm glad you called. I'm happy to do it. I'll have to look up all the other interviews, too, where they end up. I'd like to hear what other folks experience was.

[End of interview]

Rick Kirske

Jon Rusch (JR): I am Jon Rusch from Page & Turnbull, and I'm at the Bond Project Office of the Santa Clara Unified School District on April 21, 2015 with Rick Kirske doing an oral history project on the East Agnews Developmental Center in San José. I'd like to start with the same question I've started with all of my other participants, which is if you could give me brief information on your background, and your general dates of employment and your positions that you held at Agnews. We'll go from there.

Rick Kirske (RK): Sure. I don't know how brief it will be because it's been a long time. I started on June 6th, 1977, and I started as a Staff Pharmacist I. I happened to find the job in the newspaper. I was working, and the company I was working for was a long-term care pharmacy. They wanted for whatever reason, I don't really understand, they wanted to extend their hours so that they could do some work when they were closed, and I kind of didn't like that. And also, they would give you a page or so at night or on the weekends. You could pick people. I was getting a lot of pages and they weren't reimbursing me for this. So I decided, let me look around and see what's out there, and I didn't know I was going to leave. And I saw the position at Agnews and I had a friend, a podiatrist, who worked out there.

And so I went in and I interviewed. Since I was doing what they wanted, I was doing exactly what they were looking for. They offered me the position, and I took it. I say that I was doing what they were looking for because it was a new position. It was not a dispensing pharmacist. They had two dispensing pharmacists, and they later increased that. They were decertified at the time. They had been decertified by the State of California. This is in 1977, so their history of decertification is quite long. One of the reasons they needed to get certified, they needed someone who would go out and do clinical reviews. What my job was going to be, and it turned out I did a lot of this, I would go on the residence. It was particularly in the nursing facility portion of the facility. Not as much in the intermediate care facility, but the nursing portion. I did go and we finally did get all the facility up and running on this program. And I developed a plan where we would go out on each residence, and we would review the chart of the clients. We would look at the drug regimen. We'd look at their administration to make sure the drug regimen made sense basically; there were no drug interactions, the medication they were prescribed made reasonable sense. In other words, if they had an infection and they were prescribed an antibiotic that they would run a culture and sensitivity [test], and did the culture and sensitivity show that that was the best medication for this? And that's the kind of thing I did. When I started, the West Campus was actually open. There were, I'd say, maybe eight or ten, maybe twelve residences on the West Campus, and then the rest were on the east. So, what we would do, the pharmacy would open on the West Campus, and I'd drive over to the West Campus every morning and get there at 8:00 in the morning. And the about noon we would close the West Campus pharmacy and drive to the east campus, and we worked on the east campus and serviced that facility. And if you needed something when the other campus was open, you had to get in your car and drive over and get it. At the time there was no control and accountability of medications at all. If you had a client on Thorazine and you said, "I want a bottle of Thorazine," they would hand you a bottle of Thorazine and that was it. [Laughs] We all hoped that they were honest people and they would give that client the Thorazine the way they were

prescribed. I'm not sure that that actually happened, but I'm not going to go there. That's not something I want to talk about.

Let's move time on a little bit because I don't want to—I'll just take up the whole hour on this one question, which I could. The facility saw pretty quickly that there was some value to this, even though the medical staff didn't like it. They didn't like a pharmacist coming around telling them how to practice medicine or what they were doing wrong, but the facility liked it. And so they hired another pharmacist. There were two of us. The other gentleman's name was Jim. I'm not sure Jim is still with us. He was a very nice guy. He left Agnews and went to Stockton at one time. And then actually we ended up hiring a third pharmacist too.

So between the two of us, we were able to do the drug regimen for the entire facility. Was it a good job? I wouldn't say so. I would say it barely got by. It looked at some things. It found some things. It hopefully improved the care that the clients received. It was not perfect.

As time went on, we had interdisciplinary team meetings for every client on an annual basis. They used to call them annuals. And the pharmacy started going to these meetings. We'd look at the drug regimen and we'd say, "This guy has some heavy problems." So we'd go to the team meeting and we'd make our suggestions. Sometimes they'd be accepted. Sometimes they'd tell us, "No, I don't think that's going to work." That's okay. And then as time goes on, we're going to fast-forward a little bit. We started instead of putting out a bottle of Thorazine, because you had one client on Thorazine, you needed however many tablets, who knew? We started putting out individual prescriptions. If you had a client who was Thorazine twice daily, you got a bottle of 60 pills. So, what this did is at the end of the 30-day period, a 30-day period a bottle came back and it was gladly dispensed on March 1st. It's now April 1st. Why are there four tablets left? "You didn't give them to him? Well, what happened?" "We don't know. We probably refused him."

So, it wasn't really accountability. But as time went on we did improve the accountability. And then finally the survey team, the state survey team, we're talking about the same. They decided they really wanted some accountability. So they decided to increase the funding for pharmacy and go to what they call a "unit-dose distribution system." And so, Jim and I were tasked with putting out—what a unit-dose distribution system, I don't know if you know it or anybody else knows it. It's a box with maybe 25 doors, and it's divided. It could be in three or one box or whatever, and the pills for that—we did a 48-hour distribution system, so for two days. And then at the end of the two days the box would come back. What's not, what's left in the box, you had to figure out what happened; try to figure out what happened. So, we did that.

Right about this time Jim decided to take a position to stop it. So, I was left all alone with this new distribution system in place. And I had some support from the staff because we had another accountability system, which was very staff-intensive. You had to count every pill every day—no, it was weekly. Every pill every week was counted. You told us how many you started the week with, how many you were supposed to have used during the week, and how many you had left. So, simple math, you could figure out why is there pills left? Well, this was a two-day deal and the pills came back and you didn't

have to do any explaining. We would ask you if it was something really important. So, the staff—but it was a very large project. After the project was done, I received a Sustained Outstanding Achievement Award. That's an award that's given out to not a lot of people, but some people get it. And it has financial check with it. That they determined, but before I got that the state made the decision—oh, I left a little bit out. Let me go back.

When we went to the unit-dose distribution system, we were permitted to hire a lot of staff because though it's less staff-intensive for the residents, it's really more staff intensive for the pharmacy. You can imagine somebody standing there putting a bunch of pills in their mouth, and then a pharmacist has to sit there and check those cassettes every time. So, we had a whole bunch of staff now. And before the supervisor came through, they said the State made the decision. "You know? There's lot of pharmacy people there, but there's no one supervising them." There's only one supervisor there and he's just a supervisor. So, they decided we're going to promote that supervisor and make him a pharmacy services manager, and then we're going to let him select two pharmacists to be Pharmacist 2s, which was his whole position; the pharmacy supervisor. I was selected as one of those.

Well, the rules are you can't get a Sustained Outstanding Achievement Award if you're a supervisor. So, they gave me a Supervisor Bonus Award is what I ended up with. Same difference, you know? But I was really thrilled. I mean it was recognition that I had done some good work and that's what I was really looking for. And then time moves forward, and Agnews is starting to get large in size; 1000 clients, maybe over 1100 clients.

JR: Between both campuses?

RK: Well, they closed the West Campus. This is between both campuses, yes, because they didn't close the West Campus until after this. And then a nightmare hit. We heard a client had died, and a full investigation. And it was determined that the client had been murdered by a staff member. The staff member was arrested. You can imagine the mood of the campus was just devastated. But we in pharmacy, obviously—how we got involved in this whole situation is that my boss and I are called into the medical director's office. My boss, he's passed away too. His name was Wally Christianson, George Wally Christianson. We're called into the medical director's office. And she says in their investigation they're talking about that one of the reasons they didn't think there was anything wrong with this client was because he just seemed sedated, and they figured that maybe he got overmedicated or something. Let me tell you, this client was—some of the clients there are really sweet and kind and everybody really loved him; others, not so much. Nobody should be hated or anything, but this client was not one that was really loved. He was a tough client. He was a difficult client. I mean nothing wrong with that. He never did anything to me, but I mean I know he did something to a couple of our pharmacists.

So she said, "Could he have been overmedicated?" My boss said, "Well, we use the unit-dose distribution system here. We only give him enough pills. He'd have to take the pill from somebody else. Where is the pill coming from?" So, it can't be; not possible. And I'm thinking, "Okay. Yeah, that sounds reasonable." And so she said, "Okay. I feel comfortable. I feel comfortable." And we turned and walked out the door and I just

stopped dead. I said, “Oh, cripes.” We were doing psychotropic concentrates, which are liquid bottles and the dosing is like 1cc, 1/2cc, something of this nature. Then they came up with a dropper so that you could measure this. No way were we unit dosing those at that time, you know? It was really a difficult thing, dose.

I said, “Psychotropic concentrates, that’s where they could have gotten it.” My boss looked at me and he said, “Oh, cripes. I hope not. I hope not.” So, we went back and he did a—at that time we had computerized by then. It was a major thing. And he ran the reports, and yeah, that’s where the stuff was coming from. He was running reports and he was seeing this client is on 1 milliliter of Mellaril. It comes in 120cc bottles, 120 milliliter bottle. One milliliter of Mellaril once a day, and they were ordering a bottle every other day. So, it was going someplace, you know? I mean they’re not throwing it down the sink, I can promise you that. So, that was what the situation was. That’s how pharmacy got involved with it. And so, we turned it in and we changed our ways. We started unit dosing it, even though it was very difficult; extremely hard.

You’d get a client who was on a quarter of a milliliter. The amount of that in the cup that it has to go in, you can’t see it hardly. If you have to put some water in to get it out the sides, so that’s what that did. Okay, so then at this point we started seeing a decrease in population and we know where we’re going. And they announced Agnews was going to close, or they announced—they didn’t announce Agnews was going to. There was strong suspicion Agnews was going to close. And then we started doing some things. Really good stuff, but now I was—again, I’m pleased to say I was a part of it. I get called into the chief psychologist’s office. And he says, “Rick, you’ve been one of those people who keeps writing the physicians up for overdosing on the psychotropic medications. You’re a strong advocate against those. Now, we’re starting a committee that’s going to review every client’s psychotropic medication. Your reward for being the bad guy is you get to be on that committee. In fact, not only that: we’re going to let you chair that committee.” So, I chaired that committee and that was a really, really good thing. It was so good. I’ll tell you how good it was, that we started getting requests from community clients who they couldn’t see a psychiatrist. There’s no psychiatrists around, so they would send them over to us and we had our staff psychiatrist there, and we would review the record for them and make a recommendation. They would go back and implement them, and they would stay in the community. So, that was a really good thing.

So, time goes on a little bit further, and Wally decides to retire. I got promoted to the Division of Pharmacy Services Manager, and I took over and I ran the pharmacy for, let me see, 2001 I think it was. They had finally announced true closure. I think it was 2001. I’m not sure. But they said it was five years down the line. I don’t know. Three years down the line. I don’t remember. Something like that. And so I said, “Okay, that’s fine.” At the time I was close to retirement, but not really going to retire. I didn’t know what I’d do. I’d figure something out, I figured. A position came available in Sacramento at the Department of General Services to head up the procurement program for pharmaceuticals for the Department of Developmental Services, the Department of Mental Health, the Department of Corrections, the Department of Juvenile Corrections, and state universities.

It was a lower position than mine was, but they were giving a \$500 recruitment and retention bonus, which made it up to at least as much as I was making or maybe a little more. And so, I decided to take the position. After I revived my boss after telling him—he was not happy. I went to Sacramento and I lasted there for about 18 months. And I felt that I was really happy there. I was really happy going to Sacramento. The reason I wanted to leave Agnews is not because I really wanted to leave Agnews, but I didn't want to be the one to have to close Agnews. Let somebody else do that. I had been here for 26 years. I'm so invested in this program. I mean I think this is a really good place and I love this place. I love the people and I love the staff. I love everything about it. I didn't want to close it.

So, I go up there for 18 months, and then I get a phone call from some staff at Developmental Services. Well, actually the first phone call I got was from a good friend of mine who was a pharmacy manager at Latnerman. And he says, "Rick, they're going to start"—well, actually what his comment was, "Do you remember when you proposed that they have a pharmacy manager at headquarters so that they could really oversee the programs, and if somebody had a problem you could send somebody down from headquarters to really help them solve their problem?" I said, "Yeah, but they're never going to do that." And he said, "Yeah, they are going to do it." And he said, "I want you to take that position." It's not a higher position. It was slightly higher, 5 percent more actually. So, actually time goes on, and I did take the position. I was at General Services for about 18 months. I liked it there, but the people there were not as nice. I think five or six years I went back to DDS as a pharmacy services manager at headquarters, and I loved my term. My wife will tell you I used to get up in the morning and say, "Yes, I get to go to work today. I get to go to work today." How many people?

JR: That's rare.

RK: It's pretty rare, so I loved that. That's my story. That's what I did, but I can answer any of these other questions if you want.

JR: I think that's a good overview to set the stage. So if we want to go back to the start, were you already living in the area before you started working at Agnews?

RK: Yes. Yeah, at the time—I thought it was a mental health facility, as everybody did because it was a mental health facility until Ronald Reagan put all the mentally ill onto the street. And there was a small group of individuals left. What happened is the person is—the executive director at Agnews was a really smart guy. I don't remember his name. I know when I was there it was Dave Loberg. And I don't know if Dave Loberg was the executive director when they did this or if it came after. They announced that they're going to close all the mental hospitals, and they're going to put all of the mentally ill onto the street and let the counties deal with them.

So, he says, "You know? I'm willing to start a program of the developmentally disabled. We'll just take a few developmentally disabled." And when they had 200 or 300 people, Reagan says, "Okay. Get all your mentally ill out to Agnews." They did discharge them or they sent them to some other place. So, they have 300 clients who are developmentally disabled. There was no mandate to get rid of these 300 clients. They've got to keep the

facility open. So, they kept the facility open and then they started getting an influx of developmentally disabled. So, that's why most people thought it was a mental health facility until they investigated a little further. And then when I went out for the interview I learned what it was and I said, "Oh, this is neat." And as I said, I had a friend who was a podiatrist. My parents had a friend that was a podiatrist out there.

I said I worked on the West Campus. I worked in the Clock Tower Building. The Clock Tower Building is a front building. They've restored it now.

JR: Yeah, it's one of the only ones that they've preserved there.

RK: Yeah. Podiatry and pharmacy were in the Clock Tower Building. I got to work in that building. It was really amazing. It was way before it was restored. It was really kind of amusing. I went in for the interview and I said, "Oh, my God. I'm going to work in a pharmacy this old? This is really old." I was a young kid. I was 30 years old I mean, you know—something like that. And so, I really was kind of bummed. I went home to tell my wife, "Even when I get this job, I don't know. This place is like 100 years old." Well, it was built in 1906, or maybe 1910. I don't know.

JR: Yeah, right.

RK: Somewhere around there. So, when I got to go to the east campus, I saw this nice pharmacy that was reasonable. It wasn't new, but it was certainly reasonable. I felt a lot better. So, that's how I found out about Agnews, and that's how I found out about the job.

JR: So, could you describe once you were starting to work there and when you were on the east campus, what facilities were you in?

RK: I was in the pharmacy, and then I would go to the residences all over the place. So that was all of them, east and west, to do a chart review.

JR: Where was the pharmacy?

RK: The pharmacy was in the Rapaport Building, and it was across from x-ray, and down the hall from the lab, and catty-cornered to the Employee Health Clinic. And I think there were at least 12 residences in the Rapaport Building. And on the top floor was the acute residence, the medical residence. When people get sick, they go there. And after I was there, I didn't mention this, but they opened actually—for a short time they had a nursery where they had infants. That was really sad. It was tough to work there. I mean you go in and see a baby in a crib. I mean, you know? So, that was that.

JR: Then you would also circulate amongst the other buildings?

RK: Oh, yeah.

JR: The residences there?

RK: Every building. Every residence; I was at every residence. At least once a month I would go to each residence. Well, I wouldn't. But somebody would go to each residence and check their med rooms just to make sure they didn't have too much medication because the staff there was real packrats. I mean they were worse than me. I mean I thought pharmacists were packrats. I would usually take a shopping bag, a large one. The biggest one I could find. I would go in and I'd say, "You've got six bottles of multivitamins. You can get meds every day. I mean we're not closing the pharmacy. Don't worry about it. You just need one." So, I'd just shove these in and come back and put them back on the shelf. And sure enough, the next day they'd order two more. That's what we did, yeah.

JR: So, where were those med rooms, within the residences?

RK: Each residence had its own med room.

JR: So, say like in buildings 51, 52, and 53?

RK: Yeah.

JR: Those would be at the nurse's station?

RK: No, actually they might be next to the nurse's station. They might be down the hall. They were in locked room on the residence. Yes, and that led to another issue then; one of the reasons we went to a more controlled environment. When the survey team comes through they say, "This is wrong. This is wrong. This is wrong. You've got to crack this." Okay, the survey team comes through and they always looking the meds. They look at everything. So, one of the surveyors sticks his hand in to get the meds out and a pill falls down in his one hand. He said, "Where did that come from?" So, he reaches his hand up and there's pills taped to the top of the—so that I couldn't find them. Nobody could find them because nobody knew they were there.

So, I go back. After this happened we had hired as a pharmacy technician, our first pharmacist technician, was a gal who had been on the residences forever. She had started on the admission unit, and she would tell us great stories. I said to her, "What's the story with this?" She goes, "Yeah, every residence does that." You always had to count your controlled substances; Tylenol with codeine, amphetamines. That kind of stuff you always had to count. That was by state law. So, when the count came out wrong we needed to make it right. So, if we had an extra one--sometimes you'd get an extra or somebody would refuse them and we'd just tape it to the top there. The other place you need to look is in the drapes, the corners of the drapes. They'll stick pills in there. These people are smart. I mean these people, I'm telling you.

So, we cleaned that up. And I really think that after I was there for many years, we really had a clean facility. In fact, I think we probably had the best control and accountability of any facility in the system for a while. It took a long time to get there. You know what? And so, what they did, what they decided to do, Dave Loberg was the executive director. And Dave said—he calls in a bunch of his psychologist friends. He's a psychologist, and it's psychology assistants and all that. And they got one person for each residence. They stood at the door to the residence. And at exactly a set time, they all

knocked on the door—actually, not knock on the door. They just opened the door and they went in and went, “We want to go in your med room.” And they cleaned it. Nobody had a chance to tell anybody that they’re coming.

So, the next day we come in and there’s a wheelbarrow. I mean literally a wheelbarrow full of these drugs. And we’re looking and, “Oh, my God. I don’t even know what this stuff is.” Do you know what I mean? My boss goes out and gets a—we had this kit that we could use to identify medications. He’d bind it up and put this in: This is a barbiturate. And at this time we’re counting phenobarbital, which was crazy. I mean that’s not an abused drug. Nobody counts phenobarbital. We were. So, he had to determine what it was. That’s how that worked. And so, we phoned the other facilities. And guess what we found, the same thing. Everybody was doing it. We had uncovered Pandora’s box. So, that’s the way that worked.

JR: Did you have interactions with clients very often?

RK: I did. Well, what kind of interactions would I have with clients? I would talk to the clients when I came on the unit. There were some clients who were very nice and kind of friendly, and I’d talk to them. There was one client who we would love to talk about the sports, and I like sports. So, I’d go into his residence. And the first thing I’d do is I’d go—and I’d walk over to him. He was in a wheelchair, and he’d talk to me about the Giants or the 49ers or whatever the sport. We’d talk to him. And there was another client. I remember this one client we had. This is hysterical. He liked to unscrew screws. And so he would use his fingernails, and he’s in a wheelchair again. And he unscrewed the screws of the wheelchair. So, I come into the residence. I said hi. And so he starts to wheel over to me and the whole wheelchair falls apart. [Laughs]. The wheels fell off the side. The staff goes, “Oh, no.” That’s the wheelchair.

And then there were some clients who didn’t kind of like strings on the unit. So, I had a client. I went to Cherry View, and I was there for like three hours. And in that entire time, the client banged her head against the plexiglass on the window of the nursing station. The nursing stations would have like—the residents of the unit, I think they called them units back then. They would have an office and they would have glass or plexiglass depending upon the type of clients they had. This one, the clients were that bad. So, she’d just pound her head for the entire hour or three hours. I don’t remember how long it was. I finally got up and said, “Oh, my God.” I had such a headache. And then I had one client who I really liked. I really liked him. He was a really good guy. He would always tell me. He says, “I want to work in the pharmacy with you.” Some of them were very vocal, and some were not so vocal.

So, I’d go over to his residence. He was as tough resident. He was a big guy. I’d say he was 6’5” and he had size 14 shoes, just a huge guy. So, I’d walk into the residence and he’d say, “Rick! Rick, how you doing?” And I’d say, “Fine.” He would escort me to the nursing station so that the other clients wouldn’t beat me up. I had my own personal bodyguard. And then we had one client. I remember this. He wanted to come into the pharmacy and you can’t let clients into the pharmacy. We kept the door closed. And we used to have a window. There would be a window and you’d bring your box, your drug box, and you’d put the pills in the box and then take it.

This guy one day decided to dive through the window. I mean he dove through the window. We caught him. They sent him back. Oh, my God. But no, I had a lot of interaction with the clients, and I'd see clients. I had my favorites. We all had our favorites and we would talk to them. That was one thing that was pretty difficult is I had started doing training for pharmacy technicians. So, Sawyer College at the time was training pharmacy technicians. And they would send me one or two to be trained after they would go through the program. And we had several of them, or a couple of them at least just couldn't take it because these people are pretty physically disabled. So, they couldn't do it.

JR: In terms of your interactions with your other coworkers, it seems like the sense that I'm getting talking to all of you is that you're all still close.

RK: We are.

JR: And so, I imagine that started when you were there. I guess I'm curious about a sense of community amongst—

RK: It was a family. We were a family. And when something happened to one, it happened to all of us. I mean we were a family and people understood that. I mean they knew that. I remember after the death of the client, I remember going to a public event and there was a gentleman there who I knew. He was actually I think an attorney or a judge. I can't remember which. And he had known that I worked at Agnews and he came over to me. He said, "Rick, you work at Agnews right?" And I said, "Yeah." He said, "Keep your head up. We know this is a terrible thing, but you're going to be okay. Agnews is going to be okay. We know what good work you do there." And that really made me feel good and I've transmitted that to my coworkers. So, we were all really a family and we'd go to the potlucks together. Agnews was known for its potlucks.

JR: Oh, really?

RK: Yeah. They had a lot of potlucks.

JR: Tell me more about that. You mean outside of the campus?

RK: No, on the campus. We'd go at Christmastime or a unit would have a picnic and they would invite everybody, you know? Pharmacy would have a potluck and people would come. "Oh, you want a piece of pie? Here you go." So, it was fun. It was fun. We do a reunion every year.

JR: Every year?

RK: Yeah. There's one coming up. I just saw the date. I want to say late in June. Yeah, so if you're still looking for people, you're going to have them. There may be a hundred people.

- JR: Sure. One question I've had: there are two buildings on the campus that are just employee housing?
- RK: On what campus?
- JR: On the east campus.
- RK: No. There's no buildings there that are just employee housing. There were several—well, okay. I know. You're talking about the apartments?
- JR: Yeah, those ones.
- RK: Okay. I didn't have a lot of interaction. I did have one pharmacy technician who came up from another facility who lived in those apartments. They were bare. They were really bare. They were talking about a room with no safe, no nothing. A bathroom down the hall I think. I don't know. I never saw them. But the other thing about those, there were other buildings too. There were other houses on the campus, too, I think a couple of other houses.
- JR: Oh, yeah. I'm thinking there are a couple just across the street from the ones that I'm thinking about.
- RK: Yeah, I don't know.
- JR: That seems right?
- RK: I don't remember exactly, but there were a couple of houses, and I think those were real privileged houses. You had to be an administrator or something to get those. But no, the normal ones I think you're talking are the apartments, and those were really—I don't know that those were really habitable. I don't know.
- JR: So, it was more for people who had homes elsewhere?
- RK: It might be for that, or it might be for somebody who was just starting out and didn't have any money. I mean, where are you going to live? You'd come into Santa Clara and you'd look at that time. At that time, my first home was—I'm just trying to think. Did I get my first home or after I got to work there? That was after. The first house I got after I worked there, I had been there for three or four years, I paid \$130,000 for it. Now, that doesn't seem like a lot. But back then it was a pipedream. I was a pharmacist. I couldn't afford a home. Nobody else could.
- JR: Okay. Well, that helps my understanding of that.
- RK: That's why they had those. There are people who there's no way they could afford a home, and they just survived there until they could get enough money to get an apartment outside.

JR: Okay. So, one question that we've kind of—I think you've covered it in a certain way, but I'm interested if you could talk about particular high points or low points, and I think you have touched on those.

RK: Okay. The high points were when we really doing well and when had been going through. We were doing accountability. We had gotten rid of all restraints, almost all restraints. We were really giving good care to the clients. And that's when they said, "We're going to close you."

JR: So, that was like late 90s?

RK: Yeah.

JR: Early 2000s?

RK: Yeah. And the lowest point was when the murder occurred. Well, that and then a month or two later they had discovered it was another client who died probably at the hand of a staff member. He got thrown against a wall. And they didn't know how he had injured himself, but they realized that's what had happened. That was just terrible, you know? People were just shocked. In fact, it was so bad that I remember this well. The day after the murder we get told there is a meeting at 1:00 in the corridor, all staff. The staff comes in and Keri is there. I don't think you know who Keri is: Keri Procnier the executive director, one of the kindest people you'll ever want to meet. She says, "I'm devastated that this happened. I know how you feel, but it's not you. It's not you." Again, it was always this was an individual, one person. Not the residence. Not the staff. This was not a representative of our staff. This was just one person. Well, it was more than one person. I can tell you right now that that's true. But she was trying to build up the staff. She was great. Well, she probably didn't get the notice.

Keri Procnier, she was the executive director at Agnews since '78 or '79. She became the executive director. She was there for about ten years. And then right after, she was the one that took the hit for the murder. Someone has to take the hit, you know? Certainly Sacramento is not going to do that, so she took it. And she became the director of YWCA.

She was a sweetheart. I held the utmost respect for her.

JR: So, at that time when the client was killed, you talked about having that interaction with your friend outside of Agnews. Could you sense like a more widespread sort of change of mood towards the campus, amongst the community?

RK: I don't know that there was a change in mood. That's hard to answer. I think that there were some people who, yes, definitely, "We've got to get rid of this. This is terrible. We didn't even know this was here." "It had only been there for 200 years, but you didn't know it was here?" And then there were other people who said, "This is terrible, but it's not Agnews. This is not Agnews." Some high points, I'll give you some high points. I celebrated the 100th anniversary of Agnews. Yeah, the 100th anniversary of Agnews or 110th—I don't remember, something like that. We had big celebrations. Big celebrations,

those are high points. Everybody came out, and we had a great time. We had clients there. We had staff there. Staff would have some clients. It was wonderful.

JR: That was something that happened on the West Campus?

RK: No, the east campus—both. The 100th anniversary was at the West Campus in the auditorium. The 110th was in the multipurpose building on the east campus. Do you know about the multipurpose building?

JR: Maybe not by that name.

RK: Okay. When Agnews sold the east campus to—they sold the West Campus to Sun Microsystems and the east campus to Cisco. One of them donated the money so Agnews could build a “multipurpose building.” This is supposed to be a moveable building that we’re going to move to Sonoma or to someplace else when Agnews closes, if they ever close. I mean I’m looking at this thing and it’s a permanent structure. I mean there’s no way you’re going to move this thing. And that was kind of an east campus auditorium, and it had a lot of activities there and it was really nice.

JR: Were you involved with the closing at all?

RK: Yeah, I was.

JR: I remember when we talked on the phone you might have mentioned that.

RK: As I said, I left Agnews so I would not have to close it. And then I went back to the Department of Developmental Services as a pharmacy services manager headquarters over all the facilities. And I went there, and I knew that they were going to close, but now they had formally announced. It was just a matter of when. And I’ll never forget this. I was at Porterville and I get a phone call. I get a call and they said, “Rick, we’re closing Agnews. José who was the pharmacy at that time and the other people, today is their last day. I need you to be there tomorrow. Tomorrow is the last day. I need you to be up there tomorrow and clean the mess up.” I said, “I’m in Porterville.” He said, “Well, can you drive there tomorrow?” “Yeah, I’ll drive there tomorrow.” I had two days actually; one day to drive and one day to be there because it took like—no, I don’t think I had two days. I had one day.

So, I get in my car. I had finished that day’s work. I get in my car. I told my supervisor that was there, I was working with. I said, “I’ve got to leave. I’m sorry I can’t finish.” He said, “You’ve done a great job anyway.” So, I drive. I got in the car and drove all the way out to San José, got a hotel room. And I went in there and got everything cleaned up. And so I was there when the last client was shipped out.

JR: What was that like?

RK: Very sad. A lot of staff got together there, and they took a picture of us with the last client. And I knew the client. It was interesting. That client had been discharged. When she was discharged she was doing very well. I thought she was going to make it. And she

was on lithium for bipolar disorder. And Community Care just messed everything up. They just completely messed up her drug regimen. She got brought back because of that. They never could stabilize her again to get her to the point where she could go out again, so very sad. But there was an ambulance that came to get her and take her. Maybe it wasn't an ambulance. It was maybe just a van. I don't remember because she was in a wheelchair and they took her off to Sonoma. It was sad. And I really liked Agnews. I thought it was a really good place.

Some people felt that there were problems. There were problems, but they were resolvable. And that was the one thing. This was something really important. When there was a problem at Agnews they would say to us, "Here's your problem." And we'd get everybody together and we'd solve the problem. We'd come up with the solution whether it was creating a community to review so that it doesn't happen, to make sure it doesn't happen, whatever is happening whether it was separating clients. Whatever it was, we would solve the problem. The other facilities not always did that. I remember there was one facility. I don't remember the name of the facility who would say, "No, that's not the way we do things here. This is the way we do things here." And I'd say, "No, this is the way the state does things. You have to do things the way—this is the proper way to do it." I should tell you what I did when I was in headquarters.

I would go out twice a year to each facility to do what's called a "mock survey." And we would go to the facility and we would evaluate that facility and come up with some suggestions. We didn't have any authority. We'd say, "This, this, and this has got to be correct before the licensing survey team would come in." And some of the facilities right away they would correct it. Others would give me a hard time. As I said, one facility would always tell me, "That that's not the way we do it here. This is the way we do it here." "Well, no. This is the way it's got to be done. You don't have a choice." And hopefully with our input they'd listen to us. They would listen to what we did. The parts they accepted, they would not get deficiencies. And there was a time we had everybody certified, all of the facilities. And then they started doing mock surveys and now everybody is decertified. Now, I'm not saying there's a relationship there, but I mean I think we did a good job.

JR: So, this system of collaboratively solving problems at Agnews, that was having to do with the leadership there?

RK: Yeah, absolutely. The leadership was on board and really helped out. Sometimes you didn't like somebody there, but everybody respected everybody and it was really good. My boss was the medical director and she was a tyrant. She was tough. I think I got fired four or five times. There was this committee called Pharmacy and Therapeutics, which would be the medical director, several physicians, and the pharmacist was always—secretary of the P&T Clinic. They always wanted me to be chairman and I said, "No, I can't be chairman. Have the medical staff be chairman." And we'd get into. She'd say, "This is what I want to do." I'm thinking, "We can't do that. I'm sorry. It's not possible to do that or that would be a violation of the regulations." And she'd say, "Rick, you're fired." I'd wait until she'd calm down for a second and I'd say, "Can I go home?" She'd say, "No, you can't go home. We've got to solve this problem."

I got fired one time because I didn't buy her secretary a bottle of perfume. I was in her office and her secretary happened to be a really good friend of mine. In fact, she worked for me for a while. And then, of course, after we had developed this great committee that was reviewing all the psychotropic meds, they decided that now we can't do that. The doctors don't like this. So, they dissolved the committee. And so she didn't have a job. So I went to my boss and said, "Hire her as your secretary because your secretary is leaving and she's great. She'd be much better." And my boss loved her and thanked me a thousand times for giving her to her.

And so, I came into her office and she was there. The medical director comes out and she said, "Rick, she wants a bottle of perfume for Administrative Services Appreciation Day." I said, "What? She's your administrator. I've got my own problem." So, the next day we had lunch. We used to have lunch, and I came because I had an administrative staff meeting. And she said, "You didn't get her a bottle of perfume." I said, "Well, she's your secretary. She's not mine." And she says, "You're fired." [Laughs] Everybody laughed, and that's the way it was. We all loved each other. We all cared about each other. There was no animosity. And you'll find that of anybody you ask.

JR: We're coming up to the end of the hour. I just want to say to you that you have the opportunity now to add anything else that you think has been missed.

RK: I think we've covered most of it. I mean, as I said, the important thing is to understand that Agnews was a place that really cared about the individuals there, the consumers there. It changed names four times while I was there. That might be interesting if you want to know. When I started it was Agnews State Hospital. Then it became Agnews Residential Care Facility. And then it went back to Agnews State Hospital. Then it went to, I don't know if this is the right order, Agnews Facility for the Developmentally Disabled, and then finally, Agnews Developmental Center. And every time they'd get a new name, they'd have to get of course new stationary. Fortunately when the governor changed they got new stationary too, you know? But it was fun. As I said, I enjoyed working there. I enjoyed Sacramento even more, but I loved working at Agnews too. I was so fortunate that I stumbled into doing jobs that I really enjoyed until after I retired from the state, not so much and that's why I retired from my further employment.

JR: I want to thank you for your participation.

RK: Okay. I hope I gave you some information that was valuable to you.

JR: You did.

RK: Okay, great.

[End of interview]

Kathleen Lee

Jon Rusch (JR): I am Jon Rusch from Page & Turnbull, and I'm at the Santa Clara Unified School District's Bond Project Office with Kathleen Lee on April 21, 2015. I'm doing an oral history on the East Agnews Developmental Center. So, I think, a good way to start would be just for you to state your name, though I just said it, and something briefly about your background and your dates of employment at East Agnews.

Kathleen Lee (KL): My name is Kathleen Lee, and I started working at Agnews January 23, 1989. I was brought in as a recreation therapist into the senior program. I worked for about two and a half years doing that, developing a day program with them and just doing all kinds of fun things with the seniors. Then I went to work in the clients' library, which was just sort of a drop-in center where people could come and learn about different things. We had animals in there, my loom, and just all kinds of fun things. I did that for about two and a half years. During that time, I started taking over the special events job, and that meant that I planned special events like dances and art and wine festival kind of things for our clients. And then about 1995-ish, I think it was, I was allowed to take the job of volunteer coordinator. So, I became the person that was the face to many thousands of young people out in the community. That was my angle, was to try to bring young people into the facility and teach them about people with developmental disabilities.

So, I got to do that job for about 15 years. Then in 2002, we started finding out that we were going to close. It took a lot longer than we all thought, and we'd been hearing about it for 20 years that we were going to close, but this time, it was serious. By 2009, we didn't need volunteers anymore, because almost all the clients were gone by then, and at that point, I was allowed to go and work at the Regional Project, which was the bridge between San Andreas Regional Center, or any of the regional centers, and the clients. We helped place any clients that were still there into the community. There was so much background with that. We had to make sure all of their possessions were taken and chronicled, to make sure that they were safe. I took care of programs where the client's future caretakers were coming to Agnews, and we had to keep track of who was coming when and where and letting the staff know so they weren't surprised. So, there was a lot of documentation of keeping, making sure that people could come in, learn who they were going to be taking care of, and helping the care providers learn about these clients so it could be a really smooth transition out to the community.

So, there was a lot of running back and forth between buildings. Somebody'd be going out one morning. We had to make sure with forms, and everything, that all of their possessions were there. Of course, we'd had meetings before and said, "They've got this, they've got this, they've got this," all their possessions, all their needs. This process took a long time, because we wanted to make sure it was safe and right for the clients, and they were not being moved before they were ready for it. So, that's what I've been doing.

JR: Just to start at kind of the beginning, would you be able to describe your first visit, or an early visit to the campus, and maybe your impressions of the place and the people that were there?

KL The first day that I started working was on January 23rd, I told you. It was the first day of the big licensing time, called ACDD, where the facility had been working very hard to make sure that everything looked well. We were caught up on all licensing needs, all that kind of thing. I was put with a client that was challenging, let's say it that way. I was told, "We know you don't know anything right now. Go ahead, just follow with the other staff. If anyone asks you a question, defer to the other staff, because they will know, and let's get through this day and this week and make sure that you're trained immediately afterwards. But this week, all craziness is—"

So, I came in on the first day of ACDD, and you'd say that to any other staff, they'd go, "Oh," [Laughs] because it was a big day. I mean, they put me with a real challenging person, and boy, I learned fast. And then that afternoon, my daughter, she was seven years old, they called and said she had chicken pox. So, it was a day from infamy, and everything got better after that. [Laughs]

JR: Before you started working there, what was your background?

KL: I had a degree in recreation with a therapeutic option. I'd been working as an independent contractor through different recreation departments here in the valley, but not specifically doing recreation therapy. They had put out a little blurb in the local paper, it's called Potpourri Paper, and they wanted psychiatric technicians. They would train you. I was in a situation where I thought I would never find a job as a recreation therapist, which was so funny. When I called in, I said, "I have 17 years' experience as a recreation therapist," and it was like a hand came through the telephone and grabbed my shoulder, and said, "You're not going to be a psych tech. We're not going to make you be a psych tech. We need recreation therapists right now." Ten days later, I had a job, which was probably the fastest state hiring in history. I think a few of us got hired very quickly. And again, it was because licensing was coming, and they knew, and they wanted to make sure that we had plenty of people to help care for the clients.

Lots of stuff has happened since then, changes and shaping up of the system, but at that point, they wanted people, and I came along at the right time, and my whole life changed at that point.

JR: How were the clients that you started working with different from—you said you had—

KL: I had worked a lot with maybe teens, young kids, and these were all seniors, which was fine. The person that interviewed me saw my, I think, she saw my energy and said, "Okay now, we can teach her about state system," because I had applied to Agnews once before and been turned down, which was really weird. I was just at a point where they didn't think that I could do it, or I was too hyper, or something. I don't know what it was, but I was turned down. Then I applied again, and they took me, and I think it was the smartest thing that they ever did, because they got a really dedicated employee in me. But, that's what I'd been doing mostly. My history is all the way back to 1971. I'd worked at camps, and I worked for Easter Seal Society from Santa Cruz County as a volunteer coordinator. Did many things in that area, but it was Prop. 13, I think, that came through at that time a long time ago, and it made it hard for people to hire, and so I was having a hard time finding a job. I was doing all kinds of other things other than

recreation therapy. Then, this came along and really saved my daughter and I and helped us. So, I'm very appreciative to Agnews and the State of California for helping me.

JR: Is that something you want to talk more about? After you were hired, what sort of changes did you see in your own life?

KL: Well, I think that if you work hard and try to do what they ask you—and I'm not saying to cow-tow to everything—but you have to understand as my supervisor at that time, you have to look at the global picture. See what the supervisor's problems are, why they ask you to do things. So, I worked hard and did what I was told to and didn't burn bridges, and because of that, they took care of me until the very end. I think, other people might have gotten laid off earlier, but I got the opportunity to stay on, because they knew that I could adapt to different positions. I could help. I knew Agnews from, I mean, I knew everybody. That was sort of my job, because I interacted as volunteer coordinator with plan operations, with the nurses, with administration. I was the backup for the assistant to the executive director while she was there. When she went on vacation, I stepped in and helped out. She did more of the political phase, and I did the community phase for Agnews. But, yes, I think that in any job, if you do what you're told, and you can question and say, "I don't like this," but if you're a smart aleck, you might get laid off a little faster. I think, I was very lucky, because they said, "Kathleen can work and do many things." That's why I got to go into the Regional Project, because I didn't know every client's face and every client's name, but I had an overall picture of how everything had to work.

JR: Could you say something about what your roll was? You mentioned as recreational therapist, but for example—day-to-day activities, or what would you expect to actually do on a daily basis?

KL I did about three or four different kind of jobs. When I was the special event coordinator, I was also in charge of the clients' library so I could plan things. I was in charge of committees. So, we'd plan things like dances and the special events. As I went into volunteer services, somebody else took care of those type of things, but then I was more in charge of memorial services, or facility-wide Day of Recognition, which is where Santa Clara University students honored us with a special party on the first Saturday of May. A little bit different kind of special events where it touched a lot of people, but that moved into that area.

My last 18 months was the hardest for me in a way, because I was totally out of my world. I was used to organizing big events and having a hundred volunteers around me, and say, "Okay, now you ten go that way, you ten go that way," and sort of administering to them, and talking about the clients, and, hopefully, helping people to understand better to look at the diamond in each person. Whereas the last 18 months, which was needed, but it was more clerical. It was a little bit more clerical. I came in as almost more of a support staff, but that's okay. Everything has its place that was needed, and because of that, it helped me to understand part of it was I wanted to make sure the clients were moving into a safe place, because we had this underlying worry you're just going to put people out there and they're not going to do well. I'm still out there as an independent contractor now, which is different from when I started 21 years ago, but I can see the

homes are good and just much better than we ever thought. So, people are surviving and doing well.

JR: I'm really interested to hear more about events that you planned for the clients.

KL: Oh, my gosh, I'm trying to remember. There were just all kinds of things. We had a Medieval Fair. When the clients were a lot more physically able, we could do a lot more, like the Medieval Fair. We had these balance boards, so we put pads underneath them, and we had jousting with those things that you take in the pool, those foam noodles. Just trying to be really creative, I didn't think of all this stuff. I had this committee, but we fed off of each other.

One time, the barber and I, I supported him on this, we made a swimming pool out in the corner. Do you know how hard it is to convince people to allow you to have a pool that's like 18 inches high with a bunch of disabled people around? Everybody was going, "Oh my God, they're all going to fall in. They're going to die." There was this anguish about having it, but we said the theme was probably water, or summer fun, or something like that. So we said, "Let's make a pool that people can put their feet in. They never had a pool around here." Very few people were able, or getting out, to go to any kind of a water sport. People loved it. They were getting out and just standing in the water. Obviously, we weren't going to let anybody fall in and drown. We had hundreds of sight decks around, and nurses and doctors. You know, if you fell down at Agnews, in two seconds, somebody would be there. Today, I see someone fall down, even though I'm not a medical personnel, you know exactly what to do if someone's having a seizure, or whatever. Immediately you know what to do, because you just live that. "Okay, now sit still, don't move, let's wait." We'd get the doctor in. They had such extremely good 24-hour, 24-second care at Agnews. There was always staff around to protect someone.

But, some crazy things we've done was the pool. That was pretty crazy. So Dennis stayed out there all night to protect the pool, so nobody came in in the middle of the night, stuck their face in the water, [laughs] so that was one of the fun things. We do have some fun pictures of that someplace. I don't know, they're hidden away someplace in the museum. We did some crazy things.

Now, that was just in the special events. Of course, we had Special Olympics, too. That was fun. I was not specifically in charge of Special Olympics. Some of my co-workers were, but, of course, if you're on the Special Events team, everybody does something. It's just the buck stops with them on sometimes, and the buck stopped with me sometimes.

We had this very crazy four-headphone set where we could talk to each other. So, we would be all over the campus practically, and being able to talk to each other. We thought we were state of the art big time stuff. Today we have the telephones where you can talk so easily, but this was a big deal and once you put your headset on. But, there was always a member that was being crazy on it and talking. We had the Special Olympic things and say, "Okay, I'm over here at sight one," you know, doing this, or that.

Some of the other fun things is that we had Father Byrne, who was our priest and number one advocate for the clients for 43 years. The most memorable thing is we always had Father come in and do a little prayer. And Father would always, "Bless Kathleen, bless Ladonna," and we'd listen for him, getting things ready for the next event, and then you could hear him on the intercom saying that. It was just something, it was special to us, some goofy little thing. He was, "Bless Ann, bless this person," and the people that were taking care of the event that day.

JR: Where do these take place?

KL: On the campus around the Panighetti Park, which is where the trees that used to be little tiny and now are gigantic. Around that park is where we did a lot of the Special Olympic things, running races, bike races, things like that. In the middle, we did things for the medically fragile folks, as simple as they would be sitting in their wheelchair, and it was like a big mat that was—I'm trying to explain how...so there were just certain sections that would have like a one, or a two, or a three, and if it was five, five was farther away from them, and if they could throw it from their hand, sometimes they were just dropping it. Medically fragile folks, they might just be laying there, but if we could get them to take their hand and just dump it. And so, we included everybody. Just because you were in a wheelchair and weren't able to speak, or to move, didn't mean that you didn't get included in Special Olympics.

Eventually, Northern California Special Olympics chose to not have us do those types of events, and they went into much more physically able services for folks that were much more physically able. We sort of worked ourselves out of it. There were some folks that were able, and they were still able to do a little bit of skiing, or roller-skating. We had roller -kating, can you believe roller-skating events every year? Bowling events—

JR: That was on the campus?

KL: No, the bowling was organized, and they would go for a practice at a local bowling lane. Skiing, they would go two or three, almost to the end, we did skiing and that was just mostly getting up there and sliding down the hill, but they were still doing it. So, they had a lot of opportunities.

The thing about Agnews is that it was the jewel in the middle of Silicon Valley. They had all kinds of opportunities, 24-hour-a-day medical care. There was always something to do. We had something called the Reach Program, which was the continuation of my client library. There was always activities, big screen TV, things for people to drop into, because some folks had the ability from their ID teams to have free reign at the campus. They didn't have any interest in walking away. So, they could come and do things all the time. They had free reign to walk around, and we had streets and streetlights, and there was practice places, but still, everybody watched for everyone, so you were careful when you were driving. The clients had free reign to go all kinds of places.

I would be in my office, and I'd know work was over, because one of the clients would come over. Every day I had two or three clients that would come and sit in my office on the couch with me and talk to me and ask me for yarn, or whatever, because one of the

jobs I had was to keep lots of little things in the drop-in center where they had wallets and yarn and different things that they might use. We had a little canteen where they could go have a hamburger after work, because they made money, go buy a candy bar, or buy ice cream, whatever it was. It was like a little city of its own because we had everything, but it was still an institution. You still had 20 other people living in a home with you. There were always opportunities for people not to get along. You don't live with—I don't think you live with 20 other people.

JR: No, I don't.

KL: Yes, so you think about that. Out in the community, people had their own bedroom, but there's a little bit more restriction. They don't get out and just walk around, because the staff don't want them to get hurt out in the community. So, there are restrictions in that way, even for the folks that are living, who I serve, are still living on Agnews land, but it's now their homes. I mean, they should know how to walk across the street, but they don't come across the street, because they're happy just to stay there and let somebody take them in the car across the street.

So, their lives are better in some ways, but a little bit more restricted in other ways, whereas at the Agnews, it was maybe more restricted outside of that 87 acres, which is the same size as Disneyland. If you think about it, you look it up in the old Disneyland, the main part of Disneyland, Southern California, was about 87 acres, and that's how much ours is.

Anyway, but they had that freedom to walk around. So, there were good things and bad things. An institution is an institution. Most people don't have to live with 300 other people. On the other hand, people that might have passed away, or could not be handled by their family in some way either behaviorally, or medically, came to Agnews, because we were the last stand. We were the place where if they couldn't find any other home for folks, that's where they went.

When I came in in '89, there was a whole residence, maybe 15 or 20, I couldn't even tell you, of children. I mean, little kids. We had infants that came in. There was one little boy that had half of his brain outside of his skullcap. Kids that would not have survived any other way, but they came into Agnews, because there weren't services. Now today, there's so many more early childhood services. After a while, we didn't get any little kids, so those kids grew up, but they were so medically fragile. Unfortunately, as they grew older, sometimes they passed away. But, did they have a good life? Those staff were like their parents. It was just devastating for them when those kids passed. It was just devastating. But some of them moved out to the community, did well for a while. Some of them are still out there doing well. But, you think about it, those kids grew up and then we didn't have a need for a child, because they became teens and then young adults. So, that was one of the things that Agnews did is provide those services.

One of the best stories is Clem. Let me get a drink of water. Clem was—I always joke about we used to have poster children when we were young, the Easter Seal Poster child. Well, Clem was my poster child. Clem was an older man, but he was like your grandpa, or an uncle. All the volunteers loved him. They remembered him. He was sort

of the ideal person to volunteer with. Clem would get up in church and lead the mass along with the priest. [Laughs] He would stand up and bless everybody. You know, just an older white-haired man, just sweet, but he had been there in the state system, probably since he was about six years old, because 95 years ago, family didn't know how to handle. The doctors said just put him away. That was the normal right then. We can't blame the doctors, because that's what was normal. Take the child and put him away. So, they got put into the state system. As time went on, Clem became a hard worker physically. He could do all kinds of things. He worked in the clothing center. He worked in here and there. He was very opinionated, and he did not want to move. So, as we were closing down, Clem was still with us, and I became very close to Clem. [Laughs]

Clem had been in the same residence for a long time, and just the act of asking him to move to another residence as we were consolidating services was a big deal. The priest had to come over and bless his room, [laughs] and do all kinds of things. He eventually had to move out. Nobody else could do anything. Nobody wanted to. They didn't have time. I was in a position where, being volunteer coordinator, you had more flexible time. If you want to take an hour or two to do something—am I messing you up?

JR: No.

KL: Okay. Then I could make it up someplace else. So, every Friday morning, I took Clem in the car, and we went for a drive to McDonalds, because he loved McDonalds, but it was the McDonalds that was near to his new home. So, every Friday morning we drove by, and I'd say, "Oh, look at that cool house. Look at that. I wonder who's going to live there." And this was getting him used to it, because I knew we had to do that. And I said, "Oh, look, they're working on it. They're doing something." So, I did that for a year, because Clem needed that. Other guys accepted the thought of going to a new place, but Clem was, "Oh my goodness, you're not going to do this." We didn't even tell him, that's what was going to happen. We just kept pushing him that way. "Oh, come on, let's go, let's just look at that," you know? We'd take another client. They would have a drink and some French fries or something like that, and he got to meet the supervisor at the McDonalds. He started developing a relationship. So, we were trying to get him into that community.

Eventually, they chose who was going to be the caretakers at that home, and so we got them in as a volunteer. We'd say, "Oh, look, here's my friends," and so they started developing that relationship. Pretty soon, they're there, and I'd say, "Oh Clem, let's go look in the window of this new place." What I'm trying to say is that we kept moving in. They'd come and they'd say, "Hey, let's go over to my house," and they'd spend a few hours. This took a year to get him out the door.

Eventually, we said, "Let's take your stuff and put it in the house." He said, "I don't want to stay here," and so they brought him back, "That's fine, that's fine." Come back here. And the next day, took him back again, and he says, "I don't want to stay," and so, the care provider said, "Okay, well why don't you just go get your pajamas on and then we'll take you back and you'll be ready to go." He put his pajamas on, went and got in the bed and went to sleep and there was never any more talk about it. [Laughs] And that was the story of Clem. Clem lived there for years. He just passed away less than a year ago. An

amazing story, and I feel like I was part of that, because I don't think we had to do that with anybody else.

But, you know, there were people in other facilities, they said, "Should we move him into another facility? He's an old man, he's like 85 now." It's hard for your grandma and my grandpa to do anything like that. Then one gentleman over the phone, I don't know who it was, somebody said, "Oh, we're going to have to take him out here on a stretcher." I said, "No, we're not going to do that. I'm going to figure out some way to get him out the door and make him feel like he was in possession of that."

So, he had a new family. He loved that house. He got his own bedroom, had crosses all over the place, red kites, watches. He did okay, and we thought we just didn't know if he was going to be okay. He was my great success story.

JR: Great. One other topic: I think we should try to include something. You mentioned that you were the community face of Agnews. Can you talk more about how you interacted with people outside of the campus and got them to volunteer?

KL: Oh, okay. The reality is is that high school students, especially in Catholic schools in our area, need to do community hours. So, I got them out there. I had them doing things, and even if they were just sitting there next to the client, at least they were absorbing and trying to understand some of the things that happened for each client in their normal day. We needed staff to help us, push books and wheelchairs, be at the dances, and historically, we had [Catholic high schools] Bellarmine, Notre Dame, Presentation, either girls or boys, that always came and did activities. One of the activities that I would work with them on was the Halloween party. We had, at one point, probably 150 kids that would come, decorate the whole place. I'd buy pizza for them so they could have some dinner. Then the clients would come over, and we'd have this big old dance and have some games around that people could play a game, a tossing game, or a bowling game. Bowling pumpkins, pumpkins flying all over the place, [Laughs] real pumpkins, throwing these pumpkins, and they're rolling this way and that way. But the kids would be responsible for games and some drinks and cookies and stuff. That was one of the big events that they would do. So, I had a close relationship with the young people. It was sophomore year for Bellarmine, freshman year for Notre Dame. I think freshman for Presentation, and that was just sort of the start.

And then I started working out to other schools, or they'd find out about us. So, pretty soon, I had quite a few students from Santa Clara, Wilcox, they needed hours for graduation, or to pump up their scholarships trying to get into college. They say, "What have done?" "Well, I've done 25 hours here, or 50 hours there." I had two young men that stayed with me every year for four years, did their 25 hours, and they became a big part of our life. They were real helpful, and I knew of them, and they'd come on their days off of school. It just worked out really well. So, that was an example of how we had lots of volunteers.

I would reach out to volunteers that were musical, bands. We'd get volunteers that were dancing groups that would come in. So, we had a cultural fair every year. That was something the Special Event Committee ran, but, of course, I worked with them since I

had been on their side. I was the support staff on this side. I'd say, "Okay, let me go get this stuff for you, because you're busy doing other things, and I'm more free." So, I would do things like that for them.

We would have Christmas parties, and we'd get volunteers to come in. A lot of times for the folks who were medical fragile and in wheelchairs, in the gurney-like wheel chairs, we just needed volunteers just to push people. I'd get them all together and say, "Go talk to Patty," or "Go talk to Anna," or whoever it might have been, and then they'd get specific information. These clients need this kind of help to get to the event. I remember the Special Olympics thing. We had like 300 volunteers easily, easily 300 volunteers from all kinds of different walks of life and groups and stuff. They'd come in and they'd run the events, or they'd do different things. But, how did I get them? Going to the schools, the three big Catholic schools connected me to other places. I would go to their—Bellarmine had a volunteer fair every year. I'd have the booth, and the boys all loved to come to our booth, because I tried to make it easy for them. They would call in and say, "I've got football practice every day," "So, when's your next holiday?" I would work with them to try to figure out how they could get their hours done.

We had some adults, but the funny thing is we didn't have a lot of long-term volunteers. Other facilities had people that had been there 20 years. This is not the Foster Grandparent Program, which is a whole different ball of wax where it's grandparents coming every day. I was not in charge of that, there was a whole different coordinator that did that. Over the 21 years, there was three different people that did it. But, for some reason, our facility really gleaned the young people. I saw it as an opportunity to help them understand the abilities and to see that diamond in each one of the clients. Sometimes they did, sometimes they were just there doing it, but at least they were doing it. They were doing something.

Big events we'd have the four, or five, Thursday nights in August. We'd have a Hot August Nights concerts. We'd have volunteers come and set up chairs so people could come out, and dance with the clients, just fool around. Do - do - do, shimmy, shimmy, you know, anything to have fun. Hand out ice cream, hand out the cookies, whatever it is. So, just getting them involved in it.

Then there was some times that they would work not as much as the bigger events, but they would work into our day-to-day life when the clients went to their work. They would sit with them, help them to do their activities, that type of thing. Does that answer your question?

JR: Absolutely. One question, I think, just from my knowledge: you mentioned that everyone was involved in these sorts of events. Could you give me briefly maybe a rundown of the different divisions at the hospital, because I don't think I really got the real sense of who all was there. I mean, I know about medically fragile, you've mentioned seniors.

KL: You mean as far as clients, or as far as staff?

JR: Clients.

KL: Clients, okay. We had one building called the Rapaport Building that housed, gosh, there could have been 400 at one point. It worked down to three and two and one, but all those folks in that building had medical needs that really had to be attended by a doctor all the time. So, there were many doctors that stayed around, and that's where you went to the dentist. It was our hospital in a way.

At one point, there had been, from years ago, there had been surgical rooms and such, but that wasn't really. I guess there's a certain license that you have to keep up, so they didn't keep up the surgical room. When Agnews started, it was way out in the boonies. There wasn't no hospitals around, so they had to have their own surgical, their own everything medical. We had a fire department, because there was no fire department around. Eventually, a fire department came in on Zanker and River Oaks, and that's when, finally, they said we don't really need to have a fire department there anymore, because we had fire so close, which was another volunteer. They'd come over and help us light the Christmas tree every year at Christmastime. Christmas was a big deal for me it was. That's when I worked 30 days straight. *[Laughs]*

But, one of the things they would do, I'm getting off track, but one of the things they'd do was the San José Fire Department would come and help us light up this 60-foot-tall redwood tree in the middle of our campus with lights. We had them all set up, so all they had to do was go up in the lift, and we called it a training module for the them to learn how to do things like that. Of course, we knew that if there was a fire they had to take off. But, that was always fun and it always brought lots of people around and all of us together to do that.

So, that's another group of volunteers that would come in. The reason why we got that was because our new priest after Father was gone. Father Stout is the priest for San José Fire Department, the whole thing. So, we'd say, "Well, Father Stout asked us if we could ask you," and so, "Oh, anything for Father Stout." *[Laughs]*

So, the medically fragile building had many, many people, and when Angela [Vrbanac-Libby] comes she'll tell you a little bit more about that, because she was a program director in that building. There was probably three to four hundred people and in the beginning in '89, went from just weeks old all the way to senior citizens. If you were, let's say, in the senior population, and you could not be served in your home residence medically, because you needed whatever, it was just too much at that point, too much intensive care, then you might be moved into the Rapaport Building, because you could be taken care of safely there. And, again, if you're in—people were still in wheelchairs in the other buildings, but that was more in the intense.

Now, I'm going all the way back to '89. Then we had a program which was young people like the children that were physically able, behaviorally active and that was Program Five at that time. It could have been Program Four, they kept changing the numbers on us, but there was, oh gosh, if there were eight residences and each one had at least 20, there was 160 people right there. So up to 200 in the highest days, though those folks there that were more of the kids, the young people under 21-ish, and, again, they grew up older.

Then there was the senior population, which I had worked in, and those were all—there might have been somebody 45, but people that were more on the senior side. Then we had a residence that was more behaviorally active, more middle of the road. Their residences were very able that could walk around on their own and have grounds privileges, basically. Then there would be a residence that may be, they were a little bit more behaviorally active. And then it changed, all the way to very behaviorally active.

We still had our connection from '89 to '95-ish, with about four to six residences still on the West Campus, and those folks, eventually, by '95, merged in. Either some folks from East Campus and from West Campus moved out to the community to homes that were safe for them. Then, eventually, it was sort of a coming together. And then, eventually, everybody was on the same campus. Then they melted into that program that were sort of the middle-of-the-road kind of people.

JR: And so just to be clear, when you say the “residences,” you mean --

KL: The residence home areas. So, in a residence, there would be a nursing station and a living room and then off of the long hall, usually an L-shape, there were rooms off of that. A room could be just two people. It could be up to six people. It depends on who got along with who, and who wanted to stay with them. At the end of the bedroom, like Clem, he had a bedroom with three other people, because that's what he and those guys liked. They were friends, they liked to be together, they were used to being together. But, it wasn't a bedroom like you and I would think. I mean, remember, a long time ago, the beds were just lined up on the wall. It was closer to a prison system a hundred years ago than it was to a home. Then in 1906 when the earthquake, everything was re-built. Of course, East Campus wasn't even there at that time, but it was still re-built in the '30s in that sort of therapeutic manner where you would go up to a flight of stairs, or even on the ground, and there was a hallway, let's say, a big area, and residences off of each side, wards, units. Again, the name changes to make it more like homelike, but it was really the wards. The clients to Clem, would always say, “My ward, have to go back to my ward,” because that was in his lingo. But, in that residence, there was that living room, and of course, there's restrooms and everything, and the nursing station, and then the open side of the nursing station. Staff worked in there, and the clients had free rein to pretty much go anyplace they needed to. And of course, it was a large area, but still, 20, 25 people and somebody's acting up and it gets you all upset, and you want to go over and punch. I have a good story about the earthquake in 1989.

JR: Oh, yes, okay. I think we have a lot more to talk about for sure, but we need to kind of wrap up pretty soon, but let's go to the story.

KL: I was standing in the doorway of one of the residences and at the earthquake, 1989, it was probably 5:00. I was waiting for these tap-dancing grandmas to come and volunteer at something, and I happened to be standing there and all of a sudden, this was a men's residence and behaviorally active folks. And, the house was shaking, and I'm thinking, “Kathleen, you'd better know your CPR, because you're going to have to start digging people out of here.” I had time enough to think about that. And this one client sort of shimmied across the floor and punched another guy, because that was upsetting. He says, “You're changing my life. The floors not supposed to be...” And I just remember

that to this day that this guy punched, and it was just upsetting, because these guys are used to everything's the same every day. This is what my safety is. So, that's it.

JR: Okay, that's a great story. I think, we should just try to wrap up in the interest of time, but I want to give you an opportunity to say anything else that you want to add.

KL: There's a million stories at Agnews about this place. We bounce stories off of each other all the time, but all I can say is, it was a good place and the pendulum changes. We're getting away from any kind of an institution and moving people to the community, but we're still not in the community. Their homes are in the community, but are they interacting with the neighbors that much? I don't see that at this point. But, are they being good neighbors? Yes. How often do our neighbors really interact with us? That's sort of old school. *Leave it to Beaver* time, doesn't happen as much anymore. They go to work in the morning, just like you and I do. They come home, they have their activities, they have fun. We have homes of many different ability levels out there, and even folks who are medically fragile. That's the reason why it took so long is because we had to get legislation re-done so that we could have oxygen in the homes for these folks, and all the needs that they had. So, folks are out there living and doing well.

JR: Thank you so much for your participation.

KL: You're very welcome.

[End of interview]

Joanie Pepper

Jon Rusch (JR): I am Jonathon Rusch and I am in the Page & Turnbull office in San Francisco on April 28th. I'm talking with Joanie Pepper on the phone, who is calling in from her home in San José for the purposes of an oral history interview on the history of the East Agnews Developmental Center in San José. So, I would like to start just by giving you an opportunity, Joanie, to just describe in general terms your background and your relationship with the Agnews campus and the dates that you had a relationship with the facility.

Joanie Pepper (JP): Okay. The reason that I'm involved in this is because of my wonderful son, Brucie, who was born with developmental disabilities. Bruce is now 57 years old, and he did reside at Agnews Developmental Center for 30 years. Initially, most of those years were on the east campus. The east campus was divided and on the other side we had the west campus. Eventually people were moved out and the east campus was sold and I believe Sun Microsystems was in there, and towards the latter years the remaining clients all lived on the other campus.

Agnews Developmental Center had many, hundreds of clients over the many years and it was divided into different areas according to the needs of the clients because, as you could well imagine, there are people with varied degrees of disabilities. Some were very medically fragile and required a totally different kind of care from those who were ambulatory and could speak a bit and could do a few things. So, it was divided. They were giving, we as parents felt, very good care. They had activities for everyone and a very important aspect was the fact that we had doctors and nurses there who dealt primarily with our clients. And it's very difficult to find physicians in the outside world and dentists who have any knowledge or ability of dealing with folks like ours, like our special loved ones.

The dental care, for example, there was light sedation. There was anesthesia when necessary because these folks were really scared of the dentist, and it was very hard for them to cooperate and understand when they'd have to keep their mouths open for long periods of time and they would wiggle and be uncomfortable. And the doctors understood all of the needs of the clients and there were a lot of medical issues, as you can well understand. There were workshop programs, folks who were capable of doing that. They would go out for a certain few hours during the week and work at some facilities. I remember one group went to Costco and helped there with boxes and moving some things and some menial jobs that needed to be done and that they could understand.

And then there were some jobs, like my son Brucie did, that were folks who were able to do very simple things right on the campus. There was, for example, a paper shredding company that came, and Brucie went to a certain building for a couple to three hours every weekday, and he would do paper shredding. And he would actually get a little paycheck for that, which was very nice. And he could cash that paycheck and he would be able to go over to a canteen where he could buy a little treat or something with that money and it made him feel very important and grown up. And, of course, most of these

things that he did he would be accompanied by a staff person. He couldn't wander around by himself. He would have gotten lost.

So, but there was also a recreational therapist who came and did the best she could to keep everybody entertained with music, with art projects. A lot of effort was made. So, we heard through the grapevine that Agnews was going to close. Parents were very scared because we did know that a lot of group homes that were out in the community had problems and we did know that a couple of closures that the state had done previously of developmental centers had not been carefully thought out and had not worked out nearly as well as everyone would have hoped. So, when we heard that Agnews was going to close, the parent group that we had at Agnews was an organizations called AMRA. And when the closure became inevitable, our group banded together to become advocates for our loved one.

And under the leadership of Brian Boxall and Steve Johnson and extremely important support of three gentlemen who headed up the regional centers who had clients in our developmental center: Santi Rogers, Jim Shorter, and Jim Burton. We all bombarded Sacramento with hundreds of phone calls, emails, and faxes, and went in person. We went in person many times to visit the legislature to try to get their support to create and write new legislation that would create homes that had never existed before. And we really made our voices known and heard in Sacramento. And the legislature listened. And thanks to them, we now have what are called 962 homes for the medically fragile. Those homes have five people in each home, and each client has his or her own bedroom. These are wheelchair bound folks.

We have SRH homes for the behaviorally challenged. Those are only four clients per home because they require more constant monitoring and attention. We have family teaching models and we had a piece of legislation, B2100, to establish homes that would be the clients' home in perpetuity; that is if the provider had to leave and could no longer help, the clients would not be moved out and have to leave a place that they became so comfortable in. The Regional Center would get a new provider. That's not what had happened before. If a provider said, "Oh, I can't do this anymore," the clients would be out in the cold and new homes would have to be found for them. So, that was very important.

We also had a piece of legislation called AB1370A, which provided the state employees with the ability to work in these new facilities while maintaining the state's salaries and benefits. And very importantly, very careful planning went into the transition of medical and dental care. It was deemed necessary that a home could not be more than x-number of miles from a hospital and emergency room. We had to find people who were willing to handle our clients for their dental care. That was important that all of that be in place before anybody moved.

And in my son's home and in all our homes we had frequent visits from a dietician, an occupational therapist, a physical therapist. We have music and recreational therapy. And when needed, we have a psychiatrist and a speech therapist. And there is 24-hour round-the-clock care. No staff person sleeps there. There is somebody awake at all times, more than one person. We also have a registered nurse on duty for the shift. The staff is

able to give each resident a great deal of one-on-one attention. The homes are lovely. There's a very definite feeling of being family. As a matter of fact, for the particular provider my son is with, we have the motto of "We are family," because we really believe that family involvement and input is extremely important and it's appreciated and it's encouraged.

The staff are very loving and very attentive to each client's needs. And every month we receive a calendar of events, of places that the folks visit; very impressive. We were so nervous about this change and in reality—our family members are living are really far superior than they had because we were able to get these special homes created. And the folks in the wheelchair there's a special device, a Hoyer Lift device, that's unbelievable. The homes were retrofitted to accommodate wheelchairs: wider doorways, wider hallways. A special device whereby they can be lifted and onto a special device that can actually move them around the room and put them carefully down in their beds or into the shower to make it much easier for the staff, especially the littler ladies to handle the needs of heavy people.

So, I would say our loved ones with the places—they go to the church, they go to movies, they go bowling, ice skating, shows, museums, libraries, shopping malls, light rail, parades. The list goes on. And I think they go to more places in one month than many of us other people do. And there are many festive parties to celebrate birthdays and holidays. And without question our loved ones have blossomed living in the community and have demonstrated abilities that we even knew that they had. So, I would say that the thought that went into the Agnews closure plan was definitely an exercise in humanity. And as we all know, the more we exercise the healthier we become. And as a person I learned a lot through this experience. I've learned that a small group of individuals, in this case, parents, can play a significant role in helping to create a new kind of community for their disabled family member.

I've learned that sometimes when we fear change that change can surprise you by created a situation that is better, better than you ever imagined. I have learned that being a parent of a special needs child has made me a strong person. I have found strengths I never knew I had and I have seen firsthand what determination and incentive can accomplish.

JR: Great. Thank you for that overview. I'm going to have questions to follow up on some of those points. To start, to set the stage for the Agnews closure, can you describe maybe your first visits to the campus and maybe your first impression of the place and the care that was there?

JP: Yes, certainly. To begin with, and I was so happy to get my son there because it was only 20 minutes from my home and I was delighted. And at first I was impressed by the beauty of the land. It's a tremendous amount of acres of land with beautiful trees and all these buildings, which granted were old and started to need some retrofitting, but it was a lovely place. I was impressed by the staff that I met. I was impressed by the fact that they had church services of every denomination. We had Catholic church services, Protestant. And I happen to be Jewish. They had Jewish church services. And that was a wonderful thing. It was beautifully handled.

I was impressed that even though it was, let's face it, an institutionalized setting, there really was some thought given to trying to make each area that our children and brothers and sisters and whatnot lived in to make it more homey. There might have to be three or four people in a room, but there would be nice pictures on the wall and pretty draperies that had a homey feeling, and they each could have a television set if they wanted it and have their own dresser and stuff for their, you know, a place for their own things. And they had a good food situation going. They ate their meals there. Unfortunately, my son is now tube-fed. He can no longer handle flowing food, but that's really new in his life. But all those years at Agnews he ate there, and I would often go.

I went at all different times to see what was going on and I didn't announce my visit. I walked in and I saw lots of things going on that pleased me. And he was kept clean. He was showered often and they had a very good nurse handling all of his medications. And something that has continued as part of the state's plan for handling our special children, there are quarterly what are called IPPs, which stand for Individual Patient Plan. And at those meetings you would come, parents, we would come, brothers and sisters of our other children would come and we would sit around the table with every single person who was involved in our child's care, whatever aspect of his care; be it medical, be it physical therapy. Whatever he was involved in, diet needs and so forth, somebody was there to give a report on how things were going, to make recommendations for any changes. And, by the way, anytime there would be changes we were always informed. Brucie's dad and I are conservators, and now my two older sons are—other children. They are younger than Brucie, but my two other children are adults. They are now co-conservators of Brucie. So, we are always informed and give our consent for anything that is done to Brucie medically.

And then when it was close to the client's birthday the IPP would be considered and annual IPP and would be an even richer, more informative one. There would be even more people at that meeting. So, I was pleased with how things were run and what was going on and understandably nervous about the thought of a change because it's like anything else; you kind of have to walk in the shoes to really understand it and those were the shoes I was walking in. And I didn't know that there could be something out there even better. And now I'm walking in a better, fancier pair of shoes. *[Laughs]*

JR: So, even from the beginning you described that you were relieved that you found a place for Bruce nearby your house. What was the process like to find a location?

JP: Initially Brucie was at home until he was 13 years old and then he started to develop some issues. I realized that he needed to be in a place where it would be better for him to be cared for 24 hours. So, through the Regional Center originally he was placed in a home up in Marin. It was like a big house and it was called the Cedars Developmental Center. But after only about a year he developed some behavior issues, which were foreign to him. He was going through puberty. And he never did that before. He would lash out. He tore up his mattress. I remember we couldn't believe it. And nothing like that ever happened again, but they said they couldn't take care of him.

So, the Regional Center placed Bruce at that time in a different developmental center up—oh, my gosh. Not Sonoma. I forgot now the name of the developmental center. Isn't that terrible my memory? But it was a two-hour drive for us to go to where he was. And finally after seven years they were able to move him to Agnews because I always lived only 20 minutes from Agnews. They were finally able to transfer him. And his behaviors were just perfect and he's just an adorable, sweet guy. And his behaviors were perfect and they were able to transfer him and I was delighted. He was about 30 years old at that point and it was 2007 that he was moved into this beautiful home he's in now. So, now he's 57, but he was around 30 years old. He was there for 30 years before that change occurred. And so, that was the cycle of what happened. It was the Stockton Developmental Center.

That's where he was until the change was made and the change was definitely for the good. And initially when Brucie was there for the first many years he was ambulatory. He was fairly verbal, but about 20 years ago—it seems that when you have to take anticonvulsant drugs, the type that were given from the time he was so young, they caused very early onset osteoporosis. So, he started to have bones break. And about 20 years ago or a little more now, he broke his leg just from tripping. He broke his leg and he had to be sent to the hospital and to have casts put on. And at Agnews there was a special hospital unit that clients were in when they had illnesses or things of this nature until they were well enough to be transferred back to their normal unit. And Brucie was up there in that unit in the hospital and he was eating a meal and he suffered a serious seizure and aspirated a whole a lot of food into his lungs. And he had to be rushed to Kaiser, which was very unusual, and I credit Agnews for doing that because normally they went to a different hospital, but they felt that was closer and it was very serious.

So, they transferred him. They sent him to Kaiser and he was in the intensive care unit for ten days and we were being prepared for him to not make it. It was a horrible time. He did survive, but when he came out of that he was totally different with different needs. He had had such a serious episode and so much deprivation of oxygen to his brain that he wound up in a wheelchair, having to wear diapers. He didn't speak again for about eight months. He didn't have the use of his hands for a long time, so he had to be fed. But he gradually got better enough to feed himself, to start talking again a little better. He can move his wheelchair himself. He can't really walk anymore except with a physical therapist standing up in a big platform walker. They have him do some walking, but he's very, very tired from it and he has to be in the wheelchair. So, that's the history of what happened to my darling boy.

JR: And so, you had mentioned that at some point he changed campuses, is that correct?

JP: Yes. And you know? I have to tell you I don't remember exactly when that occurred, but I would say about 15 or more years ago that we had to change campuses. And whenever it is that Sun Microsystems built over there, that's when it happened.

JR: Okay. That's right.

JP: I'm sorry. I do not have a definite date. But then at that point there were fewer clients because they had been transferred to the community over a period of many years. And

the clients that were left could easily be housed and cared for on the west campus, which of course now is all closed and has now been sold. I'm sorry for that. I don't have that exact information.

JR: No, that's fine. Probably in the mid-90s I think is when that was.

JP: That sounds good. That sounds about right. But, as I say, I wouldn't swear to that.

JR: So, was it before this that you started hearing anything about the complete closure of the campus or was it after that point?

JP: After, definitely after.

JR: Do you remember how you first heard about that being a possibility?

JP: Well, we heard it through the Regional Center. We were all involved with the Regional Center and our parent group had our monthly meetings on Saturday mornings at the Regional Center. And we were always on top of things. As a matter of fact, when we first heard about it some parents tried to save it, but we couldn't and we formed a group called Save Agnews Now. I hate to say it, but that was sort of a waste of our time and energy. There was nothing we could do. It had a lot to do with money. It was going to cost way more money to try to retrofit all those buildings, and it was also because there's been a real change in philosophy across the board of taking care of folks like our children. And one saying that, you know, it's really better for them to be in homes, in more of a real family. I mean they really are like a family where my son is, more of a family atmosphere in a regular beautiful home.

I mean we parents got to pick the furniture. It was paid for of course by the plan, but we were able to pick which furniture we wanted for our children's rooms and for the whole house. I wound up on the board of the organization that runs my son's home and many, many other homes. Of course, many different providers are necessary because no one provider could ever handle all of the homes. There are too many; dozens upon dozens of homes. And it's on the horizon. There's no question that in the very near future the developmental centers that still exist will be closed, and people will go into homes.

It's my dream. I would hope that the financial situation of California will be such that what we got for our children I hope will become a model for the future for all of California. I mean it should be a model for the nation. We do have homes in Southern California now because a developmental center there closed. And we do have homes there that my provider is operating down there as well and they're doing great. I just wish it could happen everywhere.

JR: So my next question is, you also mentioned earlier in the interview that you had heard about the results of past closures and you were very nervous based on what you had heard. So, I'm wondering if you would describe specifically what you were afraid of in this whole transition based on other cases in the state.

JP: Yeah. Well, everything is like a public record and there were people who did go and do research. To begin with, I was concerned about the fact that, as I had mentioned earlier, that if we found a home and for whatever reason the provider couldn't do it anymore, I mean a lot of these homes are run by people—many homes are run by wonderful people who do a great job. But they are people like you and me. I mean my husband and I could say, “Gee, let’s have a business like this and decide to do this.” You take classes. You get licensed and you do it. But then up the road you say, “Oh, you know what? We’re getting older. We have health issues. We don’t want to do this anymore,” and we decide to close it up.

Well, I didn't want the insecurity in my mind of my son in a home that might not always be there, especially for the future when I'm not here anymore. That's one of the things we were feeling good about the state. We thought, oh, my gosh. We thought the developmental center would always be there. That when we were gone it was still going to be there for our children because the state goes on forever. However, we didn't expect this. So, that issue was important to a lot of us. We were also very concerned about the medical issue. Where were these people going to take our kids for medical care? And we found out about stories where there had been some pretty serious neglect. I don't have names or dates or places, but we found out about a lot of situations where folks had not been cared for well.

We heard about a few deaths that occurred that might have been prevented if they had been in better care. I mean there are a lot of deaths no matter where you are with the finest of care because we're dealing with fragile people. But you wanted to know and feel that they had been given the best opportunities for care to survive. This does happen. I mean people do die and our people are fragile. There were just a lot of stories. A lot of things were found out that had us really leery. And so, we thought the time has come to set up places for these folks that will be completely different.

And, you know? Many years ago when Reagan was the governor of California, places like Agnews had mentally ill people in them. Not just the people like ours who have mental disabilities. These are people who had psychological illnesses. And Reagan, I mean it was horrible. He just decided to get rid of those people and have the other folks stay and get rid of those people. And a lot of those people wound up on the streets. They wound up homeless. They wound up doing criminal acts and not getting the care that they needed. And I'll never forget, there was a big meeting at Agnews, a public meeting for the public, for the parents of Agnews or anyone who wanted to come to give input about this closure idea.

And I remember a policeman came. He was a retired policeman. And he said, “Please do this right. Don't do what they did when Agnews put the mentally ill people out on the street.” He said, “We policemen had to deal with these folks and it was awful. We didn't understand them, their needs. We're not doctors. We didn't have the background and we had some very difficult situations.” So he said, “Please don't do that again. Please think this through and make sure that these folks get the proper care that they need and are in places where they will get the best attention.” And that was very interesting.

JR: So, how did you wind up meeting other parents or people who were involved or invested in the plans for after the closure process?

JP: It was. I was for many years. Agnews had this parent group called AMRA, A-M-R-A. And we sent out letters to have people join us of all the families that belonged to Agnews, all the family members. So, we had a very viable pretty active family group. And as soon as a matter of fact, I was vice president of it for I think the last three years. And this gentleman I want to suggest you talk to, Brian, he was the president towards the end through all that we were going through. So, we were a very strong parent group for a long, long time. And when this occurred that we were going to be closing, this was the parent group that became very active, as I told you, in doing everything we could to bombard the legislators in Sacramento to please listen and do please do this right.

JR: Okay, so just stepping back a little bit. In terms of this parent group operating when Agnews was still open, what was your involvement with—

JP: With our purpose?

JR: Yeah.

JP: Well, we kept an eye on everything going on and we would be participants in events that Agnews had. They would have like Special Olympics and events to help raise money, things like that. We were the active parent group that you'd always see us involved in anything that was going on at Agnews. It was a very cohesive group. And we were all people who had a common interest. It's another situation of when you walk in those shoes you understand. I could have a lot of friends who empathized with me having a handicapped child, but it's the other parent of a handicapped child who really understands. And so, we were very bound together, and I have made personally some wonderful friendships that have been with me for years now and will be forever through this situation.

JR: So, I'm aware that there were sort of highs and lows in Agnews' history, especially during the 90s. I'm familiar with some definite lows that occurred there with incidents of violence that got media attention. So, how did the parent group respond to those sorts of incidents?

JP: You know? Except for seeing how it was handled and making sure everything was followed through, there wasn't anything in particular because that was really going to be handled by the administrators of the hospital. But certainly if a parent of someone who was treated that way would have been a very involved parent, but I myself fortunately—I mean those incidents were few and far between.

JR: Of course.

JP: Fortunately, my child was never involved in anything like that. He was handled and treated very kindly and thoughtfully. So, I can't give you a very concise answer on that one. I'm sorry.

JR: No, that's fine. We can start talking about the actual closure process. You summarized your experiences at the beginning of the interview, but I'm interested in hearing a few more details about kind of how you all were involved with future plans and really crafting the future of care for your loved ones.

JP: Well, to begin with, there were a lot of different legislators that their areas that they covered differ all over the State of California. So, we got the names of the legislators who were most important to the clients that were at Agnews. We got those names and we set up interviews to talk to these people. Sometimes we didn't get to talk to the actual legislator. We would talk to his or her assistant. And sometimes we got to talk to the legislator. And, of course, we sent a lot of letters to them and we faxed. I got a fax machine when that happened and I faxed hundreds of letters. And so we tried to personally touch base with every legislator who would be involved in voting yay or nay on any legislative bill that would be put up for this purpose. And I do that the Department of Developmental Services up in Sacramento that oversees all of the regional centers and all of California's developmentally disabled, they were very interested in doing a good job because they did not want to be criticized for some of the mistakes that had been made in the past. They were really on board with wanting to do the right things.

And so when we went to our legislators, we just told them what we perceived of as being the best situation. And they really took it to heart among themselves. And also, the three gentlemen I named, Santi Rogers, who by the way, he is now the head of the Department of Developmental Services. I'm very proud of him and I just went to a hearing in Sacramento for his confirmation hearing to reconfirm his amazing abilities. He's a wonderful man who has been in the field forever. And he was in his position at the Regional Center where I am, he oversaw something like 14,000 disabled folks over four counties. And then the other two fellows, one oversaw all the clients who came from the East Bay, and then there was the fellow who oversaw the clients from the Golden Gate Region, which is more the San Francisco area. And those were the three regional center heads, directors who clients were in Agnews.

Another very important thing that we were able to get done, they really listened to this too when they actually formulated this. They tried as best as possible to establish homes close to where the families lived. So, the families stay with the kids and the brothers and sisters and everybody are clients who lived in the East Bay who were at Agnews. Their homes are now in the East Bay. And then we had the Regional Center establish homes closer to the folks a little further up in the San Francisco area. And our area here, we have homes in San José, in Campbell, closer to the Campbell area, and Morgan Hill where my son is so that my drive to see Brucie is still on 20 minutes. It's very important. So, that was another aspect that was really handled, that was done.

It was a very strong effort. I mean we made speeches. I mean I had never made a speech before and now I'm a speechmaker. We made speeches all over the place. We went up to Sacramento. When you go up there sometimes you can only talk two or three minutes. They give you a limit, but we did it. And we'd bring pictures of our kids and we'd tell stories about them and try to make everything personalized as much as we

could so that people could feel it in their hearts. And legislators are parents too, and some of them have handicapped children. Maybe we touched a note there. I don't know.

But in answer to your question, that's how we did it and how much influence we had. And we had these wonderful leaders like Brian, whose brother was in the system. And those three leaders, Santi Rogers, Jim Burton, and Jim Shorter who were the heads of the Regional Centers, they went up to Sacramento a lot too. They had very strong voices. And I also got to know at that time there was a woman who was at the head of DDS, the job that Santi now has. And I got to know her and she got to appreciate our parent group. And we went to so many meetings I can't even begin to tell you that were held in Sacramento about this issue. So, it took a lot of heads, a lot of talks, a lot of thinking, a lot of putting together of ideas to formulate what we wound up with. And a lot of people deserve credit and certainly our parent group is one, but certainly these Regional Center directors were terribly instrumental in getting these homes done.

JR: Okay. Thank you. Just so I understand, I'm not all that sharp with kind of the legislative process in California, but it sounds like the actual legislation that was going to be introduced and voted on, that covered the closure of Agnews and then laid out a very specific blueprint for future care. Is that correct?

JP: Well, the future care for the Agnews closure. It wasn't designed to cover all of California at that time. It was just the closure of Agnews. And then at the very end once the closure took place, we had a special hearing devoted just to the closure of Agnews, which was very interesting and I was asked to give a talk up there as a parent for what it had all been like for me and how my son was doing now and so forth. But it was just for the closure of Agnews, but we were just hoping that it would become a model for the future. And unfortunately, a lot of what can be done, and I'm sure you totally understand this, hinges on the financial capability of the state. There has to be money. And we just hit a good time when we were closing and then things got kind of lean and we just lucked out at the time we did it. The way it's set up now, our homes are actually owned by a company, and they are rented out by the provider. There are so many pegs to this thing, so many ways that it works, but it does work. And there are monies. Money that operates all this comes from the State of California and there also are some federal funds. It's not matched funds, but there are some federal funds that come into play as well.

JR: Okay. In terms of a timeframe, what years were you involved with these trips to Sacramento when you were organizing? Because I know that the facility closed for clients in 2009, I believe.

JP: It closed officially in 2009. My son left in 2007. And I would say that we probably started all this stuff around, I'll have to give you a ballpark, maybe 2003 or 2004 or something like that; around in there because it took quite a while for it all to happen. I can't be absolutely sure on those years. They run into each other.

JR: Sure, that's fine.

JP: My mind now, I try to remember what I said yesterday.

JR: So, can I ask? How did your son react to this change?

JP: Oh, beautifully. That's another thing I wanted to tell you. There was a great deal of thought that went into the actual move of each client. Once a home was established for that client, they weren't just thrown in there. The way it worked was first the client went for just a lunch visit and saw the home and saw the staff who would work with them. And they tried whenever possible to have a staff person who knew that client from Agnews. It wasn't always possible, but it was. I'd say half of our staff are Agnews people and half of the staff were folks who were hired from the community.

And so first they went for a visit or maybe even two visits where they had lunch and visited and did some activities and saw their room and saw the neighborhood and stuff like that. Then they had an overnight visit. And then after that they moved in. So, they weren't just thrown into a completely, you know, strange brand new situation right away. And I was very pleased with that. I thought that was a very good idea.

JR: Was there a sense that the staff at Agnews would move clients over once they felt the clients themselves were ready? Or was it sort of there's a set date and then they had to hope the clients were ready before that?

JP: Well, the clients were all ready. I mean they really were. At the end, the clients that were left that went into these special homes were all the more medically fragile or psychologically fragile people. And they weren't going to be changing really over time that much. That's how they were. And we just needed to find the right location for them. The parents had to approve and set up the house and then gradually start bringing them over. And, of course, thought went into. I wasn't part of that, but thought went into which clients would stay together.

There was some thought in our home. I mean one of Brucie's roommates was actually his roommate at Agnews and his father lives in Morgan Hill and we were very close family friends, close. It was wonderful that they knew each other so well. And a third member of our group, actually four to being with, they were all on the same unit at Agnews. And that was wonderful because they knew each other so well. There have been some changes since then because unfortunately once client passed away, so we had to get a new client. But in each case the new clients have moved into an established, warm, loving home. And we have a recreational therapist who is beyond belief. She's not just one in a million. I swear I would say she's one in a billion. What she does with those clients, she comes two or three times a week and she'll give up her Saturdays or Sundays to help with parties. She does so many things with them and takes them places.

By the way, we have wheelchair vans. Between our home and we have a home next door to us that's also one of our homes. We have three wheelchair vans, and we can take the guys out places. It's wonderful. I mean I've gone so many places, I can't believe it, with Brucie and I couldn't do that at Agnews. It was feasibly impossible with all of the clients. We couldn't have a fleet of wheelchair vans and people doing that all the time. They just couldn't do that. So, the lives they have now are so much richer. The folks are really part of the community.

JR: Do the clients in these homes interact with their neighbors from what you see?

JP: Oh, yeah. Sometimes they do. As a matter of fact, what we did when we first moved in, we invited all the neighbors to come. There was a problem initially. Some neighbors were afraid. They didn't understand the clients that were coming and they thought—I don't know what they thought they were going to have; sex criminals or God knows what. And they went to the City Council and were trying to say they didn't want us.

JR: Oh, really?

JP: Yes. So, we parents went to City Council and we explained exactly who we were. Well, in the end it was the old NIMBY thing: not in my backyard. So, in the end we invited everyone to come over and meet us and meet our children. And we had a party and they were so receptive. It happened to be October around Halloween time. So, instead of knocking on doors wanting something, we knocked on doors and gave them presents. We gave them plants and nice things.

And pretty soon one lady who thought she wasn't going to want us, we knocked on the door and said, "You know?" She said, "My teenage son would like to be a volunteer here. Is there anything he can do to help?" It was such a turnaround in attitude. And a lady next door came over with her dog for them to pet it because they loved that. The not in my backyard, every neighborhood we put homes in we had that issue. That's how people are unfortunately. But now there's no problem at all. They realize these are very gentle, sweet folks who can't hurt a fly.

JR: Great. Okay, so I am looking at my clock and it looks like we've been talking for about 50 minutes. So, in the last ten minutes or so of this hour-long interview I just want to give you a chance to say anything else that you can think of that you haven't been able to discuss so far, or feel like should belong in the interview.

JP: Well, I'm not sure. I just was wondering. This interview, you wanted to know a lot about what it was like on the day-to-day life on the east campus. And I think I tried to tell you there were differences in people's needs and they really did try to meet all of that. But I am assuming you were also very interested in the closure plan?

JR: Yeah. I guess I probably asked more questions or prompted you more on the closure plan. If you want to discuss the daily life, that's great by me.

JP: There isn't a lot more I can say. I know that they really tried hard. But Brian's brother, I remember when he was there, although he was not on the east campus. He came later, but he would have done a similar thing. There was a gardening team that worked there and they employed some of the people who lived there, our clients, to help and Brian's brother just loved that. He just loved to rake the leaves. I mean he just was in heaven doing that. And Brucie loved his job with the shredding the paper and he loved getting his little paycheck.

I think considering the difference in one's life as it can be put together in an institution as opposed to outside in a real home, I think that they did a good job when they were in the

institution. They tried really hard to make it as warm and homey as they could. I know they even had some people who were musicians who would come by and play music for our guys and that made them happy. And they also tried to honor the major holidays by having like a big Christmas party, a Thanksgiving party. Now in the homes the parties are unreal. Every client is celebrated. Every holiday is celebrated. And our staff, they're incredible. They love holidays and they decorate the house from top to bottom, inside and out. I've never seen anything like it, and have amazing parties. And we've had wonderful birthday parties for my son, Brucie. And if you have family who does it, that's great. If there is no family who can participate, our recreational therapist makes sure the client gets a wonderful party.

And we had a particularly great party for Brucie. They have all been great, but one of them we called Brucie's Family Talent Show. And everybody in our family who could do something did something. And I introduced everybody in the form of a poem, and it was great. My son is a professional musician, and he did a lot of music and all of Brucie's favorite music. And his dad did a magic show, and my granddaughter did a ballet dance and my other daughter played the piano. And his stepmom led everybody in Brucie's favorite song with props. My husband and I read some funny baseball poems because they were into baseball, watching baseball games. And it was just absolutely wonderful, just wonderful. And my granddaughters made a big sign: "Welcome to Brucie's Family Talent Show" and they put sparkles all over it. It was really cute.

JR: It sounds great.

JP: And I thought it would be fun to introduce everyone with their particular talents in the form of a poem. So, I did that. So, that was a great party. And one of the staff did a video of that. It wasn't a great video because it's not professional, but it was so sweet to do that so we'd have that memory. I mean I have to say if I had only known what their lives could be like, I would have hoped we could do it much sooner. Their lives are definitely richer and much more like everybody else living in a regular community, living in a regular home, eating home-cooked meals, and going out in the community. It's been wonderful for them and I would hope it continues that way. And I hope everybody in their shoes can have a similar experience.

JR: Okay. Thank you.

JP: I don't really have much else I can say about it all unless you can think of something that you didn't ask that you'd like to ask me.

JR: No. I think this has been great. So, I just want to thank you for your participation.

JP: You're welcome. I was so happy to be able to do it.

JR: Of course.

[End of interview]

Angela Vrbanac-Libby

Jon Rusch (JR): I am Jon Rusch from Page & Turnbull, and I am here at the Santa Clara Unified School District Board Office in Santa Clara, California on April 21, 2015 with Angela Vrbanac-Libby for an oral history interview on the East Agnews Developmental Center in San José. I'd like to start with kind of a broad question for you to introduce yourself with your name and to briefly describe in general terms, your experience, your relationship with Agnews and your years there.

Angela Vrbanac-Libby (AVL): Ok. Hi, I'm Angela Vrbanac-Libby, and I came to Agnews in January of 1983, on a promotion. Actually, I'd been there a few times before interviewing for other positions, which I was not successful at getting, but then was promoted in January of 1983. I think one of the things that was kind of significant about that was about two weeks later, I was at the West Campus in the auditorium, and there was a meeting about the closure of Agnews. I thought to myself, "What have I done?" I had been previously at Pacific State Hospital, which then became Lanterman in Pomona, and also Fairview State Hospital, now known as Fairview Developmental Center, in Costa Mesa. At least Fairview was a much newer facility, and I thought, "Oh brother, I just promoted from there to come to Agnews and this place is going to close." Well, come to find out, it didn't close until 2009, but it was hanging over our head from at least from 1983 and possibly earlier, if you talk to some other folks.

It was a big promotion for me, probably one of the biggest in my life. I was a music therapist, and I had come out here to do my internship in music therapy at Pacific State Hospital. Then I had a position at Fairview and then started getting the promotion bug and so came up as a Program Assistant and then really, the bulk of my career out of 36 years of state service, about 29 were at Agnews. One year up at Sonoma Developmental Center, and then back to Agnews for my last position as the director. So, held a lot of different positions at Agnews: program assistant, program director and ultimately, executive director, but as program director, I ran all the different treatment programs at different times in my career. There were two different skilled nursing programs, one of which also had an acute component. We had a Senior Citizen's Program. I had that for a while. I had Behavior Adjustment. I had the Child Adolescent/Young Adult Program, and at one point, I was the director of quality assurance for the entire facility, which was also a program director level position.

Each treatment program was one of the large building structures in—I don't know if people are going to have maps of this at all, but buildings 51, 52 and 53, and then, also, the Rapaport Building. Each one of those could house up to 200, 250 people, so each program was like a little mini—I'm trying to think of the right word for this—but like a miniature division almost on its own, and had a program director, program assistant, nursing coordinator, residence managers, 24 hour nursing staff, doctors, nurses, psychologists, social workers, therapists. So, each one specialized in treating a different clientele. So, I had that opportunity to manage many different treatment programs throughout the entire facility during my tenure there, and was, actually, either a program assistant or PD for 18 or 19 years and ultimately made the last two promotions to Clinical Director at Sonoma and then Executive Director at Agnews and helped close the facility with the last client going out the door in March of 2009.

Then we operated a small outpatient clinic and managed the facility with a skeleton crew of 40 to 50 people, got rid of almost everything, ultimately laid everyone off, and turned the keys over at the tail end of June, 2011.

That's the quick synopsis.

JR: We'll jump back into that as we go along. So, kind of going back to the beginning, can you describe, maybe, what your first impressions of East Agnews was on an early visit, or your first day of work?

AVL: Well, I had been there a few times for interviews, and then as I had mentioned, was not successful on those. When I came up that January, it seems strange to talk about it now, but it was raining, and it rained for like 60 days straight. At one point, Alviso broke over Highway 237 and across that whole open field, which is now Cisco Systems, and there was so much water coming over, we thought we were going to have to possibly evacuate the Rapaport Building and the Administration Building. But, fortunately, we did not, but we did have to drive in this back route, because the front was flooded and cars would actually float a little bit on Zanker Road, amazingly. I think, my impression was it was another big state facility, because I had been to two others. It was somewhat older, but it did have a good reputation, and I was really pleased to be there, because the executive director was a woman, one of the first, or second, female executive directors, and we had been a pretty male dominated department up and down the state. So, this was exciting to see that women had opportunities for upper management. So, I was very happy to get there.

JR: In terms of maybe the campus, or the clients, how did they compare to other places you'd been working?

AVL: Let me think about that. I would say similar. The program organization, you know, years ago there were areas and supervisors, but right around the time that I was getting into the developmental center system in the mid-1970s, they had what was known as PRU-57, and not too many people will know what that is, but it's Program Review Unit-57. I think I even have a copy of it that I kept years later. It was the document and the determination of how programs were going to be devised and set up with a focus on, shall we say, all folks with skilled nursing needs together, or all senior citizens together, or people with behavioral and psychiatric disorders in addition to their intellectual disabilities, although in those days, it was mental retardation and then it became developmental disabilities, then intellectual disabilities. Terminology changed certainly over my 36 years of state service. Child Adolescent/Young Adult Developmental Programs, and then we ultimately closed those. We didn't accept children anymore. But, each one of those had a separate focus and all of those individuals, patients, residents, whatever, clients as we prefer to say, would live in that one building and then the staff that worked with them, would, hopefully, really perfect their skills up in that specific area.

We also years ago had, I'm not sure Agnews did, but, some of the other facilities had programs that specialized on deaf/blind and sign language and things like that. I think,

maybe Agnews did years ago. It was probably before I got there. But, each one of those became their own sort of little mini division. And not that we didn't share staff across, but people became very territorial about their programs, particularly in the old days, They used to be program directors with their own little kingdoms, or fiefdoms, or whatever, and they wanted certain things a certain way. I mean, there was less of that, I think, as time went on, but early on, there was some of that. And, there was a little competition, actually, between the programs, too, when we would events at the facility, or things like that. Of course, they were somewhat in competition with each other for staff.

JR: Could you describe how you moved up in the ranks, and, also, maybe where on the campus, in which buildings you served.

AVL: Oh, absolutely. It's going to be hard, I think, for somebody to understand unless they have a map to know where things were laid out. My first assignment was as the program assistant. It was Ted Williams's program. He was my first program director. He's now passed on, but he was a great mentor. It was in the Rapaport Building, and it was the lesser of the two skilled nursing programs. I say that, because ours was called Physical Development Program, and those individuals, even though they needed a lot of heavy-duty nursing care, some of them had the ability to move about on their own, or use their wheelchairs on their own, or use walkers, but fragile people, really some significant health issues. We felt very proud that one of the things that we developed there was OUP—off-unit programming. Previously, they spent 90 some percent of their day on their residential living unit. They didn't have the opportunity to even get outside. This was a two- to three-story building. And so bit by bit, we realized you have to give people opportunities for different environments. So, it was massive, but bit by bit we were moving people into different classroom areas, or out even in the front of the Rapaport Building to get fresh air. At one point, we had a special capital outlay project to build these sort of outdoor, second-level patio areas outside, sort of off of their living rooms. There was a doorway, there was like an outdoor veranda built on to the back part of the Rapaport Building for some of these folks.

So, it was a big deal just to get them moving about outside of their little residential living unit. We had five units at the time. I remember it was '81, '82, '87, '88 and '89 and five resident managers who had 24-hour responsibility managing each one of those residential living units, and I came up and was a fairly young program assistant. Most of the residence managers and the other two managers in the program were probably younger than I am now, but, I think, I was 29, which was kind of a little ahead of the curve. But, having been at Fairview and seeing a lot of people promote at a fairly young age down there, well, my opportunity came at Agnews, so that's where I went.

Let me think. Again, the folks were fragile, but many of them had comprehension. You could speak. You could say a joke, or whatever, and they would laugh, or smile. You would get a lot of feedback that way even though they may not have expressive language, but they had good comprehension. They understood what was going on. We worked with one individual, and I feel really proud of, and I know there are still articles about this, who actually graduated from high school. He was kind of a unique case. He had had a severe brain injury, I believe, a motorcycle accident if I recall, and the special education

teachers and other therapists worked with him, and actually with the school district. It wasn't just a pseudo-diploma. He really did get a high school education, which was really neat. That was written up in the newspapers and all. It was quite a big deal. I think I even was quoted in that article for some reason.

It was my first experience in program management. I was really lucky to have a great team of people to work with. Some of the things at Agnews were different than what I had experienced at Fairview, but it was the place I wanted to be, and I could just—it's just amazing how, I'm sure other people have said this, too, you just became a part of the organization. It really became a tight-knit group, and even though there were some ugly days ahead that I'm sure we'll be talking about in a minute, the people there were really committed. They wanted to do the right thing, wonderful work ethic. I mean, there were a few problems with people here and there as there are in any organization, but at our height, when I first got there, there were 12 or 1300 clients and probably a couple of thousand staff. So, it was really like its own little mini-community. Then each program, if you will, was like a neighborhood. I think that was the analogy I was going for earlier. It had a great campus. You could just really feel safe out and about on campus, and I think that's what so many of the parents and the relatives loved about the campus. Their sons and daughters, their relatives, brothers and sisters, could be out and about on campus on their own. They knew they weren't going to get hit by a car. They had a canteen on grounds and other areas such as a library and recreation area where they could listen to music, or look at books, or play games, or whatever. They had the freedom of the small, almost like a little school campus, or something. Many of those families at Agnews would be their relatives' home for life, and then it didn't turn out to be.

So, during the '80s as I mentioned, and then in '83 when I first got there and there was a meeting about the closure of Agnews two weeks after I got there, I went, "Oh my gosh." But, that was kind of a constant theme on and off throughout the years. There would be committees and hearings and are we going to close, or is it going to be another facility. We, actually, did see both Stockton and Camarillo close before us. So, we were kind of like the facility with nine lives. Everybody thought it was going to be Agnews, because we had heard that the land was worth a million, or more, an acre because of its prime location in Silicon Valley. We thought, "Oh, oh, we're going to be goners," but we lasted a lot longer than folks had ever anticipated, and I was able to be old enough to retire. So, that was a good thing.

JR: What were the decisions based on then for closing a campus?

AVL: Well, I think, first of all, people need to understand that just historically, in the late 1800s, when Agnews was developed. It was really for the insane, if you will, feeble-minded. Agnews Insane Asylum for the Feeble-Minded. It was for mentally ill. In the 1960s and '70s, we converted over and became a facility for people with developmental disabilities. Part of that was Governor Reagan at the time who placed many people who had been in the facilities (the state hospitals, if you will), for the mentally ill, into group homes in the community. And, if you recall, in the early '60s, JFK, John F. Kennedy was President, and he had a disabled sister, and his other sister founded Special Olympics, and the whole field of developmental disabilities was really coming into its own. I remember huge hiring periods of time in the '70s, even when I was coming on board. It was a great time to be

working in a developmental center, because hiring therapists and psychologists and many more staff, and we did Special Olympics on campus. It was an exciting time. But, things change, and now, and certainly in the last 20 to 30 years, many states across the U. S. have closed all of their state hospitals and developmental centers. And quite frankly, California was a little bit behind in that regard and kind of got into it with the Feds on more than one occasion about the fact that we still had these huge old institutions in California. So, I don't think it was just the fact that the Agnews land was worth so much. It probably could have sold for more 10 or 20 years ago, but, I think, it's just a change in our culture and our society that people with developmental disabilities should not be—okay, this is not the word I like, but “warehoused” or kept in institutions and kept away from their normal environments with their families and other peers, that they should be integrated into society. And just like, I think, that's not only true for people with developmental disabilities, but people with physical disabilities. When I was growing up in the Midwest, it was rare to see somebody out and about in a wheelchair. Now you don't give it a second thought. Or people that maybe have come back from the war and suffered various losses of limb, or disabilities, or whatever, physical disabilities. The whole rights thing of the '60s and '70s, I think, changed a lot of that not only for people of color, African Americans, but veterans, and people with mental illness, we're still working on that one. We're not quite there yet, but developmental disabilities, gay and lesbian, etc. I mean, it's not just various ethnic backgrounds. And certainly, since I said that, Agnews had an unbelievable ahead of its time, I would say, ethnically diverse workforce. I don't know if anybody mentioned it yet, but the potlucks we used to have were pretty amazing. I'm not trying to lump ethnic differences with those of people with physical and/or intellectual disabilities, and/or various sexual orientations, etc., just mentioning all these in terms of how our society has now embraced many differing groups of folks who may have been formerly discriminated against.

We certainly had staff that were native born American citizens, but also folks from Korea, Japanese, Chinese, many Filipino nurses, African American, Hispanic. I'm sure at the end, we did have pie charts about all of the demographics of our staff, and age and everything. I don't have all that in front of me now, but we were a very, very diverse workforce, and we got along. We cared about the people that we served, and I think, part of the mission was always remembering that that could be your son or daughter, or your relative, your brother or sister. People don't ask to be born with a developmental disability, it's just who they were, or who they are, and certainly some of that has changed also because of better medical testing and amniocentesis and things that weren't available in those days. But then, look at the rise of autism. So, there's a whole sort of new population that needs to be served and all. Lots of questions how that's going to be dealt with in the future from a policy standpoint, but greater minds than mine will be dealing with that. I guess I got off a little bit there. I'm trying to remember what your original question was?

JR: Maybe I missed this, and I apologize: did you work primarily in the Rapaport Building during the length of your career?

AVL: No, no, no, sorry. The Rapaport Building was my very first assignment, and then when I promoted to program director, I went to Program 5, which was the one right by the water tower, and it's been a while since I've said the numbers, but, I believe, that's 51.

JR: Can I just ask you quickly what Program 5, is that the individual residence?

AVL: No, that's the whole Building 5 I, and within there, there were six residential living units. There were essentially eight wings of Building 5 I in all, six of which were residential, where the clients lived. One was where all our offices were and then one was set up for programing services for classrooms and activities. So, there were really eight large structures within each of those buildings. Typically, five or six of them would be residences, as we would call them, and we had 65, 67, 69, 73, 75, and 79. What would have been 71 and 77 were the Program Office area and the classroom and programming space I mentioned earlier. That was my first assignment as a program director. I was very excited. I inherited a team, and they had some issues, and it was really exciting, because the Child/Young Adult Program, we had, I think, out of a hundred and some folks we had living there, probably 50 or 60 that left every single day on school busses and went to school in the community. They were not served on the campus of Agnews. That was a huge program. We had a teaching specialist that coordinated a lot of that in various schools all throughout San José and Santa Clara, Chandler Tripp, and Della Maggiore and all these different schools. It was kind of exciting. A big thing to coordinate and orchestrate every day, and having to have meds go with people, and changes of clothing. It was big, but we felt very proud about doing that.

Also, I was kind of green at the time being a manager, and some of my staff were a lot older than I was, so that was a bit of a challenge, but I did like that program a lot, and just learned tremendous amounts of how to manage a program, having regular staff meetings, having to make rounds on all three shifts, AMs, PMs and NOCs. Sometimes out there in the middle of the night, I'd had to go out there with a flashlight, or something, and you could lose your way around those buildings if you didn't know what you're doing. Not so much, actually, out in Building 5 I, but the Rapaport Building, when you made rounds in the Rapaport Building, you better know your way around, or you could end up going down a stairway that just went to nowhere. There were a few of those, a couple of spiral staircases where you could end up down in the morgue. There's good stories about that, too.

So, 5 I was my first, and then I'm trying to think, I think I went back to the Rapaport Building after that as a program director though, and also was in Building 53 as program director, that was the sort of the Older Adults Program, had the Behavior Adjustment Program in Building 52 at one point, which was really challenging. Some very serious behavioral issues, sometimes self-injurious, sometimes aggressive behaviors, some folks with dual diagnoses, and we aren't talking about people with drug and alcohol abuse and mental retardation, we're talking about developmental disabilities, mental retardation, as well as a psychiatric disorder. Really challenging folks to work with, because you want to try to give them the opportunity to succeed as much as possible, and yet, at times, their ability to understand and comprehend the consequences of their actions, sometimes was really, really tough. A few people with very unique syndromes there, Prader-Willi syndrome just—years ago, we had some folks with Lesch-Nyhan syndrome, which is really unusual, and people, literally, sadly, chew their own flesh, would eat their lips, or their fingers, or chew—really a tough, tough thing to deal with, because it's so self-injurious. We did use highly restrictive interventions there at times in terms of, if you will,

timing people out, using some type of restraint chair, or restraint vests. A lot of that changed, again, during my whole time. We then got away from those kind of things in terms of putting hands on or devices on people. We learned this is not the way to go about changing an individual's behavior. You need to be hands-off, understand what they're trying to communicate, or what it is they need, or want, and try to work with that, as opposed to trying to intervene to try to interrupt behavior when in the middle of a full escalation.

Also, I was director of quality assurance, and that was my first assignment where I was officed in the Administration Building, up on the second floor, but I really did enjoy that, because it was my first chance at being on executive staff and seeing how the whole facility's operation ran. Not just the clinical, which I had a really strong, solid background in, but the administrative, the personnel end of things, more the hiring end of things. The management just of all the facilities, the warehouses and the supplies, and dietetics, and food service, and transportation, and how all of that really had to be coordinated to be like this little mini-community that was really pretty much self-sustaining.

We had, as I think I mentioned before, doctors and nurses on 24/7, so if there was a medical emergency, people could respond. And we tried to, as much as possible, take care of that on the campus. Sometimes a person had to be transferred to our own acute services in the Rapaport Building, or down to Valley Medical Center, or an outside hospital, depending on the seriousness of their illness, or whatever. All of us that were in program management, program directors, program assistants, and nursing coordinators served what we'd call AOD duty, Administrator on Duty. Usually we did that once every third week, and you were the one with the beeper. It was a beeper before we had cell phones, and if you were paged in the middle of the night, you had to call in and find out what the issue was, whether somebody was ill, or being transferred, or if it was a staffing issue, like an employee said, "I can't stay overtime," or whatever the issue was, you had to be responsive and call in directly and deal with it. And, on occasion, come out to the facility, be prepared to do that.

So, I realized from about 1983 on, 'til the end of my career in 2011, I was on call a lot of the time. It was a long, long time to be on call. Later on when I was clinical director and executive director, you may have not have been the person on call, but if something was major, you were going to get the call eventually anyway, hopefully, after they had all sorted it out. But, sometimes it required your intervention, or whatever.

So, looking back on that, you realize how many hours and the stress and the burden of always having to be ready to respond. I had many dinners with my husband interrupted, or movie dates, or whatever. I remember one time, I was in the Stanford Theater in Palo Alto at the beginning of two movies we were going to watch, and there was a major event at the facility. I said, "Here, you watch the movie, I have to go." So, I drove from Palo Alto to the facility, and very sadly, a client had died and choked during a meal, which is, of course, just devastating. Family had just arrived, and he was one of our favorite guys, Larry. I remember the priest came out, he was called, we said prayers, we tried to console the family and all. At the end of a few hours, I drove back to Palo Alto to get my husband and the second movie was just ending. But, that did not happen all the time, but if you were on call, you had to be able to respond to things.

JR: Can we talk a little bit more about how the campus is self-contained? Up until the '90s, or maybe even later, it was kind of out in the middle of nowhere. The development around is not that old.

AVL: Yes, I have friends that are still alive that you should talk to that I have lunch with periodically. They may be 10 or 15 years older than I am who worked at Agnews even in the late '50s and '60s. They can remember when Zanker Road was a dirt road going to the facility. I kid you not, and the entire area where Cisco is now, even when I got there in '83, was all fields. It was state land, but from what I understand, it was leased to local farmers, and there would be in the fall, we always had pumpkins out there. It was really cool to see this huge open field all the way to where the—almost all the way to Highway 237 it seemed, where the bus depot thing is now. Then behind us, there was getting to be some high tech stuff, which was Foxboro and a few others. Now that's long gone, and it's all high-density housing it seems.

But, during the time I was there, they built down the street, the big, black Sony box and then they tore it down before I had even retired—I thought, "That was a pretty new building." We were in buildings that were way older than that working every day.

Let me see, what else about the campus? Some of this is before I got there, but at one point, they had their own bakery, this is also when we still had part of the West Campus. They had a hog farm, they had a chicken coop. They were, literally, their own butcher shop. They made mattresses. Rumor had it that the old bell that we had in front of the Administration Building, which now sits in a museum—and I, actually, don't know if this is true, but that years ago when the patients, when they were patients, when they worked the fields and worked out on the farm, and helped out in the bakery and the butcher shop and everything else, and it was really a self-contained facility, because there wasn't much around, that that was used to ring them in from the fields for meals. I really don't know if it's true, but it's a nice story. I would like to think it's true.

JR: I haven't heard that.

AVL: Oh, you haven't?

JR: I can't confirm it.

AVL: I would have to ask somebody older than I am to know if that's accurate, or not. But, when you read the accounts of even way back in our museum of the 1906 earthquake, which is ages ago, but people don't realize it was the greatest loss of life, the 1906 earthquake was right here at Agnews, not in San Francisco, because the old brick buildings on the West Campus, that was in Santa Clara, went down and buried some of the patients, nurses, and doctors. The closest people to help at that time were some students and Jesuits from Santa Clara University, which is a ways away, I don't know, 10 or 15 miles. Allegedly they ran to help. I don't know how they knew that they needed to help out, but they did. At that time, the whole place was just orchards. I mean, all up and down Zanker Road, even when I first got up here in '83, there were orchards all over the place. There were huge, big, beautiful eucalyptus trees all up and down Zanker Road. All

those were taken out later, which was really sad. It definitely had the feel of a more remote, rural campus. And sadly, bit by bit, Silicon Valley just grew up around it. But most of the state facilities when you look, were placed in areas that were away from the major cities and that, sadly, goes back the feeling of the times, that people with either mental illness, or developmental disabilities, or whatever, infirmities, need to be placed away from the general population. We've changed, we've grown, we've developed.

JR: I'm going to ask a question that might be kind of broad, but, I think it will probably generate a lot of discussion. Can you describe particular high points and low points from your time?

AVL: Probably, some of the highs are when we went through accreditation surveys. These were huge, huge undertakings that we prepared for months, and it was called ACMRDD, the Accreditation Council for Services for Mentally Retarded and Other Developmentally Disabled Persons. ACMRDD, I can't believe I remember this, the acronym. Then later on, I think, they shortened it to just ACDD. They took the MR out because, again, that was no longer fashionable or appropriate, if you will, from a terminology standpoint. It brought a lot of upgrades to the facility. Not only just painting and improvements physically, but the way we approached people, the way we treated them more as individuals with rights, and as human beings as opposed to just people that we were there supposedly to care for, or whatever. More individualization in terms of, "Gee, not everybody has to have matching clothing, or matching bed blankets, and things like that, if they're in one bedroom together." Personalize their area, they can choose the bedspread that they want, or they saw something on their bulletin board, or how they want to decorate their area of their rooms, and things like that. So, it was the huge undertaking about individualization and normalcy and choices for people and having them be part of the planning process for their own lives. God, what a concept, but it was pretty significant in those days. And we would, after preparing for these for months and months and months, then we would have a team of surveyors come out, usually for a week, sometimes two, and they would track people throughout the day, see if their programs were being implemented properly, interview staff, interview clients, interview families, check all of our documentation and our records, whether it's pharmacy, or food service, or whatever it was. Just every aspect of the 24-hour life was evaluated, as well as quality assurance and what they were measuring. And, our use of highly restrictive interventions, our team process and all, just every component you can imagine was evaluated. And when we would, hopefully, be successful as we many times were, we'd have a big, what they'd call an exit survey over in the auditorium on the West Campus.

I can remember one executive director telling all the program managers, "Dress to intimidate," and so we wore severe suits and everything, and we were going to be in the front row of the auditorium, and the surveyors would be up on the stage ready to present their results. We had to get a certain percentage of all of the standards. We had booklets of these things. When we were successful, then, of course, it was a huge party, but, ultimately, it was the clients who won, because we were elevating our level of service. It pushed us to that. So, I'd probably say the accreditation surveys that were successful, of course, were probably some of the highs.

JR: Could I ask just a couple of more questions about that?

AVL: Yes, absolutely.

JR: What agency were the surveyors from?

AVL: It was out of the East Coast. I don't think it was—I could look it up to be sure. It's not like the Feds today, CMS, Centers for Medicare/Medicaid Services and all, but it was sort of a, I think, a precursor possibly—you should ask somebody else to be certain, but sort of a specialty agency, because for services for people with mental retardation/developmental disabilities, I don't think there was another, shall we say, U.S.-wide, or federal certification, or surveying body. We had state licensing always. The State Survey Department, now it's Department of Public Health. But in those days, accreditation was kind of it, the gold star. Some facilities, some of the developmental centers would go for JCAHO, or, well: Joint Commission on Accreditation of Hospitals, and they added the "O," I think, later for organizations, or whatever. But, that was really for acute hospitals, so it really wasn't the best, or shall we say, most appropriate, accrediting agency for a developmental center because we're kind of unique in terms of what we do. I just may be forgetting it for right now, but I do recall it seemed like they always had to be flown out here from back East, and we had to request them to come and survey us. It wasn't like an automatic thing. We had to say, "Okay, we would like to submit ourselves for an accreditation survey." We wouldn't know exactly when they were coming, but we would have an idea.

JR: It would be a way to push the facility to upgrade the care.

AVL: Yes, it really did. We made huge strides, and a lot of the physical issues, too. During the '60s and '70s, they were converting over from facility for the mentally ill. If you've seen some of the residential areas, some of those units that you've been on, those back bedroom areas that are cubicles? Well, one point in time, there were no dividing walls, or anything. It was like 20 beds, just a gigantic, huge dormitory that looks like something out of some old movies that are pretty archaic now. A lot of the physical upgrades to the plan, that just having even more individualized dining areas, and a living area, and an activity area, and more individualized and private bathrooms. I mean, I can remember as a therapist helping out on the units and, sad to say now, showering male clients in what would be considered a gang shower. They're all nude together. They have no privacy. They have no—and I'm a woman standing there. How uncomfortable for some of these guys. And I could tell, they were embarrassed, and I was too. But that was sort of part of the training and indoctrination, and that was considered okay, I guess, in the mid or late '70s. I saw a lot of changes after that.

It was something that really brought this home to me one time when my first husband was helping out at an event at Fairview Developmental Center, formerly State Hospital, years ago. I enlisted him to help wheel some people back in their wheelchairs. And, as we got to the residential living unit, there was a woman at the end of the hall who had stripped, and she was naked. I guess I had already become somewhat indoctrinated, and I just kind of went about my business. And he immediately, "Oh, excuse me, excuse me," he backed up like he was embarrassed because he shouldn't be seeing a nude woman. Like the normal reaction, right? I think, the whole accreditation, and the strides we made

in terms of providing a more normalized environment for people, not only at Agnews but, truly, all the developmental centers at that time, over the next 10 or 20 years, really changed the way we look at people with intellectual disabilities, and that they may have very unique abilities that many of the rest of us don't have at all.

Another thing, I think, that kind of brought that to light, it was the movie *Rain Man*. Most people have seen that, and I realize that's one very unique individual, but, I think, it helped to change the way the general population looks at people with unique abilities, disabilities, whatever. They may have a lot more to offer than we realize, or that we've taken time to understand, probably.

JR: In this whole accreditation process, I'm guessing that you sometimes weren't successful.

AVL: Yes, we had a few.

JR: What was the implication of that? So you're sitting in the auditorium, and they just announce that you don't.

AVL: Yes, that we don't. Oh yes, well no big party, let me tell you, the directors, no party. After you went through so many of them, and you had achieved a certain level, the next gains you were going to make, they just became harder and harder and harder to be able to implement, given—that's when, I think, some of the restrictions and limitations of a congregate living environment really became apparent. If you have even cubicles in bedroom areas, there's no way that a person can have an individual room and their own bathroom, that they can have individualized dining times. There had to be some structure to it. It's like a college dormitory kind of a thing, but most of us don't go to a college for our entire lives. You might do that for a few years, and that's maybe the norm then. So, as much as we would try to really individualize and take it to the next level, it started becoming harder and harder to achieve further in terms of the standards. I think, there was a point where we just kind of maxed out and couldn't go much further with it. I'm trying to remember now if we weren't successful if—somehow it seemed like that just kind of became sort of less important. I mean, we didn't get money for it. It was certainly like the gold seal of approval, but it wasn't tied to any financial or federal financial funds, or reimbursement, as I recall. Sort of what became, at that point from my perspective, I may not be completely accurate, State licensing became more important in terms of making certain that we were going to have both state and then, ultimately, matching federal dollars, because for the most part, that was, years later, became like a 50/50 thing. So, state licensing and federal certification became very, very important. That's my take on it. It just seemed like bit by bit accreditation just became less significant and was not the official licensing body ultimately.

I was going to say, the other high points would certainly be in 1988 the centennial, as well as then ten years later, the 110th.

Then, in the interest of time, you probably want me to talk about the low lights. Any large, huge institution is going to have periods of time where things are going great, and things are not going great, and we certainly had our share. We had some instances where there were some terrible, terrible deaths, probably the worst, was a situation on the

West Campus where a person, a client, ended up dying. At first we just thought, he'd been checked out and everything, but they did not realize the severity of his injuries. Come to find out later, he literally had been beaten and possibly a lung was punctured. I don't know if they ever got to the bottom of this, but, I think, they believed that something almost like a stiletto, or some tiny thing but long object, was used that made a pinprick, not a large big bleeding hole in his back. They saw that later. But, it had nicked his lung and so he was, literally, I think, bleeding inside and like probably his lung was probably filling up and collapsing. Ultimately, it was determined that a staff person had murdered him. That person ended up in jail. The reason I remember this so clearly, it was January of 1992, and I was just finishing my masters, and about to get married in March of '92. So, I was at the top of my game, I thought, and then this awful, awful murder happens on campus, and it's, of course, that's all anybody's talking about, and we get a ton of bad press in the *San José Mercury News*. A particular reporter just took it on as his mission to then start to expose everything that was bad about Agnews. And there were things that certainly needed to be corrected. I don't want to be inaccurate about that. There are things that we could have done better.

In this instance, clearly what it brought to light was many more strict procedures in terms of hiring people, background checks, fingerprinting, things that weren't part of the typical hiring processes in state developmental centers, and a tightening up of all of those procedures. Not only for Agnews, but for all the developmental centers, and for any facility, really I think, or that serves other vulnerable citizens, like senior citizens, people in group homes, state facilities. That was probably one of the, I don't want to say the only outcome, but one of the significant changes that was made. And it was controversial too, because it came out later, and this is not airing dirty laundry, it's just fact, this could be looked upon, I'm sure, at the library in old *Mercury News* articles. Come to find out later, this staff person had worked at Stockton State Hospital and had been let go, but had been permitted—he was under fire for something. He was, I'm not sure I remember all the specifics, but as part of the deal, I believe, with the union and the State Personnel Board, he was given the opportunity to resign rather than be fired supposedly as long as he didn't work in the State Developmental Center system, again. But, that's where the infrastructure, and then certainly later on, computers and all this other background checks, really helped us check with other developmental centers and assure that we weren't going to bring a person like that into our system ever again. But, all that wasn't in place until—I really think that was one of the key events that changed a lot of that. And, a lot of staff were ticked about that, that a deal could be cut, shall we say, that would allow a person to resign rather than be fired, even though there might have been caveats to that. But, how do you enforce that kind of thing?

I think, to this day, we're still struggling with when there has been a serious infraction, and I know I had to sit on some of these as the director, and Skelly hearings and what not. If a person comes in with poor attendance, that's one thing, but if they have actually hurt, or injured, or abused a client, we had zero tolerance for that, and they were going to be fired. Well, if the union, and/or the State Personnel Board didn't think it was a compelling enough case and they overturned it, sometimes you'd have that employee come back a year later with back pay and have to reinstate them. That was a real downer for staff and for others and for managers alike. It didn't happen all that often, but it did happen. So, there's protections and safeguards in there for employees, and I get

that. I want those, too, as I did, as a state employee, but there were some really tough, tough calls that had to be made sometimes in terms of a person's performance and whether or not they were going to be permitted to return. Yes, you can retrain somebody, but if this is not a field they should be in, then they just shouldn't be working in a developmental center. So, there's some good and bad stories along that way. Not only at Agnews, but there were some—Sonoma's going through that right now. I don't know if you've read any of their stuff. Quite frankly, all the developmental centers are kind of, right now, struggling. Not all are currently licensed by the state anymore. The bottom line is, I think, the state has realized you better get with the program and start developing plan to work towards the closure of all of these big, old institutions. They've really become kind of obsolete in some ways.

JR: So in this whole process of employee...

AVL: Discipline?

JR: What was the outcome in terms of relationships with families, with parents, or the clients themselves if they were aware of it?

AVL I don't know that I can really, because at that time, professional boundaries—it would be different now talking to some of those clients, and I do know a few who are still around, it would be very interesting to talk to them now and hear what their take on all that was. Or, if it was just a bother, because it was all out there sort of for them, like in the atmosphere around campus. I think, for parents, it was a loss of trust and credibility, because if it could happen to this one person, could it happen to my son, or daughter? Hopefully nothing as serious as a murder, but could staff forget to give the meds properly? Could they forget to serve them their meal? What other things are slipping in terms of their basic care? And, what kind of people are the managers and personnel hiring? I mean, yikes, you allow this person with problems at Stockton and now he's back at Agnews, and look what happens. He clearly should not have been in this kind of a field.

Many of the parents, though, that we had, and I will say for the most part, they were great to work with. They so much appreciated Agnews, because they either got to a point where in their lives, and I can remember a few who had their children at home for years and years and years and then physically got older, or could no longer take care of them. I remember one, in particular, in the Child/Adolescent/Young Adult Program when I was a very new program director, and the boy was like 30 or 40 something, and they were traumatized about the prospect of having to bring him to a state institution, a developmental center. They were just getting older. They couldn't physically do it anymore, and he was in a wheelchair. So, they toured, and they got okay with it, even though they were very uncomfortable. But, ultimately, many of those parents were some of our best supporters and proponents and would write letters, or go to Sacramento and do whatever needed to be done, and they were fundraising for us, via Community Volunteer Services to Agnews. They saw it as better be part of the solution than part of the problem. Not to say that we didn't have some very, very difficult parents and relatives that you just—the secretary would say, "So and so is on the phone," it's like, "Ahhh, okay." But, you have to realize, if it was your son, or daughter, if it was your relative, how would you feel if some of these things were coming out in the newspaper

about the lack of sufficient care at Agnews, and what were you going to do to ensure that something like that didn't happen to their relative? So, you have to put it in that perspective.

Now, I have a mother who's been in a nursing home quite a while in Kansas, and I'm becoming that advocate person and having to say, "Well, when was the last time that she had this blood test?" Or, "When was the last time...?" You have to advocate for the person who can't advocate for themselves. So, I get it from both sides now.

JR: We're getting to the end of our hour, so we should talk about the closure of the campus, because we haven't really touched on that. So, just to clarify, you were executive director beginning in what year?

AVL: Actually, what happened was I was program director for a lot, a lot of years, '83 to, actually, August of 2005. I promoted up to Sonoma Developmental Center for what I thought was going to be my last career move, as clinical director. Then, a year later, the executive director at Agnews decided he was going to retire, and I had one more shot at becoming ED. Even though I had only been at Sonoma barely a year, I thought, "What the heck, put in for it." I still had a house. I had a place. In Sonoma, I had in Livermore, along with a small place on the grounds at Sonoma. My husband was working in Malaysia, that's a whole other story, but I just thought, "Wow, that's where the bulk of my career has been and, who knows, maybe I'll get it." And surprise, surprise, I did. So, exactly a year later to the day, August 2, 2006, I returned one year later as the executive director, and I was there until the very end.

Probably some of the hardest things were certainly placement of clients. I mean, we wanted to get that right. We wanted to have them have the opportunity to see their new homes, get to know other people that they were going to be living with if they weren't already people from Agnews they already knew. For the most part, they were placed in groups, and many had choices over that. Who were they going to be moving in with, and overnight visits and lunch visits and things like that. But then it got to be taking a very long time to get this done, much longer than everybody in Sacramento had hoped. It just takes a long time.

JR: Did you take the position knowing that it would be through the closure?

AVL: Oh, absolutely, absolutely. That was part of the—yes, we were already in the closure mode at that point. We were in closure mode when I left to go to Sonoma, and I always imagined that I would have been part of the final thing, and then I took this other promotion. But, it was ultimately the springboard that I needed to get back. So, absolutely, I knew that going in, and at the end, it would be, literally, laying everybody off and myself and whatever. Fortunately, I was in my 50s so it kind of worked out for me. And, a lot of our staff was older and able to retire afterwards. We were very fortunate in that regard. But, some of the hardest decisions were as we were beginning to place clients, and then had to start laying off staff, it was a gradual process and it seemed like it was taking a long, long time. I think, the drain on that for everybody just emotionally, you're seeing people that you have worked with and known for maybe sometimes 20, 30 years, and folks don't realize the emotional toll that that would take. All of a sudden this

person that you've been seeing in this work environment, or their living environment, for all these years, they go one day and now they're never going to be there again. You're always going to imagine them in this one place on campus, or at the canteen, or by this one tree out on campus, or whatever, and they're never going to be there again. So, there was a lot of emotional upheaval.

We would have all these farewell parties for staff, and after a while, it was just like, we can't afford this. We don't have the time for it. We're so busy. We were working so many hours a day trying to structure everything for success for everybody and trying to deal with everyone's needs. I mean, it's a major, major undertaking, because you're not just coordinating the living environment, it's all the care. It's the services, it's the staffing, it's the overseeing all of the requirements that they had to in the homes in the community, and working in tandem with the regional centers, primarily Golden Gate, San Andreas and East Bay Regional Center and all of their staff. Interdisciplinary team meetings that might have been in the old days six to eight people with the family and the client, now it's like 15 to 20 people trying to—all of these entities come together, and they all want what's best for the client, but, of course, everybody can't have everything. So, there was a lot of negotiation even though, I think initially, we tried to say well, maybe not the sky's the limit, but we wanted to do everything in the best possible fashion. You ultimately had to come back to three tenets, and I hope I remember what they were. It was "Build quality into every option from the beginning," "Do it right the first time," and "Pay for it once." I think I can look back on those closing—I should have reviewed that before I came.

So, it was a constant juggling match. As staff got other jobs at either other state facilities, or developmental centers, or some went to the Department of Corrections and some went to mental health, Napa, other places. So, you would try to juggle the right number of layoffs with the right number of people that were resigning, or retiring, or transferring out. Sometimes that worked real well, and sometimes it didn't. Actually, at one point we had to bring back staff as retired annuitants, because we just didn't have enough people to run the operation safely and carefully until the final few people were placed.

Primarily, the folks in what we call "intermediate care facilities" were placed first. The more physically capable folks, and then it was the more fragile folks in the Rapaport Building. In fact, it was a lady from the Rapaport Building that was the last person placed, and she transferred out near the end of March, I want to say, March 26, 2009, it was a Thursday. Those of us that were still around that day, we took a picture under the awning of the Rapaport Building, and I have that in my house.

JR: I've heard about it.

AVL: Yes, I have that picture, yes, I have that. A lot of people want copies. Someday I need to get all those duplicates, because they all want it. And now we do reunions. I don't know if anybody talked about that. We have one coming up the end of July of this year. We usually have a pretty good turnout. It's funny, because some people love that opportunity to get together, and others have just kind of, they're done. That was what they did for a living and that's okay. But, for others of us, it was a life, a career, it was lifelong friendships and people that we'll still see and care for all of our life. So, everybody comes

to it for a different reason. Some folks used to say, “You don’t pick this career, this career picks you.” I think I’m one of the latter. I liked working with the people with developmental disabilities, but, actually I thought, when I first came out of college, one of my strengths was seniors and geriatrics. But, the internship possibility that presented itself for me, was in the field of developmental disabilities, and I thought I would work just a few years in the state facilities out here in California and then go into private practice as a music therapist as some of my friends were doing. But, the next thing I knew, I looked up and it was 36 years later, and I was about ready to retire after four different state facilities.

JR: So we can start to end. I want to give you the opportunity to say anything more that you want to. I know that you could keep talking for a long time.

AVL: Oh yes, I could keep talking forever about stuff. I’m trying to think of what else is really significant. I think, initially, about the closure, people were very, very hesitant, and even a lot of the staff were too. It wasn’t just convincing the people who lived there, or the families, that this was the right thing to do, but staff, they were very invested. They feel like they gave great care, and 99.9% of them always did, and truly, I mean, superb. I mean, I would have—there’s so many nurses in the Rapaport Building, I would have trusted my mother’s care to them in a minute. Terrific nursing staff and excellent care, but I think we all got to the point that realized we were becoming, like I said earlier, obsolete. Big old state institutions weren’t the way of the world anymore, that we had progressed, that these individuals are citizens with all the same rights as all the rest of us. And, from seeing a few parents since, I know there was a lot of hesitancy, and they were nervous, too, but so many of them are so happy now, and they said their relatives are thriving. Some of them that had major behavior problems don’t have that anymore, because guess what? They’re not on a schedule about when they’re going to eat. If they want to go into their kitchen and get something out of the refrigerator, they can. They have just the same sense of normal routine like the rest of us and, not in every case, but in many, some of the behavioral issues just became non-existent.

One or two people that I know that used to smoke, clients, just were able to quit smoking now in their new homes. They have opportunities to interact in community settings and go to malls and do grocery shopping and do some of their own—you know, they still have supervision, they still have staff, but they’re able to be more independent. In some instances, have jobs, not in all, but become more productive citizens that integrate into community settings much better. I won’t say it’s perfect and it can always get better, but for many, many people, they’ve just thrived. Families, from the ones that I’ve spoken to, for the most part are very, very thrilled.

There’s a home, believe it or not, in Livermore, not too far from where I live, it’s in a better neighborhood than where I am, and I ran into one of the parents who was one of our very challenging parents a while ago when I was out on a walk, and she was with her son, who she was pushing in his wheelchair, and it was like, “Wow, I haven’t seen you in a couple of years. How are you doing?” And she said, “Oh, yes, you’ve got to come by the house. It’s really great, and oh look at,” you know, her son, and I won’t say the name. He was doing well, and he was one of the most fragile people. So, he was doing all right. She even said, “It’s not perfect, but it’s just such a different environment. It’s much more

homelike.” There’s a few drawbacks. Our people had the run of the campus. Now, maybe they only have the ability to go out in their own backyards safely, independently on their own. So, it’s not like they can just maneuver about like they could on campus, those that can walk, or get around independently.

So, there’s some drawbacks there. But, overall, I think, it was really the right thing to do, and Agnew’s closure sort of paved the way for future closures. I mean, we were looked upon by other states and certainly, what was done now at Lanterman, which was formerly Pacific State Hospital. They just closed the end of December. I believe their last client has gone out the door this last year, 2014, and I can’t imagine that Fairview and Porterville and Sonoma closing won’t be happening over the next few years. It’s very likely. C’est la vie.

JR: Thank you very much for your participation.

AVL: Yes, absolutely.

[End of interview]

Anonymous Agnews Employee

Jon Rusch (JR): I am Jon Rusch with Page & Turnbull, and I am in the Santa Clara Unified School District Bond Project Office on April 21, 2015 with [former Agnews employee], doing an oral history interview on the history of the East Agnews Developmental Center in San José. So, I want to start out with a question that I have been asking all of the participants, which is could you just give me an overview of what your positions were at Agnews and when were you there?

Agnews Employee (AE): Well I had several positions. I started out as a teaching assistant in 1985 and I worked as a teaching assistant, as a psych tech assistant. I was going through the program, Psych Tech Program. Then I went through the program, almost graduated and went back to become a teacher. I say all of that because I was off and on at Agnews from 85 through about 2001 as either a volunteer, an employee or as an adult education teacher. And I started teaching adult ed in 1988 and I taught classes in the Rapaport Building, which was the building for people with severe cognitive and physical disabilities. And I made adaptive equipment for them. I made adaptive communication devices, vibrator fans, anything to get and initiate a response, a cause and effect for the individuals. I was able to get a bunch of free computers for them, made some communication devices, helped a guy named—helped another staff member who did most of the work. He was the real technology wizard—I was sort of the come along—develop wheelchairs that went up and down so people could raise themselves up and down, they had never experienced any of these things. And that's what sort of led to my job as a teacher.

JR: Which is your current—

AE: My current job. I have been doing this for—well actually I started working with the disabled in 1979 and I have been doing it until now. But as a professional anyway, it's been about 28 years—no actually no, 31 years, and counting my Agnews time. And it's been a blessing. Agnews defined who I was; not really the staff, but the students. They overcame so much, you saw such things—it was such physical—I, I worked for the first four, four years with the—in Program 7 on the west area, which was where the really violent people were at. And you saw things there that were just—this is what happens when people who have these kind of issues are put in an institution. The fact that people could overcome in that environment and want to learn and want to reach out and want to touch other people and they were using compassion and grace and dignity in such—in noble places, just changed my view of humanity in a way that is so profound that it's just, it's who I am now. And it was those people that did it—not really the staff, though the staff was, they were nice people. But the students were just the people who lived out there and then I got more involved in the history of Agnews and started reading about what happened when the earthquake hit and how the priest ran all the way from the mission to help them out and the people who died out there and there wasn't really any memory.

And it's like—and then I was involved in mitigating and advocating for the mentally ill even before I went out to Agnews. And then when Governor Reagan healed them all and tossed them all out on the street, it's more complicated than that even though I think the

guy was a cretin—no offense to honest cretins. Sorry. But he was—it was—just seeing Agnews, the east and the west area, the east area though since we're focusing on that, is like its own little world. You would come off of Zanker Road, you would turn in and everything was 100 years earlier. I mean there were—awful things happened out there. There was just things, they found people dead and people—and some guy hanging from the tree, he had been about there for six months. Things like that that you don't hear about in the paper, how Agnews eventually closed because of the stuff, the abuse situations that went on out there. And knowing the people who were involved in it, the clients and the staff affected me. But it was the clients—if you watch, because in order to catch a behavior before it went to a bad, you had to notice the little subtleties. And then when you worked with the individuals in the Rapaport Building, you had to know the blink of an eye, the turn of a head, a sigh. And it was a repertoire of communication that once you geared into it, you could have a conversation. Now, it would be rudimentary granted, but it was profound.

I am a particularly religious person myself, but my religion was shallow and empty compared to the spirituality of these people having to deal with the stuff they dealt with on a daily basis and still find good in the world. I mean it might be a little string they're playing with or a shoelace or something like that. And it's sad that it came to that in some respects, but it also—there is a sense that here is this place where these people would have died if they were anywhere else, they would have. I mean Agnews was a lot of things, but a lot of people stayed alive a lot longer because Agnews was here. Unfortunately, they lived in some fairly arduous situations, and I am sure you will conclude that in the history, maybe not too much, but its public record you know, the newspapers *San José Mercury* has a whole line on it. And it's just the whole institutional system that was prevalent in California for about 150 years before it was done away with through the Regional Center System and you have more community-based stuff.

So, that's my experience, and I grew right out of Agnews into the class that I teach now at [name of school]. And that allows me to empathize with the students at [name of school], but it also allows me to let them know that there is the other half and you're not—you don't have a clue unless you've seen it. People don't. Even the people I think who worked there often didn't have a clue because they didn't really watch. It was just a job. And there is nothing wrong with that, they did a good job, they did. But, with me it was more of like a calling. And that's bad sometimes because you take too much in, but good in some ways because I think you watch closer and you remember more. That's really why I wanted to do this.

JR: Thank you. To go back to sort of the beginning of your experience, at least at the East Campus, can you talk about maybe your first impression of the place?

AE: I thought it was a monastery when I first went out there. I was looking for the nuns, and I saw a couple of nuns out there. They were out there with Father White, was his name-- Father White. That guy was like a walking saint. He was amazing. Anyways, I went out there, and I had already worked in the west side, so I was used to the east side because we used to take the bus. That was like the high time for half the clients out there was taking this bus and driving back and forth. Even if you weren't on it and they went AWOL on you and got on the bus and rode over there because they know the canteen is over

there and the helicopter stand and some of the other things. There was some really interesting stuff. Anyways, my first response is first it's like if there is a nuclear war, this is going to be the only place that stands because it's built—I mean the walls are like their—it reminded me of the Roman fortress and it looks sort of like a Roman garrison. It's like you're ready for the—and it just had a don't come in here look, but then it intrigued you because the architecture was intriguing. The people that you met that were, that were walking around the grounds enticed you in because you were curious because there was such a wide variety of consumers that lived out there, or individuals that lived out there. But all of the doors were locked, refrigerators were locked, everything was locked, which is a profound—you have to have a key to everything. I still have my JB-1 key for some—I kept it because I volunteered for so many years and I thought well, it reminds me of—it was daunting. And I think the sense is like it was like its own little world, there was good and there was bad to that. And it wasn't like in the middle. There was the real good and the real bad. And the good was people who needed a protected place to stay could. The bad was people who didn't know how to protect themselves were in the environment where people who should have been in a facility that handled violence a little better.

And then when you go into the Rapaport Building where people who have such profound physical disabilities—one lady I knew, her shoulder touched her hip. She was basically a circle. And she was blind. She couldn't hear. And what do you do with somebody like that? I mean you're supposed to write these plans, you have this—and you want to do it right. I made her a switch that when she turned her head it turned on a fan and she smiled. And I think what I first learned from my experience, the first impression I had of Agnews was this isn't going to be a summer job like I thought it was going to be when I first took it. This is going to be what I do. Because there was such a profound need and it was like, you're young and you want to make a dent. This would make a dent and no one is ever going to know about it because unfortunately you outlive most of your students. That's probably the second thing I noticed is that most of the students I worked with weren't going to live past me, weren't going to ever be out in the community, weren't going to ever graduate and move forward. As a Special Ed Teacher working with the severely disabled, you lose a lot of students and it's hard. It affects you because you may be the last person they see, and so what are you going to do.

I think the thing about Agnews is that it was timeless and it was sort of caught in a rut. Here is this way we used to take care of the disabled, and it went on for centuries in one form or another of institutionalization. And it dug itself into the ground and it was so expensive and so arduous it's like the prison system, how do you get out of it. I think that's what it was, you were trapped and yet you wanted to be trapped, in a way, at the same time. There was a safety in that kind of work. Because nobody wanted to do it, so you always had a job no matter what, which was very—that was the other side of the fence, and they paid pretty well.

JR: So you started just expecting it was going to be a temporary--

AE: Well I started in the west area first and I was taking a—I was working at a, at a, at a gas station, which was going nowhere because I am terrible with money and I hate retail and I hate customers. And so I got this thing at De Anza College, I was attending school there

and I went for it. And I told my mother—and she knew me better than that, oh you’re going to be doing this for the rest of your life—no, no it’s a summer job, blah, blah, blah. And 30-some, like I said, 30-some odd years later, I’m still there in some form. There has been a progression to it. I couldn’t stay in the state system because of the politics. But I stayed connected to the state system because of the clients. And the school district’s allowed me that opportunity and I am grateful for that.

JR: Do you want to say something more about your experience with those politics?

AE: Well I think it was—we can’t swear, right? It’s C.Y.A.

JR: You can if you want.

AE: “Cover your ‘blank’.” That was it. It was like, you know there used to be a statement out there that you could beat them to death as long as their shoes were on the right feet. And it wasn’t said a lot, as you could guess that that was like—and what that meant was obviously if people were getting hurt, people would report it. But I mean it was an extreme thing to point—they were concerned about the shoes being on the right feet, they got the right socks on. That’s important, you know their clothes match and all that stuff. But they’re stuck in this place and that doesn’t seem to register with people. It’s like, well, there is something profoundly wrong with clients that are capable of living in the community who are stuck here. And I think that’s one of the things—and the politics was at least it got better when the state really got involved and the federal government got involved after the, the one young person was killed. And that’s in the newspaper if you research it.

JR: So that was in the early 90s, right?

AE: Yes it was. And that opened up the door. And one thing I should add is at the educational place I was at, I taught a class for Agnews clients for four years too, so I was a teacher there and I had took a group out in the community, which was a great kick in the pants. They were a lot of fun. Some of them never went on the train, some of—but the politics was, you could sometimes have more observers than students. Everybody has a clipboard, and you don’t know who is going to write what about who and everybody is in paranoid mode because there is so much at stake. And I think the politics of fear and intimidation, as well as people were trying to do the right thing in an arduous system that didn’t want to change, but had to. And it wanted to, but the whole system—it’s like this big Titanic heading right for the iceberg and it’s not run by an engine, its run by a bunch of guys in rowboats going like this and they’re trying to turn this big thing around and they’re all rowing in different directions. And that about describes state work, and it’s amazing the state stays afloat with the way—if you watch what happens. But in the good, there were many, many mid-level managers, program directors, nursing coordinators who fought against the system and helped clients a lot. And it wasn’t people, it was the way the system operated. You get this concept that there is a lot of bad people, the employees out there put up with so much grief and it had nothing to do with the employees—even the state who was trying to do the right thing, they all were, they really were. Their motives were in the right place. It’s just it was too big, too old and too cumbersome. And the client’s needs were so profound that you’re trapped. And I mean

there were bad employees, but most of the people I met; they gave their heart and soul to that place and to the people.

JR: Can you think of any specific instances or memories that you have that illustrate these bigger issues that you're talking about?

AE: This is memory, so it's like it's skewed through many years of rehashing it in my head. I know there was a kid, I'm sorry, he was a young guy and he wanted to get out on his own and he was as cognitive as you or me, you could tell just by the vision and stuff. They couldn't test him, but the only thing he could move was his elbow and he was about this big and he was in a bed and you could tell he was miserable. He wasn't miserable because of his physical situation; he wanted to live out on his own like his brother lived out. And so I told him I said, whenever you see somebody with a nametag and a clipboard and they ask you if you like being here just make the ugliest face you can and shake your head no. And I mean he did it a bunch of times, and one time licensing was there and licensing went over to him because he had this huge frown on his face, in fact we actually practiced frowning faces. It was part of my job was to teach communication, and this is what he wanted and he frowned and she wrote it down. And to Agnews's credit, they found a place for him, there wasn't a big fight. They found a nice place for him and he spent his last days before he passed out in the community going out on trips and stuff like that, went to a day program. So that's the good side, where Agnews responded. And they did, and they did a lot of those people actually, more than you hear about. And the bad side is the abuse and the stuff that's in the papers. I don't need to rehash it, but it was like you didn't know—I mean if I knew, I would be calling everybody, the fire department, I would have pulled the fire alarm if that's what it took and most people would have, but you don't know. I mean until it comes out because you don't work—I didn't work on that unit, once in a great, great while I floated over there.

Our unit was a tight ship, we always watched what went on. I mean as much as you could. The people were aggressive, the students were aggressive. But in the east area, I think probably—I think it was the mixed messages you got from the state, we're going to close, we're not going to close; we want to do this now, we want to do that; we want to have vocation, now we can't have vocation. One lady used to like cleaning the floors that was her big thing. She would clean up the rooms they lived in. They lived in—I hate the use the word dormitory, so what's another word—like large apartments. And they were clean and they were really nice actually, they were open, there were doors for people to have separate rooms and they had their own cabinets. Actually it was pretty nice. And she liked it clean and she was really good. Well somebody came through—again, this is my memory upon a memory, so I'm just sort of out of the air—she came through and it was a lady from the state and she just said, oh well people who aren't being paid shouldn't work, so they decided to take this lady's right to clean up away. Well, you just—she's been doing this for 30 years and then she gets a cup of coffee, that's—and you take it away. And so she had a hard adjustment time and one time she got a hold of the janitor and tossed him right out the door and took his broom away and started sweeping all over the place. They sort of go, maybe we need to write it differently. That was sort of like, responding like a pendulum. This has happened, no do this and then boom and do that. The staff just didn't know what to do. They were scared all the time, not all the time—they were scared some of the time depending on who was running it

because there was an awful lot of pressure—and there probably should have been, given the stuff that was going on. But if you have pressure like I want to catch you doing something wrong versus pressure we want to fix this, you get different kinds of results. And I think it was the pressure like we want to catch you doing something wrong, and I think that was probably the biggest mistake that happens in any organization that is that big and has that many issues. And you're going to cut some people loose, granted, if you have some problems like that, but it needs to be like hey, we want to figure out what's going on, what do you need to do, getting feedback from the people who actually work on the units. That's probably the biggest politics is the unit people didn't have a lot of say and they were the ones that worked with the clients all the time.

A therapist could wander in, she works with a client once a week, and blabber on about something that don't make no sense and then she's going to go to the unit person why I do this and this and this and she writes out this big long plan and the guy is going to eat her alive if she does that, or the guy is not going to respond. When they started doing the programs different and they had the meetings of the students, you had more staff people in and you actually had better clients, Program 2 really initiated that under one of the people. I don't want to use his name, but he was a nursing coordinator and he really instituted a lot of changes. And he was a good friend of mine and he was a good--he was a—the people who need to know who he is, will know who he is. He changed a lot of lives. So that was the good and bad.

JR: So Program 2 was in—that's a specific building?

AE: In the Rapaport Building.

JR: Okay.

AE: Program 1 and 2 were in the Rapaport Building. That was the people with people with profound disability—physical disabilities, and cognitive and sensory. I was on Program 7, did some Program 10, that was in the west area. And then when that closed, everybody phased over. I think I was—I did floating to Program 5, I worked in Program 5 as an adult ed teacher, Program 8, Program 9, and then I was an adaptive device person and I made switches and all that kind of stuff. Even though I'm not going to use my name, people will know who I am with that one. Anyways, it was, it was fun.

JR: So what different buildings did you work in?

AE: The different buildings.

JR: Yeah.

AE: Oh for more of the architectural stuff. I don't remember the names, but I worked in the Rapaport and the Lowberg, but sticking to the west area. I worked in every one of the units, I floated—what they call floated.

JR: Sure.

AE: I was on the—sort of like a general call and I would float. So I would be program, I don't know where you would say its 5, 6, 7, 8 and 1 and 2, I worked in all of those. Not a lot, mainly Program 2, but those other units off and on. I worked in the library, which was in the west area and then there was one in the east area that I worked. I worked once in a while as a volunteer with Father Byrne bringing consumers, worked out in Panighetti Park where the canteen was out of the cafeteria in the west area—I mean the east area. If you know that building, I don't know if you have all of the architectural—I have it laid out in my head. Next to it was this office where I made my adaptive equipment. And so I worked there and that was like this big huge place where we had our meetings and I had all my machines out there and my drills and all that stuff like that. That was probably the best two years of my life because I would make the stuff in the day and teach them to use it at night and it was like, this was such a kick. It couldn't last forever though, but when it did, it was great.

JR: So just so that I know, you're saying that that was in one of the large residential buildings that face Panighetti Park, or?

AE: No, if you—let's see—

JR: There is actually a map behind you, do you see?

AE: Okay. You have to help me out. So, this is the food service, that's where the canteen was at. Which one—where is—it's called Cisco and Zanker, here we go, good. Come in here, the administration building I guess is here. Oh I guess they changed some things around. See when I was out there, administration, well they was—you would come up Zanker Road and you would turn, there was a field and you come up, and the administration building was right here. My building was right here. This is the Rapaport Building here, am I correct about that?

JR: Yeah.

AE: So I worked in here, right here because I remember, I could walk around this Panighetti Park here and walk into the canteen or the food service place. Now they had the food service for the consumers here and then they had for like people who wanted to go buy their own food, they had a guy running—he was a vet, lost his sight in some conflict, but he was a good guy, very good. And so he ran this place here and my office was here [in the Rapaport Building] and then I worked in Program 2 so I worked in this area—so I work by the 6, the 5, the 4, the 3, the 2 and the 1. The first and the second floor, very rarely did I go to the third floor. And I worked in a lot of the residences—or the common meeting rooms, the classrooms, California Center, which I think was right here. And when I taught at night, I would work on 70—oh gosh what is that, 87, second floor and my classroom was right here next to the barber. I always remembered that, he was like right about there. And then when I subbed for other teachers that were out or when I was a PT aide I think they called us, I wasn't at—I was never a psych tech when I—a psych tech assistant, I would come from the west area and I floated to all of these units.

JR: Okay.

AE: And so and then with my volunteering, I spent a lot of time in the church area, which was let's see food service—

JR: So I think 12, 13 and 14 were the religious buildings there.

AE: 12, 13, 14, oh yeah, right here. Well there was—I won't say their names, but there was a Father, a Protestant minister and a Jewish minister, and they're all really nice people. But we got this memo one time because everybody wanted to go to the Father's service and they go and they've got to make sure the consumers' religious concerns—well the Father ran a better service, the other two bored the stiff out of you, I mean they would bore you to death. They were great people, but they were something else. We would bring them, they would always—you would have two or three here, two or three here, 50 or 60 here and it was pretty interesting. I remember that, I don't know why, but he was such a good guy. And we spent a lot of time in the areas walking—I, I always treated people to the canteen. That was my favorite thing. I tell you I spent no kidding, almost my entire check one month on clients.

JR: In the food service building?

AE: Yeah. Well, they all wanted something.

JR: I see.

AE: When you're treating 80 or 90 people you're going to be a hero. It was worth every penny, I've got--I mean it was so much fun. They were cool folks. So anyways, at this--looking at this is like God that's great.

JR: Just for the benefit of the tape: [Name] was just pointing to mostly the Rapaport Building and the different wings that he was involved with, as well as the modular buildings that are outside of it. And then also the food service building and then the religious buildings, 12, 13 and 14, and he said—he mentioned that the, was it the Catholic?

AE: Yeah, the Catholic one most of the time.

JR: The Catholic services really drew in the most people.

AE: He was, he was what a priest should have been. Him and his sister were both religious. I'm not Catholic or anything, but him and his sister were both religious and they joined at the same time and they died eight hours apart across the country. I remember being at his—it was at that Jesuit retreat up there and it was like they had this pondering service and then they broke out the booze and everybody had a—I had to leave, I don't like to drink. But it was interesting. It reminded me the old—the hard line when I was a pre-Vatican II kind of work, it was like, Oh okay. Anyways—

JR: Okay, so do you want to talk a little bit about like what your daily routine would be as in education?

AE: Well I'll go over, when I was doing Adult Ed, I worked in the evenings and I would go onto the units with my—I had this cart, because adult ed you have to bring everything with you. So I had computers, so I had to pile all the computers in a laundry cart, take the laundry cart upstairs, push them in the room. When I'm done, take them back downstairs and put them in my trunk. So you come an hour early and leave an hour late, which is—but you do it because you love it. When I was working at Agnews, I was able to leave my computers there. But anyways, I bought the stuff online, brought it in there. I made switches that people could use body parts and basically was teaching cause and effect—and what I mean by cause and effect is when they move a part a stimulus happens, they have a response to it to help facilitate eventually using some kind of augmentative communication, a buzzer for calling for help or assistance of some kind. We've got people up to using yes/no boxes, which the other guy made. And it would be a loud buzzer, a soft buzzer or two different lights, red and green for yes and no and to using commodes where we made rudimentary communication systems where people could actually scroll and say I want a drink or I want a this or. One guy wanted to tell us what he could do with—tell the staff what to do, so we put in a limited phrase of telling the staff to leave him alone, I want peace or I want some—how did he say—I want some space, something like that.

Mainly the cause and effect though consisted of hitting the switch and something really bright happening and people loving it and you went from there to doing the best you could. Some people responded really well, some people didn't and there was vibrator pillows so people could have the pillow moved somewhere they were really comfortable. The fan, which was really big for a lot of people because they get real hot and the fan will come on, and they would hit the switch and the fan would stay on instead of them having to keep holding the switch once they got the idea of on and off. And you would get a stimulus in other areas too, they would start listening more to what people have to say, they would take more interest in the TV or take more interest in stories or people reading things to them. And that's part of what our job was and Adult Ed was to do the best you could with the consumers to provide the highest quality with somewhat limited resources. But Santa Clara was always excellent at providing what they could, and so was Mission College, I worked for them too out there too. And both agencies did the very best they could with very limited resources to provide teaching experience—because you actually had to have a credential and, and go through classes and all that kind of stuff in order to teach as an adult ed teacher.

During the day, I would come to work, I would help out on the units. If that was changing or helping people eat or taking them to appointments, if they had different medical appointments. Then there would be morning training sessions, afternoon training sessions and a lot of that was the same cause and effect working with the OT's, getting people out of their chairs, moving physically, stimulating, teaching people to walk, balance, use the restroom, things like that. So, and then there was lunch time and then I usually stayed through the evening too because I had two hours between when I got off work and when my class started, so I would stay—that was more of a volunteer time to help work one-on-one to get to know the clients better. And Agnews was very kind to allow me that opportunity, allowed me to make some really good relationships with some of the students. So that was one of my days in the Rapaport Building. On the units, it was about the same thing, but you were personal care needs, helping people

depending on what shift you worked. And I worked all shifts, so during the day was going to training, lunch, breakfast; Knox or evening shift was finishing the afternoon training, dinner, showers, going to bed and Knox shift was you did the laundry. You made sure the clients were safe. I always made a habit of every 15 minutes going through every room just to make sure that nothing was going on and nobody was hurting, because you want to be safe and there is--you want to do the right thing. Everybody was like that--most everybody that worked was very conscience, even on the night shifts. As much as you might hear, people didn't screw around a lot. People actually took the job real seriously for the most part. So that—I don't know if that gives you enough information.

JR: It sounds like you worked with a range of different people with different needs.

AE: Yeah, I did and enjoyed every minute of it. Well not every minute, but preponderance of the minutes.

JR: So did you have any interactions with client's families?

AE: Yeah, a lot. Very close interactions, actually. I think it was because when they found out I was into computers—and this was '88, '89—it wasn't like computers were just starting to work with the disabled. And I had been working with computers since '75. I mean my first computer was an Altair, no keyboard. You turn the little transistors around and you're using binary to just get a little tape to do one little thing and it's like you're going to teach their kid how to talk—and that's what they thought. A lot of people blew sunshine that way too, so that everybody loved you. Oh look at what he did, look what this guy did, look what this guy did and it was like no, they're not going to learn to talk. One of the other things I did, I wasn't the only one that did this, but I took on organizing the memorial services for people. Not all of it, but like the talking part. I think one of the things—one of the parents I had gotten to know because one of the students was in my day class and in my adult ed class, and she had passed and I—you want to offer your condolences and all that kind of stuff and I said is there anything I can do. And I remember this to this day, she was sitting there—I still remember her face, it's burned into my brain. They said, "Bring my daughter back." And you thought—because you measure in your head, this lady—her daughter had such profound disabilities, the pain she was in, the breathing difficulties, the cognitive, the sensory—but it was still her daughter. And those are the kinds of things that you don't know how to put a price on that. You don't know how to—it's hard to categorize that. And I'm the kind of person that is—I just watch that stuff and it's just like—and I think it's because I'm not married, I don't have a family. That's sort of like my—I maybe over-emphasize that to some degree. But I think the families wanted Agnews to stay open, especially in the east side. The west side, I think they were like let's dump this place, because after all the stuff was going—the east side was well what are you going to do with these guys, especially in the Rapaport Building, what are you going to do with these guys. And it was like I remember the profound sense of fear, it's going on up—well I think—I don't know if it's Porterville or one of the places they're thinking of closing down up there, and it's the same sense of fear. And the state doesn't know how to do anything, these send up smoke signals and everybody says something different and it's like and you don't just sit down and talk to these people like a human being because they're always so worried about being sued, which I can go start down that road, but I won't.

JR: So you finished at Agnews in 2001?

AE: Well, I mean I started working at the place I work at now in '91. And I worked at Agnews on the adaptive device department in '92, and I left Agnews, but I still worked as an adult ed teacher in '93, '94 and—mainly as a sub.

JR: I see.

AE: And '95, '96 through like 2001 or 2000 and then I got a chance to actually have a class from Agnews go to the adult ed site and do life training out in the community. And I did that from 2001 to 2004. So I guess I stopped working totally for Agnews where I didn't have contact with anybody about 2004, 2005.

JR: Okay.

AE: If that gives a better synopsis.

JR: So just one clarifying question. That education site that you just mentioned, where was that?

AE: That was at the Wilson Adult Ed Center.

JR: Okay.

AE: Yeah. It was a really great class, the students are really good, they were challenging. But they were—I think they learned a lot and it was a good opportunity and then I got—I went back into working with the students that were—that had come from the community.

JR: So maybe briefly, could you just talk a little bit about what those programs were like or that education?

AE: Well I think the—I think the education consisted of—first of all, we got a lot of great training from Agnews management. This is what we want, this is how to interact. There was rocky places, and I was wet behind the ears, so there was a lot of communication issues and I'm not the most—I'm a little emotional so I can get a little ruffled under the feathers. But I learned a lot about being professional, but what I think what they learned is what it's like to be out in the community every day. What they learned to be out in the community every day, interactions in the community, taking the bus—I mean not the bus, the Agnews bus but VTA, pulling the coin, putting the coin in, taking the train. One young man had never been on a train in his entire life. So we got on the bus and of course we got lost, well it's because you're supposed to let him learn how to pull the chain--

JR: Sure.

AE: If I tell him, he's not learning. So, we went past it, and then he pulled the chain late. We got off at the next bus, took the bus back to the train station. That's not lost I guess, that's the wrong word. And he had never—as far as the information I had from his parents that he had never been on a train, that big old train pulled up and the look on his face—I think that was probably what my supervisors were after. They really—and, adult ed in general is very good at giving people new and unique experiences in a safe environment, but not so safe that you're not giving them those experiences. So there is a balance and they offer a lot of training. So that's what that consists--that's what that consisted of and I thought it went pretty well. I thought the class was successful. The consumers learned a lot. I learned a lot. And it was good--it was a good org-- it was good working with the people.

JR: Okay. So I think we might want to start trying to wrap up in like maybe five minutes.

AE: Okay. Okay, sounds good.

JR: I just want to give you the opportunity to talk about anything else that you think is relevant. I can ask you a couple more questions, but—

AE: No, I think I'll just—I think Agnews—I think the state was wrong what they did with the land. Mr. Agnews, I don't know the whole story about the man, somebody left this land, this property that they poured their heart into for people who were disabled. I am really happy that the school district is buying the east side, because I think that's what they would want, a school, a life; not businesses and technology. And I understand the land was worth all that money, this state sold its soul a long time ago to that kind of stuff in a certain way. And I understand that there is practical—I'm not naïve, well I am, but in a part of me--but the people who live there and the emphasis for the people with disabilities, when that land was sold, I don't think they got a fair shake in my own opinion. What I would like to be remembered is: okay, we got rid of the institutions, now let's—the day they close my program down and there is no need for special programs, there is no need for special ed, the people that come into the community, they're accepted at whatever level they're at and they're just part of the community. Now that's going to be several generations off. I would love to see us go out of business in that sense, you know what I'm trying to say?

Is that we have come from the quote “dark ages,” which would have been the asylum type stuff in the 1800s and all the way through the horrible stuff of the—I don't think people remember that the Holocaust started with T-4—you want a terrible thing in history, go look that up. The T-4 experiments or the T-4 process where 500,000 people with disabilities and mental illness were euthanized and that's set in codified, in German law what happened to the other people in the concentration camps. And that can happen again, and I think society needs to understand that. That's why it's critical that these folks—they're the dividing line. They're the elderly—and it's not that they are helpless, by far they are not. They offer more than they quote unquote take, it's just not in the same way people mean. So I think the land sort of tells that story. The land gave life to those people and those people gave life to that land. They lived there. They died there. Some of them were buried there. And that means something. It doesn't mean a big company or a bunch of houses that are built up 5,000 stories high, you used to be

able to throw seeds out there and anything would grow. Something has changed and there is something wrong with that. It had to change to some degree, but to not remember that is a profound mistake and it will have very profound implications for people in the future. It really will. I think if I had to have one thing that would be it.

So I'll leave it with that.

JR: Alright. Thank you very much for your participation.

[End of interview]

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E. Likely Sources Not Yet Investigated

The Santa Clara Unified School District has identified and reproduced drawings available in the California State Archives. Additional resources may be available in the collection of the Department of Public Works, Division of Architecture, Office of Information:

California State Archives
1020 O Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Further relevant information about the East Agnews Developmental Center may also be found in the archives of the California Historical Society:

California Historical Society
678 Mission Street
San Francisco, CA 94105

F. Supplemental Material

I. Index to HABS-Level Photographs

The following provides an index to the black and white, HABS-level 5'x7' photographs taken of the East Agnews Developmental Center campus. Included in this report are contact sheets of this photography. The full-size archival-quality prints accompany this document under separate cover.

William Porter, Photographer
December 2014-January 2015

No. CA-XXXX-01

Description: Panighetti Park

Direction of view: North from Balboa Avenue

No. CA-XXXX-02

Description: Southeast corner of Building 51 and water tower

Direction of view: Northeast from Balboa Avenue

No. CA-XXXX-03

Description: Anza Road East and Panighetti Park

Direction of view: South from Cabrillo Street

No. CA-XXXX-04

Description: Water tower

Direction of view: West from Cortez Street

No. CA-XXXX-05

Description: Anza Road West

Direction of view: North from Balboa Avenue

No. CA-XXXX-06

Description: Anza Road and overall site of Buildings 150, 151, and 152

Direction of view: South from Balboa Avenue

No. CA-XXXX-07

Description: Building 51, water tower, and Balboa Avenue

Direction of view: Northeast from Balboa Avenue

No. CA-XXXX-08

Description: Balboa Avenue southeast of Building 51

Direction of view: West from Balboa Avenue

No. CA-XXXX-09

Description: Site view of Balboa Avenue south of water tower

Direction of view: West from Cortez Street

No. CA-XXXX-10

Description: Water tower

Direction of view: Northwest from intersection of Balboa Avenue and Cortez Street

No. CA-XXXX-11

Description: Building 51 service courtyard and approach drive

Direction of view: West from Cortez Street

No. CA-XXXX-12

Description: Cortez Street

Direction of view: Southeast from intersection of Cortez Street and Balboa Avenue

No. CA-XXXX-13

Description: Intersection of Cabrillo Street and Balboa Avenue

Direction of view: Southeast from Cabrillo Street

No. CA-XXXX-14

Description: Balboa Avenue

Direction of view: Southwest from intersection of Cabrillo Street and Balboa Avenue

No. CA-XXXX-15

Description: Approach drive to service courtyard of Building 52

Direction of view: Southeast from De Soto Road

No. CA-XXXX-16

Description: De Soto Road

Direction of view: Northeast from intersection of De Soto Road and approach drives to Buildings 52 and 53

No. CA-XXXX-17

Description: Approach drive to service courtyard of Building 53

Direction of view: Northwest from De Soto Road

No. CA-XXXX-18

Description: Approach drive to service courtyard of Building 52

Direction of view: Northwest from service courtyard of Building 52

No. CA-XXXX-19

Description: Anza Road, Building 154, and Building 155

Direction of view: Southwest from Anza Road

No. CA-XXXX-20

Description: Cabrillo Street and Building 52 north façade

Direction of view: Southeast from intersection of De Soto Road and Cabrillo Street

No. CA-XXXX-21

Description: Balboa Avenue and Building 152

Direction of view: East

No. CA-XXXX-22

Description: Cabrillo Street and northeast corner of Building 53

Direction of view: South

No. CA-XXXX-23

Description: Building 51 north façade

Direction of view: South

No. CA-XXXX-242

Description: Building 51 south and east façades

Direction of view: Northwest

No. CA-XXXX-25

Description: Building 51 east façade

Direction of view: West from service courtyard

No. CA-XXXX-26

Description: Window at south façade of Building 51 boiler room

Direction of view: North

No. CA-XXXX-27

Description: Building 51 boiler room vent

Direction of view: Northwest

No. CA-XXXX-28

Description: Door at Building 51 loading platform in service courtyard

Direction of view: Northeast

No. CA-XXXX-29

Description: Building 51 exterior wall bounding north side of service courtyard

Direction of view: North

No. CA-XXXX-30

Description: Building 51 north tower

Direction of view: Northwest from service courtyard

No. CA-XXXX-31

Description: East façade of Building 51 southeast wing, containing units 67 and 71

Direction of view: West

No. CA-XXXX-32

Description: North façade of Building 51 northwest wing, containing units 73 and 77

Direction of view: South

No. CA-XXXX-33

Description: Detail of wall tile within Building 51 north entry vestibule

Direction of view: South

No. CA-XXXX-34

Description: Window grille at Building 51 south façade

Direction of view: Northwest

No. CA-XXXX-35

Description: Interior of Building 51 boiler room

Direction of view: West

No. CA-XXXX-36

Description: Building 52 south façade

Direction of view: North

No. CA-XXXX-37

Description: Building 52 south courtyard entrance

Direction of view: North

No. CA-XXXX-38

Description: Building 52 south façade

Direction of view: North from south courtyard

No. CA-XXXX-39

Description: Detail of wall tile within Building 52 south entry vestibule

Direction of view: West

No. CA-XXXX-40

Description: Balcony above Building 52 south entry vestibule

Direction of view: North

No. CA-XXXX-41

Description: Building 52 south courtyard

Direction of view: South from south entry vestibule

No. CA-XXXX-42

Description: Building 52 exterior wall bounding west side of south courtyard

Direction of view: West

No. CA-XXXX-43

Description: Window arcade at Building 52 south façade

Direction of view: North from south courtyard

No. CA-XXXX-44

Description: South façade of Building 52 southwest wing, containing units 66 and 70

Direction of view: North

No. CA-XXXX-45

Description: Detail of window at Building 52 south façade

Direction of view: North

No. CA-XXXX-46

Description: North façade of Building 52 northwest wing, containing units 74 and 78

Direction of view: South

No. CA-XXXX-47

Description: Building 52 south and east façades

Direction of view: Northwest from intersection of Balboa Avenue and Anza Road West

No. CA-XXXX-48

Description: South façade of Building 52 boiler room

Direction of view: North from Building 52 service courtyard

No. CA-XXXX-49

Description: Building 52 east façade

Direction of view: West from Panighetti Park

No. CA-XXXX-50

Description: Roof above Building 52 kitchen

Direction of view: Southwest from interior second floor

No. CA-XXXX-51

Description: Building 52 south dining room interior

Direction of view: North

No. CA-XXXX-52

Description: Building 52 kitchen interior

Direction of view: Northeast

No. CA-XXXX-53

Description: Detail of office within Building 52 kitchen

Direction of view: Northwest

No. CA-XXXX-54

Description: Detail of clerestory window

Direction of view: North

No. CA-XXXX-55

Description: Building 52 south entrance lobby

Direction of view: South from dining room

No. CA-XXXX-56

Description: Arched opening and staircase at Building 52 south entrance lobby

Direction of view: South

No. CA-XXXX-57

Description: Paired door at Building 52 north staircase

Direction of view: Northeast

No. CA-XXXX-58

Description: Interior of living room in Building 52 residential unit 72

Direction of view: East

No. CA-XXXX-59

Description: Interior long corridor in Building 52 residential unit 72

Direction of view: East

No. CA-XXXX-60

Description: Interior short corridor in Building 52 residential unit 72

Direction of view: North

No. CA-XXXX-61

Description: Dormitory room in Building 52 residential unit 72

Direction of view: North

No. CA-XXXX-62

Description: Room #1 in Building 52 unit 76

Direction of view: South

No. CA-XXXX-63

Description: Bathtub in Room #13 in Building 52 residential unit 72

Direction of view: North

No. CA-XXXX-64

Description: Exposed timber truss in Room #C at Building 52 second floor

Direction of view: Southeast

No. CA-XXXX-65

Description: Mechanical room in Building 52 residential unit 72

Direction of view: East

No. CA-XXXX-66

Description: Detail of window within blind arcade at Building 53 service courtyard

Direction of view: North

No. CA-XXXX-67

Description: Building 53 exterior wall bounding west side of service courtyard

Direction of view: Northwest

No. CA-XXXX-68

Description: Building 53 west entry vestibule

Direction of view: East

No. CA-XXXX-69

Description: Building 53 east façade

Direction of view: West

No. CA-XXXX-70

Description: Detail of wall tile within Building 53 east entry vestibule

Direction of view: North

No. CA-XXXX-71

Description: Building 53 north façade

Direction of view: South

No. CA-XXXX-72

Description: Building 53 north entrance

Direction of view: South

No. CA-XXXX-73

Description: Building 53 west and south façades

Direction of view: Northeast

No. CA-XXXX-74

Description: Building 53 kitchen and boiler room

Direction of view: West from Building 53 second floor

No. CA-XXXX-75

Description: Interior of Building 53 projection room

Direction of view: Northeast

No. CA-XXXX-76

Description: Interior of Building 53 employee dining room

Direction of view: South

No. CA-XXXX-77

Description: Interior of Building 53 employee dining room and balcony

Direction of view: North

No. CA-XXXX-78

Description: Detail of stair to balcony in Building 53

Direction of view: West

No. CA-XXXX-79

Description: Detail of skylight above Building 53 kitchen

Direction of view: South

No. CA-XXXX-80

Description: Interior of Building 53 dining room

Direction of view: East

No. CA-XXXX-81

Description: Interior room at Building 52 administrative unit 54

Direction of view: Southwest

No. CA-XXXX-82

Description: Interior corridor at Building 52 administrative unit 54

Direction of view: North

No. CA-XXXX-83

Description: Interior corridor at Building 52 administrative unit 54

Direction of view: South

No. CA-XXXX-84

Description: Bathing table at Building 53 Room #11

Direction of view: Northwest

No. CA-XXXX-85

Description: Building 152 rear courtyard and west façade

Direction of view: East

No. CA-XXXX-86

Description: Building 152 arched passageway

Direction of view: Southeast

No. CA-XXXX-87

Description: Building 152 east and north façades

Direction of view: Southwest

No. CA-XXXX-88

Description: Building 152 south and east façades

Direction of view: Northwest

No. CA-XXXX-89

Description: Detail of balcony at Building 152 south façade

Direction of view: North

No. CA-XXXX-90

Description: Building 152 north façade

Direction of view: South

No. CA-XXXX-91

Description: Building 153 and Building 152 south façades

Direction of view: North

No. CA-XXXX-92

Description: Building 153 south façade

Direction of view: Northeast

No. CA-XXXX-93

Description: Building 153 north façade

Direction of view: South

No. CA-XXXX-94

Description: Detail of eave at Building 152 south façade

Direction of view: North

No. CA-XXXX-95

Description: Detail of window and balcony at Building 152 south façade

Direction of view: North

No. CA-XXXX-96

Description: Building 152 south façade

Direction of view: North

No. CA-XXXX-97

Description: Detail of balcony at Building 152 east façade

Direction of view: West

No. CA-XXXX-98

Description: Interior of bathroom at Building 152 unit #9

Direction of view: South

No. CA-XXXX-99

Description: Interior of Building 152 unit #9

Direction of view: West

No. CA-XXXX-100

Description: Interior of Building 152 unit #12

Direction of view: Southeast

No. CA-XXXX-101

Description: Detail of door at Building 154

Direction of view: Southeast

No. CA-XXXX-102

Description: Building 154 east and north façades

Direction of view: South

No. CA-XXXX-103

Description: Detail of vent at Building 154 roof

Direction of view: Southwest

No. CA-XXXX-104

Description: Building 154 south façade

Direction of view: North

No. CA-XXXX-105

Description: Detail of window at Building 154 south façade

Direction of view: Northwest

No. CA-XXXX-106

Description: Building 155 west and north façades

Direction of view: East

No. CA-XXXX-107

Description: Building 155 south and west façades

Direction of view: Northwest

No. CA-XXXX-108

Description: Detail of vent at Building 155 roof

Direction of view: Southwest

2. Key plans to HABS photographs

Exterior views



Interior views: Building 52



Interior views: Building 53



Interior views: Building 152



3. Thumbnail images of HABS photographs



CA-XXXX-01.jpg



CA-XXXX-02.jpg



CA-XXXX-03.jpg



CA-XXXX-04.jpg



CA-XXXX-05.jpg



CA-XXXX-06.jpg



CA-XXXX-07.jpg



CA-XXXX-08.jpg



CA-XXXX-09.jpg



CA-XXXX-10.jpg



CA-XXXX-11.jpg



CA-XXXX-12.jpg



CA-XXXX-13.jpg



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CA-XXXX-19.jpg



CA-XXXX-20.jpg



CA-XXXX-21.jpg



CA-XXXX-22.jpg



CA-XXXX-23.jpg



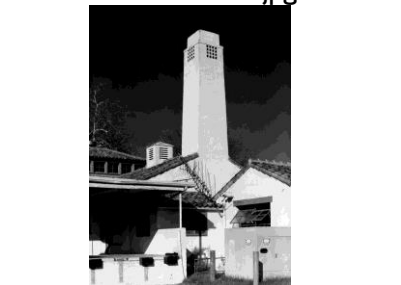
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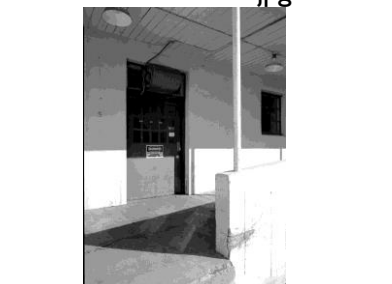
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CA-XXXX-29.jpg



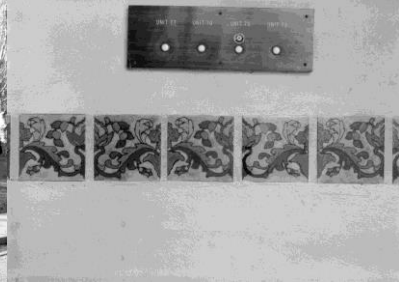
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CA-XXXX-34.jpg



CA-XXXX-35.jpg



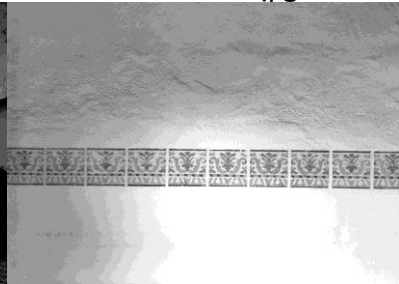
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CA-XXXX-41.jpg



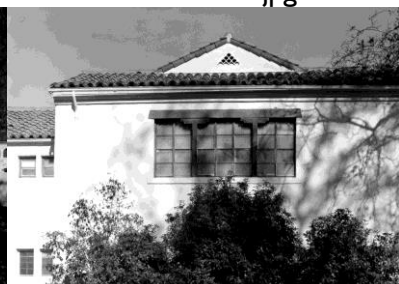
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CA-XXXX-48.jpg



CA-XXXX-49.jpg



CA-XXXX-50.jpg



CA-XXXX-51.jpg



CA-XXXX-52.jpg



CA-XXXX-53.jpg



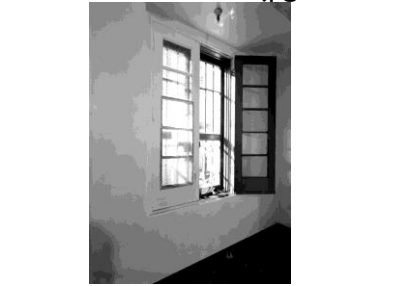
CA-XXXX-54.jpg



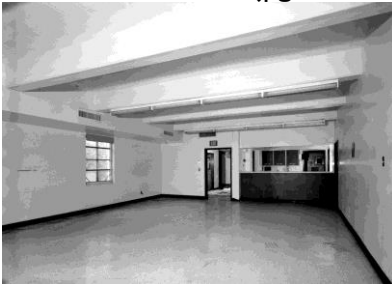
CA-XXXX-55.jpg



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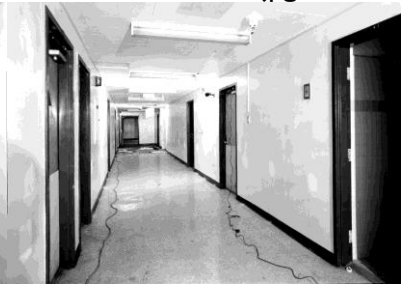
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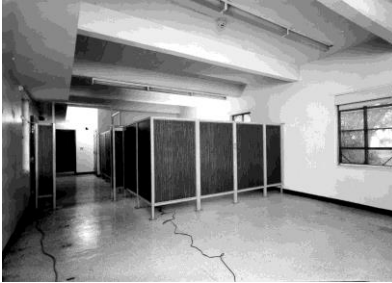
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CA-XXXX-59.jpg



CA-XXXX-60.jpg



CA-XXXX-61.jpg



CA-XXXX-62.jpg



CA-XXXX-63.jpg



CA-XXXX-64.jpg



CA-XXXX-65.jpg



CA-XXXX-66.jpg



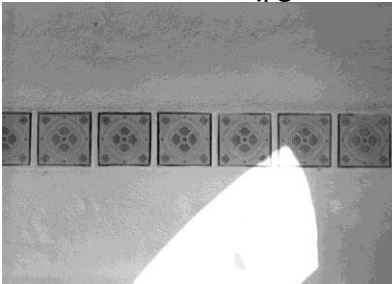
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CA-XXXX-69.jpg



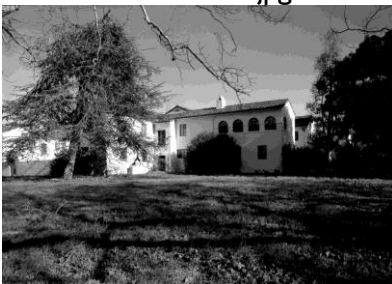
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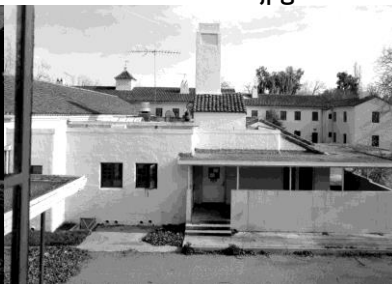
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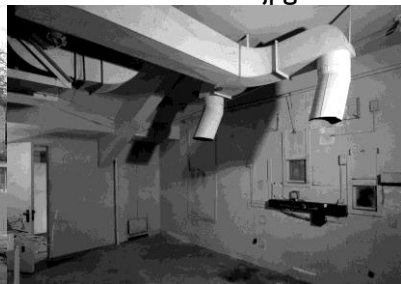
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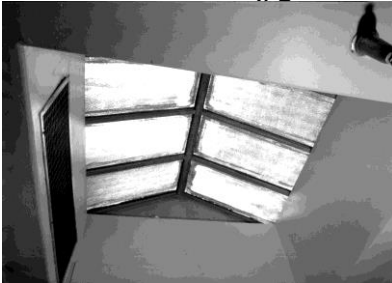
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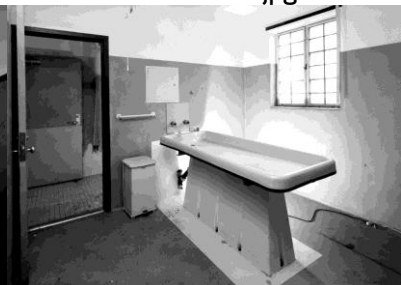
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CA-XXXX-85.jpg



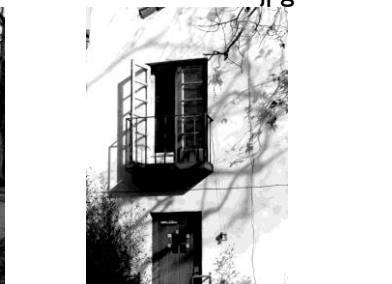
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CA-XXXX-92.jpg



CA-XXXX-93.jpg



CA-XXXX-94.jpg



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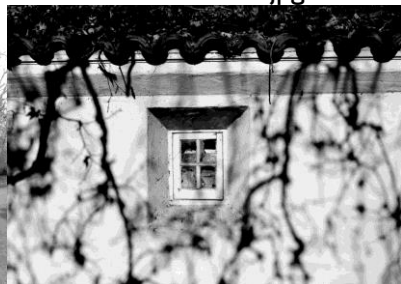
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CA-XXXX-108.jpg

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