

Easterby School

This elementary school serves the children of the Easterby district that was originally a separate Fresno County school district. It was annexed in 1955 to the Fresno Unified School District. The school first operated as a part of the district during the school year 1956-57. It is located at 5211 East Tulare, at the corner of Tulare and South Peach.

The school, and the area which it serves, is named for A. Y. Easterby, a pioneer Fresno area irrigationist, agriculturist and developer. He developed and promoted the first "colony" in the area, "Easterby Colony."

Mr. Easterby is credited, with the help of Moses Church with creating the first irrigation project of any size in the Fresno area, by impounding and distributing the water of the Kings River to his holdings.

As a result of this enterprise, in 1872, when Leland Stanford head of the Central Pacific Railroad (now Southern Pacific) came through this area locating station sites, he decided to place a station at its present site because Easterby and Church had the only green irrigated farm in the San Joaquin Valley. Stanford saw a future for irrigation and agriculture growing out of this enterprise. He was right. Irrigation has become the "life blood" of valley agriculture.



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EASTERBY

Photo from the San Joaquin Valley Library System