

Columbia School

This school located at 1025 South Trinity, is one of the oldest school sites in continuous operation in the district. It was originally known as the "C Street School" because its first building faced "C" Street. It now serves children in the vicinity of the site who are in grades K-6. It is credited with having housed the first kindergarten in Fresno.

The site was first purchased for school use by the Fresno City Board of Education in 1889 for \$2,280. The Fresno Republican carried a photograph of the first structure which was built on the site a short time thereafter. A second structure was used actively for school purposes and like the original structure, was made of brick. Both buildings have now been replaced by modern buildings.

According to an article in the March 8, 1954 edition of the *Fresno Bee* in which George W. Turner a long-time member of the Fresno Unified School District Board of Education and a Fresno native was interviewed, stating Columbia School was named for the song, "*Columbia, the Gem of the Ocean*" by David T. Shaw. However, Turner did not indicate the date of that name change from the original name of "C Street School." He credited this information to Mr. Homer C. Wilson, District Superintendent of Fresno Unified School District from 1937-1944, and long-time principal and teacher. Wilson told Turner that the source of the information about the name change came to him from one of the very early principals of Columbia School, Mr. J. J. Duvall.

Columbia School, under that name, is first listed in the district school directory during the school year 1904-05.

Photographs are from Field Act Report of Buildings Constructed Prior to April 1933 (September 1965)



