

Alice Birney School

This school is located at 3034 East Cornell. It serves children in that area in grades K-6. It was one of the schools constructed with funds from the Fresno Unified School District 1945 bond issue, which was passed by the voters shortly after World War II. The favorable vote was in ratio of nine in favor to each voter opposed. It was constructed to care for the then burgeoning housing development in the area of First and Shields Avenues.

Mrs. Alice Birney for whom the school is named, was an early-day leader of the Parent Teacher Association at the national level. In fact, she is credited with being the co-founder of that organization in 1897 along with Mrs. Phoebe Apperson Hearst. The school was so named to honor the PTA as well as Mrs. Birney for its continuous and effective support of public schools throughout the nation. Fresno PTA leaders had suggested PTA recognition in some such fashion to the Fresno Unified School District Board of Education, according to George W. Turner, the president of the Fresno Unified School District Board, during an interview in March, 1954. The Birney School was first listed in the 1949-50 Fresno Unified School District directory.