

Kirk Elementary

This elementary school is named for T. J. Kirk, a pioneer educator in Fresno before the turn of the century and even before incorporation of the City of Fresno. In 1879 he was a teaching principal of the old White School, a two-story frame structure, which long stood on the site of the present Fresno Memorial Auditorium on the north side of Fresno Street between "N" and "O" Streets. Two other teachers worked with him. The official name of the school was Central School and was changed later to the Hawthorne School, the Luther Burbank School and later the Snyder Continuation School. In the 1920's the Hawthorne School was also the city school's administration building.

Mr. Kirk had been a teacher in Illinois before moving to Fresno. Upon first arriving in Fresno he established a shoe business but left it to return to teaching when offered his first local school position.

In 1890 Kirk sought the office of Superintendent of the Fresno County Schools and won the election. In 1899 he was elected California State Superintendent of Public Instruction and was re-elected to that office and served two terms or a total of eight years in that office. He retired in 1907.

Kirk School was annexed to Fresno Unified School District in 1908 and is located at 2000 East Belgravia. Prior to that time it was a Fresno County School, being one of the earliest public schools established in Fresno County. Several different buildings have been built on the site.

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

Front of Kirk Elementary



Rear of Kirk Elementary



Restroom building



