

# Alvarado Elementary School Study Guide

## Alvarado School District

The Alvarado School District was formed to manage and fund the Alvarado Grammar School. The School District was formed sometime before 1874 and existed until 1965, when it was merged with the Decoto School District and parts of the Washington Union School District to form the New Haven Unified School District.

The Alvarado School District had a Board of Trustees that consisted of three elected individuals; President, Clerk or Secretary, and Trustee, each elected for a three year term.

Alvarado School District and Grammar School was named after the town of Alvarado, which was named after Juan B. Alvarado, Mexican Governor of California from 1836 to 1842.

## Alvarado Grammar School

It is not clear what building was first used by the Alvarado School District as a grammar school. The District built the first purpose-built school in 1878 near the corner of what is now Smith and Fredi Streets. The building had two stories and four rooms. Three teachers taught all of the grades; Primary Class (first and second grades), Intermediate Class (third, fourth, and fifth grades), and Upper Class (sixth, seventh, and eighth grades).



*1878 Grammar School with children out front.*



*School picture from the late 1890's. On the right is Principal Albert Norris.*

A new school was built in 1924, with six classrooms and an Auditorium. The school was designed by Henry H. Meyers, a well known architect who grew up in Alvarado, but resided in Alameda at that time. The old school was moved to the back of the school property and was eventually demolished. On September 12, 1924 the new school opened. The teachers were Nathalie Burger (1st grade part of 2nd), Mary Bailey (3rd and part 2nd), Charlotte Jung (4th grade), Miss Gordon (Fifth & Sixth), and Foster Morrison (7th & 8th). In 1948, additional classrooms were added to the building.



*4th Grade class picture from 1929*



*Outside of 1924 School looking from Smith Street*

In 1958, the third Alvarado Elementary School was built at the same location as the previous two schools. The older school was considered unsafe by the newer earthquake guidelines. The new school had 13 classrooms, in three wings, and an auditorium that doubled as the cafeteria. By August of 1958, most of the new school was built, behind the old school, and work started on tearing down the older building. Classes started in the new building in September, 1958.

