

Bullard Talent School

Located at 4940 North Harrison, this school was one of the schools annexed to the Fresno Unified School District when the Bullard School District became part of Fresno Unified School District. It first appeared in the Fresno Unified School District directory in 1958-59. However, it was a school site at that location for many years before that date, having long been one of the Fresno County Schools. The present plant is not the original structure.

In the early 1920's, Bullard School was considered a rural school. It served as a rural training school under an arrangement with the Fresno State Teachers College. It was instrumental in giving practice teaching opportunities to many hundreds of student teachers from the college under multiple classroom situations. It became well known for this service under its long term principal, Ruth Gibson. It was of course the original school and for a long time the only school in the Bullard District before the area expanded and became a multiple school unified district.

This school is named for Edwin J. Bullard. His father Frank Bullard resided in Yolo County and acquired a vast area of land lying between Fresno on the south, San Joaquin River on the north, Blackstone Avenue on the east and the Santa Fe and Southern Pacific Railroad on the west. Frank Bullard left this tract to his son, Edwin J. Bullard, who then moved to Fresno and became a prominent citizen of this city and county. He was a member of the Fresno County Board of Supervisors from 1900 to 1910.

This large tract of land lay idle mainly until after World War I. A group of capitalists in 1920, headed by J.C. Forkner promoted the area and planted nearly 12,000 acres of Calimyrma fig trees. This was subdivided into plots of two and one half acres and larger, and then sold to Fresno suburbanites with an arrangement whereby the developers would cultivate and care for the fig crop, while owners built and cared for their homes. Fig profits were shared. Thus came into existence the area in north Fresno known as Fig Garden. Of course, additional homeowners meant the necessity of creating a school district and the building and staffing of a school for grades 1 - 8.

The school is currently a magnet school serving students grades K-8.