John Burroughs School

This school is located at 166 North Sierra Vista in the eastern part of the city. It first is listed in the 1923-24 edition of the Fresno Unified School District directory.

The land for this school was bought in 1922 when Dr. William John Cooper was superintendent of schools. Temporary classrooms were used until 1927-28 when the first permanent structure was completed. Several additions and changes have been made to the plant since that time. It was originally built to serve the rapidly growing eastern part of Fresno soon after the close of World War I.

The school was named for John Burroughs, famed pioneer naturalist and author, who was prominent in that field the last half of the 19th century and the first quarter of the twentieth century. He was a native of the State of New York and taught at rural schools in his early youth beginning at age 17. After attending two small colleges for various periods of time, Burroughs started to write nature essays. He was a frequent and popular contributor to the Atlantic Monthly Magazine. He became a government employee and spent at least ten years in that capacity in Washington, D.C., continuing to write and publish his nature essays for both children and adults. While there, he became a good friend of Walt Whitman the famous poet. In 1872 he moved back to his family's farm in the Catskill Mountains of New York, where he earned his living by his writing.