Scandinavian Middle School

This school site which is located at 3232 North Sierra Vista. The site is the original school site of the former Scandinavian School District which was annexed to the Fresno Unified School District. It originally served grades K-8 before it was annexed but now includes only grades 7-8. It is first listed in the Fresno Unified School District directory in 1960-61.

The Scandinavian School District was originally created to serve the educational needs of children living in the Scandinavian Home Colony, which was the site of the first large settlement of Swedes in Central California in about 1879. The organizers bought 640 acres from a gentleman named Voorman (there is a street in Fresno named for Voorman). This acreage was divided into parcels of 20 to 40 acres and sold to people of Scandinavian origin, plus three who were not. The Scandinavian district was expanded as time went by, beyond the limits of the original Scandinavian Colony, retaining its original name and building several additional schools before annexation to the Fresno Unified School District. The original 640 acres of this colony is just west of the present Fresno Air Terminal.