



LEGEND

Historic District

* Thematic Group

TOWER DISTRICT
Historic Districts

Figure 3-1
Wallace Roberts & Todd

CONSERVATION

Terrace Gardens

This district includes not only the subdivision from which it takes its name, but also portions of the Normal Heights tract, to the north, and the St. Francis Wood tract, to the east. Like the College Addition Historic District, it illustrates the kind of suburban growth that typified the Tower District in the generation that followed the more dense, varied development of properties south of Belmont. Among the most noteworthy of this district's many well-crafted homes are a number that employ Mediterranean-style motifs: particularly 315 and 346 East Brown Avenue, and the more modest - but collectively quite effective - array of homes that line both sides of the 300-400 block of East Terrace Avenue.

Adoline-Palm Bungalow District

This irregularly shaped district is designed to include a number of the blocks on which one can find the most concentrated occurrence of a building type common to the entire Tower District: the bungalow. Most of the bungalows in this area date from the 1910's and 1920's, during which time they represented the most important form of moderate-cost housing in Fresno. More than other parts of the Tower District, the bungalows on these few blocks remain in much of their original condition, and are interrupted by relatively few contrasting housing types. They illustrate well the distinctly more modest character acquired by the blocks that stretched west along the Olive Avenue streetcar line, in contrast to the wealthier neighborhoods that developed to the north in subdivisions like Wilson's North Fresno Tract and the College Addition.

A Note on Big Dry Creek Canal

The Big Dry Creek Canal is vitally important in the history of the Tower District, of Fresno, and of the Central Valley as a whole. It is a living, working reminder of the control of water that made both agricultural and urban settlement possible in this part of the country. Aside from its obvious importance in conducting irrigation water from the High Sierra into - and through - the city, the canal has, in a variety of ways, played a major historical role in the development of Fresno. First, it helped to solve the chronic, serious flooding problem that plagued the city in its early years, caused when the untamed waters of Big Dry Creek continually overflowed their banks and inundated the downtown area. Second, it served as a conduit for water that had, prior to 1893, run through a ditch to Moses J. Church's flour mill on Fresno Street - thus relieving the central city of a major nuisance and allowing the more complete improvement of downtown. Finally, its takeover in 1923 by the new Fresno Irrigation District illustrates an important step in the history of American city administration: the transition of control over utilities and infrastructural improvements from private, speculative operations to public, regionally based special districts. Aside from its