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Building Names at Eastern Washington University

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LOUISE ANDERSON HALL. Named for Louise C. Anderson. (1886 – 1979) She attended Cheney State Normal School from 1913 through 1918, when she received her life teaching certificate. Mrs. Anderson taught Home Economics, and served as an advisor to the Tawankas. She joined the faculty in 1914, and retired at the end of Spring Quarter, 1956. The building was completed in 1951, but was not named until 1955. Although formally named Louise Anderson Hall, the residents and campus community soon shortened the name to “LA” in everyday speech. It was a women’s dormitory when built. By the early 1970’s the building was co-ed, later being converted to office and conference center space. By 1998 the demand for housing had increased and LA was once again a dormitory.

DOROTHY BREWSTER Building. Named for Dorothy Brewster (-). Mrs. Brewster was the grand-mother of Robert Brewster, the developer who constructed the building. The Brewster Building, located at the corner of Second and “F” streets in Cheney is a return to the partnership model used for the construction of Sutton Hall in 1923. Mr. Brewster owns the building, and leases space to the university for residence hall purposes. Completed in the fall of 2002, the first residents arrived in late September before completion of the finishing touches to the building. The location was the site of the Ratcliffe Ford dealership.

BENJAMIN P. CHENEY HALL. Named for Benjamin Pierce Cheney (1815 – 1895). By turns, Cheney was an express messenger, capitalist, and philanthropist; truly the epitome of the self made man. Cheney was on the Board of Directors of the Northern Pacific Railroad in 1881, when he donated \$10,000 to found a teaching academy in the town in Washington Territory which had been named in his honor. The Cheney Academy evolved into Eastern Washington University. Cheney Hall, completed in 1967, was the home of the Industrial Arts Department, later re-named the Department of Technology.

CHISSUS FIELD. Named for Edward C. Chissus (1917 – 1987). An EWCE alumnus, Chissus was a semi-pro baseball player summers while attending the college. He joined the faculty in 1953 as an assistant professor of Physical Education, and coached the baseball team from 1955 until 1981. The EWU baseball field, constructed after coach Chissus retired, was named in his honor.

GRAHAM DRESSLER HALL. Named for Graham McFarland Dressler (1907 – 1958). Dr. Dressler taught English at Eastern from 1940 until 1958, when he suffered a

fatal heart attack. He was a popular instructor, and was active on the Cheney City Council. Dressler Hall, completed in 1966. It has been used as a dormitory since its completion.

CECIL DRYDEN HALL. Named for Cecil Pearl Dryden (1887 – 1977). Miss Dryden devoted her life to education and scholarship, with most of her career spent at Eastern. She joined the faculty as the Training School Supervisor in 1923, but is probably best remembered as a professor of history, the position she held from 1940 until her retirement in 1957. She authored several books on regional history, including the official 75th anniversary history of Eastern, “Light for An Empire.” Dryden Hall, a dormitory, was built in 1965.

HARGREAVES HALL. Named for Richard T. Hargreaves (1875 – 1939). Mr. Hargreaves was hired as President of the Cheney State Normal School to replace Noah Showalter. Mr. Hargreaves presided over the evolution into a four-year College of Education, the new laboratory school, and the construction of a President’s Residence on campus. He died in office in 1939. A major goal of his was to develop a new library for the campus to better serve the growing school. The Hargreaves Library, completed in 1940, was named in his honor. When the library out-grew Hargreaves, the building was re-named Hargreaves Hall in 1967.

FRANCES B. HUSTON HALL. Named for Frances B. Huston (d. 1997). Miss Huston taught English at Eastern from 1955-1976. Formerly the Manual Arts building, later used for the maintenance shop, and then re-modeled and expanded for use by computing services.

WALTER W. ISLE HALL. Named for Walter W. Isle (1889 – 1951). Dr. Isle was hired in 1945 to direct the college in the turbulent period of expansion following World War II. He oversaw the acquisition of additional campus space, and the construction of buildings to accommodate the burgeoning enrollment. Dr. Isle died in office in 1951. His interest in the well being of students was commemorated by naming the new student union building for him when it was completed in 1956. After 1970, portions of Isle Hall were devoted to classroom and office space.

JIM THORPE FIELDHOUSE. Named to honor James Francis Thorpe (1887 – 1953). Jim Thorpe was arguably the best all around athlete of the 20th century on any campus. An outstanding football player, Thorpe led the Carlisle Indian School team to a national collegiate championship in 1912, and was a medalist in the 1912 Olympic Games. Unfortunately, there is no evidence to show that Mr. Thorpe ever even visited Cheney. The decision to name a building in his honor was probably motivated by a desire to honor American Indians on the campus, rather than to commemorate any relationship with the university. The Thorpe Fieldhouse was completed in 1977.

JOHN F. KENNEDY MEMORIAL LIBRARY. Named for John Fitzgerald Kennedy (1917 – 1963). The assassination of President Kennedy, the youngest man elected President of the United States, was traumatic to the nation. Many localities sought to

honor his memory. Although he had never visited Eastern's campus (the closest he came was Spokane, which he mis-pronounced 'Spo-CANE' during a campaign trip), the college wanted to honor Kennedy's vocal support for education. The new library, which was completed in 1967, was named for the late President.

KINGSTON HALL. Named for Ceylon Samuel Kingston (1892 – 1953). C. S. Kingston devoted nearly a half century to Eastern, joining the faculty in 1901 as a teacher, and becoming vice principal in 1902. Kingston taught history, civics, and commerce, in addition to being vice President and Registrar until 1940, when he relinquished his administrative duties. Between 1920 and 1940 he was Head of the Division of History and Social Sciences, and on three occasions he served as interim President. After 1940 Kingston devoted his time to research and writing, and he served as curator of the Northwest Collection in the library. Kingston Hall was completed in 1972, provides office and classroom space.

MARTIN HALL. Named for Clarence Daniel Martin (1884 – 1955). C. D. Martin was Cheney's local boy who made good. The first native son to become governor of Washington State, Martin attended what was then the Cheney State Normal School, and then managed the family flour mill in Cheney. His entry into politics was via the Cheney City Council. He served two terms as Governor of Washington, elected in 1932 and 1936. Governor Martin's support for higher education included signing the bill to allow the normal schools to become four-year colleges of education (1933), and securing WPA monies for the construction of buildings such as Hargreaves Hall. Martin Hall was built to house the campus elementary (training) school. After completion of a newer campus school, Martin Hall became classroom and office space for the departments of Psychology and Applied Psychology.

MONROE HALL. Named for Mary Monroe (18?? – 19??) Mrs. Monroe served as a member of the Board of Trustees from 1912 through 1926. She was the first woman to be Chairman of the trustees. During her time on the board, five buildings were constructed on campus, including the first women's dormitory, which was named in her honor. Monroe Hall, completed in 1916, was taken out of the dormitory pool in 1968, and the space has been used for office and classrooms since. A major remodeling of Monroe Hall was completed in 2001.

MORRISON HALL. Named for Zelma Reeves Morrison (1882 - 1968). Zelma Reeves Morrison served as Director of Public Relations for Eastern Washington College of Education from 1946 until 1951. She was appointed to the Board of Trustees in 1957, serving until 1967. Morrison Hall, a dormitory, was completed in 1970.

DON S. PATTERSON HALL. Named for Donald S. Patterson (1904 – 1975). Dr. Patterson was hired as President in 1954 after a nation-wide search. During his administration, Eastern Washington College of Education expanded the campus and curriculum, changing its name to Eastern Washington State College in 1961. Patterson retired in 1967. The building named for him is a general classroom building, containing

office space for several academic departments. Built in two phases, the first half was completed in 1970, and the second half in 1971.

PEARCE HALL. Named for George H. “Doc” Pearce (1875 – 1962). Hired as a janitor, George H. Pearce retired in 1947 as Superintendent of Buildings. His real fame at Eastern was as friend to students, and number one athletic booster. Pearce was known as “Doc” because he taught students the tricks of finding a soul mate, something that was never in the curriculum, but was called “Fussology” by students and mentor alike. Pearce was so well liked that the students voted to name the new men’s dormitory completed in 1964, in his honor. As far as I know, EWU is the only university with a building named for a janitor.

OMER O. PENCE UNION BUILDING. Named for Omer O. Pence (1886 – 1963). Mr. Pence joined the faculty in 1925. He became Director of the Placement Bureau and the Extension Division in 1946. The Pence Union Building, completed in 1970, was built to provide greater space for the functions of the Associated Students. The building was added on to in 1995, taking over the site of the former Rowles Hall.

ROBERT REID LABORATORY SCHOOL. Named for Robert W. Reid (1919 -). Dr. Reid was hired as Director of the Campus School in 1953, a post he held until 1962, when he relinquished his administrative duties and returned to teaching in the Department of Education. Dr. Reid retired in 1977. The new campus school, completed in 1959, was designed by Dr. Reid, and was simply called the Campus School until 1977, when it was re-named to honor its designer. The Robert Reid Laboratory School is still serving as the campus elementary school, a functioning elementary school which is simultaneously a laboratory for educators.

W. B. “RED” REESE COURT. Named for William B. “Red” Reese (1899 – 1974). Mr. Reese was a coach and educator at Eastern from 1930 until 1964. From 1938 until 1962 he served as Athletic Director. During World War II, Reese served as a Major in the US. Army Air Force, and was responsible for developing the physical training program used by the Air Force. Reese Court , in the Special Events Pavilion, is the home of the EWU Eagles basketball teams. The Special Events Pavilion was completed in 1975.

ROWLES HALL (Site). Named for William Lloyd Rowles (1895-1987). William L. Rowles was a member of the Music Department at Eastern from 1929 until 1960. The building was originally intended to be the first part of a fine arts complex, and it was intended to house the music department. After completion of the Fine Arts Complex in 1971, the Music Department vacated Rowles Hall, and it was used by the Dental Hygiene Program during the 1978’s and 1980’s. In 1994 Rowles Hall was demolished to make room for the expansion of the Pence Union Building.

ROZELL HEATING PLANT. Named for Paul Rozell (1893-1951). Mr. Rozell was the engineer responsible for the operation of the boilers in the Physical Plant from 1937

until his death in 1951. The new heating plant was completed in 1970, and named to honor Mr. Rozell.

SENIOR HALL. Named for the senior class at the Cheney Normal School. Senior Hall was a women's dormitory, completed in 1920. The building was used as a dormitory until the summer of 1971. Since September of 1971, Senior Hall has been used to house offices for faculty and small academic programs, including Criminal Justice.

SHOWALTER HALL. Named for Noah David Showalter (1869 – 1937). Mr. Showalter was hired as head of the Rural Department at the Cheney State Normal School, which was responsible for training teachers who would work in rural schools. In 1910 Mr. Showalter was hired as Principal of the school, a title changed to President in 1914. An effective advocate for the school in the legislature, Mr. Showalter's most challenging task was encouraging the legislature to fund the reconstruction of the school's administration building following the fire of April 24, 1912. A new administration building was completed in 1915. In June, 1940 the Administration Building was re-named Showalter Hall to honor Mr. Showalter. The building still houses the administrative functions of the university.

STREETER HALL. Named for Ruth Cheney Streeter (1895 - 1990). Mrs. Streeter was Benjamin P. Cheney's grand-daughter. She had a career as a Marine Corps aviatrix, and was a strong supporter of increased educational and employment opportunities for women. Mrs. Streeter took a personal interest in the college which had grown from her grandfather's academy, she attended the 75th anniversary observances. Streeter Hall, a dormitory, was completed in 1968.

SURBECK SERVICES. Named for Marion H. Surbeck (1905-1992). Mr. Surbeck was initially hired to teach elementary physical education at EWCE in 1946. In 1952 he became director of the college Physical Plant department, a position he held until his retirement in 1970. The Surbeck Services building was completed in 1970, providing space for maintenance shops.

SUTTON HALL. Named for William J. Sutton (1865 – 1940). Washington State Senator William J. Sutton was a longtime supporter of the institution. He was hired as vice Principal and professor of mathematics in 1890, became Principal in 1892, and resigned from the school in 1897. Sutton went into farming and state politics after leaving the school. His support in the state legislature was important in the appropriation of funds for reconstruction of the school in 1913. The first men's dormitory was completed in 1923, named for Senator Sutton, whose support for the school was greatly appreciated. Sutton Hall was taken out of the dormitory system in 1971, then leased to a veterans housing cooperative from 1971 until 1980. The building was used as storage until remodeled in the late 1990's. Sutton Hall now houses the student service functions of the administration.

WILLIAMSON HALL. Named for Obed J. Williamson (1889 – 1985). Obed Williamson was hired in 1932 to help the Education Department expand its four-year

curriculum, and plan for the eventual offering of a Master of Education degree. Williamson accomplished these goals while serving as Head of the Education Department between 1932 and 1953. After an extended leave resulting from controversies on campus, Dr. Williamson returned to teaching at Eastern in 1961. He retired from the Education Department in 1966. The wing of Martin Hall which had been built in 1967 to house the growing Education Department was re-named Williamson Hall in 1979.

WOODWARD FIELD. Named for Arthur C. Woodward (1883-1950). Arthur C. Woodward taught physical education at Eastern from 1927 until 1950. The football field, which originally was behind the school, was located where the present Kennedy Library is now. After Woodward's death, the field was named in his honor. Because construction of the new Kennedy Library took the eastern end of the field, a new Woodward Field was built to the west of Washington Street. The present (new) Woodward Field has been in use since 1967.

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