THE CALIFORNIA FOREST PRODUCTS LABORATORY

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(Paper delivered to the fourth annual meeting of western dry kiln clubs, Redding, California May 2 - 3, 1952)

A California Forest Products Laboratory is fast becoming a reality. Preliminary plans are already approved and architects are now preparing final drawings for the buildings. The new laboratory will be located in Richmond about 3 miles northwest of the Berkeley Campus on the tract of land obtained by the University for the development of an engineering field station. It will be operated in conjunction with the University of California School of Forestry.

The main building will be "L" shaped with one wing housing the administration offices and smaller chemical and physical research rooms. The other will contain shops and work space for large equipment and pilot plant activities. Near the shop side of this wing will be a sawmill and a storage building. Altogether, there will be about 20,000 square feet of usable floor space with facilities that could ultimately occupy a staff of 40 or so.

With only one full-time staff member of the laboratory on hand, it is difficult to state with any certainty exactly what direction the research program will take, but it is reasonably certain to include an appreciable amount of seasoning studies in the early stages of its development. Small kilns to handle 8-foot lumber are definitely contemplated as equipment in the main building, and it is quite possible that a larger kiln will be erected on the grounds.

In conjunction with the expansion of forest products research facilities, it is hoped that the school will be able to expand its educational activities in the forest products field, both in formal courses for full-time students and short courses for industrial personnel. The goal of the Laboratory will be to make the present timber resources go farther and prove of more use, thus stimulating better forest management which in turn will assure us adequate supplies of timber for the future.