REPORT OF A SURVEY OF SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA

I. THE AREA

A. Description

1. Definition

This survey covers the City of Sacramento and the suburban communities of North Sacramento and Washington, together with contiguous territory. The area included is estimated to be something like twenty square miles with a present population of approximately 125,000. The City of Sacramento itself has an area of 13.71 square miles and an estimated present population of 116,024.

2. Location

Sacramento is situated on a peninsula formed by the Sacramento and American Rivers at their confluence. The city is 100 miles northeast of San Francisco and a slightly less distance in an air line east from the Pacific Ocean.

3. History

Sacramento was founded August 12, 1839 by Captain John A. Sutter and was the first settlement of white men in the interior of California. It was first called "New Helvetia." The original townsite was surveyed in 1848-49, and Sacramento was incorporated by an act of the first California Legislature February 27, 1850. It was made temporary capital of the state in 1852 and was made the permanent seat of state government by the Legislature on March 1, 1854.

Sacramento is rich in historic background. It played a momentous part in early pioneer days of the west, being the center of the great gold rush of '49 and '50 following discovery of gold by James W. Marshall, one of Sutter's men, on January 24, 1848. The first railroad built in California, running from Sacramento to Folsom, was completed in 1856, and it was the western terminus of the Pony Express in the 1860's. It also played an important part in the building of the Central Pacific, which was the first transcontinental railroad constructed in the United States.

Sacramento is governed under a special charter, which became operative July 1, 1921 and provides for a Council Manager form of government. Under this plan of operation, the city has made a record of greater progress in the past fifteen years than in any previous thirty year period.