



OFFICE OF HISTORIC RESOURCES

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SURVEYLA RELEASES WEST LOS ANGELES AND PALMS/MAR VISTA FINDINGS

The findings from SurveyLA, the Los Angeles Historic Resources Survey, continue to be posted on the SurveyLA web site at www.preservation.lacity.org/survey/reports. This article, the fifth in a series detailing some of the interesting “finds” from SurveyLA, features highlights from the surveys of the West Los Angeles and the Palms-Mar Vista-Del Rey Community Plan Areas.

West Los Angeles

La Lomita Ranch, 2910 Selby Avenue, a 1925 American Colonial Revival structure that is a rare surviving example of an early residential estate in West Los Angeles



The Aurilla Kempton Residence (1906) in Mar Vista

2103 S. Colby Ave., a 1908 Craftsman house built in Sawtelle well before that city was consolidated into the City of Los Angeles in 1922.

Overland Canteen, 2634 Overland Blvd., a 1943 vernacular structure that is a rare and intact example of a World War II National Guard canteen.

Harada Nursery, Yamaguchi Bonsai Nursery, and O.K. Nursery, 1900, 1903 and 1941 S. Sawtelle Blvd., three long-standing local businesses (constructed in 1948, 1934, and 1928 respectively) that exemplify the significant Japanese-American commercial history in the Sawtelle community.

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LA CONSERVANCY AND OHR PRESENT “LANDMARK THIS!” WORKSHOP ON JULY 27

Learn how to nominate a historic place for local Historic-Cultural Monument (landmark) status at “Landmark This!”, a July 27 workshop presented by the Office of Historic Resources and the Los Angeles Conservancy.

This hands-on, interactive session will walk you through writing an effective nomination, finding the necessary information, and navigating the political process. We’ll focus on Modern resources and will use local sites as practice examples.

Space is limited to just 35 people, so we’re looking for participants who have an active interest in submitting a His-

toric-Cultural Monument nomination.

The workshop takes place from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. at the former Canoga Park Library, 7260 Owensmouth Avenue, built in 1959 and designated as Historic-Cultural Monument #700 in 2000. The building, designed by architects Ralph Bowerman and Charles Hobson, is noted for its unique two-part roof – a folded plate main roof topped by a distinctive butterfly roof component – and the interior features large clerestory windows to let in natural light. The building was recently adaptively reused as the Child Development Institute Early Learning Center.

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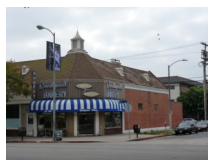
SURVEYLA WEST LOS ANGELES AND PALMS/MAR VISTA FINDINGS

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Satsuma Imports, 2029 S. Sawtelle Blvd., a 1939 building of East Asian Eclectic design that continues to house a notable Japanese-American business established at this location.

Beverlywood Bakery, 9128 W. Pico, a 1948 American Colonial Revival building that houses a long-time business associated with the Westside's Jewish community.



National Boulevard Apartments, 10565 National Boulevard, a 1954 Mid-Century Modern complex that is an early work of architect Ray Kappe, adjacent to a 1955 garden apartment complex designed by Carl Maston.

Norms Coffee Shop, 11001 W. Pico Blvd., a 1957 coffee shop that is an excellent example of Googie architecture, with a significant "saw-tooth" pennant pole sign.



Rancho Park Golf Course/Cheviot Hills Recreation Center, 10460 Pico Boulevard, a golf course and park with a 1923 Spanish Colonial Revival clubhouse that was used as a selling point for nearby subdivisions of the 1920s.

The Barn, 10300 Santa Monica Boulevard, a 1949 American Colonial Revival/Modern building that was the home and studio of architect A. Quincy Jones, who renovated the property in 1965 and occupied it until his death in 1977.



2039 and 2049 Century Park East, the twin towers in Century City designed by renowned architect Minoru Yamasaki, significant as an intact example of High Tech architecture (Structural Expressionism); Yamasaki's New Formalist Century Plaza Hotel (1966) at 1801 Avenue of the Stars was also identified as significant in the survey.

Nuart Theater, 11272 Santa Monica Boulevard, a 1930 Art Deco theater, and **Royal Theater**, 11525 Santa Monica Boulevard, a

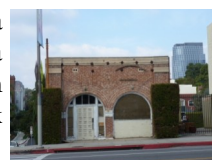


1923 neoclassical building – both rare and intact examples of pre-World War II neighborhood theaters.



The Apple Pan, 10801 W. Pico Blvd., a 1923 building where a long-standing West Los Angeles restaurant was established in 1947 and continues to operate today, that features a sign with iconic design and typography.

Johnsons Buffet, 10275 W. Pico Blvd., a rare, intact example of a historic cafeteria (currently vacant), originally constructed in 1932 to capitalize on the newly opened Fox Studios.



Palms-Mar Vista-Del Rey

4308 Berryman Ave., which may be the only remnant building from the early 1920s Barnes City Wild Animal Circus and Zoo, part of Barnes City, an incorporated city consolidated into the City of Los Angeles in 1926.



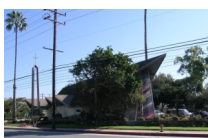
The Aurilla Kempton Residence, 3734 S. Grandview Avenue, (see photo on page 1) a 1906 Craftsman home with Queen Anne influences that is the oldest extant residence in Mar Vista, located in the Ocean Park Heights tract atop Mar Vista Hill, believed to be Los Angeles' first gated community.

3744 S. Barrington Ave., a distinctive 1908 Craftsman home believed to have built in Pasadena and relocated to Mar Vista in the mid-1920s.



3701 S. Cardiff Avenue, a 1904 Craftsman home that is one of the earliest extant residences in Palms.

9813 W. Venice Blvd., a 1915 Neoclassical fourplex that is a rare remnant of multi-family development on this commercial stretch of Venice Blvd.



Marina Christian Fellowship Church, 12606 W. Culver Blvd., a 1956 Mid-Century Modern building in Del Rey with soaring and expressive rooflines, rock ve-

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SURVEYLA PALMS/MAR VISTA FINDINGS

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neer cladding, and integrated planters.

The Chili Bowl, 12244 W. Pico Blvd., an excellent and rare example of programmatic architecture, designed to resemble a bowl of chili; this 1931 building may be the only remaining example of 18 Chili Bowl restaurants constructed throughout the Los Angeles area prior to 1933 by Arthur Whizin.



Palms Market, 3568 S. Motor Avenue, a 1923 Spanish Colonial Revival commercial building that remains a rare example of a 1920s neighborhood market.

The Oval Planning District, a distinctive residential subdivision composed of approximately 200 parcels in Mar Vista, south of Venice Blvd. and west of McLaughlin Avenue, featuring a unique oval-shaped interior street pattern with wide landscaped parkways lined with mature palm trees, designed by noted landscape archi-



tect Wilbur David Cook, Jr.; the development lacks sufficient cohesion to be eligible as a historic district, but is notable for consideration in local planning.



Colonial Corners Commercial Historic District, three one- and two-story commercial buildings at the intersection of Barrington Avenue and National Boulevard in Mar Vista, developed between 1948 and 1962 by noted horticulturalist and nurseryman Paul

Howard and designed in the American Colonial Revival style, with each building presenting a double-height, eight-sided tower at the corner.

The Venice/Grand View Commercial Historic District, composed of 20 one- and two-story commercial buildings along Venice Boulevard near Centinela Avenue and Grand View Boulevard, significant as a cohesive collection of neighborhood commercial development at the historic heart of Mar Vista.



OHR AWARDED STATE CERTIFIED LOCAL GOVERNMENT GRANT

The Office of Historic Resources (OHR) has been awarded a \$20,000 2013/14 Certified Local Government grant (CLG) from the State Office of Historic Preservation to complete the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender (LGBT) historic context for SurveyLA's Citywide Historic Context Statement.

The grant project will focus on developing themes relating to the city's rich and ethnically diverse LGBT history. Los Angeles has a long association with the gay rights movement and is the founding location of the Mattachine Society, the first national

gay rights organization (1950) and the home of its founder, Harry Hay.

The Black Cat, a City Historic-Cultural Monument (and the only resource in Los Angeles designated for its association with LGBT history), was the site of a pivotal 1967 gay rights demonstration, preceding the more popularly known Stonewall Riots in New York by two years. The One Archives, located in Los Angeles and founded in 1952, is the oldest LGBT organization in

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What Is SurveyLA?

SURVEYLA: THE LOS ANGELES HISTORIC RESOURCES SURVEY PROJECT is the first-ever comprehensive inventory of our city's historic resources.

The survey findings will have a multiplicity of benefits and uses: it will help direct future growth, shape the revision of Los Angeles' 35 Community Plans, streamline environmental review processes, provide opportunities for public education, assist in disaster planning, and spur heritage tourism and the marketing of historic neighborhoods and properties.

The J. Paul Getty Trust and the City of Los Angeles have entered into a grant agreement for SurveyLA under which the Getty has committed to providing up to \$2.5 million to the project, subject to matching requirements by the City. Field surveys and evaluations will occur through 2015. The Getty Conservation Institute (GCI) is also providing technical and advisory support for SurveyLA. For more information visit the SurveyLA website, www.SurveyLA.org.





JAPANESE-AMERICAN INTERNMENT SITE RECOGNIZED AS HISTORIC-CULTURAL MONUMENT

In recent weeks, the City's Cultural Heritage Commission and City Council grappled with the appropriate preservation and commemoration of a Tujunga site associated with the internment of Japanese-Americans during World War II – a debate that has now resulted in the designation of a portion of the site as Historic-Cultural Monument #1039.

The site of the former Tuna Canyon Detention Station is bounded by La Tuna Canyon Road on the south and Tujunga Canyon Blvd. on the east. The property is located on a portion of land originally used as a work camp for the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), a federal public works program established in 1933 as part of President Franklin D. Roosevelt's New Deal during the Great Depression. The camp was in use until the fall of 1941, when it was vacated by the CCC while maintaining the buildings intact.

Immediately following the attack on Pearl Harbor in December 1941, the site transitioned into a temporary internment camp for Japanese, Japanese-American, German-American, Italian-American and Polish detainees. The property became one of the first temporary detention facilities established and was renamed the "Tuna Canyon Detention Station, Immigration, and Naturalization Service." The existing buildings on the property were repurposed for detention use, with the installation of a high barbed wire fence that enclosed the entire compound.

Following the internment camp's closure, the property changed ownership twice and was significantly altered. In 1947, Los An-

geles County purchased 10 ½ acres of the property to establish a Los Angeles Probation School for young boys. Then, in 1960, the site was acquired for construction of the Verdugo Hills Golf Course, resulting in the demolition of all original buildings and significant alterations to the landscaping and topography. The property still serves as a fully developed 18-hole, par 3 golf course, including a driving range, parking lot and maintenance compound. In recent years, Snowball West Investments has proposed to develop 229 single-family homes on about half of the golf course property – a proposal that has elicited considerable opposition in the Sunland-Tujunga community.

In late 2012, the site was nominated for Historic-Cultural Monument status through a City Council motion by Councilmember Richard Alarcon, with advocacy from Sunland-Tujunga area community organizations, as well as the Little Landers Historical Society, and a broad citywide coalition of Japanese-American organizations and other cultural organizations. While the site unquestionably had tremendous historic and cultural significance,

the Office of Historic Resources (OHR) originally recommended against Historic-Cultural Monument designation because it no longer retained physical integrity from its historic period of significance. The dramatic physical changes to the site no longer allowed it to convey its significance and meet Monument criteria. The Cultural Heritage Commission also voted unanimously to decline the nomination. OHR staff and the Commission recommended that the community work with the property owner to develop a robust on-site interpretive and edu-

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Tuna Canyon Detention Station photo courtesy of Merrill H. Scott Family / Little Landers Historical Society

“LANDMARK THIS!” WORKSHOP

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Admission is \$15, including all materials and refreshments. To register, please visit <https://www.laconservancy.org/events/landmark-workshop>. If you know of a specific historic place you'd like to see protected, we hope to see you at the workshop.

The workshop also follows a related Los Angeles Conservancy event, a 10:00 a.m. panel called “Preserving Sprawl: The Suburbs Become Historic”, located 2.5 miles away at the John Lautner-designed AbilityFirst Paul Weston Learning Center in Woodland Hills. For more information on this panel, visit <https://www.laconservancy.org/node/1209>.

JAPANESE-AMERICAN INTERNMENT SITE RECOGNIZED AS HISTORIC-CULTURAL MONUMENT

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cational program, including signage and displays, to raise public awareness of the site's important history.

But as the designation proceeded to the City Council in June, supporters unearthed new information and additional historic photos of the Detention Center, better detailing the evolution of the site and showing that a portion of the 30-acre property – a one-acre grove of oak trees – appears to have been largely untouched from the World War II period. Councilmember Alarcon worked closely with other members of the Council, including Councilmember Mitchell Englander, Councilmember Ed Reyes, and Council President Herb Wesson, to craft a compromise, approved by the Council on June 25, that pro-

vides for Historic-Cultural Monument designation of this one-acre area.

Following up on the designation, the OHR, at the request of the City Council, has convened a working group of Japanese-American cultural leaders, the Golf Course's property owner, and other community members to develop a consensus approach to the future interpretation or commemoration of the site's important history. The working group will report back to the City Council later this summer. Whatever the outcome of these discussions, all parties already agree that the recent debate over designation has raised public awareness of this Los Angeles site that played an important role in this difficult chapter of our history.

L.A.'S NEWEST HISTORIC-CULTURAL MONUMENTS

The Cultural Heritage Commission and City Council have designated 11 new Historic-Cultural Monuments (HCMs) from April to June 2013. Los Angeles' newest monuments include the following:

HCM #1029: Union Bank and Trust (760 S. Hill St.)



Located in Downtown Los Angeles, on Hill St. at 8th St., this 1922 twelve-story structure was designed in the Renaissance Revival/Beaux Arts style by architects Alexander Curlett and Claud Beelman of the firm Curlett & Beelman. Curlett & Beelman designed several other Los Angeles HCMs, including the Park Plaza Hotel (HCM #267), Garfield Building (HCM #121). The building retains many of its original features, including original metal lanterns, and decorative metal frames and friezes. The building was converted to loft-style apartments in 2003.

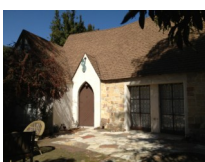
HCM #1030: Stowell Hotel (416 S. Spring St.)

Located in Downtown Los Angeles on Spring St. south of 4th St., this 1913 twelve-story building exhibits character-defining features of the Gothic and Art-Nouveau styles. The building is clad in a decorative white terra cotta with a floral and leaf design, with the primary façade facing Spring Street arranged in the clas-



sical base-shaft-capital composition. Architect Frederick Noonan designed the hotel for Nathan Wilson Stowell, a prominent businessman and board member of the Farmers and Merchants Bank, who also constructed and owned the Mayan Theater (HCM #460). The building, also known as the El Dorado Hotel for decades, has recently been adaptively reused as the residential El Dorado Lofts.

HCM #1031: Frederick A. Hanson Residence (5867 Tuxedo Terrace)



Built in 1926 and located in the Hollywood Hills area, this charming home was designed in the French Normandy style. Gothic-style arched openings and doors, stone veneer, and leaded glass windows, combined with the lush vegetation and hilly terrain, evoke a medieval setting. The home was designed by architect Frederick A. Hanson, principal architect for Forest Lawn Mortuaries, and the property served as Hanson's main residence until his death in 1973. Adjacent to the property are other homes designed by Hanson with similar Storybook design features.

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L.A.'S NEWEST HISTORIC-CULTURAL MONUMENTS

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HCM #1032: Emma Wood House (245 S. Wilton Pl.)



Located in the Wilton Place National Register District, this 1912 residence exhibits a unique combination of Craftsman and Classical style architecture. Of particular note is the full-width pergola supported by

Classical-style columns on the main façade. The house was designed by architect Thomas Franklin Power, credited with many ecclesiastical, institutional, and parochial buildings in Southern California.

HCM #1033-1036: Goodyear Tract Homes #1-4 (310, 314, 427, and 510 E. 59th Pl.)



Built in 1920 in southeast Los Angeles, these four modest homes were designed in the Craftsman, Tudor Revival, and Prairie styles. They were constructed as part of a small subdivision of single-family residences by the

Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company. The company hired prominent architects Sumner P. Hunt and Siles Burns of the firm Hunt & Burns to design the homes in various styles. Goodyear built 48 houses and two apartment buildings on 59th Place between Avalon Boulevard and San Pedro Street specifically to house employees of its nearby industrial plant. These dwellings were erected as immediate housing for laborers in advance of the massive Goodyear Gardens residential development, which was planned but never built. Examples of purpose-built worker housing are extremely rare in Los Angeles.

HCM #1037: Southaven (4421 N. Richard Circle)

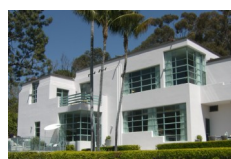
Built in 1936 and located in El Sereno, this is a rare example



of a modest one-story home designed in the Streamline Moderne style. The home was designed by architect Arthur C. Munson, who specialized in creating various revival designs, about which he frequently wrote in the *Los Angeles Times*.

Munson worked with the Barker Brothers and lectured in an interior design course that the store offered in the 1920s.

HCM #1038: Gibbons-Del Rio Residence (757 Kingman Avenue)



Built in 1930, this stunning residence in Santa Monica Canyon is a showcase of Streamline Moderne architecture and an important landmark in the history of Hollywood's Golden Age. Significant interior elements include a large interior

staircase, steel balustrades, Modernist style fireplaces, and large smooth plaster walls. The residence was designed by architect Douglas Honnold (1901-1974) and movie set designer Cedric Gibbons (1893-1960). Gibbons was one of the most important movie set designers of Hollywood's Golden Age, serving as MGM's Art Director from 1924-1956 and winning eleven Academy Awards. In 1930, he married Mexican actress Dolores del Rio (1905-1983) and began work on their residence. After several owners, the property was later purchased in 1981 by attorney and developer Ira E. Yellin (1940-2002), remembered today for his civic leadership and historic preservation efforts, restoring the Bradbury Building (HCM #6), Grand Central Market, and the Million Dollar Theater.

HCM #1039: Site of Tuna Canyon Detention Station (6433 La Tuna Canyon Road)

See the article on page 4 for details.

OHR AWARDED STATE CERTIFIED LOCAL GOVERNMENT GRANT

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the United States and the largest repository of LGBT materials in the world. Several LGBT publications, including *Vice Versa* (1947), *One, Inc.* (1952), and *The Advocate* (1967) all originated in Los Angeles and the city was the location of the first LGBT Pride Parade (1970).

Los Angeles is also home to many businesses, organizations, bars, and institutions that over the years constituted the foundation of the area's gay and lesbian culture. And SurveyLA is uncovering resources associated with significant individuals in LGBT history which include leaders in the gay rights movement as well as artists, writers, actors and musicians.

The context will be citywide with emphasis on LGBT history in areas of Los Angeles including Downtown, Silver Lake, Echo Park, Westlake, Hollywood, and the San Fernando Valley. This project will provide an important model for the recognition of LGBT-related resources nationwide and will bring to light Los Angeles' important contribution to the gay rights movement in California and nationally.

The LGBT context is one of many diversity themes to be explored in the citywide context statement. This is the eighth State grant the City has received since becoming a CLG in 2007.