

Los Angeles Department of City Planning

RECOMMENDATION REPORT

CULTURAL HERITAGE COMMISSION

CASE NO.: CHC-2007-4269-HCM

HEARING DATE: November 15, 2007
TIME: 10:00 AM
PLACE: City Hall, Room 1010
200 N. Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA
90012

Location: 14555 Sylvan Street
Council District: 6
Community Plan Area: Van Nuys- North Sherman
Oaks
Area Planning Commission: South Valley
Neighborhood Council: Van Nuys
Legal Description: Lot 31 of Block 40 of TR1200

PROJECT: Historic-Cultural Monument Application for the
VAN NUYS BRANCH LIBRARY

REQUEST: Declare the property a Historic-Cultural Monument

APPLICANT: Richard Hilton
5924 Varna Ave
Valley Glen, CA 91401

OWNER: City of Los Angeles

RECOMMENDATION **That the Cultural Heritage Commission:**

1. **Declare** the property a Historic-Cultural Monument per Los Angeles Administrative Code Chapter 9, Division 22, Article 1, Section 22.171.7
2. **Adopt** the report findings.

S. GAIL GOLDBERG, AICP
Director of Planning

[SIGNED ORIGINAL IN FILE]

Ken Bernstein, Manager
Office of Historic Resources

[SIGNED ORIGINAL IN FILE]

Lambert M. Giessinger, Preservation Architect
Office of Historic Resources

Prepared by:
[SIGNED ORIGINAL IN FILE]

Edgar Garcia, Preservation Planner
Office of Historic Resources

Attachments: August 22, 2007 Historic-Cultural Monument Application

FINDINGS

1. The building “embodies the distinguishing characteristics of an architectural type specimen, inherently valuable for a study of a period style or method of construction” as an example of Spanish Colonial Revival architecture.
2. The property reflects “the broad cultural, economic, or social history of the nation, State or community” for its association with the development of Van Nuys.

CRITERIA

The criterion is the Cultural Heritage Ordinance which defines a historical or cultural monument as any site (including significant trees or other plant life located thereon) building or structure of particular historic or cultural significance to the City of Los Angeles, such as historic structures or sites in which the broad cultural, economic, or social history of the nation, State or community is reflected or exemplified, or which are identified with historic personages or with important events in the main currents of national, State or local history or which embody the distinguishing characteristics of an architectural type specimen, inherently valuable for a study of a period style or method of construction, or a notable work of a master builder, designer or architect whose individual genius influenced his age.

SUMMARY

Built in 1927, this one-story building exhibits character-defining features of Spanish Colonial Revival style architecture. The side-gabled building is U-shaped with a centered recessed entrance. The roof is covered in clay tile and the finish is stucco. Windows are wood-framed casement windows with diamond-shaped patterns. The main entrance and west façade window are flanked by decorative terra cotta consisting of Corinthian columns, simulated rusticated stone, and a coat of arms. A side entrance has a covered arched porch. Other character-defining features include a rounded vent portals and low chimney. Significant interior features include an exposed wood beamed ceiling with stenciling, fireplace, and library counter.

The proposed Van Nuys Branch Library historic monument was built in 1927 by the firm of Allison & Allison. The firm designed the Variety Arts Building (Historic-Cultural Monument #196), the Beverly Hills and Hollywood Post Office, and campus buildings for UCLA. Other projects in the Van Nuys area are the Bank of Van Nuys (1912), Van Nuys High School (1922), and Central Christian Church (1925).

The subject building was built as the 11th branch library of the Los Angeles Branch library system. The library may have been the first stand-alone library building in the San Fernando Valley. Serving the Van Nuys community, it remained a library until 1963, when after it housed the Bureau of Fire Prevention until 2003. The property has remained vacant and is set to be auctioned by the City of Los Angeles.

Later alterations to the subject property include the addition of handrails, security bars, and modern metal awnings.

DISCUSSION

The Van Nuys Branch Library property successfully meets two of the specified Historic-Cultural Monument criteria: 1) “embodies the distinguishing characteristics of an architectural type

specimen, inherently valuable for a study of a period style or method of construction” and 2) reflects “the broad cultural, economic, or social history of the nation, State or community.” As a building designed in the Spanish Colonial Revival style and reflective of the development of the Van Nuys community, the property qualifies for designation as a Historic-Cultural Monument based on these criteria.

BACKGROUND

At its meeting of September 20, 2007, the Cultural Heritage Commission voted to take the application under consideration. On November 1, 2007, the Cultural Heritage Commission toured the subject property.

Los Angeles Department of City Planning

RECOMMENDATION REPORT

CULTURAL HERITAGE COMMISSION

CASE NO.: CHC-2007-4269-HCM

HEARING DATE: September 20, 2007
TIME: 10:00 AM
PLACE: City Hall, Room 1010
200 N. Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA
90012

Location: 14555 Sylvan Street
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Community Plan Area: Van Nuys- North Sherman
Oaks
Area Planning Commission: South Valley
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Legal Description: Lot 31 of Block 40 of TR1200

PROJECT: Historic-Cultural Monument Application for the
VAN NUYS BRANCH LIBRARY

REQUEST: Declare the property a Historic-Cultural Monument

APPLICANT: Richard Hilton
5924 Varna Ave
Valley Glen, CA 91401

OWNER: City of Los Angeles

RECOMMENDATION That the Cultural Heritage Commission:

1. **Take the property under consideration** as a Historic-Cultural Monument per Los Angeles Administrative Code Chapter 9, Division 22, Article 1, Section 22.171.10 because the application and accompanying photo documentation suggest the submittal may warrant further investigation.
2. **Adopt** the report findings.

S. GAIL GOLDBERG, AICP
Director of Planning

[SIGNED ORIGINAL IN FILE]

Ken Bernstein, Manager
Office of Historic Resources

[SIGNED ORIGINAL IN FILE]

Lambert M. Giessinger, Preservation Architect
Office of Historic Resources

Prepared by:
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Edgar Garcia, Preservation Planner
Office of Historic Resources

Attachments: August 22, 2007 Historic-Cultural Monument Application
ZIMAS Report

SUMMARY

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The subject building was built as the 11th branch library of the Los Angeles Branch library system. The library may have been the first stand-alone library building in the San Fernando Valley. Serving the Van Nuys community, it remained a library until 1963, when after it housed the Bureau of Fire Prevention until 2003. The property has remained vacant and is set to be auctioned by the City of Los Angeles.

Later alterations to the subject property include the addition of handrails, security bars, and modern metal awnings.

CRITERIA

The criterion is the Cultural Heritage Ordinance which defines a historical or cultural monument as any site (including significant trees or other plant life located thereon) building or structure of particular historic or cultural significance to the City of Los Angeles, such as historic structures or sites in which the broad cultural, economic, or social history of the nation, State or community is reflected or exemplified, or which are identified with historic personages or with important events in the main currents of national, State or local history or which embody the distinguishing characteristics of an architectural type specimen, inherently valuable for a study of a period style or method of construction, or a notable work of a master builder, designer or architect whose individual genius influenced his age.

FINDINGS

Based on the facts set forth in the summary and application, the Commission determines that the application is complete and that the property is significant enough to warrant further investigation as a potential Historic-Cultural Monument.

NOMINATION FOR
HISTORIC-CULTURAL MONUMENT STATUS
OF

**THE LOS ANGELES PUBLIC LIBRARY -
ORIGINAL VAN NUYS BRANCH**

14555 Sylvan Street, Van Nuys, CA 91401

August 22, 2007

By Richard Hilton
5924 Varna Avenue
Valley Glen, California 91401
(818) 909-4729
RichardTHilton@aol.com

**HISTORIC-CULTURAL MONUMENT
APPLICATION**

TYPE OR HAND PRINT IN ALL CAPITAL BLOCK LETTERS

IDENTIFICATION

1. NAME OF PROPOSED MONUMENT LOS ANGELES PUBLIC LIBRARY - ORIGINAL VAN NUYS BRANCH
2. STREET ADDRESS 14555 SYLVAN STREET
CITY VAN NUYS ZIP CODE 91401 COUNCIL DISTRICT 6
3. ASSESSOR'S PARCEL NO. 2241005900
4. COMPLETE LEGAL DESCRIPTION: TRACT 1200
BLOCK 40 LOT(S) 29, 30, 31, 32 ARB. NO. NONE
5. RANGE OF ADDRESSES ON PROPERTY 14555 SYLVAN STREET
6. PRESENT OWNER CITY OF LOS ANGELES
STREET ADDRESS 200 NORTH SPRING STREET, ROOM 410 E-MAIL ADDRESS: LACITY.ORG
CITY LOS ANGELES STATE CA ZIP CODE 90012 PHONE (213) 473-3231
OWNERSHIP: PRIVATE _____ PUBLIC X
7. PRESENT USE VACANT ORIGINAL USE LIBRARY

DESCRIPTION

8. ARCHITECTURAL STYLE SPANISH COLONIAL REVIVAL (MISSION / MEDITERRANEAN)
(SEE STYLE GUIDE)
9. STATE PRESENT PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION OF THE SITE OR STRUCTURE (SEE OPTIONAL DESCRIPTION WORK SHEET. 1 PAGE MAXIMUM)
(SEE "DESCRIPTION WORKSHEET")
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

**HISTORIC-CULTURAL MONUMENT
APPLICATION**

NAME OF PROPOSED MONUMENT LOS ANGELES PUBLIC LIBRARY - ORIGINAL VAN NUYS BRANCH

10. CONSTRUCTION DATE: 1926-1927 FACTUAL: ESTIMATED:

11. ARCHITECT, DESIGNER, OR ENGINEER Allison and Allison

12. CONTRACTOR OR OTHER BUILDER Gustav Ehrhardt

13. DATES OF ENCLOSED PHOTOGRAPHS 1927, 1940, 2007, UNKNOWN
(1 8X10 BLACK AND WHITE GLOSSY AND 1 DIGITAL E-MAILED TO CULTURAL HERITAGE COMMISSION@LACITY.ORG)

14. CONDITION: EXCELLENT GOOD FAIR DETERIORATED NO LONGER IN EXISTENCE

15. ALTERATIONS Stained glass casement windows possibly removed. HVAC ducts in main reading room.

16. THREATS TO SITE: NONE KNOWN PRIVATE DEVELOPMENT VANDALISM PUBLIC WORKS PROJECT
 ZONING OTHER _____

17. IS THE STRUCTURE: ON ITS ORIGINAL SITE MOVED UNKNOWN

SIGNIFICANCE

18. BRIEFLY STATE HISTORICAL AND/OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE: INCLUDE DATES, EVENTS, AND PERSON ASSOCIATED WITH THE SITE (SEE ALSO SIGNIFICANCE WORK SHEET. 750 WORDS MAXIMUM IF USING ADDITIONAL SHEETS)

(SEE "SIGNIFICANCE" SHEET ATTACHED)

19. SOURCES (LIST BOOKS, DOCUMENTS, SURVEYS, PERSONAL INTERVIEWS WITH DATES) (SEE "SOURCES" ATTACHED)

20. DATE FORM PREPARED 08/17/2007 PREPARER'S NAME RICHARD HILTON

ORGANIZATION N/A STREET ADDRESS 5924 VARNA AVENUE

CITY VALLEY GLEN STATE CA ZIP CODE 91401 PHONE (818) 522-4729

E-MAIL ADDRESS: RICHARDHILTON@AOL.COM

DESCRIPTION WORK SHEET

TYPE OR HAND PRINT IN ALL CAPITAL BLOCK LETTERS

THE LOS ANGELES PUBLIC LIBRARY - ORIGINAL VAN NUYS BRANCH IS A ONE-STORY,
NAME OF PROPOSED MONUMENT NUMBER OF STORIES

SPANISH COLONIAL REVIVAL (MISSION / MEDITERRANEAN) U-SHAPED PLAN LIBRARY
ARCHITECTURAL STYLE (SEE LINE 8 ABOVE) PLAN SHAPE (Click to See Chart) STRUCTURE USE (RESIDENCE, ETC.)

WITH A STUCCO FINISH AND CONCRETE/WOOD TRIM.
MATERIAL (WOOD SLIDING, WOOD SHINGLES, BRICK, STUCCO, ETC.) MATERIAL (WOOD, METAL, ETC.)

IT'S SIDE-GABLED ROOF IS CLAY TILE WOOD-FRAMED,
ROOF SHAPE (Click to See Chart) MATERIAL (CLAY TILE, ASPHALT OR WOOD SHINGLES, ETC.) WINDOW MATERIAL

CASEMENT WITH DIAMOND SHAPE PATTERNED WINDOWS ARE PART OF THE DESIGN.
WINDOW TYPE [DOUBLE-HUNG (SLIDES UP & DOWN), CASEMENT (OPENS OUT), HORIZONTAL SLIDING, ETC.]

THE ENTRY FEATURES A CENTERED, RECESSED, DOUBLE PAIRED DOORS,
DOOR LOCATION (RECESSED, CENTERED, OFF-CENTER, CORNER, ETC.)

GLASS paneled???? DOOR. ADDITIONAL CHARACTER DEFINING ELEMENTS
ENTRY DOOR STYLE (Click to See Chart)

OF THE STRUCTURE ARE DETAILING AROUND MAIN ENTRANCE, AND WEST FACADE, WINDOWS WITH
IDENTIFY ORIGINAL FEATURES SUCH AS PORCHES (SEE CHART); BALCONIES; NUMBER AND SHAPE OF DORMERS (Click to See Chart)

COATS-OF-ARMS OF FAMOUS WRITERS (STORED), WEST & NORTH FACADES CONTAINING PORCH,
NUMBER AND LOCATION OF CHIMNEYS; SHUTTERS; SECONDARY FINISH MATERIALS; PARAPETS; METAL TRIM; DECORATIVE TILE OR CAST STONE; ARCHES;

COVERED LANAI, PATIO, MISSION-STYLE VENT PORTAL AND SIMULATED TOWER.
ORNAMENTAL WOODWORK; SYMMETRY OR ASYMMETRY; CORNICES; FRIEZES; TOWERS OR TURRETS; BAY WINDOWS; HALFTIMBERING; HORIZONTALLY;

VERTICALLY; FORMALITY OR INFORMALITY; GARDEN WALLS, ETC.

SECONDARY BUILDINGS CONSIST OF A N/A
IDENTIFY GARAGE; GARDEN SHELTER, ETC.

SIGNIFICANT INTERIOR SPACES INCLUDE EXPOSED LARGE WOOD BEAMED CEILING WITH SOME STENCILING
IDENTIFY ORIGINAL FEATURES SUCH AS WOOD PANELING; MOLDINGS AND TRIM; SPECIAL GLASS WINDOWS;

WORK AND FIREPLACE. POSSIBLY, ORIGINAL LIBRARY COUNTER.
ORNATE CEILINGS; PLASTER MOLDINGS; LIGHT FIXTURES; PAINTED DECORATION; CERAMIC TILE; STAIR BALUSTRADES; BUILT-IN FURNITURE, ETC.

(SEE "COMPLETE PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION SHEET" ATTACHED)

IMPORTANT LANDSCAPING INCLUDES UNSURE
IDENTIFY NOTABLE MATURE TREES AND SHRUBS

SIGNIFICANCE WORK SHEET

TYPE OR HAND PRINT IN ALL CAPITAL BLOCK LETTERS

Complete One or Both of the Upper and Lower Portions of This Page

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

THE LOS ANGELES PUBLIC LIBRARY - ORIGINAL VAN NUYS BRANCH IS AN IMPORTANT EXAMPLE OF
NAME OF PROPOSED MONUMENT

SPANISH COLONIAL REVIVAL (MISSION / MEDITERRANEAN) ARCHITECTURE
ARCHITECTURAL STYLE (SEE LINE 8)

AND MEETS THE CULTURAL HERITAGE ORDINANCE BECAUSE OF THE HIGH QUALITY OF ITS DESIGN AND THE RETENTION OF ITS ORIGINAL FORM, DETAILING AND INTEGRITY.

A N D / O R

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE

THE LOS ANGELES PUBLIC LIBRARY - ORIGINAL VAN NUYS BRANCH WAS BUILT IN 1927
NAME OF PROPOSED MONUMENT YEAR BUILT

LOS ANGELES PUBLIC LIBRARY - ORIGINAL VAN NUYS BRANCH WAS IMPORTANT TO THE
NAME OF FIRST OR SIGNIFICANT OTHER

DEVELOPMENT OF LOS ANGELES BECAUSE IT IS LISTED AS #2509 ON THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES. IT WAS THE FIRST STANDALONE VAN NUYS LIBRARY BUILDING; POSSIBLY THE FIRST ONE IN THE SAN FERNANDO VALLEY. DESIGNED BY WELL-KNOWN CA ARCHITECTS ALLISON & ALLISON, IT IS SPANISH COLONIAL REVIVAL, ICONIC FOR THE ERA AFTER BERTRAM GOODHUE'S ARCHITECTURE FOR THE PANAMA-CA EXPOSITION. IT RESIDES IN THE "HISTORIC CORRIDOR" ON LAND DONATED BY WILLIAM PAUL WHITSETT THE "FATHER OF VAN NUYS". AUTHOR, IRVING STONE, DID RESEARCH HERE.

19. SOURCES OF INFORMATION

- An Architectural Guidebook to Los Angeles, David Gebhard and Robert Winter, Gibbs Smith, 2003
2. The Architecture of Los Angeles, Paul Gleye, Rosebud Books, 1981
 3. A Field Guide to American Houses by Virginia & Lee McAlester, 1984
 4. California State University Northridge - Oviatt Library (San Fernando Valley History Digital Library)
 5. California State University Northridge - Oviatt Library (Van Nuys News Microfiche)
 6. House Styles in America, James C. Massey and Shirley Maxwell, Penguin Studio, 1996
 7. Los Angeles Central Library - 630 W. 5th St., Los Angeles, CA 90071
 8. Los Angeles Central Library Online Database – California Index
 9. Los Angeles Central Library Online Database – Los Angeles Times Historic Database
 10. Los Angeles Public Library – Van Nuys Branch
 11. The San Fernando Valley; America's Suburb, Kevin Roderick, Los Angeles Times Book, 2001
 12. The San Fernando Valley; Past and Present, Lawrence C. Jorgensen, Pacific Rim Research, 1982
 13. The San Fernando Valley, Jackson Mayers, Ph.D., John D. McIntyre, 1976
 14. The Story of San Fernando Valley, W.W. Robinson, Title Insurance and Trust Company, 1961
- Success Is No Accident, Merle Armitage, Manzanita Press, 1959

Image Key Plan

Ref.No.:

Item Description

PHOTOGRAPHS

1. Archival Black & White, 8x10 photograph of Library Building (Sylvan Street/South Elevation – 2007).
2. Black & White Photo – Sylvan Street/South Elevation - 1927
3. Black & White Photo – Corner of Library showing Sylvan Street (South Elevation) and Vesper Avenue (West Elevation) – 1927
4. Black & White Photo – Corner of Library showing Sylvan Street (South Elevation) and Vesper Avenue (West Elevation) – ca. 1927
5. Black & White Photo – Corner of Library showing Sylvan Street (South Elevation) and Vesper Avenue (West Elevation) – 1940
6. Black & White Photo – Library Interior – date unknown
7. Color Photo of Sylvan Street Main Entrance – architectural detail – 2007
8. Color Photo of Vesper Avenue Elevation – 2007
9. Color Photo of Vesper Avenue Elevation – south window detail – 2007
10. Color Photo of Vesper Avenue Elevation – north half close-up - 2007
11. Color Photo of North Elevation (rear) – 2007
12. Color Photo close up of North Elevation (rear western portion) - 2007

OTHER EXHIBITS

13. Additional Significance Sheet Information (3 pages)
14. Complete Physical Description
15. Relevant Sections of National Register of Historic Places Inventory – Nomination Form (15 pages)
16. Zimas Map
17. Zimas Historic Designation printout

ADDITIONAL SIGNIFICANCE SHEET INFORMATION

Style: Spanish Colonial Revival. Although the origins of this style in Southern California is multi-directional, it was inspired greatly by Bertram Goodhue's designs of the Panama-California Exposition of 1915. His version of previous Spanish Mission style architecture became extremely popular after the San Diego Fair. In addition, post-WWI architects touring the world for ideas were allowed to visit the Andalusia region of Spain and received these styles with open arms, which, in turn, Californians embraced. The 1920's flouted these styles in large numbers and the influence can be seen in this Library, as well as Allison & Allison's previous Spanish architecture in Van Nuy's Central Christian Church constructed in 1925.

Architects: James Edward Allison (1870-1955) and younger brother David Clark Allison (1881-1962) were both born in Pennsylvania. James Edward became a fellow of the American Institute of Architects in 1918 and died in Santa Barbara County at the age of 85. David Clark Allison became a fellow of the AIA in 1926 after attending the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia and the Ecole des Beaux-Arts, Paris, France. He was elected President of the Southern California Chapter of the American Institute of Architects in 1925 and died in Los Angeles County at age 80.

The firm formed Allison and Allison in Pittsburgh, PA approximately 1903 and moved to Los Angeles in 1910, operating through 1942. They were renowned for designing school buildings throughout California, from Monrovia to Palo Alto. They also worked on the UCLA Master Plan, designing many campus buildings, including Royce Hall. Other well-known buildings include the Beverly Hills and Hollywood Post Offices, and the Variety Arts and Southern California Edison Buildings. Their other projects in Van Nuys were the Bank of Van Nuys (1912), Van Nuys High School (1922) and Central Christian Church (now, Church of the Valley) on Haynes Street (1925).

Contractor/Builder: Gustav Ehrhardt was president of the Congress Construction Company of Chicago. He did the work on the Post Office/Federal Building in downtown Los Angeles. Work began October 8, 1926 and estimated 90 days to complete.

From the National Register of Historic Places: The building was nominated as part of the Los Angeles Branch Library System Thematic group of 22 buildings. "It (the library) is one of only two structures in the system designed by Allison and Allison, and represents a rare example of Spanish Colonial Revival architecture by architects who were nationally known for their Italianate Revival buildings, such as the UCLA quadrangle complex, and many of the major Italianate Revival churches of the 1920's in Los Angeles."

History: In Fall 1913, a county branch library opened (4 hours a week) with 150 books which doubled in three months. Miss Esther Harris was custodian at \$5 a month. On February 11, 1914, the Van Nuys Library opened with Mrs. H.S. Trotter and Mrs. Paul F. Shepard. It was located in a room in the newly finished elementary school building on Sylmar Avenue. The Library was later moved to the second floor of the first Van Nuys City Hall, built in 1919, where Los Angeles Fire Department Engine Co. #39 now stands directly across from today's Van Nuys City Hall. In 1925, the Library was moved from Old City Hall to a place in the Holly Market Building (next to this structure at 14555 Sylvan Street). The Holly Building was owned by B.R. Holloway who granted the Library rent free for one year. At the time of that transfer there were approximately 3,500 volumes in the inventory, according to then librarian, Miss Lona Beller. The next librarian, Miss Isabel Palmer, immediately ordered another 1,800 volumes. By December of 1925, several lots on west Sylvan Street had been purchased by the Library Board from the Central Christian Church (14603 Haynes Street - also, Allison & Allison) at a cost of \$10,000 as a site for their first standalone library building. These lots had originally been owned by W.P. Whitsett ("The Father of Van Nuys") who subsequently donated them to the Christian Church. Mrs. Whitsett was also instrumental in gaining the property, arranging for the new structure and its dedication.

The 11th branch library in the system, it opened to the public March 1, 1927 with Mrs. Ethel Strong as librarian. Built at a cost of \$35,000 (the Van Nuys Woman's Club helped raise the funds) it was the "finest" of the branch libraries complete with a heating system. It lasted until April 1964, when necessary expansion was passed over for the construction of a new Library building as part of the upcoming innovative Van Nuys City Center. The Library began in this building with 10,000 volumes and closed its doors with a volume of 350,000. It hosted several organizations over the years including the San Fernando Valley Horticultural Society, the San Fernando Valley Art Club and the Southern California Garden Club who re-landscaped the patio.

Irving Stone, author of The Agony and the Ecstasy, did research here for his Immortal Wife; The Biographical Novel of Jesse Benton Fremont, daughter of Thomas Hart Benton, (Missouri Senator, writer, Democratic Party chief and "Manifest Destiny" promoter) and the wife of Lieutenant John C. Fremont and Sailor on Horseback: the Biography of Jack London, and.

In 1963, the Board of Public Works insisted that the building go up for sale at a listing price of \$100,000. The Van Nuys Chamber of Commerce offered to buy the building for \$100,000 to save the City the cost of a public auction, but legally it had to go up for public auction first. When a second auction occurred, no bids came. Finally, the City Council took it off the auction block. The Library then housed the Bureau of Fire Prevention where fire insurance permits were obtained until 2003 and has remained empty since.

(Initial planning included a City Park adjoining the building the size of twenty-two lots, however, it was never created.)

Outside of the City of Burbank, this is probably the first stand-alone Library building in the San Fernando Valley. The City of San Fernando had established libraries by this time, but from 1925-1946, they were only in store fronts. Therefore, the Van Nuys Branch could be the first building built specifically for this purpose.

COMPLETE PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

Exterior Features: The building is a one story (unreinforced) masonry building in a modified U-shaped plan, arranged around a central patio to the rear, suitable for use as an outdoor reading room, a novel approach for libraries in the 1920's. It has a symmetrical, decidedly horizontal street elevation, side-gabled tile roof and stucco-clad walls. The main centered entrance has two recessed paneled doors with glass inserts, leading into the main reading room of the Library. Flanking the entrance is detailing, including two small Corinthian columns above separating three overhead windows. On either side of the entry are two sets of three casement windows. The east gable features an exterior stucco-clad chimney. The west façade features a large window surrounded by detailing, including classic columns with Corinthian capitals and an arch with rosette. A one-story extension on the west features another entrance with arched porch. The north elevation (rear of building) includes a doorway to the west with simulated "tower" and Mission-style portal vent in the gable which is echoed in the east-side gable of the north elevation. A second fireplace may be present. An enclosed courtyard area containing HVAC equipment is flanked on the west with an attached enclosed walkway.

Interior Features: With 5,022 sq. ft. of space, the interior boasts an open beamed ceiling with stencil designs. There is a fireplace located at the eastern end of the main front room. Air conditioning ducts have been added to the interior. Casement windows which depict the coats-of-arms of authors such as Cervantes, Shakespeare and Corneille (17th Century French Playwright), have been removed and stored by the library.

From the National Register of Historic Places: "It (the library) is one of only two structures in the system designed by Allison and Allison, and represents a rare example of Spanish Colonial Revival architecture by architects who were nationally known for their Italianate Revival buildings, such as the UCLA quadrangle complex, and many of the major Italianate Revival churches of the 1920's in Los Angeles."

NPS Form 10-900
(3-82)

OMB No. 1024-0018
Exp. 10-31-84

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

For NPS use only

received **AUG 14 1985**

date entered **MAY 19 1987**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Los Angeles Branch Library System (Thematic Nomination)

and/or common Los Angeles Public Library Branches (1913-1930)

2. Location

street & number (see list attached) N/A not for publication

city, town Los Angeles N/A vicinity of

state California code 06 county Los Angeles code 037

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Thematic Group	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Multiple ownership (see list attached)

street & number

city, town _____ vicinity of _____ state _____

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Los Angeles County Hall of Records

street & number 320 West Temple Street

city, town Los Angeles state California

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title California Historic Resources Inv. has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1976 _____ federal state _____ county _____ local _____

State _____
depository for survey records Office of Historic Preservation, P. O. Box 2390

city, town Sacramento state California

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date <u> N/A </u>
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Los Angeles Branch Library System Thematic group is comprised of 22 buildings in various period revival styles constructed to house the initial branch library system of the City of Los Angeles. All but three of the surviving buildings are still owned by the City, retaining most of their original exterior features. The interiors have been modernized to provide for adequate lighting, heating, stack facilities, etc. Many of these buildings are based upon various Mediterranean styles representative of Southern California in the early twentieth century, and are located in parks or are surrounded by maintained landscaping. Most were designed by prominent commercial and/or institutional architects of the time incorporating architectural features suggestive of famous literary figures.

Please see attached for descriptions of individual branches.

Ironically, in a city that changes as rapidly as Los Angeles, most of the Branch libraries are substantially intact and well maintained. Most physical changes have been limited to replacement of fixtures and furnishings. Consequently, the system basically represents a functioning system devised 50 years ago but which is still largely functional. In some residential areas the branches represent the only buildings of landmark stature by major figures in the annals of Southern California architectural history.

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

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DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 4 PAGE 1

1. VERMONT SQUARE BRANCH (1201 W. 48th St.) Board of Library Commissioners, City of Los Angeles, 630 W. Fifth St., Los Angeles, CA 90071
2. LINCOLN HEIGHTS BRANCH (2530 Workman St.) Board of Library Commissioners, City of Los Angeles, 630 W. Fifth St., Los Angeles, CA 90071
3. CAHUENGA BRANCH (4591 Santa Monica Blvd.) Board of Library Commissioners, City of Los Angeles, 630 W. Fifth St., Los Angeles, CA 90071
- ~~4. FIGUEROA BRANCH (501 W. 80th St.) Greater New Zion Missionary Baptist Church, P.O. Box 49564, Los Angeles, CA 90044 Not included in nomination.~~
5. UNIVERSITY BRANCH (3420 S. University Ave.) University of Southern California, Park MC 0588, Los Angeles, CA 90089
6. JEFFERSON BRANCH (2211 W. Jefferson Blvd.) Board of Library Commissioners, City of Los Angeles, 630 W. Fifth St., Los Angeles, CA 90071
- ~~7. PIO PICO BRANCH (3255 Connecticut St.) Board of Library Commissioners, City of Los Angeles, 630 W. Fifth St., Los Angeles, CA 90071 Not included in nomination~~
8. MONETA BRANCH (4255 S. Olive St.) Board of Library Commissioners, City of Los Angeles, 630 W. Fifth St., Los Angeles, CA 90071
9. HELEN HUNT JACKSON BRANCH (2330 Naomi St.) Apostolic Assembly of the Faith in Jesus Christ, 5251 E. Beverly Blvd. Los Angeles, CA 90022
10. WASHINGTON IRVING BRANCH (1802 S. Arlington Ave.) Board of Library Commissioners, City of Los Angeles, 630 W. Fifth St., Los Angeles, CA 90071
- ✓ 11. VAN NUYS BRANCH (14553 Sylvan Way) City of Los Angeles, 200 North Spring St., Los Angeles, CA 90012
12. RICHARD HENRY DANA BRANCH (3320 Pepper St.) Board of Library Commissioners, City of Los Angeles, 630 W. Fifth St., Los Angeles, CA 90071
13. WILSHIRE BRANCH (149 N. St. Andrews Pl.) Board of Library Commissioners, City of Los Angeles, 630 W. Fifth St., Los Angeles, CA 90071
14. WILMINGTON BRANCH (309 W. Opp St.) Board of Library Commissioners, City of Los Angeles, 630 W. Fifth St., Los Angeles, CA 90071
15. MALABAR BRANCH (2801 E. Wabash Ave.) Board of Library Commissioners, City of Los Angeles, 630 W. Fifth St., Los Angeles, CA 90071
16. JOHN C. FREMONT (6121 Melrose Ave.) Board of Library Commissioners, City of Los Angeles, 630 W. Fifth St., Los Angeles, CA 90071

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Item number 7

Page 4

located in a residential area and now used as a church. It is designed with an L-plan and features an inset tower with a hip tile roof which rises above the flat roof of the building. The recessed entry is through this tower and the entrance doors are multi-pane. Just north of the door are three arched windows which are presently boarded over. South of the entry is a casement window with a decorative iron grille. The side elevation features a set of casement windows with inset twisting columns. Above the entry is a panel with a row of dentils which once had the name of the library. The smooth stucco walls and the parapeted roof are typical features of early 1920s buildings. A pair of palms at on the side are surrounded by an arroyo stone retaining wall.

10. WASHINGTON IRVING BRANCH (1803 South Arlington Avenue)
Built: 1926
Architects: Allison and Allison

This is a one-story Mediterranean style library constructed of hollow tile and finished with brick and stucco. It has a rectangular plan with side-facing gables, a symmetrical front elevation, a tiled roof and a bay window on the east side. The exterior treatment is a combination of brick and plaster with the brick banding extending between the windows reminiscent of a treatment frequently seen in the brickwork of Lombardy and Tuscany. The long paved terrace with its metal railing extends the entire length of the building giving entrance from both streets. The entry to the library is surrounded by cast stone ornamentation with a grille at the top. The vestibule has paneled walls and double, paneled doors. The brick on the front terrace is laid in a herringbone pattern. Casement window on either side of the entry as well as the bay window on the east have leaded glass in decorative triangular and circular patterns.

On the interior, the reading room is decorated in black and gold colors. Aside from the beamed ceiling the most notable feature is the apsidal bay window on the east wall. A central charging desk separates the main room from the children's room. There is a club room with a fireplace.

11. VAN NUYS BRANCH (14553 Sylvan Way)
Built: 1926
Architects: Allison and Allison

The former Van Nuys Branch Library is a one-story masonry building which is designed in the Spanish Colonial Revival style. It has a symmetrical street elevation, a gabled tile roof and stucco-clad walls. Landscaping and foundation plantings are mature. A central walkway leads up to the entry where two recessed paneled doors lead into the library. Flanking each side of the entry are three sets of paired casement windows. The west facade features a set of six casement windows surrounded by Spanish decoration which includes stylized columns and an arch with a rosette. The east gable features an exterior stucco-clad chimney. A slightly smaller, one-story extension on the west paired casement windows as well as an arched window.

The building is no longer used as a library but serves as offices for the city. The open beam ceiling still remains as well as the fireplace. New air conditioning ducts have been added to the interior. The casement windows which depicted the coats-of-arms of authors such as Cervantes, Shakespeare and Corneille, have been removed and stored

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1930	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1913-1930 **Builder/Architect** various (see attached)

Statement of Significance (In one paragraph)

The Los Angeles Branch Library System was one of the earliest and most successful in the western United States. For more than 50 years it has constituted more than 75% of the largest library system in the United States (in terms of books circulated). The formation of the system was determined by three distinct events which provided the funding and determined the architecture of a system of buildings which were, and continue to be, among the finest of their respective neighborhoods.

The branch system began with a Carnegie Foundation grant in 1911, which made possible the construction of six buildings between 1913 and 1916. Only three of these buildings remain, the Vermont Square Branch being the first library ever constructed by the Los Angeles City Library Board.

Subsequent additions to the expanding system were built largely with revenue bonds voted by the citizens of Los Angeles. A \$500,000 issue in 1921, and another in 1925, made possible the construction of the remaining branches which were constructed between 1923 and 1930. The locations were determined either by petition, or the ability of temporary facilities in rented sites to sustain a justifiable level of circulation. In some instances, local community leaders themselves founded independent libraries and sustained them for a year before the Library Board consented to continue with a permanent facility.

Others were built as the city expanded into areas formerly served by independent incorporated cities, as in the case of Eagle Rock and Venice. Facilities constructed in these communities far exceeded the caliber and value of buildings that could have been financed by a separate municipal entity.

In a move to establish a chain of distinctive and permanent landmarks, the Library Board hired an impressive array of local architects to design the buildings comprising the system. Commercial architects such as William Lee Woollett, Austin Whittlesey and John C. Austin ranked among the foremost architects of their day and seldom designed structures of this size and scale. Institutional architects Allison & Allison, or C.E. Noerenberg, competed with residential architects such as Sumner Hunt or Marston Van Pelt & Maybury to produce a steady succession of buildings that were institutionally functional, yet harmonious with their surrounding environment, and in some instances, on a residential scale.

Branch libraries in Echo Park, East Los Angeles and San Pedro were demolished after the 1971 earthquake. Only two branches constructed during the system's formative years were deleted from this listing. Both the Hollywood and Edendale branches have been drastically altered and lack sufficient architectural features to identify them as part of the library system's early formative years. In addition, two branch libraries which were originally included in this nomination have been removed: the Figueroa Branch was totally remodelled recently and no longer retains its historic appearance, and the Pio Pico Branch was demolished.

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Continuation sheet

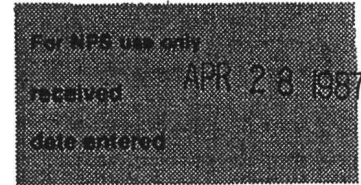
Item number 10

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8. Serra Branch (4255 S Olive St) A rectangular parcel beginning at the northwest corner of 43rd St, and Olive St, extending 130 ft west on 43rd St, then 100 ft north, then 130 ft east to Olive St, and then 100 ft south on Olive St to 43rd St, also known as Lots 11 and 12, Main Street Tr, County Assessor's number 5111-8-900. This is the original boundary of the Serra Branch Library.
9. Helen Hunt Jackson Branch (2330 Naomi St) A rectangular parcel beginning at the northeast corner of 25th St and Naomi St, extending 145.9 ft north of 25th St on Naomi St then 40 ft east, then 145.9 ft south to 25 St, and then 40 ft west on 25th St to Naomi St, also known as Lot 23, The Grider and Dow's Subdivision of the Briswalter Tr, County Assessor's number 5119-24-21. This is the original boundary of the Helen Hunt Jackson Branch Library.
10. Washington Irving Branch (1802 S Arlington Ave) A rectangular parcel beginning at the southwest corner of 18th St and Arlington Ave, extending 88.5 ft south of 18th St on Arlington Ave, then 132.5 ft west, then 88.5 ft north to 18th St, and then 132.5 ft east along 18th St to Arlington Ave, also known as Lots 21 and 22, West Street Tr, County Assessor's number 5072-30-900. This is the original boundary of the Washington Irving Branch Library.
11. Van Nuys Branch (14553 Sylvan Way) A rectangular parcel beginning at the northeast corner of Vesper Ave and Sylvan Way, extending 100 ft east of Vesper Ave on Sylvan Way then 140 ft north, then 100 ft west to Vesper Ave, and then 140 ft south on Vesper Ave to Sylvan Way, also known as Lots 29, 30, 31, and 32, Tract #1200, County Assessor's number 2241-5-900. This is the original boundary of the Van Nuys Branch Library.
12. Richard Henry Dana Branch (3320 Pepper St) An approximately rectangular parcel beginning at the southeast corner of Pepper Ave and Romulo St, extending 96.94 ft west of Romulo St on Pepper Ave, then 88.13 ft south, then 88.30 ft east to Romulo St, and then 86.07 ft north on Romulo St to Pepper Ave, also known as Parcel A, Tract #9719, County Assessor's number 5516-21-900. This is the original boundary of the Richard Henry Dana Branch Library.
13. Wilshire Branch (149 N St Andrews Pl) A rectangular parcel beginning at the southwest corner of St Andrews Pl and Council St, extending 132.5 ft west of St Andrews Pl on Council St, then 78.75 ft south, then 132.5 ft east to St Andrews Pl, and then 78.5 ft north to Council St, also known as Lot 1, Tract Number 1, County Assessor's number 5516-21-900. This is the original boundary of the Wilshire Branch Library.
14. Wilmington Branch (309 W Opp St) A rectangular parcel beginning at southwest corner of Opp St and Fries Ave, extending 100 ft. north of Opp St on Fries Ave, then 142 ft. west, then 100 ft south to Opp St, and then 142 ft east on Opp St to Fries Ave, also known as Lots 1 and 2, Tract #573, County Assessor's number 7420-24-900. This is the original boundary of the Wilmington Branch Library.
15. Malabar Branch (2801 E Wabash Ave) A rectangular parcel beginning 250 ft north west of Evergreen Ave on Wabash Ave, extending 100 ft northwest along Wabash Ave, then 150 ft northeast, then 100 ft southeast and then 150 ft southwest to Wabash Ave, also known as Lots 23 and 24, De Soto Heights, County Assessor's number 5177-12-900. This

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**



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number 4241-5-900. This is the original boundary of the Venice Branch Library.

23. Memorial Branch (4645 W Olympic Blvd) A rectangular parcel beginning at the southwest corner of Olympic Blvd and Mullen Ave, extending 350 north along Mullen Ave, then 312 ft east, then 350 south along Muirfield Rd, then extending 312 ft west along Olympic Blvd to Mullen Ave, also known as Lot 11, Tract #4573, County Assessor's number 5090-12-900. The boundaries of this library include the entire Memorial Park. The library and park were conceived together as a memorial to alumni of Los Angeles High School who died in World War I. Thus the park contributes to the significance of this library.

24. North Hollywood Branch (5211 N Tujunga Blvd) A rectangular portion of the North Hollywood Park beginning 120 ft north of the northwest corner of Magnolia Blvd and Tujunga Ave, extending 210 ft west, then 240 ft north, then 210 ft east, and then 240 ft south, also known as a portion of the Property of the Lankershim Ranch, Land and Water Co., County Assessor's number 2350-11-901. The boundaries of this library do not include the entire North Hollywood Park. The library was designed after the park was conceived. Therefore the park is not part of the significance of this library.

ACREAGE:

1. Vermont Square Branch	0.73 acre
2. Lincoln Heights Branch	0.47 acre
3. Cahuenga Branch	0.35 acre
4. removed from nomination	n/a
5. University Branch	0.42 acre
6. Jefferson Branch	0.15 acre
7. removed from nomination	n/a
8. Serra Branch	0.30 acre
9. Helen Hunt Jackson Branch	0.13 acre
10. Washington Irving Branch	0.27 acre
11. Van Nuys Branch	0.32 acre
12. Richard Henry Dana Branch	0.18 acre
13. Wilshire Branch	0.24 acre
14. Wilmington Branch	0.33 acre
15. Malabar Branch	0.34 acre
16. John C. Fremont Branch	0.21 acre
17. Eagle Rock Branch	0.28 acre
18. Robert Louis Stevenson Branch	0.24 acre
19. Angelus Mesa Branch	0.22 acre
20. Felipe de Neve Branch	0.41 acre
21. John Muir Branch	0.13 acre
22. Venice Branch	0.45 acre
23. Memorial Branch	2.50 acres
24. North Hollywood	1.16 acres

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INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

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DATE ENTERED

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UTM References:

Quad Name: Van Nuys Quad Scale: 1:24000

- 11. Van Nuys Branch: 11/366415/3783405
- 24. North Hollywood: 11/372960/3781240

Quad Name: Pasadena Quad Scale: 1:24000

- 17. Eagle Rock: 11/388060/3779100

Quad Name: Hollywood Quad Scale: 1:24000

- 3. Cahuenga Branch: 11/381180/3772820
- 5. University Branch: 11/381610/3765205
- 6. Jefferson Branch: 11/378470/3765610
- 7. Pico Pico Branch: ~~11/379140/3768490~~ -- Not included in nomination.
- 8. ~~Waco~~ Branch: 11/381900/3763350
- 9. Helen Hunt Jackson Branch: 11/384380/3764550
- 10. Washington Irving Branch: 11/378430/3767130
- 13. Wilshire Branch: 11/379040/3771000
- 16. John C. Fremont Branch: 11/377010/3772020
- 20. Felipe de Neve Branch: 11/382750/3769640
- 23. Memorial Branch: 11/372160/3769050

Quad Name: Los Angeles Quad Scale: 1:24000

- 2. Lincoln Heights Branch: 11/388080/3771050
- 12. Richard Henry Dana Branch: 11/387300/3772710
- 15. Malabar Branch: 11/389580/3768210
- 18. Robert Louis Stevenson Branch: 11/389460/3765680

Quad Name: Inglewood Quad Scale 1:24000

- 1. Vermont Square Branch: 11/380400/3762695
- 4. ~~Figueroa~~ Branch: ~~11/384550/374901~~ -- Not included in nomination.
- 19. Angeles Mesa Branch: 11/377890/3762170
- 21. John Muir Branch: 11/380830/3760640

Quad Name: Venice Quad Scale: 1:24000

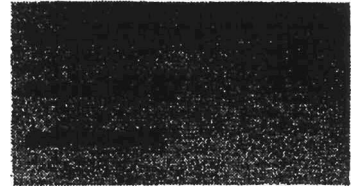
- 22. Venice Branch: 11/363780/3761960

Quad Name: Torrance Quad Scale: 1:24000

- 14. Wilmington Branch: 11/382930/3768620

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National Park Service

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Page

Multiple Resource Area
Thematic Group

Name Los Angeles Branch Library System Thematic Resources
State CALIFORNIA

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

11. Lincoln Heights Branch

Entered in the
National Register

for
Keeper

Shelton Byrum 5/19/87

Attest

12. Malabar Branch

Entered in the
National Register

for
Keeper

Shelton Byrum 5/19/87

Attest

13. Memorial Branch

Entered in the
National Register

for
Keeper

Shelton Byrum 5/19/87

Attest

14. Moneta Branch

Entered in the
National Register

for
Keeper

Shelton Byrum 5/19/87

Attest

15. Muir, John, Branch

Entered in the
National Register

for
Keeper

Shelton Byrum 5/19/87

Attest

16. North Hollywood Branch

Entered in the
National Register

for
Keeper

Shelton Byrum 5/19/87

Attest

17. Stevenson, Robert Louis, Branch

Entered in the
National Register

for
Keeper

Shelton Byrum 5/19/87

Attest

18. Van Nuys Branch

Entered in the
National Register

for
Keeper

Shelton Byrum 5/19/87

Attest

19. Venice Branch

Entered in the
National Register

for
Keeper

Shelton Byrum 5/19/87

Attest

20. Vermont Square Branch

Entered in the
National Register

for
Keeper

Shelton Byrum 5/19/87

Attest

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Van Nuys Branch (Los Angeles Branch Library
System TR)
Los Angeles County
CALIFORNIA

Working No. 51485
Fed. Reg. Date: 2/2/87
Date Due: _____
Action: ACCEPT 5-19-87
 RETURN
 REJECT
Federal Agency: _____

- resubmission
- nomination by person or local government
- owner objection
- appeal

Substantive Review: sample request appeal NR decision

Reviewer's comments:

Recom./Criteria _____
Reviewer _____
Discipline _____
Date _____
_____ see continuation sheet

Nomination returned for: _____ technical corrections cited below
_____ substantive reasons discussed below

1. Name

2. Location

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
	Public Acquisition	Accessible	

4. Owner of Property

5. Location of Legal Description

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Has this property been determined eligible? yes no

7. Description

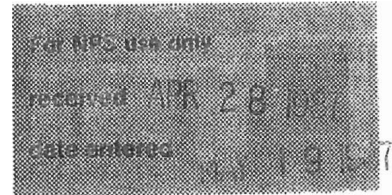
Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

- summary paragraph
- completeness
- clarity
- alterations/integrity
- dates
- boundary selection

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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Item number

8

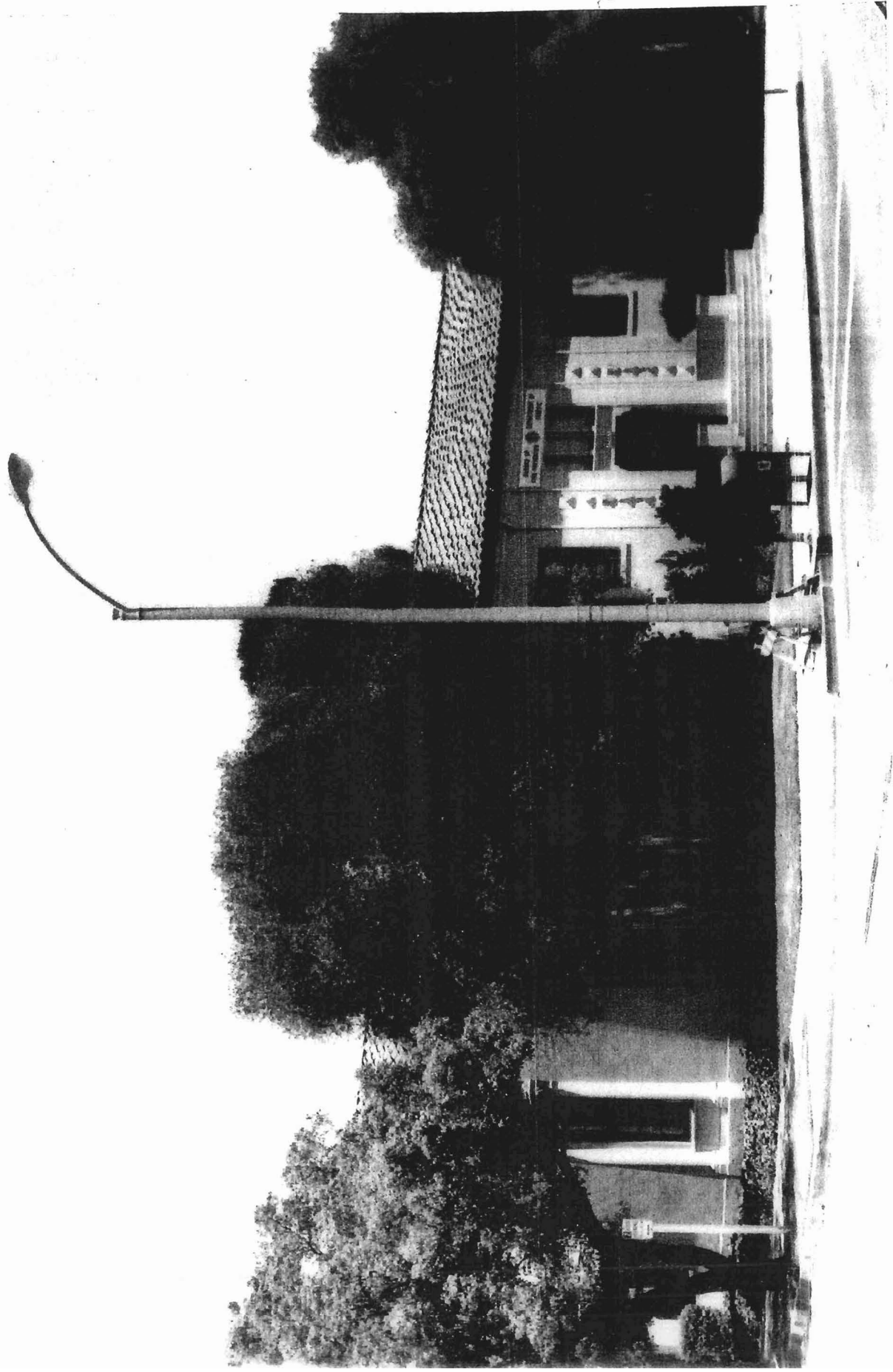
Page

10

// VAN NUYS BRANCH

14553 Sylvan Way

This branch is built in a U-shaped plan, arranged around a central patio, suitable for use as an outdoor reading room. It is one of only two structures in the system designed by Allison and Allison, and represents a rare example of Spanish Colonial Revival architecture by architects who were nationally known for their Italianate Revival buildings, such as the UCLA quadrangle complex, and many of the major Italianate Revival churches of the 1920's in Los Angeles. **Orientation around an open air reading room** was a novel approach for libraries in the 1920's, but was pioneered by the Los Angeles Library Board, and was particularly appropriate for the hot San Fernando Valley climate in a pre-air-conditioned era.



1. An Days 1978

Van Nuys Branch - Los Angeles Branch Librar
Los - Thematic
1455 Sylvan Wy Los Angeles, Los Ang.eles
County, CA
Keep Old Los Angeles
1978
2755 Medlow Ave Los Angeles, CA 90065
M 11 of 24

2/1

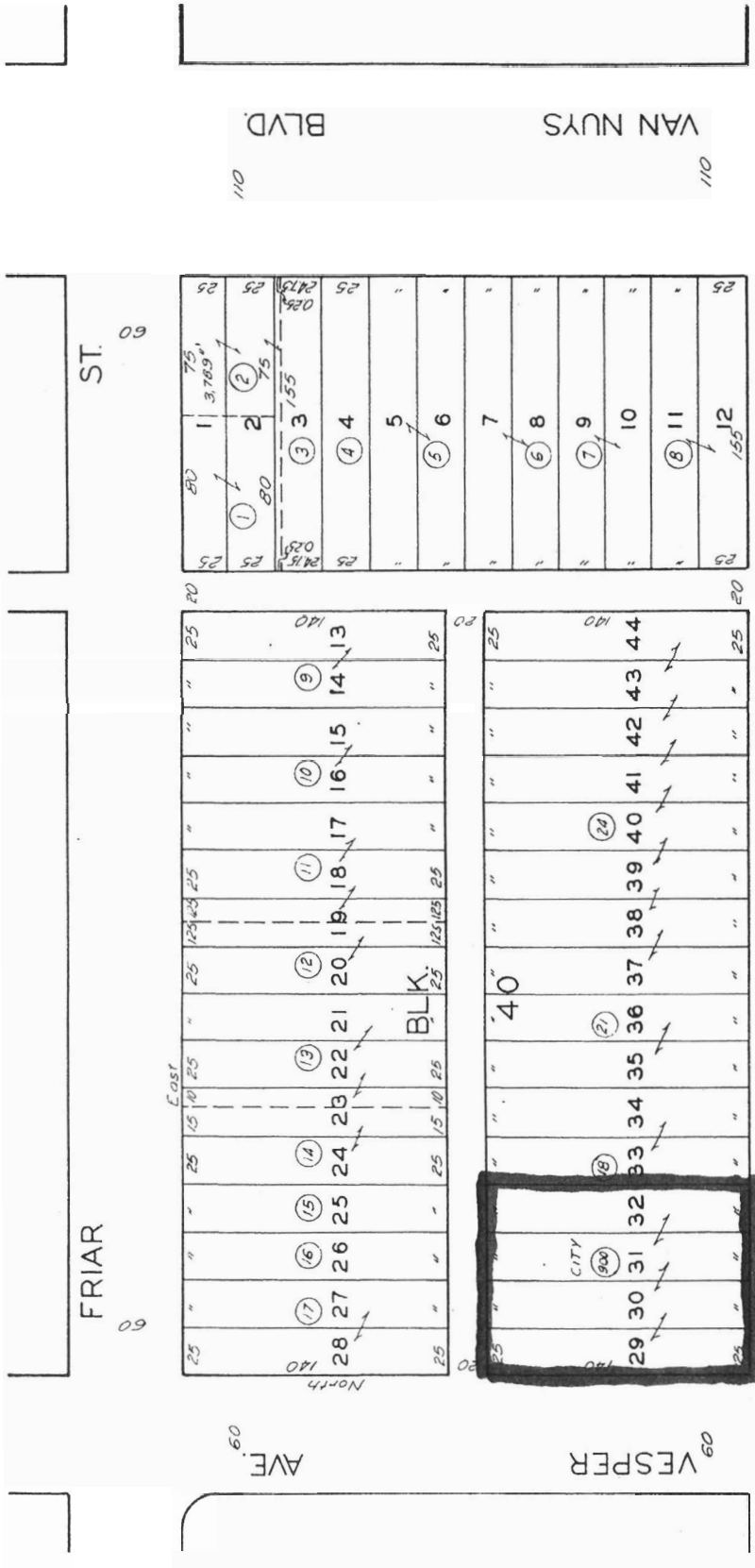
1

286.3

2241 5

SCALE 1" = 60'

2-5-65 REVISED 7/24/10 4/12



88 SYLVAN ST.

80 ST.

110 VAN NUYS BLVD. 110

CODE 13

TRACT NO. 1200
M. B. 19-35

FOR PREV ASSM'T SEE: 234-205

LA Library/VN Branch
Reference No. 16 - 8/22/07

ASSESSOR'S MAP
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES CALIF.

The designation and survey information displayed currently includes properties with California Historical Resource Status Codes 1 and 2. Information with properties with Status Codes 3 through 7 will be added in the future. Please refer to California Historical Resource Status Codes for a definition of the codes.

NATIONAL REGISTER DESIGNATION OR ELIGIBILITY

Name: Van Nuys Branch Library
Location: 14553 Sylvan Way
Date Listed: 5/19/1987

OTHER HISTORIC SURVEY INFORMATION

(compiled from California Office of Historic Preservation Historical Resources Inventory)

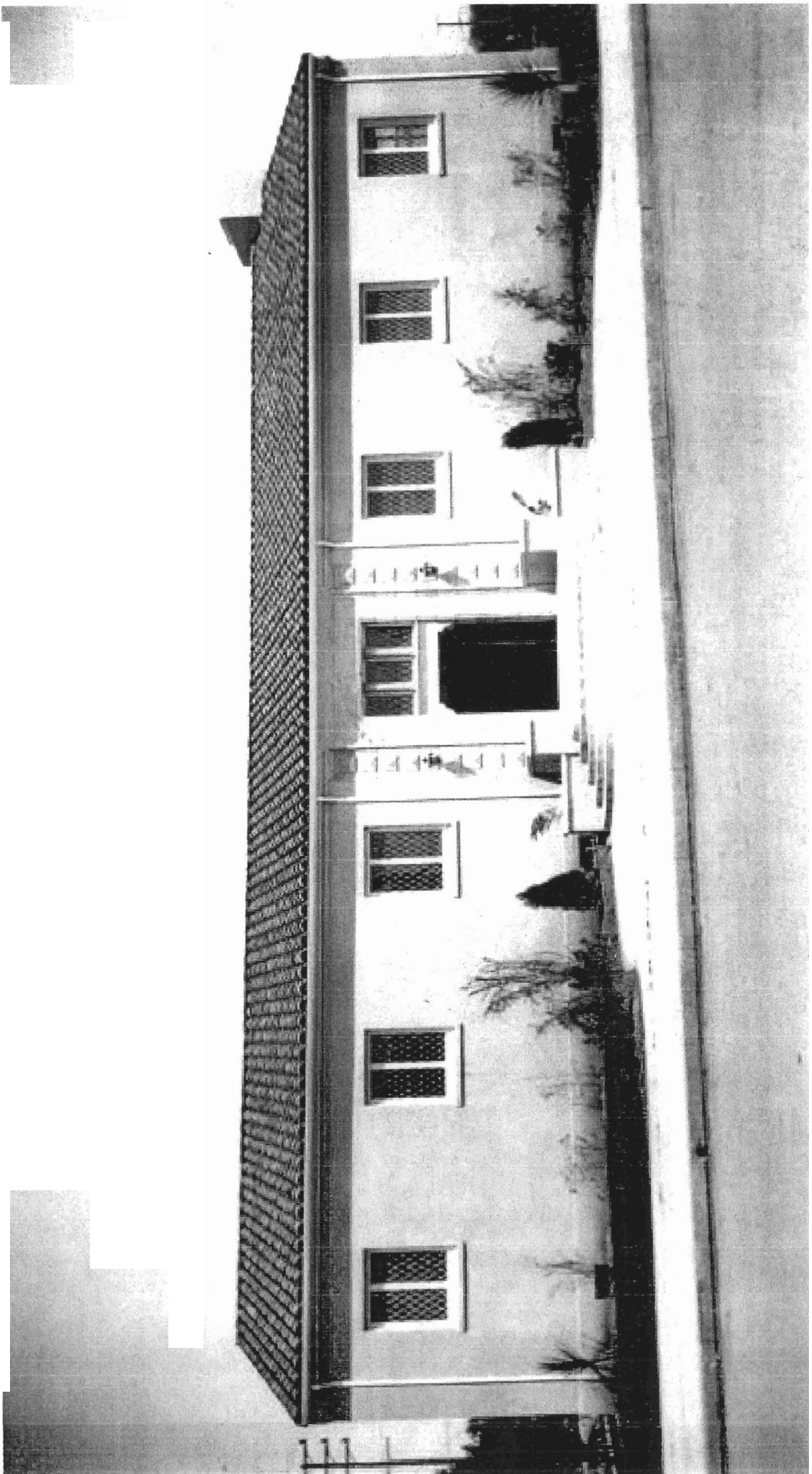
La Public Library Branches, Van Nuys Branch

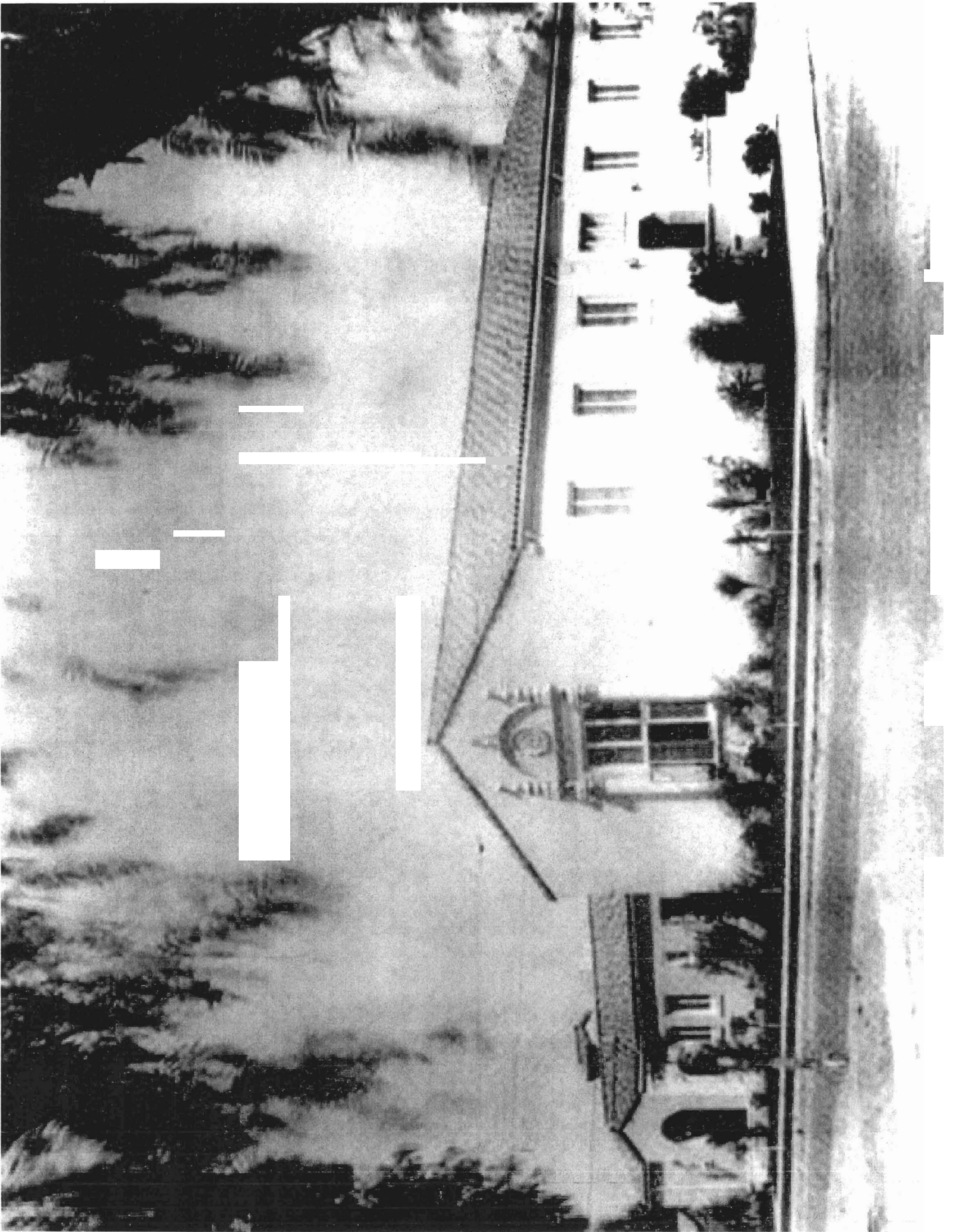
14553 Sylvan St 91411

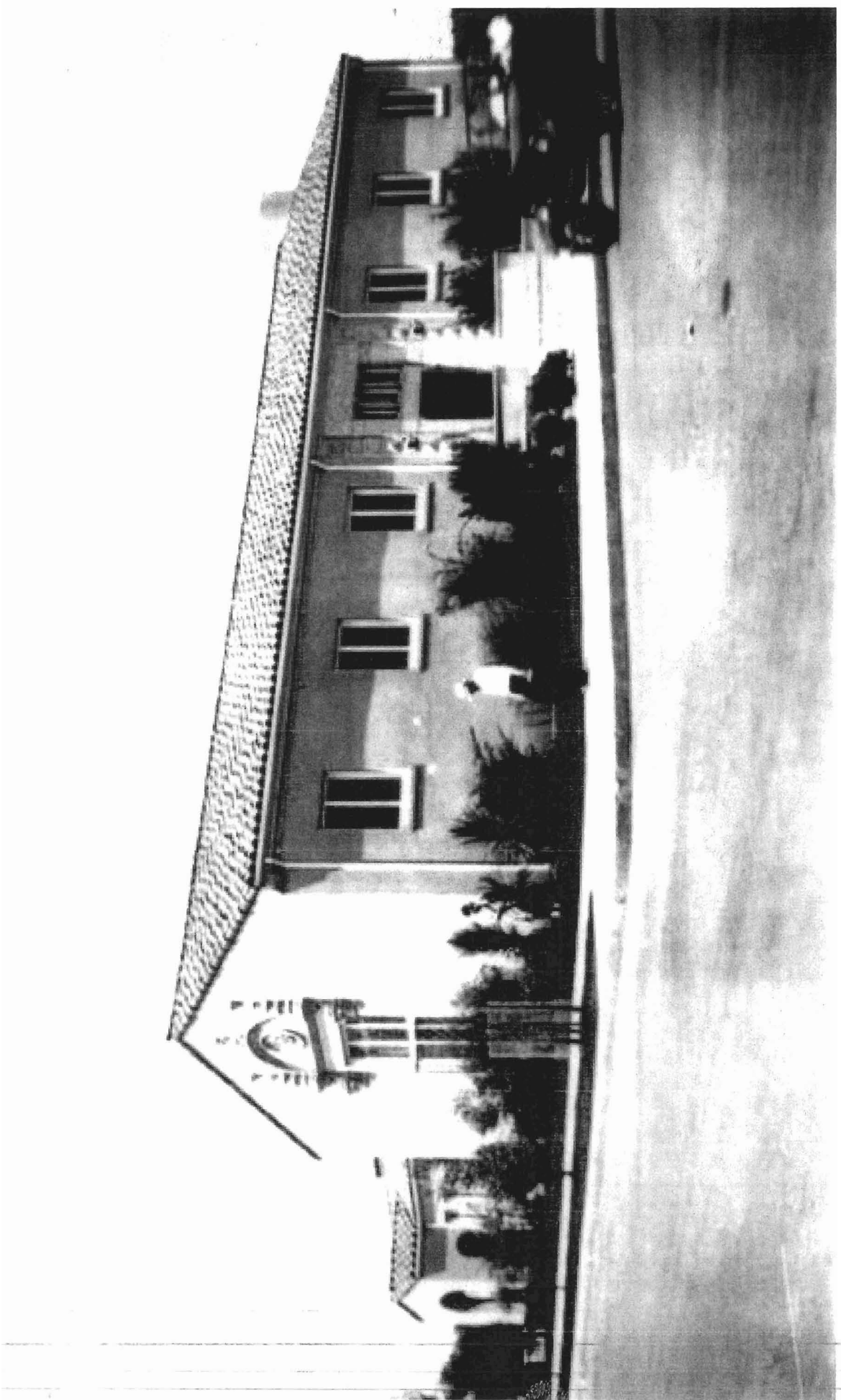
State Property Number: 021252

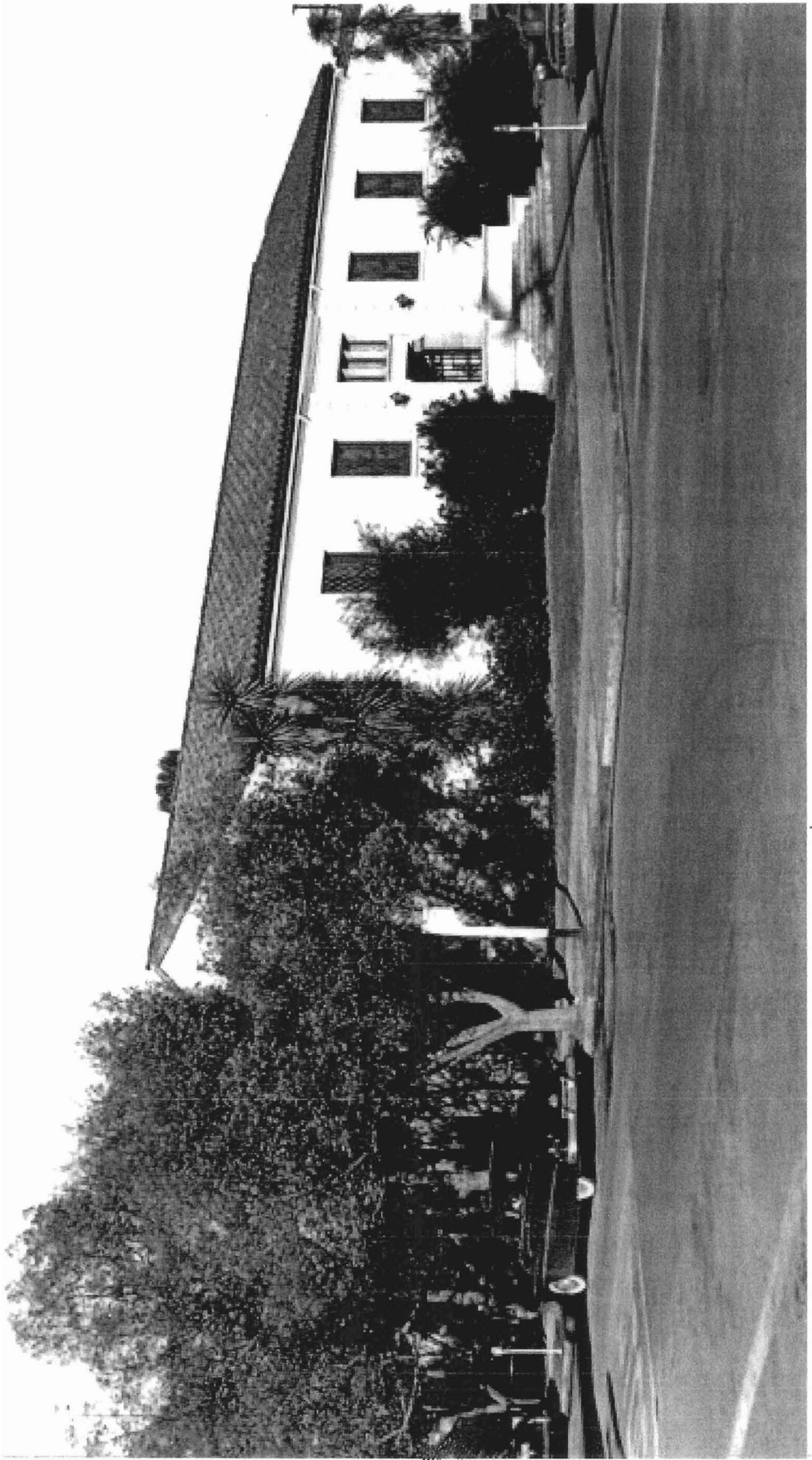
Status Code	Program Ref No.	Evaluation Date
1S	NPS-87001019-0000	05/19/87



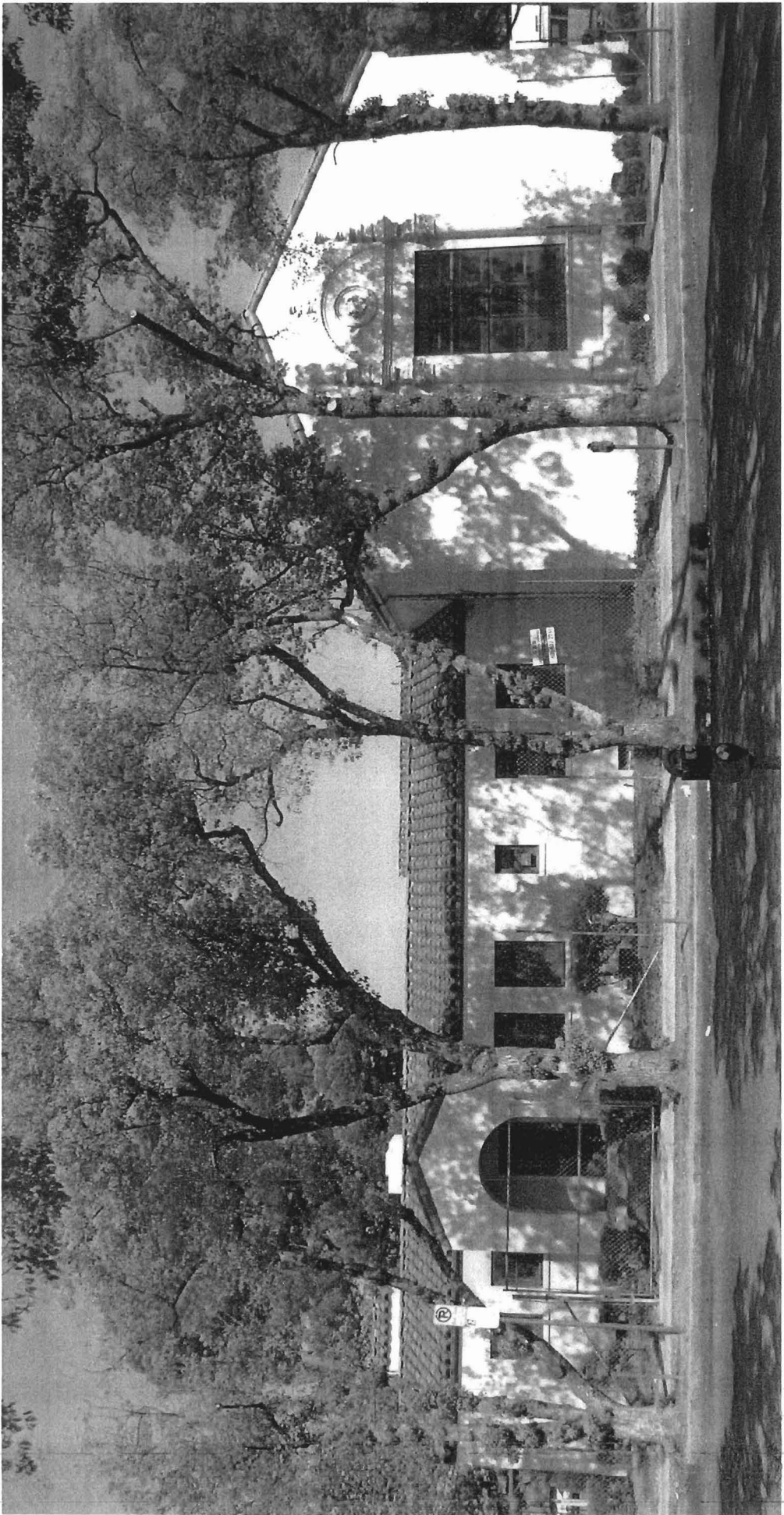








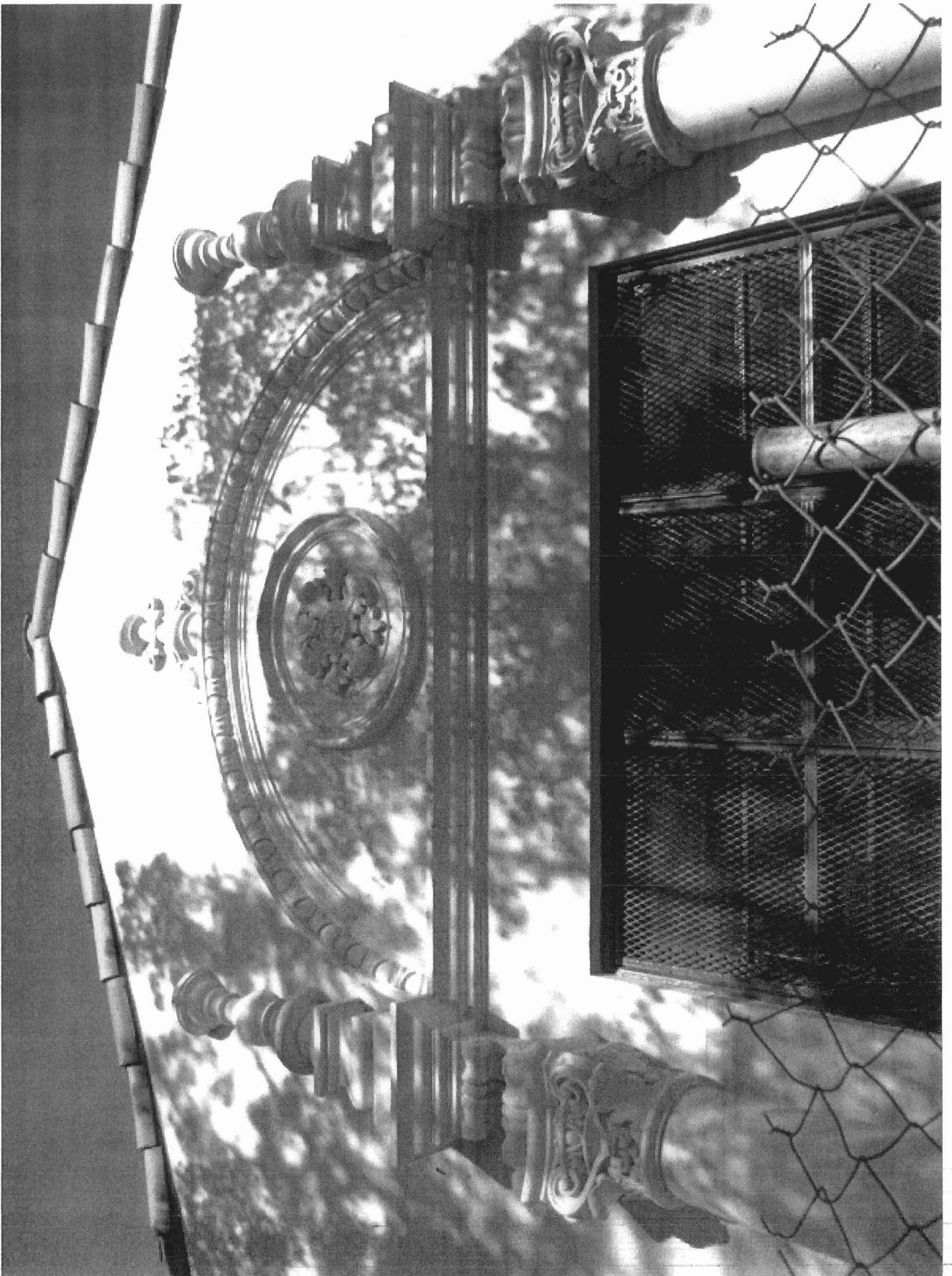




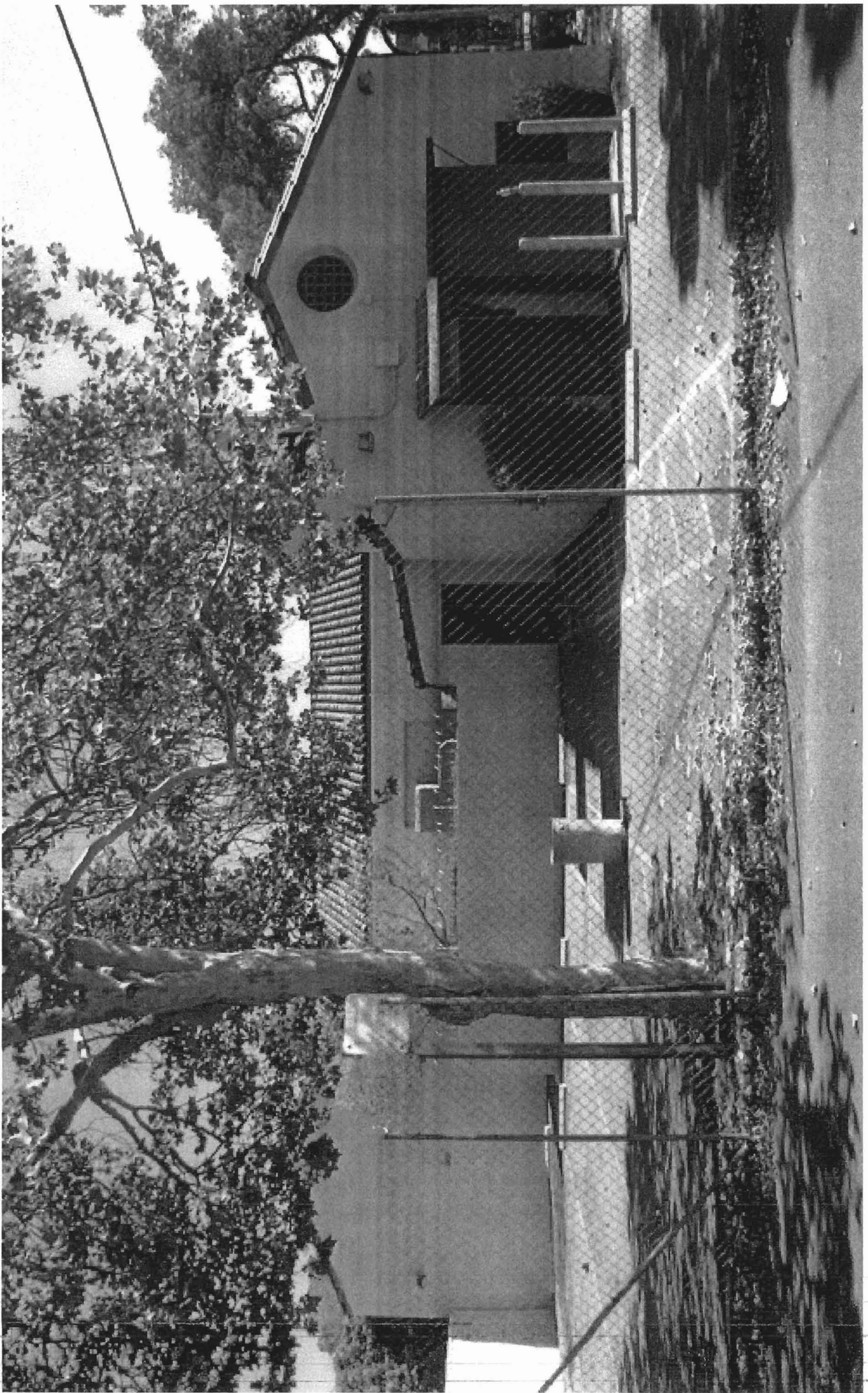
LOS ANGELES PUBLIC LIBRARY
VAN NUYS BRANCH

1955

THE BOARD OF
OFFICERS
HAVE MOVED
THE OFFICE
ARE NOW
LOCATED AT
THE BRIDGE
BUILDING
5252 VAN NUYS ST.
ROOM 450











**City of Los Angeles
Department of City Planning**

08/30/2007

PARCEL PROFILE REPORT

PROPERTY ADDRESSES

14555 W SYLVAN ST

ZIP CODES

91411

RECENT ACTIVITY

None

CASE NUMBERS

CPC-2003-8402-CDO-ZC
CPC-2001-2362-CDO-ZC-MS
CPC-2000-4890-ICO
CPC-1986-784-GPC
ORD-176313
ORD-174421
ORD-174420
ORD-174043
ORD-167939-SA5028AF
ENV-2001-5479-ND
ENV-1996-276-CPU-MND

Address/Legal Information

PIN Number: 178-5A151 92
Area (Calculated): 3,502.8 (sq ft)
Thomas Brothers Grid: PAGE 532 - GRID A7
Assessor Parcel Number: 2241005900
Tract: TR 1200
Map Reference: M B 19-35
Block: 40
Lot: 31
Arb (Lot Cut Reference): None
Map Sheet: 178-5A151

Jurisdictional Information

Community Plan Area: Van Nuys - North Sherman Oaks
Area Planning Commission: South Valley
Neighborhood Council: Van Nuys
Council District: CD 6 - Tony Cardenas
Census Tract #: 1283.03
LADBS District Office: Van Nuys

Planning and Zoning Information

Special Notes: None
Zoning: [Q]C1.5-1VL-CDO
Zoning Information (ZI): ZI-1452509
ZI-2306 Van Nuys Central
Business District
Community Commercial

General Plan Land Use: 3
Plan Footnote - Site Req.: 9

Additional Plan Footnotes: Van Nuys
Specific Plan Area: None
Design Review Board: No
Historic Preservation Review: Yes
Historic Preservation Overlay Zone: None
Other Historic Designations: US-87001019: Van Nuys Branch
Library

Other Historic Survey Information: Available
Mills Act Contract: None
POD - Pedestrian Oriented Districts: None
CDO - Community Design Overlay: Van Nuys Central Business
District

Streetscape: No
Sign District: No
Adaptive Reuse Incentive Area: None
35% Density Bonus: Eligible
CRA - Community Redevelopment Agency: None
Central City Parking: No
Downtown Parking: No
Building Line: None
500 Ft School Zone: No
500 Ft Park Zone: No

Assessor Information

Assessor Parcel Number: 2241005900
Parcel Area (Approximate): 13,982.8 (sq ft)
Use Code: 8800 - Government Owned
Building Class: Not Available
Assessed Land Val.: \$64,038
Assessed Improvement Val.: \$0
Year Built: Not Available

Last Owner Change:	02/45/67
Last Sale Amount:	\$0
Number of Units:	0
Number of Bedrooms:	0
Number of Bathrooms:	0
Building Square Footage:	0.0 (sq ft)
Tax Rate Area:	13
Deed Reference No.:	None

Additional Information

Airport Hazard:	200' Height Limit Above Elevation 790
Coastal Zone:	None
Farmland:	Area not Mapped
Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone:	No
Fire District No. 1:	Yes
Fire District No. 2:	No
Flood Zone:	None
Hazardous Waste / Border Zone Properties:	No
Methane Hazard Site:	None
High Wind Velocity Areas:	No
Hillside Grading:	No
Oil Wells:	None
Alquist-Priolo Fault Zone:	No
Distance to Nearest Fault:	8.19831 (km)
Landslide:	No
Liquefaction:	Yes

Economic Development Areas

Business Improvement District:	None
Federal Empowerment Zone:	None
Renewal Community:	No
Revitalization Zone:	Valley
State Enterprise Zone:	None
Targeted Neighborhood Initiative:	Van Nuys Boulevard

Public Safety

Police Information:	
Bureau:	Valley
Division / Station:	Van Nuys
Report District:	957
Fire Information:	
District / Fire Station:	39
Batallion:	10
Division:	3
Red Flag Restricted Parking:	No

CASE SUMMARIES

Note: Information for Case Summaries is Retrieved from the Planning Department's Plan Case Tracking System (PCTS) Database.

Case Number: CPC-2003-8402-CDO-ZC
Required Action(s): ZC-ZONE CHANGE
CDO-COMMUNITY DESIGN OVERLAY DISTRICT
Project Description(s): Review of conditions and modifications to the "Design Guidelines and Standards" in reference to exterior security devices.

Case Number: CPC-2001-2362-CDO-ZC-MS
Required Action(s): MSC-MISCELLANEOUS (POLICIES, GUIDELINES, RESOLUTIONS,ETC.)
ZC-ZONE CHANGE
CDO-COMMUNITY DESIGN OVERLAY DISTRICT
Project Description(s): THE VAN NUYS CBD CDO, STREETScape PLAN, AND ZONE CHANGES INTENDED TO ENHANCE THE PHYSICAL APPEARANCE THROUGH DESIGN GUIDELINES & STANDARDS AND PERMANENT [Q] QUALIFIED CONDITIONS.

Case Number: CPC-2000-4890-ICO
Required Action(s): ICO-INTERIM CONTROL ORDINANCE
Project Description(s): AN INTERIM CONTROL ORDINANCE (ICO) TO TEMPORARILY PROHIBIT THE ISSUANCE OF PERMITS AND CERTIFICATES OF OCCUPANCY FOR MULTI-TENANT RETAIL USES ON COMMERCIAL PROPERTIES ALONG VAN NUYS BLVD. WITHIN THE VAN NUYS TARGETED NEIGHBORHOOD INITIATIVE (TNI) BOUNDARIES; UNTIL, THE VAN NUYS COMMUNITY DESIGN OVE ...

Case Number: CPC-1986-784-GPC
Required Action(s): GPC-GENERAL PLAN/ZONING CONSISTENCY (AB283)
Project Description(s): AB-283 PROGRAM - GENERAL PLAN/ZONE CONSISTENCY - VAN NUYS - NORTH SHERMAN OAKS COMMUNITY PLAN AREA - COMMUNITY WIDE ZONE CHANGES AND COMMUNITY PLAN CHANGES TO BRING THE ZONING INTO CONSISTENCY WITH THE COMMUNITY PLAN. INCLUDES CHANGES OF HEIGHT AS NEEDED. REQUIRED BY COURT AS PART OF SETTLEMENT IN ...

Case Number: ENV-2001-5479-ND
Required Action(s): ND-NEGATIVE DECLARATION
Project Description(s): AN INTERIM CONTROL ORDINANCE (ICO) TO TEMPORARILY PROHIBIT THE ISSUANCE OF PERMITS AND CERTIFICATES OF OCCUPANCY FOR MULTI-TENANT RETAIL USES ON COMMERCIAL PROPERTIES ALONG VAN NUYS BLVD. WITHIN THE VAN NUYS TARGETED NEIGHBORHOOD INITIATIVE (TNI) BOUNDARIES; UNTIL, THE VAN NUYS COMMUNITY DESIGN OVE ...

Case Number: ENV-1996-276-CPU-MND
Required Action(s): MND-MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION
CPU-COMMUNITY PLAN UPDATE
Project Description(s): Data Not Available

DATA NOT AVAILABLE

ORD-176313
ORD-174421
ORD-174420
ORD-174043
ORD-167939-SA5028AF